

ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

CATHOLIC PARISH ✚ EST 1889

October 18, 2026

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

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29th Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME

"He said to them, 'Whose image is this and whose inscription?' They replied, 'Caesar's.' At that he said to them, 'Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.'" Matthew 22:20-22

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

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: *Thus says the LORD to his anointed, Cyrus, whose right hand I grasp, subduing nations before him. (Is 45:1)*

Second Reading: *We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love. (1 Thes 1:2-3)*

Gospel: *“Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” (Mt 22:21)*

Feasts and Saints:

10/19- Sts. John De Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs

10/20- St. Paul of the Cross, Priest

10/22- St. John Paul II, Pope

10/23- St. John of Capistrano, Priest

10/24- St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

Gospel Meditation: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Occasionally, I’ll slip into a parish I’ve never visited before, pick up the bulletin, and find one of my Gospel reflections. My heart usually swells with a bit of affection for my creation. I imprint a bit of myself into my little “literary labors of love.” Anyone who has created something — a piece of writing, a garden, a meal, a child — knows that feeling. We love the things into which we put ourselves. We are happy when they return to us.

With this in mind, listen to Jesus’ classic line in this Sunday’s Gospel: “Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God” (Matthew 22:21). He presents this little riddle to deepen the theme from taxes to human beings. A Roman coin bears Caesar’s image, so it belongs to Caesar. Therefore, he has a legitimate claim to it. Fair enough. But what belongs to God? What bears His image? Every human being. God has imprinted Himself on every person. Which means everyone — including Caesar — belongs entirely to Him. Jesus, who is God’s perfect image, has come to draw everyone back to God.

We can be tempted to imagine that our lives are made up of “things for God” and “things not for God.” The good news is that no such division is possible because everything in life is a gift from God to us. Therefore, all is meant to be placed at the service of God’s kingdom. He loves everything He has created. We have the privilege of giving it all back to Him.

— Father John Muir

Financials: September 2026

	FY26	FY25
Basket/Mail In:	6,817	6,683
Give Central:	32,926	54,874
Total:	THIS YEAR	PREVIOUS YEAR
	\$39,743	\$61,557
		\$(21,814)



From Fr. Peter:

Sunday, October 18, 2026.

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Pastoral and Financial Update to Our Parish Family

Dear Friends,

Every year we share the parish's finances with you. Before we get to the numbers, I want to tell you what your generosity made possible this past year.

Because of you, our children and young people were formed in the faith week after week, and adults seeking God found a place to bring their questions.

Because of you, families walking through illness, grief, and hard seasons were accompanied and not left alone. Because of you, the hungry were fed and neighbors in need found help at our door. Because of you, Mass was celebrated with beauty and reverence, the sacraments were there for everyone who sought them, and this church stayed open as a place of prayer for anyone who needed it. When I walk through the building on a weekday and see someone sitting quietly in a pew, I think of all of you who make that possible. Thank you.

Our fiscal year ended on June 30. Here is the whole picture.

Our year, July 2025 through June 2026

Sunday and holy day collections \$671,000

Together in Joy \$225,000

All other parish income \$112,000

Cost of our ministry and operations (\$1,110,000)

Result of our ordinary parish operations (\$102,000)

Generation to Generation and other gifts, net \$134,000

Earnings on our investments \$437,000

Our overall result for the year \$469,000

Our Sunday collection now covers about sixty cents of every dollar it takes to be this parish. A year ago it covered nearly seventy. Together in Joy brought in an amount equal to roughly a third of the entire year's collection, and even with that evening and every other ordinary source of income, we finished \$102,000 short of what our ministry cost.

What closed that gap, and carried us to a positive result of \$469,000, were the gifts to our Generation to Generation campaign and a strong year for our investments. We are grateful for both, and for every family who made a pledge to the campaign.

Here is what I hope we can change together. Generation to Generation gifts, and a portion of what our investments earn, should be true investments in ministry: growing our programs, strengthening what we already offer, and adding staff so that our ministries are supported the way they deserve. When that money pays ordinary operating costs, it is not building anything new. I want our Sunday giving to carry our ordinary life, so those gifts can carry our future.

That is why we are asking you to look at your own giving this year. This parish belongs to all of us, and it is carried by all of us. If you already give, thank you, truly, and please consider whether this is the year to increase your weekly gift, even modestly. If you have not yet begun to give, we warmly invite you to start. Gifts of any size, given faithfully, are what a parish runs on. Many households giving a little more, and new households joining in, would close that \$102,000 gap on their own. The parish office can also set up scheduled online giving for you, which steadies our income through the summer and the holidays when many of us are away.

A stronger collection lets us welcome more people, form more disciples, feed more of the hungry, and be present to more families in the moments that matter most in their lives. In today's Gospel, Jesus looks at a coin and asks whose image is on it. Caesar's they answer. Then give Caesar what is his, he says, and give God what is God's. The coin bears Caesar's image. We bear God's. Everything we have, and everything we are, comes from him. What we give back is simply a way of saying we know that. Thank you for your faith, your presence at Mass, your service in our ministries, and your generosity.

Please know of my prayers for you and your families, and please pray for me.

Gratefully in Christ,

Fr. Peter

2026 Fiscal Finance Update:

St. Teresa's fiscal year concluded June 30, 2026. As shown in the accompanying table, this year's net surplus equaled \$469k and \$32k excluding investment results. This outcome continues our more than decade long streak of full-year net surpluses excluding investment results.

Thank you for your sustained generosity.

The net surplus, excluding investment results, was \$92k better than the budget, but \$10k below last year. The better than budget result reflects unbudgeted receipts from the Generation-to-Generation capital campaign (included in Other Revenue), partially offset by higher non-employee-related Ordinary Expenses.

The unfavorable variance versus last year reflects higher Ordinary expenses, both employee and non-employment, partially offset by a full year of Generation-to- Generation pledge receipts.

The level of weekly Collections continues to be a challenge. As shown on the first line of the table, Collections only cover about two thirds of our expenses and were below budget and last year.

As in prior years, the gap between Collections and Expenses has been filled largely by our annual fundraiser, Together in Joy, and more recently by Generation-to-Generation campaign receipts, which were intended to enhance ministries and not fund current operations.

As shown in the memo line of the table, this year's result would have been a net loss of \$104k if not for Generation-to-Generation pledge receipts. The budget for next year also anticipates a loss of more than \$100k if we exclude pledge receipts. You will hear more from Fr. Peter, but reducing our reliance on fundraising and campaign revenues must be a priority.

Once again, thank you for your attendance at Mass, your support of our ministries, and your financial contributions.

St Teresa of Avila Parish Semi-annual Report to the Parish					
	ACTUAL			BUDGET	
	Full Year			Full Year	
	FY26	FY25	Variance	FY26	Variance
Collections	671,025	701,891	(30,866)	743,616	(72,591)
Fundraising	224,771	231,016	(6,245)	194,000	30,771
Various	112,028	53,671	58,357	63,027	49,001
Total Revenue	1,007,824	986,578	21,246	1,000,643	7,181
Expenses	(1,109,795)	(1,021,873)	(87,922)	(1,047,572)	(62,223)
Net Ordinary	(101,971)	(35,295)	(66,676)	(46,929)	(55,042)
Other Revenue	167,119	122,711	44,408	28,000	139,119
Other Expense	(33,007)	(45,540)	12,533	(41,000)	7,993
Net Other	134,112	77,171	56,941	(13,000)	147,112
Subtotal	32,141	41,876	(9,735)	(59,929)	92,070
Investment Earnings	437,062	168,683	268,379	-	437,062
Total Net	469,203	210,559	258,644	(59,929)	529,132
Memo:					
Net results excl G2G & Investments	(104,230)	13,688	(117,919)	-	(104,230)



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.



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

Mass Intentions

10AM- Michael DeMunster (D)

12 PM - Mary Jaszczor (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 18:

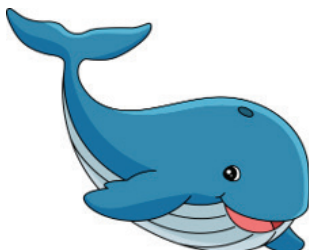
Today is Chocolate Cupcake Day and St. Luke Feast Day

1851- Herman Melville's Moby-Dick was first published as 'The Whale.'

1922- The British Broadcasting Company (Corporation) BBC was founded.

1954- Texas Instruments introduced the first Transistor radio.

1997- East End Show – Chicago (Musical)



Mass Schedule

Sunday 10/25 10am- Fr. Peter Wojcik

Sunday 10/25 12pm- Fr. Peter Wojcik

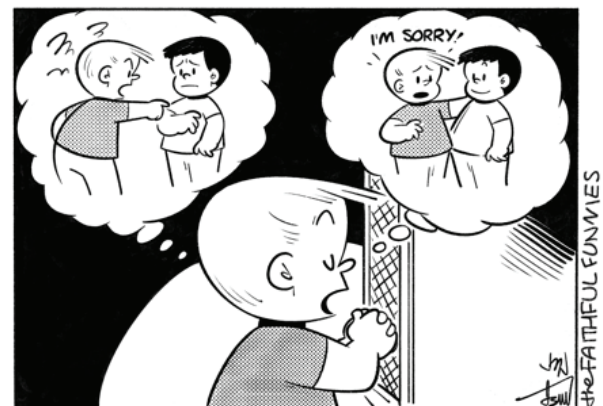
Sunday 10/25 6pm- Fr. Peter Wojcik

Blessing for World Mission Sunday

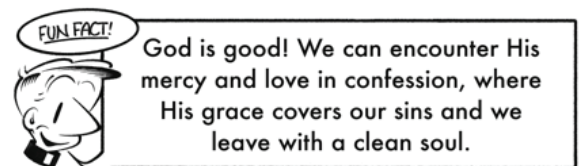
O God,

You never cease to call us to Yourself, bless the mission fields where we sow, tend, and reap. Give us your grace and strength as we share Your love with families and friends, strangers and sojourners. Give us the right words, the right inspirations, the right invitations, the right love. Your love, shared. Amen.

"How is confession like autumn?"



"You turn over a new leaf."





The Pathway of Christian Initiation (OCIA)

The process of Christian Initiation (OCIA) offers us a pathway (another word for being people of “The Way”) to creating and sustaining a relationship with Jesus built on prayer, familiarity with the Scriptures and service of those in need, which is grounded in a faith community nourished by weekly Eucharist. Our mission is to grow the Kingdom of God. We celebrate this Kingdom at Mass and are dismissed to take this Good News out the door into the world. Our Fall 2026 – Spring 2027 OCIA pathway begins 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 begins 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 Catholic content, discussion, Scripture reflection and prayer. Sacraments will be celebrated at the Easter Vigil on March 27, 2027. For those who have already registered, please be patient as Victor Lara and I reach out to schedule a time to meet with you, hear more about your spiritual journey and offer you our learning resources.

Register at clement.org

Fr. Radley Alcantara and Ed Harasim, OCIA Coordinator,
eharasim@clement.org

Fall Blood Drive Next Sunday:

“Hospitality Volunteers for 1 to 2 hour shifts are needed for a successful blood drive. If you cannot donate a pint of life, could you donate an hour of your time? Call Mark Buciak at: 773-307-0033. Thank you!”



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.






Greenery Sale

St. Teresa's is please to announce it will be hosting it's annual Greenery Sale again this year the weekend of December 5th and 6th after all masses.

This sale is an opportunity to buy Fresh Wreaths, Centerpieces, and Roping from a Virginia based Farm to decorate your home for the holidays, or give as gifts to friends/family. All proceeds benefit St. Teresa's

No pre-order is necessary, but quantities will be limited. If you wish to secure specific items, you may pre-order by reaching out to bristen@rlcanning.com or saramhuck@gmail.com to get a list of this year's items and pricing.

All Pre-Orders are due by November 8th at Noon.

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

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

Thank you to St. James Lutheran Students:

On Friday October 2, 2026 students from the school delivered 250 cleaning products they collected to donate to our food pantry. These items will be distributed to our guests on Saturday mornings.

THANK YOU!



a lincoln park halloween hang

boos & bingo

COMMUNITY NIGHT

thursday, oct 29

6:30 – 8:30 pm

BRING YOUR FAV DESSERT

COSTUMES ENCOURAGED

competitive bingo energy also encouraged.

ALL ARE WELCOME

ST. TERESA OF AVILA

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.