



ST. MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA PARISH

Archdiocesan Center for Chinese Apostolate

聖德肋撒堂區 總教區華人牧靈中心

January 16, 2022

Second Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Christ Center of Our Lives



This Sunday we hear the story of the wedding at Cana in the Gospel. This joyful story oftentimes can be heard at weddings. It is the first of seven signs around which half of John's Gospel is structured. A sign is a miraculous activity of Jesus that discloses his identity as Messiah and Son of God. What's our response to Jesus' signs?

In a wonderful Memoir titled, *Beyond East and West*, John C.W. Wu shares his remarkable conversion experience and his centered life on Christ during a most difficult time. Below is a prayer from the Memoir, which I found very helpful.

Christ alone has given me His peace.
With Christ, there is peace even in war.
Without Christ, there is war even in peace.
With Christ, the poor are rich.
Without Christ, the rich are poor.
With Christ, adversity is sweet.
Without Christ, prosperity is bitter.
With Christ, the ignorant are wise.
Without Christ, the wise are fools.
With Christ, life is a prelude to Heaven.
Without Christ, life is a prelude to Hell.

May we experience Christ's transformative power this week and always.

Peace, Fr. Francis

MASS SCHEDULE

St. Barbara Chapel

Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday: 8 a.m.

St. Barbara Church

Saturday: 5 p.m.

Sunday: 6 a.m./9:30 a.m.

Indonesian: 2nd Sunday: 11:30 a.m.

DEVOTIONS

First Saturday Healing Mass

St. Barbara Chapel: 8 a.m.

The Rosary

Sunday 5:30 a.m. Before 6 a.m. Mass

St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church

Monday/Wednesday/Friday: 8 a.m.

Sunday: 8 a.m./10:30 a.m.

Cantonese: 1st Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

Mandarin: 2nd Saturday: 4:00 p.m. (TBA)

4th Sunday: 12:30 p.m.

DEVOTIONS

Mondays with Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity:

4-5 p.m. Rosary and 5-6 p.m. Holy Hour

First Friday Holy Hour: 7 p.m.



St. Barbara Worship Site

Saturday, Jan. 15th Vigil | 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 5:00 p.m. Birthday Blessing for Crisalzen C. Saludo-Fe Albanese by Maria Saludao
In Thanksgiving to Senor Sts Nino by Maria Saludo
+ Dominic Barbaro by Barbaro Family
+ Divine Mercy for All by C. Kisielente & Family
+ John Fockler by wife Jane Fockler

Sunday, Jan. 16th - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 6:00 a.m. + Donald Vetovec by Mary Jean Wong
9:30 a.m. Birthday Blessing for Judy Lukwinski by Dolores
99th Birthday Blessing for Rose Stronczek by Marilyn & Diane Rzasa
Health Blessing for Andres Barivan by Angela Alonzo
Health Blessing for Nenette Alonzo by Alonzo Family

Tuesday, Jan. 18th | Weekday

- 8:00 a.m. All Forgotten Souls in Purgatory by Dominic Barbaro

Thursday, Jan. 20th | Saint Fabian, Pope and Martyr; Saint Sebastian, Martyr

- 8:00 a.m. + Stan & Ted Piorecki by Parishioners

Saturday, Jan. 22nd — | Weekday

- 8:00 a.m. + Sister Michaline Oleszkowicz by Family

Saturday, Jan. 22nd Vigil | 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 5:00 p.m. + Divine Mercy for All by C. Kisielente & Family
99th Birthday Blessings for Rose Stronczek by Marilyn & Diane Rzasa

Sunday, Jan. 23rd - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 6:00 a.m.
9:30 a.m. + Lillian Helma by B. Glabicki

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

St. Barbara

Saturday, Jan. 22nd:

- 5 p.m. Lector:** E. Raya, B. Hudren
Eucharistic Minister: E. Raya

Sunday, Jan. 23rd:

- 6 a.m. Lector:** J. Bertucci
Eucharistic Minister: G. Vanderford
9:30 a.m. Lector: H. Alonzo, A. Alonzo, III
Eucharistic Minister: J. Lukwinski

St. Therese Worship Site

Sunday, Jan. 16th | Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00 a.m. + Sau Fong Yuan by Marian Roti
+ Theresa Scopacasa by Teresa Lee & Margrate Moy
+ Geneviere Crocker by Ms. Charlotte Desanto
+ Jimmy Annoreno, Elizabeth Nardi by Debbie Annoreno
+ Charlotte Andrews by Debbie Annoreno
10:30 a.m. + Jenping J. Chan by Family
+ June Moy by Gertrude Chan
+ Mabel Chan by Darlene
+ Pearl Ko by Darlene
+ Bow Kam Dea—Woo by Marian Torrez & Family
+ William Hong Hing by Monica Lam & Family

Monday, Jan. 17th | Saint Anthony, Abbot

- 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 19th | Weekday

- 8:00 a.m.

Friday, Jan. 21st | Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

- 8:00 a.m. + Henry Yong by sister Oy

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Florian Cetner**. The visitation will be on Friday Jan. 21st from 3-9pm at Pomierski and Funeral mass will be on Sat. Jan. 22nd at 10am at St. Barbara Church.

St. Therese

Sunday, Jan. 23rd:

- 8 a.m. Greeters:** N. Lowe, J. Lowe
Lectors: B. Fung, J. Fung
St. Michael Ministry:
10:30 a.m. Greeters: C. Lee, J. Yee, D. Lowe
Lectors: C. DiFranco, D. Lowe
Eucharistic Ministers: Jade (Altar), Edy (Choir Loft)
St. Michael Ministry: Enrique

Thanks and Welcome



Congratulations to all the **Altar Servers** who were commissioned at St. Barbara Church last Sunday. Thanks to them

for their commitment and faithfulness, to their parents for supporting them to serve, and to their catechists for training and helping them to serve. The rest of the servers will be commissioned at the 10:30am Family Mass at St. Therese this Sunday.

We welcome **the Archbishop Quigley Knights Council** to join our 9:30am mass this Sunday at St. Barbara. We are grateful to their presence and support.



Peace, Fr. Francis



Super Duper Bowl - Sunday, February 13, 2022

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta will be selling Super Duper Bowl Squares for **\$100 each**. You can buy multiple squares or split one with friends - whatever your budget allows. This is a great way to support the parish AND potentially win some money!

Payout Details:

- **Final Score: \$2,500**
- **Halftime Score: \$500**
- **1st and 3rd Quarter: \$250**
- **Score Changes: \$1,000 total** (e.g., if there are 8 score changes, each gets $\$1,000/8 = \125)

Numbers for squares will be randomly drawn on Saturday, February 12, 2022 after the 5pm Mass at St. Barbara Church.

Once drawn, we will email and make the completed square sheet public.

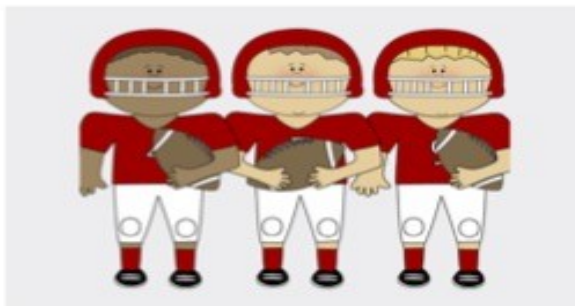
Due to COVID, there will be no party this year.

To purchase Super Duper Bowl Squares or for more information, please contact:

- Parish Office at 312-842-6777 or at 312-842-7979
- Nick Andriacchi at 312-933-7712 or email at nandriacchi@yahoo.com

Purchase Options:

- Give Central: <https://www.givecentral.org/location/445/event/12573>
- Checks payable to St. Mother Teresa Parish. Please add SDB in the memo.





Ways to Give

Most of us make our parish offerings and donations by giving cash or writing a check. However, there are other ways of giving, and some may generate more tax benefits for you.

1. Give online (GiveCentral & Paypal)
2. Give stock or mutual fund holdings
3. Give appreciated real estate held for more than one year
4. Sign up for Employers' Matching Gifts
5. Establish a Donor-Advised Fund
6. Make Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from a traditional IRA account
7. Give Life Insurance
8. Plan for Gifts and Bequests

To Give is to Receive (Tax Benefits)

Last week we went over the benefits of donating through GiveCentral; this week let's talk about six other types of giving that come with other tax benefits.

1. *Donate stock or mutual fund holdings - you will pay no capital gains tax and the parish will receive the full value of the donation.*

- With Long-Term Capital Gains or Investments held for more than 1 year, you can claim a full-value deduction in your Itemized Deductions.
- With Short-Term Capital Gains or Investments held for less than 1 year, your deduction is limited to the cost basis of the stock or mutual fund in your Itemized Deductions.

2. *Donate appreciated real estate held for more than one year:*

- For property with no mortgage remaining, pay no capital gains tax and claim the full value in your Itemized deductions.
- For a mortgaged property, the extent of tax benefit will depend on the amount of the mortgage remaining.

3. *Establish a Donor-Advised Fund:*

- Easily and quickly set up a charitable investment account for the sole purpose of supporting charitable organizations.
- Qualify for immediate tax deductions through contributions of cash, stock, or mutual funds.
- Grow the invested funds tax-free.
- Recommend ongoing grants to any IRS-qualified charities.
- Name a successor to continue gifting to charitable organizations after you are born to eternal life.

4. *Make Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from a traditional IRA account:*

- Donor must be aged 70.5 years or older.
- Payment from a traditional IRA goes to the parish directly.
- Use these donations to lower your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI).
- These distributions count towards the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) if donor is 72 or older.

5. *Name the Parish in your Life Insurance policy:*

- Donate a new or existing life insurance policy by transferring ownership.
- Donate any dividends and receive tax deductions.

6. *Plan for Gifts and Bequests: Bequests, gift annuities, charitable trusts, and other planned gifts make a lasting impact after you are born to eternal life.*

If you are interested in pursuing or learning more about how to implement these ways of giving, please visit the following Archdiocese website and reach out to their offices for more detailed information:

<https://giving.archchicago.org/ways-to-give/how-to-give#accordion-example-1>

The information listed above is not intended to be all inclusive or exhaustive. Please be sure to consult your tax advisor and financial institutions for your particular situation to implement any of these gifting options.

And tune in next week for some free ways to support the parish. Thank you for your continued support of SMTCP!

PEACE PROJECT

Everyone needs peace within oneself, among the families and communities especially during the hard time of pandemic. **Sr. Monica**

Zhang has a new project,

"Live Peace, Teach Peace" this new year for all people. She is willing to offer a training for those who want to experience peace themselves and help others to experience peace. If you are interested in helping this project, please contact her email: srmonica@stmotherteresaparish.org or office phone number: 312-842-7979, 312-842-6777.



CHRISTMAS DONATIONS AT ST. BARBARA as of 01/03/2022. THANK YOU to all who contributed!

Matt & Judy Dalcamo	100
Angela DeGrazia	25
Mr. & Mrs. John Ziemba	25

Total Donated as of 01/10/2022: \$8,762

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS AT ST. THERESE as of 01/04/2022. THANK YOU to all who contributed!

So Sau Ho	225
James Flannery	150

Total Donated as of 01/10/2022: \$41,970

Upcoming Special Events

Jan. 16th: Parent Formation, Topic: "Peer Pressure"
9:15am at St. Therese

Taking Down Church Christmas Decorations will take place on Sunday Jan. 16th after the 9:30am mass for St. Barbara Church and after the 10:30am mass for St. Therese Church. Your help is needed and appreciated!

Next Mandarin Mass will be on Sunday, Jan. 23rd. Mandarin Alpha is cancelled for this month.

Sunday, Jan. 23rd is **Word of God Sunday and Ecumenical Sunday.**

Our scheduled Parish Pastoral Council meeting for Monday Jan. 24th is canceled out of abundant caution for safety. We will reschedule it soon.

Save the Date: Our Lunar New Year celebration will be on Sunday, Feb. 6th at the 10:30am mass. There will be a planning meeting today after the 10:30am mass in the Community Room at St. Therese Worship Site.

Catholic Schools Week is from Jan. 31st to Feb. 4th, 2022.

St. Therese Worship Site

2022 Offering Envelope Boxes are available for registered families to pick up at the Church entrance table.

St. Vincent DePaul of our Parish would like to extend a whole hearted "THANK YOU" to all and particularly the school children and families who have donated to our two drives. The food drive to benefit Benton House pantry and the glove, hat, scarf and sock collection to help the homeless and those in need at the St. James St. Vincent Center. Both collections were very successful!



Mondays with the Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity:

4pm-5pm: Rosary on the Streets

5pm-6pm: Holy Hour—All are welcome!

Our Prayer – For public servants and elected officials: May God grant them the humility, wisdom, and courage to defend all human life; We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU by Sr. Caritas

About a year ago or more, I got a new broom for my apartment. The old one was almost too good to throw out. I decided to cut some of the handle off the broom. I took it to my car and put it in the trunk. Now when it snows, I use that broom to brush the snow off the car. It works faster than the snow brush I have. It can reach across most of the top of my car. All of us probably have things which had one purpose originally and we can re-purpose the item for continued use.

In today's Gospel we have a somewhat similar event. At the wedding feast house near the door sat six stone water jars. They were used to store water for the family. Water had to be carried from the well. Jesus re-purposed them. He changed the water into wine and the jars became containers filled with wine, to the amazement of those celebrating. Mary had expectations of Jesus but probably even she was surprised.

In many ways, we are like those water jars. We have many talents and do many things in our lives. Probably at one time or another you have been surprised to find a task you did not believe you could do. At the encouragement of another you discovered it was something you could do, or it was something you could learn to accomplish.

We are like those water jars. We see a certain purpose for ourselves and we live our lives doing it as best we can. Jesus has another idea. In the second reading today, we have a brief and incomplete listing of some of the gifts the Spirit gives to people. We are like those jars open and waiting to be filled with the gift or gifts needed in our lives. God is ready to pour these gifts into us. The Holy Spirit is with us to activate and increase these gifts in us. We have to do what Mary told the servants. We have to have the openness to "Do whatever He tells you." It is much harder to give a gift to a closed hand or in this case, to a closed off person. Openness is the key. So, in this new year, pray for the gift of an open spirit, an open heart. Follow the directive in your life "Do Whatever He Tells you." Follow the will of God. It is the secret to transformation and holiness. Then you will not only "be jars of water," but water transformed into a life of the best tasting wine."

WEEKLY COLLECTION - Jan. 9, 2022

St. Barbara

Sunday Envelopes	\$ 645.00
Sunday Loose	\$ 232.00
Give Central	\$ 517.00
Total Collection	\$ 1,394.00

YTD Weekly

Actual	\$ 59,119.00	\$ 1,394.00
Goal	\$ 72,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
% of Goal	81%	56%

Votives and Vigil Lights	\$
	\$

St. Therese

\$ 685.00
\$ 239.00
\$ 710.00
\$ 1,634.00

YTD Weekly

\$ 64,873.00	\$ 1,634.00
\$ 72,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
89%	65%

\$
\$

Attention: For those who make your offering in the form of a check, please make checks to St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish. Electronic giving through **GiveCentral.org** is the safe and secure way to make your weekly donations. Donate via credit card or electronic check (ACH). *Thank YOU, and God Bless you for your generosity!*

St. Therese Church : www.givecentral.org/location/190 or

St. Barbara Church: www.givecentral.org/location/445



Please pray for those who are ill, homebound, hospitalized and in need of continued prayers.

Amalia Agins, Austin Agins, Bernadette Agins, Joyce Agins, Stephen Agins, Mary Aguirre, Angeleo Alonzo,, Debbie Annoreno, Amy Averet, Kimberly Babe, Geraldine Baldwin, Judith Beaudry, Christine Bertucci, Joseph 'Joey' Bertucci, Lonnie & Theresa Bertucci-Falls, Jennifer Bond, Jeff Bowman, Andrea Brongiel, Mary Camarda, Anthony Capone Sr., Laverne Connolly, Tim Consola, Joe Cruz, Patti Cuchetto, Paul DeGrazia, Henry Diaz De Leon, Kathy Egle, Nenita Feliciano, Jerry Felske, Minnie Ford, Natalia Francone, Bill Frank, Darlene Frost, Harold Frost, Paul Gadomski, Ray Gadomski, Lily Ann Galloway, John Gasca, Bernadette Glabicki, Ed Glos, Pat Grieco, Koen Guest, Jose P. Gutierrez, Kellar Harris, Lynette Heidemann, Jasmine Henson, Barbara Herr, Denise Holland, Gwen Holub, Morris Humphrey, Michaeline Hunter, Ted Hunter, Suzanne Ivester, Jennifer Janson, Maryann Januszewski, Chester Jendryczka, Dr. Joe, John Kaput, Dorothy Kawalerski, Rose Kisielowski, Anna Kolendo, Christine Krupa, Janice Kutansky, Craig Labudda, Sunny Labudda, Baby Kinsley Paige Leschinsky, Kiera Litwin, Lenny Loretto, Richard Lyznicki, Nancy Mallory, John Mangan, Kayle Marth, Paul Martinez, Bill Marczuk, Zena Masi, Maria Mawgwi, Lil' Joe Michalak, Cindy Moore, Dr. Mike, Tony Mrgan, Cydney Muti, Stephanie Nicks, Ann Njeru, Deacon Jack O'Leary, Allison Pakula, Virginia Pakula, Eva Castillion Parcon, Josie Petkus, Michael Petruck, Theresa Pickens, Dolores Pienta, Mitchell Pienta, Ellen Pietrzak, Beverly Pirelli, Megan Pirelli, Ray Polakowski, Robert Potter, Barbara Rekar, Josephine Richardson, Sandra Rios, Joel Rivera, Jose Rodriguez, Jose C. Rodriguez, Mila Rolon, Dolly Roti, Ellen Ryan, Therese Ryndak, Maria Saludo, Kennedy Shepski, Anthony Sinople, Adeline Skokal, Raymond Smolinski, Gary Solverson, Sharon Solverson, Rosalie Spalla, Diane Spata, Joanne Stewart, Lauren Stronczek, Rose Stronczek, Shirley Synal, Robert Synal, Baby Zachary Synal, Emily Rose Thomas, Norbert Trojanowski, Bill Ufferman, Dolores Ufferman, Dave Ulczycki, George Vanderford Sr., George Vanderford Jr., Juan Vargas, Joyce Vogt, Ava Walczak, Sadie Walker, Barbara Webb, Bill Webb, Sylvia Wiertel, Madison Young, Eugene & John Zabek, Evelyn Zaleski, Virginia Zawacki*** Ken Barber, Hu Bin, Jose Cardinal, Joseph Caruso, Roberta Cheong, Kim Chiu, Brian Cook Sister Noel Devine, MAD & Rose Marie Donato, Mark Donato, Mia Rose Faciana, Kerry Fluder, Gyna Gazzi, Maria Ng Gee, James Gemkow, Roseann Gurgone, Michael Howley, Frank Karagianes, Levi Kirkland, Angela Lasillo, George Lee, David Leung, Shiu Wah Leung, Felina Li, James Longo, III, Matthew Mantia, Phil Maraldi, Jerry McCarthy, Barbara McElroy, Barbara Metzinger, Xue Ying Mou, Lucy Moy, Mina Preysler Munoz, Cita Orendain, John Paleoik, Anne Pataka, Lois Payton, Rose Perez, Gerard Phillips, Ali Powers, James Rak, Victor Roa, Phyllis Robinson, Joseph Rubin, Amelia Lorraine Schroeder, Karl Schroeder, David Sero, Richard Shew, Kay Siani, Nicholas Tobar, Richard Tobar, Anthony Valentino, Luz Whitehead, Luke Williamson, Lucy Wong, Bai Xue, Ching Shiu Yau, Lan Ying Yee, Ramona Zavala, Susan Zibricky, 蔡宏恩

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Francis Li 本堂: 李東平神父
fli@stmotherteresaparish.org

Resident: Fr. John Cuff
Jcuff@maryknoll.org

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Music Director: Ms. Sabina Lilly
Slilly@archchicago.org

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jzhang@stmotherteresaparish.org

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jlukwinski@stbarbarachicago.org

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darlene.chan@sbcglobal.net

Ministry Coordinators

Youth Ministry: Mr. & Mrs. Nick & Ellen Andriacchi
Young Adult Ministry: Mr. Joseph Lowe
Religious Education Program: Mrs. Christine Delfin
English RCIA: Mrs. Rose Lau
Cantonese RCIA: Mr. Perry Lau
Mandarin RCIA: Sr. Monica Zhang
Outreach & Formation: Sr. Monica Zhang
Ministry of Care: Sr. Mary Caritas Wehrman
Chinese Apostolate: Ms. Jing Zhang
Parish Pastoral Council Chairs:
Mr. George Lee & Mrs. Sharon Wong & Mr. George Vanderford

St. Barbara Church

2859 South Throop Street, Chicago, Illinois 60608
stbarbarachicago.org
Phone: (312) 842.7979 Fax: (312) 842.7978

St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church

聖德力華人天主教堂
218 West Alexander Street, Chicago, Illinois 60616
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StTherese@ArchChicago.org
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[Twitter@StThereseChi](https://twitter.com/StThereseChi)
Phone: (312) 842.6777 Fax: (312) 567-1389

Office Hours: Mon., Tue., Wed., and Fri.: 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Sat. TBA). The office is closed on Thur. and Sun.

Website: <https://www.stmotherteresaparish.org>

Follow us on Facebook:

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St. Therese Chinese Catholic School

聖德力華人天主教學校

A 2010 & 2018 National Blue Ribbon School

Principal: Ms. Lisa Deborah Oi
doi@sttheresechicago.org

Assistant Principal: Ms. Susan Leef
sleef@sttheresechicago.org

R. E. Director: Mr. Thomas Howard
thoward@sttheresechicago.org

247 W. 23rd Street, Chicago, IL 60616

Phone: (312) 326-2837

Fax: (312) 326-6068

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St. Barbara Campus

2859 S. Throop Street, Chicago, IL 60608

Phone: (312) 326-6243

Fax: (312) 842-7960

Sacramental

Please contact parish office for any of the following:

Baptisms: Parents must be registered practicing parishioner and attend a baptismal preparation session before a baptism will be scheduled.

Communion Calls: Please contact the Rectory when someone who is homebound or in the hospital wishes a visit to receive Holy Communion or the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. The Anointing of the Sick is for anyone seriously sick and not only for those near death.

Confessions: Saturdays, 4:15-4:45 p.m. at St. Barbara Church or by appointment.

Ministry of Care: Eucharistic Ministers are available to visit, pray with, and bring Holy Communion to those who are sick and unable to attend Mass.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a program for anyone inquiring and seeking information about entering the Catholic faith.

Weddings: Weddings need to be scheduled at least six months in advance. Couples are reminded to secure the Church date before the reception hall.





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533 Davis Street, Evanston, IL (847) 733 - 1900

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1163 East Ogden Avenue, Naperville, IL (630) 778 - 9688

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COMING SOON! Fall 2021: 3334 N. Western Ave



Wei-Chuan U.S.A., Inc. is a leading Chinese food manufacturer and supplier in the United States and headquartered in City of Industry, California. The Company specializes in producing frozen Chinese foods, including Dumplings, Gyoza, Potstickers, Meat Buns, Spring Roll Shells, Moo-Shu Shells, Wontons, Mini Buns, Pan Fried Buns, Noodle Bowls, Rice Bowls, Spring Rolls, Egg Rolls, Wrappers, and more. We also distribute a wide variety of imported products such as Frozen Food, Dry Food, Frozen Seafood, and Organic Food through our six distribution centers, where customers are able to purchase Wei-Chuan's products at grocery stores or wholesalers in North America.

For more than four decades, Wei-Chuan U.S.A., Inc. has upheld the tradition while also pursuing innovation to produce affordable and delicious foods. With our passion for food, we insist on quality and continuously invest in technical expertise. Our food brings convenience to modern life and also provides a taste of home for overseas Chinese. Moreover, we also seek mainstream market and international market so more people will come to enjoy the Chinese flavor. Wei-Chuan U.S.A., Inc. is committed to corporate responsibility—paying particular attention to food safety and quality, at the same time emphasizing customer satisfaction and traditional taste.

Taste of Happiness

MUSIC NEWS



As many of you know, I am **Sabina L. Lilly**, the new music director for St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish and the new music teacher for both campuses of St. Therese. It's been wonderful getting to know everyone and I thank you for your

warm welcome! To follow is an update on the Parish music ministry. Please note that all groups and musicians adhere to Covid guidelines.

At the St. Barbara worship site, our volunteer *cantors* lead the music for three or four Saturday Masses per month. These individuals are socially distanced throughout the Mass and may remove their mask while singing only. The group *Joyful Noise* volunteers their musical gifts at the third Saturday Mass of the month. The newly retired music director, Eva Mrgan, is still a vital part of the musical fabric of St. Barbara. Along with her husband, Ken, she volunteers her time and talents for the 6am Sunday Mass. Eva and Ken recently revived the *Men's Choir*, which usually rehearses and sings at St. Barbara for one 9:30am Sunday Mass per month, including next Sunday, January 16th. The *Parish Choir* rehearses for and sings at the other three or four Sunday 9:30am Masses per month. Both choirs are masked and distanced at all times, while singing and rehearsing.

At the St. Therese worship site, Michael Pietrzak has been overseeing the 8am Sunday Masses, along with cantors Gretta Chamberlain and Myron Crowe, for nearly five years. Longtime volunteer and parishioner Lily May has been coordinating the 10:30am Sunday Masses, along with volunteer choir director Wendy Sin, for nearly twenty years if not longer. These dedicated professionals and talented laypeople are looking to welcome new members, especially altos!

Looking ahead, there will be combined St. Barbara and St. Therese musical events as Covid guidelines permit. I am also eager to incorporate a musical element into the monthly Family Masses at St. Barbara and St. Therese.

Please let me know if you have questions or would like to become involved in the Parish music ministry. I am usually at St. Barbara for the 5pm Saturday and 9:30am Sunday Masses. I am usually at St. Therese for the 8am Sunday Mass the first two Sundays of the month, and 10:30am Sunday Mass the third and fourth Sundays of the month. I can also be reached at slilly@archchicago.org. Thank you!

CONCERN FOR OTHERS by Fr. John Cuff

Today's Gospel speaks of the marriage feast at Cana. Mary, the mother of Jesus was invited, as well as Jesus himself and his disciples. As the wedding feast went on, the wine ran out. Mary went out of her way to intercede with Jesus and Jesus performed what John tells us was his very first miracle. But I have a question. If this was Jesus' very first miracle, how then did Mary know that Jesus could do it? Perhaps because good mothers know their children, their hidden talents and potentialities. There are many young men and women who have gone on to accomplish great things in life because their mothers believed in them and encouraged them.

But here's a more fascinating question: Did Mary know all those thirty years she lived with Jesus that she was living with a wonder-worker, and yet never asked him to multiply her bread, turn the water on the dining table into wine, or double her money to make ends meet? How come she never asked Jesus to use his miraculous power to help her out but she was quick to ask him to use it and help others? Think of it. If you had a child with miraculous power to double money for other kids at school, wouldn't you ask him to double yours at home too? After all, one could argue, charity begins at home. However, for Mary and for Jesus the needs of the other come first.

Take the case of Jesus. He knew he had this power to perform miracles. After forty days fast in the desert he was hungry, and when the devil suggested it to him to turn some stones into bread and eat, he refused. Yet he went out and multiplied bread for crowds of his followers to eat. So what are they telling us, Mary and Jesus, through their actions? They're saying that God's gifts to us are not meant primarily only for our own or our families' benefit but for the service of others. That is what St. Paul also tells us in today's second reading when he enumerates the many different gifts of the Holy Spirit to different persons and adds that "**to each person is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good,**" not for personal profit. Today, then, is a good day to ask ourselves: "What gifts has God given me? Am I using these gifts mainly for my own personal profit or for the service of others in the community?"

We sometimes wonder why there are no more manifestations of the Holy Spirit like what we read in the Bible. Maybe the reason is that we have grown more selfish. If we began using the little gifts we have for the common good – such as the gift of praying, singing, teaching, caring, sharing, encouraging, supporting, motivating, writing, etc. -- then these gifts will probably begin to grow and soon we will begin to see miracles. Concern for others is the beginning of miracles, like that of the miracle at Cana.