

# ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

CATHOLIC PARISH ✚ EST. 1889



Faith & Spirit, *Alive*

## First Sunday of Advent December 3, 2017

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

— Mark 13:33



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Rev. Frank John Latzko, Pastor

### Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday at 5 PM & 6:30 PM (En Française<sup>1</sup>)  
Sunday at 9 AM, 10:30 AM (En Español<sup>2</sup>) 12 PM, 6 PM  
<sup>1</sup> First & Second Saturdays <sup>2</sup> First Sundays

### Daily Mass Schedule

Monday — Thursday at 7:30 AM  
Friday Communion Service at 7:30 AM

### Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesdays 6 PM to 7:30 PM

### Baptism Preparation

2nd Sunday of the Month 10 AM

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday 9 AM to 7:30 PM  
Saturday 9 AM to 12 PM

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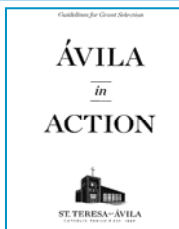
# Stewardship

December 3 — December 9

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## Avila in Action Grant Winners

The Stewardship Committee is pleased to announce the 2017 Avila in Action grant winners. Currently, 6% of Sunday Collections are dedicated to groups outside our own ministries who are working to change the world for the better. These six groups were selected from a total of 24 applicants.



### **Coalition for Spiritual and Public Leadership (\$7,500):**

A leadership and community organizing training program grounded in the Catholic spiritual and theological tradition addressing justice issues in Chicago, with plans to increase civic engagement in Maywood and Cicero.

### **Honduras Educational Development Assistance Corporation (\$7,000):**

Operates the only after-school center in Morazan, Yoro, Honduras. The grant will be used to complete the center's kitchen to provide meals and facilitate culinary and entrepreneurial programming.

**UMOJA Student Development (\$5,000):** Umoja facilitates Restorative Justice models in public schools to emphasize repairing harm over the need to assign blame and punishment in discipline situations. Restorative Justice is key to breaking the vicious cycle of harm, violence, and retaliation.

**Southwest Organizing Project (\$5,000):** Creates neighborhoods of good schools, safe streets, and affordable homes. In an initial target area, crime has been cut in half, schools have dramatically improved, hundreds of families have saved their homes, and more than 50 vacant buildings have been transformed into over 100 new homes. Funds will help expand this work to a new 70-block target area.

**The Bloc (\$5,000):** The Bloc mentors, tutors, and inspires Chicago 7th through 12th graders on the West Side to reach their full potential through engagement in their boxing program. The Bloc offers students homework help, technology skills training, and access to paid internships. The grant will expand the Bloc's ability to expose kids to the world beyond their neighborhood through student-mentor outings.

**The Healing Corner (\$3,000):** The Healing Corner goes to street corners directly impacted by violence and engages people in order to spread love and restore hope. Healing Corner events transform traditionally violent areas into safe community events by handing out food, hugs, and resources.

For more information visit [st-teresa.net/stewardship/avila-in-action](http://st-teresa.net/stewardship/avila-in-action) or email [robrien@sttersaparish.org](mailto:robrien@sttersaparish.org).

## Time of Your Life

Thank you to all who supported this year's Time of Your Life Gala.

We raised just over \$200,000, a new record for this event, and the funds will enable our parish to continue offering inspiring liturgies, services and outreach within our community.



## Food Pantry Giving Tree

This year's giving tree supports St. Teresa's food pantry throughout the entire Advent season with a fun and unique approach on the traditional Advent Calendar.

Pick up an instructions "ornament" from the tree, and a food pantry box. Place the box under your own tree, and every day place an item for the food pantry inside the box.

Thank you for keeping those in need at the heart of the Christmas season.



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

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

# Financial Stewardship

## Annual Report Preview

We are at that time of year where we give our Annual Report to the Archdiocese of Chicago. This year's report is particularly important as the Archdiocese reviews various parishes for potential consolidation under its *Renew My Church* program. Here is a preview of some relevant information regarding St. Teresa's Fiscal Year 2017 (July 2016 – June 2017).

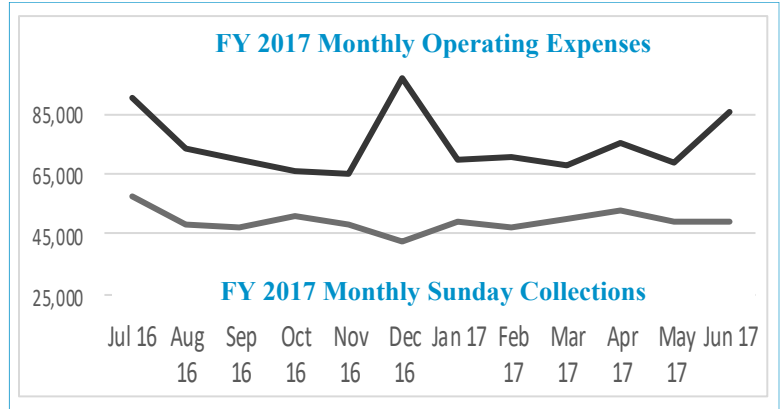
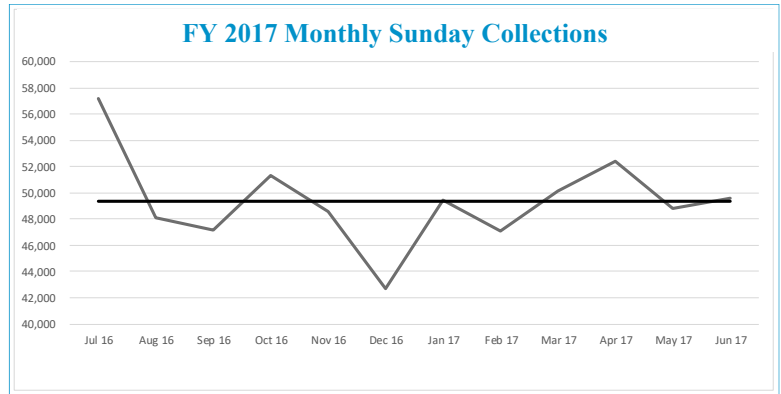
### Monthly Sunday Collections:

For fiscal 2017, our Sunday collections totaled \$592,596, a 5% increase from 2016 and a 17% increase from 2015. Our Sunday Collections cover nearly 70% of St. Teresa's operating expenses; our remaining expenses are primarily covered by the proceeds from our *Time of Your Life* fundraiser.

### Time of Your Life:

The net proceeds (after paying all the expenses for the event) from our major fundraiser *Time of Your Life* increased from \$156k in 2016 to \$171k in 2017, but remained flat when compared to \$169k in 2015.

Thank you to the parishioners of St. Teresa. Without your continued help, we would not be on a path to a more stable financial position. If you have any questions or suggestions, please email our Business Manager, Maggie Fernandez, at [mfernandez@stteresaparish.org](mailto:mfernandez@stteresaparish.org) or Justin Alden [justin.alden@gmail.com](mailto:justin.alden@gmail.com).



## Stewardship of Prayer and Worship

	Sunday:	11-5-17	11-19-17	11-26-17
Saturday, 5:00 pm Mass Attendance		60	50	50
Saturday, 6:30 pm Mass Attendance (French)		-	64	-
Sunday, 9:00 am Mass Attendance		290	255	190
Sunday, 10:30 am Mass Attendance (Spanish)		-	65	-
Sunday, 12:00 pm Mass Attendance		160	125	140
Sunday, 6:00 pm Mass Attendance		130	138	145
<b>Total Weekend Mass Attendance</b>		<b>640</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>525</b>
Average Weekday Mass Attendance		10	10	10
Average Friday Communion Service Attendance		3	3	3
Confessions this Week		0	0	0
Anointing/Sick Calls/Hospital Visits this Week		0	0	0
Funerals since January 2017		3	3	3
Weddings since January 2017		8	9	9
Baptisms since January 2017		40	40	40



There are 351 parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago; only 55 parishes have weekend attendance that exceeds 2,000. St. Teresa's 2016 October Count averaged 550 people at weekend Masses; 2017 averaged 628. The 2017 monthly averages are: January, 489; February, 570; March, 640; April, 705; May, 573; June, 541; July, 463; August, 510; September, 566; October, 621. 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 Calendars

December 3 — December 9

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## Celebrant-Minister Schedule & Events

Date	Time	Celebrant	Sacristan/Lector	Eucharistic Host	Eucharistic Cup
<b>Immaculate Conception</b> Friday 12-8-17	7:00pm	Rev. John Rybolt, CM			
<b>Saturday</b> 12-9-17	5:00 PM	Rev. Richard Benson, CM	Sacristan: Lisa Hanzelka Lector: Julie Divis	Minister Needed (H2,T)	Leigh Hartley Carly Johnston
<b>Sunday</b> 12-10-17	9:00 AM	Rev. Tony Dosen, CM	Sacristan: Frank Swiderski Lector: Children's Service	Pete Doyle Nancy Van Grinsven Geneva Gorgo	Mark Van Grinsven Jamie Lutkus Shannon Clinton Philip Malloy
<b>Spanish Mass</b> Sunday 12-10-17	10:30 AM	Rev. Jose Rubio, CM	Alex Lopez Maria Montes	Josefina Gomez	Carmen Cruz
<b>Sunday</b> 12-10-17	12:00 PM	Rev. William Piletic, CM	Sacristan: Francisco Perez Lector: Mike Usiak	Daniel Kang	Laura Moran Tyler Paul
<b>Sunday</b> 12-10-17	6:00 PM	Rev. Tom Ess, OFM	Sacristan: Adam Hock Lector: Sharon Lindstrom	Bert Olsen Anne Seigenthaler Andrew DeLeonardis	Veronique Caffrey Sara Hock Luke Kolman Elizabeth Cuda

### Week's Activities

#### Sunday, December 3

- 10:30 am, PC, Advent Wreath Making
- 10:30 am, REC, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- 1:00 pm, PC, Santa Clause
- 3:30 pm, REC, CGS Make-up Session
- 4:30 pm, REC, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- 4:30 pm, PC, Edge/Quest

#### Monday, December 4

- 4:30 pm, REC, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- 7:00 pm, PC, Parish Council
- 7:00 pm, PC, New Parishioners Welcome

#### Tuesday, December 5

- 4:30 pm, REC, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- 6:00 pm, REC-PC, SPRED PC
- 6:00 pm, Church, Eucharistic Adoration

#### Wednesday, December 6

- No Activities Planned

#### Thursday, December 7

- 9:00 am, PC, Food Pantry Delivery

#### Friday, December 8

##### Immaculate Conception Feast Day

- 10:00 am, Kitchen, Loaves & Fishes Cooking
- 10:30 am, Church, CCFC Concert Practice
- 5:00 pm, PC, Loaves and Fishes Dinner
- 7:00 pm, Church, Immaculate Conception Mass

#### Saturday, December 9

- 10:00 am, PC-GS, Food Pantry Distribution

### Saints & Special Observances

- Sunday:** First Sunday of Advent  
**Monday:** St. John Damascene  
**Wednesday:** St. Nicholas  
**Thursday:** St. Ambrose;  
 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day  
**Friday:** Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
**Saturday:** St. Juan Diego  
 Cuauhtlatoatzin

- Domingo:** Primer Domingo de Adviento  
**Lunes:** San Juan Damasceno  
**Miércoles:** San Nicolás  
**Jueves:** San Ambrosio;  
 Día para Recordar Pearl Harbor  
**Viernes:** La Inmaculada Concepción de la Virgen María  
**Sábado:** San Juan Diego  
 Cuauhtlatoatzin

### Upcoming Food Pantry Dates

- Saturday, December 2**  
 9:00 am to 10:00 am Set Up  
 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Distribution
- Saturday, December 9**  
 9:00 am to 10:00 am Set Up  
 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Distribution
- Saturday, December 16**  
 9:00 am to 10:00 am Set Up  
 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Distribution
- Saturday, December 23**  
 9:00 am to 10:00 am Set Up  
 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Distribution
- Saturday, December 30**  
 9:00 am to 10:00 am Set Up  
 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Distribution



# Mass Intentions & Prayers

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December 3 — December 9

## Mass Intentions

## Let Us Pray

### Saturday, December 2

5:00 pm Isabella Beatrice Pleyto Feliciano

### Sunday, December 3

9:00 am Emmanuel Faloyin  
12:00 pm Joanne Uzzi  
6:00 pm Deceased Members of St. Teresa of Avila Parish

### Please pray for the deceased ...

*Lauren Dittrich Bilyeu, Michael Dudash, Andrea Harris, Dave Hilko, Edward Nevera, Andrzej Jastrzebski, Andrea Mastro Hoinacki, Fr. Barry Moriarty, C.M., Bob Semmer, Noemie Sylvestre, Eddy Velazquez, and the Victims of War & Domestic Violence*

## Upcoming Baptism Anniversaries

***Karen Kinsella (12-8), Cindy Patrasso (12-27),  
Connor DeWitte (28), Tom Micinski (12-29)***

## Please pray for all those who are ill, especially for ...

*Alicia Anderson  
Jason Andre  
Dorothy Barns  
Berta Billalvazo  
Elizabeth Ryan Dean  
Michael De Blasis  
Alex DeNoma  
Kathy Derrick  
Kim Duffy  
Isabelle Eiffert  
Jackson Fineske & Family  
Pat Folland  
Alice Flynn  
Eloisa Gallegos  
Michael Gibbons  
Angela Goldberg  
Kaylee Gommel  
Bolivar Gonzales, Jr.  
Les Gordon*

*Mrs. Grabarczyk  
George Halloran  
Kellar Harris  
Peg Hausen  
David Ivanac  
Chuck Jabaley  
Ronald Jakubec  
Joyce Jaszczor  
Frank Kolman  
Krista Kutz  
Liz Kunkel  
Betty LaCour  
Carmen D. Lorenzana  
Gabriel Lozada  
Palmira Mancini  
George Maroquin  
Jose Maroquin  
Lisa Marquez  
Margaret Sue Meadors*

*Sage Mesen  
Daniel Meyer  
Tracy Mirabella  
Bill Mobley  
John Monier  
Elda Myers  
John Paul Nelson  
Angel Nieves  
Msgr. Kevin O'Neill  
Frank O'Toole  
Clayton Poe  
Carol Poyner  
Marie Koesters-Ranley  
Hector J. Rivera  
Luis Rivera  
Pedro Rodriguez  
Ray Romero  
Jeffrey Roscoe  
Sr. Camilla Mary Marney, OCD*

*Sr. Jean Ryan, OCD  
Jack Schank  
Will Sullivan  
Mima Tome  
JoAnn Jahnke Trainer  
Marianne Usiak  
Sara Vega  
Susan Violapiano  
Jack Williams  
Valerie Williams  
Mae Witry  
David Zeunert*

*For the intentions on our prayer cards; for survivors and perpetrators of sexual abuse*

## #prayforpeace

We pray for those who lost their lives to violence in the City of Chicago between Chicago between November 17th and November 21st: ***Charlie Lawrence; Tyree Wise; Dashon Campbell; Miguel Ford; Trevonte Howard; and Exavian Davis***

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 to the names of the deceased parishioners and friends for about twelve months.

# Parish Life

December 3 — December 9

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## Holiday Greenery Sale Set for December 2nd and 3rd

As St. Teresa Parish has done in the past, we are going to offer a Greenery Sale after all masses this weekend, **December 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 3rd**. All of the profits benefit St. Teresa Parish.

We will be offering some of our most popular items such as wreaths, swags, centerpieces, and mini table top trees. There are no pre-orders taken on these items; it will just be first come, first serve, until we run out.



## Join Men's Spirituality

Are you interested in deepening your faith life through discussion with fellow male parishioners?



The St. Teresa Men's Spirituality Group invites you every second and fourth Tuesday at 6:30 am for prayer and conversation.

**Next Meeting  
Tuesday, December 12th**

For more details, please contact Matt Priesbe at mpriesbe@aol.com.

## This Year's Christmas Mass Schedule

**Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th**

3:00 PM, Family Mass  
8:00 PM, Christmas Eve Mass

**Christmas Day, Monday, December 25th**

10:00 AM, Christmas Day Mass

Since Christmas Eve is Sunday, the weekend Mass schedule has been changed to the following:

**Saturday, December 23rd, 5:00 PM  
Sunday, December 24th, 10:00 AM**

## Prayer Cards

Do you or does someone you know need prayers? Fill out a prayer request card and pin it to the wooden cross in the church.

Want to let someone know that you're praying for them? Just initial and date the prayer card on the cross.

*I am in need of your prayers*

Write your prayer request here and drop the card in the collection basket, or just pin it to the Prayer Cross in the Church.

Pin this card to the prayer wall, or place in the offertory

+ *I am praying for you* +

INITIAL & DATE      INITIAL & DATE      INITIAL & DATE

ST. TERESA-AVILA  
CATHOLIC PARISH • 1987 • 1988

**Blank Prayer Request Cards can be found on the table next to the wooden cross near the tabernacle in the church.**

## Baby Bottles are Back

Beginning on this weekend, St. Teresa of Avila will participate in the Baby Bottle Project benefiting *The Women's Centers of Greater Chicagoland*.

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.

Please take a Baby Bottle home with you, fill it with your spare change, and return it the week of January 14th.

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*.



### Stewardship Opportunity

We are currently scheduling hosts to provide refreshments after the 9:00 am Sunday Masses between December and April 2018.

If you have ever enjoyed lingering about after Mass over refreshments and conversation, please consider hosting just once per year. It's easy to do.

You can sign up through the Signup.com by clicking on the word "Volunteer" at our website [st-teresa.net](http://st-teresa.net). Or visit [signup.com/go/BnYEHC](http://signup.com/go/BnYEHC) to browse our openings to find one that works for you.



**Questions/training: Contact Mairead Reidy**  
[mairiad.reidy@yahoo.com](mailto:mairiad.reidy@yahoo.com)

### SPRED Needs Catechists

St. Teresa's Special Religious Development (SPRED) group needs adult catechists to volunteer with our children, ages 11-17, for a few hours on Tuesday evenings during the school year.

If you are interested in giving of your time and energy to help us keep this wonderful ministry, please contact Dani Shain at (913) 634-3294 or contact Dani by email at [dani.s.shain@gmail.com](mailto:dani.s.shain@gmail.com).

SPRED is always welcoming new friends as well! If you know any children or adults (ages 6+) who would like to participate in SPRED, please give them Dani's contact information and she will direct them to the appropriate parish.



### Catechists Needed: Training Provided

We're still in need of catechists for Children's Liturgy of the Word and our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program. Our needs at this point include:

- For Children's Liturgy of the Word we need four leaders to lead the children for 20 minutes during the 9:00 am Mass. Training is provided.



- For our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program has had an increase in enrollment. CGS meets about three times a month through April. So we need:



- ✓ One assistant catechist for Mondays (4-5:30pm) with the 1st, 2nd & 3rd graders.
- ✓ One assistant catechist for Mondays (4-5:30pm) with the 4th, 5th & 6th graders.

Contact Kate Lynch to find out more details: [klynch@stteresaparish.org](mailto:klynch@stteresaparish.org) or cell (262) 358-0834

### Save the Date: February 11, 2018



**Save the Date** for *Cuisine du Coeur*, Sunday, February 11, 2018, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

This year we will embark on a culinary tour of the beautiful Valley of the Loire—complete with exciting new dishes from the region.



**Stay tuned: more news to follow**

In the Constitution *Ineffabilis Deus* of 8 December, 1854, Pius IX pronounced and defined that the Blessed Virgin Mary "in the first instance of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin."



**The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be celebrated at 7:00 pm on December 8th.**

# Readings/Lecturas

December 3 — December 9

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## Readings for the Week

<b>Monday:</b>	Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
<b>Thursday:</b>	Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
<b>Friday:</b>	Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
<b>Saturday:</b>	Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8
<b>Sunday:</b>	Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

## Lecturas de la Semana

<b>Lunes:</b>	Is 2:1-5; Sal 122 (121):1-9; Mt 8:5-11
<b>Martes:</b>	Is 11:1-10; Sal 72 (71):1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lc 10:21-24
<b>Miércoles:</b>	Is 25:6-10a; Sal 23 (22):1-6; Mt 15:29-37
<b>Jueves:</b>	Is 26:1-6; Sal 118 (117):1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
<b>Viernes:</b>	Gn 3:9-15, 20; Sal 98 (97):1-4; Ef 1:3-6, 11-12; Lc 1:26-38
<b>Sábado:</b>	Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Sal 147 (146):1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8
<b>Domingo:</b>	Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Sal 85 (84):9-14; 2 Pe 3:8-14; Mc 1:1-8

## Treasures from Tradition

Advent calendars appear now in many homes, and newfangled formats are even available on line. Children have fun opening the doors and windows keyed to the days counting down to Christmas. Behind each door is a picture related to the Christmas mystery, perhaps a scripture verse or saying, but more and more these days something totally unconnected to religious life, like a small toy or a chocolate treat, appears instead. The Advent calendar is not very old as traditions go. We can trace it back to German-speaking Christians, both Protestant and Catholic. Lutherans might have originated the custom by placing chalk marks on doors starting December 1, lighting candles every day, or placing a new religious picture on the wall each day during Advent. The oldest known hand-made calendar goes back to 1851, and the first printed ones appeared in 1908 in Germany with Bible verses behind the doors. By far the most interesting calendar is a building, the town hall (*Rathaus*) of Gengenbach in Germany's Black Forest. Every year the townspeople invite an illustrator of children's books to create twenty-four paintings or motifs for each of the twenty-four main windows of the building. Every night the people gather to see a new window opened and illuminated. Very few commercial Advent calendars pay much attention to the core values of our liturgical calendar: the pivotal place of Sunday, the importance of Advent feasts like Saint Lucy and Saint Nicholas, and the clear shift in tone on December 17 from Advent longing and preparation toward imminent hope in Christ's coming. That kind of creativity is left up to you! — Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



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



# Readings/Lecturas

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December 3 — December 9

## God Has A Different Plan

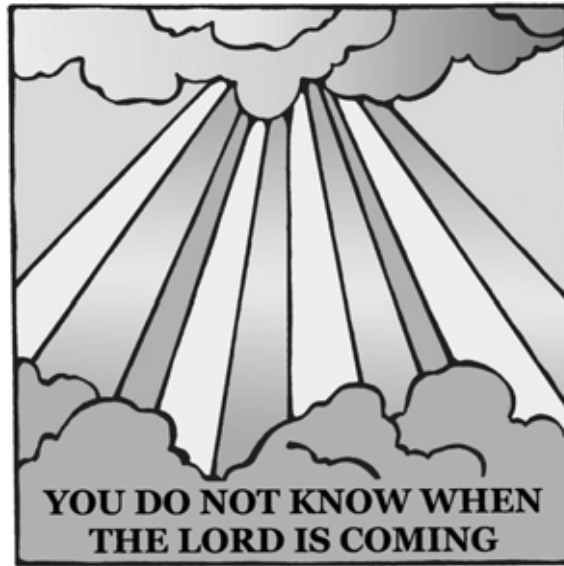
## Dios Tiene Otro Plan

We begin the season of Advent with a heartfelt call for our own repentance. We remember God's faithful love for us, and call upon God to help us to turn back. For "behold, you are angry, and we are sinful" (Isaiah 64:4). In the first reading and in the psalm, we recall God's promises and lament our unfaithfulness and our guilt. We call upon God's might and power in order to save us. With Isaiah, we ask God to "rend the heavens and come down, / with the mountains quaking before you" (Isaiah 63:19).

Yes, God is faithful to us, because we are the work of God's hands. God is the potter, we are the clay. And yet, our concept of how God will come to save us is rooted in our own expectations of a warrior God who crushes mountains and thunders into our lives with great noise and glory. But God has a different plan: the Incarnation. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Comenzamos el tiempo de Adviento con un llamado sincero al arrepentimiento. Recordamos el amor fiel que Dios siente por nosotros y le pedimos que nos ayude a emprender el camino de regreso: "estabas airado porque nosotros pecábamos" (Isaías 64:4). En la primera lectura y en el salmo, recordamos las promesas de Dios y lamentamos nuestra rebeldía y nuestra culpa. Invocamos el poder de Dios para salvarnos. Con Isaías, le decimos a Dios: "Ojalá rasgaras los cielos y bajaras, estremeciendo las montañas con tu presencia" (Isaías 63:19).

Sí, Dios nos es fiel, porque somos hechura de las manos de Dios. Dios es el alfarero, nosotros el barro. Y sin embargo, nuestro concepto de cómo Dios vendrá a salvarnos se origina en nuestra expectativa de un Dios guerrero que estremece las montañas y llega a nuestra vida con ruido y gloria. Pero Dios tiene otro plan: la Encarnación. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



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## Today's Readings

## Lecturas de Hoy

**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).

**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).



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## New Year Challenges

Welcome to another liturgical year ... another Advent ... a new opportunity to prepare our minds and hearts for the coming of Jesus into the world on Christmas Day. Much like parents who wait, hope, dream and prepare for the arrival of their first child, there is an excitement that surrounds these days leading up to Christmas. But, guess what? We are not waiting for Jesus to come and save us. Jesus came! Jesus saved! Jesus lovingly showed us how to live in relationship with God and one another. And Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit is present today, guiding us. So what can we learn from today's passages?

In Isaiah's time, people turned away from God; he described them as "unclean," "withered" and guilt-ridden, comparing their deeds to "polluted rags." Likewise, in today's psalm, the words, "Lord, make us turn to you," are filled with resignation and desperation. It's humanity who repeatedly turns away from God, never God from humanity. Both Isaiah and the psalmist recognized this and begged God to step in and return the chosen people into right relationship with one another and with God. Jesus was God's loving answer to their pleas.

In contrast to these two readings, Paul's letter to the Corinthians offers hope. Paul, living in the light of Christ's resurrection, assures us we are not lacking in any spiritual gift. As we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior,



**Take this time to clear out any earthly distractions. Unplug! Simplify! Unleash those spiritual gifts! Share them and thus bring Jesus more fully into our lives and our world.**

Paul reminds us that our faith will provide us with guidance and strength to endure any hardship. Unfortunately, as we journey through life, we accumulate bad habits and insecurities that cloud our spirits and keep us from recognizing and utilizing our spiritual gifts that lay dormant.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a 20th-century Jesuit priest, scientist and mystic, beautifully articulated the connection between the human condition and the spiritual life. In *The Phenomenon of Man*, he affirmed: "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience; we are spiritual beings having a human experience." We all have days when it's hard to feel like a spiritual being. We are bombarded with so many earthly distractions, especially during this season. World catastrophes, political unrest, technological distractions, illness, family/work stressors, violence and addictions are just a few things that clutter our minds and hearts and

keep us from living fully as spiritual beings.

In today's Gospel, Mark emphatically tells us what we must do: Watch! We are neither to watch nor judge what others are doing, but rather to watch and be alert to what we are thinking, doing, feeling, giving and taking. We can examine our actions and interactions to see if they align with those of Jesus. Do our thoughts, words and actions reflect a spiritual existence or a human existence?

Jesus' greatest gift while he walked among us was his loving, healing presence. Who would benefit most this season from the gift of your loving presence? If we truly lived our earthly lives as the spiritual beings we were created to be and lived as Jesus lived, what would we have to change?

Advent challenges us to be alert to the ways we turn our minds and hearts away from God and others.

Take this time to clear out any earthly distractions. Unplug! Simplify! Unleash those spiritual gifts! Share them and thus bring Jesus more fully into our lives and our world. Only then will there be space for God's grace to enter. Only then will we be ready for a spiritual awakening like never before.



# St. Teresa of Avila Parish Leadership Teams

## Pastoral Council

Jessica Marx  
Anna Althoff  
Bertel Olson  
Luke Kolman  
Kate Lynch

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

## Finance Council

Justin Alden  
Jane Bronson  
Jack Halpin  
Ray Genellie  
Steve Fortino  
Becky Francis

Andrew O'Dekirk  
Chris Toups  
Cooper Cohen  
Alexandra Vizard  
Steve Kolinski

## Stewardship Committee

Danny Cortese  
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](mailto:chicago2381@hotmail.com)

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

Justin Alden is chair of the Parish Finance Council; his email is [justin.alden@gmail.com](mailto:justin.alden@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](mailto:robrien@stteresaparish.org).

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

## Office Information & Bulletin Deadlines

Parish Offices are located at 1950 N. Kenmore. Phone is (773) 528-6650. FAX is (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 most Sunday bulletins is 11:00 am on the Monday before; deadlines are accelerated for the holidays. The bulletin is also published electronically on [st-teresa.net](http://st-teresa.net). Please contact Dean at [dvaeth@stteresaparish.org](mailto:dvaeth@stteresaparish.org) for more information.



## Parish Staff

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**Rebecca O'Brien, ext. 234**  
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**Tom Micinski, ext. 212**  
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Maintenance

**Irma Saavedra,**  
Housekeeping

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**Olu Balogun, ext. 210**  
Night Receptionist  
[obalogun@stteresaparish.org](mailto:obalogun@stteresaparish.org)

## Ministry Leadership Chart

### Faith Formation

Kate Lynch  
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### Social Justice

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### Liturgy

Fr. Frank  
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### Adult Spirituality

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### Buildings & Facilities

Tom Micinski  
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### Special Events & Fundraising

Rebecca O'Brien  
[robrien@stteresaparish.org](mailto:robrien@stteresaparish.org)

### Stewardship

Rebecca O'Brien  
[robrien@stteresaparish.org](mailto: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. Six percent of our Sunday collections 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.



**STOP IN**  
FOR QUIET PRAYER  
**TUESDAYS**  
6:00 TO 7:30 PM



## 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](mailto:klynch@stteresaparish.org)

## For information about ...

Baptism, Marriage, Reconciliation, Mass Intentions, RCIA or Communion for the Sick  
Contact Deacon Dean in the Parish Office  
[dvaeth@stteresaparish.org](mailto:dvaeth@stteresaparish.org)