ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

CATHOLIC PARISH ✠ EST 1889

September 6, 2026

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

THE JOURNEY

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 learing 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 opportunites 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

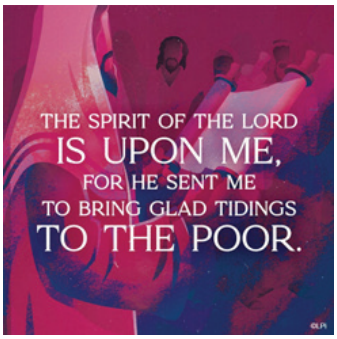
teresa.church/border-ministry

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 Shephard 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 for 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: But if you warn the wicked, trying to turn him from his way, and he refuses to turn from his way, he shall die for his guilt, but you shall save yourself. (Ez 33:9)

Second Reading: Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (Rom 13:8)

Gospel: Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. (Mt 18:18)

Feasts and Saints:

9/7 -Labor Day

9/8- The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9/9- St. Peter Claver, Priest

9/12- The Most Holy Name of Mary

Gospel Meditation: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

A few summers ago, my family had a big reunion. It included my parents, my four siblings, and all their many children. One of my favorite moments was simply watching my parents' contented faces as they took in all of us together, laughing, sharing food, singing, telling stories. They loved seeing their children happily together with each other.

That is something like the heart of God we see in today's Gospel message about Christian reconciliation. These verses come right after Jesus' parable of the lost sheep. He is not giving the disciples a cold formula for dealing with conflict. He is revealing the Father's longing for children who love and reconcile with each other. His heart aches when his children are divided and isolated.

So when Jesus says, "Go and tell your brother his fault," He is not deputizing us as morality police. He is inviting us into his mission of reconciliation. When he adds, "If he listens to you, you have won over your brother," we glimpse the real goal. Not winning arguments, but reuniting a divided family.

These days, we often think religion is just between God and me. But the Father's dream is about a lively family, one in which His children forgive, gather, and rejoice together.

Lord Jesus, give me the courage to seek reconciliation where it is needed. Make my heart resemble the Father's heart, longing and working for unity among His children. Amen.

— 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)	

From Fr. Peter:

Sunday, September 6, 2026

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

What This Summer Has Taught Me

Dear Friends,

Now that the summer is behind us, I find myself going back over these first months and the sheer number of conversations I have had with you. The receptions. The coffees. The ones that started with a handshake after Mass and were still going forty minutes later on the sidewalk. Fr. Radley and I have said to each other more than once that this is how we are actually learning Saint Teresa. Not from the files in the office. From you.

Let me tell you what I heard in those conversations, because it stayed with me. I heard people who know this community well, who care a great deal about where it is going, and who assume that its future is partly their own responsibility. In my experience that assumption is not everywhere.

In plenty of places the expectation is that the priest will take care of it. That is not the expectation here, and I want to name it out loud, because it is one of the real strengths of this parish.

It has sent me back to something the Second Vatican Council said with great clarity. The Council taught that the mission of the Church does not belong to bishops and priests alone.

Through baptism, every one of the faithful shares in the work of Christ and carries genuine responsibility for the life of the Church and for the sanctification of the world. The lay vocation is a calling in its own right.

Pope Francis returned to that same idea in The Joy of the Gospel when he wrote about every baptized person as a missionary disciple, someone who does not wait around to be sent because they have already been sent. I have read that document many times. Watching it happen here, in ordinary ways, week after week, has been one of the great gifts of my first months.

So thank you, again, both for your willingness to lead and for the generosity you show to newcomers, so that anyone walking through our doors for the first time finds a place where they can engage and grow in faith.

A few things for the days ahead.

Tonight is our first evening of Uncorked. It is a gathering for our community, and especially for our young adults, held twice a month, and the point of it is simply to be together: to form community, to make friendships, and to know the people you have been praying beside on Sunday.

Come as you are, bring a friend, and please come find me. Our next Uncorked at Saint Teresa will be Sunday, September 20.

On Wednesday, September 9, we have our Taco and Bingo Community Night from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

It is exactly what it sounds like, it is for everyone, and Fr. Radley and I will both be there.

Please register in advance on our website so we know how much to cook.

Please hold in prayer everyone beginning Alpha on Monday, September 14. More than 350 people have registered. I read that number twice when I first saw it. Pray that these evenings give them an experience of real community, real joy, and honest witness, and that those who arrive searching find what they came looking for.

And there is still room at our Fall Service Day. If you have not signed up, please do. I would be glad to spend that morning working alongside you, and our city could use us.

Today the Gospel tells us that where two or three gather in his name, Christ is there among them. After this summer, I believe that more concretely than I did in June.

With gratitude for this summer and hope for this fall,

Fr. Peter

Gospel Reflections:

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Treat Him Like a Gentile

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives instructions for ministering to those persisting in error. Here's the CliffsNotes version: If all else fails, "treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector."

In other words? Don't give up. Tell him the truth. Wash, rinse and repeat.

Technically speaking, I'm a Gentile. I've done those mail-in DNA tests, and none of my ancestors were Jewish. So whoever told my family about the God of Abraham, it wasn't Moses, and it probably wasn't Jesus himself, unless he spent some time in northwestern Europe that the Gospels fail to mention.

Nope, my ancestors were big old Gentiles living in a big old Gentile world. Lucky for me, someone evangelized them. At first, my ancestors probably didn't listen. But the evangelist, whoever he or she was, didn't give up.

I say "lucky for me" because this all means that I was born and raised Catholic. It makes it easier, I think — but it doesn't make it easy. I'm not an automaton, and I still have to accept the truth of the faith I choose to live. So do you. So do we all.

Inevitably, we falter. What then?

Who are the tax collectors? Zaccheus was one. Matthew was another. Maybe you recognize his name — he's the guy who wrote this Gospel. And who are the Gentiles? Me. You, maybe. Everyone the disciples decided not to give up on. Everyone the Church is called not to forget about, not to dismiss, and not to take for granted.

So treat them all like Gentiles, and remember that God sees the future, not just the past.

Stewardship Reflections:

The Blessing of the Community

I have been blessed to be a member of my parish community for 28 years. For much of that time I was serving as a member of the parish staff, but it was still the community that I call home. I have been fortunate to be able to remain in that parish even as my life has encountered new chapters and callings. I am so grateful to God that I have been able to grow, be nourished, and find companionship in a parish for this long of a time.

It is a natural tendency for human beings to desire belonging to something bigger than themselves. Not everyone is fortunate enough to find the community, big or small, that fulfills that need. Unfortunately, that means that many communities suffer from not having the benefit of the gifts, skills, and talents that any member can offer. Communities are in many ways living organisms that move and breathe based upon the individuals who form that body. A community is truly the sum of its parts.

Your parish community reflects you and everyone else in that community. The more each member gives to the community, the stronger that community finds itself. If you hold back, your community suffers, and you gain little. I know firsthand what being a part of a community can mean to a person. I would be no one at all – and you would not be reading this – if it weren't for the life I have had in my parish community.

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

Prayer

Mass Intentions

10AM- Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Living and Deceased

12 PM - Gruszka, Jaszczor, Kosek and Pawlowski Grandparents (D)

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

Mass Schedule

Sunday 9/13 10am- Fr. Udovic
Sunday 9/13 12pm- Fr. Udovic
Sunday 9/13 6pm- Fr. Radley Alcantara

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.

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 perpetratorsof sexual abuse.

Labor Day Blessing

Dear God, We thank You for this Labor Day. Bless the men and women who serve in our workforce, and grant them strength and protection in their work. Bless, too, those who courageously seek to build fairer and more just working environments for all our brothers and sisters. Bless all of us as we gather to rest and recreate during this holiday weekend. Amen.

Sunday Funday September 6:

Today is Coffee Ice Cream Day and Read a Book Day

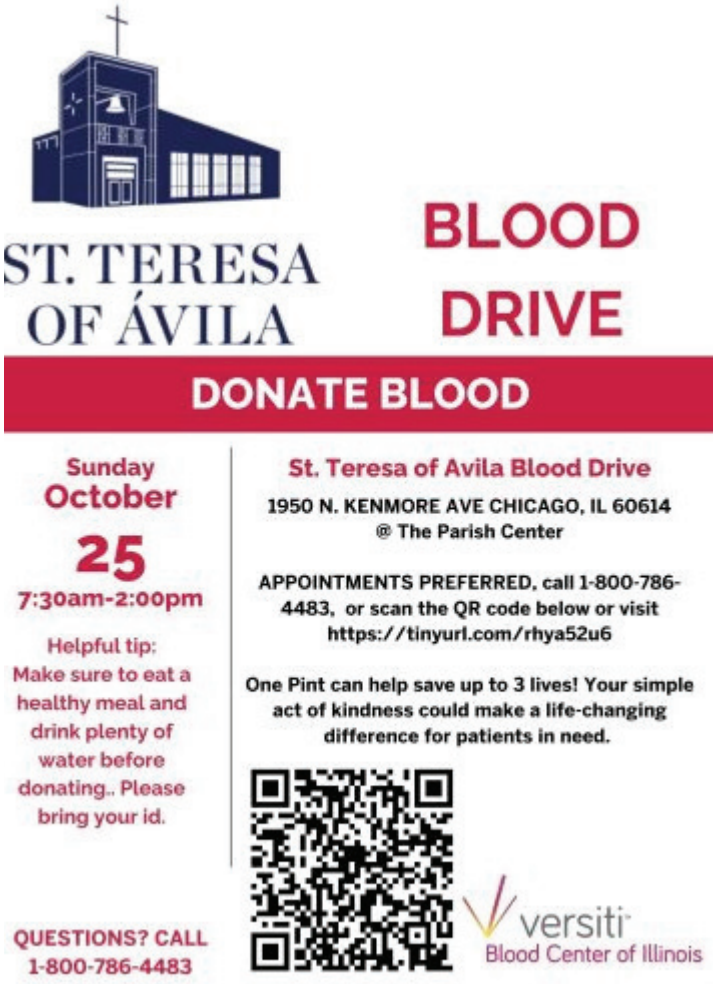
1620- The Pilgrims sailed from Plymouth, England, on the Mayflower to settle in North America.

1976- Dean Martin appeared on Jerry Lewis' 11th Muscular Dystrophy telethon. The pair had not spoken since the 1950s.

1979- National Grandparents Day was proclaimed by President Jimmy Carter to be celebrated on the Sunday following Labor Day.

1997- The funeral for Princess Diana was broadcast across several networks and around the world. An estimated 2 billion people watched all or part of the funeral on television.

Register to Join Us!



Bible Education – Easy to understand, not intimidating!

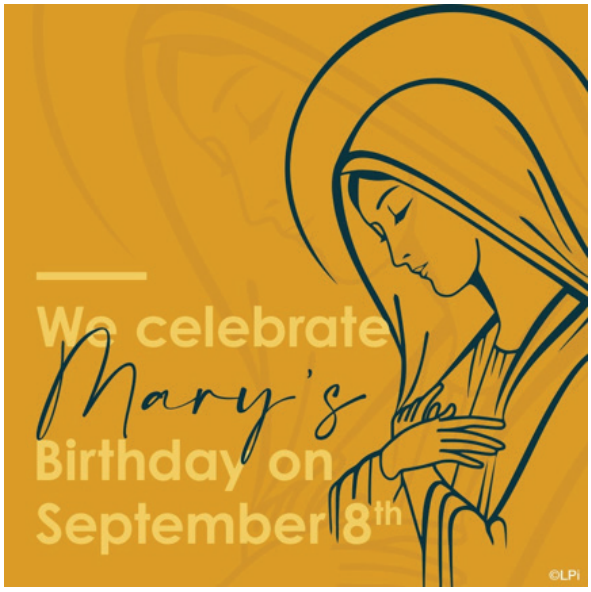
Mass Class will explore the rich biblical roots of the liturgy and the meaning of the words, gestures, and rituals.

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.



Faith meets the real world

How do you stay rooted in Christ when your office culture clashes with your values, relationships get complicated, and industries shift overnight?

All women of our community are invited to a 3-part Fall Series: Living Faithfully in a Complicated World. This series brings deep faith and deep belonging into direct conversation with the exact modern realities Chicago women navigate every day.

Come early to unwind! Wine, drinks, and light refreshments will be served at every session.

Wednesday Nights | 7:00–8:30 PM

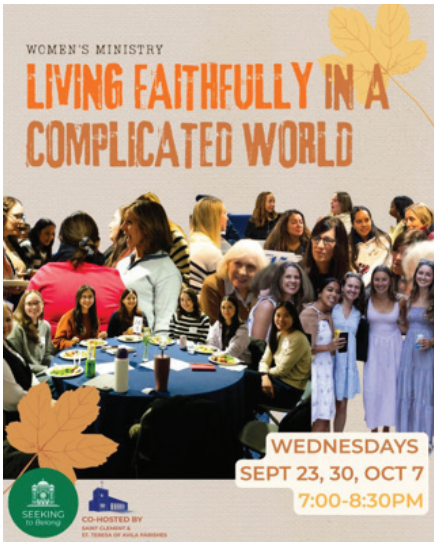
Sept 23: Values vs. Environment | Navigating secular workplaces, competitive social circles, and environments that don't match your faith.

Sept 30: The Reality of Relationships | Building authentic, Christ-centered connections when modern relationships feel harder than ever.

Oct 7: Markets, AI, and Faith | A special joint event with the Men's Executive Series featuring Jody Jonsson, Vice Chair at Capital Group, exploring how to find your ethical voice in a rapidly shifting global economy.

Come for professional networking, personal stories, and honest insights on how to live with courage and confidence.

**Spaces are limited for the Oct 7th keynote. Reserve your spot today https://saintclement.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/1292/responses/new or visit our parish website to register.*



Staff

Fr. Peter Wojcik
Pastor
pwojcik@archchicago.org

Fr. Radley Alcantara
Associate Pastor
ralcantara@archchicago.org

Charisse Gioia
Office Manager/Technology Coordinator/
Bulletin
cgioia@stteresaparish.org

Barbara McHugh
Religious Education
bmchugh@stteresaparish.org

Carol Spalla-Malone
Part-Time Business Manager
cspalla@archicago.org

Jason Krumwiede
Director of Music
musicalnut1@mac.com

Housekeeping
Irma Saavedra

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.