

ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA
CATHOLIC PARISH ✚ EST. 1889



Faith & Spirit, Alive

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 24, 2017

The child to be born
will be called holy,
the Son of God.

—Luke 1:35



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Rev. Frank John Latzko, Pastor

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday at 5 PM & 6:30 PM (En Française¹)
Sunday at 9 AM, 10:30 AM (En Español²) 12 PM, 6 PM
¹ First & Second Saturdays ² 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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St. Teresa of Avila Parish ♦ 1950 North Kenmore Avenue ♦ Chicago, Illinois 60614
(773) 528-6650 ♦ st-teresa.net

Stewardship

December 24— December 30

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*“...she gave birth to a son... wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”
-Luke 2:7*

Dear Parishioners,

The birth of the Christ child in a humble manger reminds us of the need to “make space” in our hearts throughout the Advent season in preparation for the joy and peace we experience at the birth of our Lord.

At St. Teresa, **we are making space for God to work through us.** We continue to distribute groceries and meals to the poor, religious education classes are full, our refugee ministry is supporting multiple families, and later this month, our first volunteer group will travel to the border to work with asylum seekers at *La Posada*.

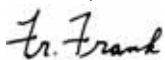
With ministries busy and energetic, we find there is little room left at the inn. Children in the religious ed program are now using the hallways for classroom space. The food pantry stores nonperishable food and supplies in the boiler room. Carrots, onions, potatoes and other foods adorn the chairs in the parish center. Spirituality groups, book clubs, and bible studies meet next to noisy freezers. **We are grateful for the gift of a vibrant parish, and yet, if we are to continue to share the joy of Christ with more people, we must make room.**

I recently made the decision to consolidate the parish offices with my home in the rectory. This has created two additional rooms in the parish center, which were put to use even as desks and files were being moved! Mary and Joseph made the most of the space they were given, and **in honor of the miracle of the Lord’s birth in that humble manger, funds raised through this year’s Christmas donations will offset the cost of creating room** for our ministries to grow.

Please know that you are a valued member of St. Teresa of Avila and I personally thank you for all that you do to make our church a place of growth. **I encourage you to join us for our Advent activities and Christmas Celebrations.**

I pray that God will continue to bless you and your family during this most holy time of the year.

Peace,



Fr. Frank

PS. I invite you to be a part of “making space” this Christmas at St. Teresa. Gifts can be made with the Christmas envelope at the church entrances, or online at givecentral.org/location/209/4175

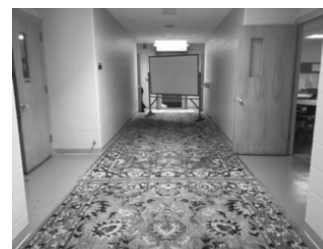
Christmas, 2017



Food pantry/boiler room



Produce awaiting distribution to hungry guests



New rugs and a white board in the hallway for kids use



One of the two new rooms created as part of this effort

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

Fiscal Year Advent Cheer

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 review of St. Teresa's Fiscal Year 2017 (July 2016 – June 2017).

Monthly Sunday Collections:

As our Fiscal Year 2017 (July 2016 – June 2017) has ended, we are doing better than we were last fiscal year (July 2015 – June 2016). Our Sunday collections totaled \$592,596, a 5% increase from 2016 and a 17% increase from 2015. Our Sunday Collections cover nearly 75% of St. Teresa's operating expenses.

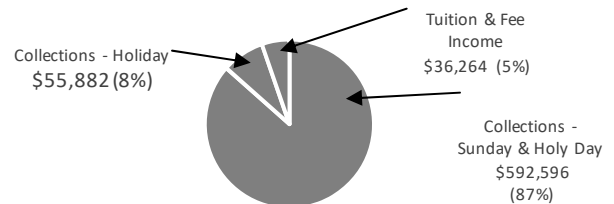
Thank you to the parishioners of St. Teresa. Without your continued help, we would not be on a path to a more stable financial position.

Time of Your Life:

The recently (last month) concluded *Time Of Your Life* fundraiser was by far the most successful event in parish history. The net proceeds from TOYL was \$200k for the event on November 2017, which is a **nearly 20% increase** from the event in November 2016. (The \$200k is in the FISCAL 2018. Fiscal year 2018 = the time period of July 2017 – June 2018). The Time of Your Life Gala team did an amazing job and has set yet another record to beat for next year's event.

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. Questions or suggestions? Please email our Business Manager, Maggie Fernandez, at mfernandez@stteresaparish.org or Justin Alden justin.alden@gmail.com.

Operational Income: July 2016 - June 2017



St. Teresa's Operational Income	FY 2017	% of total
Collections - Sunday & Holy Day	\$ 592,596	87%
Collections - Holiday	\$ 55,882	8%
Tuition & Fee Income	\$ 36,264	5%
	<hr/>	
	\$ 684,742	100%

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

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; November, 622. 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 24 — December 30

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Celebrant-Minister Schedule & Events

Date	Time	Celebrant	Sacristan/Lector	Eucharistic Host	Eucharistic Cup
Saturday 12-30-17	5:00 PM	Fr. Richard Benson, CM	Sacristan: Lisa Hanzelka Lector: Lisa Hanzelka	Carly Johnston	Leigh Hartley Eric Fredericks
Sunday 12-31-17	9:00 AM	Fr. Frank	Sacristan: Frank Swiderski Lector: Michael Zost	Philip Malloy Geneva Gorgo Mary Serrahn	Minister Needed (C2) Frank Swiderski Brian Shea
Sunday 12-31-17	12:00 PM	Fr. Frank	Sacristan: Francisco Perez Lector: Daniel Kang	Carmen Ubides	Aimee Jaszczor Anne Seigenthaler
Sunday 12-31-17	6:00 PM	Fr. Frank	Sacristan: Minister Needed Lector: Craig Scanlon	Elizabeth Cuda Bert Olson Luke Kolman	Cara Gannon Kevin Ludden Sara Hock Margaret Burke
New Year's Day Mass					
Monday 1-1-18	10:00 AM	Fr. Frank	Sacristan: Minister Needed Lector: Elizabeth Rooney	Minister Needed (H2)	Eileen Raia Minister Needed (C2) Bob Pedro

Week's Activities

Sunday, December 24

- No Activities Planned

Monday, December 25

- Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26

- 6:00 pm, Church, Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, December 27

- 5:00 pm, Kitchen, Night Ministry Cooking
- 8:00 pm, Church, CCFC Rosary

Thursday, December 28

- 4:00 pm, Church, Finlay-Benson Wedding Rehearsal

Friday, December 29

- 4:00 pm, Church, Finlay-Benson Wedding
- 5:00 pm, PC, Loaves and Fishes Dinner
- 7:00 pm, Church, Spanish Prayer Group

Saturday, December 30

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

Saints & Special Observances

Sunday:	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Monday:	The Nativity of the Lord
Tuesday:	St. Stephen; Kwanzaa begins
Wednesday:	St. John
Thursday:	The Holy Innocents
Friday:	Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Thomas Becket
Saturday:	Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
Domingo:	Cuarto Domingo de Adviento
Lunes:	La Natividad del Señor
Martes:	San Esteban; Kwanza
Miércoles:	San Juan apóstol
Jueves:	Los Santos Inocentes
Viernes:	Quinto día de la Octava de Navidad; Santo Tomás Becket
Sábado:	Sexto día de la Octava de Navidad

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates

Saturday, January 6

9:00 am to 10:00 am Set Up
10:00 am to 12:00 pm Distribution

Saturday, January 13

9:00 am to 10:00 am Set Up
10:00 am to 12:00 pm Distribution

Saturday, January 20

9:00 am to 10:00 am Set Up
10:00 am to 12:00 pm Distribution

Saturday, January 27

9:00 am to 10:00 am Set Up
10:00 am to 12:00 pm Distribution

Saturday, February 3

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 24 — December 30

Mass Intentions

Let Us Pray

5:00 pm Bill Walsh
Saturday, December 23
Sunday, December 24
9:00 am Deceased Members of St. Teresa of Avila Parish
Christmas Masses
Sunday, December 24
3:00 pm Deceased Members of St. Teresa of Avila Parish
8:00 pm Deceased Members of St. Teresa of Avila Parish
Monday, December 25
10:00 am Deceased Members of St. Teresa of Avila Parish

Please pray for the deceased ...

Lauren Ditrach Bilyeu, Michael Dudash, Andrea Harris, Dave Hilko, Edward Nevera, Andrzej Jastrzebski, Andrea Mastro Hoinacki, Sage Mesen, 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

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 December 8th and December 14th: ***Romell Durr; George Parker; Lesean King; and Moncreef Miller.***

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

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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

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.

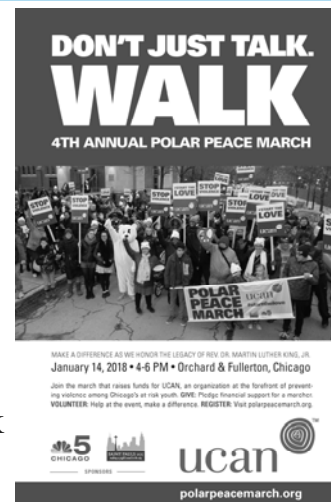
Thank you for supporting *The Women's Centers of Greater Chicagoland* again this year!



Join the *Polar Peace March*

Join St. Teresa's for the Polar Peace March on January 14, 2018, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at Orchard and Fullerton.

All proceeds go to UCAN, an organization on the forefront of preventing violence among Chicago's at-risk youth.



You can participate in two ways:

1. **JOIN OUR TEAM:** Go to this link <http://bit.ly/2ifiquwa>. Find "St. Teresa of Avila" and join us!
2. **DONATE:** Click this link <http://bit.ly/2Anvry2>

Please contact Ellen Moiani with questions at ellen.moiani@gmail.com

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 26th**

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

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 or cell (262) 358-0834

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.

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.



AACA

ALPHONSUS ACADEMY & Center for the Arts

Preschool thru 8th Grade

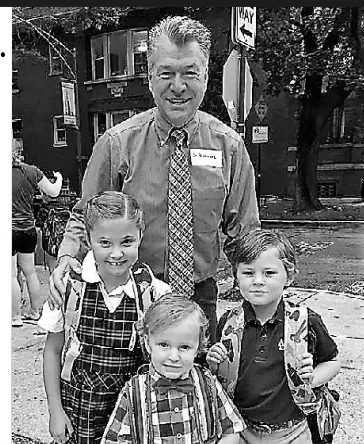
Extended Care

Scholarships Available

Join us for an Open House or private tour at 1439 W. Wellington, Chicago.
New applications will be accepted online until January 31, 2018,
then only for open positions.

We inspire and enable our children to reach their full potential by providing a rigorous education combining academic excellence, an arts-integrated curriculum and a strong Catholic foundation.

Learn more by contacting Mary Bodlak at 773-348-4629 x125 or mbodlak@alphonsusacademy.org or check out our website at www.alphonsusacademy.org/admissions



Dr. Casimer Badynee, Principal

Readings/Lecturas

December 24 — December 30

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Readings for the Week

Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27-29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
During the Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

Lecturas de la Semana

Lunes: Vigilia: Is 62:1-5; Sal 89 (88):4-5, 16-17, 27-29; Hch 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25] Noche: Is 9:1-6; Sal 96 (95):1-3, 11-13; Tit 2:11-14; Lc 2:1-14 Aurora: Is 62:11-12; Sal 97 (96):1, 6, 11-12; Tit 3:4-7; Lc 2:15-20 Día: Is 52:7-10; Sal 98 (97):1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Martes: Hch 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Sal 31 (30):3cd-9; Mt 10:17-22

Miércoles: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Sal 97 (96):1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Jueves: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Sal 124 (123):2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Viernes: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Sal 96 (95):1-3, 5b-6; Lc 2:22-35

Sábado: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Sal 96 (95):7-10; Lc 2:36-40

Domingo: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Sal 89 (88):2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lc 1:26-38

Treasures from Tradition

Santa Claus, with his heavenly patron Saint Nicholas, has been more or less in charge of gift-giving to American children for a hundred years or so. In other places, perhaps more attentive to our Christian tradition, there are different gift-bearers. In Greece, Saint Basil delivers the presents on his feast day, December 31, and makes sure everyone is sprinkled with holy water. The Baby Jesus is in charge elsewhere, called the *Christkind* in Austria and Belgium, *El Niño Jesús* in Columbia, and *Le Petit Jesus* in France, where he shares his duties with *Père Noël*. In the Czech Republic almost everyone is atheist, but *Ježíšek*, the infant Jesus, brings gifts to one and all. In Poland the “Star Man” is said to bring the gifts, although often he turns out to be the village priest in disguise. Saint Nicholas, not his Americanized cousin, is the giver in Holland, where he wears a bishop’s miter, and in Russia, where he wears a bishop’s crown. Soviet Russia tried to dethrone Saint Nicholas and promote Grandfather Frost, but no one was much fooled by this attempt to squeeze religion out of Christ’s birth. One country has a saintly woman in charge of the gifts, Saint Lucy, honored in Sweden on December 13, when children serve their parents breakfast in bed, and others awake to news that they have been nominated for a Nobel Prize. Some children have a second round of gifts on Epiphany, when the magi assume the gift-giving duties. In general, the gifts of Christmas are simple pleasures, not great heaps of treasures. Once upon a time, a new pair of socks or an orange was enough for us. No matter what gifts we receive, all of them are to point us to the true gift, and the true giver.

— Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



Tradiciones de Nuestra Fe

De las muchas tradiciones latinoamericanas para celebrar el Adviento y la Navidad, las Posadas parecen ser lo mejor conocido en EE. UU. Tienen su origen en la última mitad del siglo XVIII cuando las estrepitosas Misas de Aguinaldo dejaron de ser celebradas en México. Para remplazar la festividad de esas Misas, los laicos decidieron celebrar en sus casas tomando lo que habían visto dramatizado en los templos, esto es, el recorrido de José y María mientras buscaban posada en Belén. Como las “Antífonas de la O” de la liturgia oficial cristiana, estas Posadas llegaron a ser celebradas nueve noches consecutivas.

200 años después, muchos latinos continúan celebrando las Posadas en EE. UU. Recuerdo como de niño cantábamos “En el nombre del cielo” recorriendo las calles del barrio hasta llegar a la casa donde nos abrirían con cantos, tamales, galletitas y chocolate. Ese recorrido de José y María lamentablemente sigue todos los días en los pasos temerosos y cansados de tantos inmigrantes en este país. Como la Sagrada Familia, otras familias latinoamericanas continúan buscando hospedaje con la esperanza de dar a luz una nueva vida para sus hijos e hijas. — Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Glz, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Readings/Lecturas

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December 24 — December 30

God's Promise

The lengthy passage from Samuel is a wonderful exposition of God's promise to the house of David: that his throne would forever be gloriously occupied by his descendants. Hidden in the mystery of the prophecy is the promise of the Savior, the Messiah, Son of God and Son of David. The prophet Nathan, speaking in God's name, poetically turns around David's plan to build a house for God, and announces God's plan to build a "house," that is, a dynasty for David. From this house of David will come the Messiah, the Christ, not in kingly splendor as David ruled, but as a humble man, destined to rule forever and over all.

When God gives a gift, it's amazing what we are given—so different from what we ever could have imagined. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



La Promesa de Dios

El largo pasaje de Samuel expone de manera maravillosa la promesa de Dios a la dinastía de David: que su trono siempre estaría ocupado gloriosamente por sus descendientes. Oculta en el misterio de la profecía está la promesa del Salvador, el Mesías, Hijo de Dios e Hijo de David. El profeta Natán, quien habla en nombre de Dios, desbarata poéticamente el plan de David de construir una casa para Dios y anuncia que el plan de Dios es construir una "casa", una dinastía, para David. De esta dinastía de David provendrá el Mesías, el Cristo, quien no llegará con el esplendor majestuoso con el que reinó David, sino que vendrá como un hombre

humilde, que gobernará por los siglos de los siglos. Cuando Dios hace un regalo; lo que recibimos es asombroso: es muy distinto a lo que podríamos haber imaginado. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Today's Readings

First Reading — I will fix a place for my people. I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

Psalm — For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 89).

Second Reading — To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever (Romans 16:25-27).

Gospel — Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:26-38).



Lecturas de Hoy

Primera lectura — El Señor promete a David que su casa permanecerá para siempre (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

Salmo — Cantaré eternamente las misericordias del Señor (Salmo 89 [88]).

Segunda lectura — Pablo ora para que Dios sea glorificado mediante Jesucristo (Romanos 16:25-27).

Evangelio — El ángel Gabriel anuncia a María que ella concebirá al hijo de Dios (Lucas 1:26-38).

May It Be Done

It's that special time again — that time of wonder and joy and miracles.

Christmas is coming. It's nearly here. We know that because there's seasonal music everywhere, and family celebrations being planned, and holiday parties that demand our attendance, and gifts that must be wrapped.

But we also know it because of another big hint — every media outlet is issuing its top ten of the year songs, movies, TV shows, books, pet names and so on.

That listing started me wondering about what would be included if you and I identified our top ten Gospel quotations. If we did, which ones would make it on to your list?

I know that right at the very top of mine would be this marvelous, breathtaking statement: "May it be done to me according to your word," the words spoken by Mary to the angel Gabriel in today's Gospel. These words opened the door to the possibility of you and me entering into an entirely new kind of relationship with God. These very words changed history.

One of the things I treasure most about this story of Mary and the angel is that before Mary is presented with God's astounding request, Mary is first told: "Do not be afraid."

Imagine. Why wouldn't she be afraid, even terrified?



Mary's response is really all about a reversal, a re-write: The "No" of Adam and Eve becomes a "Yes."

In the Philadelphia Museum of Art, there is an unusual painting by Henry Tanner of this classic Annunciation scene. In it, Mary is not depicted as a totally serene girl kneeling in prayer with a glowing halo above her head as we usually find. Rather, Mary is shown sitting on her disheveled bed with unkempt hair, eyes frozen as if in awe or even terror. The look on her face is that of someone both stunned and utterly confused.

And why wouldn't she be? God is asking the unimaginable of this young, uneducated, thoroughly unprepared girl. She is being visited by an angel — and she is being asked to do what?

Of course, she was afraid, speechless, astonished, dazed. After all, Mary was being asked to make a decision: Act out of fear or act out of faith; respond with terror or respond with trust. In a way, we're all asked by life's demands to make

similar decisions — just not ones so unique and exceptional. All the major sins that you and I commit in life are ultimately grounded in fear. Fear is the number one "hostage-taker" for all of us — the fear that I won't get enough love, enough affection, enough attention, enough power, enough money, enough of anything we hold dear.

Mary's response is really all about a reversal, a re-write: The "No" of Adam and Eve becomes a "Yes." The world is offered a new model, a new blueprint, a new design upon which human lives can be based.

Mary chose trust. She chose to allow the angel's words — as daunting as they were! — to soothe her anxieties, to calm her immediate fright, to enable her to reach out in confidence.

That's why Mary is our Mother in faith. That's why she is her Son's ultimate disciple. Mary chose trust over fear, belief over doubt, freedom over being held hostage.

And the result was the birth of Jesus, God's beloved Son.

We are now challenged by Mary's example to do the same in each of our lives: trust, believe, hope, love. That's why I would put these words at the very top of my ten Scripture quotes: "May it be done to me according to your word."

Celebration Publication—Ted Wolgamot

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 Touns
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

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

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

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

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

Office Information & Bulletin Deadlines

Parish Offices are located at 1037 W. Armitage Ave. 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. Please contact Dean at dvaeth@stteresaparish.org for more information.



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Special Events & Fundraising

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Stewardship

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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

For information about ...

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

Contact Deacon Dean in the Parish Office
dvaeth@stteresaparish.org