ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

CATHOLIC PARISH ✠ EST 1889

November 8, 2026

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

THE JOURNEY



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 learing 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 opportunites 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

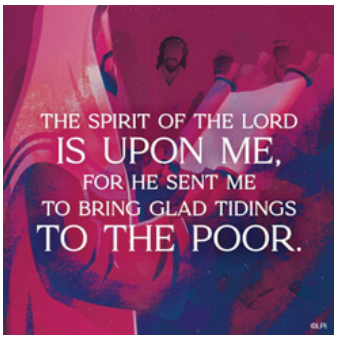
teresa.church/border-ministry

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: Resplendent and unfading is wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her. (Wis 6:12)

Second Reading: For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. (1 Thes 4:14)

Gospel: "Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour." (Mt 25:13)

Feasts and Saints:

11/9- The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

11/10- St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

11/11- St. Martin of Tours, Bishop, Veterans Day

11/12- St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr

11/13- St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin



Gospel Meditation: Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

My first instinct upon waking is to grab my phone and start scrolling. Sometimes I do it for 20 or 30 minutes, and it makes me feel distracted and agitated. I feel guilty, too, for wasting my first moments of the day. So recently, I committed those minutes to reading a book that would focus my mind on Jesus. I enjoy the fact that I am not scattering my attention as much. I feel more peaceful and focused on God.

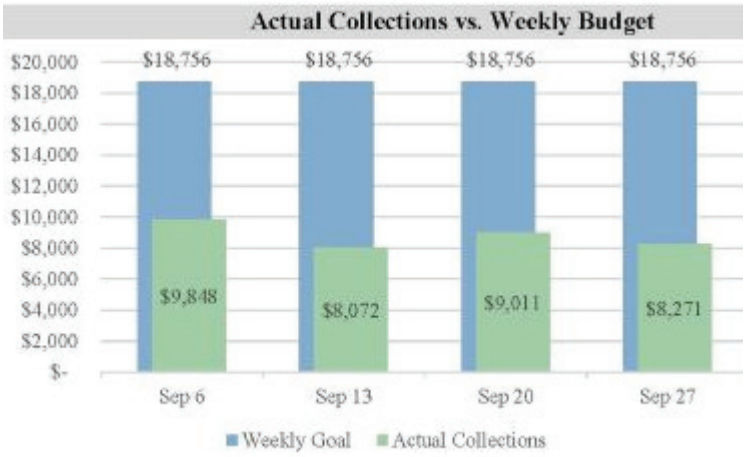
In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks about attention. He contrasts wise and foolish virgins, and then sums up the teaching by saying, "Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour" (Matthew 25:13). The basic currency of the human heart is attention. The foolish bridesmaids are not immoral or malicious; they are unfocused, distracted, and unprepared. They assume that borrowed oil will suffice, that someone else's readiness can make up for their own lack. But the attention which is love cannot be outsourced. A relationship with God requires personal attentiveness cultivated over time.

This Gospel leaves us with an honest question. What am I giving my attention to each day, and am I forming a heart that is awake, watchful, and ready to meet the Lord when He comes? How can I use key moments of my day to focus my attention where I need it to be?

— 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:

November 8

More Than a Sunday Parish

Dear Friends,

When Fr. Radley and I arrived, we made a promise to each other that our first months would be about listening. Before changing anything, we wanted to understand the DNA of this community: who you are, what you love, what you carry, and what God has already been doing here long before we came.

So we have spent a lot of time in conversations after Mass, at receptions, at the pantry, in the office, and on the sidewalk. I want to share with you some of what we have learned.

The first thing is something I have experienced myself, not just observed. We truly are a welcoming and very caring parish. I felt it from my first weekend here. People notice when someone is new. People notice when someone is hurting. That is a gift. It has been built over many years by many faithful people, and I do not take it for granted.

The second thing is an opportunity to grow. We are, for the most part, a Sunday parish. Sunday is beautiful here, and it will always be the heart of who we are. But our engagement during the week is very limited. Most of us come on Sunday, and then the parish does not really touch our lives again until the next Sunday. That is something Fr. Radley and I would like to change, and our partnership with Saint Clement gives us a real opportunity to do it, because Saint Clement already offers a great number of high-quality faith offerings throughout the week that are open to all of us.

Why does this matter? Because I believe that if we want to keep growing in our belonging to God, Sunday worship is the foundation but not the whole house. We are also called to grow in our learning and our exploration of who God is. Faith that is not fed will slowly grow thin.

I am truly grateful to Mike and Debbie for the incredible ministry they provide with our Bible courses, and to all the parents who bring their children to the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd week after week. You are showing all of us what it looks like to make room for God beyond Sunday morning.

So I want to invite each of you to consider one way to engage with the Church during the week. It could be a Bible course, a Life Group, Alpha, a weekday Mass, women's and men's ministry, a morning of service at the pantry, or a talk at Saint Clement.

Think about it this way. Any family requires deep connection and ongoing presence. We would never expect to stay close to the people we love by seeing them for one hour a week. Our parish family, and our relationship with God, are no different.

Speaking about community, I cannot wait to join all of you this coming Saturday for our annual Together in Joy. I want to thank our committee, who have been working incredibly hard since the summer months to make this evening happen. Thank you to our donors, whose generosity makes so much possible, and to everyone who will come to support our spiritual family. I am so grateful for each of you.

In today's Gospel, the wise bridesmaids are ready when the bridegroom comes because they kept oil in their lamps. That oil could not be borrowed at the last minute. It had to be gathered little by little, day by day.

That is what weekly engagement is: keeping oil in our lamps.

With gratitude,

Fr. Peter

All Saints Day:

We would like to thank all of our "Little Saints" for participating in the procession at mass on Sunday November 1st!





St. Frances Xavier Cabrini | November 13

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (July 15, 1850 – December 22, 1917) was born in the village of Sant'Angelo Lodigiano, Italy. Young Frances dreamed of being a missionary. She was educated to be a teacher by the Daughters of the Sacred Heart, but was refused entry to the order due to her poor health. Instead, she worked as a teacher and administrator at an orphanage in Cadogno, Italy, run by the Sisters of Providence. In September 1877, she made her vows there and took the religious habit, adding Xavier to her name in honor of St. Francis Xavier.

When the orphanage closed in 1880, she founded the Institute of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In 1887, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini sought an audience with Pope Leo XIII, to seek permission to go as missionaries to China. He famously told her to go "not to the East, but to the West," and in 1889 she and six other sisters departed for New York, to serve Italian immigrants in the United States. However, anti-Italian and anti-immigrant attitudes were prevalent at the time, even in the Church. When she arrived, the archbishop advised her to go back to Italy. Undeterred, she provided education and healthcare within the Italian Catholic immigrant community.

At first, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini followed and served Italian immigrant populations, from New York to Chicago, and across the U.S., becoming a U.S. Citizen in 1909. Eventually she also founded institutions in Central and South America and Europe. Overall, she established 67 schools, hospitals, and orphanages. She was also known for her deep spirituality, often entering a trancelike state during the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

She died in her own Columbus Hospital in Chicago, Illinois. She was canonized in 1946 by Pope Pius XII, the first United States citizen to be canonized. She is the Universal Patron of Immigrants. St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Pray for us!




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.



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.

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



Mass Intentions

10AM- Paula Riggins (L) Thanksgiving for our dear friend

12 PM - Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Living and Deceased

6PM- Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Living and Deceased

Mass Schedule

Sunday 11/15 10am- Fr. Radley Alcantara
Sunday 11/15 12pm- Fr. Radley Alcantara
Sunday 11/15 6pm-Fr. Edward Udovic

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.

Frank O'Toole



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.

Blessing for Veterans

O God,

Bless the men and women who have stepped forward in the service of our country.

Protect them in Your mercy, care for their needs:

physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual.

Give them courage, strength, perseverance, and support. Amen.

Sunday Funday November 8th:

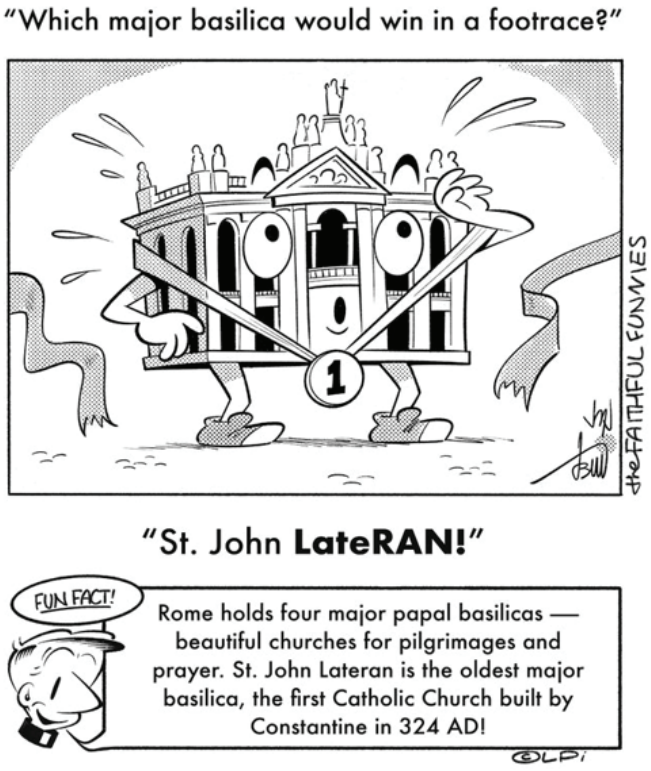
Today is National Cappucino Day

1939- Broadway Show – Life With Father

1960- John F. Kennedy defeated Richard Nixon to become the 35th president of the United States.

1965- Days of our Lives premiered on NBC. The original title sequence voiced by MacDonald Carey is still used.

1972- Home Box Office (HBO) was launched, in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The first broadcast was a 1971 film, Sometimes a Great Notion, starring Paul Newman and Henry Fonda.





The Journey of Christian Initiation (OCIA)

In John's gospel we hear John the Baptist point out Jesus out to his followers with the exclamation, "Behold the Lamb of God." Two of John's disciples decide to follow in Jesus' footsteps. One of them is Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

Jesus notices them, turns around and asks, "What are you looking for?" They simply respond, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" Jesus then invites them, "Come, and you will see." They stay with him the rest of that day. Notice, they don't really answer Jesus question. They may not understand what they are looking for, but they trust that following Jesus may reveal an answer.

Many people in our world today are searching. They may not be able to express what they're looking for, but they do pay attention when they see others radiate joy, hope, faith, servanthood and welcome. They want to know more, hoping to satisfy the deeper longings of their hearts. This is why Alpha draws so many young adults. This is why many seek out our process of Chrisitan/Catholic formation, the OCIA.

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.

Here is a link to register:

https://saintclement.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/1323/responses/new

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

Eucharistic Minister Training:

Have you ever considered becoming more involved in liturgy by serving as a Lector or Eucharistic Minister at Mass?

We have opportunities available for both ministries and we would welcome your getting involved in these unique roles in the liturgical life of St. Teresa of Avila. Service in these ministries will deepen your faith and help you grow in your love of the Lord. To serve as a Lector, all that is required is a deep love of the Word of God and a desire to serve God's people. Likewise, to serve as a Eucharistic Minister, all you need is a deep love of the Eucharist and a desire to serve. We will train you and teach you all you need to know.

We are in particular need of Eucharistic MInisters for the 6:00pm Mass, but we are happy to train for other Masses and for Lectors as well.

Please prayerfully consider serving your parish in these very important ministries.

We will be holding Eucharistic MInister training on two consecutive Sundays, November 8 and 15, at 4:00pm, before the 6:00 Mass.

Attendance at both sessions is required to complete the training. Lector training dates are yet to be determined.

If you are interested in serving, please contact Eric Fredericks at eric.fredericks+lm@gmail.com.



Devotions, Explained!

Simbang Gabi, Explained!

Simbang Gabi is a Filipino tradition through which Advent expectation realizes the fulfillment of Christmas joy. During Simbang Gabi, early morning Masses are offered over a series of nine days leading up to Christmas. Celebrations follow Mass, where delicacies like baked rice cakes and breakfast rolls are enjoyed.

Traditionally, Simbang Gabi Masses are held before dawn, a practice that originated in the 17th century in the Philippines when most of the faithful had to work the rest of the day in the fields.

During Mass, the priest wears white vestments and the Gloria is sung, a practice for which the Holy See has given special permission. Traditionally, the nine-day sequence ends with Midnight Mass on Dec. 24.

The tradition has been adapted to fit the needs of Filipino communities throughout the world, and the Masses might not even be offered in the morning at all, but in the afternoon or evening.







Staff

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pwojcik@archchicago.org

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musicalnut1@mac.com

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Irma Saavedra

Sergio Mora
Building & Facilities Manager
smora@stteresaparish.org

Parish Council

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

Doug Lovette- 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.

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.