

ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

CATHOLIC PARISH ✚ EST 1889

October 4, 2026

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

T
H
E

J
O
U
R
N
E
Y



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: *What more was there to do for my vineyard that I had not done? Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes? (Is 5:4)*

Second Reading: *Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you. (Phil 4:9)*

Gospel: *“What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?” They answered him, “He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants.” (Mt 21:41)*

Feasts and Saints:

10/5- St. Faustina Kowalska, Virgin ; Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest

10/6- St. Bruno, Priest; Blessed Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin

10/7- Our Lady of the Rosary

10/9- St. Denis, Bishop and Companions, Martyrs;

St. John Leonardi, Priest

Gospel Meditation: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Have you ever felt like your attempts at prayer are a waste of time? I have. Early in my priesthood, I noticed that my prayer life was weakening. Awe and eager expectancy of contact with God had given way to routine. I gradually spent less and less time praying. Nothing dramatic had happened, but my attitude toward God had changed, and I was losing the desire to pray.

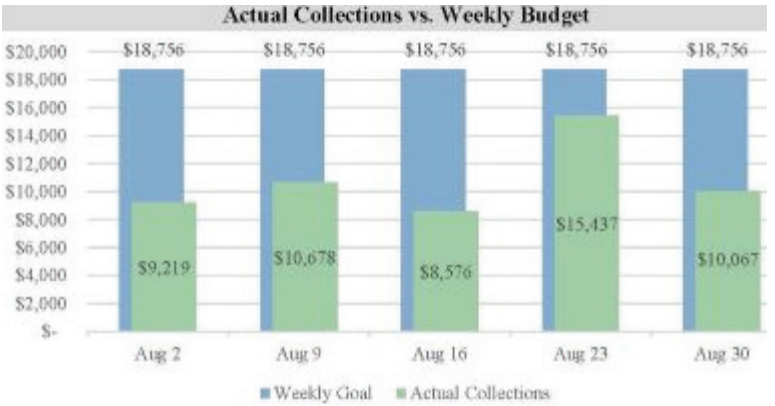
Jesus’ parable of the insane vineyard tenants speaks into this kind of experience. He says the landowner “leased it to tenants and went on a journey” (Matthew 21:33). The key to this message is that the vineyard does not belong to those who work it — they are entrusted with it. But little by little, they view it as their possession, and ungrateful entitlement follows. The servants sent by the owner are treated as intrusions. Even the owner’s son becomes a means to their delusional self-will. The central tragedy is not violence but the forgetfulness that spawns it. They need reminding how lucky they are to be given so much.

Eventually, God sent friends to remind me that my relationship with Him and my prayer time are not my possessions, but rather God’s tremendous gifts to me. Perhaps you are feeling discouraged for some reason or other these days in your walk with God. Ponder this parable and let it be a gentle reminder that you and I are fortunate stewards, and God is the generous giver. This allows us to rediscover the beauty of the vineyards in our lives and to remain energetic in cultivating his gifts.

— Father John Muir

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)



From Fr. Peter:

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Friends,

Next Sunday, October 11, we celebrate the Feast of Saint Teresa of Avila, and Fr. Radley and I would love for the whole parish to be here for it.

There will be a reception after every Mass that weekend, so whichever Mass is yours, please stay and let us celebrate together.

As we celebrate our community, please think of someone who used to sit near you and whom you have not seen in a while. A neighbor who moved away but still thinks of this place as home. A friend who drifted off during the pandemic and never quite came back. Someone who was married here, or had a child baptized here, or buried a parent from this church.

Please invite them. Call them, text them, tell them we miss you!

A patronal feast is not only about what God is doing among us now, although there is a great deal to celebrate there. It is also a thanksgiving for everything God has done through this parish over the years, in the lives of couples who were married at this altar, families who raised their children here, and people who found their way back to faith in these pews.

Many of those people are no longer with us on Sunday.

They are still part of the story, and I would love for them to know they are welcome at the table. Some of the most moving conversations I have had since arriving were with people who told me, a little shyly, that they used to belong here. I always want to say the same thing.

You still do.

Second, a word to everyone who has done Alpha or taken part in our Koinonia Faith Groups. Our fall Life Groups begin with a kickoff on Sunday, October 18, with lunch after the 12:00 p.m. Mass. We will have two kinds of groups. If you have never been part of a Koinonia group, we would love for you to begin there. And for those of you who have already done Koinonia and have been asking me what comes next, we are offering something new: a journey of nine sessions over eighteen weeks through Magnifica Humanitas, Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical, on safeguarding the human person in the time of artificial intelligence. I have been reading it slowly this summer. It is not a technical document. It is a document about what it means to be human, and I cannot think of a better thing to talk about with a small group of people you trust. Registration is open to everyone on our website.

Third, October is traditionally our season of thanksgiving, when we reflect together as a community on how each of us contributes to the life of this parish. In the weeks to come you will hear from members of our Finance Council and from me, inviting you to consider your 2026/27 commitment to Saint Teresa of Avila. Right now, about 235 households give to the parish on an ongoing basis. That is roughly half of our members. I am deeply grateful to every one of you, and I am also convinced that we can do this together, more of us, sharing the load.

A few pastoral updates. Next Sunday at the 10:00 a.m. Mass we will bless and congratulate Barb McHugh, who has received the Christifideles Award from Cardinal Cupich.

Today's Gospel is the parable of the tenants who were entrusted with a vineyard they did not plant. I think about that often in this parish.

We are tending something that others built with great love long before Fr. Radley and I arrived.

Our job is to care for it well and hand it on stronger than we found it.

With gratitude for all who have made this parish home,

Fr. Peter



PARISH BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY TRAINING

Monday, October 19, 2026 | 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

St. Teresa of Avila Parish

950 North Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614

This training is open to all who are a part of a Parish Bereavement Ministry Team looking for a refresher, or those who are new to Bereavement Ministry or Grief Ministry.

SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m.

Hospitality

10 a.m.

Program:

- **The Christian Bereavement Journey**: Accompaniment
- **Planning the Funeral**: Guidelines for the Mass of Christian Burial
- **Meeting with the Family**: Accompanying the Grieving on their Journey
- **Grief Groups**: Continued Accompaniment for those who are grieving

12 p.m.

Closing

To register, click [here](#) or scan the QR code.

For more information, please contact Cathy Walz at cwalz@archchicago.org or 312.343.5703



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.



GROWING IN *grace*
community of faith for 55+



MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS

Pope Leo XIV's encyclical letter on safeguarding the human person in the age of artificial intelligence

Join us as Fr. Peter Wojcik leads our discussion of Pope Leo's first encyclical — a call to place human dignity, truth, work, justice, and peace at the center of the AI age.

Fr. Peter Wojcik serves as pastor of both Saint Clement & St. Teresa of Avila Parishes.

JOIN US, ALL ARE WELCOME!

Light hospitality provided

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

Hospitality: 9:30 a.m. | Program: 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Location: Saint Clement Parish - Chapel
(642 W. Deming Place, Chicago, 60614)



REGISTER HERE

clement.org/growinginGrace



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

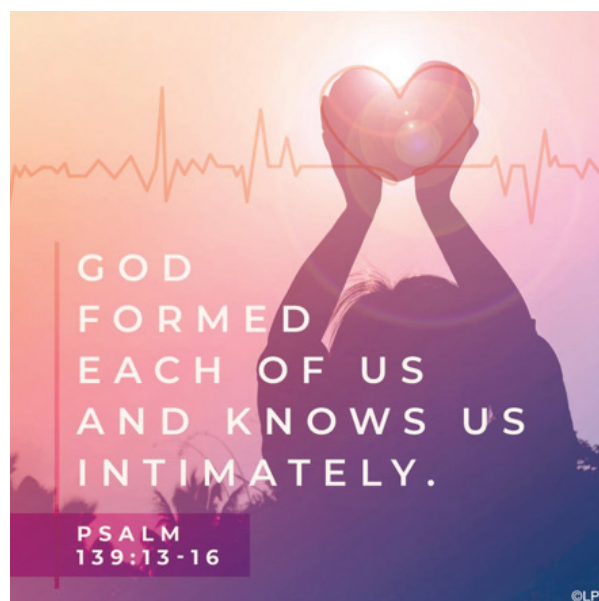
cgioia@stteresaparish.org



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.



Mass Intentions

10AM- Anna Maria Ruiz (D); Gladys Rosario (D); Ebbie Salazer (D)

12 PM - Martha Estella Montes (D)

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 October 4:

Today is Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and Taco Day

1535- The first complete English-language Bible (the Coverdale Bible) was printed, translated by William Tyndale and Myles Coverdale.

1895- The first U.S. Open Men's Golf Championship was played at the Newport Country Club in Newport, Rhode Island.

1941- Norman Rockwell's Willie Gillis character debuted on the cover of The Saturday Evening Post.

1965- Pope Paul VI's visit to New York got television coverage on all 3 American networks. The Papal Mass at Yankee Stadium was broadcast in color.

Mass Schedule

Sunday 10/11 10am- Fr. Peter Wojcik

Sunday 10/11 12pm- Fr. Peter Wojcik

Sunday 10/11 6pm- Fr. Peter Wojcik

Blessing for Life

What wonder You have gifted us, Lord, in the blessing of life!

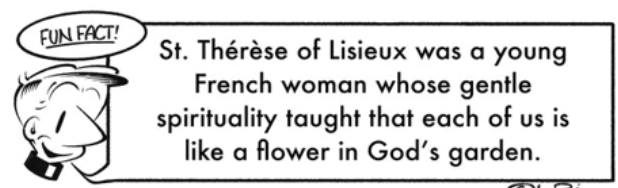
May Your name be praised with every movement, every heartbeat, every breath.

Protect life in every stage, race, age, ability, creed, and capacity.

Pour Your mercy upon us this day, helping us to live deeply and love well. Amen.



Life's better when you stop to smell the roses.



St. Thérèse of Lisieux was a young French woman whose gentle spirituality taught that each of us is like a flower in God's garden.

GLP



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.

The Fall cohorts begin in mid-November. We host two cohorts. The Thursday cohort will begin November 12 at St. Teresa of Avila, 1950 N. Kenmore, at Armitage just west of the Brown Line.

The Monday cohort will begin November 16 at St. Clement, 642 W. Deming Place.

You may choose either day or indicate that you are flexible for either day. We meet from 7 - 8:30 pm with time off for holidays. Our sessions include content, discussion and Scripture reflection. Sacraments will be celebrated at the Easter Vigil on March 27, 2027

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

Register at www.clement.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.





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.

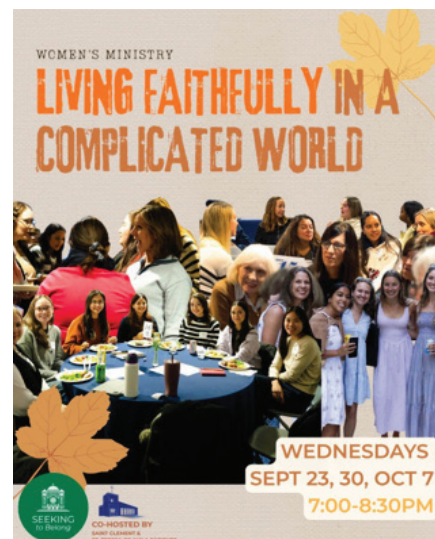
Sept 30: The Reality of Relationships | Building authentic, Christ-centered connections when modern relationships feel harder than ever.

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

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@archchicago.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

aalthoff@gmail.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.