



St. Teresa  
*of Avila*  
Catholic Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 23, 2012

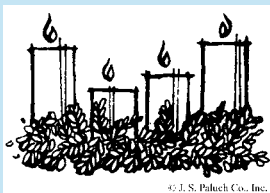
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

— Luke 1:42

**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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## Reflecting on God's Word

## Reflexionemos sobre la Palabra de Dios

My father used to refer to the town of my—and his—birth as a “nickel-and-dime” town. As a child, I was never exactly sure what he meant, but it didn’t sound like a compliment. I think it was similar to Micah’s words about Bethlehem as “too small to be among the clans of Judah” (5:1). Another description would be “backwater.” Hardly a place deserving of great expectations. Yet backwater Bethlehem, city of David the shepherd boy, was to be the birthplace of the Messiah—not Jerusalem, center of government and religion, city of David the warrior king.



God’s strange choices extend beyond geographical sites to the people on whom God sets eyes. A young betrothed girl up in the north, a barren woman down in the south—these were chosen to play pivotal roles in the story of salvation. The once-barren Elizabeth, soon to bring forth the greatest of all prophets, now proclaims God’s most marvelous work and the little one through whom God is working: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb” (Luke 1:42).

Elizabeth cues us to join in the response of the baby in her womb: to allow our hearts and spirits to leap for joy. Again and again God works through those who are open to the Spirit. Blessed are they who place their trust in the Lord, who continues to come to give us new life.

### *Living God's Word*

After hearing Elizabeth’s final words, “Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled” (Luke 1:45), we can pray the words of the refrain of today’s responsorial psalm: “Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved” (Psalm 80:4).

Mi padre se refería al pueblo donde él y yo nacimos como un pueblo “de poca monta”. De niño yo no sabía en realidad lo que él quería decir con eso, pero no me sonaba como un halago. Creo que sería algo similar a las palabras que pronuncia Miqueas acerca de Belén: “que no destacas entre los clanes de Judá” (5:1). Otra descripción pudiera ser “agua muerta”. Difícilmente un lugar merecedor de grandes expectativas. Así y todo, el agua muerta de Belén, la ciudad de David

el joven pastor, estaba destinada a ser el lugar de nacimiento del Mesías, y no Jerusalén, el centro del gobierno y de la religión, la ciudad de David el rey guerrero.

Las selecciones extrañas de Dios se extienden más allá de los lugares geográficos hasta las personas en quienes Dios pone sus ojos. Una joven comprometida en matrimonio en la región norte del país, una mujer estéril en la región sur. Ambas fueron escogidas para jugar un papel fundamental en la historia de la salvación. Isabel, que una vez fuera estéril, pronto daría a luz al mayor de los profetas y ahora con su exclamación de “¡Bendita tú entre las mujeres y bendito el fruto de tu vientre” (Lucas 1:42), proclama la obra más prodigiosa de Dios, el pequeño a través del cual Dios trae su salvación.

Isabel nos da la indicación para que nos unamos a la reacción que tuvo el niño en su seno: dejemos que nuestro corazón y nuestro espíritu salten de gozo. Una y otra vez Dios obra a través de aquellas personas que están abiertas al Espíritu. Bienaventurados los que ponen su confianza en el Señor, que sigue viniendo a darnos una vida nueva.

### *Vivamos la Palabra de Dios*

Después de escuchar las últimas palabras de Isabel, que recoge el pasaje del Evangelio de hoy, “¡Dichosa tú que has creído! Porque lo que te ha dicho el Señor se cumplirá” (Lucas 1:45), nosotros podemos orar con la respuesta del salmo de hoy: “Señor, muéstranos tu favor y sálvanos” (Salmo 79).

## 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

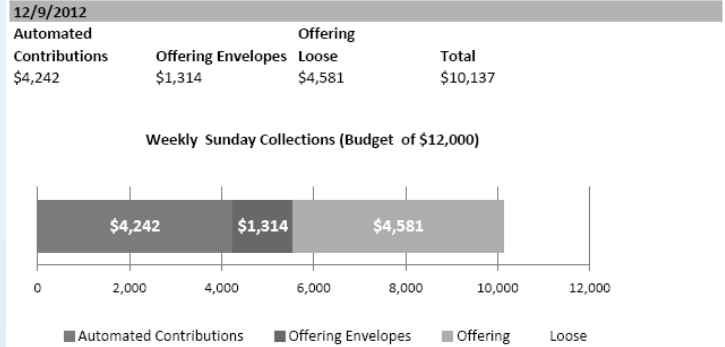
- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pasta Sauce (26 oz.)        | Canned Vegetables (15 oz.) |
| Canned Beans (15 oz.)       | Spaghetti O's (15 oz.)     |
| Canned Fruit (15oz.)        | Chili (15 oz.)             |
| 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 Repeated from 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.

Since the December 23rd bulletin had to be submitted to the publisher on December 14th, the December 9th results are being repeated in this column.

## Food Pantry Schedule for December

### Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>

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

### Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Bagging

### Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am to 12:00 pm Distribution

### Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

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

### Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup>

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Bagging

### Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup>

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](mailto: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](mailto:dvaeth@sttereseparish.org)

# Readings, Liturgy & Tradition

December 23 — December 29

Page Four

## Today's Readings

**First Reading** — From Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (Micah 5:1-4a).

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

**Second Reading** — We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:5-10).

**Gospel** — Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled (Luke 1:39-45).

## Readings for the Week

<b>Monday:</b>	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<u>Vigil:</u> Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25] <u>Night:</u> Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 <u>Dawn:</u> Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 <u>Day:</u> Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
<b>Thursday:</b>	1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
<b>Friday:</b>	1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18
<b>Saturday:</b>	1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
<b>Sunday:</b>	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

## Memories and Dreams



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Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family of origin. Should we return to our home after a long absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices. Our deep memory is reflected in old stories and words and speech patterns.

This familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go.

Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory. In remembering and recollecting, we are in turn gathered up and re-collected.

Today we remember Mary, a small figure travelling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lord's words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith. — Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## Treasures from Our Tradition

In ancient pagan Rome, these days in mid-December were a time for general slacking off at work and far too much rejoicing. The period of leisure after the harvest and a whole cluster of pagan festivals were a force for the church to reckon with. The Saturnalia, breaking out on December 17, was a time of high living and loose morals. Christians were advised by their bishops to drop out of the mayhem and do some serious fasting. A famous church council at Saragossa in Spain made a season of fasting mandatory from December 17 to December 23, exactly coinciding with the Saturnalia. The bishops at that time were perhaps less concerned with preparing for Christmas than with resisting the kind of loose living going on.

Modern times have restored a bit of the Saturnalia spirit to our culture, so that a general period of partying with a vague connection to religion is now upon us. How does a Christian keep balance? The practice of charity by remembering the poor in our gift-giving, of hospitality in finding a place at our holiday tables for the poor and lonely, and of daily prayer in the home and at church are great helps. Although Advent is not a penitential season like Lent, it is a time for making room in our lives for what matters most. — James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## Recuerdos y Sueños



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En el curso de nuestra vida mantenemos el idioma y los hábitos de nuestra región nativa y familia de origen. Cuando retornamos a nuestro hogar tras una larga ausencia, rápidamente volvemos a su manera de hablar y a sus prácticas familiares. Nuestros

profundos recuerdos se reflejan en viejas historias y palabras y en modos de conversar. Esta familiaridad corre como un río subterráneo y nos acompaña a donde sea que vayamos.

No solamente recordamos, sino que somos incorporados y formamos parte de una memoria más amplia. Cuando traemos recuerdos a la mente somos a la vez reunidos y recordados.

Hoy recordamos a María, una joven frágil, que recorre zonas rurales para visitar a Isabel. Todos los grandes pronunciamientos y sueños de los profetas apuntan a este tiempo en que deben cumplirse las palabras del Señor a María. Las memorias de su pueblo están vivas en ella, y esas memorias alimentan nuestra fe viva. — Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## Tradiciones de Nuestra Fe

Esta semana recordamos a los niños judíos que fueron asesinados por orden del Rey Herodes en Belén. Esa tragedia que ocurrió cuando el viejo y celoso rey se enteró del nacimiento de un nuevo rey de los judíos. Él mandó a matar a todo niño que tuviera menos de dos años. El llanto de las familias que perdieron sus pobres inocentes se ha convertido en risas en varios países latinoamericanos. El 28 de diciembre en muchas partes es conmemorado como el día de los inocentes que viene siendo el *April Fools* de Latinoamérica. En ese día se hacen bromas para burlarse de los amigos. Si la broma funciona al pobre que fue engañado se le llama “inocente”.

La inocencia normalmente se atribuye a los niños o a los ingenuos, pero en si la inocencia es una virtud cristiana, de los que hemos sido perdonados por Cristo. Esta inocencia no es ingenuidad mas bien es la candidez, simplicidad y generosidad de una persona que conoce bien lo duro que es la vida y aún así mantiene la esperanza. — Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Glez, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## Lecturas de hoy

**Primera lectura** — De ti, Belén, saldrá el que será el jefe de Israel (Miquea 5:1-4a).

**Salmo** — Señor, muéstranos tu favor y sálvanos (Salmo 80 [79]).

**Segunda lectura** — Al Cristo hacer la voluntad del Padre, es decir, al ofrecerse él mismo, hemos sido consagrados (Hebreos 10:5-10).

**Evangelio** — Bendita eres entre las mujeres, y bendito es el fruto de tu vientre (Lucas 1:39-45).

## Lecturas de la Semana

- Lunes:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Sal 89 (88):2-5, 27, 29; Lc 1:67-79
- Martes:** 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; Ti 2:11-14; Lc 2:1-14 Aurora: Is 62:11-12; Sal 97 (96):1, 6, 11-12; Ti 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]
- Miércoles:** Hch 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Sal 31(30):3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
- Jueves:** 1 Jn 1:1-4; Sal 97 (96):1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Viernes:** 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Sal 124 (123):2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18
- Sábado:** 1 Jn 2:3-11; Sal 96 (95):1-3, 5b-6; Lc 2:22-35
- Domingo:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 ó 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Sal 128:1-5 ó Sal 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] ó 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lc 2:41-52



# Sacraments & Ministries

December 23 — December 29

Page Six

## December Baptisms

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



## St. Teresa said...

“It seemed to me I possessed all the world’s riches in resolving to live by the love of God.”



## 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 23 Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Advent • Cuarto Domingo de Adviento

- 9:00 am, RR, 9AM Nursery
- 9:15 am, REC, Children’s Liturgy of the Word
- 10:30 am, REC1-4, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- 12:00 pm, PC3-4, Spanish Christmas Party

### December 24, Monday

Vigil of Christmas • La Vigilia de Navidad

- Office Closed
- 4:00 pm, Church, Christmas Vigil, Children & Family Mass
- 9:30 pm, Church, Christmas Carols
- 10:00 pm, Church, Christmas Vigil Mass

### December 25, Tuesday

The Nativity of the Lord • La Natividad del Señor

- Office Closed
- 10:00 am, Church, Christmas Day Mass

### December 26, Wednesday

St. Stephen • San Esteban

- No Activities Scheduled
- No 7:30 am Mass

### December 27, Thursday

St. John • San Juan

- No 7:30 am Mass
- 6:00 pm, GS, PC3, Food Pantry Setup

### December 28, Friday

The Holy Innocents • Los Santos Inocentes

- 10:00 am, PC3, GS, Food Pantry Distribution
- 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 29, Saturday

St. Thomas Becket • Santo Tomás Becket

- No Activities Scheduled

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 22

- 5:00 pm All Deceased Members of the Parish
- 9:00 am Val Hernandez
- 12:00 pm All Deceased Members of the Parish
- 6:00 pm All Deceased Members of the Parish

### December 23



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](mailto: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, Joanne Butera, 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 Kilcullen, 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 Tetrycz, 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 &amp; 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'Neil</i>        |   |
| <i>David Ivanac</i>                 | <i>Honorata Alicea Peña</i>      | <i>Survivors and perpetrators of sexual abuse</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
12-29-12 Saturday	5:00 pm	Fr. Charles Shelby	Raquel Bech	Jennifer Barrett	Kari Richardson Bert Olson
12-30-12 Sunday	9:00 am	Fr. John Rybolt	Phyllis Halloran	Frank Swiderski Dennis Kamalick Geneva Gorgo	Tom Kosnik George Halloran Dan Anderson Rose Ohiku
<b>Next Spanish Mass 1-6-2013 Sunday</b>	10:30 am				
12-30-12 Sunday	12:00 pm	Fr. Barry Moriarty	Tony Rivera	Amy McCue	Suzanne Chung Brendan Lynch
12-30-12 Sunday	6:00 pm	Fr. Pascal Kasanziki	Katie Assell	Jonathan Assell Luke Kolman Sharon Lindstrom	Jonathan Hewett Christopher Parente Jocelyn Lutkus Jamie Lutkus

## 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



## Next 6:51 Club is January 20th!



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

January's 6:51 Club will be a warm and wintry after-church dinner. Join us to meet fellow parishioners.

You can contact Sara Foley  
at [foleysar@gmail.com](mailto:foleysar@gmail.com) for more details.

## The Cave

The other day I was walking down State Street on my way to the train and I saw a homeless man. I see this guy every few weeks. Let me tell you, I have seen a lot of homeless in my day and this guy is the most homeless guy I have ever seen. He sits with his legs extended, head down and his hands in a prayer position. He has a cup between his feet for change. His right ankle is bent on a 90 degree angle. I don't even know how he walks around. This is despair.

I was on a flight from Baltimore to Chicago earlier this week and I witnessed something I have never seen before. A woman came on to the plane, late and rushed. She stopped near me, looked up and said, "Whose coat is this? Luggage needs to go up here." She proceeds to take the coat down from the bin. In the coat was wrapped several small gifts that fall out and bounce off an old timer's head in the aisle seat. She continued to take stuff out of the bin in order to put her bag in bin. Several people around were immediately incensed. This is fear mixed in with a touch of pathetic.

That black cave in our Nativity icon, it represents these two experiences of mine plus a lot more like hopelessness, disbelief, vengeance and the like. And what does all that represent? Death!

We have the Arch of God piercing the blackness of our world and hearts to birth Christ. What that icon is saying is that Christ comes to us in our nastiest, blackest, loneliest, hopeless moments. I forget what Saint said this, maybe Francis, but it was something like we can see the face of God in the most disenfranchised people in our community.

It is very hard to stop and talk to the homeless guy. What am I going to say? It is very difficult to not immediately get angry at the lady on the plane. It is far easier to label her as a moron. This is that black cave pulling me into it. If one were to meditate on that black cave, it might be to come to know what to pray for when we are being pulled into it. And that is just for starters.

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](mailto:mpriesbe@aol.com) and (847) 729-1220, or contact Tom Kosnik at (312) 527-2950 and [tkosnik@visusgroup.com](mailto:tkosnik@visusgroup.com) — Tom Kosnik



## Advent-Christmas Schedule

**Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
Spanish Christmas Luncheon  
12:00pm

**Monday-Tuesday,  
December 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>**  
Nativity of Our Lord  
Holy Day of Obligation

Christmas Vigil Children & Family Mass  
4:00pm

Christmas Carols  
9:30pm

Christmas Eve Vigil  
10:00pm

Christmas Day Mass  
10:00am

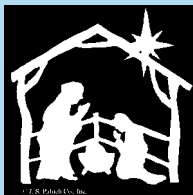
**Saturday-Sunday,  
December 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>**

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
5:00pm, 9:00am, 12:00pm, 6:00pm

**Monday-Tuesday  
December 31st-January 1st**  
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
Holy Day of Obligation  
5:00pm Monday, 10:00am Tuesday

**Saturday-Sunday,  
January 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>**

The Epiphany of the Lord  
5:00pm, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00pm, 6:00pm



## Women's Center Baby Bottle Project

This year's Baby Bottle Project is entering its final week — all baby bottles for the Women's Centers of Chicagoland are due back next Sunday.

The Women's Center directly assists mothers and families experiencing crisis pregnancies by offering emotional, financial, material, and spiritual support.

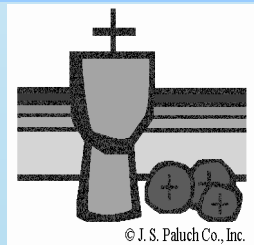
They are committed to helping people help themselves. In some cases, this is simply a matter of bringing out the clients' inner strength, courage and resolve, to face life's challenges. Sometimes, it involves helping to find available community resources to help overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles. 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.

This is the last weekend to take a baby bottle home with you to make a donation to the Women's Centers.



## 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.



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## You Do Not Desire Sacrifice

The Letter to the Hebrews was written largely to explain how the Christian religion was the fulfillment of the Jewish religion.

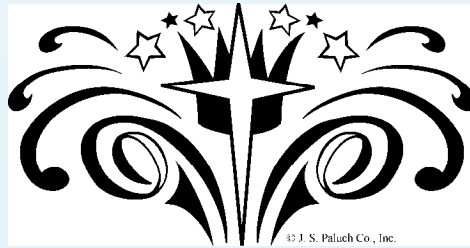
Jesus was a Jew; so were all of his disciples and friends. They all followed the basic Jewish laws and beliefs. They had no intention of starting a new religion. They thought they were being faithful to their tradition, simply following its belief to its logical conclusion.

Jews had always believed in one God and looked forward to a messiah and the kingdom of God on earth. Jesus said he spoke for that same God and that the kingdom of God had come. Jesus himself was the sign and proof of the kingdom.

Ideally then, all of the Jews would have accepted Jesus as the expected messiah and the presence of God's kingdom. Ideally, the Jewish religion would have gradually, smoothly transformed itself around this new expression of Judaism and become Jewish Christianity.

That didn't happen, as we know. The traditional Jews fought to retain their ancient beliefs while Christians tried to introduce them to a fuller understanding of their faith. Both sides fought bitterly over the truth until the Christians left or were driven out of the Jewish religion. Then, after being separated in fact, Christians had to separate themselves in practice.

The greatest Jewish ritual was sacrifice. Every day, the temple was filled with dripping blood,



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**In modern terms, God says, “I don’t want your giving up chocolate or TV shows, the sacrifice of all those parts of your life — I want your life.”**

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boiling fat and billowing smoke. Offering animal sacrifice was an expression of worship. Though prophets raged against substituting sacrifice for doing God's will, sacrifice remained a physical bond with a spiritual God.

The Letter to the Hebrews deals with the issue. It says that Jesus repeated God's rejection of sacrifice. Jesus said that instead of sacrifice to God, he came to do God's will.

Of course, the Jews had always tried to do God's will. That was the whole point of the Torah. God's will took on even more significance when the Jews were exiled in Babylon and could not offer temple sacrifice. When they could not get to the temple, they gathered in synagogues to study the Torah.

So, in historical fact as well as religious practice, the Jews were already replacing sacrifice with doing God's will when Jesus came

along. And once again, there might have been a smooth transition to the religion of Jesus. But this Letter to the Hebrews points out the intractable problem. It quotes Jesus as saying: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me to do your will.”

The Jews might have been weaned away from animal sacrifice, but they could not accept the human sacrifice of Jesus as a replacement. They would exchange sacrifice for doing God's will — but God's will as they knew it in the Torah, not the interpretation of the Torah according to this upstart preacher.

The Letter to the Hebrews accepts the split between Judaism and Christianity, stating this conclusion when it says: “Christ takes away the first to establish the second.” God's will replaces sacrifice; the sacrifice of Christ replaces animal sacrifice. But even in Christianity, sacrifice is ambivalent. We can still offer little sacrifices instead of doing God's will.

In modern terms, God says, “I don’t want your giving up chocolate or TV shows, the sacrifice of all those parts of your life — I want your life. I don’t want any religious practices that protect you from direct contact with me. I want you as I made you: naked.”

# 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