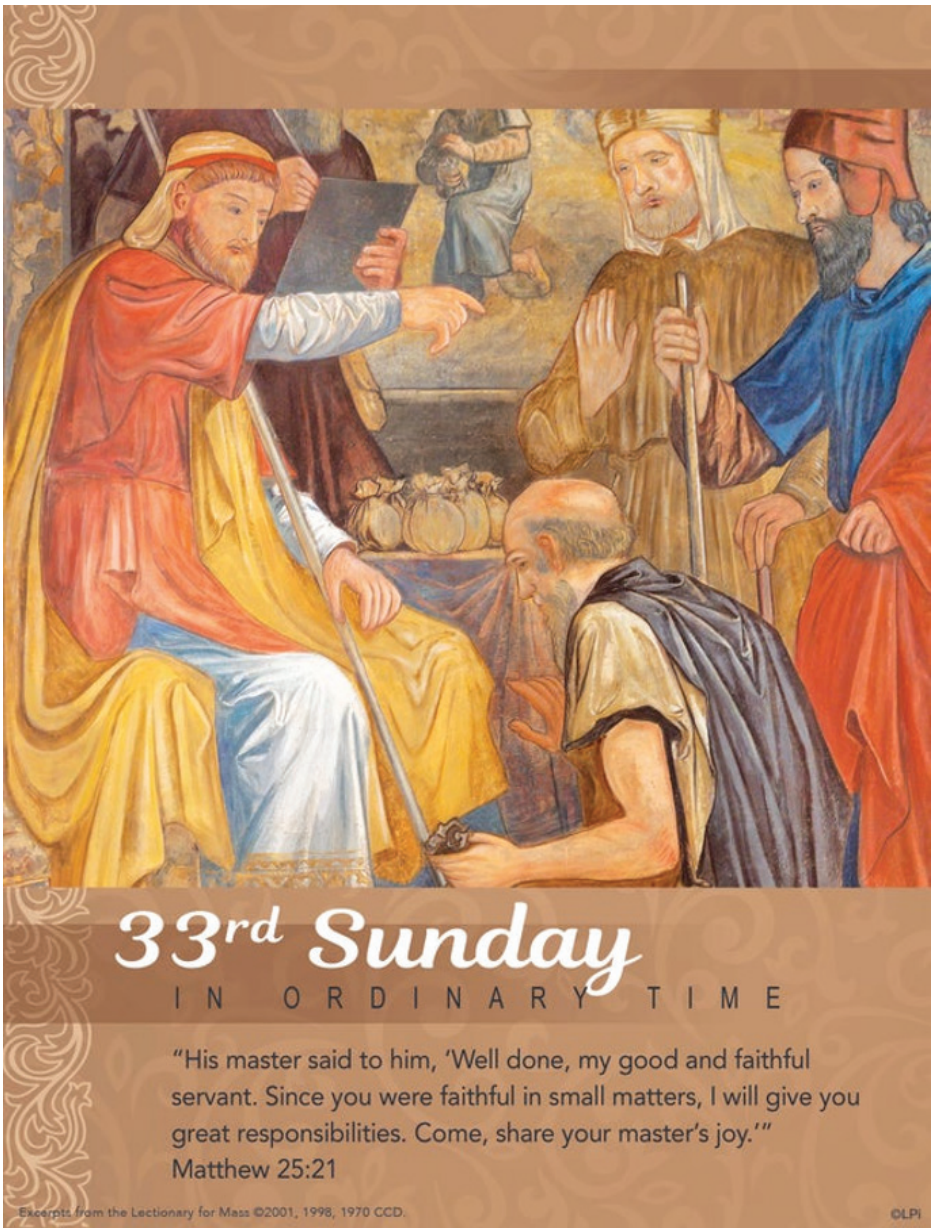
ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

CATHOLIC PARISH ✠ EST 1889

November 15, 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

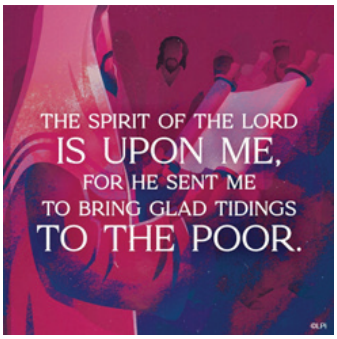
teresa.church/border-ministry

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: She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and works with loving hands. (Prv 31:12-13)

Second Reading: But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to overtake you like a thief. For all of you are children of the light and children of the day. (1 Thes 5:4-5)

Gospel: "'Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.'" (Mt 25:21)

Feasts and Saints:

11/16- St. Margaret of Scotland; St. Gertrude, Virgin

11/17- St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious

11/18- The Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles; St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, Virgin

11/21- The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Gospel Meditation: Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

A friend once took his young adult son to the casino for his birthday. He handed him $100 and said, "Let's have a great time." The son, a graduate student with limited money, quietly pocketed the money and refused to play. "I don't want to lose it," he said. But he missed the point: the money was not really his to pocket; it was his father's invitation to share an experience together.

God sees our gifts a bit like this. In Jesus' parable, a servant buries his master's talent and explains: "Master, I knew you were a demanding person...so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground" (Matthew 25:24-25). The master condemns him not for failure but for refusing to risk. The servant's fear distorts his image of the master and leads to a small, loveless response. No love, no risk. No risk, no relationship.

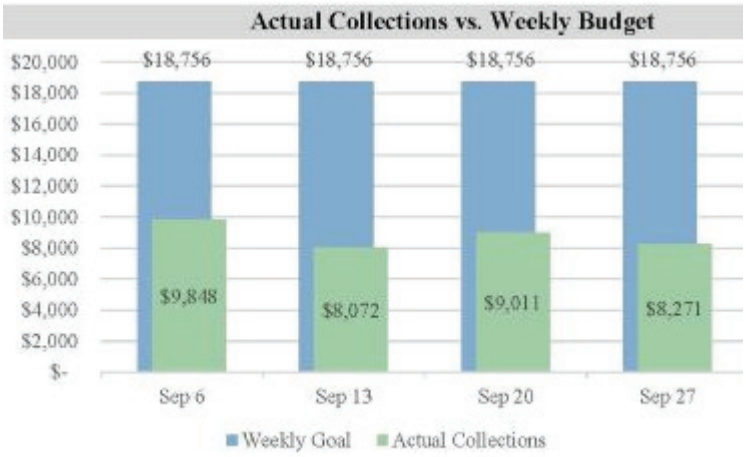
How easily we fall into this trap! We treat God's gifts as fragile possessions rather than invitations. We play it safe, avoid risk, and tell ourselves we are wise and God is cruel. But Jesus praises those who trust the Master's goodness enough to act boldly. They are not reckless but confident enough in their Master to risk their gifts for Him.

So, what is my interior story about God right now? Is it marked by generosity, adventure, and trust? Or by fear, caution, and suspicion? That hidden narrative shapes everything. Because love, by its nature, always takes risks with, and for, the beloved.

— 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 15

Beginning the Day with God

Dear Friends,

Thank you to everyone who joined for Together in Joy. I looked around the room more than once that night and simply felt grateful. Longtime parishioners and new faces, families and young adults, friends from Saint Clement, all of us at the same tables, laughing and celebrating what God is doing in this place.

One more time, I want to thank our committee, who gave so many hours since the summer, and our donors, whose generosity made the evening possible. Because of you, it was another incredible evening of community and belonging.

Last week I shared some of what Fr. Radley and I have learned in our first months, and our hope to grow beyond being only a Sunday parish. I want to continue that thought, because it is not just a hope. We are always looking for more ways to accompany you and encourage you to grow in faith and belonging, and I am very excited to share one of them with you today.

This Advent, Monday through Friday, from November 30 through December 18, we will celebrate daily Rorate Masses at 7:30 a.m., followed by a community breakfast.

Rorate Masses are an old and beautiful Advent tradition. They take their name from the words of the prophet Isaiah, "Drop down dew, you heavens, from above", and they are celebrated in honor of Mary by candlelight, as the day is just beginning. There is something about praying in that soft light, early in the morning, that helps the heart become quiet and ready.

It is an opportunity for us to come together with Mary, who waited for Jesus with more love and expectation than anyone, and to wait for him with her.

I will be honest about why this matters so much to me. For most of us, myself included, the first thing we reach for in the morning is our phone. Before we have said a word to God or to the people we live with, we are already scrolling through the news, emails, and social media.

Our hope with these Masses is to help all of us shift, even for a few weeks, from our phones to God and to community.

Come once, or come every day. Stay for breakfast, or grab a coffee and head to work.

Either way, you will begin your day in a better place.

Finally, please join us for Mass on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, at 9:00 a.m. There is no better way to begin a day of gratitude than by gathering around the altar to give thanks to the One from whom every good gift comes. Bring your family and your guests.

In today's Gospel, the master entrusts his servants with talents and then waits to see what they will do with them. The servant who buried his talent did nothing wrong, exactly. He just did nothing.

Advent is a beautiful time to dig up what God has given us and let it grow.

With joy for the season ahead,

Fr. Peter

Confirmation Class of 2027:

This year's Confirmation class hosted hospitality after the 6pm mass this past Sunday.

Thank you to everyone who cooked, served and cleaned!



Catholic Trivia:

Question: What is the name of the candles set in front of statues inside a church?

Answer: Vigil/votive candles

St. Margaret of Scotland | November 16

St. Margaret of Scotland was born in exile around 1045, in what is now Hungary. She was the daughter of Princess Agatha of Hungary and Edward the Atheling, the Anglo-Saxon heir to the throne of England. The family returned to England, but Edward died soon after their arrival, making Margaret's brother Edgar the presumptive heir. However, the Norman Conquest would turn their world upside down. Agatha and her children fled the country. They likely intended to go back to Hungary, but were shipwrecked off the coast of Scotland.

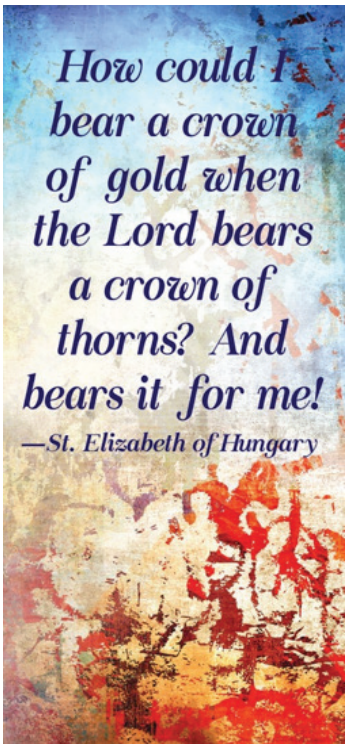
King Malcolm Canmore III took the exiles under his wing, and he fell in love with the beautiful and gracious St. Margaret. Although she initially rebuffed his proposals, the couple were married in 1070 at the castle of Dunfermline. St. Margaret and Malcolm had eight children, six sons and two daughters. She brought culture to the Scottish court and used her influence to soften her rough husband. The saint led a life of austerity, aiding Church reform, promoting Easter communion, and founding churches and monasteries. She instituted the Queen's Ferry to the shrine of St. Andrew and founded pilgrimage hostels.

St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland, died on November 16, 1093, four days after her husband and eldest son were killed in the battle of Alnwick. She was canonized by Pope Innocent IV in 1250 and named patron of Scotland in 1673. St. Margaret of Scotland, pray for us!





Take a Angel
Buy a Gift
to support
The Little Sisters of the Poor
and
Our Refugee Ministry
Angel Tree will be up the weekend of Thanksgiving





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



Prayer

Mass Intentions

10AM- Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Living and Deceased

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

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

Mass Schedule

Sunday 11/22 10am- Fr. Edward Udovic
Sunday 11/22 12pm- Fr. Peter Wojcik
Sunday 11/22 6pm-Fr. Radley Alcantara

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 a Friendsgiving

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of these beautiful souls gathered! You have blessed us in our friendship with each other! May each of us deeply know Your generosity this evening, through rich food and drink, through company and conversation, through Your goodness and grace.

Amen.



Sunday Funday November 15th:

Today is America Recycles Day and National Bundt Cake Day

1791- The first Catholic college in the US, Georgetown University, opened

1894- First newspaper Sunday color comics section was published (NY World)

1926- The National Broadcasting Company (NBC) launched with a radio network of 24 stations across the USA.

1969- Wendy's Hamburgers opened in Columbus, Ohio.

1984- Baby Fae died, an infant born a month earlier, but lived for 20 days with a transplanted baboon heart.





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!

Advent Wreath, Explained!

The Advent Wreath as we know it today is a modern spin on an ancient practice — or rather, several of them.

Christians have always utilized candles to illustrate the metaphor of Christ as the "great light" shining on a people waiting in darkness (Isaiah 9:2). Historians tell us that pre-Christian societies in Europe also viewed candles as symbolic of the coming light of spring, and may have used wreaths of natural material along with these candles. Traditions and rituals surrounding an "Advent Wreath" are often thought to have originated in the Lutheran tradition in 16th-century Germany. Today, Advent Wreaths are a practice embraced by most Christians in the Western world.

An Advent Wreath consists of a circle of evergreen and four candles, one for each week of Advent. Three of the candles are purple; one is rose, representing Gaudete Sunday, a time of rejoicing at the closeness of Christmas. In Catholicism, Advent Wreaths are blessed on the First Sunday of Advent. For Advent Wreaths in private homes, it is appropriate for a family member to perform the blessing.







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@archicago.org

Jason Krumwiede
Director of Music
musicalnut1@mac.com

Housekeeping
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.