



St. Teresa
of Avila
Catholic Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2011

**The child to be born will be called holy,
the Son of God.**

—*Luke 1:35*

Parish Mission Statement

The Saint Teresa of Avila Parish is a diverse Catholic community of faith that embraces everyone, without exception. We see ourselves as uniquely able to engage in dialogue with people of all faiths and act as peacemakers in our city. Challenged by the Gospel, nourished by the Eucharist and inspired by the teachings of Saint Teresa of Avila, we are called to be witnesses of Christ's Love, for the salvation of all people.



Look for us on Twitter @StTsChicago.

Stewardship Matters

December 18 – December 24

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Yes, Lord!

God chose to announce the promised Savior to a young woman in a backwater village called Nazareth. In a small painting created over a thousand years ago, the artist shows the angel holding up one hand in greeting. Mary is standing facing him with her hands extended in welcome. The words of the angel are rich in power and promise: “you have found favor with God . . . [your child] will be called Son of the Most High . . . The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you” (Luke 1:30, 32, 35). Pure of heart and trusting completely, Mary answered God with a wholehearted “yes.” Through her cooperation, God broke into our world, breathing the same air we breathe, experiencing our sorrows and joys. God became flesh in the Son, Jesus Christ, born of Mary. The world would never be the same. The time is here to let him into our hearts and change us completely.

Living Stewardship Now

What can you do for a God who has already loved you so much? Give your heart to God, and be prepared like Mary to take some risks.



¡Sí, Señor!

Dios escogió anunciar al Salvador prometido a una jovencita de un pueblo insignificante de nombre Nazaret. En una pequeña pintura de hace más de mil años el artista muestra al ángel con una mano en alto en señal de saludo. María está de pie frente al ángel con sus manos extendidas demostrando acogida. Las palabras del ángel son ricas en poder y promesa: “Has hallado gracia ante Dios . . . [tu hijo] será llamado Hijo del Altísimo . . . reinará sobre la casa de Jacob por los siglos y su reinado no tendrá fin . . . El Espíritu Santo descenderá sobre ti y el poder del Altísimo te cubrirá” (Lucas 1:30, 32, 33, 35). Pura de corazón y con una confianza total, María le dio su “sí” sin

reservas a Dios. Por la cooperación de ella Dios irrumpió en nuestro mundo, respirando el aire que nosotros respiramos, y experimentando nuestros sufrimientos y alegrías. Dios se hizo carne en el Hijo Jesucristo que nació de María. El mundo no volverá a ser el mismo otra vez. Ha llegado el momento de permitirle la entrada a nuestro corazón al Señor Jesús y dejar que nos cambie por completo.

La corresponsabilidad vivida ahora

¿Qué puedes hacer por Dios que ya te ha amado tanto? Entrégale tu corazón a Dios y prepárate, igual que María, a tomar algunos riesgos.

St. Teresa of Avila Food Pantry Shopping List

The St. Teresa Food Pantry can always use non-perishable food items such as those listed below.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pasta Sauce (26 oz.) | Canned Soup (10 oz.) |
| Canned Beans (15 oz.) | Canned Vegetables (15 oz.) |
| Canned Fruit (15oz.) | Spaghetti O's (15 oz.) |
| Peanut Butter (18 oz.) | Chili (15 oz.) |
| Tuna | Cereal |
| Macaroni & Cheese | Pasta |

Boxed Soap Bar (4-5 oz.)

Sizes are the Maximum



Larger, sturdy paper and plastic shopping bags with handles are always in need.

Please check the expiration dates on all food items before donating them; we discard anything that is past the expiration date.

If your family would like to sponsor a large amount of a particular item, please contact Mike Usiak at usiak@sbcglobal.net.

The Food Pantry needs larger, sturdy paper and plastic bags with handles. Please drop them off in the church, parish center or parish office.



The Pantry is in need of three volunteers to help shop for groceries twice a month. Please contact Mike Usiak usiak@sbcglobal.net or the Parish Office to sign up.

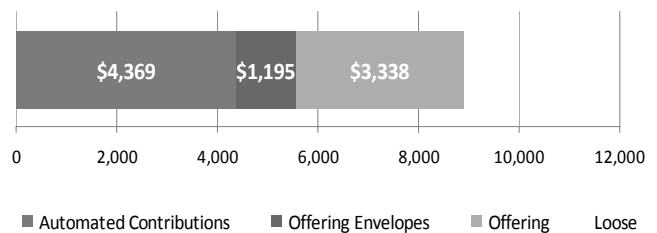
The next Food Pantry Committee meeting is Monday, March 5th at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center.

All are welcome to attend.

Weekly Collections Recap For December 11, 2011

Automated Contributions	Offering Envelopes	Offering Loose	Total
\$4,369	\$1,195	\$3,338	\$8,902

Weekly Sunday Collections (Budget of \$12,000)



We are currently running a \$3,098 deficit of our budgeted Sunday collections of \$12,000 for the weekend of December 11, 2011. As of November 30, 2011 we are flat with collections from last fiscal year.

Comments & Concerns

We want to ensure that any questions or concerns are fully addressed. Please contact the Finance Council Chair, Bill Mack, at williamdmack@hotmail.com or (312) 706-4266. Bill can provide you with the latest financial status, projections and key issues.

We also encourage you to attend the monthly Finance Council meetings on the third Monday of every month at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center.

Website & Bulletin Materials

Articles must be submitted by 11:00 am on Monday to be considered for the following Sunday's bulletin or for posting on the Website. Please contact Dean at (773) 528-6650 or dvaeth@sttereseparish.org

Readings, Liturgy & Tradition

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Today's Readings

First Reading — I will fix a place for my people. I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

Psalm — For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 89).

Second Reading — To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever (Romans 16:25-27).

Gospel — Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:26-38).



Readings for the Week

Monday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday:	Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45
Thursday:	1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
Friday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
Saturday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79
Sunday:	<u>Vigil:</u> Is 62:1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25] <u>Midnight:</u> Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 <u>Dawn:</u> Is 62:11-12; Ps 97; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 <u>Day:</u> Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

The Eternal God

King David wished that the ark of God might have a more permanent home. David may have envisioned something like the cedar palace where he resided. God had in mind something more: a throne where David's descendants would rule for ever, a kingdom where Jews and Gentiles alike would be welcome.

Mary's prayerful nature led to an even more disturbing message. She would conceive and bear a Son though she was not yet married. "How can this come about?" Mary wondered. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you," she was told (Luke 1:35).

Mary's acceptance of this difficult challenge ushered in this, the final age of God's reign. What was once a secret known only by chosen people like King David and his descendants must now be made clear to all so that, as Saint Paul wrote to the Romans, we can be brought to the "obedience of faith" "according to the command of the eternal God" (Romans 16:26). — Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Treasures from Our Tradition

We are approaching the darkest, longest night of the year. For centuries, people in the Northern Hemisphere have kindled fires against the dying of the light, turning away the dark of the winter solstice, and leading the imagination to hope and new beginnings. It is thus easy to understand why these solstice celebrations of non-Christian Europe attracted the annual remembrance of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

In time the solstice migrated away from December 25, but the Christmas feast remained in place. From this day, a whole season of celebration developed, stretching from Advent through the days of Christmas, and even beyond to the February 2 blessing of the candles, and beyond that to March 25, the Annunciation, nine months before the next Christmas. Centuries ago, this was New Year's Day, and many reasoned that it was the date of Adam and Eve's fall, and the date of the Crucifixion. The message is clear: don't let your Christmas be over too soon. Keep the lights blazing into January, and savor the meaning of the feast! — James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Lecturas, Liturgia Y Tradición

December 18 – December 24

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El Dios Eterno

El rey David deseaba que el Arca de Dios tuviera un hogar más permanente. David podría haberse imaginado algo así como el palacio de cedro donde residía. Dios tenía en mente algo más: un trono donde los descendientes de David gobernarían para siempre, un reino donde judíos y gentiles serían bien recibidos por igual.

La actitud devota de María llevó a un mensaje aún más inquietante. Concebiría y daría a luz un hijo a pesar de que aún no estaba casada. “¿Cómo podrá ser esto?”, preguntó María. “El Espíritu Santo descenderá sobre ti”, le contestó el Ángel (Lucas 1:35).

La aceptación de María de este difícil desafío marcó el comienzo de esta, la era final del Reino de Dios. Lo que antes era un secreto conocido solo por el pueblo elegido como el Rey David y sus descendientes ahora debe quedar claro a todos para que, como escribió San Pablo a los romanos, podamos llegar a la “obediencia de la fe”, “en cumplimiento del designio eterno de Dios” (Romanos 16:26).

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Tradiciones de Nuestra Fe

De las muchas tradiciones latinoamericanas para celebrar el Adviento y la Navidad, las Posadas parecen ser lo mejor conocido en EE.UU. Tienen su origen en la última mitad del siglo XVIII cuando las estrepitosas Misas de Aguinaldo dejaron de ser celebradas en México. Para remplazar la festividad de esas Misas, los laicos decidieron celebrar en sus casas tomando lo que habían visto dramatizado en los templos, esto es, el recorrido de José y María mientras buscaban posada en Belén. Como las “Antifonas de la O” de la liturgia oficial cristiana, estas Posadas llegaron a ser celebradas nueve noches consecutivas.

200 años después, muchos latinos continúan celebrando las Posadas en EE.UU. Recuerdo como de niño cantábamos “En el nombre del cielo” recorriendo las calles del barrio hasta llegar a la casa donde nos abrirían con cantos, tamales, galletitas y chocolate. Ese recorrido de José y María lamentablemente sigue todos los días en los pasos temerosos y cansados de tantos inmigrantes en este país. Como la Sagrada Familia, otras familias latinoamericanas continúan buscando hospedaje con la esperanza de dar a luz una nueva vida para sus hijos e hijas. — Fray

Gilberto Cavazos-Glz, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Lecturas de hoy

Primera lectura — El Señor promete a David que su casa permanecerá para siempre (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

Salmo — Cantaré eternamente las misericordias del Señor (Salmo 89 [88]).

Segunda lectura — Pablo ora para que Dios sea glorificado mediante Jesucristo (Romanos 16:25-27).

Evangelio — El ángel Gabriel anuncia a María que ella concebirá al hijo de Dios (Lucas 1:26-38).



Lecturas de la Semana

Lunes:	Jue 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lc 1:5-25
Martes:	Is 7:10-14; Lc 1:26-38
Miércoles:	Cant 2:8-14 o Sof 3:14-18a; Lc 1:39-45
Jueves:	1 Sm 1:24-28; Lc 1:46-56
Viernes:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lc 1:57-66
Sábado:	2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lc 1:67-79
Domingo:	<u>Vigilia:</u> Is 62:1-5; Sal 89 (88); Hch 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25 <u>Me</u> <u>dianoche:</u> Is 9:1-6; Sal 96 (95); Ti 2:11-14; Lc 2:1-14 <u>Alborada:</u> Is 62:11-12; Sal 97 (96); Ti 3:4-7; Lc 2:15-20 <u>Día:</u> Is 52:7-10; Sal 98 (97); Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Sacraments & Ministries

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December Baptisms



Kellen Matthew Browne (12-4-11)

Kellen Thomas Spoerer (12-4-11)

Leah Ann Khayum (12-11-11)

Nora Jane Anderson (12-18-11)

St. Teresa says...



“It is clearly revealed that He is the Lord of heaven and earth. This is not true of earthly kings.”

First Reconciliation Recipients

Congratulations to our recipients of the Sacrament of First Reconciliation:

Cole Cichowski

Suhail Couto

Daniel Edwards

Brendan Mack

Jack Moran

Finola Narjarian

Stuart Nicholas

Patrick O'Leary

Jack O'Leary

Isaac Rice

Christopher Rowney

Claire Sullivan

Laine Sullivan

DJ Walsh

Madeline Wild



Calendar at a Glance

December 18, Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Advent • Cuarto Domingo de Adviento

- 9:00 am, REC, Nine A.M. Nursery
- 9:00 am, GS, Blest Art Sale
- 9:15 am, REC4, Children's Liturgy of the Word
- 10:30 am, REC1-2-3 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- 11:30 pm, PC3-4, Spanish Christmas Luncheon
- 12:00 pm, REC1, RCIC Spanish
- 4:00 pm, PC1-2, CCFC Catechesis
- 6:51 pm, PC3-4, "6:51" Club Christmas Hospitality

December 19, Monday

- 7:00 pm, PC1-2, Finance Council
- 7:30 pm, AVC, 12-Step Meeting

December 20, Tuesday

- 5:30 pm, PC-4, RCIA
- 6:00 pm, APC, 12-Step Meeting
- 7:00 pm, Church, Eucharistic Adoration

December 21, Wednesday

St. Peter Canisius • San Pedro Canisio

- 6:00 pm, APC, 12-Step RA Meeting
- 7:30 pm, APC, 12-Step AA Meeting

- 7:30 pm, APB, 12-step SA Meeting

December 22, Thursday

- 6:00 pm, PC1-2, GS, Food Pantry Setup

December 23, Friday

St. John of Kanty • San Juan de Canty

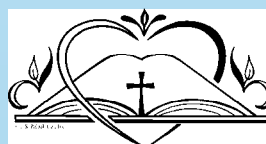
Parish Office Closed

- 10:00 am, PC1-2, GS, Food Pantry Distribution
- 3:30 pm, PC3-4, Loaves & Fishes Setup
- 5:00 pm, PC 3-4, Loaves & Fishes Dinner
- 7:00 pm, Church, Spanish Prayer Group

December 24, Saturday

The Vigil of Christmas • La Vigilia de Navidad

- 9:00 am, APB, 12-Step SA



Mass Schedule & Intentions

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Mass Intentions

December 17

5:00 pm Fr. Patrick O’Leary

December 18

9:00 am Tim Halpin
Doris “Boots” Reed
10:30 am All Deceased Members of the Parish
12:00 noon All Deceased Members of the Parish
6:00 pm All Deceased Members of the Parish

In Our Prayers

Please pray for our deceased friends and parishioners...

Alfonzo Ardana, Amalia Bech, Greg Bruce, Ethel Brumleve, John Breault, Gaspar Diaz, Julia Faloyin, Isabella Feliciano, Carlos Hernandez Gomez, Manuel Gomez, Donald Grabarczyk, Sr. Joan Granzeier, Timothy Halpin, Lee Incandela, Michael Kinsella, Isabelle Martinez, Cindy O’Keefe, Ben & Susan Patrasso, Victims of the War & Domestic Violence

Let us also pray for those who are ill, especially...

<i>Johnnie Mae Alexander</i>	<i>Chuck Jabaley</i>	<i>Honorata Alicea Peña</i>
<i>Alicia Anderson</i>	<i>Pat Johnson</i>	<i>Hector J. Rivera</i>
<i>Berta Billalvazo</i>	<i>Dave Kostelansky</i>	<i>Irma Rivera</i>
<i>Patricia Chuck</i>	<i>Betty LaCour</i>	<i>Pedro Rodriguez</i>
<i>Basilio Diaz</i>	<i>Adolfo Lorenzana</i>	<i>Ray Romero</i>
<i>Jackson Fineske & Family</i>	<i>Carmen Dolores Lorenzana</i>	<i>Jeffrey Roscoe</i>
<i>Kaylee Frederking</i>	<i>Carmen Felicita Lorenzana</i>	<i>Sr. Jean Ryan, O.C.D.</i>
<i>Padraig Gallagher</i>	<i>Miguel Lorenzana</i>	<i>Philomena Russum</i>
<i>Eloisa Gallegos</i>	<i>Lori Lyons</i>	<i>Jack Schank</i>
<i>Michael Gibbons</i>	<i>George Maroquin</i>	<i>Ruth Schmitz</i>
<i>Angela Goldberg</i>	<i>Jose Marroquin</i>	<i>Mima Tome</i>
<i>Kaylee Gommel</i>	<i>Tammy Martin & Family</i>	<i>John Wagner</i>
<i>Les Gordon</i>	<i>Natasha McShane</i>	<i>Bernadine Walters</i>
<i>Genevieve Gorgo</i>	<i>Margaret Sue Meadors</i>	<i>Jack Williams</i>
<i>Geneva Gorgo</i>	<i>Bill Mobley</i>	<i>Michael Woyan</i>
<i>Mrs. Grabarczyk</i>	<i>John Monier</i>	<i>Survivors and perpetrators of sexual abuse</i>
<i>George Halloran</i>	<i>Elda Myers</i>	
<i>Kellar Harris</i>	<i>Frank Neki</i>	
<i>Fr. Patrick Harrity, C.M.</i>	<i>Angel Nieves</i>	
<i>David Hoffman</i>	<i>P. A. O’Neil</i>	
<i>Rod Holzkamp</i>	<i>Msgr. Kevin O’Neill</i>	
	<i>Nella Palazzolo</i>	

Our Mass intentions have many openings. If you would like to have a Mass said for someone alive or deceased, contact Dean Vaeth at the parish office at (773) 528-6650 or dvaeth@stteresaparish.org

In order to be added to our prayer list, a member of the immediate family should request that a person’s name be added. We list the names of the deceased parishioners and friends for six months. If you wish the name of a loved one left on the list longer than six months, please contact Dean Vaeth at the parish office.

DATE	TIME	CELEBRANT	LECTOR	EUCHARISTIC BREAD	EUCHARISTIC WINE
12-24-11 Saturday	4:00 pm	Fr. Frank	Children Scriptures Children Petitions	Michael Zost	Deana LaBrosse Bernadette Diaz
12-24-11 Saturday	10:00 pm	Fr. Frank	Open 1st Reading Alex Lopez 2nd Reading Open Petitions	Deacon Rivera	Maria Montes Sr. Jean Kielty
12-25-11 Sunday	9:00 am	Fr. Frank	Dennis Kamalick	Mary Beth Hughes Frank Swiderski Open	Rose Ohiku Valerie Williams Open Open
12-25-11 Sunday	10:30 am	Fr. Tom Ess	Tony Rivera Betsy Velazquez	Josefina Gomez	Josie Gomez
12-25-11 Sunday	12:00 noon	Fr. Pascal Kasanziki	Luke Kolman	Alice Morales-Villenas	Bob Pedro Wendy Tynan

Parish Life

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Waiting and Hoping Through Advent

In advent, we as the living body and presence of Christ in the world, celebrate waiting and hope.

We celebrate as we patiently wait in earnest expectation for the birth of the Christ child. We celebrate this waiting as an historical event. On Christmas day we commemorate God's ultimate gift of love and mercy and healing and light in a world surrounded by pain and darkness. We also celebrate this waiting as a here and now event. On Christmas day we rejoice in Christ being born in the intimate fabric of our being and living. On that day, if we are graced with faith, we are elated to be alive.

We celebrate hope as we ardently hope for life over death, healing over sickness, light over darkness, forgiveness over harboring ill will, love over hatred, full bellies over hunger, sight over blindness, wisdom over ignorance, inclusiveness over separation, mercy over selfishness. We celebrate this hope in the moment, minute by minute, hour by hour, day by day, in our decisions and actions in the world. We celebrate this hope in what we can become, both individually and as a community of believers. On that day, if we are graced with faith, we choose to love in the world.

Oh Lord, our loving God, grace us with the gift of faith to patiently wait and earnestly hope. Help us, oh great wisdom that stood before time and will be after time, to let go of our simple concerns. Wash us, oh Lord, of our interest with ourselves. Breathe into us, creator God, a womb willing and excited to fully and obediently accept your word, your love, your mercy, your healing, your child. Birth in us, God beyond all gods, your child, your baby—innocent, soft, unsuspecting new life.

**Join us for the next session of
Men's Spirituality Group
on Tuesday, December 27
from 6:15 am to 7:30 am in the parish center.**

Contact Dan Anderson at (773) 844-4494 or dananderson@ameritech.net or Tom Kosnik at (312) 527-2950 or tkosnik@visusgroup.com

— Tom Kosnik

Bible Study Meets December 18th

St. Teresa's Bible Study will meet from 10:15 am to 12:00 noon on December 18th in the Rectory. If you're interested, please call Katie Garwood at (601) 454-0837 or email her at katiengarwood@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed For Parish Leadership Day

The Archdiocesan Office for Councils and Christ Renews His Parish will present its 2012 Parish Leadership Day on February 18 at Loyola Academy, 1100 Laramie Ave., in north suburban Wilmette.

This event has been blending faith, knowledge and skills to transform parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago since 1984. It will feature keynote addresses by renowned speakers; opportunities for participants to dialogue with Cardinal Francis George; more than 90 workshops presented in English, Spanish and/or Polish by qualified, experienced presenters in the areas of leader formation, spiritual life, parish life, human concerns and education; exhibits by Archdiocesan agencies, groups outside the archdiocese, and merchants; lunch conversation with Cardinal George; and a closing liturgy celebrated by Cardinal George with a special homilist.

Planning for the 2012 Parish Leadership Day is well under way. Volunteers are needed to help with a variety of functions prior to the event, as well as on Leadership Day itself. For more information on how you can help, call Rita Kattner, Executive Director of the Office for Councils/Christ Renews His Parish, at (312) 534 - 8364.



Ministry of Care A Powerful and Rewarding Volunteer Opportunity

Applications are now being accepted for the Ministry of Care. Volunteers in this ministry are commissioned to offer compassion, prayer and Eucharist to those who are sick and/or homebound. Ministers of Care can visit the homebound in their home or visit patients at one of the following healthcare facilities: Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Prentice Women's Hospital, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Warren Barr Pavilion. Initial training and on-going formation is provided. Volunteers serve weekly or on alternating weeks for approximately two hours each time.

If you would like to learn more about this volunteer opportunity, please call Ken Jaszczor at (773) 235-8472.

Do More Than Make It Through The Winter – Make a Difference!

The Center for Economic Progress is looking for volunteers to work one-on-one with low-income families to help them move toward financial security.

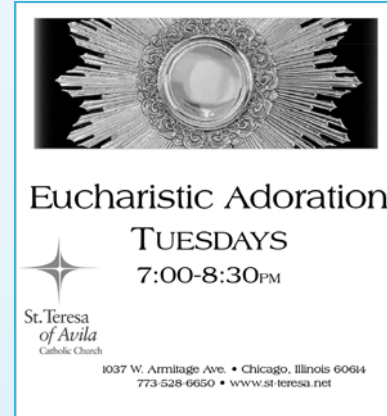
Volunteer at a Tax Preparation Site

- No experience is necessary—choose a position to fit your current skills or learn something new.
- All training is provided; classes run in January.
- Volunteers are asked to commit 20 hours (averaging to a few hours a week) between January and April.
- Community sites are available throughout Illinois.

Volunteer Positions Available

- Tax preparers: Work with clients to file federal and state tax returns and provide counseling on tax credits and forms.
- Tax site assistants: Perform essential non-tax-preparation activities, including client intake, translating and educating on basic banking options available on site.

See why over 1,100 volunteers dedicated last winter to serving 28,000 families statewide. Register to volunteer, view training schedules and find a site near you at www.economicprogress.org/volunteer.



Introducing the EDGE – St. Teresa's New Youth Program

This fall we have 16 teens (7th, 8th and 9th graders) participating in the EDGE: a fun-filled youth group experience which includes confirmation preparation, learning practical life skills and community service. We meet most Sunday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Religious Education Center. Our first semester we have been learning about the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching and how we can apply them to our lives.

The EDGE is designed to meet the educational, spiritual, emotional, and social needs of young adolescents. At this age youth are open to good and bad behaviors as well as positive and negative ideas. Many of the values and beliefs that they held as children are now questioned and challenged. As young adolescents they are trying to figure out who they are and what they believe. In many respects middle school kids are on the edge because so much is going on in their lives physically, mentally, spiritually, and socially. It can be a very stressful and difficult time for them and their parents. As a Catholic Community, we are going to give our middle school youth The EDGE they need in life: God's love that is made known to us through Jesus, The Word, The Eucharist, and the Church.

For more information contact Kate Lynch at kolynchdre@gmail.com or (773) 528-6650 x232

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More than a Myth

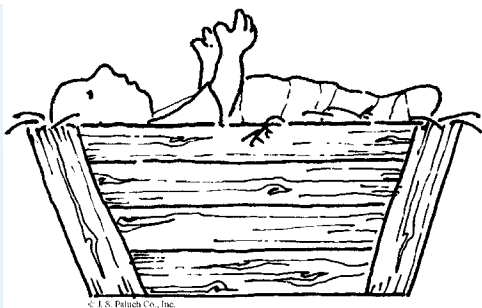
Advent celebrates two comings of Christ, two approaches of Christ in human history. The first is the birth of Jesus at Christmas; the second is the final visitation of Christ at the end of time. They are both momentous events — which is probably why we think of them in mythical form rather than in historical terms.

In myth, the goddess Athena springs full-blown from the head of Zeus. In myth, Caesar is born immaculate, out-fights young adversaries, quickly conquers the whole world and is later declared a god. In myth, Jesus makes clay birds fly, outstrips his little friends in wisdom and astounds the world — and a few chapters later is crucified. Jesus appears to come from nowhere, and just as quickly disappears from view.

That scenario may be somewhat accurate on his Father's side, since Jesus came from mysterious heaven. But his mother's side has an entirely historical background. None of us is simply dropped on earth un-attached. We all are products of environment and heritage.

Matthew traces the family of Jesus to Abraham, but it really goes back to Adam. Wives and prostitutes are recorded as his ancestors. He inherited the absolute faith of Abraham, the wisdom of Solomon, the lust of David, the courage of Esther.

Jesus is in a long line of prophets: men who stuck their



Jesus is in a long line of prophets: men who stuck their finger in a socket and charged the air around them with sparks.

finger in a socket and charged the air around them with sparks. Jesus got his priestly attributes through Melchizedek; he has leadership genes from Moses and a contemplative instinct from Anna and Simeon. The confusion of Babel is somewhere in his psyche; the desert wandering of his people has scarred his memory; living under foreign domination has taught him prudence; the promise of a kingdom gave him hope.

So it is not a mythological hero we encounter in Advent. It is a flesh-and-blood person who shares our humanity in all things but sin.

The second and final coming of Christ lends itself even more easily to mythology. Because the Book of Revelation teems with mysterious symbols and catastrophic events beyond our experience, it is no wonder we reduce this panorama of divine providence to an

image of a shining man coming on a puffy cloud.

When the original Christians prayed, “Come, Lord Jesus,” they were expecting Jesus to reappear in person, defeat their enemies and install Christians as rulers in the kingdom.

When he arrived the first time, Jesus was the culmination of all that went before him. But when he died, he did not retire: He resurrected. He kept on living; he is living now; he will live until he comes again. And he is still incorporating all things human unto himself.

The future Jesus will incorporate in himself all the beauty, goodness and tragedy of humankind from the day of his ascension until the end of time. The coming Christ will include in his person the bravery of soldiers, the grief of widows, the holiness of saints. He will include the artistry of Shakespeare, Michelangelo and Bach.

The experience of the once and future Christ will also include the horror of Auschwitz, the genocide of Stalin, the annihilation of Hiroshima, terrorist attacks, rape, torture and starvation. Nothing human is alien to the model of humanity. Anything that Christ does not include in his own future coming cannot be saved.

— Fr. James Smith, Celebration Publications

Directory

Parish Office

1930 N. Kenmore
Chicago, IL 60614
(773) 528-6650
(773) 871-6766 fax
www.st-teresa.net
dvaeth@stteresaparish.org



Office Hours

Monday—Friday: 9:00 am—7:30 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am—12:00 noon

Staff

Pastor

Rev. Frank Latzko, ext. 217

Deacon

Deacon Hector Rivera

Director of Religious Education

Kate Lynch, ext. 232
kolynchdre@gmail.com

Music Director

Jason Krumwiede
musicalnut1@mac.com

Business Manager

Erica Saccucci, ext. 231
esaccucci@gmail.com

Office Manager

Dean Vaeth, ext. 230
dvaeth@stteresaparish.org

Reception

Olu Balogun, ext. 210
obalogun@stteresaparish.org

Facilities Manager

Thomas Micinski, ext. 212
tmicinski@stteresaparish.org

Maintenance/Housekeeping

Sergio Mora
Irma Saavedra

Parish Pastoral Council

Dave Hilko, Chair

Brian Graziano	Tony Rivera
Joe Haley	Mark Matejka
Becky Khayum	Dave Wisneski
Catherine Kosnik	

Infant Baptism

Baptisms are generally celebrated on the first Sunday of the month during mass, and on the third Sunday of the month following the noon mass. Parents are required to attend baptism preparation session. Please call Dean at the parish office (773) 528-6650, ext. 230 to schedule a preparation session and baptism at least three months in advance.

Marriage

Weddings are held at 12:00 noon and 2:00 pm on Saturday afternoons. Call the parish office for an appointment at least six months in advance.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults—RCIA

For those interested in becoming Catholic or simply desiring to learn more about our Catholic faith, contact Fr. Frank..

Children's Religious Education

Religious education is offered for children from age 3 through 8th grades. Two programs are offered - Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (a Montessori program) and a middle school program for 7th and 8th grade. For more information on religious education programs or sacramental preparation, please contact Kate Lynch at the parish office, ext. 232.

Registration

Registration forms are available at the back of church or at the parish office, or on our website at www.st-teresa.net.

Time for Prayer

The church may be opened for private prayer during the day. Please come to the parish office.

Weekend Masses

Saturday	5:00 pm
Sunday	9:00 am
<i>en español</i>	10:30 am
	12:00 noon
	6:00 pm

Weekday Masses

Monday to Thursday	7:30 am
Friday *	7:30 am

**Communion Service only*

Weekly Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday	7:00 pm
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Reconciliation

Please call the parish office to make an appointment with a priest for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Communion for the Sick

Please call the parish office for arrangements.

Counseling Services

Theresa Nollette, M.Div., LCSW

Pastoral Counselor
(312) 540-0320
theresa_nollette@sbcglobal.net

Mary Ellen Moore, Ph.D.

Counseling and
Spiritual Direction
(773) 643-6259, ext. 17
www.claretcenter.org

Melanie McNally, LCPC

Psychotherapist
(773) 643-6259, ext. 38.
mmaxwell@my.adler.edu



St. Teresa
of Avila
Catholic Church