



St. Teresa
of Avila
Catholic Church

First Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2011

Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when the time will come.

— *Mark 13:33*

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.

Stewardship Matters

November 27 – December 3

Page Two

On Guard

In today's reading Saint Mark gets right to the point: be on your guard; stay awake; don't be asleep when the Lord arrives. Advent is a time to ponder three events: God's entrance into the world as a human child, God's coming into our world today, and God's glorious coming at the end of time. These reflect three promises: God's promise to bring salvation to all people, and Jesus' promises to be with his followers and to return at the end of time. We do not know when Christ will return. In the meantime we are gatekeepers and stewards. We must be ready to welcome Christ when he comes again. We must be attentive to God now: in the Eucharist; in the guise of the homeless, the hungry, the prisoner, the addict in whom Christ appears before us; and in the Spirit within us. We are urged to live with hope in our hearts for Christ's final return.

Living Stewardship Now

If you have young children, make a Jesse tree or use an Advent calendar, preferably one with Advent rather than Christmas themes. Find more information on both at catholicculture.org.



En Guardia

En el Evangelio de hoy san Marcos va directo al asunto: estén en guardia, velen; que el Señor no los encuentre dormidos a su regreso. Adviento es un tiempo para reflexionar en tres acontecimientos: la entrada de Dios al mundo en la persona de un niño, la venida de Dios a nuestro mundo de hoy y la venida gloriosa de Dios al final de los tiempos. Éstos a su vez reflejan tres promesas: la promesa de Dios de salvar a todos, la promesa de Jesús de estar con todos los que le siguen y la otra promesa de Jesús de regresar al final de los tiempos. Desconocemos cuándo regresará Cristo. Mientras tanto somos los guardianes y buenos administradores. Debemos estar listos para recibir a Cristo cuando vuelva. Debemos estar atentos a Dios ahora: en la Eucaristía, en la persona de los vagabundos, los hambrientos, los prisioneros, los adictos en quienes Cristo aparece ante nosotros y en el Espíritu que habita en nosotros. Se nos insiste en que vivamos con esperanza en nuestro corazón hasta la última venida de Cristo.

La corresponsabilidad vivida ahora

Si tienen niños pequeños hagan un árbol de Jesé o usen un calendario de Adviento, preferiblemente uno que tenga temas de Adviento en vez de Navidad. Pueden encontrar más información sobre ambos en catholicculture.org.

St. Teresa of Avila Food Pantry Shopping List

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

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

Boxed Soap Bar (4-5 oz.)

Sizes are the Maximum



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

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

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

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



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

The 7 Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

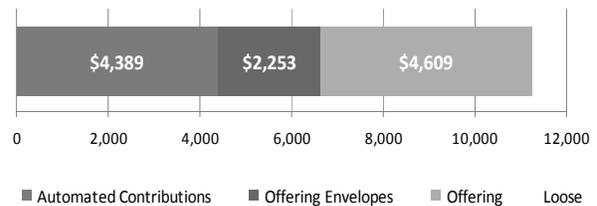
- Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- The Call to Family, Community and Participation
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
- Solidarity: One Human Family
- Care of God's Creation

Weekly Collections Recap For November 13, 2011

11/13/2011

Automated Contributions	Offering Envelopes	Offering Loose	Total
\$4,389	\$2,253	\$4,609	\$11,251

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



Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, this column is a repeat of November 13.

We are currently running a \$749 deficit of our budgeted Sunday collections of \$12,000 for the week-end of November 13, 2011. We are currently at a 14% increase over last fiscal year to date.

Comments & Concerns

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

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

Website & Bulletin Materials

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

Readings, Liturgy & Tradition

November 27— December 3

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Today's Readings

First Reading — We are the clay and you, O LORD, are the potter: we are the work of your hands (Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7).

Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading — God is faithful; by God you were called to fellowship with the Son (1 Corinthians 1:3-9).

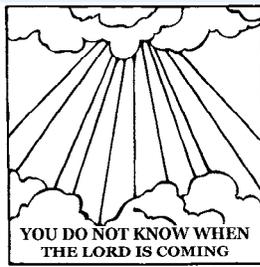
Gospel — Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. (Mark 13:33-37).



Readings for the Week

Monday:	Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday:	Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday:	Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday:	Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

Mark's Jesus



Mark's Gospel is the shortest and tersest of all four. The discourses of Jesus tend to be terser as well. Mark's portrayal of Jesus has none of the poetry of the Sermon on the Mount or the Sermon on the Plain as in Matthew or Luke, nor the extensive, reflective "I Am" discourses as in John. Mark's Jesus "cuts to the chase," we would say today. This is reflected quite well in

today's passage.

It is no accident that the dialogue of Jesus at this point in the Gospel according to Mark—the concluding words about the end of the world—immediately before his passion, is riddled with exclamation points and an overall sense of urgency.

We would do well to re-tool our own way of living this Advent, for we live in a world urgently in need of hearing the message of Jesus proclaimed. It's time for us to "wake up!" and get out into the world to do it.

Treasures from our Tradition

Long ago in northern Europe, the growing dark and winter weather in Advent forced people to remove the wheels from their carts and replace them with snow runners. The wheels were hung high in the rafters of the house, fitted out with lanterns, and wound tightly with evergreen boughs. The first wreaths were windows into heaven, a source of light, a comforting sign of the victory of the light of Christ over our world's dark wildernesses, its mountainous obstacles, its valleys of need.

The Advent wreath started in the home, and only later appeared in church. Its four candles represent the four Sundays of our journey: typically three purple, one rose. Why not set a wreath in your own home as a place for Advent prayer? Don't let a shortage of purple candles discourage you: some use a deep blue, others have white candles and weave blue and purple flowers, seashells, and pine cones into the green. When the sun sets tonight, light a single candle, sing a verse of a well-loved Advent hymn, and name a mountain to be leveled, a valley to be filled.

Lecturas, Liturgia Y Tradición

November 27– December 3

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El Jesús de San Marcos

El Evangelio según San Marcos es el más corto y terso de los cuatro. Los discursos de Jesús tienden a ser concisos también. El retrato de Jesús que nos da Marcos no tiene nada de la poesía del Sermón del Monte o del Sermón de la Llanura como en Mateo ni Lucas, ni la extensión y reflexión de los “Yo Soy” los discursos en Juan. El Jesús de Marcos “va al grano”, diríamos hoy. Esto se refleja muy bien en el pasaje de hoy.



No es una casualidad que el diálogo de Jesús en este momento en el Evangelio según San Marcos, las palabras finales sobre el fin del mundo, inmediatamente antes de su pasión, esté plagado de signos de exclamación y una sensación general de urgencia.

Haríamos bien en remodelar nuestra manera de vivir este Adviento, ya que vivimos en un mundo con necesidad urgente de escuchar el mensaje que Jesús proclamó. Es hora de que nos “despertemos” y salgamos al mundo para hacerlo.

Tradiciones de Nuestra Fe

El significado de la palabra “¡Adviento!” es muy interesante. Viene del latín y quiere decir “Allí viene” o “Ya está llegando”. Pero, ¿de quién hablamos cuando proclamamos “adviento”? ¿Del Rey de la Gloria?, ¿del Príncipe de la Paz?, ¿del Hijo del Dios Altísimo?, ¿del Salvador de Israel? Sí, sí, sí y otra vez, sí, pero más todavía del Hijo del Hombre, del niño de María. Allí viene y ya está llegando. Tenemos que estar preparados. Pero ¿cómo prepararnos para la llegada de un rey que es pobre?, ¿de un príncipe que nació entre una mula y un buey? ¿de un niño que ya es todo un hombre y además es Dios? He allí el dilema del Adviento cristiano. Es un llamado a vivir la paradoja de un tiempo que está a medias, donde el Reino de los Cielos ya existe pero no en su plenitud. Es un llamado a buscar en el templo, en el *mall*, en el barrio, en el hogar y en el propio corazón, para ver si “allí viene” el dueño de la casa. Es un llamado a estar atentos y vigilantes.

Lecturas de hoy

Primera lectura — Isaías ruega por el retorno del Señor (Isaías 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7).

Salmo — Señor, Dios nuestro, restáuranos que brille tu rostro y nos salve (Salmo 80 [79]).

Segunda lectura — Pablo está agradecido por las bendiciones que los corintios han recibido debido a su fe en Jesús (1 Corintios 1:3-9).

Evangelio — Jesús dice a los discípulos que estén siempre alertas a la llegada del tiempo designado (Marcos 13:33-37).



Lecturas de la Semana

Lunes:	Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11
Martes:	Is 11:1-10; Lc 10:21-24
Miércoles:	Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22
Jueves:	Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Viernes:	Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31
Sábado:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8
Domingo:	Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Sal 85 (84); 2 Pe 3:8-14; Mc 1:1-8

Sacraments & Ministries

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November Baptisms



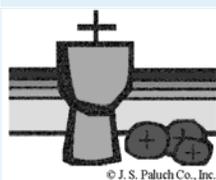
Ryan Patrick Torchen (11-6-11)
Brendon Michael Bell (11-12-11)
Kane Edward Kearney (11-12-11)



St. Teresa says...

“May the Lord have a hand in all that I do so that it may conform to His holy will; these are my desires always, even though my works are as faulty as I am.”

Ministry of Care



The Ministry of Care program at St. Teresa of Avila brings the Eucharist to the faithful who are unable to attend church. If you know of someone who cannot

come to mass and would like to receive Holy Communion, please call Dean Vaeth at (773) 528-6650 to arrange a visit.

Our Lady of Fatima Devotion Dec. 3rd

Everyone is welcome to join the First-Saturday devotion to Our lady of Fatima on December 3 at 4:00 pm in the church.

Todos estan invitados a la devoción a la Virgen de Fátima el 3 de diciembre en la iglesia Santa Teresa de Avila a las 4:00 pm.



Calendar at a Glance

November 27, Sunday

First Sunday of Advent • Primer Domingo de Adviento

- 9:00 am, PC1-2, Nine AM Nursery
- 9:00 am, PC3-4, Blood Drive
- 9:15am, REC4, Children's Liturgy of the Word
- 10:00 am, PC3-4, Hospitality
- 10:30 am, REC1-2-3 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

November 28, Monday

- 12:30 pm, PC1-2, Chicago House
- 7:00 pm, PC1-2, Social Justice Ministry
- 7:30 pm, AVC, 12-Step Meeting

November 29, Tuesday

- 4:30 pm, REC1-2-3, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- 5:30 pm, PC-4, RCIA
- 6:00 pm, APC, 12-Step Meeting
- 6:00 pm, PC1-2-3, SPRED Total Community
- 7:00 pm, Church, Eucharistic Adoration
- 7:30 pm, APC, Women's Spirituality Group

November 30, Wednesday

St. Andrew • San Andrés

- 5:30 pm, CCFC Catechesis
- 6:00 pm, APC, 12-Step RA Meeting

- 7:00 pm, PC4, Chicago Catholic Scripture School
- 7:30 pm, APC, 12-Step AA Meeting
- 7:30 pm, APB, 12-step SA Meeting
- 8:00 pm, PC1-2, CCFC Bible

December 1, Thursday

- 4:30 pm, PC3-4, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Wreath-Making
- 4:30 pm, REC1-2-3, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

December 2, Friday

First Friday • Primer Viernes

- 3:30 pm, PC3-4, Loaves & Fishes Setup
- 5:00 pm, PC 3-4, Loaves & Fishes Dinner

December 3, Saturday

St. Francis Xavier; First Saturday • San Francisco Javier; Primer sábado

- 9:00 am, APB, 12-Step SA
- 9:00 am, PC4, CCFC Catechesis
- 9:00 am, PC1-2, GS, Food Pantry First Saturday
- 4:00 pm, Church, Our Lady of Fatima Devotion
- 5:30 pm, PC1-2, CCFC Catechesis
- 6:30 pm, Church, CCFC Mass

Mass Schedule & Intentions

November 27 – December 3

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Mass Intentions

November 26

5:00 pm	All Deceased Members of the Parish
November 27	
9:00 am	All Deceased Members of the Parish
10:30 am	All Deceased Members of the Parish
12:00 noon	All Deceased Members of the Parish
6:00 pm	All Deceased Members of the Parish

In Our Prayers

Please pray for our deceased friends and parishioners...

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

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

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

Our Mass intentions have many openings. If you would like to have a Mass said for someone alive or deceased, contact Dean Vaeth at the parish office at (773) 528-6650, ext.230 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
12-3-11 Saturday	5:00 pm	Fr. Frank	Maggie Kuhlmann	Becky Francis	Leigh Hartley Lisa Marquez
12-4-11 Sunday	9:00 am	Fr. Benjamin Aguilar	Phyllis Halloran	Nancy Van Grinsven George Halloran Tom Kosnik	Dennis Kamalick Mark Van Grinsven Jennifer Barrett Theresa Jabaley
12-4-11 Sunday	10:30 am	Fr. Benjamin Aguilar	Tony Rivera Betsy Velazquez	Josefina Gomez	Josie Gomez
12-4-11 Sunday	12:00 noon	Fr. Frank	Wendy Tynan	Aimee Jaszczor	Amy McCue Tom Kinsella
12-4-11 Sunday	6:00 pm	Fr. Frank	Katie Assell	Eileen Raia Sharon Lindstrom Open	Jane Ott Maggie Malone Karen Melchert Jonathan Assell

Parish Life

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Where Does Contemplative Prayer Lead?

When I moved from the Midwest to the West Coast I went through a conversion. Life was not going to be the same. I quickly sensed it was going to change, but I was not sure how it was going to change. When I left full-time ministry and took a job in the business world I went through another conversion. When I went from being single to being married I experienced another conversion. Getting married was capital “C” conversion.

Every person walking the earth cannot escape capital “C” conversion. Sometimes it is a result based upon one’s decisions. At other times it just happens through the grace of God. I think about my children. My wife and I wanted to have children and it’s easy enough to say, “Let’s have kids.” But how many? But wow. My children have significantly changed my life, offered me initiative and space for conversion...for the good, thank God.

The practice of contemplation is the active work of little “c” conversion that will ultimately lead to capital “C” conversion. One takes on the practice of contemplative prayer in order to be converted into being the love and mercy of God. The inward and external result of contemplative prayer is conversion; conversion is by its nature the work of repentance. In conversion, one travels from a state of no union or a semi-union with God, to a state of total union with God.

Through contemplative prayer, one allows the presence of the living Christ to dwell in one’s heart. Therefore, the practice of contemplative prayer ultimately leads to a redemptive conversion of the heart where the love and mercy of God lives, dwells and has being. One becomes, as scripture so ardently exclaims, “One with Christ.”

**Join us for the next session of
Men’s Spirituality Group
on Tuesday, December 13
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.

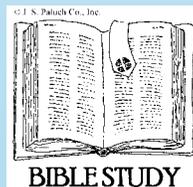
This event has been blending faith, knowledge and skills to transform parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago since 1984. It will feature keynote addresses by renowned speakers; opportunities for participants to dialogue with Cardinal Francis George; more than 90 workshops presented in English, Spanish 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.

Bible Study Meets December 4

Interested in learning more about the Bible? Join a great group of men and women from the parish who desire to dig deeper into the Word.

St. Teresa’s Bible Study plans to meet twice a month and will be using a top-rated bible study resource. Bible study will meet from 10:15 am to 12:00 noon on the following Sundays in the Rectory: December 4 and December 18.



If you’re interested, please call Katie Garwood at (601) 454-0837 or email her at katiengarwood@gmail.com.

Women's Group Advent Prayer Tuesday, November 29th



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Join the circle of prayer for quiet, candle-lit prayer, meditation and reflection. It is an invitation to slow down, to renew hope, to keep vigil in expectation of Christ's coming. Join us November 29th at 7:30 pm in Avila Place, 1930 N. Kenmore Avenue.

2011 Christmas Giving Tree

Giving Tree tags now have been hung on the tree in the church.

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

St. Teresa's is being asked to return the gifts wrapped by December 14th so they can be given to all the children before Christmas.



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Breakfast with Santa



On Sunday December 4 following the morning Masses, please join Santa and friends for St Teresa's annual Breakfast with Santa Claus.

Each child will get quality time with Santa and will hear first hand what the true meaning of Christmas is. There will also be crafts for the kids.

The price is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children (under 2 will be free) and will include pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, and juice.

We look forward to serving you!

This event is sponsored by the St. Teresa's Men's Spirituality Group.

Pick Up New Lector Workbooks

The new liturgical year, Year B, begins with the First Sunday of Advent on November 27, 2011. English and Spanish *2012 Workbook for Lectors* are now available in the sacristy after Mass.

Lectors are asked to sign the logbook when they pick up their copy.

Claret Center Presents: Emotional Discipline

Allow the surprise – and be ready for it!

- Discover the inner strength that comes with honoring your feelings.
- Learn how to experience rather than avoid difficult emotions.
- Find the way to allow your feelings to connect you with others.
- Explore your history with specific empowering emotions.
- Realize how experiencing your feelings puts unfinished business to rest.
- Allow conscious breathing to enhance awareness of what you are feeling.

Leave the workshop with skills to make all the above a part of your daily life.

Date/Time: Saturday March 20, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Cost: \$125. (scholarships available)

Register: Call Lupe at (773) 643-6259

Facilitator: Allan Schnarr, M.Div., PhD.
Director of Parish Counseling Program
www.feelingeverything.com

The past is present until I feel the truth of it!



Parish Life

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Page Ten

Active Waiting

Advent is a time of remembrance and expectancy. It focuses our spiritual lives, bringing together our past, our present and our future. On our Advent journey, we revisit the spiritual yearning our ancestors felt as they awaited the first coming of the Messiah. Strengthened by their faith, we renew our own belief in Jesus' presence and love in our present-day lives. Finally, we prepare for his second coming. We ready ourselves to rejoice in a glory yet unseen.

Waiting is not a popular pastime — yet if we do not learn to wait well, we will never be prepared for Christ's coming. Advent teaches us how to cultivate and maintain a spirituality of waiting.

So, how do we wait? First, we recall the goodness of God. This is not an easy task, particularly if our lives are filled with harshness rather than goodness, abandonment rather than love. Sometimes we have to rely on the remembrances of others. In today's first reading, Isaiah reminds us that God is a Father, a Redeemer, a Potter intimately involved in the unfolding of our lives.

The Advent season is filled with stories of faithful waiting. If we dare to sit with Isaiah and Hosea, Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah, Anna and Simeon, our vision will be forever transformed. Empowered by their unwavering faith in God's goodness and their ardent desire for the coming of the Messiah, we see the en-



Your true vocation is written upon your very heart. Can you identify your divine purpose in this world? Are you clearly engaged in that purpose?

tire world as something new.

We need to see the world anew if we are to interpret today's Gospel correctly. Here, Jesus implores us three times to "keep alert" or "keep awake." Sometimes this can sound like a frightening command. In my 'tween years I took this admonishment literally, and stayed awake all night. My newly formed conscience had convinced me I was doomed to hell. Fueled by fear, my alertness served no useful purpose. I was a sleepy, ineffective disciple, and I soon admitted defeat. Jesus doesn't require me literally to stay awake, I realized. He invites me to maintain an alertness that recognizes the goodness of God both around and within me.

While we recognize the faith of our spiritual ancestors, it is also essential to acknowledge our own sacred story, that we stay alert to our own unique salvation history. Keep alert: Who are your relatives, friends and acquaintances that demonstrate the divine in your life?

Keep alert: Which elements of nature illustrate the divine most forcefully for you? Keep alert: Your true vocation is written upon your very heart. Can you identify your divine purpose in this world? Are you clearly engaged in that purpose?

This type of alertness — alertness to the world around us, alertness to the world within us — makes us great disciples. This alertness is based upon hope rather than fear; it is active rather than passive waiting. We believe that what we wait for is already planted deep within us and will take root and bloom. We continue to live in the present moment and remain focused on the love of God. We prepare for our inevitable death.

During this Advent season, immerse yourself in the spiritual stories of your faith-filled ancestors. Have the courage to write your own salvation history. Hold this history with open hands. Allow your waiting for God, and God's waiting for you, to transform the world in which you live. Allow this Advent, the coming Messiah, this arrival to transform your life.

— Karen Johnson, Celebration Publications

Directory

Parish Office

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

Office Hours

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

Staff

Pastor

Rev. Frank Latzko, ext. 217

Deacon

Deacon Hector Rivera

Director of Religious Education

Kate Lynch, ext. 232
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
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Reconciliation

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

Communion for the Sick

Please call the parish office for arrangements.

Counseling Services

Theresa Nollette, M.Div., LCSW

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

Mary Ellen Moore, Ph.D.

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

Melanie McNally, LCPC

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



St. Teresa
of Avila
Catholic Church