

ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

CATHOLIC PARISH ✚ EST 1889

September 27, 2026

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

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26th Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME

"He came to the first and said, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.' He said in reply, 'I will not,' but afterwards changed his mind and went." Matthew 21:28-29

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 Shephard for children, Confirmation Preparation, 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 he turns from the wickedness he has committed, he does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life. (Ez 18:27)

Second Reading: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil 2:10-11)

Gospel: Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you." (Mt 21:31)

Feasts and Saints:

9/28- St. Wenceslaus, Matrtys ; St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs

9/29- Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

9/30- St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church

10/1- St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

10/2- The Holy Guardian Angels



Financials: August 2026

	FY26	FY25
Basket/Mail In:	17,878	15,384
Give Central:	31,257	33,899
Total:	THIS YEAR	PREVIOUS YEAR
	\$49,135	\$49,283
		\$(148)

Gospel Meditation: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

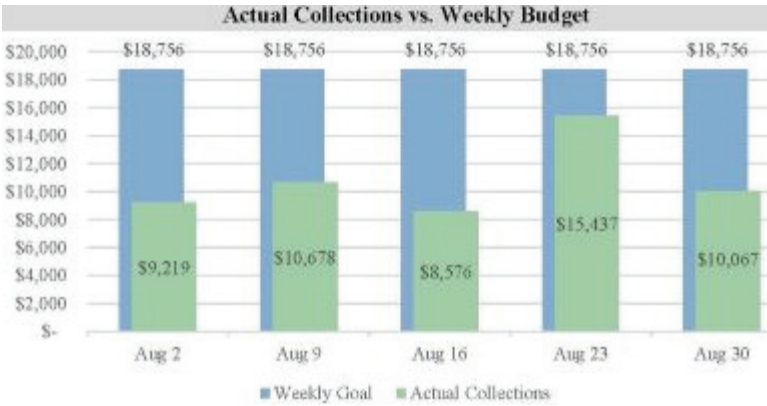
This Sunday, Jesus tells a short, uncomfortable story. A father asks two sons to go work in the vineyard. One says no, but later goes. The other says yes, but never shows up. It is a parable so simple, we almost miss how sharp it is. Jesus is clear about who it is for. This is not aimed at pagans or outsiders. It is aimed squarely at religious people, people who know the right words and sound obedient.

Jesus is not condemning unbelief so much as disobedience. The polite hypocrisy that says the right things while quietly resisting the Father's will. St. John Chrysostom put it bluntly, "Not words, but deeds, are what God requires. Nothing so exasperates Him as insincere obedience, while nothing so delights Him as repentance."

Every disciple must face that mirror. Do I publicly profess faith in Christ while privately resisting what He asks of me? It is easy to say, I believe in God in my heart. But if faith never becomes action, it slowly becomes an illusion Jesus does not expose hypocrisy to shame us. He reveals it to heal us. He wants our hearts and our deeds to speak the same word, to let our yes truly mean yes. Like the second son who initially refused but afterwards changed his mind and went, Jesus invites us to step into the Father's will, however late, however imperfectly.

Challenge: Where are your public faith and private obedience divided? Where do you say, I will go, but never enter the vineyard? Go, get to work, even if it is late. The Father's vineyard is still open.

— Father John Muir



From Fr. Peter:

Sunday, September 27, 2026

Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Why We Are Here

Dear Friends,

As fall settles in and the rhythm of the year takes hold, Fr. Radley and I have been talking about what we most want to keep in front of us this year.

It comes down to two things. We are here to proclaim Jesus Christ, and we are here to care for one another and for those in need.

Everything else we do serves those two things. Our worship, our formation, our hospitality, the food pantry, the Friday meal, the small groups, all of it. When I test a decision, that is the test I use, and I would encourage you to use it too.

I want to say a warm welcome to everyone who has joined our parish in these last weeks. Some of you found us through Alpha. Some came because a friend brought you. Some of you moved into the neighborhood and simply walked in one Sunday to see what this place was like.

However you got here, we are glad, and I mean that as more than a pleasantry. You belong to this family now, and the family is better for having you in it.

Which brings me to something I would ask you to sit with this fall. Where is God asking you to lead here?

I say lead deliberately. Perhaps it is a liturgical ministry, or hospitality on a Sunday morning, or catechesis, or serving at the pantry, or co-leading a Life Group next season, or bringing a professional skill to a committee that badly needs exactly what you know how to do.

I have learned this summer that this parish is full of capable people, and that in most cases the only reason we are not making use of your gifts is that nobody has ever asked you. So let me ask you. Come and talk to me.

I also want to invite our women and our men to the Executive Speaker Series that we co-host with our friends at Saint Clement.

These gatherings bring together people trying to live their faith in the middle of demanding professional lives, and what they offer is honest conversation with others who understand those pressures and take the Gospel seriously anyway. That combination is harder to find than it should be.

Watch the bulletin for the fall dates and registration.

The Gospel today tells of two sons. One tells his father no and then goes out and works in the vineyard.

The other says yes and never shows up. Jesus asks which one did the father's will, and the answer is obvious and a little uncomfortable, at least it is for me.

What we say on Sunday is not what forms us.

What we do on Monday is.

My prayer for this fall is that we are a parish that continues to show up.

With confidence in what God is doing here,

Fr. Peter

Celebrating Barb McHugh

Dear friends,

I have some good news to share. Cardinal Blase Cupich will present Barb McHugh with the 2026 Christifideles Award at the Annual Archdiocesan Awards Prayer Service on Sunday, October 4, at Holy Name Cathedral.

The award takes its name from St. John Paul II's letter Christifideles Laici, on the vocation of the laity: the call every baptized person carries to take responsibility for the life and mission of the Church. It is given not for a title, but for a life.

I will be honest with you: deciding where to begin with this award was extremely hard. So many people make Saint Teresa what it is. But as I prayed about it, it became clear that we should begin with Barb. For twenty years she has served this parish as a volunteer catechist, a member of the pastoral council, a leader, and now as our Director of Children and Youth Formation. That ministry did not only transform her. It shaped her whole family and the way each of them serves. Since my May visit and my first Mass here, I have lost count of the families who told me they are at Saint Teresa because of our catechetical program. For them it is not a program. It is an experience of the Church that transforms a family. I have been in ministry long enough to recognize the fruit of prayer and of the Holy Spirit, and this is it.

Barb's quiet, faithful commitment makes this parish more faithful and more committed to God, and therefore to one another. She would be the first to point to the many others who deserve recognition, and she is right. We will not stop with her. But we are blessed to begin with her.

Please join me in celebrating Barb at a special reception on Sunday, October 11, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass, as we mark the Feast of Saint Teresa of Ávila with cake and gratitude.

In Christ,

Fr. Peter

Life Groups

Including St. Teresa's Koinonia Faith Sharing Group

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.



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



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.

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 27 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 30 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.

Mass Intentions

10AM- Anna Maria Ruiz (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.

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 27:

Today is Chocolate Milk Day and Saint Vincent De Paul Feast Day

1540- Pope Paul III approved the charter for the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

1908- Model T #0001 came out of Henry Ford's car factory today.

1937- The first Santa Claus training school opened in Albion, New York.

2006- East End Show – Wicked (Musical)

Mass Schedule

Sunday 10/4 10am- Fr. Ken Simpson

Sunday 10/4 12pm- Fr. Ken Simpson

Sunday 10/4 6pm- Fr. Udovic

Prayer for Autumn

Dear God, As the weather changes, the birds migrate, and autumn's flowers, colors, and clouds make their entrance, we thank You for the gift of this beautiful season! Help us use this season to draw closer to each other and to You. Amen.



"How do angels greet each other?"



"Halo!"



Angels are spiritual beings created by God. St. Augustine calls them "the mighty ones who do His word, hearkening to the voice of His word."

CLP



OCIA: Growing Faith in and through Community

Fall '26 OCIA Registration Open

At the Second Vatican Council the bishops of the world called for the “restoration of the catechumenate for adults” which is intended as “a period of suitable instruction” which “may be sanctified by sacred rites to be celebrated at successive intervals of time.”

This initiated what had been called RCIA in the 1970’s. It is now known as OCIA, Order of Christian Initiation of Adults.

This restoration mirrored the practice of the early church, which supported adult inquirers in exploring what it means to be Christian. This inquiry included instruction, prayer, fellowship, charity toward the poor and reflection on the Word of God.

This process of coming to faith and proving one’s serious intention to commit to the Christian life was community based. Accompanying the catechumen challenged the Christian community to reflect on their own identity as the living Body of Christ in the world. It was an opportunity for renewed commitment to what it means to be a disciple of Christ.

As the parish community of St. Teresa of Avila, each member is charged with accompanying our OCIA seekers to the sacraments of initiation into the Body of Christ.

Our OCIA team spends time each week facilitating discussions, presenting our Catholic beliefs, leading prayer and walking closely with our OCIA community. But while the Team represents you, we don’t replace you.

Please support all on this faith journey.

Make them feel welcome, as you have been welcomed by God.

Our OCIA process welcomes the unbaptized, baptized Christians seeking to join the Catholic Church and Catholics seeking to complete their sacraments of initiation (Confirmation and/or first Eucharist). Each cohort meets weekly with breaks for holidays. Our cohorts welcome a mix of those interested from either St. Teresa or St. Clement. Sacraments will be celebrated at each person’s respective parish.

Meetings will be held at each location. You can choose Monday or Thursday evenings or indicate your flexibility for either evening.

Meetings begin the week of November 16. The Monday cohort begins on Monday, November 16, from 7 – 8:30 pm, meeting at St. Clement. The Thursday cohort begins meeting Thursday, November 19 at St. Teresa from 7 – 8:30 pm.

For more information you may email Fr. Radley Alcantara, ralcantara@clement.org or Ed Harasim, eharasim@clement.org, Pastoral Associate and OCIA Coordinator

Saint Clement Basketball Coaching Opportunity

Saint Clement’s athletic program is seeking a basketball coach for the Winter season (grades 4-6). The season will begin in late October and run through the end of February.

Practices will be held twice during the week at Saint Clement in the evenings and all games will be played on Saturday mornings, early afternoons at various gyms within a 6 mile span of Saint Clement School. Coaching experience is preferred. If you are interested in coaching, please reach out to Athletic Director, Tony Hoolehan for more information.

ahoolehan@stclementschoool.org 219.776.6211



**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.





Fall 2026 - Hard Calls: Faith, Judgment, and Work in the Age of AI

Four Wednesdays in October, presented together by Saint Clement and St. Teresa of Avila

You are already making decisions about AI. What your company adopts. What you tell your team. What you let your kids use. How much of your own judgment you are willing to hand over. Most of us are making those calls faster than we would like, with less information than we want, and with plenty of people ready to tell us what to think.

This October, four people who carry real weight will talk about how they actually decide. All four of them allocate capital at global scale. All four have had to act before the answers were clear, and all four take their faith seriously while doing it.

October 7 · Jody Jonsson Vice Chair, Capital Group Markets, AI, and Faith: Finding Your Voice in a Shifting World Saint Clement, Courtyard Combined session with the Women's Executive Series

October 14 · Tom Raterman Vice Chairman, Runway Growth Capital, and Saint Clement parishioner The Wisdom to Build: Discernment in the Age of AI Saint Clement, Courtyard

October 21 · Matthew Harvey Sanders CEO of Longbeard, founder of Magisterium AI What Will You Build? Work, Calling, and Creativity in the Age of AI St. Teresa of Avila

October 28 · Cardinal Blase J. Cupich Archbishop of Chicago Finding Our Christian Voice in a World of AI St. Teresa of Avila

Reserve your spot today at www.clement.org

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.

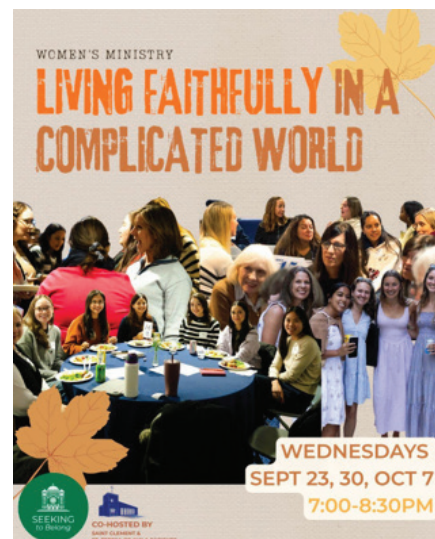
Sept 30: The Reality of Relationships | Building authentic, Christ-centered connections when modern relationships feel harder than ever.

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, Combined with the Mens's Executive Series

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



Staff

Fr. Peter Wojcik

Pastor

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Fr. Radley Alcantara

Associate Pastor

ralcantara@archchicago.org

Charisse Gioia

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Irma Saavedra

Sergio Mora

Building & Facilities Manager

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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.