

St. Teresa of Avila Parish

A Roman Catholic Faith Community

Armitage & Kenmore Avenues

Chicago, IL 60614

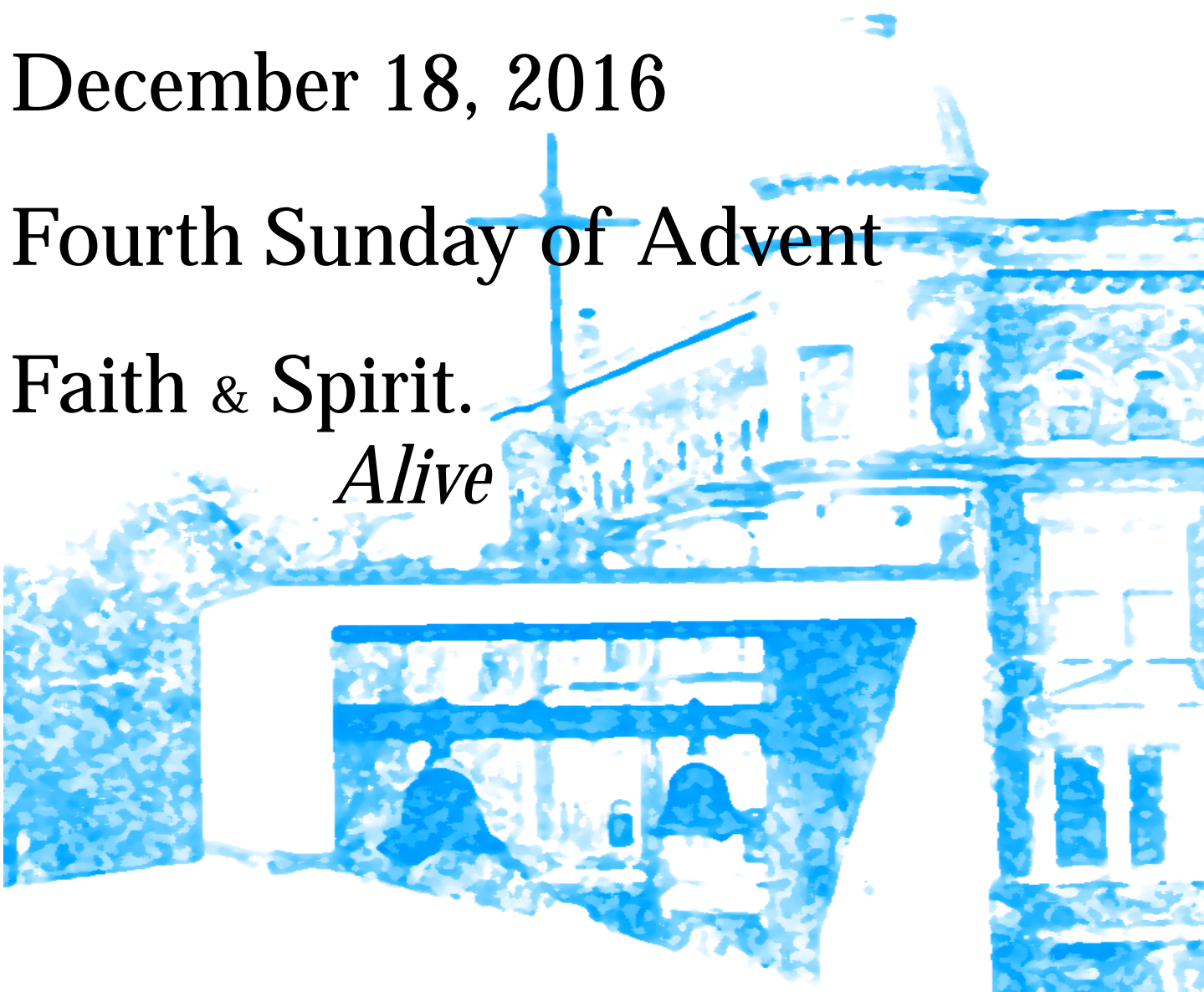


December 18, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Faith & Spirit.

Alive



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

They shall name him Emmanuel,
which means “God is with us.”

— Matthew 1:23

A Steward's Story



Seven years ago, following at 6:00 pm Mass, I walked into a ministry fair here at St. Teresa. I'd been a parishioner for about three years, but hadn't gotten involved. That night, I met two wonderful ladies – Monica Mulvihill and Sharon Lindstrom – who signed me up to host the Christmas Open House and my life has never been the same.

The next year I felt called to help plan another event – the Time of Your Life Gala. I was involved with the Gala for several years, joined Parish Council, planned our first ever Block Party and in 2015 was offered a staff position here at St. Teresa. I am so thankful for the direction that God has taken me in my life, allowing me to use my talents to serve, and to help connect others with the mission of Christ.

I hope that you will take the opportunity to visit our upcoming ministry fair on January 7th and 8th and use it as a chance to explore what God is calling you to do with your own talents and skills.

On a side note – my family and I are once again hosting the Christmas Open House. Stop by the rectory this week following the 6:00 pm Mass for a traditional lamb dinner and some Christmas cheer!

— Rebecca O'Brien, Director of Stewardship

Share *your* story! Email robrien@stteresaparish.org

Ministry Fair, January 7th/8th – Save the Date!

The Stewardship Committee is excited to announce our next ministry fair to be held on January 7-8, after all Masses! Having a dynamic ministry fair was one of the key goals that came out of Parish Transformation. A ministry fair is a chance for people to learn more about our volunteer opportunities and other ways to get involved, and enjoy food, drink and raffle prizes!



Refugee Ministry Update

A big thank you to all who have supported the refugee ministry!

- Toyumba, Shakir and Noorbar are doing well. Noorbar is attending school and Shakir is keeping busy with work to help support his family. We continue to supplement their living expenses as the family adapts to life in the US.
- The "Welcome, Babies!" project was a huge success and we are no longer in need of baby item donations. On December 2nd, Sumaiya gave birth to Jamida who weighed in at 7lbs,

2oz. Mom and daughter are doing well and thrilled with the wardrobe and essentials that we've provided.

- Our ministry was thrilled to provide 50 Christmas gifts for children and teens in the Catholic Charities Refugee program.

We are ready to sponsor a new refugee family but need additional mentors to commit to working with a family on an ongoing basis.

Email robrien@stteresaparish.org to learn more.



Merci beaucoup!

Many thanks to Veronique Caffrey and the Chicago Catholic Francophone Community (CCFC) for hosting and sponsoring the "Concert de Noël" this past week.

The ever-so-talented soloist, Farida Weller, and pianist, Xizheng Wang filled the church with beautiful music and created a wonderful experience for all who attended. On behalf of the parish community, thank you for sharing this gift with us!



Visit st-teresa.net/volunteer to browse and sign up for a selection of recurring volunteer opportunities.

**Most
Wanted
Volunteers**

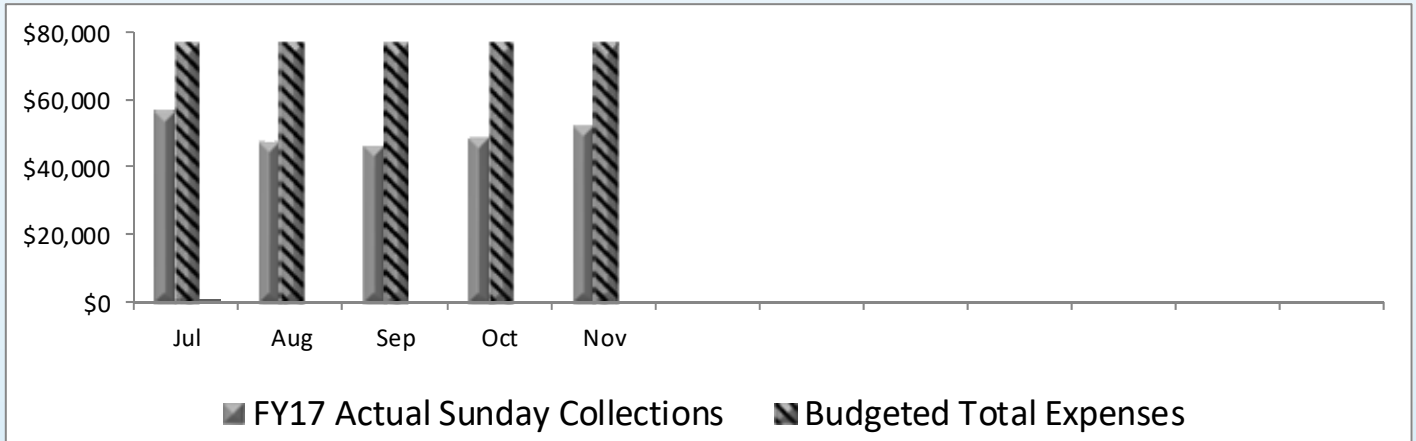
**Bible Study Leaders
or Hosts**

Refugee Mentors

Greeters

Interested in volunteering? Contact Rebecca at robrien@stteresaparish.org or (773) 528-6650

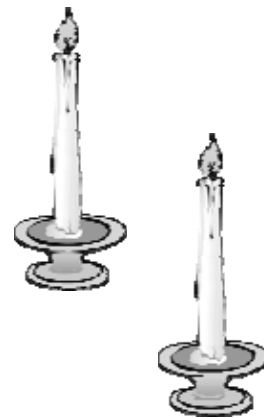
Fiscal Year (07/1 - 6/30) Comparison to Date



- In the graph above you will see that we have not yet met our budgeted expenses with our Sunday collections. We are on budget with our total income versus expense. Total income includes Sunday, Christmas and Easter collections, fundraising and miscellaneous donations.
- Our goal is to fund all operations and expenses from the weekly collections.
- St. Teresa's annual fundraisers assist in meeting funding gaps. It is the goal of the Finance Council and Fr. Frank to increase weekly giving to meet ongoing expenses and to use the proceeds from fundraisers for special initiatives and outreach programs.
- Please contact our Business Manager, Maggie Fernandez, with any questions at mfernandez@sttereseparish.org, or Matt Donner, our Finance Council chair, at mtonner19199@gmail.com.
- The next Finance Council meeting is December 19th.

Stewardship of Prayer and Worship

Advent Weekend Count:	11-27-16	12-4-16	12-11-16
Average Daily Mass Attendance	7	6	6
Average Friday Communion Service	2	2	2
Saturday, 5:00 pm Mass Attendance	60	55	80
Saturday, 6:30 pm Mass Attendance (French)	-	60	-
Sunday, 9:00 am Mass Attendance	180	195	160
Sunday, 10:30 am Mass Attendance (Spanish)	-	-	60
Sunday, 12:00 pm Mass Attendance	100	150	120
Sunday, 6:00 pm Mass Attendance	160	145	150
Total Weekend Mass Attendance	500	605	570
Confessions this Week	3	0	6
Anointing/Sick Calls/Hospital Visits this Week	0	0	0
Funerals since January 2016	5	6	6
Weddings since January 2016	8	8	8
Infant Baptisms since January 2016	27	28	28



There are 351 parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago; only 55 parishes have weekend attendance that exceeds 2,000. **St. Teresa of Avila's 2016 October Count was an average 550 people attending weekend Masses.** In the Archdiocese there is 1 priest for every 1,525 parishioners; in the USA the ratio is 1:1,653 Catholics; 27 percent of US parishes do not have a resident priest. In comparison, South America has a ratio of 1:7,094 Catholics.

Parish Calendar

December 18 — December 24

Page Four

December Baptisms

Henrick Liam Lennox (12-4-16)



Interested in the Catholic Faith?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process through which interested adults are introduced to the Roman Catholic faith and way of life.



The RCIA process is for the un-baptized who want to join the Catholic Church; and those who have been baptized Catholic or in another Christian denomination, and want to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith, please contact Fr. Frank at (773) 528-6650.

Calendar at a Glance

Sunday, December 18

- 9:00 am, Church, Children's Liturgy
- 10:20 am, REC, Christmas Traditions

Monday, December 19

- 12:00 pm, PC, Chicago House
- 7:00 pm, PC, Finance Council

Tuesday, December 20

- 6:00 pm, REC, CGS Training
- 6:15 pm, Church, Lectio Divina
- 7:00 pm, Church, Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, December 21

- 7:00 pm, Church, Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 22

- 9:00 am, PC, Food Pantry Delivery

Friday, December 23

- 10:00 am, Kitchen, Loaves & Fishes Cooking
- 5:00 pm, PC, Loaves and Fishes Dinner
- 7:00 pm, Church, Spanish Prayer Group

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

- 10:00 am, PC-GS, Food Pantry Distribution
- 4:00 pm, Church, Christmas Eve Family Mass
- 7:30 pm, Church, Christmas Carols
- 8:00 pm, Church, Christmas Eve Mass

Saints & Special Observances

- Sunday:** Fourth Sunday of Advent
Tuesday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter Solstice
Thursday: St. John of Kanty
Friday: The Vigil of Christmas
Saturday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

- Domingo:** Cuarto Domingo de Adviento
Martes: San Pedro Canisio; Inicio del invierno
Jueves: San Juan de Kanty
Viernes: La Nochebuena
Sábado: La Natividad del Señor (Navidad)

December 2016 Food Pantry Schedule

Saturday, December 3
9:00 am to 10:00 am Set Up
10:00 am to 12:00 pm Distribution

Saturday, December 10
9:00 am to 10:00 am Set Up
10:00 am to 12:00 pm Distribution

Saturday, December 17
9:00 am to 10:00 am Set Up
10:00 am to 12:00 pm Distribution

Saturday, December 24
9:00 am to 10:00 am Set Up
10:00 am to 12:00 pm Distribution



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 at Kenmore Avenue.

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Mass Intentions

Let Us Pray

Saturday, December 17

5:00 pm Deceased Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila

Sunday, December 18

9:00 am Marie Garlock; Time Halpin; Dan & Mary Shea
 12:00 pm Deceased Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila
 6:00 pm Deceased Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila

Please pray for our deceased friends and parishioners...

Rodolfo Bech, Barbara Byrd, Dolores Berendsen, Shaun Cantrell, Jerica Elaine Harris, Dorothy Holdsworth, Fred Jabaley, Joseph Kamalick, Rev. Oscar Lukefahr, CM, Anthony Mastro, Angel Luis Neris, Carmela Nurmi, John and Margaret O'Neill, Robert Rooney, Bridie Ryan, Rev. David Stagaman, SJ, John Wagner, Victims of War & Domestic Violence

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

<i>Alicia Anderson</i>	<i>Chuck Jabaley</i>	<i>Marie Koesters-Ranley</i>
<i>Dorothy Barns</i>	<i>Ronald Jakubec</i>	<i>Deacon Hector Rivera</i>
<i>Berta Billavazo</i>	<i>Krista Kutz</i>	<i>Hector J. Rivera</i>
<i>Lauren Dittrich Bilyeu</i>	<i>Tom Kinsella</i>	<i>Luis Rivera</i>
<i>Elizabeth Ryan Dean</i>	<i>Liz Kunkel</i>	<i>Pedro Rodriguez</i>
<i>Michael De Blasis</i>	<i>Betty LaCour</i>	<i>Ray Romero</i>
<i>Kathy Derrick</i>	<i>Carmen D. Lorenzana</i>	<i>Jeffrey Roscoe</i>
<i>Kim Duffy</i>	<i>Gabriel Lozada</i>	<i>Sr. Camilla Mary Marney, OCD</i>
<i>Isabelle Eiffert</i>	<i>Palмира Mancini</i>	<i>Sr. Jean Ryan, OCD</i>
<i>Jackson Fineske & Family</i>	<i>George Maroquin</i>	<i>Jack Schank</i>
<i>Alice Flynn</i>	<i>Jose Maroquin</i>	<i>Will Sullivan</i>
<i>Padraig Gallagher</i>	<i>Lisa Marquez</i>	<i>Laura Szejka</i>
<i>Eloisa Gallegos</i>	<i>Margaret Sue Meadors</i>	<i>Mima Tome</i>
<i>Michael Gibbons</i>	<i>Daniel Meyer</i>	<i>JoAnn Jahnke Trainer</i>
<i>Angela Goldberg</i>	<i>Bill Mobley</i>	<i>Marianne Usiak</i>
<i>Kaylee Gommel</i>	<i>John Monier</i>	<i>Sara Vega</i>
<i>Bolivar Gonzales, Jr.</i>	<i>Fr. Barry Moriarty, C.M.</i>	<i>Susan Violapiano</i>
<i>Les Gordon</i>	<i>Elda Myers</i>	<i>Jack Williams</i>
<i>Mrs. Grabarczyk</i>	<i>John Paul Nelson</i>	<i>Valerie Williams</i>
<i>George Halloran</i>	<i>Angel Nieves</i>	<i>Mae Witry</i>
<i>Kellar Harris</i>	<i>Msgr. Kevin O'Neill</i>	<i>David Zeunert</i>
<i>Peg Hausen</i>	<i>Frank O'Toole</i>	<i>Survivors and perpetrators of sexual abuse</i>
<i>David Hoffman</i>	<i>Clayton Poe</i>	
<i>David Ivanac</i>	<i>Carol Poyner</i>	

Our **Mass Intentions** have many openings. If you would like to have a Mass said for someone alive or deceased, contact Deacon Dean 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.

Celebrant and Minister Schedule

DATE	TIME	Celebrant	Sacristan/ Lector	Eucharistic Host	Eucharistic Cup
12-24-16	4:00 PM	Fr. Frank	Sacristan: Lisa Marquez Lector: Children's Service	Dana Vance Anne Seigenthaler Eileen Raia	Minister Needed (C1,P) Minister Needed (C2) Minister Needed (C3) Minister Needed (C4)
12-24-16	8:00 PM	Fr. Frank	Sacristan: Minister Needed Lector: Minister Needed	Minister Needed (H2,T)	Minister Needed (C1,P) Minister Needed (C2)
12-25-16	9:00 AM	Fr. Frank	Sacristan: Frank Swiderski Lector: Peggy Teterycz	Frank Swiderski	Dean Vaeth Minister Needed (C2)
12-25-16	12:00 PM	Fr. Frank	Sacristan: Dean Vaeth Lector: Mike Usiak	Dana Vance	Dean Vaeth Minister Needed (C2)
Next Spanish Mass 1-1-17	10:30 AM	Rev. Tom Ess, OFM	Alejandro Lopez		
Next French Mass 1-7-17	6:30 PM	Fr. Cesaire			

Readings/Lecturas

December 18 — December 24

Page Six

Readings for the Week

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Saturday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27,29; Lk 1:67-79
Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

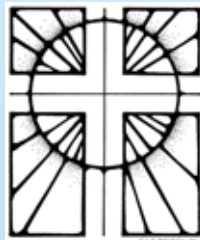
Lecturas de la Semana

Lunes: Jue 13:2-7, 24-25a; Sal 71 (70):3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lc 1:5-25
Martes: Is 7:10-14; Sal 24 (23):1-4ab, 5-6; Lc 1:26-38
Miércoles: Cant 2:8-14 o Sof 3:14-18a; Sal 33 (32):2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lc 1:39-45
Jueves: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lc 1:46-56
Viernes: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Sal 25 (24):4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lc 1:57-66
Sábado: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Sal 89 (88):2-5, 27, 29; Lc 1:67-79
Domingo: Vigilia: Is 62:1-5; Sal 89 (88):4-5, 16-17, 27 29; Hch 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25] Noche: Is 9:1-6; Sal 96 (95):1-3, 11-13; Tit 2:11-14; Lc 2:1-14 Aurora: Is 62:11-12; Sal 97 (96):1, 6, 11-12; Tit 3:4-7; Lc 2:15-20 Día: Is 52:7-10; Sal 98 (97):1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Treasures from Tradition

By now, the first Christmas carols are heard in the home, but usually not yet in church. What is a “carol” anyway? Originally, a carol was any kind of communal song sung at a festival such as a harvest. By the thirteenth century or so, carols were associated with household celebrations. “Carol” comes from the Old French *carula*, meaning a circular dance. Carols weren’t for church, since the language of liturgy was Latin and the carols were in the common language. Their characteristic sound comes from medieval chord patterns, and they often have strong refrains for everyone to sing. Even in the churches of the Reformation, carols didn’t make it into church services until the 1870s or so, since there was a preference for psalms. Anglicans resisted popular carols; most of our beloved carols came via the Methodists, an offshoot of the Church of England. The Catholic Church generally didn’t admit carols to liturgy either, but we didn’t make laws against them.

We are told that the beloved carol “Silent Night” comes from Catholic Austria and a harried parish music director. Joseph Mohr, the priest of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf, had written the words in 1816, but offered them to his music director, Franz Gruber, when the church’s organ broke. Mohr asked him to write a melody that could be played on guitar as a prelude to Mass. Gruber finished the tune just hours before midnight Mass in 1818. The people were shocked to hear a guitar in church, but were charmed by the sweet lullaby. The church was swept away by a flood in the 1990s and the village later relocated, but the townspeople have set up the “Silent Night Memorial Chapel” at the site. Today the carol is in print in some three hundred languages. How wonderful that the pipe organ broke on that night! — Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



Tradiciones de Nuestra Fe

La tradición mexicana de las Posadas se acompaña de las tradicionales piñatas. Aunque hay piñatas de animales y caricaturas, la piñata original es una estrella con siete picos.

La piñata llegó al continente con los misioneros agustinos procedentes de España, mismos que la habían recibido de italianos; y éstos, a su vez, la obtuvieron de Marco Polo quien conoció decoraciones de animales coloridos en China. El asociar la piñata con las Posadas viene de la cultura Náhuatl quienes celebraban a Huitzilopochtli (dios de la guerra) del 17 al 26 de diciembre. Estos ponían cazuelas de barro decoradas con listones y plumas sobre palos en el templo. Al romperlas, tesoros y alhajas caían a los pies de su dios. Los misioneros mezclaron las dos costumbres para la catequesis. La estrella de siete picos representa al diablo y los 7 pecados capitales, mientras que la venda en los ojos es la fe en Cristo. El acto de pegarle a la piñata son nuestros esfuerzos cristianos a pesar de las desorientaciones que trae la vida. Romper la piñata es estar bañado con la gracia del Espíritu Santo y recibir los dones de Dios. — Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Gluz, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

— Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Gluz, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Readings/Lecturas

December 18 — December 24

Page Seven

Summoned by God

As Christmas draws near, Advent's scriptures lure us into a world of dreams, signs, wonders, and the miracle of the virgin birth. Too often we allow the great stories of our faith, the ones that are most familiar, simply to wash over us. Today's Gospel account of the events leading up to the birth of the Lord reads like a present-day soap opera. Yet Joseph's courage, even in the midst of what must have been an incredibly confusing time, provides a model for us. Each week, we are summoned by God to embrace the way of goodness and truth through the proclamation of God's holy word. Like Joseph, we are called to do as the Lord commands us. As we stand at the threshold of Christmas, let us have the courage to be open to whatever it is that the Lord will require of us as we celebrate the miracle of Bethlehem. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



Llamados por Dios

Al acercarse la Navidad, las Escrituras del Adviento nos llevan a un mundo de sueños, señales, maravillas y el milagro del nacimiento de una virgen. Muchas veces dejamos que los grandes relatos de nuestra fe, los que son más conocidos, simplemente nos pasen sin sentirlos. El relato del Evangelio de hoy sobre los acontecimientos previos al nacimiento del Señor parece una telenovela actual. Sin embargo, la valentía de José, aun en medio de una época que debe haber sido increíblemente confusa, nos brinda un modelo a seguir. Cada semana, Dios nos llama a aceptar el camino de la bondad y la verdad por medio de la proclamación de la Palabra sagrada de Dios. Como José, somos llamados a hacer lo que el Señor nos ordena. Mientras estamos en el umbral de la Navidad, tengamos la valentía para estar abiertos a lo que sea, a lo que el Señor requiera de nosotros durante nuestra celebración del milagro de Belén. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Today's Readings

First Reading — You will be given this sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:10-14).

Psalm — Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory (Psalm 24).

Second Reading — God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7).

Gospel — The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. He shall be Emmanuel, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:18-24).



Lecturas de Hoy

Primera lectura — La señal del Señor es que la virgen estará embarazada y dará a luz un hijo varón (Isaías 7:10-14).

Salmo — Va a entrar el Señor: Él es el Rey de la Gloria (Salmo 24 [23]).

Segunda lectura — Jesús, descendiente de David biológicamente, fue establecido el Hijo de Dios en poder. (Romanos

1:1-7).

Evangelio — María, la comprometida de José, quedó embarazada por obra del Espíritu Santo (Mateo 1:18-24).

Guaranteed Entry: 2017 Chicago Marathon

All St. Teresa members plus their family and friends are invited to join one of the following charity teams: The Taller de José and Erica's Lighthouse.



Earlier this year both charities received an Avila in Action grant! Now they are looking for people to join their marathon teams.

Further information concerning these charities running teams including their mission statements and team members benefits can be found on their web pages or by contacting Coach Mark Buciak at: theroadtoboston.info

Runners, joggers and walkers of all abilities are welcome especially first time marathoners! Coach Mark has a customized training program to get you to the finish line.

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

St. Teresa said...

Poverty of spirit is a good that includes within itself all the good things of the world...Poverty of spirit embraces many of the virtues. In it lies great dominion.



Giving Tree Gifts Due Back by Monday, December 19th

Even if you missed out on getting a tag for this year's Giving Tree, you can still buy a gift for a child between the ages of 5 and 13.

Just place your wrapped gift under the tree in church by Monday, December 19th. Mark your gift with the gender and age of the child.

Suggested gifts are: art supplies, school supplies and book bags, and age-appropriate toys.



Thank you for your generosity.



Food Pantry Shopping List

There are five items the Food Pantry could *really* use:

- Pasta & rice (all kinds)
- Oatmeal
- Boxed cereal
- Hearty canned soups
- Regular- and family-size deodorant & shampoo; toothbrushes & toothpaste



We no longer need extra-strength grocery bags. If you are interested in volunteering at the Food Pantry, contact Lisa Hanzelka at lhanzelka@gmail.com or Dave Hilko at dahilko@deloitte.com

Church Chat from Fr. Frank

Every Friday evening we have a hot, homemade dinner for nearly 70 guests, a wonderful outreach ministry called Loaves and Fishes. I want to thank the Men's Spirituality for preparing this past Friday's meal, thanks to Steve and his fantastic chili recipe

Another tradition is in the works, one that will complement our Advent traditions. Kate Lynch, our Director of Religious Education, has initiated a "Christmas Traditions" workshop for people of all ages. What a great opportunity to bring people together and learn the background of many of our cherished Christmas traditions.

During this bitter cold time we remember those poor who struggle to find shelter. The extreme temperatures create a life-and-death situation. A Special thank to all of our Night Ministry volunteers who go into the streets with a wonderful hot meal and lots of good cheer. Thanks also to Jose who helps to make these dinners possible.

Next weekend is Christmas. If you are in town, please come to one of our Masses and bring a friend... a great way to spread the faith. We will have a 4:00 PM Mass for our children and families and an 8:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve; on Christmas day our Masses will be at 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM. There is no 6:00 PM Mass on Christmas Day.

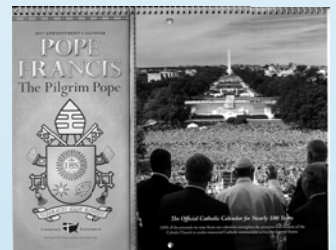


— Fr. Frank

2017 Calendars

There are 2017 Pope Francis Calendars are now available in English and Spanish.

Pick up a copy at the church entrances.



Pick up a Baby Bottle this Week!



St. Teresa of Avila is participating in the Baby Bottle Project benefiting *The Women's Centers of Greater Chicagoland* again this year!

This non-profit organization directly assists families experiencing crisis pregnancies by offering emotional, financial, material and spiritual support through counseling, clothing and monetary provisions, prayer and other aid. Each year the three Chicagoland locations of *The Women's Centers* handle 5,000 appointments with expectant mothers.

This is a simple, but crucial fundraising effort for *The Women's Centers*. Please return the baby bottles; they are recycled afterwards. Thank you for supporting *The Women's Centers of*

Greater Chicagoland again this year.

Please take a Baby Bottle home with you today and bring it back to St. Teresa no later than Sunday, January 8th.



Mary: Powerful Woman

“Mary: The Most Powerful Woman in the World” was the stunning headline in a recent publication. To the surprise of many, these were not the words of a Catholic newspaper, or a religious publication. Instead, this headline announced the lead article featured in the December, 2015 issue of *National Geographic* magazine!

The article is written by journalist, Maureen Orth, who spent three years traveling throughout the world trying to understand more fully why Mary, the mother of Jesus, is so crucially important to millions of people. Here are a few of Maureen’s words:

Mary is everywhere: Marigolds are named for her. Hail Mary passes save football games. The image in Mexico of Our Lady of Guadalupe is one of the most reproduced female likenesses ever. Mary draws millions each year to shrines such as Fatima, in Portugal, and Knock, in Ireland, sustaining religious tourism estimated to be worth billions of dollars a year and providing thousands of jobs. She inspired the creation of many great works of art and architecture (Michelangelo’s “Pieta,” Notre Dame Cathedral), as well as the spiritual confidante of billions of people, no matter how isolated or forgotten.

What was it about this young girl that attracted and enticed, not only Joseph in today’s Gospel story, but even God?

I’d like to suggest two possible answers, with the reservation that there are surely a number of others.

First, she wasn’t a preacher. She wasn’t an evangelist. She wasn’t an activist. Instead, Mary was a



...she wasn’t a preacher. She wasn’t an evangelist. She wasn’t an activist. Instead, Mary was a listener who embraced simplicity. She was one who paid attention, who reflected, who meditated. All those Advent qualities...

listener who embraced simplicity. She was one who paid attention, who reflected, who meditated. All those Advent qualities...

Present. Open. Available. Receptive. Quiet. That’s the kind of person Mary was. Perhaps it was that collection of gifts that most enticed God, and Joseph, and so many people down through the centuries.

But perhaps there is another appeal of Mary – her life experiences are being repeated continuously by millions of people even today. Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem for a census that is now being mirrored by countless numbers of people displaced from their ancestral homes. The family’s flight into Egypt to avoid the death threats of a tyrannical king, just as today millions of refugees are doing the same. Mary’s loss of her child by an unjust state execution paralleled today in the disappear-

ance and murder of beloved children under dictatorial regimes – the Herods of today.

Women, in particular, may possibly find in Mary a sister for marginalized women in oppressive situations throughout the world – women who are without food or clean drinking water, without housing, without education or healthcare or employment, without security from rape, without human rights.

To all of them, Mary offers words of hope to the neediest – such as these words from her great prayer, the Magnificat: “... *O my God ... You have shown strength with your arm ... You have put down the mighty from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly.*”

When asked what Mary meant to him, Pope Francis answered with one word, “She is my *mama.*”

May our “*mama,*” the one who is “*blessed ... among women,*” assist each of us in birthing anew the Child that falls from heaven into our arms ... our hearts ... our souls.

St. Teresa of Avila Parish Leadership Teams

Pastoral Council

Jessica Marx
Anna Althoff
Bertel Olson
Paolo Basil
Justin Peters
Luke Kolman
Kate Lynch

Alex Lopez
Chris Parente
Jose Cervantes
Mary Paz Ramirez
Tom Micinski
Rebecca O'Brien

Finance Council

Jane Bronson
Jack Halpin
Ray Genellie
Justin Alden

Dave Hilko
Steve Fortino
Becky Francis
Andrew O'Dekirk

Stewardship Committee

Paolo Basil
Anastasia Bullinger
Kelly Dean
Lisa Marquez
John Mitchell

Rebecca O'Brien
Chris Parente
Mary Serrahn
Dan Summins
Mark Van Grinsven

Jessica Marx is president of the Parish Pastoral Council; her email is chicago2381@hotmail.com

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

Matt Donner is chair of the Parish Finance Council; his email is mddonner19199@gmail.com

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

Please contact Rebecca O'Brien for information on joining the Stewardship committee; her email is robrien@stteresaparish.org.

The Stewardship Committee meet one Thursday per month at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center.

Parish Transformation Committee

Marilyn Aleide
Paolo Basil
Rick Blair
Mark Buciak
Shannon & Jonathan Clinton
Michael Gallo
Lisa Hanzelka
Linda & Rob Harmer

Sara & Adam Hock
Michael Kmec
Jackie Koesters
Fr. Frank Latzko
Barbara McHugh
Tom Micinski
Rebecca O'Brien

Parish Offices are at 1950 N. Kenmore, (773) 528-6650, FAX (773) 871-6766. Hours are: 9:00 am to 7:30 pm Monday through Friday, and Saturday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

The submission deadline for Sunday bulletins is 11:00 am on the Monday before. The bulletin is also published electronically on st-teresa.net.

Contact Dean at dvaeth@stteresaparish.org

Parish Staff

Fr. Frank Latzko, ext. 213
Pastor
fjsasso@aol.com
Maggie Fernandez
Business Manager
mfernandez@stteresaparish.org

Kate Lynch, ext. 232
Director of Religious Education
klynch@stteresaparish.org

Rebecca O'Brien, ext. 234
Director of Stewardship
robrien@stteresaparish.org

Tom Micinski, ext. 212
Building & Facilities Manager
tmicinski@stteresaparish.org

Sergio Mora,
Maintenance

Irma Saavedra,
Housekeeping

Jason Krumweide,
Director of Music
musicalnut1@mac.com

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

Olu Balogun, ext. 210
Night Receptionist
obalogun@stteresaparish.org

Ministry Leadership Chart

Faith Formation

Kate Lynch
klynch@stteresaparish.org

Social Justice

Deacon Dean Vaeth
dvaeth@stteresaparish.org

Liturgy

Fr. Frank
fjsasso@aol.com

Adult Spirituality

Lina Hilko
lhilko@aol.com

Buildings & Facilities

Tom Micinski
tmicinski@stteresaparish.org

Special Events & Fundraising

Rebecca O'Brien
robrien@stteresaparish.org

Stewardship

Rebecca O'Brien
robrien@stteresaparish.org

Evangelization

Seeking a Leader

Our Mission 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.

Help with Stress...

The Holbrook Center, a service of Catholic Charities, provides confidential counseling at many locations, including its newest office at Holy Name Cathedral. Licensed counselors, affordable fees, and convenient appointment times, including evenings.

The Holbrook Counseling Center is in the network with BC/BS PPO. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call at (312) 655-7725.

For information about ...

Friday Playgroup (0-3 year-olds), Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (3-12 year-olds), The EDGE Youth Group (12-14 year-olds), or Quest Youth Group (High School)

Contact Kate in the Parish Office
klynch@stteresaparish.org

For information about ...

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

Contact Dean in the Parish Office
dvaeth@stteresaparish.org

Weekend Masses

Saturday	5:00 pm
<i>en Français</i>	6:30 pm ⁺
Sunday	9:00 am
<i>en Español</i>	10:30 am*
	12:00 pm
	6:00 pm

⁺ First and third Saturdays, September through June

* First Sundays

Weekday Masses

7:30 am Monday through Thursday
7:30 am Fridays Communion Service

