

ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

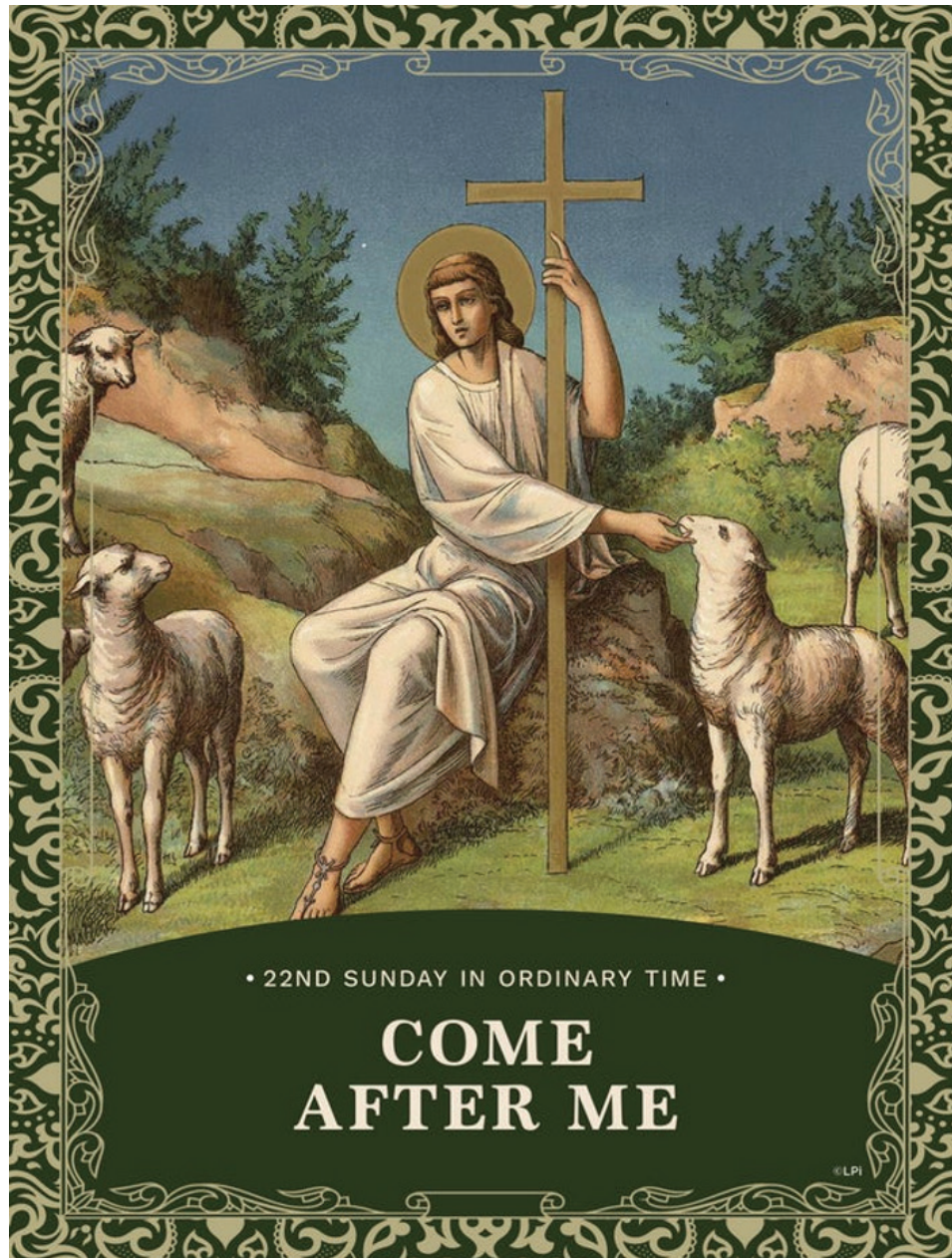
CATHOLIC PARISH ✚ EST 1889

August 30, 2026

"Truth suffers, but never dies."- St Teresa of Avila

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Pastor

Reverend Peter Wojcik

Associate Pastor

Fr. Radley Alcantara

Address

1037 W. Armitage Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60614

773-528-6650

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 6 PM French Mass

Sunday 10 AM, 12 PM, 6 PM

Daily Mass Schedule

Wednesday - 8:00AM

www.teresa.church

Baptism, Reconciliation, Anointing

Please call the office to arrange or email
cgioia@stteraparish.org

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesdays- 6 PM to 7:30 PM

Office Hours

Weekdays: 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Welcome

“St. Teresa of Avila Parish is an engaged community rooted in the beauty of the Eucharist and our Catholic faith. We want to make a difference in the lives of the people, especially those who are searching to discover how much God loves them and is calling them to join in the Mission of Christ to live His Gospel. We do so by welcoming people of all backgrounds and cultures in our parish, respecting their desires and questions, crossing borders and learning from those we encounter. You are welcomed to join in the Mission of building bridges and sharing the Good News of Christ.”

Community Ministries

If you want to serve the St. Teresa’s community in our liturgies or our planning, there are many opportunities for you!

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

teresa.church/rcia

If you are interested in joining the Catholic Church, or helping those through that process as a companion.

Lectors

teresa.church/lectors

Email eric.fredericks+lm@gmail.com for more information.

Eucharistic Ministers

teresa.church/eucharistic-ministers

Email eric.fredericks+lm@gmail.com for more information.

Pastoral Council

teresa.church/pastoral-council

Represent the parish and help advise the pastor in our mission and vision for our community.

Finance Council

teresa.church/finance-council

Reviews financial documents and position of the parish and advise pastor and business manager on financial decisions.



Are you interested in making St. Teresa’s your spiritual home? Or just want to learn more about our community?
Fill out the below form and drop it in the collection basket or join online at teresa.church/join.

Name	
Email	Phone
Address	
Ministries of Interest	

Welcome

In fulfilling our mission to be “Faith & Spirit. Alive.” we invite you to get involved with your family here at St. Teresa of Avila parish.

Outreach Ministries

We have a variety of opportunities you can join to get involved and help serve our community, the Lincoln park area, and the city of Chicago.

Welcome the Stranger

Join with parishioners from St. Teresa of Avila, St. Josaphat and others in the Lincoln Park Community to support a refugee family's journey in Chicago. Please fill out this link and we will add you to our updates and emails! <https://bit.ly/welcomethestrangerLP>. Additionally, if you would like to work directly with a refugee family, you can sign up at any time for a 3 hour Engaging with Refugees: Cross-Cultural Training <https://exodusworldservice.org/register/>.

Loaves and Fishes Dinner

teresa.church/loaves-and-fishes

Weekly soup kitchen feeding and sitting with people in need of a meal.

La Posada Border Ministry

teresa.church/border-ministry

Travel to the border to help and understand those seeking asylum.

Food Pantry

teresa.church/food-pantry

Our parish food pantry is a welcoming, dependable source of nutritious food, respect and social contact to the needy of our community.



Spiritual Ministries

There are many ministries at St. Teresa's that celebrate our faith via small christian communities, serving in our liturgies, and learning more.

Women's Spirituality

teresa.church/womens-spirituality

Meets the Last Tuesday of the month to provide a supportive space for prayer and reflection.

Men's Spirituality

teresa.church/mens-spirituality

Meets virtually every Tuesdays at 7am to come together and discuss what it means to be a disciple. Email cdeanhockey@gmail.com to get the link and join.

Bible Studies/Discussion Groups

Throughout the year there are bible studies you can join or maybe a book study.

Schedules change throughout the year, so stay tuned!

Religious Education

teresa.church/religious-education

Whether it's our Montessori based Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for children, EDGE Middle School ministry, QUEST High School Ministry, or SPRED Ministry for those with special needs, St. Teresa's has a wide array of programs to meet the needs of our children.

Communauté Catholique Francophone de Chicago

teresa.church/french-community

St. Teresa's is home to a wonderful and vibrant French community.

This Sunday's Readings:

First Reading: I say to myself, I will not mention him, I will speak in his name no more. But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. (Jer 20:9)

Second Reading: I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. (Rom 12:1)

Gospel: "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Mt 16:25)

Feasts and Saints:

- 9/3- St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
- 9/5- St. Teresa of Calucutta , Virgin



Gospel Meditation: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Do you know what it is like to be thrilled by the power of Christian faith one moment and then utterly fail in it the next? I do. That is Peter in today's Gospel. After last week's bold confession, he now hears Jesus speak of suffering and death, and something in him recoils. He takes Jesus aside and tries to correct him. Jesus responds with the shocking rebuke, "Get behind me, Satan."

Peter is the mirror of every disciple. We love Jesus until he contradicts the script we have written for our lives. Peter does not reject Jesus. He rejects a suffering Jesus. So do we, whenever we avoid a hard responsibility, resist a demanding relationship, or cling to comfort instead of choosing love. We want a Lord who supports our plans, not one who overturns them.

Yet Jesus does not discard Peter. He redirects him. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." In effect, Jesus says, stop trying to lead me. Let me lead you. Discipleship does not begin with heroism or clarity but with surrender. It means trusting that God's path to life often passes through places we would never choose.

Peter is all of us. We move from insight to confusion, from confidence to correction. That is why we should have hope. Jesus patiently teaches us again and again. Trust me. Get behind me. Follow me. When we stop fighting the crosses that come and start carrying them with him, we discover a freedom deeper than comfort and a love stronger than fear.

— Father John Muir

Financials: June 2026

	FY26	FY25
Basket/Mail In:	6,702	8,500
Give Central:	35,869	37,053
Total:	THIS YEAR	PREVIOUS YEAR
	\$42,571	\$45,553
		\$(2,982)



Bible Study

Bible Education – Easy to understand, not intimidating!

Mass Class will explore the rich biblical roots of the liturgy and the meaning of the words, gestures, and rituals.

Begins Sunday September 20 at 8:45 AM or 4:30 PM.

In The Bible Timeline you will encounter God in His Word through the narrative books of the Bible.

Begins Wednesday September 23 at 9:00 AM, or Sunday September 27 at 4:30 PM.

All materials provided.

To sign up:

Debbie dbichimer@gmail.com or

Mike mbichimer@gmail.com.



Affirmed Ministry Welcomes St. Teresa LGBTQ+ Members and Allies in September

Coming up next (and very soon!) with Affirmed On September 2nd at 6:30pm at St. Clement:

Ed Harasim will lead a discussion at St. Clement on Fr. James Keenan's presentation from this year's Outreach conference in Washington DC that discussed: the importance of vulnerability, Catholic ethics, and some reflections on a few virtues. Please RSVP Here, or with the QR code below. The link to the video/article that we will be discussing can be found within the RSVP form.



St. Teresa of Avila Parish

**JOIN US WEEKLY
TUESDAY EVENINGS
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1**

**6PM EVENING MASS
FOLLOWED BY AN HOUR OF
CONFESSION AND ADORATION**



Gospel Reflections:

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

To Carry the Cross

Carry the cross? Absolutely. I'm happy to! Hand it over. Here's the thing: I just might...set it down for a second, from time to time. That's okay, right?

How else am I supposed to have both hands free to gesture in anger? I can't do that if I'm carrying the cross. Well, fine, then let me just shift its weight, so I can catch my breath and say what I think about this person who's got it all wrong — I'll just lean it against the wall here. No? Okay, fine, I won't put it down! I'll keep holding it. That's better, actually. Then I can use it as a weapon.

What? Am I doing this "Christian" thing wrong?

"Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it," Jesus tells us in today's Gospel. "But whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

This is not an affirmation of the paradox that if you no longer care about something, you can finally have it once and for all. It's not a judgment about the worthlessness of life in this fallen world or the futility of trying to preserve that life.

It's merely a statement about priorities.

When Peter says, "God forbid!" at the thought of suffering, God is not his priority. His own safety is.

When I say, "God forbid!" at anything that comes from the mouth of God, it's a reminder to look at my hands — because they've probably put down the cross.

How merciful is our Lord — he never takes my cross from me, even when I walk far away from it. He always lets me pick it back up. In his dear and sweet goodness, he even helps me lift its weight. And he gestures, in case I've forgotten: "This way. Follow me."

Stewardship Reflections:

How many public self-storage facilities can you find in your city or town? They seem to be popping up everywhere. One day I was talking to my neighbor and he was explaining that he just wanted to have his garage back again. He was thinking about moving everything to a storage unit so he could gain what he wanted more than all that stuff: space. We talked about the fact that if he chose to follow through with it there was no shortage of places to house all of it. Of course, we also agreed that it would be better to simply let go of all it. He could sell it or give it away. But, of course, it was good stuff! So good, in fact, one was tempted to rent a whole new space to house it!

I am not against stuff in principle, but I do realize that stuff can become a stumbling block to real freedom. Sometimes our possessions take on an importance that begins to dictate how we act or how we give of ourselves to God and others. An everyday steward seeks detachment from things of this world that will one day pass away. Things that we possess should be seen as pathways into experiences that glorify God, whether they allow us to serve others, enrich our lives lived daily for God, or even help make leisure and recreation time resting in God's presence easier. But the simpler the life, the fewer distractions there are from focusing on those we love and our relationship with God. And besides, do you really think a monthly payment to house stuff you don't really need is the best stewardship way of life?





TOGETHER IN JOY

MASQUERADE GALA

AN EVENING OF ELEGANCE, MYSTERY, & GENEROSITY

DATE

SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 2026
6:00 PM

LOCATION

SARABANDE CHICAGO
2726 W ROSCOE ST

LEARN MORE



TOGETHERINJOY.COM

ARE YOU CALLED TO GIVE?

We're seeking sponsors, auction treasures, and unique experiences to
make this night unforgettable.

ST. TERESA^{OF} ÁVILA
A Together in Joy Event

Join Us For Hospitality:

After the 10am and 6pm Mass

This is a wonderful way to catch up and visit with fellow parishioners as well as meeting new ones and getting to know each other! If you would be interested in hosting a Sunday after the 10am Mass please sign up on the board in the Parish Center.



Welcome Committee:

The Parish Council is excited to announce the formation of a new Welcoming Committee here at St Teresa of Avila. We are looking for 2-3 people to help lead this initiative, and help us build a team of welcome volunteers for each mass. The task is simple, we need amazing volunteers that will greet all parishioners before mass with a friendly smile, a nice “hello”, and possibly help them find a seat! You may think we already do this, but it’s not consistent. Imagine walking into someone’s house and not being welcomed when you walk in the door, a place of business, or a restaurant. First impressions can be lasting impressions.

Please consider joining this committee because it’ll be fun and rewarding! If interested, please reach out to **Jessica Marx @ chicago2381@hotmail.com**.

Loaves and Fishes:

The Loaves & Fishes ministry has been inviting guests indoors to enjoy their meal on Friday evenings.

We need volunteers to greet our guests, serve them, and clean tables. Volunteers are needed on Friday evenings from 3:30 to 6:00. If you cannot arrive by 3:30, just let us know when you sign up. Please email **Steve Sibon - sjsibon@aol.com**

Calling All Those Who Enjoy Cooking!

Calling All Those Who Enjoy Cooking! Hearing the call to serve those less fortunate? Always wanted to (learn to) cook for a crowd? Our Loaves and Fishes Ministry is seeking cooks (and helpers) to prepare a warm dinner for the elderly and homeless in our area, served each Friday afternoon. For a 3-6 hour commitment, you’ll meet a wonderful group of people to work with, share kitchen tips and feel good about helping those in need. For more info, please contact Charisse Gioia

cgioia@stteresaparish.org

Thank you



St. T's Men's Annual Retreat
September 11-13, 2026

Bellarmino Jesuit Retreat House, Barrington, IL

All men ages 18 and older are warmly invited to join the St. T's Men's Spirituality Group for our annual retreat, taking place the weekend of September 11-13 at the peaceful

Bellarmino Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington.

God continually calls us to go deeper, to draw nearer. This retreat offers a rare opportunity to step away from the demands of everyday life and spend intentional time with God. Through silence, prayer, and reflection, encounter Christ anew as we immerse ourselves in the grace of the Spiritual

Exercises and rekindle the hope that strengthens our faith.

For well over a decade, our Men's Group has made this retreat an annual tradition—and for good reason. This is a chance to step away from the noise, deepen your faith, and connect with other men from St. Teresa's in a way that everyday parish life rarely allows. We attend as a group, gathering at both the start and close of the retreat.

Carpooling from the city will be available.

Register directly at:

<https://jesuitretreat.org/retreats/september-11-13-2026/register>

Questions? Contact Craig Dean at cdean@aegpartners.com.

Whether or not you've participated in Men's Group activities before, you are encouraged to participate.

All are welcome!

Mass Intentions

10AM- Gina LaRocco (D); Dolores Gannon (D)

12 PM - Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Living and Deceased

6PM- Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Living and Deceased

Let Us Pray For: The Sick, The Deceased and Peace in Our World:

We pray for those who suffers from illness of mind or body-

Robert Usiak

We pray for those who have passed away-

We pray for peace in our city and around the world.

We pray for the intentions on our prayer cards.

We pray for survivors and perpetrators of sexual abuse.



Mass Schedule

Sunday 9/6 10am- Fr. Udovic

Sunday 9/6 12pm- Fr. Peter Wojcik

Sunday 9/6 6pm- Fr. Udovic

Prayer for Vocations

Dear God,

Give us the courage and strength to answer when You call!
Give us clarity and trust to hear Your soft invitations. Give us the love to respond, and the bravery to take the steps that will bring us ever closer to You. Amen.

Sunday Funday August 30:

Today is Beach Day and Marshmallow Toasting Day

1963- The Moscow to Washington hotline between the leaders of the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union went into operation

1984- the Space Shuttle Discovery took off on its maiden voyage.

1993- David Letterman premiered his late-night talk show on CBS.

If you see someone who needs help, stop asking yourself if they need help. Instead, just help.

Much like a watched pot never boils, a watched phone never charges.

"What is the Curé d'Ars favorite position for prayer?"



"On his St. John Vian-KNEES."



St. John Vianney, known as the Curé d'Ars, was a French priest in Ars, France, who was known for transforming his community through prayer and devotion... and his dedication to hearing confessions (sometimes for up to 18 hours a day!)

CLP

YOUNG ADULTS + COMMUNITY

UNCORKED

Sundays after the 6pm Mass

FIRST POUR – SUNDAY, SEPT 6

Wine, snacks, and real conversation.
Stay after Mass. Leave with friends.

NO SIGN-UP • JUST SHOW UP • BRING A FRIEND



ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA
CATHOLIC PARISH • EST. 1889

You're Invited!

WELCOME BACK

TACO FIESTA & BINGO NIGHT

Community. Conversation. Competition.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
6:30 – 8:30 PM



TACOS



BINGO



FELLOWSHIP

All Are Welcome!

FAITH • COMMUNITY • HOPE

SCAN TO REGISTER



ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

BLOOD DRIVE

DONATE BLOOD

Sunday October 25
7:30am-2:00pm

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.. Please bring your id.

St. Teresa of Avila Blood Drive
1950 N. KENMORE AVE CHICAGO, IL 60614
@ The Parish Center

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED, call 1-800-786-4483, or scan the QR code below or visit <https://tinyurl.com/rhya52u6>

One Pint can help save up to 3 lives! Your simple act of kindness could make a life-changing difference for patients in need.



QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-786-4483



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Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta| September 5

Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta was born Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu in Skopje, present-day North Macedonia.

At the time of her birth, Anjezë's hometown was part of the vast, predominantly Muslim Ottoman Empire, which spanned three continents.

Today, Skopje is considered the political, cultural, economic, and academic center of North Macedonia, with a rich and ancient history dating back to Roman times.

Anjezë was the youngest of five children, two of whom died in infancy. Her parents were devout Catholics who raised her in the faith.

Her baptismal name was Gonxhe, meaning "rosebud" or "little flower" in Albanian, and it was by this endearing name that she was often called as a child.

It was a call within my vocation. It was a second calling. It was a vocation to give up even Loreto where I was very happy and to go out into the streets to serve the poorest of the poor. It was in that train, I heard the call to give up all and to follow Him into the slums—to serve Him in the poorest of the poor...I knew it was His will and that I had to follow Him. There was no doubt that it was going to be His work.

~Saint Mother Teresa



Ready to Begin Your Journey?

Join Alpha and start the new year taking a meaningful step in your faith journey. Come as you are — all questions, doubts, and backgrounds welcome.

Fall 2026 Alpha Course Dates

•**MONDAYS**, beginning Sept 14 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. —
Location: Saint Teresa of Avila Parish

Alpha with Saint Clement and Saint Teresa of Avila parishes

•**TUESDAYS**, beginning Sept. 15 from 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. —
Location: Saint Clement Parish Chapel

Register at www.clement.org



Staff

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Sergio Mora

Building & Facilities Manager

smora@stteresaparish.org

Parish Council

Anna Althoff- President

annamariealthoff@hotmail.com

The Parish Pastoral Council is a consultative body to the pastor and represents a cross section of the parish. Together with the Pastor, the PPC helps to craft and carry out the Mission of the Parish.

Finance Council

Don Eldred- Chair

The St. Teresa Finance Council reviews the financial documents and position of the parish and advises the pastor and business manager on financial matters, including the preparation of the annual parish budget.

Stewardship Committee

Dan Summins- Chair

dsummins@hotmail.com

The Stewardship Committee's goal is to foster a sense of gratefulness and response of increased sharing of gifts in the parish and communities we seek to support. We do this by creating, encouraging and communicating ideas and programs that help parishioners recognize and share their gifts.

Contributing to the Bulletin

Past bulletins and guidelines for submitting to the bulletin are available on our website at: www.teresa.church/bulletins

How to Report Sexual Abuse

To report an allegation of sexual abuse and/or neglect of minors, contact the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Hotline at 800.25.ABUSE (800.252.2873) and/or contact your local police department.

You can also contact the Office of Protection of Children and Youth (OPCY) at 312.534.5254.