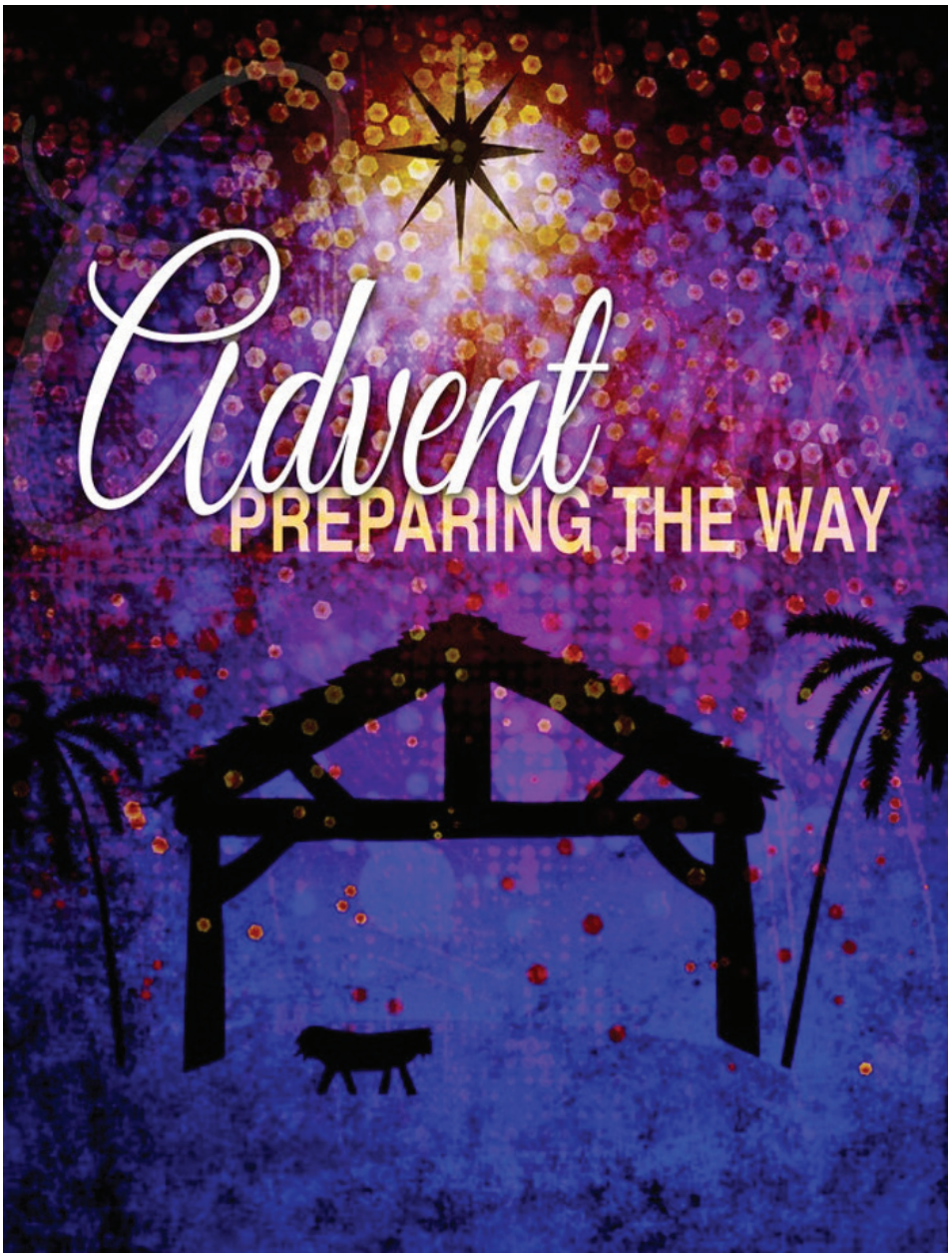
ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

CATHOLIC PARISH ✠ EST 1889

November 29, 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

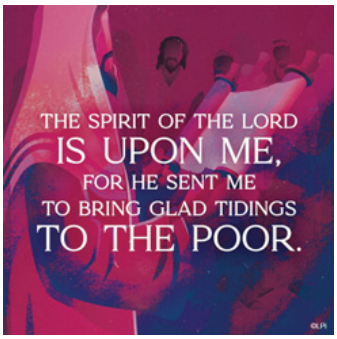
teresa.church/border-ministry

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: Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you. (Is 63:19)

Second Reading: The testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 1:6-7)

Gospel: "Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming." (Mk 13:35)

Feasts and Saints:

11/30- St. Andrew, Apostle

12/3- St. Francis Xavier, Priest

12/4- St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor



Gospel Meditation: First Sunday of Advent:

A friend once told me, "When I was young, I was so broke, I couldn't even pay attention." It's a clever line. Even when your pockets are empty, you can still be attentive. And yet, we often find creative ways to spend our attention on anything but what matters most.

We begin the season of Advent with Jesus' words about how we maintain our attention. He says, "What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'" (Mark 13:37). He describes servants waiting for their master's return. Their task is simple: stay alert. Be ready to open the door, welcome him, and serve. That is why they're there. Advent reminds us that this is the purpose of our lives, too. God is coming to us. The question is whether we are awake and ready to receive him.

How do we train our attention for God? One powerful way is the age-old Christian practice of vigils. Praying in the quiet stillness of night — free from all distraction — focuses the heart and awakens a deeper awareness of God's presence. This Advent, watch for the coming of the Lord by the practice of vigils. Not in theory, but concretely. The Lord is coming. The awake, attentive heart will recognize 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:

Waiting with Mary

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! Today the Church begins a new liturgical year, and with it the season of Advent. I have always loved Advent, maybe because it goes so against the grain of everything around us. The world outside is already in full Christmas mode, with lights, music, sales, and parties. The Church gently asks us to slow down and wait. Advent is a season of expectation. Not the anxious kind, but the kind a family feels when a child is on the way: hopeful, attentive, getting the house ready.

No one shows us how to wait better than Mary. When I think about her, three things stand out.

First, she listens. When the angel comes to her, she does not rush to an answer. She ponders, she asks her question, and she lets God speak.

Second, she trusts. She does not understand everything that is being asked of her, and she says yes anyway.

Third, she does the will of God. Her yes is not just a feeling. She gets up and goes in haste to help Elizabeth, and for the rest of her life she lives that yes in very ordinary, very costly ways. Listening, trusting, and doing. That is a whole spiritual life in three words, and it is what I want to ask God for this Advent, for myself and for all of us.

That is exactly why we are offering Rorate Masses this year. Beginning tomorrow, Monday, November

30, through Friday, December 18, we will celebrate Mass every weekday at 7:30 a.m. in our church, by candlelight, in honor of Mary, followed by a community breakfast. I know mornings are busy. I know the phone is right there on the nightstand.

But imagine giving God the first half hour of your day for these few weeks, sitting with Mary in the quiet, and then sharing breakfast with people from your parish family before heading out into the world.

I truly believe it can change the way we enter Christmas.

Please register for breakfast at teresa.church or clement.org/advent so we know how many people to expect.

Come every day if you can, or pick the days that work for you.

And if you have not been to a weekday Mass in a long time, or ever, this is a wonderful place to start.

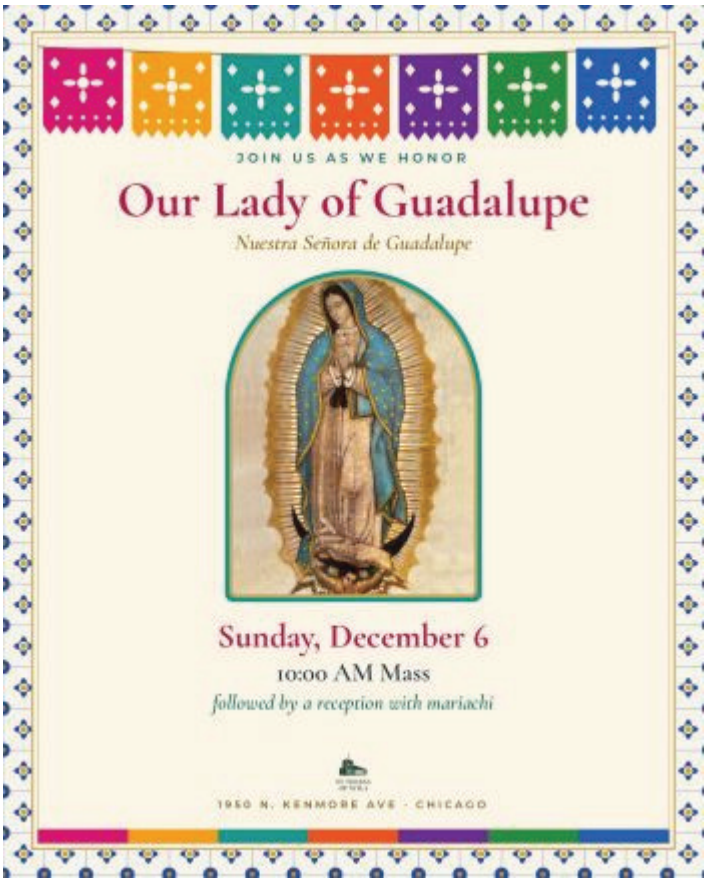
In today's Gospel, Jesus says it simply:

"Be watchful! Be alert!"

Not because we are afraid of what is coming, but because what is coming is so good that we do not want to miss it.

Waiting with you in hope,

Fr. Peter



ST. TERESA OF AVILA INVITES YOU TO

Breakfast *with Santa*



Sunday, December 13

Following the 10:00 AM Mass

Bring the whole family and your Christmas wishes

ST. TERESA OF AVILA

1950 N. KENMORE AVE · CHICAGO



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



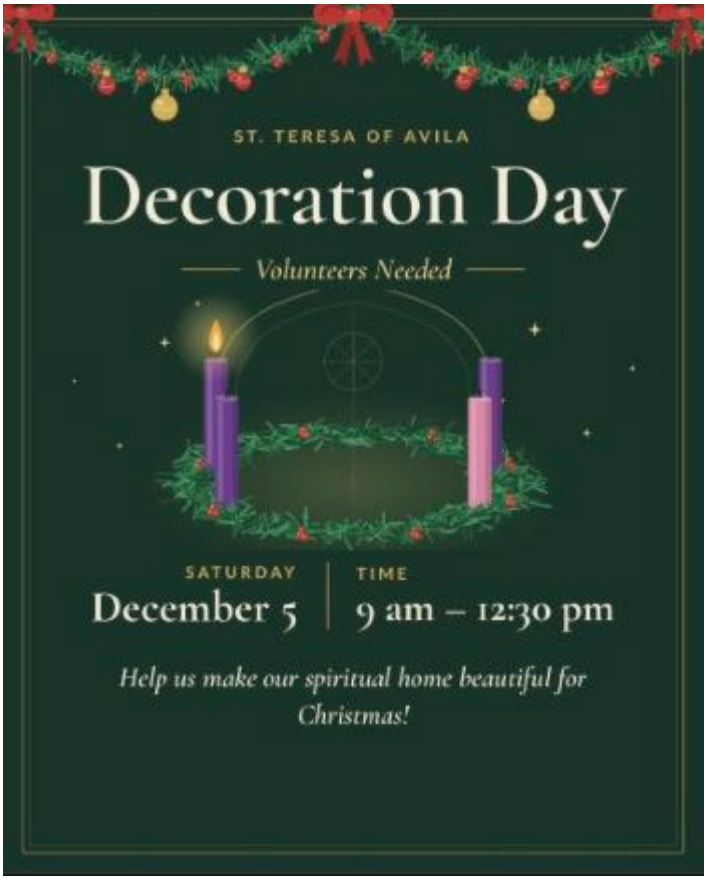
Greenery Sale Next Weekend:

St. Teresa's is please to announce it will have it's annual Greenery sale on the weekend of December 5th and 6th in the Gathering Space after each mass.

Fresh Greenery Items such as Wreaths, Swags, and Centerpieces will be available for purchase.

Quantities are limited. All proceeds benefit St. Teresa's.





To Join Us

Email cgioia@stteresaparish.org

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:

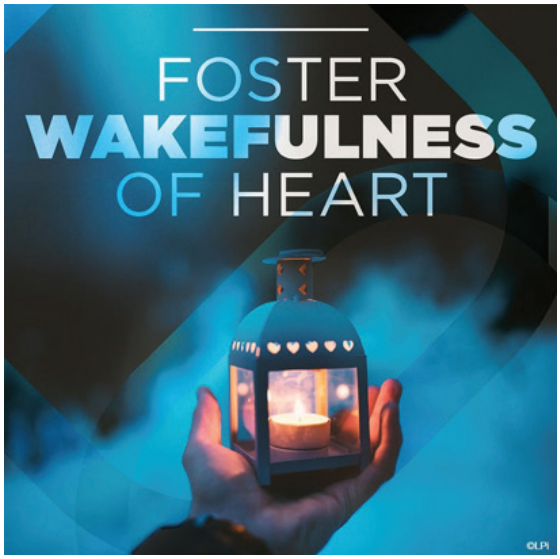
The Loaves & Fishes ministry has been inviting guests indoors to enjoy their meal on Friday evenings.

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 12/6 10am- Fr. Radley Alcantara
Sunday 12/6 12pm- Fr. Radley Alcantara
Sunday 12/6 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.



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 Advent Week One

Dear Lord,

As this Advent season begins, pour Your blessing upon us. Bless our Advent wreaths and readings, our retreats and reconciliations. You are our God and our guide; be with us as we journey.

Amen.

Sunday Funday November 29:



Today is National Lemon Creme Pie Day and

National Square Dance Day

1783- A 5.3 magnitude earthquake struck New Jersey, the biggest to date.

1959- The Grammy Awards were first televised on NBC.

1972- Atari presented Pong, as an arcade game.

By 1974 there was a home version.

2004- Godzilla got his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.



Around the Parish



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



Catholic Trivia- Just for Fun:

Question: When a priest says, "The Lord be with you" at Mass, the congregation responds with:

Answer: "And with your spirit."



Catholic Q & A:

Christmas

Question:

With Christmas fast approaching, can you give me some practical tips to prepare myself and my family that will help us stay grounded in what this holiday is really about? With all the commercialism, it's easy to stray.

Answer:

Happy times and events bring fond memories and a renewed sense of love and kinship with others. The anticipation is half the joy of the event itself. The coming of the Lord is that kind of event that people have been looking forward to for generations with fervent hope and desire. It gave them strength and courage as they waited for the coming of the Lord.

We know that Christmas is rushed. Sales begin in August and carols blare long before the season begins. Everyone laments the commercial aspects of the season, but as Advent begins, do something to help you be more mindful of the Lord's coming. Use an Advent wreath, or enthrone the Bible prominently, or read the readings from the Bible assigned to each day. Postpone the tree and decorations until closer to Christmas.

Establish new family rituals, customs and prayers that help remind everyone that we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Fasting, daily Mass, a special celebration of reconciliation, reaching out to those alienated from family or society, and visiting the homebound manifest the love of the Christ Child and the Holy Family. Resist the temptation to rush the season. In his own time and in his own way, God will come. Our task is simply to be watchful and ready.

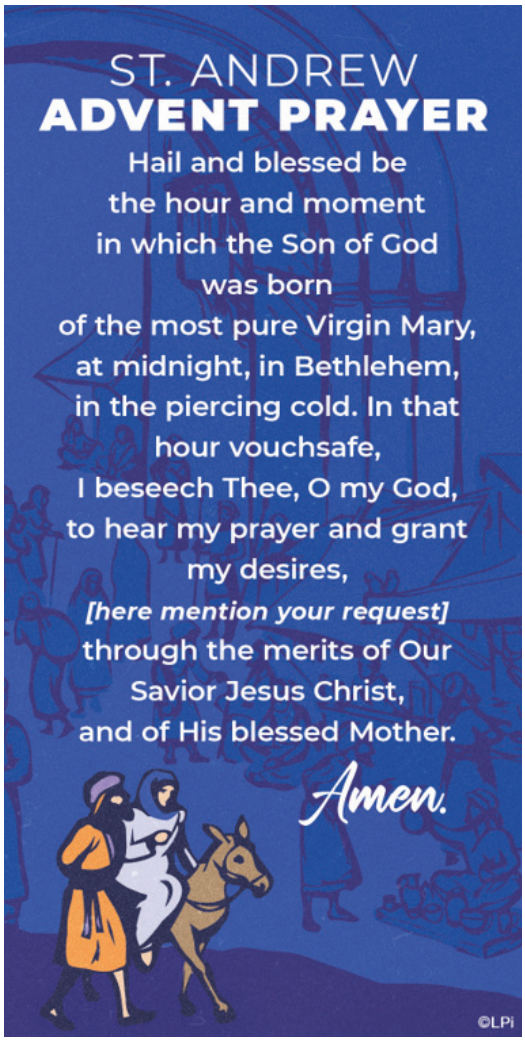
Devotions, Explained!

St. Andrew Christmas Novena, Explained!

The St. Andrew Christmas novena is a prayer said from November 30, the Feast of St. Andrew, through Christmas Eve. Traditionally, it is recited 15 times each day.

The Gospel of John tells us that St. Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist who heard John call Jesus "the Lamb of God." Andrew followed Jesus, curious about him, and realized that he was the Messiah, so he quickly found his brother, Peter, and the two became the first disciples.

In praying this novena, Christians follow the example of Andrew's prescient faithfulness throughout the season of Advent.



Staff

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musicalnut1@mac.com

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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.