

ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

CATHOLIC PARISH ✚ EST 1889

September 20, 2026

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

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25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"Are you envious because I am generous?" Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last." - Mt 20:15-16

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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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 and Confession

Tuesdays- 6:30-7:30pm

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: Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near. (Is 55:6)

Second Reading: I am caught between the two. I long to depart this life and be with Christ, for that is far better. (Phil 1:23)

Gospel: "What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?" (Mt 20:14-15)

Feasts and Saints:

- 9/21- St. Matthew Apostle and Evangelist
- 9/23- St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest
- 9/26-Sts. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs



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)

Gospel Meditation: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Every December, the priests of my diocese gather for a Christmas dinner with our bishop. Nearly 200 of us in one room: newly ordained and long retired, pastors of large parishes and quiet confessors, men full of energy and others moving more slowly. Some carry visible success; others bear hidden wounds. It is a tapestry of vocations and lives. When the bishop thanks us, I am always moved. For a moment, none of our differences matter. What matters is that we belong to one another.

I usually leave that evening with a deep sense of peace, but also with a sober realization. Nothing drains joy from the vineyard of the Lord faster than comparison. The quiet habit of measuring, ranking, and resenting can creep in even among those who sincerely serve God.

That is what Jesus exposes in today's parable of the workers in the vineyard. The early laborers are not upset because they were treated unjustly; they are angry because others were treated generously. Their resentment blinds them to the gift already in their hands. When the landowner asks, "Are you envious because I am generous?" he names the real wound.

This tension echoes throughout salvation history: the elder brother resenting the prodigal, the faithful servant scorning the latecomer. Jesus does not deny the labor of those who have borne the heat of the day, but he refuses to let God's mercy become a zero-sum game.

In the end, the vineyard's reward is not about fairness but belonging. The joy offered is communion with a generous Father, who delights in gathering early and late, strong and weak, into one household of grace.

— Father John Muir



From Fr. Peter:

Sunday, September 20, 2026

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Together in Joy

Dear Friends,

On Saturday, November 14, we gather at Sarabande Chicago for Together in Joy, our parish gala. I want to tell you why it matters to me, because my thinking about it has changed since I arrived.

I came in assuming it was a fundraiser, and of course it is. But I have spent the summer asking people why they support Saint Teresa, and almost nobody reaches for the word charity. They talk like investors.

They tell me what changes on a block when more than 5,200 families a year can count on groceries.

They tell me what a Friday dinner means to a man who would otherwise eat it alone.

They tell me about refugee families who arrived in Chicago with nothing and who now have a lease, a job, and a number to call when something goes wrong.

These are people who think carefully about where their money goes, and they have concluded that a dollar given to this parish does more work than almost anywhere else they could put it.

Having watched this place operate up close for a few months, I have come around to their view.

Together in Joy is how that work gets paid for. The food pantry. Loaves and Fishes.

Our refugee ministry and our outreach programs.

Faith formation for our children and for adults.

And the celebration of the Eucharist, which is the reason any of the rest of it exists.

There is something else about the evening, though, and I have thought about it more than the money. It is one of the few nights of the year when this whole community is in one room, facing each other rather than facing forward. I have seen what that does to a parish. People discover that they have been sitting three pews away from someone they would like to know.

That is worth an evening of your life on its own.

I want to thank the members of our Together in Joy committee.

They have been at this since the summer months, mostly on weeknights, mostly without anyone noticing, and they are working hard to make the evening worthy of you. When you see them, please tell them thank you. I have.

So please register, and please consider supporting the evening at whatever level reflects what this parish is worth to you.

Tickets and sponsorship information are at teresa.church, and you can also reach Scott Nowakowski at outreach@teresa.church or call the parish office.

If November 14 does not work for you, your gift matters every bit as much.

The Gospel today gives us the landowner who pays the workers hired at the eleventh hour the same wage as those who bore the heat of the day, and the ones who worked longest are furious about it.

I understand them. Most of us are quietly keeping score. But God does not pay out what we have earned.

He gives, and he gives more than is reasonable, and everything we attempt at Together in Joy is our small attempt to answer that with a little generosity of our own.

With joy, and with gratitude for your partnership,

Fr. Peter

Gospel Reflections:

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Why

Sometimes, the Gospel takes everything you think you know about Jesus, throws it in a box, shakes it violently, dumps it on the floor, looks you in the eye and says: "Clean it up." And there you are, picking up the pieces, wondering how, after 2,000 years, someone can still keep you guessing.

Today is one of those Gospels. We know Jesus as a champion of the poor. We envision him as a social justice warrior. And now he's advocating for time theft in the workplace? Make it make sense.

Well, at its heart, today's Gospel is a story about who gets what. A story about comparison, which we are told is the thief of joy — but without comparison, nothing would ever get done. In this world, wages are set, court cases are settled, international borders are drawn, all by comparing one entity to another and evaluating that comparison to make a judgment.

What this Gospel doesn't tell us is the "why." The workers who labored longest in the vineyard feel cheated because those who showed up later earn the same wage. This would be egregious — unless we consider that the only criteria used in the comparison is the length of the work day's duration. Quality and efficiency of work is never even mentioned. For all we know, those all-day workers could have been standing around fanning themselves, and should feel lucky to get what they did.

"Why" is a question we ask a lot in this life. Why did my dad die? Why did I get cancer? Why did my husband lose his job? As we pick up the pieces of today's Gospel, we should ask ourselves this: when we know what we know about Who decides who gets what, do we have to know the "why?"

Stewardship Reflections:

Be Sure to Look the Part

I used to coach my oldest son in soccer when he was younger. As he got older, he would go to tryouts for select and high school teams. I was no longer the coach, but I always shared with him one piece of advice before any tryout: Be sure to look the part. I told him that if he showed up looking like a soccer player, there was an increased chance of him being seen as a soccer player. If he showed up looking like a kid that plays soccer in video games as opposed to the real thing, he might not be taken seriously. As he grew older, that same advice was then applied to getting a job. It's advice I have heeded myself all my life. You can even say it is like another common phrase: "Fake it till you make it."

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we certainly do not want to fake it, but we do need to look the part. The world looks at those of us who proclaim to be Christians to see if there is anything to this way of life. If they see us looking and acting like people transformed by Jesus Christ, they will be more likely to take Christianity seriously. If they look at us and see nothing different, then they can easily conclude that there is nothing different about Jesus Christ. He just becomes simply another religious figure of history. Can the world see the power of Christ in you?

How will do you look the part?





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.

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

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 @ \[chicago2381@hotmail.com\]\(mailto:chicago2381@hotmail.com\)](mailto:Jessica Marx)



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 20:

Today is Pepperoni Pizza Day and Rum Punch Day

1960- The Flintstones debuted on ABC

1973- An estimated 90 million people watched 'The Battle of the Sexes.' Billie Jean King defeated Bobby Riggs in a televised tennis match at the Astrodome in Houston, Texas.

1998- The Iron Man Rested – Baltimore Orioles shortstop Cal Ripken, Jr. sat out a game, ending his consecutive MLB game playing streak. Cal "Irom Man" Ripken played 2,632 consecutive games over 16 seasons.



Mass Schedule

Sunday 9/27 10am- Fr. Peter Wojcik

Sunday 9/27 12pm- Fr. Peter Wojcik

Sunday 9/27 6pm- Fr. Peter Wojcik

Blessing for Catechism Class

Dear God,

Bless our classroom and each of us gathered here.

May every moment we spend together be one of grace.

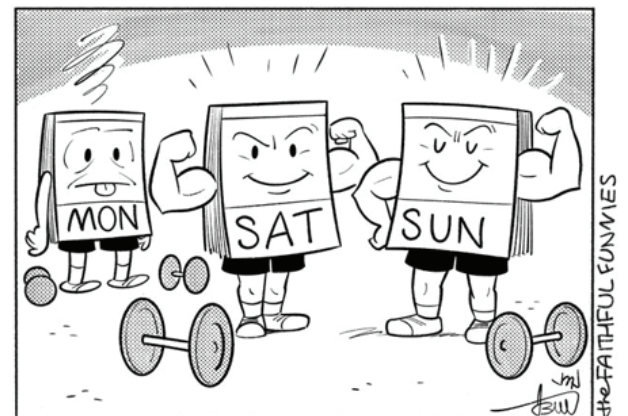
Be with the Catechist who prepares and presents –

giving them the right words to convey Your truth.

Be with the students, opening their hearts and minds to learn Your will.

Amen.

"What are the strongest days of the week?"



"Saturday and Sunday—the rest are **weekdays!**"



We remember God's love and Jesus' resurrection when we gather as a community for Sunday Mass. Staying "prayed up" keeps us spiritually strong!

GLP

Life Groups, Including St. Teresa Koinonia Faith Sharing Groups

Kick-off event on Sunday, October 18, 1:15 pm, following the Noon Mass at St. Teresa

Looking for a way to deepen your faith and build meaningful connections in the new year?

Life Groups are same-gender faith-sharing circles where parishioners grow together in a Christcentered lifestyle. Grounded in Scripture and Church teaching, Life Groups provide a welcoming space to share your joys and struggles, encourage one another, and walk faithfully together.

St. Teresa has a rich tradition of mixed-gender Koinonia Faith Sharing Groups.

Anyone interested in joining a Life Group, as well as participants in Koinonia Faith Sharing Groups, are invited to take part in our Kick-off event on Sunday, October 18 at 1:15 pm at St. Teresa.

We will begin with a meet-and-greet dinner and presentation, followed by individual groups meeting to identify their meeting schedules and locations.

They will gather in homes or local spots chosen by each group. Parish meeting spaces might be available at St. Teresa.

The change of seasons from summer to fall invites us to new beginnings.

Please register to participate in a Life Group and our Kick-off event at teresa.church and plan to join us for the October 18 Kick-off.

Calling All Tech & AV Enthusiasts!

Do you enjoy working with technology? We are seeking volunteers to join our Sunday morning AV team!

- **The Role:** Help manage our Sunday morning live-streams and assist with light sound adjustments for the church and parish center.
- **No Experience Needed:** Full training on all equipment and streaming software will be provided.
- **Great for Students:** High schoolers looking for a fun way to serve the parish are strongly encouraged to sign up!

Get Involved: Contact Jason at musicalnut1@mac.com or say hello at the piano right after Mass!



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

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



Connection

When a loved one comes out, family members often grapple with questions of faith, identity, and belonging. Tonight, discover a safe space to ask questions, find community, and access resources such as affirming partner parishes, schools, ministries and organizations that benefit the whole family.

The evening kicks off with the Family Resources Reception at 5:00pm in the Parish Ministry Center

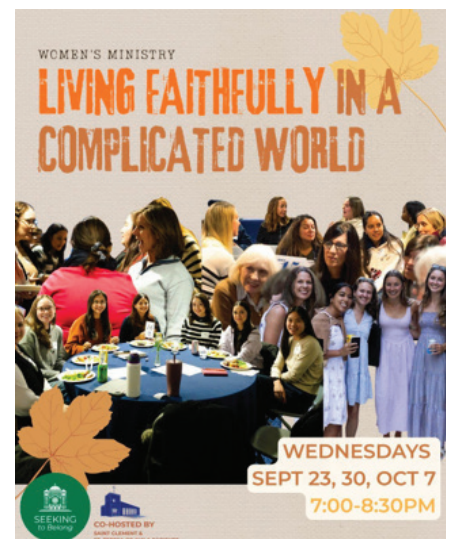
Sunday, September 27

Family Resources Reception at 5:00 p.m.
in the Parish Ministry Center,
followed by Sunday Mass at 7:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
708 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago

Parking lots east of the church, next to the Sulzer Public Library
branch and west of the church, next to the school.

To register for the reception, scan this QR code. For details, email Angelina: angelina@aglochicago.org.



Staff

Fr. Peter Wojcik

Pastor

pwojcik@archchicago.org

Fr. Radley Alcantara

Associate Pastor

ralcantara@archchicago.org

Charisse Gioia

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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.