



St. Teresa
of Avila
Catholic Church

The Nativity of the Lord
December 25, 2011

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

— *John 1:5*

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 25 – December 31

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Cause for Celebration

Imagine, this day with no child in the manger, Christmas trees, presents, or fancy dinner. How would *you* celebrate? For three hundred years after Jesus' time, Christians did not mark Jesus' birth. Eventually the church settled Christmas on December 25. This became a big festival in the Middle Ages. Later, Puritans suppressed it as pagan and popish. By the mid-nineteenth century Charles Dickens' story *A Christmas Carol* revived Christmas with a family emphasis, not a religious one. In one of today's readings, Saint Paul gets to the heart of this day: "When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:4-7). Now *that* is cause for celebration!

Living Stewardship Now

Christmas in the Church's calendar is a *season* that starts on Christmas Day and continues until the Baptism of the Lord on the first Sunday after January 6. Try extending your celebration through that time, with small gifts and good deeds of your choosing.



Ignorance to Celebrate

Imagínate este día sin el Niño en el pesebre. Sin árbol de Navidad, sin regalos ni comida de Noche Buena. ¿Cómo pudieras *tú* celebrar? Durante los trescientos años siguientes a la época de Jesús los cristianos pasaban por alto el nacimiento de Jesús. Por fin la Iglesia determinó el 25 de diciembre como el día de Navidad y llegó a ser una gran fiesta en la Edad Media. Más tarde los puritanos suprimieron la fiesta por considerarla pagana y papista. A mediados del siglo diecinueve la historia de Charles Dickens *A Christmas Carol* (Un cuento de Navidad, 1843) revivió la Navidad en los Estados Unidos con un énfasis familiar y no religioso. En una de las lecturas de hoy san

Pablo expresa el punto principal de este día: "Al manifestarse la bondad de Dios, nuestro Salvador, y su amor a los hombres, él nos salvó, no porque nosotros hubiéramos hecho algo digno de merecerlo, sino por su misericordia. Lo hizo mediante el bautismo, que nos regenera y nos renueva, por la acción del Espíritu Santo, a quien Dios derramó abundantemente sobre nosotros, por Cristo, nuestro Salvador. Así, justificados por su gracia, nos convertiremos en herederos, cuando se realice la esperanza de la vida eterna" (Tito 3:4-7). ¡Eso sí que es algo digno de celebrarse!

La corresponsabilidad vivida ahora

La Navidad en el calendario de la Iglesia empieza el Día de Navidad y continúa hasta el Bautismo del Señor el primer domingo después del 6 de enero. Trata de extender tu celebración durante todo ese tiempo, tal vez con pequeños obsequios y obras buenas.

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

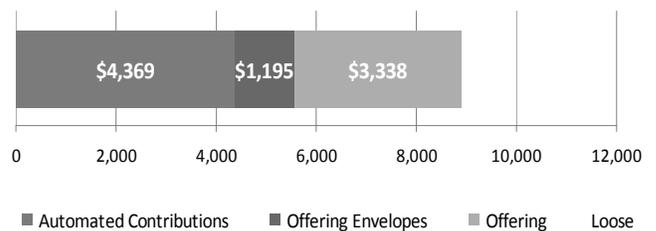


Larger, sturdy paper and plastic shopping bags with handles are always in need.

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.

Due to the Holiday publishing schedule, this Financial Corner is a repeat of December 18th.

End-of-Year Tax Letters

Please have your end-of-the-year donations to us by January 6th so that we may send you a completed 2011 donation letter for your taxes. When you receive your letter, please look it over for discrepancies. We'll be happy to correct any problems and resend your letter.

It is important to keep personal account of your donations throughout the year. While our end-of-year letters to you are a handy way to keep track of donations to St. Teresa, the letter is not a necessary part of your tax return.

If you have any questions, please call the office.

Erica Saccucci
St. Teresa of Avila
Business Manager
(773) 528-6650

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.

Readings, Liturgy & Tradition

December 25 – December 31

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Today's Readings

First Reading — All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God (Isaiah 52:7-10).

Psalm — All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God (Psalm 98).

Second Reading — God has spoken to us through the Son, the very imprint of God's being (Hebrews 1:1-6).

Gospel — The Word became flesh; from his fullness we have all received grace (John 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]).

The Gift of God's Word

On this day of gifts and gift-giving, it seems appropriate that we take a moment to reflect on the great gift of God's Word. Because it is creative, God's Word always points to its author, always calls us to respond. Because it is powerful, God's Word can link the sublime with the ridiculous, the transcendent with the immanent, the divine with the human. Because it is graceful, God's Word establishes a relationship of deep intimacy between us and God.

At the heart of God's Word lies a tantalizing tension between the mysterious and the mundane. In our liturgical celebration, this unresolved tension both reveals the meaning of life for us and calls us to respond, to act upon that meaning.

Once accepted and opened, the gift of God's Word is a gift that keeps on giving and keeps on calling us to give in return. It dares us to be like the gift-giver and to become gifts for others, not only at Christmas, but at every moment of life.



Readings for the Week

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Monday: | Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22 |
| Tuesday: | 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8 |
| Wednesday: | 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18 |
| Thursday: | 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35 |
| Friday: | Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40] |
| Saturday: | 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18 |
| Sunday: | Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21 |

Treasures from Our Tradition

An old joke asks, "What time is Midnight Mass?" The answer is not really obvious, since Christmas is unique in having several distinct celebrations. The readings and prayers vary greatly from hour to hour. The Vigil Mass hinges on the family heritage of Jesus and his origins. The concept of "midnight" predates clock time, and really has to do with a celebration in the hours of darkness. Years ago, it was not possible to receive Communion without fasting for a full day, so the late hour of this Mass made it possible for the people to receive. The first Mass after sunrise, the Mass at Dawn, was once known as "The Shepherds' Mass," and later Masses set aside stories of Jesus' birth to focus on the key to the day's celebration: John the Evangelist's majestic theology of Christ's identity as the Word made flesh, dwelling among us. One feast, four separate Masses. Only monasteries manage the whole round. Parishioners typically take just one entry point into the mystery. Yet there is much to savor and celebrate in the coming of Christ into the world. Christmas is not a day, but a season. You still have two weeks to send those Christmas cards before you're officially late! — James

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Lecturas, Liturgia Y Tradición

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El Don de la Palabra de Dios

En este día de recibir y dar regalos, parece apropiado que tomemos un momento para reflexionar sobre el gran don de la Palabra de Dios. La Palabra de Dios es creativa y por eso siempre apunta a su autor, siempre nos llama a responder. La Palabra de Dios es poderosa y puede enlazar lo sublime con lo ridículo, lo trascendente con lo inmanente, lo divino con lo humano. La Palabra de Dios es llena de gracia, establece una relación de intimidad profunda entre nosotros y Dios.

En el corazón de la Palabra de Dios yace una tensión seductora entre lo misterioso y lo mundano. En nuestra celebración litúrgica, esta tensión sin resolución revela el significado de la vida para nosotros y también nos llama a responder para actuar según ese significado.

Una vez que la aceptamos y la abrimos, el don de la Palabra de Dios es un regalo que sigue dando y sigue llamándonos a dar a cambio. Nos reta a ser como el dador de regalos y a convertirse en regalos para los demás, no solo en Navidad, sino en cada momento de la vida.



Tradiciones de Nuestra Fe

Además de conmemorar la llegada del Niño Dios, la Navidad en Latinoamérica es un acontecimiento hecho en familia; una celebración de reconciliación. Todos anhelamos la armonía en nuestras relaciones humanas, especialmente en los días festivos y nada arruina una buena fiesta como los pleitos y los rencores. Por eso durante la época navideña hagamos todo lo posible por corregir errores cometidos durante el año con amigos y parientes. Muchas veces estas faltas son imposibles de arreglar, por lo cual Dios nos aconseja el perdón y la reconciliación.

Una parábola latinoamericana narra que la “poinsettia,” o flor de pascua, con sus bellas hojas verdes y rojas nace del regalo que un pobre chiquillo le hizo al niño Dios. Mientras otros le daban oro y joyas el muchachito no tenía más que una hierbita. Este don agradó al Niño Dios quien lo transformó en la flor de Navidad. El perdonar puede ser amargo como una hierba, pero es el don que agrada más al Niño Jesús quien lo transforma en reconciliación. Al buscar la reconciliación imitemos al Dios recién nacido, quien busca la armonía con la humanidad. — Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Gluz, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Lecturas de hoy

Primera lectura — Todos a una gritan alborozados. Verá la tierra entera la salvación que viene de nuestro Dios (Isaías 52:7-10).

Salmo — Los confines de la tierra han contemplado la victoria de nuestro Dios (Salmo 98 [97]).

Segunda lectura — Dios nos ha hablado por medio de su Hijo, la imagen fiel de su ser (Hebreos 1:1-6).

Evangelio — El Verbo se hizo carne; y todos recibimos de Él en una sucesión de gracias sin número (Juan 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]).

Lecturas de la Semana

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Lunes: | Hch 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22 |
| Martes: | 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8 |
| Miércoles: | 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18 |
| Jueves: | 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lc 2:22-35 |
| Viernes: | Eclo 3:2-7, 12-14 o Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] o Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lc 2:22-40 [22, 39-40] |
| Sábado: | 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18 |
| Domingo: | Nm 6:22-27; Sal 67 (66); Gál 4:4-7; Lc 2:16-21 |

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...



“The Lord esteems surrender very much, and rightly so, because it means making him Lord over the free will he has given us.”

The Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

- Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- The Call to Family, Community and Participation
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
- Solidarity: One Human Family
- Care of God's Creation



Calendar at a Glance

December 25, Sunday

Nativity of the Lord • La Natividad del Señor

- 9:00 am, REC, Nine A.M. Nursery
- 9:00 am, PC3-4, Hospitality
- 9:15 am, REC4, Children's Liturgy of the Word

December 26, Monday

St. Stephen • San Esteban

Parish Office Closed

December 27, Tuesday

St. John • San Juan

- 6:15 am, PC3, Men's Spirituality Group
- 5:30 pm, PC-4, RCIA
- 6:00 pm, APC, 12-Step Meeting
- 7:00 pm, Church, Eucharistic Adoration

December 28, Wednesday

The Holy Innocents • Los Santos Inocentes

- 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 29, Thursday

St. Thomas Becket • Santo Tomás Becket

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

December 30, Friday

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
• La Sagrada Familia de Jesus, Maria y José

- 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 31, Saturday

St. Sylvester I • San Silvestre I

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



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Mass Schedule & Intentions

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Mass Intentions

December 24

4:00 pm All Deceased Members of the Parish
10:00 pm All Deceased Members of the Parish

December 25

9:00 am Jack Williams
10:30 am All Deceased Members of the Parish
12:00 noon 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...

*Johannie Mae Alexander
Alicia Anderson
Berta Billalvazo
Patricia Chuck
Basilio Diaz
Jackson Fineske & Family
Kaylee Frederking
Padraig Gallagher
Eloisa Gallegos
Michael Gibbons
Angela Goldberg
Kaylee Gommel
Les Gordon
Genevieve Gorgo
Geneva Gorgo
Mrs. Grabarczyk
George Halloran
Kellar Harris
Fr. Patrick Harrity, C.M.
David Hoffman
Rod Holzkamp*

*Chuck Jabaley
Pat Johnson
Dave Kostelansky
Betty LaCour
Adolfo Lorenzana
Carmen Dolores Lorenzana
Carmen Felicita Lorenzana
Miguel Lorenzana
Lori Lyons
George Maroquin
Jose Marroquin
Tammy Martin & Family
Natasha McShane
Margaret Sue Meadors
Bill Mobley
John Monier
Elda Myers
Frank Nekic
Angel Nieves
P. A. O'Neil
Msgr. Kevin O'Neill
Nella Palazzolo*

*Honorata Alicea Peña
Hector J. Rivera
Irma Rivera
Pedro Rodriguez
Ray Romero
Jeffrey Roscoe
Sr. Jean Ryan, O.C.D.
Philomena Russum
Jack Schank
Ruth Schmitz
Mima Tome
John Wagner
Bernadine Walters
Jack Williams
Michael Woyan
Survivors and perpetrators of sexual abuse*

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 | EUCCHARISTIC BREAD | EUCCHARISTIC WINE |
|----------------------|------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| 12-31-11 Saturday | 5:00 pm | Fr. Charles Shelby | Michael Zost | Jane Bronson | Kari Richardson Valerie Williams |
| 1-1-12 Sunday | 9:00 am | Fr. Tom Ess | Elizabeth Rooney | Frank Swiderski Tom Kosnik Geneva Gorgo | Dennis Kamalick Deana LaBrosse Michael Zost Rose Ohiku |
| 1-1-12 Sunday | 10:30 am | Fr. Tom Ess | Alex Lopes Maria Montes | Antonio Bosque | Carmen Cruz |
| 1-1-12 Sunday | 12:00 noon | Fr. Tom Ess | Jane Ott | Aimee Jaszczor | Amy McCue Bob Pedro |

Parish Life

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The Gift of Forgetting at Christmas

There is something about a new baby entering the picture that changes the landscape. Regardless of how rich or how poor, what culture the baby is born into, or the social class of the new child, change happens. Life will never be the same. And it is universally recognized.

This fact that life will never be the same is the ultimate gift of a new child. And the gift this child brings is the gift of forgetfulness. A new child is born and one forgets how important they are. One forgets that the world revolves around them. One forgets one's self.

In life's journey it's so easy to forget what's really important and chase after or be concerned with what in reality is minor. Ask any person or group of people and a common theme will quickly be discovered. "Yea, I use to think this was important..., I can't believe I use to think like that..., I can't believe that I saw life like that."

But a child is born and one forgets how important that child is. One remembers that life is more about the here and now. That life is more about obtaining this object or this status. That little baby is born and one recalls what it's all about. Pulled out of themselves and into a new world..., this is the gift of Christmas and this is the gift of a baby Christ child.

**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

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.

The logo for relevant radio, with the word "relevant" in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font above the word "radio" in a similar font, with a small speaker icon to the right of "radio".

WNTD 950 AM Chicago

"Who can be afraid of a Baby?"

Fr. Rich Simon ponders this in his brief audio reflection for Christmas —
and we'd like you to have a free copy.

Go to www.relevantradio.com and type keyword "baby" to listen or download.

May your Holy Seasons be truly bright!
Chicago **950AM**, Chicago West **930AM**, or
NW Indiana **1270AM**

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.

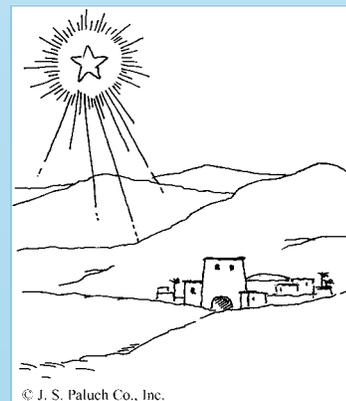
See why over 1,100 volunteers dedicated last winter to serving 28,000 families statewide. Register to volunteer, view training schedules and find a site near you at www.economicprogress.org/volunteer.

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



Christ Is Born In Us

If it weren't for his life, we would not be celebrating his birth. If it weren't for the way he lived his life, then the story heard at the Christmas Vigil, the one that proclaims his genealogy and the story of Joseph's dream and act of faith about the Emmanuel to be born, would fall on deaf ears. Were it not for the witness he gave and the actions he did during his ministry in Galilee, there would be no midnight hymns and songs of praise, and the stories of the gathering shepherds would make no difference. It would have been just another night and just another baby born in an overcrowded town.

And then there would be no need for this convincing Gospel proclamation from John on Christmas morning, cementing his identity as the Word made flesh and our place as children of God born of God's decision to become one with us. Word made flesh, Emmanuel, only Son of God, true light — Jesus Christ was born among us, lived among us, preached, healed, taught and loved among us human beings. His way, his path of life gave witness to how children of God are called to love one another as they love God. His life is what gives us reason to celebrate his birth. And his birth in us compels us to live the same witness so that we might sing with Psalm 98: "All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God."

God's saving power is seen over all the earth as God comes



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Every day could be Christmas if we allowed the Christ child to be born where we walk, where we eat and drink, where we mix with people ...

again and again in our lives, our actions, our witness, our proclamation. Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem thousands of years ago. Yet Jesus Christ is born here, now, in what we do and how we live and in the way that we give expression to the incarnated love of God. Born once in human history, God is born again and again in our very lives, our homes and neighborhoods, our workplaces and shopping centers, our parks and our playgrounds. Like John the Baptist, whom John the Evangelist highlights in this Gospel passage, we too are called to testify to the light, to proclaim that this is indeed the true light that gives everyone a chance at light in the darkness, offers all the possibility of salvation from the power of sin, bestows God's loving grace and kindness on all the world, and reveals God's inclusive love to all the oppressed and ostracized.

The arrival of this new world is indeed glad tidings and good news, as Isaiah proclaims in the first reading. Shouts of joy, songs of praise, announcements of peace and salvation are the new song to be sung by all believers. This is indeed a new world filled with God's wondrous deeds of justice, kindness and faithfulness, a new world where all creation breaks into song and praise, where trumpets blast from the rooftops!

We remember his birth because of how he lived among us. We celebrate again and again his birth and his coming again by our very lives. Every day could be Christmas if we allowed the Christ child to be born where we walk, where we eat and drink, where we mix with people — family and associates, neighbors and strangers, friends and enemies. Everywhere we walk we carry Christ. Everywhere we go Christ goes with us and is born again and again in those loving and messy relationships between the beloved children of God, the brothers and sisters of Jesus, the heirs of God's loving promises. We make the Word flesh right here, right now.

— Denise Simeone, Celebration Publications

Directory

Parish Office

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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
kolyndre@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 |
|---------|---------|

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