



St. Teresa
of Avila
Catholic Church

Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2012

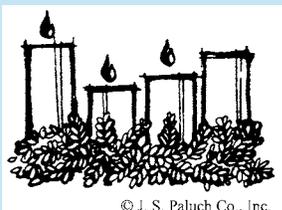
The King of Israel, the LORD,
is in your midst,
you have no further misfortune to fear.

— *Zephaniah 3:15b*

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.

We are a stewardship parish. Three percent of our operating income is shared with other missions.



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Reflections

December 16 — December 22

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Reflecting on God's Word

Reflexionemos sobre la Palabra de Dios

'Tis the season for bell choirs and brass renditions of beloved carols. Church musicians are rounding up trumpeters and French horn players to rehearse for Christmas liturgies. What would a Christmas television special be without pealing bells in the closing sequence? The joyful sounds of brass instruments herald the good news that the Lord of the universe has entered into human history once and forever in the poor infant Jesus.



There is another kind of bell that seems to follow us wherever we go at this time of year—the Salvation Army bells. They remind us that not everyone has experienced the good news of salvation yet. There are many who suffer while others wallow in abundance. Today's scriptures remind us that the Lord is with us to save us from our sinfulness, so that justice, love, and peace might reign at last in the world. Then all God's people will be able to rejoice.

Living God's Word

When we pray the Our Father at Mass the priest voices a prayer that asks the Lord to free our minds of worry as we look forward to Jesus' coming. Joyful hope gives us the spirit and the confidence to do all that we can, expecting that Christ's saving power will be present in our midst.

Éste es el tiempo de villancicos interpretados por coros de campanas y con instrumentos de metal. Los directores de coro andan juntando a los trompetistas y a los que tocan cornetas francesas para ensayar las liturgias de Navidad. ¿Qué sería un programa especial en la televisión sin campanas, que repiquen en la secuencia final? El alegre ritmo de los instrumentos de metal anuncia la buena nueva de que el Señor del universo ha entrado en la historia humana de una vez y para siempre en el niño pobre, Jesús.

Hay otra clase de campana que parece seguirnos a dondequiera que vamos durante este tiempo del año y son las campanas del *Salvation Army*. Ellas nos recuerdan que no todos han experimentado aun la buena nueva de la salvación. Hay muchos que sufren mientras que otros están sumidos en la abundancia. Las lecturas de hoy nos recuerdan que el Señor está con nosotros para salvarnos de nuestros pecados, y para que reine así por fin la justicia, el amor y la paz en el mundo. Entonces todas las personas en el pueblo de Dios podrán alegrarse.

Vivamos la Palabra de Dios

Cuando rezamos el Padrenuestro en la Misa el sacerdote hace una oración en la que pide al Señor que nos libre de toda perturbación mientras esperamos la venida de Jesús. La esperanza gozosa nos da el espíritu y la confianza para hacer todo lo que podamos, sabiendo que el poder salvífico de Cristo estará en medio de nosotros.

Food Pantry Shopping List

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

Sizes are the Maximum

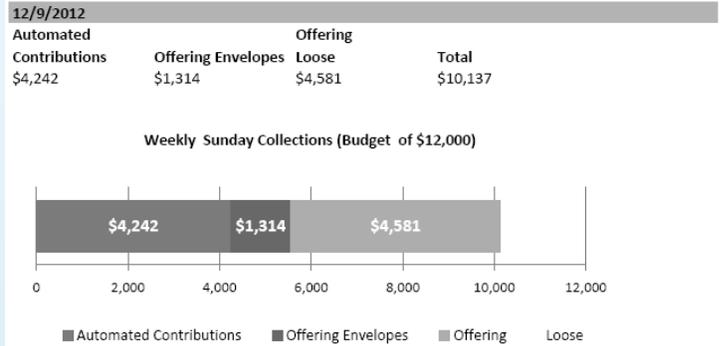
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|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pasta Sauce (26 oz.) | Canned Vegetables (15 oz.) |
| Canned Beans (15 oz.) | Spaghetti O's (15 oz.) |
| Canned Fruit (15oz.) | Chili (15 oz.) |
| Peanut Butter (18 oz.) | Cereal, Oatmeal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

Boxed Soap Bar (4-5 oz.)



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

Weekly Collections Recap For December 9, 2012



We had a \$1,863 deficit of our budgeted regular Sunday collections of \$12,000 for the weekend of December 9, 2012. Please consider donating through automated contributions.

The St. Teresa Water-for-Haiti collection is \$14,866 so far. It's not too late to donate. Holiday Greenery sales netted \$2,084 this year.

Thank you for your support.

Food Pantry Schedule for December

Saturday, December 1st

9:00 am to 11:00 am Bagging & Distribution

Thursday, December 13th

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Bagging

Friday, December 14th

10:00 am to 12:00 pm Distribution

Saturday, December 22nd

9:00 am to 11:00 am Bagging & Distribution

Thursday, December 27th

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Bagging

Friday, December 28th

10:00 am to 12:00 pm Distribution



Comments & Concerns

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

The next Finance Council meeting will be held Monday, December 17, at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center.

Website & Bulletin Submissions

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

December 16 — December 22

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Today's Readings

First Reading — Your God will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

Psalm — Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 12:6).

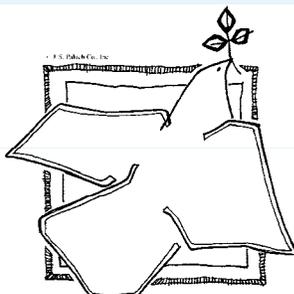
Second Reading — Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! (Philippians 4:4-7).

Gospel — Whoever who has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. Whoever who has food should do likewise (Luke 3:10-18).

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Tuesday:	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Wednesday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Thursday:	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38
Friday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Saturday:	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Rejoice!



Rejoice in the Lord always

Today has traditionally been called “Gaudete Sunday.” The Latin tag is derived from Paul’s appeal in the second reading to “rejoice always in the Lord,” and the Latin Mass text based on that reading. The irony and paradox of this Christian joy is underlined by the fact that Paul wrote those words in prison. But from there he could see the progress of God’s work.

Is it obvious to us? We feel that this is not the time for joy when there is so much suffering and moral evil. It is interesting, then, that the first reading is from the prophet Zephaniah, who is almost exclusively concerned with gloomy visions of Judgment Day. Today the Church selects the only optimistic text in Zephaniah, in which the prophet has been touched by the spirit of joy.

This, we are assured on all sides, is “the season of joy.” Let us recapture that feeling of joy in our lives and reflect it to those who are joyless. — Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

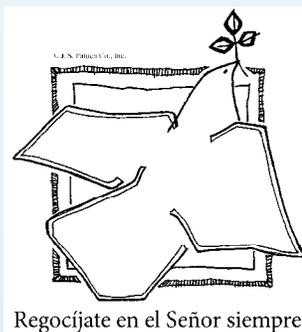
Treasures from Our Tradition

Years ago, the trick question on religion quizzes would be to name all the liturgical colors, or the colors of the vestments worn at Mass. Rose is a color seldom seen, used at most two days a year. Today, “Gaudete Sunday,” is one of those days. The name of the day is drawn from an opening verse in the old Latin Mass texts: *Gaudete* is Latin for “Rejoice!” This year’s Gospel certainly reflects that mood as Elizabeth feels her infant within her leaping for joy at the presence of Mary. Mary’s visit to her aged cousin is an act of compassion between women, as two kinswomen who are bearing children into the world share their joy.

Some churches retain the custom of having the priest wear rose vestments today, and many will use a rose candle in the Advent wreath. Violet is the official color for Advent and Lent, but many parishes employ different hues for each season, trying to keep them distinct. In medieval times, dye was costly, and poor parishes used unornamented plain cloth for vestments. Dyes were expensive and some colors, particularly purple, difficult to achieve. In England, purple dye was made from mollusks, yielding at best a deep indigo or blue and not the desired violet. Thus, the color of Advent in the British Isles has long been a deep blue, reminding many people of Mary’s presence at the heart of the Advent mystery. That theology is largely unplanned: it’s all because of the clams! — James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

¡Regojciate!

El día de hoy se le ha llamado tradicionalmente “Domingo *Gaudete*” o de la “Alegría”. El nombre latino se deriva de la petición de Pedro en la segunda lectura de “alégrense siempre en el Señor”, y del texto de la Misa en latín en el que está basada esta lectura. La ironía y paradoja de esta alegría cristiana se manifiesta en el hecho que Pablo escribió esas palabras en la prisión. Pero desde allí podía ver el progreso de la obra de Dios.



¿Nos parece obvio a nosotros? Sentimos que este no es un tiempo para la alegría cuando hay tanto sufrimiento e inmoralidad. Es interesante, entonces, que la primera lectura sea del profeta Sofonías, que está casi exclusivamente preocupado con sombrías visiones del Día del Juicio. Hoy la Iglesia selecciona la única parte optimista de Sofonías, donde el profeta es tocado por el espíritu del gozo.

Esta es, se nos asegura en todas partes, “la temporada de la alegría”. Recuperemos ese espíritu de alegría en nuestra vida y que se refleje en los que no tienen ese gozo. — Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Tradiciones de Nuestra Fe

Los cristianos latinos tenemos unos cinco siglos en nuestra trayectoria de fe y como todo cristiano aguardamos la segunda venida del Mesías, Jesús. Nuestra espera forma parte de dos milenios de cristianos que buscan verlo llegar en las nubes.

Desde el siglo VII la oración oficial de la Iglesia clama el retorno de Cristo con las exclamaciones llamadas las “Antífonas Oh”. Estas llaman a Jesús pidiéndole que venga bajo los títulos de Emmanuel, Sabiduría celestial, Señor de gran poder, Vara de Isaí, Llave de David, Alba de la luz, y Deseo y Rey de gentes, y algunos más. Estos refranes se usan aún todavía hoy durante los días 17 al 23 de diciembre, y unidas en un acróstico latino forman las palabras *ero cras* (estaré mañana), como respuesta a la petición cristiana. Eventualmente en el siglo X o XI estas antífonas fueron unidas en el canto gregoriano Veni, veni Emmanuel (Oh ven, oh ven Emmanuel).

Este adviento mientras cantamos las antiguas antífonas hay que preguntarnos si de veras estamos listos para el regreso del Hijo del Hombre que viene para juzgar a vivos y muertos. — Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Giz, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Lecturas de hoy

Primera lectura — ¡Canta! ¡Da gritos de júbilo! ¡Gózate y regocíjate! El Señor tu Dios está entre ustedes y es un poderoso salvador (Sofonías 3:14-18a).

Salmo — El Señor es mi Dios y salvador (Isaías 12).

Segunda lectura — ¡Alégrense! El Señor está cerca. Presenten sus peticiones a Dios (Filipenses 4:4-7).

Evangelio — Juan dice a sus oyentes que compartan sus posesiones con los necesitados (Lucas 3:10-18).

Lecturas de la Semana

Lunes:	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Sal 72 (71):1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Martes:	Jer 23:5-8; Sal 72 (71):1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Miércoles:	Jue 13:2-7, 24-25a; Sal 71 (70):3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lc 1:5-25
Jueves:	Is 7:10-14; Sal 24 (23):1-6; Lc 1:26-38
Viernes:	Cant 2:8-14 o Sof 3:14-18a; Sal 33 (32):2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lc 1:39-45
Sábado:	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lc 1:46-56
Domingo:	Mi 5:1-4a; Sal 8 (81) :2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lc 1:39-45

Sacraments & Ministries

December 16 — December 22

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December Baptisms

Boland Marie Gregory (12-8-12)
Tyler Raczyla (12-30-12)



St. Teresa said...

“There’s no queen like humility for making the King surrender. Humility drew the King from heaven to the womb of the Virgin.”



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 16, Sunday

Third Sunday of Advent • Tercer Domingo de Adviento; Posadas Comienzan

- 9:00 am, RR, 9AM Nursery
- 9:15 am, REC, Children’s Liturgy of the Word
- 10:00 am, PC3-4, Breakfast with Santa
- 10:30 am, REC1-4, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- 6:51 pm, PC3-4, 6:51 Club Hospitality
- 7:00 pm, REC4, The Edge

December 17, Monday

- 6:30 pm, REC4, Lectio Divina
- 7:00 pm, PC3, Finance Council Meeting

December 18, Tuesday

- 1:00 pm, REC1, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- 4:30 pm, REC1-4, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- 7:00 pm, Church, Eucharistic Adoration

December 19, Wednesday

- No Activities Scheduled

December 20, Thursday

- 2:30 pm, REC, Regarding Parents Program
- 7:00 pm, PC3, Building Committee Meeting

December 21, Friday

St. Peter Canisius • San Pedro Canisio

- 12:00 pm, Kitchen, Loaves & Fishes Cooking
- 3:30 pm, PC3-4, Loaves & Fishes Set Up
- 5:00 pm, PC 3-4, Loaves & Fishes Dinner
- 7:00 pm, Church, Spanish Prayer Group

December 22, Saturday

- 9:00 am, PC3, GS, Food Pantry Distribution
- 11:00 am, Kitchen, Spanish Christmas Party Cooking



The Religious Ed Center (REC) is located at 1940 N. Kenmore Ave., one block south of the Parish Center (PC) at 1950 N. Kenmore. The Gathering Space (GS) is the entrance area to the PC. The Reconciliation Room (RR) is at the back of church next to the font.

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Mass Intentions

December 15

5:00 pm Gabriel Bernal

December 16

9:00 am Mary Connery Shea
Tim Halpin
Juanita Cazares-Romero

12:00 pm All Deceased Members of the Parish

6:00 pm All Deceased Members of the Parish

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.

In Our Prayers

Please pray for our deceased friends and parishioners...

Alfonzo Ardana, Amalia Bech, Greg Bruce, Ethel Brumleve, John Breault, Phyllis Carlino, Gaspar Diaz, Mark Dudley, Julia Faloyin, Isabella Feliciano, Carlos Hernandez Gomez, Manuel Gomez, Donald Grabarczyk, Timothy Halpin, Lee Incandela, Pat Johnson, Teresa Joan Killecullen, Michael Kinsella, Laura Lee, Catherine Malec, Isabelle Martinez, Melory Mizicko, Sally Jo Morrow, Cindy O'Keefe, Nella Palazzola, Ben & Susan Patrasso, Sophia Sanchez, Maurice Shatto, Jim Teterycz, Jon Wagenknecht Victims of War & Domestic Violence

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

<i>Alicia Anderson</i>	<i>Theresa Jabaley</i>	<i>Ray Romero</i>
<i>Berta Billalvazo</i>	<i>Betty LaCour</i>	<i>Jeffrey Roscoe</i>
<i>Patricia Chuck</i>	<i>Adolfo Lorenzana</i>	<i>Sr. Jean Ryan, O.C.D.</i>
<i>Basilio Diaz</i>	<i>Carmen Dolores Lorenzana</i>	<i>Jack Schank</i>
<i>Jackson Fineske & Family</i>	<i>Carmen Felicita Lorenzana</i>	<i>Ruth Schmitz</i>
<i>Padraig Gallagher</i>	<i>Miguel Lorenzana</i>	<i>Jennifer Schubeck</i>
<i>Eloisa Gallegos</i>	<i>George Marroquin</i>	<i>Sandra Seiffert</i>
<i>Michael Gibbons</i>	<i>Jose Marroquin</i>	<i>Mima Tome</i>
<i>Angela Goldberg</i>	<i>Margaret Sue Meadors</i>	<i>JoAnn Jahnke Trainer</i>
<i>Kaylee Gommel</i>	<i>Bill Mobley</i>	<i>John Wagner</i>
<i>Les Gordon</i>	<i>John Monier</i>	<i>Bernadine Walters</i>
<i>Genevieve Gorgo</i>	<i>Elda Myers</i>	<i>Valerie Williams</i>
<i>Mrs. Grabarczyk</i>	<i>Angel Nieves</i>	<i>Jack Williams</i>
<i>Kellar Harris</i>	<i>P. A. O'Neil</i>	<i>Mae Witry</i>
<i>David Hoffman</i>	<i>Msgr. Kevin O'Neill</i>	<i>Survivors and perpetrators of sexual abuse</i>
<i>David Ivanac</i>	<i>Honorata Alicea Peña</i>	
<i>Chuck Jabaley</i>	<i>Hector J. Rivera</i>	
	<i>Pedro Rodriguez</i>	

Celebrant and Minister Schedule

DATE	TIME	CELEBRANT	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC BREAD	EUCCHARISTIC WINE
12-22-12 Saturday	5:00 pm	Fr. Charles Shelby	Maggie Kuhlmann	Bert Olson	Lisa Marquez Minister Needed (C2)
12-23-12 Sunday	9:00 am	Fr. Tony Dosen	Mark Trinka	Jane Ott Rose Ohiku Frank Swiderski	Bernadette Diaz Michael Zost Geneva Gorgo Lina Hilko
12-23-12 Sunday	12:00 pm	Fr. Tony Dosen	Alejandro Lopez	Suzanne Chung	Brendan Lynch Colin McCue
12-23-12 Sunday	6:00 pm	Fr. Barry Moriarty	Mark Van Grinsven	Nancy Van Grinsven Minister Needed (H3) Minister Needed (H4)	Luke Kolman Minister Needed (C2) Minister Needed (C3) Minister Needed (C4)
12-24-12 Monday	4:00 pm	Fr. Barry Moriarty	Children's Scriptures Children's Petitions	Michael Zost	Eileen Raia Aimee Jaszczor
12-24-12 Monday	10:00 pm Carols Begin 9:30 pm	Fr. Charles Shelby	Alex Lopez	Frank Swiderski	Kathy Richgels Minister Needed (C2)
12-25-12 Tuesday	10:00 am	Fr. Tom Ess	Geneva Gorgo	Rose Ohiku	Bob Pedro Minister Needed (C2)

Enroll in Give Central this Weekend

Your stewardship and participation in the life of St. Teresa of Avila Parish is central to the continued vitality of this faith community.

We hope that GiveCentral will offer you a convenient and simple opportunity to continue and enhance your involvement in the church.

GiveCentral is an online donation tool. It is a secure way to give from a bank account, credit card or debit card.

GiveCentral enrollment forms will be available after all Masses this weekend on the tables at the back of church and in the Gathering Space.

Sign up for online giving at

GiveCentral

for your weekly offertory and other donations!

Three reasons to sign up:

1. Give Central is completely safe and secure as it follows SSL encryption standards.
2. It's easy to sign up, update throughout the year, and review your gifts as often as you like.
3. You can make your gifts through most credit cards or online checking.

GIVE
CENTRAL.
ORG

6:51 Club is this Sunday!

St. Teresa's 6:51 Club meets every 3rd Sunday of the month after the 6:00 pm Mass for hospitality and community.

December's 6:51 Club will be an after-church Christmas dinner. Join us to meet fellow parishioners. Wassail!

You can contact Sara Foley at foleysar@gmail.com for more details.



Mary in Our Nativity Icon

One fascinating thing about our Nativity icon is that Mary is the central figure in the icon. She is the largest figure in the icon. She is also in the center of the icon. The entire nativity story revolves around Mary. When we look at the icon, our eyes are immediately drawn to her and no one else. She appears to float off the icon and toward us, and we are pulled into her. What is the spiritual mystery Mary is attempting to communicate to us?

The Greek Orthodox religion calls Mary *Theotokos* which means "God-bearer" or "Mother of God." Mary and Jesus have some remarkable similarities; they were both born without sin and they were both born of God. Mary and Jesus come to us as the new Eve and Adam. Where Eve and Adam sinned and created separation between humanity and God, Mary and Jesus without sin and have come into the world to reunite us with God.

In the icon, Mary is so deeply human; she has a sad contemplative look on her face. She cannot look upon her newborn for she knows that Jesus has no human father. She knows that he will be no typical king. The manger, looking like a tomb, implies that death is imminent and Mary knows she will witness her son's death. She is anxious about her child's future. We all can identify with such feelings.

So here we have the "Mother of God," a woman pure and without sin, a woman that intuits the future in the present, a woman that has put her will aside to aid humanity with its reunion with God. And she is called to give birth to this wonder in a deserted and barren place. It may well be that where we find Mary most in ourselves is in the deserted and barren places of our souls. We all have them. And Mary, like in our icon, comes to us in these places.

**Join us for the next session of
Men's Spirituality Group
on Tuesday, January 8,
from 6:15 am to 7:30 am in the parish center.**

Contact Matt Priesbe at mpriesbe@aol.com and (847) 729-1220, or contact Tom Kosnik at (312) 527-2950 and tkosnik@visusgroup.com

— Tom Kosnik



This Sunday After Morning Mass

\$6 for Adults

\$4 for Children

Children under 2 are free

Pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, and juice

We look forward to serving you!

Sponsored by the St. Teresa's Men's Spirituality Group.

Christmas Giving Gifts Due Monday, December 17th

Thank you for your generous response to this year's Giving Tree. Please return the wrapped gifts with tags by Monday, December 17th so they can be given to all the children before Christmas.



Wrapped gifts with tags can be placed under the giving tree in church during the weekend, or they can be dropped off at the Parish Office at 1950 N. Kenmore during the week from 9:00 am to 7:30 pm, and Saturday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

St. Teresa is working with St. Vincent de Paul Center (Halsted and Webster) who is providing us with the names of 185 needy children 5-to-13 years old.

Thank you for bringing a little Christmas cheer to these children again this year.

Women's Center Baby Bottle Project

St. Teresa will be participating in the Baby Bottle Project benefiting The Women's Centers of Greater Chicagoland. This organization directly assists mothers and families experiencing crisis pregnancies by offering emotional, financial, material, and spiritual support.



The Women's Center is committed to helping people help themselves. In some cases, this is simply a matter of bringing out the clients' inner strength, courage and resolve, to face life's challenges. Sometimes, it involves helping to find available community resources to help overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles. A good deal of our counseling staff time is spent working with clients and community organizations to bring together a good match of needs and available resources.

Please take a Baby Bottle home with you this week, fill it with your spare change over the next four weeks, and return it the weekend of December 30th. This is a simple, yet crucial fundraising effort for The Women's Centers.

Relevant Radio Novena

O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

We have a free gift to help you prepare to receive Christ anew this Advent! Join Father Thomas Acklin as he leads us in a Novena prayer from Dec 17-25, including helpful meditations on the prophetic "O" Antiphon titles for Christ.



Go to www.relevantradio.com – keyword "Advent" – for audio links and schedule.

Chicago **950AM**, Chicago West **930AM**,
NW Indiana **1270AM**

Our actions are the best witnesses of our thoughts.
— Anonymous

Nuestras acciones son el mejor testimonio de nuestras pensamientos. — Anónimo

The Risk of Change

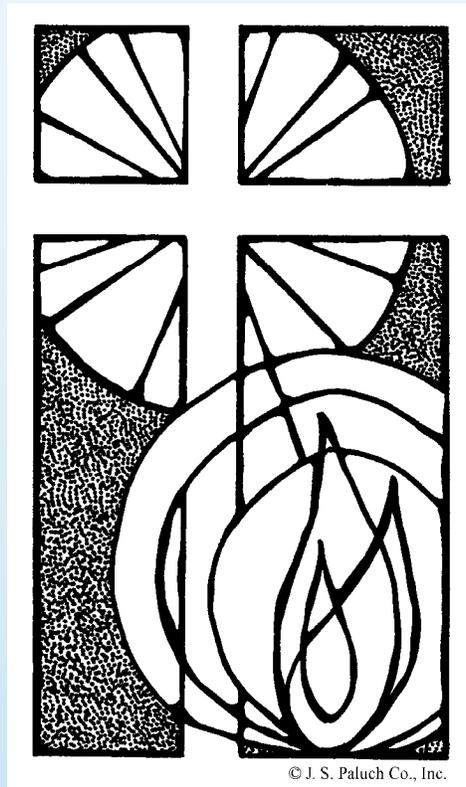
Did you ever wonder why John the Baptist never became a follower of Jesus, at least as far as we know? Jesus boasted that John was the greatest person ever born, while John humbly said that he was not worthy to tie Jesus' shoelaces. Although John said that Jesus should baptize him, in fact Jesus let himself be baptized by John, his inferior.

When John recognized the superiority of Jesus, he pointed it out to his disciples: "There is the Lamb of God!" But he himself did not go after Jesus. We know of only two of John's followers who switched to Jesus. When John clearly recognized that Jesus was The Man, why did he not fold up his ministry and move with his disciples into the Jesus camp?

After John baptized Jesus, and after Jesus went on a month-long retreat, it is recorded that both of them had a separate group of followers and preached in different places. They even preached the same message: "Repent because the kingdom is here." But their concept of the kingdom, their different emphases, kept them apart — much the same as liberals and conservatives agree on the theory of church but fight over its practice.

Jesus and John agreed that God would make God's presence felt in the near future. The idea of God becoming personally, immediately involved in world affairs at some time was a common Jewish expectation. But the traditional understanding, which was the view John held, was that God would come as judge: God would punish evildoers, defeat Israel's enemies and make Jerusalem the center of God's reign.

Jesus, on the other hand, thought that God would come in mercy



Jesus... thought that God would come in mercy and forgiveness. Something had to be done about evil, of course ... but the clear emphasis was that God would come to save, not condemn.

and forgiveness. Something had to be done about evil, of course, and there would be some accounting of human behavior, but the clear emphasis was that God would come to save, not condemn. That is why Jesus spoke and acted as he did. Jesus was the living, personal image of God's kingdom.

John, along with establishment members such as priests, lawyers and Pharisees, naturally wanted to keep

things the way they were. They felt no need for mercy; justice was on their side. But the outsiders, those who could not keep the law, those who had no status, those who didn't belong — they flocked to Jesus and his image of a loving God. Justice had done them no good. They were in great need of mercy.

Even in prison, John remained puzzled, and he apparently had not yet decided for Jesus. That is clear from the messengers he sent to ask Jesus if he really was God's anointed. John simply could not imagine God failing to punish evildoers, let alone God dining and drinking with blatant sinners. Jesus told John that his credentials were the biblical sign of healing and helping the poor. We are not told what John's response was.

Imagine that a social justice group starts in your city. You go to their meetings, argue with them, agree on their commitment to Gospel values, but do not agree with their methods. You part ways. The group goes on to help feed the poor and clothe the homeless, while you do nothing for the kingdom.

John, sitting in his prison cell and hearing all about Jesus, was in a similar quandary. Firmly held convictions, ingrained values and lifetime experiences are hard to uproot, even if they are wrong. Why take the risk of change?

Saint John the Baptist, pray for us.

— Fr. James Smith, Celebration Publications

Directory

Parish Leadership

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Frank Latzko
On Sabbatical

Director of Religious Education

Kate Lynch, ext. 232
kolyndchre@gmail.com

Music Director

Jason Krumwiede
musicalnut1@mac.com

Business Manager

Erica Saccucci, ext. 231
esaccucci@gmail.com

Office Manager

Deacon Dean Vaeth, ext. 230
dvaeth@stteresaparish.org

Evening Reception

Olu Balogun, ext. 210
obalogun@stteresaparish.org

Facilities Manager

Thomas Micinski, ext. 212
tmicinski@stteresaparish.org

Maintenance/Housekeeping

Sergio Mora
Irma Saavedra



St. Teresa
of Avila
Catholic Church

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Dave Wisneski, Chair

Jon Assell
Jessica Marx
Mark Matejka
Bertel Olson

Marjorie Rice
Michael Rice
Tony Rivera
Christine Villoch

The Parish Pastoral Council is a consultative body to the pastor and represents a cross section of the parish. PPC is kept abreast of the activities of the Parish and its operations. Together with the Pastor, the PPC helps to craft and carry out the Mission of the Parish. PPC also researches the needs of the parish and works with Parish leadership to evaluate and improve our quality of life as a faith community.

The Parish Council usually meets the second Monday of the month at 7:00pm in the Parish Center.

FINANCE COUNCIL

Bill Mack, Chair

Brian Scullion
Jane Bronson
Jack Halpin
Jane Ott

Dave Hilko
Steve Fortino
Andrew Deye
Becky Francis

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.

The Finance Council usually meets the third Monday of the month at 7:00pm in the Parish Center.

Information

Weekend Masses

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

* *First Sunday of the Month*

Weekday Masses

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

* *Communion Service only*

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesdays	7:00 pm
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For information about ...

Baptism, Marriage, Reconciliation,
Mass Intentions, RCIA or Communion
for the Sick

Please call Dean in the Parish Office

1950 N. Kenmore, Chicago, IL 60614
(773) 528-6650 · (773) 871-6766 fax
www.st-teresa.net · dvaeth@stteresaparish.org

Office Hours

Monday to Friday: 9:00 am—7:30 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am—Noon
Closed Sundays & Holidays.

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