

ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

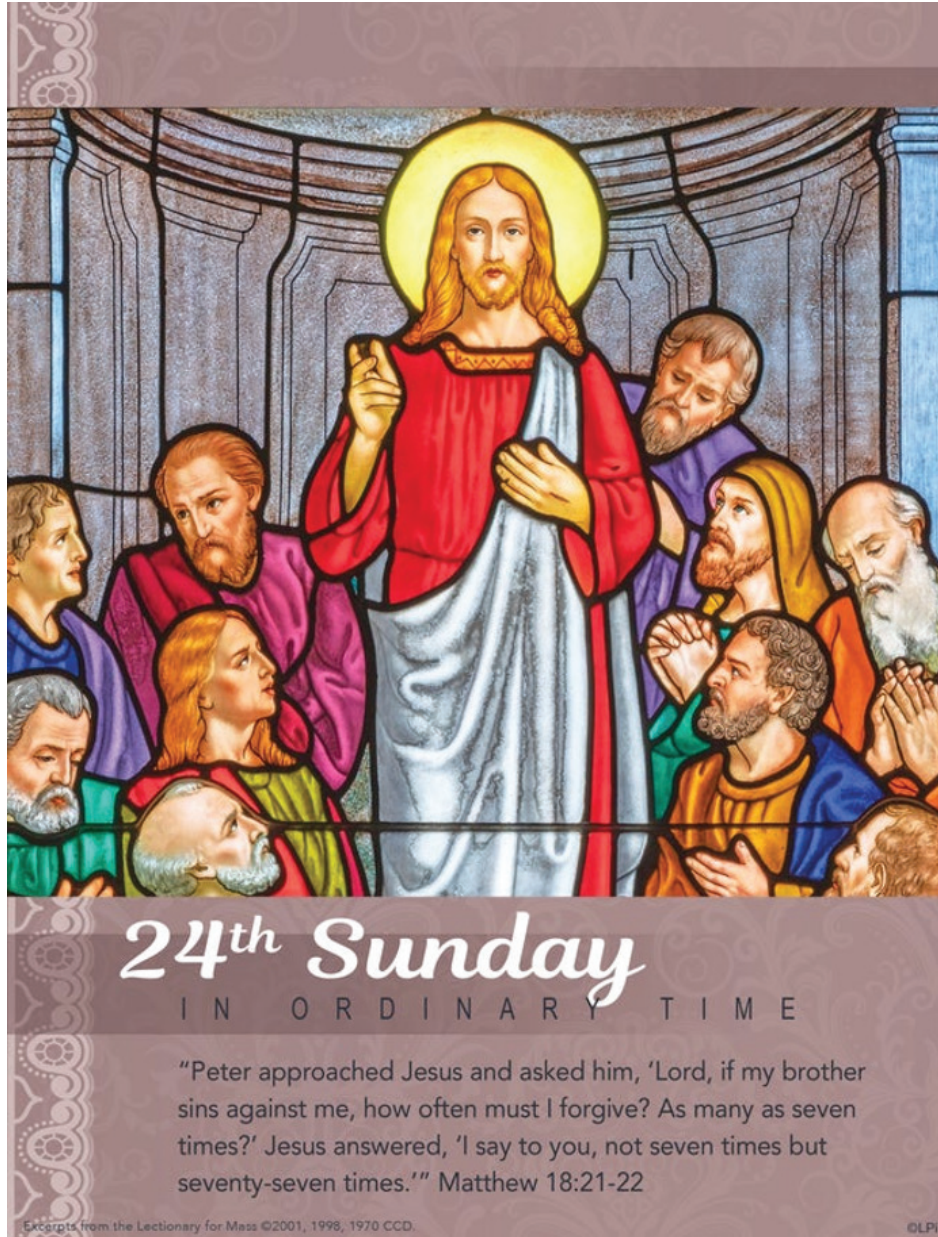
CATHOLIC PARISH ✚ EST 1889

September 13, 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

Tuesday - 6:00PM

Wednesday - 8:00AM

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: *Forgive your neighbor’s injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. (Sir 28:2)*

Second Reading: *None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. (Rom 14:8)*

Gospel: *Peter approached Jesus and asked him, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.” (Mt 18:21-22)*

Feasts and Saints:

- 9/14- The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- 9/15- Our Lady of Sorrows
- 9/16-Sts. Cornelius, Pope and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs
- 9/17- St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- 9/19- St. Januarius, Bishop and Martyr



Gospel Meditation: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In my parish, there was once a new employee who frequently told me she was sorry for various imperfections in her work. It could be a little tiring. I finally told her, “You know, you don’t have to say ‘sorry’ so often.” She looked me right in the eyes and said, “Father, you’re right. I’m sorry.” Her ear-to-ear grin betrayed that she enjoyed the irony – and that she would keep asking for forgiveness as often as she needed it.

The Gospel reading this week proclaims to us that God, in Jesus, delights in numerous requests for, and the granting of, forgiveness. To Peter’s question, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus responds, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.” In other words, Peter, stop counting.

Christian life should be marked by a commitment to frequent forgiveness. God never tires of forgiving us. His limitless love has overcome the power of vengeance, hatred, and division. We tap into that each and every time we ask for forgiveness or extend it to another.

How beautiful our hearts become when they become accustomed to frequent forgiveness! How joyful and attractive become our marriages, families, and parish communities! How light our souls feel when unburdened by the habit of keeping score.

Challenge: Name one thing, small or large, for which you could ask forgiveness from someone in your life. Then do it.

— 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 13, 2026

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Year Begins in Earnest

Dear Friends,

This week our Religious Education program begins again, and I want to welcome back every family who is returning, and welcome, warmly and by name if you will let me learn it, every family joining us for the first time. If you are new here, please know that you are not signing up for a program. You are joining a community that has been forming children in the faith for a very long time, and there is a place in it for your family.

I want to thank Barb and our catechists.

Since July, Barb has been one of my best teachers about this parish, and the more I watch her work the more I understand why. What she and the catechists give is not only their time, though they give a great deal of it. They give real care, week after week, to children who are learning who Jesus is. That care is what makes this program exceptional, and I do not use that word lightly. If you have ever thought about becoming a catechist, come and see what they do on a Sunday morning. You may find you want in.

Thank you as well to Debbie and Mike, who are again offering our Bible Classes on Sunday and Wednesday mornings. I have come to believe there is no shortcut here. We come to know Jesus through the Scriptures, and it is through the Scriptures that the Eucharist stops being something we attend and becomes something we understand. Those mornings are privileged moments in the life of this parish, and we are blessed that Debbie and Mike lead them with such generosity.

Now a word to those of you who have already done Alpha. If Alpha opened something up in you, my hope is that you take the next step this fall and join a Life Group. These are small faith sharing groups, and what we want them to be is intentional communities of disciples doing life together.

A handful of people who pray with each other, tell each other the truth, and keep showing up. Almost everyone I have ever known who joined one has told me the same thing afterward, that this is where the parish stopped being somewhere they went and became people they belonged to.

One last thing, and it is on my mind constantly. We are continuing the work of cleaning and refreshing our spaces, because I want the experience of everyone who comes here to be a ten out of ten.

Fr. Radley and I keep walking the building and asking what a first-time visitor would notice, and I would much rather hear the answer from you than guess at it.

If you have an idea for how we could do our hospitality better, please stop one of us and say so. We are listening, and we will act on it.

With thanks for those who teach and those who learn,

Fr. Peter

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 and Lincoln Commons

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

Alpha with Saint Clement and Saint Teresa of Avila parishes

Register at www.clement.org

Gospel Reflections:

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mercy You Can Feel

"You qualify for forgiveness," I heard the woman on the other end of the phone tell me, and I surprised myself by starting to weep.

I had called the hospital system's financial services department to set up a payment plan on a balance I owed after having some unexpected scans and tests. I was hoping to minimize the dent our family's savings took — transform one devastating wallop into a series of more easily absorbed blows, so to speak.

Imagine my surprise when I realized the hospital was pulling its punch. If you have ever had a financial debt forgiven, you know the relief that came over me in that moment.

It wasn't until a little later that the guilt set in. I know so many people who have medical debt. Why was I able to get out of paying, and they were not?

But the cold, hard truth is that I didn't "get out" of anything. My insurance, for which I pay, had given the hospital enough money to cover the true cost of the procedures. That balance would merely have increased the hospital's profit.

Make no mistake: capitalism does not forgive.

If you describe the Sacrament of Reconciliation to someone unfamiliar with theology, chances are they'll think God is a chump. "You get to go in, say you're sorry, and leave — and everything's just fine?" someone once asked me in disbelief.

Well, yeah. That's forgiveness.

Real mercy cannot be budgeted. It must be given recklessly, extravagantly, against all reason. It must cost the giver. It must scandalize any accountant worth his salt. And no one "qualifies."

If I can't wrap my head around the idea, it might mean I'm stuck in a for-profit paradigm of justice. It might just mean that I need to engage more in real mercy. Mercy I can feel.

Stewardship Reflections:

Should I Stay or Should I Go?

*Life is not always easy on us and it can be hard to figure out the next step to take in our journey. We can even become immobilized by indecisiveness and fear about making the wrong move or choosing the incorrect path. I think of the song, *Should I Stay, or Should I Go*, as a mantra for many times in my life. Should I stay in this house, this job, or this car? Should I go here or there? When those times of decision surface, I usually turn to my wife, my friends, or even my children. Talking it out can help, and their perspectives give me more data to consider. When I lean on others to help me make a decision, it helps me become more confident in my choices.*

Discerning the will of God is not easy either. Rarely do we understand God's calling clearly at first. God's calling is always more easily discerned within a community of faithful disciples. Our stewardship way of life can suffer greatly if we refuse to allow others to assist us in the process of discernment. What gifts or talents are needed for the task at hand? Where do I fit best into God's plan? Where is God leading me? No one should have to decide the answers to these questions alone. We need to always lean on the Body of Christ to help us see the path that God has laid before us. Without a little help along the journey, over time we might find ourselves stuck in the same place where we started.





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](mailto:Jessica Marx).

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



Mass Intentions

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

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.

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.



Sunday Funday September 13:

Today is Fortune Cookie Day and Kids Take Over the Kitchen Day

1790- The US Capitol was moved to New York City from Philadelphia.

1969- Scooby-Doo, Where Are You! premiered on TV.

1970- The first New York City Marathon was won by Gary Muhrcke.

1985- Super Mario Bros. was released in Japan for the NES.



Mass Schedule

Sunday 9/20 10am- Fr. Ken Simpson

Sunday 9/20 12pm- Fr. Radley Alcantara

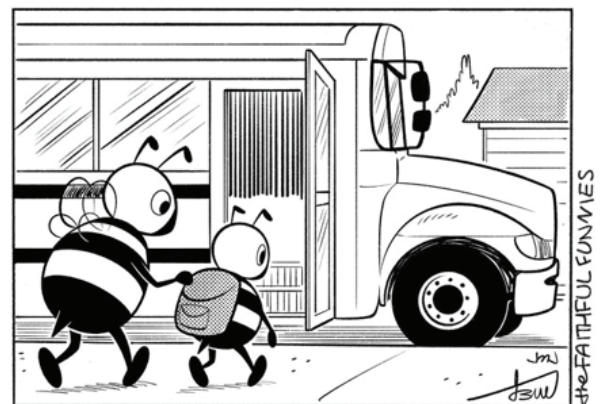
Sunday 9/20 6pm- Fr. Edward Udovic

A Blessing for Grandparents

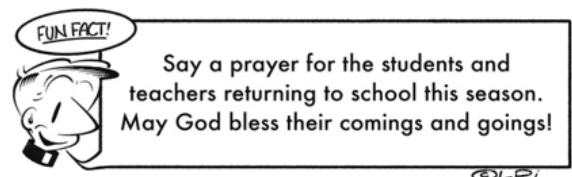
Dear God,

Bless the grandparents in our community. Stir in them a sense of caring, thoughtfulness, and kindness toward their preceding generations. Like St. Anne and St. Joachim, inspire them to live lives of brave faith and virtue. Give them and their families warm memories, happy times, and bright hope. Amen.

"How do bees get to school?"



"By taking the school buzz."





On the weekend of September 19/20, the Little Sisters of the Poor will visit our Parish to share their vocation of hospitality with the elderly. St. Mary's Home in Chicago is one of 145 Homes for the elderly poor operated by the Little Sisters in 30 countries around the world.

Acute and considerable continues to be their need for financial support. Virtually all the current Residents of St.

Mary's Home qualify for Medicaid, and a few receive meager pensions. But these modest funds cover, at best, about half of the annual expenses. The Little Sisters have ministered to thousands of elders in Chicago for 150 years. Your support will enable them to continue their mission of caring for the neediest seniors of every race and religion in a spirit of reverence and of humble service. Go to our website below to access our wish-list of items needed as well! Thank you for your generosity!



www.littlesistersofthepoorchicago.org



**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.

**QUESTIONS? CALL
1-800-786-4483**

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.



versiti
Blood Center of Illinois

HOW SWEET IT IS ...



**SPRED
ANNUAL TOOTSIE ROLL®
FUNDRAISER**

**After All the Masses
Sunday
September 20th, 2026**

All proceeds benefit special needs charities and SPRED at St. Teresa of Avila Parish.

Thank you for your generosity.



©LPI

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.

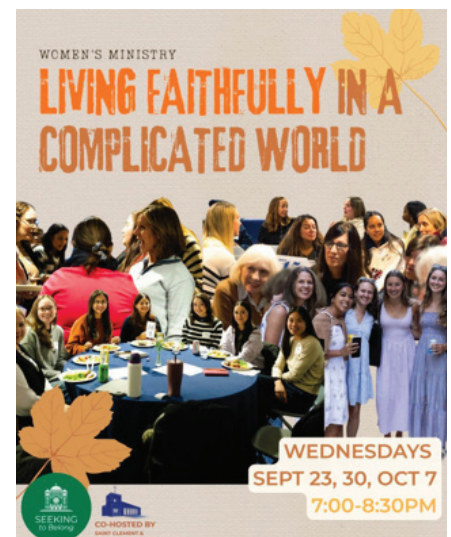
Sept 30: The Reality of Relationships | Building authentic, Christ-centered connections when modern relationships feel harder than ever.

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 at www.clement.org



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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.