



ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

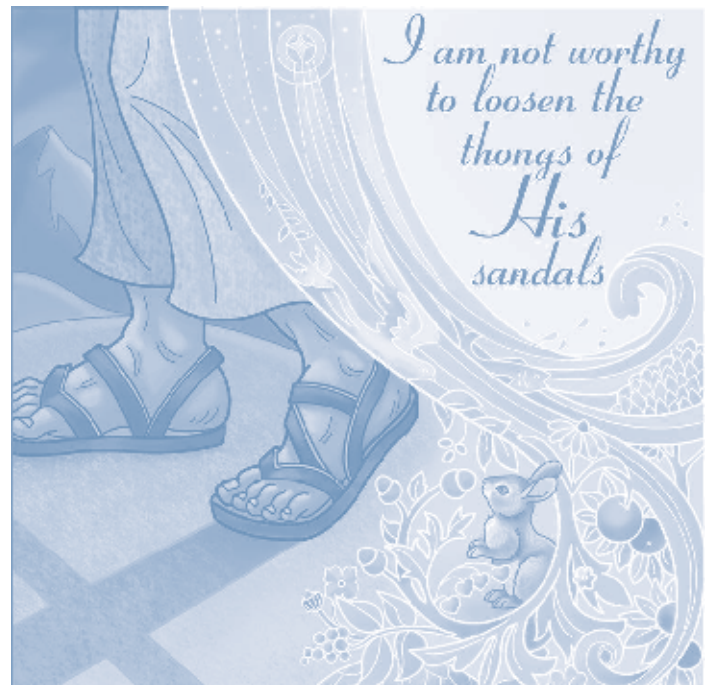
CATHOLIC PARISH ✚ EST. 1889

Faith & Spirit, *Alive*



Third Sunday of Advent December 16, 2018

*“Whoever has two cloaks should
share with the person who has none/
And whoever has food should do
likewise.”
-- Luke 3:11*



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

¹First & Second Saturdays ²First 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 (Call to register)

Office Hours

Monday – Friday 9 AM to 7:00 PM
Saturday 9 AM to 12 PM

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Stewardship

December 16 - December 22

Page Two

Reverse Advent Calendars for the Food Pantry

Reverse Advent Calendars for the Food Pantry
Back by popular demand: pick up a reverse advent calendar kit and support the Food Pantry. In a traditional Advent calendar, each day of Advent you open a box to receive a treat. In a reverse advent calendar, each day you give something, instead of receiving. Your gifts will benefit those who come to our food pantry. Instructions and materials are provided in the kit, and donations should be returned no later than Sunday, January 6th.

Ministry of Care

Ministers of Care visit with those who are unable to come to church. They offer compassion, a listening presence, prayer and the Eucharist. This ministry allows people to experience the nearness of God and the Christian community through the presence of the Minister of Care and through the reception of Holy Communion.

St. Teresa currently has just one Minister of Care, and we would like to recruit two more. Trainings are being held on Saturday, November 17th and Saturday, December 8th at Holy Name. If you are interested in stepping up in this capacity, contact Rebecca at robrien@stteresaparish.org.

Everyday Stewardship

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." (PHILIPPIANS 4:6)

St. Paul reminds us that our God is an abundant God, the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. When we trust that God will take care of us, it is easier for us to share what we have been given.

Tax Credit Scholarships

Are you interested in supporting low income students with your tax dollars? A 75% state tax credit is available for donations toward a qualified scholarship granting organization (SGO). St. Teresa of Avila has partnered with St. Benedict the African, one of just two schools still servicing Chicago's Englewood neighborhood, to encourage funding scholarships through the new Illinois tax credit scholarship program.

This program is a great way to maximize your charitable dollars. For example, a net contribution of \$1,045 (\$4180 donation with a \$3,135 tax credit) you can support a full scholarship.

Visit archchicago.org/tcs to learn more, or contact the parish office.

Leadership Training

January 19 at St Teresa will be a special day for those who want to take advantage of a free seminar in leadership in the service of social justice.

Presented by The Coalition for Spiritual & Professional Leadership, an Avila in Action grant organization, this seminar will provide you with insights and tools needed to drive positive change through the power of personal leadership.

Watch out for more to come in future announcements, but put the date on your calendar now and make 2019 a good year to take action.

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

Stewardship

Page Three

December 16 - December 22

Financial Collections

St. Teresa of Avila Parish Fiscal Year 2018-2019	Actual FY 2018-19	% Auto	Budget 2018-19	Actual vs. Budget	Actual Prev Yr	% Auto	Actual vs. Prev Yr	% Prev Yr
Collections Offertory	14,201	28%	15,975	(1,774)	13,568	25%	633	4.7%
Give Central (7/1-7/31)	37,174	72%	41,080	(3,906)	39,949	75%	(2,775)	-6.9%
Total 5 Weeks-July 2018	51,375	100%	57,055	(5,680)	53,517	100%	(2,142)	-4.0%
Collections Offertory	14,635	30%	12,780	1,855	10,952	23%	3,683	33.6%
Give Central (8/1-8/31)	34,165	70%	32,864	1,301	36,895	77%	(2,730)	-7.4%
Total 4 Weeks-August 2018	48,800	100%	45,644	3,156	47,847	100%	953	2.0%
Collections Offertory	14,962	32%	15,975	(1,013)	11,615	25%	3,347	28.8%
Give Central (9/1-9/31)	32,042	68%	41,080	(9,038)	35,305	75%	(3,263)	-9.2%
Total 5 Weeks-Sept. 2018	47,004	100%	57,055	(10,051)	46,920	100%	84	0.2%
Total 4 Weeks-Sept. 2017								
Collections Offertory	15,443	28%	12,780	2,663	16,297	31%	(854)	-5.2%
Give Central (10/1-10/31)	38,857	72%	32,864	5,993	36,169	69%	2,688	7.4%
Total 4 Weeks-Oct. 2018	54,300	100%	45,644	8,656	52,466	100%	1,834	3.5%
Total 5 Weeks-Oct. 2017								
Collections Offertory	59,241	29%	57,510	1,731	52,432	26%	6,809	13.0%
Give Central (7/1-10/31/18)	142,238	71%	147,888	(5,650)	148,318	74%	(6,080)	-4.1%
Total 18 Weeks YTD	201,479	100%	205,398	(3,919)	200,750	100%	729	0.4%
Foundation Special Extra Gift	10,000							
Grand Total (7/1-10/31/18)	211,479		205,398	6,081	200,750		10,729	5.3%

Stewardship of Prayer and Worship

Sunday: 12-9-18

Saturday, 5:00pm Mass Attendance	79
Sunday, 9:00am Mass Attendance	275
Sunday, 10:30pm Mass Attendance	85
Sunday, 12:00pm Mass Attendance	180
Sunday, 6:00pm Mass Attendance	150
Total Weekend Mass Attendance	769
Average Weekday Mass Attendance	10
Average Friday Communion Service Attendance	5
Confessions this Week	0
Anointing/Sick Calls/Hospital Visits this Week	0
Funerals since January 2018	5
Weddings since January 2018	7
Baptisms since January 2018	50

There are 351 parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago; only 55 parishes have weekend attendance that exceeds 2,000. St. Teresa's October Count averaged for 2016, 550; for 2017, 628 people at weekend Masses.

The 2017/2018 monthly averages are: January 489/644; February, 570/566; March, 640/637; April, 705/810; May, 573/583; June, 541/523; July, 463/511; August, 510/509; September, 566/563; October, 628/652; November 622/569.

In the Archdiocese there is 1 priest for every 1525 parishioners; in the USA the ratio is 1:1653 Catholics; 27 percent of US parishes do not have a resident priest. In comparison, South America has a ration of 1:7094 Catholics.

Parish Calendars

December 16 - December 22

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Celebrant/Minister Schedule

Date	Time	Celebrant	Sacristan/Lector	Eucharistic Host	Eucharistic Cup
Saturday 12-22-18	5:00 PM	Rev. Richard Benson, CM	Sacristan: Lisa Marquez Lector: Eric Fredericks	Nancy Gerstad	Lisa Marquez Margaret Burke
Sunday 12-23-18	9:00 AM	Fr. Frank	Sacristan: Frank Swiderski Lector: Jayme Nicholas	<i>MINISTER NEEDED</i> <i>MINISTER NEEDED</i> Mark Van Grinsven	Frank Swiderski Michael Zost Jamie Lutkus Nancy Van Grinsven
Sunday 12-23-18	12:00 PM	Fr. Frank	Sacristan: Francisco Perez Lector: Anthony Rivera	Daniel Kang Carmen Ubides Mary Stanton	Rick Mittereder Bert Olson Luke Kolman Alejandro Lopez
Sunday 12-23-18	6:00 PM	Fr. Frank	Sacristan: Eryn Gronewoeller Lector: Doug Lovette	Pete Doyle Carol Coffey Dani Shain	Anne Seigenthaler Christine Saddy Eileen Raia Philip Malloy
Monday 12-24-18	3:00 PM	Fr. Frank	Sacristan: <i>MINISTER NEEDED</i> Lector: Children's Service	Rose Ohiku Lisa Marquez Bob Pedro	Brian Shea Sara Hock <i>MINISTER NEEDED</i> Eileen Raia
Monday 12-24-18	7:00 PM	Fr. Frank	Sacristan: <i>MINISTER NEEDED</i> Lector: <i>MINISTER NEEDED</i>	Mary Serrahn Maria Montes	Kayla Mueller Alice Morales-Villenas Kevin Ludden
Tuesday 12-25-18	10:30 AM	Fr. Frank	Sacristan: Frank Swiderski Lector: Geneva Gorgo	Deirdre Curry Bormes Nancy Gerstad Tyler Paul	<i>MINISTER NEEDED</i> Christina Brodell Jocelyn Lutkus <i>MINISTER NEEDED</i>

Week's Activities

Sunday, December 16
 10:00 am, PC, Sunday Hospitality
 10:30 am, Rec/PC2, CGS
 4:30 pm, Rec/PC2, CGS III
 4:30 pm, Rec, Edge & Quest Teen Mass
Monday, December 17
 4:00 pm, Rec/PC2, CGS
Tuesday, December 18
 6:00 pm, PC, Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday, December 19
 No Activities Planned
Thursday, December 20
 9:00 am, PC, Food Pantry Delivery/Sorting
Friday, December 21
 3:00 pm, PC, Loaves & Fishes
 7:00 pm, PC, Spanish Prayer Group
Saturday, December 22
 9:00 am, GS-PC, Food Pantry

Saints & Special Observances

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent;
Las Posadas begins
Tuesday: St. Damascus
Friday: St. Peter Canisius

Domingo: Tercer Domingo de Adviento; *Las Posadas* comienzan
Martes: Día Internacional del Emigrante
Viernes: San Pedro Canisio; Invierno

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates

Saturday, December 15
 9:00 am to 10:00 am Set Up
 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Distribution
Saturday, December 22
 9:00 am to 10:00 am Set Up
 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Distribution
Saturday, December 29
 9:00 am to 10:00 am Set Up
 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Distribution
Saturday, January 5
 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 16 - December 22

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 15

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

Sunday, December 16

9:00 am Tim Halpin

12:00 pm Deceased Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Parish

6:00 pm Deceased Parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila Parish

Let Us Pray

Please pray for the deceased ...

Jeffrey Bergen, Nancy Hadler, Chuck Jabaley, Joyce Jaszczor, Marie Koesters-Ranley, Frank Kolman, Thomas Latoski, Sage Mesen, Bob Semmer, Pat Stanley, and the Victims of War & Domestic Violence

w Baptisms

*Leonardo Lopez (12-8-18), Archer Bennett Vachris (12-9-18)
Emilia Maeve Herrmann (12-30-18)*

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

*Alicia Anderson
Dorothy Barns
Connie Beran
Nicholas Beran
Berta Billalvazo
Michelle Brandt
Elizabeth Brown
Jerry Burdick
Carol Coffey
Susan Conway
Patricia Chuck
Elizabeth Ryan Dean
Michael De Blasis
Maria de la Luz
Alex DeNoma
Kim Duffy
Isabelle Eiffert
Helen Fasano
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
Ronald Jakubec
Krista Kutz
Betty LaCour
Carmen D. Lorenzana
Gabriel Lozada
Madeline 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
Juan Nigo
Msgr. Kevin O'Neill
Frank O'Toole
Clayton Poe
Carol Poyner
Hector J. Rivera
Luis Rivera
Pedro Rodriguez
Ray Romero
Jeffrey Roscoe
Denise Rosen*

*Sr. Camilla Mary Marney, OCD
Sr. Jean Ryan, OCD
Fr. Cesaire Souissa
Will Sullivan
Mima Tome
JoAnn Jahnke Trainer
Elizabeth Ann True
Marianne Usiak
Sara Vega
Drew Williams
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 last week -- **Chris Jones; Ruby Davis; David Roman; and Rigoberto Rodriguez.**

If you would like to have a Mass said for someone alive or deceased, contact Deacon Dean at the parish office at (773) 528-6650 or dvaeth@stteresaparish.org. In order to be added to our prayer list, a member of the immediate family should request that a person's name be added. We leave the names of the deceased parishioners and friends on the list for about twelve months.



Confirmation

What
Are you interested in receiving the Catholic sacrament of Confirmation? St. Vincent de Paul Parish will offer a sacramental preparation program for adults. All are welcome. The sacrament will be conferred by Bishop Robert Casey at the 8:00pm Sunday Night Mass on **March 3, 2019!**

When
Classes will take place on Sunday evenings from **6:30-7:30pm** in the Rectory at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1010 W. Webster Ave. starting **January 13.**

How
Register for the program by contacting Rebecca Carmichael at rcarmic1@depaul.edu.

Baby Bottles

Beginning on these dates, our parish will be participating in The Baby Bottle Project benefiting The Women's Centers of Greater Chicagoland. This non-profit organization directly assists mothers and families experiencing crisis pregnancies by offering emotional, financial, material, and spiritual support through counseling, clothing & monetary provisions, prayer, and other aid. Each year the three locations together have over 5,000 appointments with expecting mothers. By God's Grace, The Women's Centers have saved almost 40,000 babies—and their mothers—from abortion since opening in 1984.

Please take a Baby Bottle home with you from the church on **November 25th**, fill it with your spare change, and return it the weekend of **January 13th**.

This is a simple, but crucial fundraising effort for The Women's Centers. Please note the Baby Bottles cost almost \$1.00 per bottle and are recycled afterwards so please return upon completion of the project. Thank you for helping defend life, and remember to keep all pro-life undertakings in your prayers.

Also if you are making a donation by check, please make it payable to: The Women's Center. Thank you!



Tutors Needed

HighSight, located at 315 W. Walton, seeks academic tutors for its catholic high school scholarship recipients. The commitment is for two hours, once a week. Volunteers can tutor on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings or Saturday mornings.

Call Jesus Gomez at 312-787-9824, ext. 229 or email at jesus.gomez@highsight.org for more information.

Breakfast with Santa

Save the date for a visit with Santa on Sunday, December 23rd, following the 9am Mass. Join us for Mass and stick around afterwards for a light breakfast. Children will have the opportunity to speak with Santa. This event is free and open to all. Invite your friends!



Travel to Holy Land with Fr. Richard Benson

Travel with Fr. Richard Benson, C.M. Adjunct Professor of DePaul University, Chicago, IL on our

Holy Land Pilgrimage

Where: Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Galilee, Via Crucis, Last Supper, Gethsemene, Dormition, Nativity Church, Capernaum, Tel Aviv.

Trip Dates: Jun 10-20, 2020

Cost: \$4,000.00 Airfare and ALL-included

To register, please contact (855) 842-8001 or (508) 340-9370. You can also

Register online at www.proximotravel.com

Archdiocese of Chicago Immigration Film Festival

One Border One Body

January 7, 2019, 7 pm
St. Julie Billiart
7399 W. 159th Street
Tinley Park, IL 60477

Beyond Borders

January 19, 2019, 5:30 pm
St. Christopher
4130 W. 147th Street
Midlothian, IL 60445

Beyond Borders

January 20, 2019, 1 pm & 6 pm
Old St. Patrick's
625 W. Adams St.
Chicago, IL 60661

Tony & Janina's American Wedding

January 11, 2019, 7 pm
St. George
6706 W. 175th Street
Tinley Park, IL 60477

Harvest of Empire

January 6, 2019, 5 pm
St. Clement
642 W. Deming Place
Chicago, IL 60614

One Border One Body

January 27, 2019, 11:30 am
St. Gertrude
6200 N. Glenwood Ave.
Chicago, IL 60660

Harvest of Empire

January 14, 2019, 7 pm
St. Michael
14327 Highland Ave.
Orland Park, IL 60462

Dying to Live

January 13, 2019, 4 pm
St. Teresa of Avila
1033 W. Armitage Ave.
Chicago, IL 60614

Readings/Lecturas

December 16 - December 22

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Readings for the Week

Monday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Tuesday:	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Wednesday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Thursday:	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38
Friday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Saturday:	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Lecturas de la Semana

Lunes:	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Sal 72 (71):1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Martes:	Jer 23:5-8; Sal 72 (71):1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Miércoles:	Jue 13:2-7, 24-25a; Sal 71 (70):3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lc 1:5-25
Jueves:	Is 7:10-14; Sal 24 (23):1-6; Lc 1:26-38
Viernes:	Cant 2:8-14 o Sof 3:14-18a; Sal 33 (32):2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lc 1:39-45
Sábado:	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lc 1:46-56
Domingo:	Mi 5:1-4a; Sal 80 (81) :2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lc 1:39-45

Treasures From Tradition

Years ago, the trick question on religion quizzes would be to name all the liturgical colors, or the colors of the vestments worn at Mass. Rose is a color seldom seen, used at most two days a year. Today, “Gaudete Sunday,” is one of those days. The name of the day is drawn from an opening verse in the old Latin Mass texts: Gaudete is Latin for “Rejoice!” This year’s Gospel certainly reflects that mood as Elizabeth feels her infant within her leaping for joy at the presence of Mary. Mary’s visit to her aged cousin is an act of compassion between women, as two kinswomen who are bearing children into the world share their joy.

Some churches retain the custom of having the priest wear rose vestments today, and many will use a rose candle in the Advent wreath. Violet is the official color for Advent and Lent, but many parishes employ different hues for each season, trying to keep them distinct. In medieval times, dye was costly, and poor parishes used unornamented plain cloth for vestments. Dyes were expensive and some colors, particularly purple, difficult to achieve. In England, purple dye was made from mollusks, yielding at best a deep indigo or blue and not the desired violet. Thus, the color of Advent in the British Isles has long been a deep blue, reminding many people of Mary’s presence at the heart of the Advent mystery. That theology is largely unplanned: it’s all because of the clams!

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



Tradiciones de Nuestra Fe

Los cristianos latinos tenemos unos cinco siglos en nuestra trayectoria de fe y como todo cristiano aguardamos la segunda venida del Mesías, Jesús. Nuestra espera forma parte de dos milenios de cristianos que buscan verlo llegar en las nubes.

Desde el siglo VII la oración oficial de la Iglesia clama el retorno de Cristo con las exclamaciones llamadas las “Antífonas Oh”. Estas llaman a Jesús pidiéndole que venga bajo los títulos de Emmanuel, Sabiduría celestial, Señor de gran poder, Vara de Isaí, Llave de David, Alba de la luz, y Deseo y Rey de gentes, y algunos más. Estos refranes se usan aún todavía hoy durante los días 17 al 23 de diciembre, y unidas en un acróstico latino forman las palabras *erocras* (estará mañana), como respuesta a la petición cristiana. Eventualmente en el siglo X o XI estas antífonas fueron unidas en el canto gregoriano *Veni, veni Emmanuel* (Oh ven, oh ven Emmanuel).

Este adviento mientras cantamos las antiguas antífonas hay que preguntarnos si de veras estamos listos para el regreso del Hijo del Hombre que viene para juzgar a vivos y muertos.

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

Readings/Lecturas

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December 16 - December 22

Rejoice!

Today has traditionally been called “Gaudete Sunday.” The Latin tag is derived from Paul’s appeal in the second reading to “rejoice always in the Lord,” and the Latin Mass text based on that reading. The irony and paradox of this Christian joy is underlined by the fact that Paul wrote those words in prison. But from there he could see the progress of God’s work.

Is it obvious to us? We feel that this is not the time for joy when there is so much suffering and moral evil. It is interesting, then, that the first reading is from the prophet Zephaniah, who is almost exclusively concerned with gloomy visions of Judgment Day. Today the Church selects the only optimistic text in Zephaniah, in which the prophet has been touched by the spirit of joy.

This, we are assured on all sides, is “the season of joy.” Let us recapture that feeling of joy in our lives and reflect it to those who are joyless.

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¡Regocíjate!

El día de hoy se le ha llamado tradicionalmente “Domingo Gaudete” o de la “Alegría”. El nombre latino se deriva de la petición de Pedro en la segunda lectura de “alégrense siempre en el Señor”, y del texto de la Misa en latín en el que está basada esta lectura. La ironía y paradoja de esta alegría cristiana se manifiesta en el hecho que Pablo escribió esas palabras en la prisión. Pero desde allí podía ver el progreso de la obra de Dios.

¿Nos parece obvio a nosotros? Sentimos que este no es un tiempo para la alegría cuando hay tanto sufrimiento e inmoralidad. Es interesante, entonces, que la primera lectura sea del profeta Sofonías, que está casi exclusivamente preocupado con sombrías visiones del Día del Juicio. Hoy la Iglesia selecciona la única parte optimista de Sofonías, donde el profeta es tocado por el espíritu del gozo.

Esta es, se nos asegura en todas partes, “la temporada de la alegría”. Recuperemos ese espíritu de alegría en nuestra vida y que se refleje en los que no tienen ese gozo.

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Today’s Readings

First Reading — Your God will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

Psalm — Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 12:6).

Second Reading — Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! (Philippians 4:4-7).

Gospel — Whoever who has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. Whoever who has food should do likewise (Luke 3:10-18).



Lecturas de Hoy

Primera lectura — ¡Canta! ¡Da gritos de júbilo! ¡Gózate y regocíjate! El Señor tu Dios está entre ustedes y es un poderoso salvador (Sofonías 3:14-18a).

Salmo — El Señor es mi Dios y salvador (Isaías 12).

Segunda lectura — ¡Alégrense! El Señor está cerca. Presenten sus peticiones a Dios (Filipenses 4:4-7).

Evangelio — Juan dice a sus oyentes que compartan sus posesiones con los necesitados (Lucas 3:10-18)

The Reason for the Season: Joy

“Shout for joy.” “Sing joyfully.” “Be glad and exalt with all your heart” (Zep 3:14). “Cry out with joy and gladness” (Is 12:6). “Rejoice” (Phil 4:4).

“I shall say it again...” Paul adds helpfully, in case we haven’t gotten the picture by the second reading, “Rejoice!” (Phil 4:4).

Some of us may have an easier time with this list of imperatives than others. We may be celebrating the birth of a child, have found fulfilling work, feel God’s love and care, be surrounded by friends and family or simply be in a good mood. Today’s reading might confirm how we already feel, or give us the slight nudge we need into an emotion that seems natural.

Others might feel just the opposite. Separation from friends or family through death, absence or conflict; anxiety about health, finances or current events; a difficult prayer life; or mental health challenges such as anxiety or depression could make it seem nearly impossible to express or even feel any measure of joy or gladness.

How can we believe the first reading’s claim that God has defeated our enemies and we “have no further misfortune to fear” (Zep 3:15) or sing with the psalmist that we are “confident and unafraid” (Is 12:2)? How can we obey Paul’s instruction to “have no anxiety at all” (Phil 4:6) in the midst of the suffering and strife that is an inevitable part of life and that can sometimes be overwhelming?

Even the Advent season, with its general mood of longing, anticipation and hope, seems to bear out the intuition that rejoicing is premature. While the season is not depressing, as we look forward to Jesus’ birth and his second coming there is a definite feeling of unfulfillment and an understanding that we are still waiting, holding off on the celebration until Jesus arrives. We are sometimes encouraged not to decorate until Christmas Eve and not to follow the secular trend of extending Christmas earlier and earlier, remembering that the festivities only start with Jesus’ birth.

Of course, the whole thing might seem a little silly from a certain point of view. It is absurd to be anxiously waiting

Whatever is going on in our lives, we still have reason for hope and joy.

for our Savior’s birth when we know it happened over 2,000 years ago. It is nearly as bad to excitedly anticipate the second coming as if it is imminent when we actually have no idea when it will be.

But that state of knowing Jesus is already here, even as we wait for him to arrive on Christmas, while recognizing in a sense that we will still be waiting even when December 25 arrives, embodies Christian life. It is only thrown into a little extra relief during Advent.

Jesus’ incarnation happened 2,000 years ago. He is always with us, and he has already conquered sin and death. Salvation, forgiveness and the power to live out God’s love toward others are already available to us.

Yet Jesus can feel distant or nonexistent. Jesus does not prevent suffering, sin and death. That is why we need the reminder to rejoice no matter how we are feeling. Whatever is going on in our lives, we still have reason for hope and joy.

In a very real way, we are still waiting to be released from evil and to experience the fullness of the kingdom of God. And so we also mourn, if not for ourselves than for others that are suffering, sorrowing or in the grips of sinful behavior.

But this week’s readings tell us that joy has the last word. In the Gospel, John the Baptist helps us prepare not for Jesus’ absence but for his coming. We should also remember that even John did not realize how close that joy was and had not recognized in fact that he already knew the Messiah. Maybe the same is true for us.

St. Teresa of Avila Parish Leadership Teams

Pastoral Council

Jessica Marx
Anna Althoff
Bertel Olson
Luke Kolman

Kate Lynch
Jose Cervantes
Mary Paz Ramirez
Rebecca O'Brien

Anna Althoff is president of the Parish Pastoral Council.
Email: anna.althoff@livehealthsmart.com

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

Finance Council

Justin Alden
Jack Halpin
Ray Genellie
Steve Fortino
Andrew O'Dekirk
Chris Toups

Cooper Cohen
Alexandra Vizard
Steve Kolinski
Ann Finlay
Laura Lueninghoener

Justin Alden is chair of the Parish Finance Council.
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.

Stewardship Committee

Daniel Cortese
Kelly Dean
Eryn Gronewoller
Claire Kenkel
Lisa Marquez

John Mitchell
Rebecca O'Brien
Mary Serrahn
Dan Summins
Mark Van Grinsven

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

Stewardship Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center.

Office Information and 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 7:00 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 John at bulletin@stteresaparish.org for more information.

Parish Staff

Fr. Frank Latzko, ext. 213
Pastor
fjsasso@aol.com

Maggie Fernandez, ext. 231
Business Manager
mfernandez@stteresaparish.org

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

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

John DeWyze
Technology Coordinator/Bulletin
jdewyze@stteresaparish.org

Sergio Mora, ext. 212
Building & Facilities Manager
smora@stteresaparish.org

Irma Saavedra
Housekeeping

Jason Krumwiede,
Director of Music
musicalnut1@mac.com

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

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

Ministry Leadership Chart

Faith Formation Kate Lynch klynch@stteresaparish.org	Social Justice Seeking a Leader	Liturgy Fr. Frank fjsasso@aol.com	Adult Spirituality Lina Hilko lhilko@aol.com
Buildings & Facilities Sergio Mora smora@stteresaparish.org	Special Events & Fundraising Rebecca O'Brien robrien@stteresaparish.org	Stewardship Rebecca O'Brien robrien@stteresaparish.org	Evangelization Seeking a Leader

Our Mission: Saint Teresa of Avila Parish is a diverse Catholic community of faith that embraces everyone, without exception. We see ourselves as uniquely able to engage in dialogue with people of all faiths and act as peacemakers in our city. Challenged by the Gospel, nourished by the Eucharist, and inspired by the teachings of Saint Teresa of Avila, we are called to be witnesses of Christ's Love for the salvation of all people. We are a stewardship parish. 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 7:30PM



ST. TERESA OF AVILA
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For More 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 More Information About...

Baptism, Marriage, Reconciliation, Mass Intentions, RCIA or Communion for the Sick
Contact Deacon Dean in the Parish Office
dvaeth@stteresaparish.org