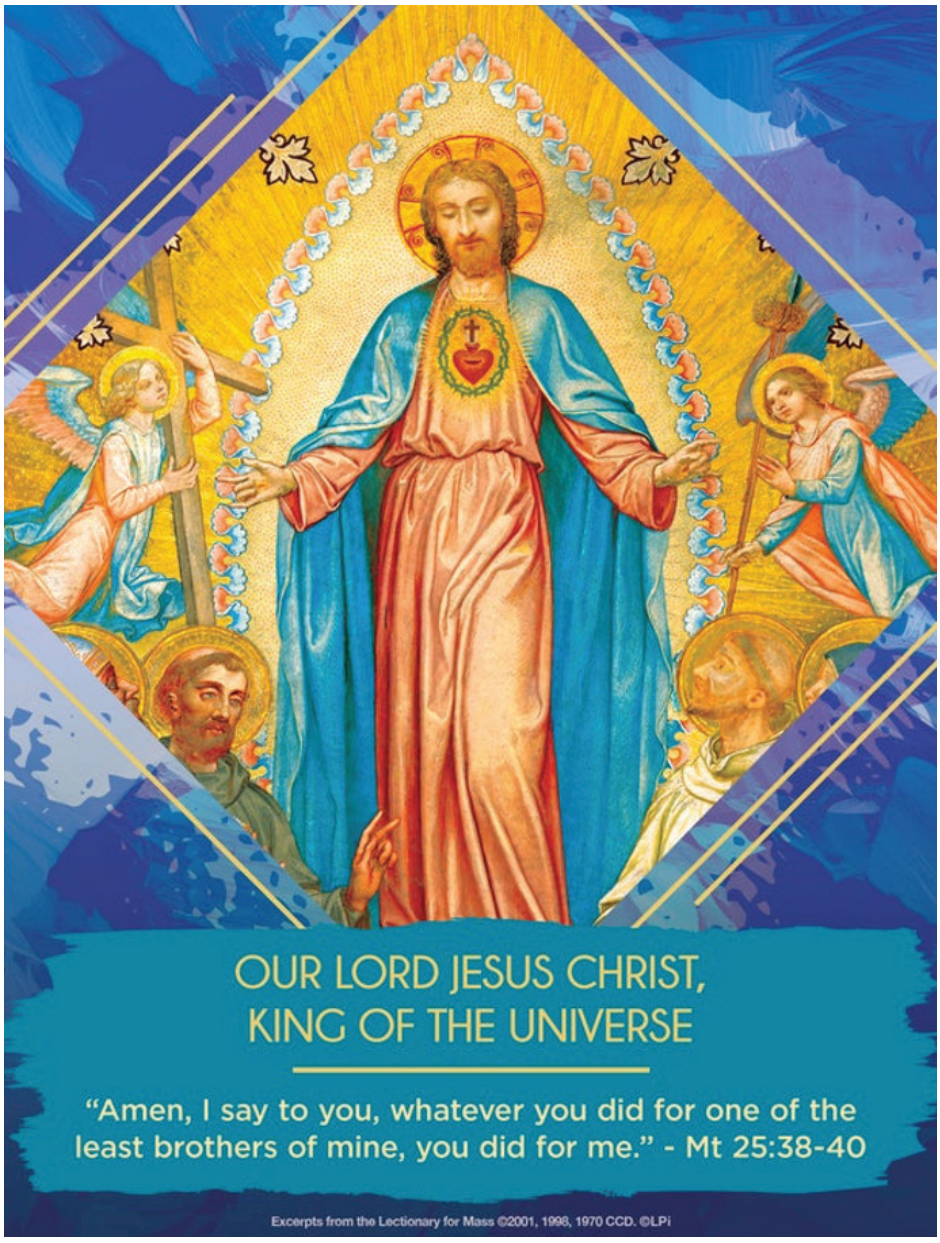
ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

CATHOLIC PARISH ✠ EST 1889

November 22, 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

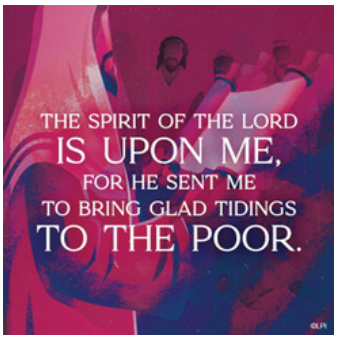
teresa.church/border-ministry

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: As for you, my sheep, says the Lord GOD, I will judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats. (Ez 34:17)

Second Reading: When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all. (1 Cor 15:28)

Gospel: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats." (Mt 25:31-32)

Feasts and Saints:

11/23- St. Clement I, Pope and Martyr; St, Columbian, Abbot

11/24- St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

11/25- St. Catherine of Alexandra, Virgin and Martyr

11/26- Thanksgiving Day

Gospel Meditation: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

I remember middle school baseball tryouts. A friend of mine, Robert, was trying to make the team to please his father, but his heart wasn't in it. He was lackadaisical and unenergetic. When the final cut-list was announced, and his name wasn't on it, he was relieved. He realized the coach was not insulting him but essentially telling him, "Bobby, this only works if you actually want to play ball." I was saddened he'd miss out on the fun, but I knew it was best. Putting Robert onto the team would not have been kindness. It would have made him miserable.

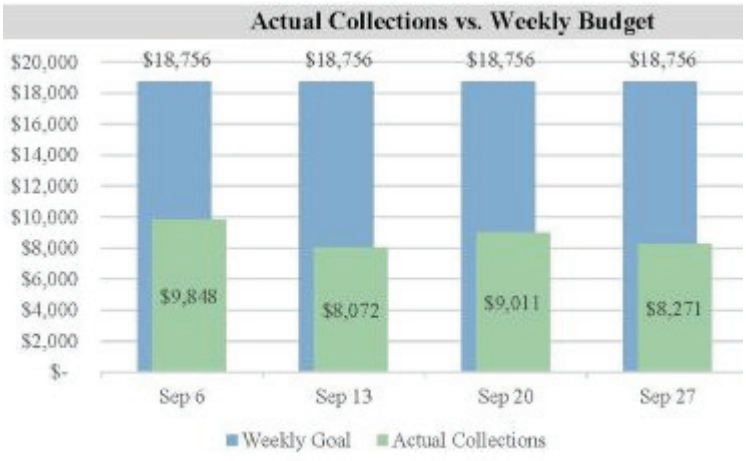
Jesus speaks to us today about his identity as our King and Judge. He separates those who inherit the kingdom from those who do not. The King explains, "Whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). His judgment hinges on willingness to participate in love. Heaven is not a prize imposed at the end of life. It is a life freely chosen and engaged. Hell is not a destination prepared for human beings, but a terrible and sad acknowledgment of an opting out which God never intends for us.

Jesus' role as judge proclaims to us: "Heaven only works if you actually want to love." How do we know if we want it? How we serve the hungry, the sick, the imprisoned, and the forgotten. These acts of mercy are not arbitrary tests. They are the very shape of divine life. There is no better game to play than this. We ought to begin playing it right now. The King will come to judge us.

— 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:

The Power of Gratitude

Dear Friends,

This is the week of Thanksgiving, and I have been reflecting on how much gratitude changes us. When we stop to notice what we have been given, our hearts soften. We complain less and see more. We realize that almost nothing good in our lives was done by us alone. Gratitude is not just good manners. It is a way of seeing the world the way God sees it.

There is a saying that in every church, about 20 percent of the people carry 80 percent of the ministries.

Saint Teresa is no exception. That is a big part of the work ahead of us. But we are still in the early stages, and before we talk about what comes next, I want to stop for a moment and say thank you to the people who have truly been carrying the responsibility for Saint Teresa.

Thank you to those who show up every Thursday to shop for Loaves and Fishes, and to everyone who cooks and serves our neighbors on Friday nights. I have stood in that kitchen and in that hall, and I can tell you that our guests are not served as a project. They are welcomed as friends.

Thank you to the leaders of our Saturday food pantry, who make sure that families in our neighborhood do not go without.

And thank you to all who coordinate the ministries and gatherings we offer, from the receptions after Mass to the formation programs to the many details nobody sees but everyone would notice if they were missing.

I am truly grateful to Barb, Charisse, and Jason for the ways in which they pastorally care for our community. Barb, in the way she forms our children and families with such patience and love. Charisse, who is so often the first voice and the first face people meet when they reach out to the parish, and who makes each of them feel that they matter. Jason, who helps us pray through music and brings out the best in everyone who sings and plays. All three of them have given Fr. Radley and me something we could not have found anywhere else: insight and perspective on this community, offered with honesty and generosity. We would be lost without them.

And to our lectors, ministers of Holy Communion, sacristans, ushers, choir members, catechists, those who count our collections, those who serve on our councils, and those who quietly pray for this parish every day: thank you. Every one of you is a reason Saint Teresa is the welcoming and caring home I described a couple of weeks ago.

Today we celebrate Christ the King, and the Gospel tells us exactly what kind of king he is.

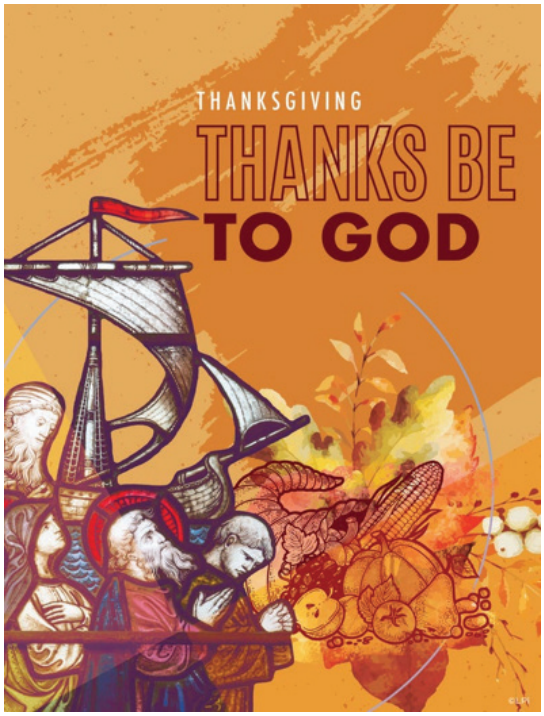
"I was hungry and you gave me food." Every Thursday, every Friday, every Saturday, I see that Gospel lived in this parish.

So this Thanksgiving, as you gather around your own table, know that I am giving thanks for you.

And please remember to join us for Thanksgiving Day Mass this Thursday, November 26, at 9:00 a.m.

With a grateful heart,

Fr. Peter



ST. TERESA of ÁVILA
CATHOLIC PARISH ✝ EST. 1889

Together In Joy
SIGN-UP PARTIES

Sign-Up Parties Are Still Open!

Sign Up by November 30!

Fixed-price, limited-capacity social events hosted or donated by fellow parishioners.
Spots are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and all proceeds support St. Teresa's ministries.

Hot Fun in the Summer Time
June 26, 2027
Hosted by Sharon Lindstrom and Dan Hurley

Dirk's Seafood Cooking Class
May 25, 2027
Led by owners Dirk and Terry Fucik

Seven Churches Holy Thursday Tour
March 25, 2027
Hosted by Margaret Dunlap, Steve & Cathy Jackson, Mike & Debbie Bichimer

SCAN TO SIGN UP





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

Refugee Thanksgiving Drive:

During the Week of Thanksgiving, St. Teresa's will be asking for Aldi Gift Cards or Monetary Donations to give towards are refugee families to give them assistance to buy food especially during the holiday season.

Small Thanksgiving Bags with either a Gift Card or QR code will be available at mass on Sunday, Nov 22nd and at our Thanksgiving mass on Thursday morning, Nov. 26th. We ask that you return any gift cards in the collection basket by Sunday, November 29th. You may scan the QR code here as well for any donations.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. Any questions, please reach out to kristen@rlcanning.com.



Join us for breakfast after daily mass
Register at teresa.church



9:00 AM

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 11/29 10am- Fr. Radley Alcantara
Sunday 11/29 12pm- Fr. Radley Alcantara
Sunday 11/29 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 Thanksgiving



Dear Lord,

We thank You for the gifts of the season.

We ask Your blessing upon this Thanksgiving meal.

Bless each of us gathered, hold the prayers we carry within us, anoint our conversations and company with Your light and hope.
Amen.

Sunday Funday November 22:

Today is Go For a Bicycle Ride Day and National Stop The Violence Day

1858- Denver, Colorado was founded.

1940- The Justice Society met for the first time, DC Comics

1941- The US Food and Drug Administration specified the first minimum daily requirements for dietary supplements for vitamin A, vitamin C, vitamin D, thiamine, riboflavin, calcium, iron, iodine, and phosphorus.

1954- Humane Society of the United States formed.

1987- WGN-TV Channel 9 and PBS affiliate WTTW-TV Channel 11 broadcast signals were hijacked by an unknown person wearing a Max Headroom mask. The hijacker was never caught.





Overflow with the Abundance of Life in Christ, OCIA

At a prayer vigil in Montevideo, Uruguay, on November 7, Pope Leo XIV invited the 70,000 young people gathered in the stadium to "overflow with the abundance of life in Christ." He called them to "aspire to holiness." "Be saints! Do not settle for a merely decent life or for a habitual faith, content with doing only the essential. Do not give God only a part of yourselves — give yourselves completely!"

Thursday, November 12, the first of our two cohorts met at St. Teresa of Avila. Our Monday cohort begins this November 16 at Saint Clement. The 107 individuals who have joined our OCIA are beginning a journey that leads to fullness of life in Christ.

Please keep them in your prayers.

Our Easter 2027 cohorts meet on one of two nights. The Thursday cohort meets at St. Teresa of Avila on Thursday evenings, 1950 N. Kenmore at Armitage, just west of the Brown Line.

The Monday cohort meets at Saint Clement, 642 W. Deming Place.

Registration is still open.

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:

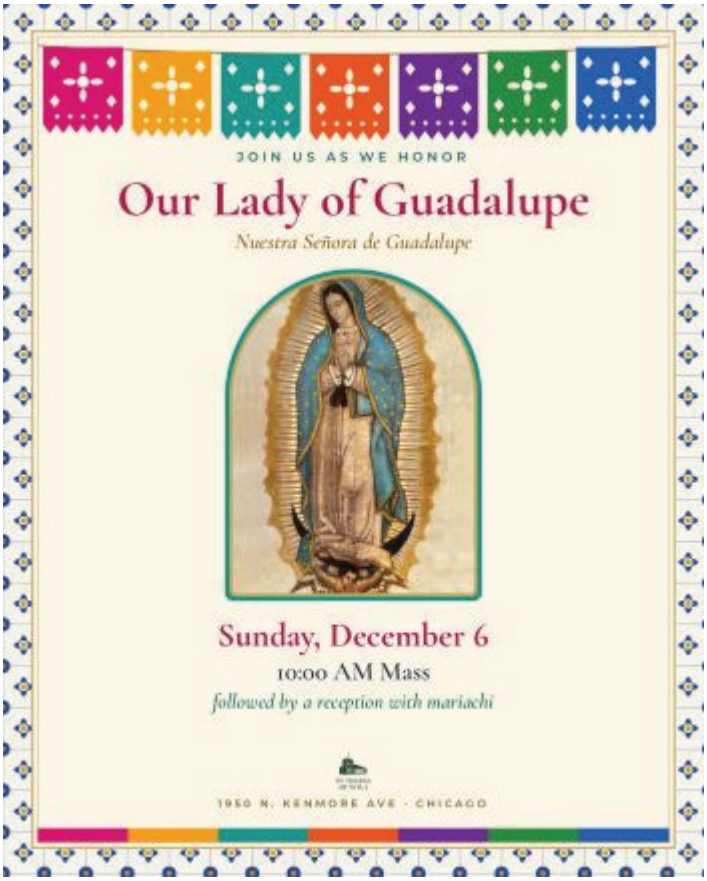
https://saintclement.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/1323/responses/new

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



Please email cgioia@stteresaparish.org to join us!





Catholic Q & A:

Real Presence

Question:

How do you explain "Real Presence" to children?

Answer:

The first Communion class is filled with excitement to the point of bursting! They are just awestruck by every new thing they learn about Jesus. Their enthusiasm is contagious as they rattle off the names of the things in church, the vessels and vestments used at Mass, and the names of their pastors and priests. Of course, they know Christ can do anything because he's God. He comes to us in holy Communion because he loves us so much that he wants to be with us. And he comes to us in the form of bread and wine. We really receive him in the Eucharist.

Sometimes it is easier to explain this to children than to adults. Their faith and trust in Jesus is not limited by the questions and doubts that often come with the question of how he does it. Rather, they focus on the question "why," and the answer is something they can easily grasp: love. Christ wants to be with us because he loves us. Nothing is purer in truth or in faith. Not even the theological explanation of transubstantiation, or philosophical reasoning or symbolic references, come close. Christ takes on the form of bread and wine to be simple and approachable, so that no one is afraid or turned away. His love for us is complete and total. We try to love him the same way in return. For a child, it is simple. For us adults, we keep trying. "Unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 18:3).



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
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bmchugh@stteresaparish.org

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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.