

ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

CATHOLIC PARISH ✚ EST 1889

October 25, 2026

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

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Pastor

Reverend Peter Wojcik

Associate Pastor

Fr. Radley Alcantara

Address

1037 W. Armitage Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60614

773-528-6650

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 6 PM French Mass

Sunday 10 AM, 12 PM, 6 PM

Daily Mass Schedule

Tuesday - 6:00PM

Wednesday - 8:00AM

Baptism, Reconciliation, Anointing

Please call the office to arrange or email
cgioia@stteraparish.org

Eucharistic Adoration 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: “You shall not wrong any widow or orphan. If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry. My wrath will flare up, and I will kill you with the sword; then your own wives will be widows, and your children orphans.” (Ex 22:21-23)

Second Reading: For they themselves openly declare about us what sort of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and to await his Son from heaven. (1 Thes 1:9-10)

Gospel: “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Mt 22:37)

Feasts and Saints:

10/28- Sts., Simon and Jude, Apostles

10/31- Halloween



Gospel Meditation: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

When I was in seventh grade, like most boys of that age, I was constantly hungry. I could eat at any hour of the day. Then I fell head over heels for a classmate named Kristin. One evening, while lying on my bed and pondering her perfections, my mom called me to dinner. For the first time in my adolescent life, I remember thinking: “I’m not hungry.” My heart longed for Kristin more than my stomach for food. Now, I wouldn’t confuse adolescent infatuation with mature love. But it was an experience of how love can reorder everything in our lives.

In today’s Gospel reading, Jesus says, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart” (Matthew 22:37). He is not issuing a burden or a moral goal for high achievers. He is naming the deepest orientation of the human heart. We were made for love so great that it gathers every other love into itself. Jesus does not ask us to love less the persons or things that attract us. Rather, he wants our love for God to be so total and intense that we love everything and everyone else because we love him so much.

Do we believe that such a love is possible for us? Because of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, it is! It is readily available to us. Let’s repent of our half-hearted love for God and ask Him to fill our hearts to the brim with divine love.

— 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 25, 2026

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Caring for the Home We Share

Dear Friends,

It is hard not to be inspired by this parish. Week after week I watch people show up to build this community: to teach, to serve, to greet, to cook, to sing, to pray. Most of you never ask for recognition.

And I can see how much more we are longing for together. Our Sunday Masses are already fuller than they were a year ago. When we started the Tuesday 6:00 p.m. Mass with confessions, I honestly was not sure who would come. More people come every week. Some of them tell us it is the only quiet hour they get.

That hunger is shaping how Fr. Radley and I are preparing for Advent. This year we want to offer an Advent challenge. On weekday mornings, skip social media, and instead join us Monday through Friday for Mass at 7:30 a.m., followed by breakfast together as a community. I know how busy that season gets. That is exactly the point. It is a challenge to find peace in Christ in the middle of all of it, and to truly prepare for his coming, together. I will be there every morning I can, and I hope to see you.

None of this happens by accident, and last week's financial report showed us plainly what it takes. Our ordinary operations finished the year \$102,000 short. So this weekend I am asking two things of our parish.

If you already give, I ask you to consider raising your gift by 10% if you are able. And I am asking for fifty new households to begin giving this year. I did the math on this, because I wanted to know if it was realistic. Ten percent from those who already give comes to about \$67,000.

Fifty new households giving around fourteen dollars a week adds roughly \$35,000 more.

Together, that closes the gap. It is not an impossible number. It is us, all of us, taking our share.

I think of it this way. This parish is our home, and none of us would leave the care of our home to half the family. When everyone carries a little, nobody has to carry too much. And the good we are building here, the fuller Masses, the new groups, the hungry who are fed, the people finding their way back to faith, deserves to be supported by all of us who benefit from it.

You can make your 2026/27 commitment using the pledge card in the pews, on our website, or by calling the parish office, who can also help you set up scheduled online giving.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is asked which commandment is the greatest. Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, he says, and love your neighbor as yourself.

Everything we do as a parish comes back to those two.

Caring for this home we share is one very concrete way to live them both.

With deep gratitude for your partnership,

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](mailto:Jessica Marx).



Mass Intentions

10AM- Dick Havansek (L) Happy 88th Birthday!
 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.



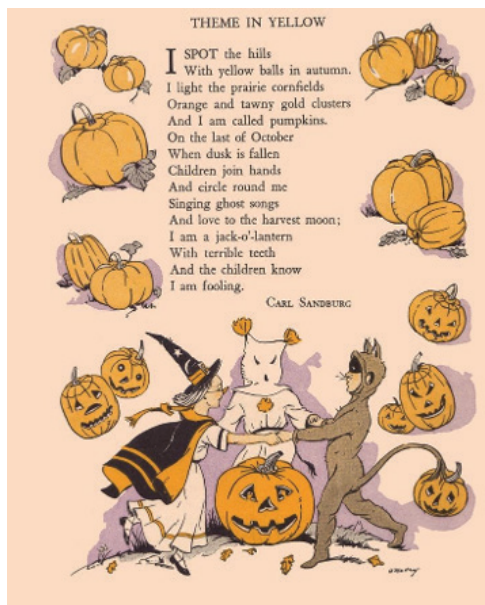
Mass Schedule

Sunday 11/1 10am- Fr. Peter Wojcik
 Sunday 11/1 12pm- Fr. Peter Wojcik
 Sunday 11/1 6pm- Fr. Ed Udovic

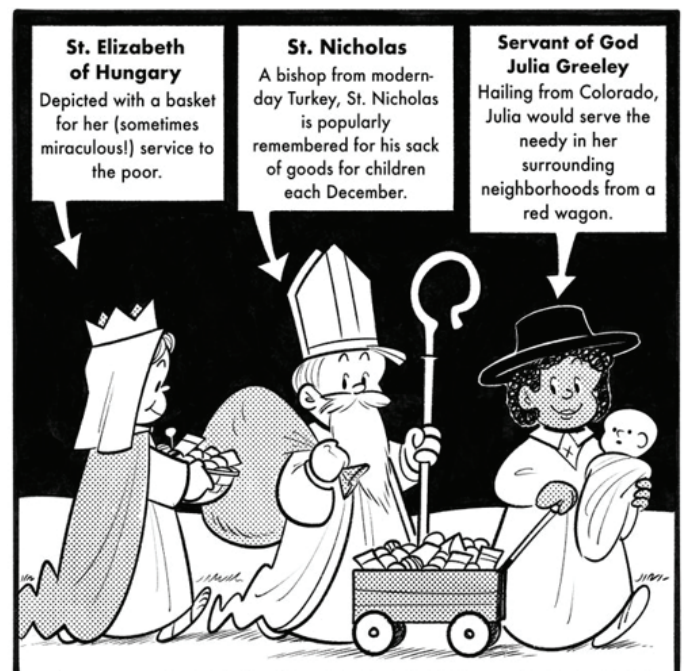
Blessing for Halloween

O God,

Bless the friends and families who will gather for the Halloween holiday. Grace us with Your joy as memories are forged, and community bonds are strengthened. Bless our children in their festivities, our neighbors as we visit, and the spaces we'll share together. Help us to shine Your light through the darkness of these autumn nights. Amen.



Fun saints you can honor (who can also carry a bunch of candy!)





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

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

Halloween Fun and Facts:

The next time there will be a full moon on Halloween will be 2039

A pumpkin is actually a fruit, not a vegetable

The record for the world's heaviest pumpkin is over 2,000 pounds

Sugar rationing during World War II paused trick-or-treating

Now Halloween is the second-largest commercial holiday in the country

Reese's Cups are the top Halloween candy



Catholic Q & A:

Halloween

Question:

Is Halloween a pagan holiday or a Catholic one?

Answer:

The short answer: nowadays, a little bit of both. But it wasn't always that way. Halloween and All Saints' Day are closely connected. In the 800s, the Catholic Church began celebrating All Saints' Day. It was originally called All Hallows' Day or Hallowmas. The celebration began early on All Hallows' Eve. But if Halloween is really about the saints in all their victorious glory, where do we get haunted houses, costumes, and pranks?

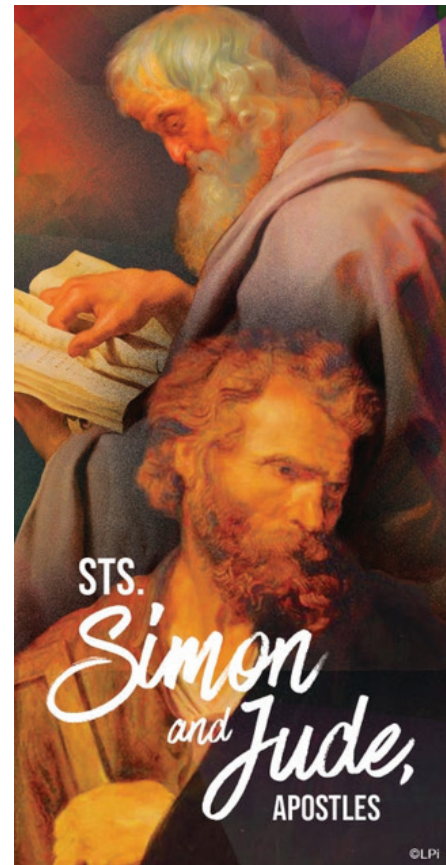
All Saints' Day became associated with the other deceased rather quickly. November 2nd is All Souls Day, where we pray for the souls in purgatory. Throughout the European world, especially with the Celtic and Germanic peoples, the dead were honored in the autumn months. The Celtic pagan celebration of Samhain had its own folk rituals and occurred around the same time as these Catholic feast days.

Within the last few hundred years, this included dressing in disguise and going door to door, asking for food in exchange for a rhyme or poem. Some people masqueraded as "dark" spirits and pulled pranks on others. Today's celebration of Halloween tends to take on these later practices, rather than the original meaning of celebrating the saints. But remember ... this feast was Catholic first!

Catholic Trivia Just for Fun:

Question: *Other than Sundays, what are the names of the days on which Catholics are required to attend Mass?*

Answer: *Holy Days of Obligation*



St. Teresa's 11th Annual Turkey

Calling all walkers, joggers, runners, canines and turkeys!



Please join us for our 11th, free, non-competitive, 1 to 6 mile, Turkey Trot. Runners, joggers, and walkers of all abilities are welcome, including children and canines!

No racing, no timing, no awards, no entry fee*, no t-shirts, and no \$60 bananas! Just lots of fun and smiles!

Come dressed to trot!

Thursday, November 26th Thanksgiving Day

**7:00am: Check-in at the Parish Center
1950 N. Kenmore Ave.**

7:30am: Trot

**Back in plenty of time to attend the 9:00am Mass!
Light Pre & Post Trot breakfast provided.**



*** In lieu of an entry fee, please donate a non-perishable food item for the St. Teresa Food Pantry.**

Questions & RSVP by November 21, 2026

Coach Mark

Markbuciak.qcc@rcn.com

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pwojcik@archchicago.org

Fr. Radley Alcantara

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Director of Music

musicalnut1@mac.com

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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.