



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



December 24, 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

Remember
that first time
you welcomed
Jesus in?

**He's
knocking
again.**



St. Mother Teresa invites
you to return to the

Eucharist,

the source of
grace and mercy,

for healing

peace

hope

LOVE

Christmas blessings to you and your family!

Our regular Sunday Masses during the Fourth Sunday of Advent (12/24) and the Feast of the Holy Family (12/31) will be celebrated at the usual times and worship sites (5pm Vigil/6am/9:30am at St. Barbara Church; 8am/10:30am at St. Therese Church).

Following is the schedule for Christmas and New Year:

Christmas Eve, Sunday 12/24/23

5:00pm Mass with Pageant at St. Therese Church

Midnight Mass

11:30pm (12/24) Christmas Carols

12:00am (12/25) Midnight Mass

St. Barbara Church

Christmas Day Masses, Monday 12/25/23

6:00am and 9:30am at St. Barbara Church

8:00am and 10:30am at St. Therese Church

New Year's Eve, Sunday 12/31/23

5pm Mass followed by Benediction and Hotpot
St. Therese Church

New Year's Day Masses, Monday 1/1/24

9:30am at St. Barbara Church

10:00am at St. Therese Church

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: After the 8 a.m. Mass



Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Barbara Worship Site

Saturday, Dec. 23rd Vigil | 4th Sunday of Advent

5:00 p.m. Blessings for Benefactors & Parishioners

Sunday, Dec. 24th | 4th Sunday of Advent

- 6:00 a.m. + Wally Gusich by Janet Ropke
+ Deceased Members of the
Gusich Family by Janet Ropke
+ Maharda Maffea by Janet Ropke
+ Joseph Frasco by Janet Ropke
+ Members of the Bertucci & Ropke Families
by Janet Ropke
+ Ronald Ropke, Sr. by Janet Ropke
9:30 a.m. + Mary Diaz De Leon by Family
+ Teresita Holcomb by King Family
+ Dorothy Kawalerski by Dan Powers
+ Charlene Szczepanski by Barbara Hudren
+ Sue Chan by Mary Praxmarer

Monday, Dec. 25th | Christmas

- 12:00a.m. Mid-Night Mass Proceeded with Christmas
Carols at 11:30pm
6:00 a.m. + Rosemary Gleason-Naponiello by Jim Bertucci
+ Faustina Dyaucio Chua
+ Matthew Rekar by Wife
+ Joseph Frasca by Janet Ropke
+ Deceased Members of the Bertucci and Ropke
Families
+ Ronald Ropke Sr. by Janet Ropke
9:30 a.m. + Paul and Sophie Jachim by Dan & Anita
Isacson & Family

Tuesday, Dec. 26th | Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

8:00 a.m. +14 Year Anniversary, Tom Foutris by M. Korso

Thursday, Dec. 28th | The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

8:00 a.m. Health Blessings for Chris Maynard by
Marie & Vincent

Saturday, Dec. 30th | Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00 a.m. + Allan Campione by Pat Campione

Saturday, Dec. 30th Vigil | The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph

- 5:00 p.m. 7 Yr. Wedding Anniv: Geoff & Norah Pienta
by Bette Pienta
+ Birthday remembrance for Vince Briglio by Wife
& Children

Sunday, Dec. 31st | The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

- 6:00 a.m. + Wally Gusich by Janet Ropke
+ Deceased Members of the Gusich Family by
Janet Ropke
+ Maharda Maffea by Janet Ropke
+ Joseph Frasco by Janet Ropke
+ Members of the Bertucci & Ropke Families
by Janet Ropke
+ Ronald Ropke by Janet Ropke
+ Dorothy Kawalerski by David & Ruth Czarnecki
9:30 a.m. + Andrew Nawracaj by Stan Nawracaj &
Family
+ Teresita Holcomb by King Family

St. Therese Worship Site

Sunday, Dec. 24th | Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 a.m. + All Deceased Members of the Zito & D'Amico
Families by Joe & Rena
+ Mary Kay Ungarelli by Family
+ Marion Roti's Anniversary Remembrance by
Daughter Marion
+ Rose Capinegro by Mairon Roti
10:30 a.m. Health Blessings for Jian Guoxin by Jean Wu
+ Marilyn Leung by Wendy Sin & Pat Culen
+ June Moy by Ricky Yong
+ Barry Yong by Ricky Yong
+ Diane Marie Chan by Darlene
+ Jenping J. Chan by Darlene
+ Sue Chan by Marian Woo Torrez & Family

Monday, Dec. 25th | The Nativity of the Lord-Christmas

- 5:00p.m. Vigil Mass with Children's Pageant
8:00 a.m. Health Blessing for Marion Roti by JZ & Mimi
Christmas Blessings for Deceased Families
by A. Briglio
+ Deceased Family Members of Marion Roti
by Marion
+ David & Cookie Jarzyna by Marion Roti
+ Carmen Prescia by Marion Roti
10:30 a.m. + James Moy, Jr. by Lucy Moy & Family
+ Ursula Linda Tanasaleh by Lisa & Edy
Gunawan
+ For All Deceased Members of the Hill Family
by Elizabeth
+ For All Deceased Members of the Masangcay
Family by Elizabeth
+ For All Deceased Members of the Kaepplinger
Family by Elizabeth
+ Tanasaleh(Chen Tian Fu) by Lisa & Edy
Gubawan
+ Florence Yu by Elizabeth Masangcay
+ All Deceased Family Members by A. Briglio

Wednesday, Dec. 27th | Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

8:00 a.m. + Mercy for All Souls of Bertucci & Barbaro
Families by Dominic Barbaro

Friday, Dec. 29th | Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00 a.m. Birthday Blessings for Aviceto D. Saludo III by
Saludo Family

St. Therese - Sunday, Dec.31st:

8:00a.m Greeters: N. Lowe, J. Lowe

Lectors: N. Gonzalez

St. Michael Ministry: Chris

10:30a.m Greeters: C. Lee, J. Yee, D. Lowe

Lectors: Ellen, Cameron

Eucharistic Ministers: Wing (Altar) Jade (Choir)

St. Michael Ministry: Pat

Monday, January 1st:

10:00a.m Lectors: Ray, Darlene

THANKS and Congratulations!

Thanks to **Piotr Wojtasik** for his four years of service to our parish. The Archdiocese recently asked Piotr to serve at another parish. They need his expertise. So Piotr will be moving on in the beginning of Jan. 2024. We thank Piotr and wish him our best as he makes this transition.

Thanks to our **School children, teachers, and staff** for a wonderful Christmas concert. Their joyful sound helped to lift up the spirits of all the participants. Congratulations to the 50/50 Raffle winners.



Thanks to **all who helped and attended our First Living Nativity**. Despite the rainy weather, we had a wonderful turnout and a very positive experience. Special thanks to **Elaine Sin**, for initiating this magnificent event and for taking the lead in making the event so successful! Special thanks also to all the volunteers who helped before, during and after the event and to all sponsors who generously donated funds and materials.



Thanks to our **Filipino community** for a spirited and enjoyable Simbangani Mass and reception. Special thanks to **the Alonzo Family** for taking the lead on this wonderful celebration.



Thanks to our **Mandarin Group** for a beautiful Mass and Christmas Cantata. They also generously shared a Christmas gift

with all priests, Sisters and Seminarians who are studying in



Fr. Francis Li
PASTOR



Chicago from China or working in our parish. Special thanks to **Sr. Josephina Sun**, **Teresa Chen** and **Shao-Zhen Chen** for their leadership on this celebration.



Thanks to **Roque, Regina, and Roberta Cheong** and **Kim Chiu** for representing St. Therese at Warren Barr with the wonderful Christmas Cantata last Saturday. They were joined by other groups in the Chicagoland area, and they sang Christmas carols in English, Cantonese, and Mandarin!

Congratulations to **Meilana Ramirez**, daughter of **Monique Cruz** and **Gerardo Ramirez**. Meilana was baptized last Sunday at St. Barbara. We welcome her and assure her and her family of our prayers.



How Much Do You Know about the Eucharist? Week 4 ---The Concluding Rites



As we continue to celebrate the Year of Parish Eucharistic Revival (June 11, 2023---July 17, 2024), it is a good time to educate ourselves on the meaning behind our liturgy.

Last three Sundays, we reviewed on the Introductory Rites, the Liturgy of the Word, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Today we focus on the Concluding Rites.

The concluding rites begin after communion. It is very short and consists of a final blessing and the dismissal. We have received the gifts

of Christ and are given a final blessing to be nourished and inspired by those gifts. Father then gives the dismissal, where he sends the faithful to "go forth" and be Christ in the world. We are called to take the gifts of the Mass with us forward through the week, carrying the light of Christ for others.

I hope the explanations on the rituals of the Mass have been helpful as we renew our appreciation for the gift of the Eucharist. Let's strive to "*actively, consciously, and fully*" participate at our Mass, which is rich with symbolism and meaning whenever we worship together.

This Christmas as we receive the ultimate gift that God has given to us---Jesus, our parish also offers you a gift. At all Christmas masses, you are invited to pick up a copy of the book titled, *Beautiful Eucharist*. This is another way to help us to love the Eucharist. Please read it and then share it with family members or another person you think he/she might be interested in.

Finally, I whole heartily invite you and your family and ask you to invite others to join our parish for our Christmas celebration. Merry Christmas!

Peace ~ Fr. Francis

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS 2023

St. Barbara-site Christmas donations as of 12/18/2023. Thank YOU to all who donated!

Yolanda Bobadilla	\$50
Maria Rolon	\$25
Unreadable	\$5
Judith Zarzuela	\$125
Matt & Judy Dalcamo	\$200
Phil Dalcamo	\$100
Ronald Kash	\$100
Stanley J. Rzasa	\$100
Barbara Rekar	\$100
Elizabeth & Javier Rosado	\$5
Rose Lavelle	\$25
Emmanuele King	\$20
J & G Arellano	\$60
Wladyslaw Lazowski	\$200
Larion Panasky	\$100
Eugenia Krzyzanski	\$100
Barbara Ziemba	\$25
Peter & Tia Rivera	\$30
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Moon	\$60
The Lee Family	\$200
Barbara Rekar	\$200
Raymond Smolinski	\$5
Raymond & Margaret Murphy	\$100
Carol Spalla Malone	\$150

SBC Total as of 12/18/2023 \$2,085

St. Therese-site Christmas donations as of 12/18/2023. Thank YOU to all who donated!

Deacon Ignatius Paul Spalla	\$1,000
Lily & Richard May	\$1,000
Wilfred Chan	\$3,000
Laurence & Theresa Wong	\$200
Corwin & Luanne Eng	\$100
Salvatore Covelli	\$50
Anonymous	\$300
Roberta Cheong	\$104
Catherine Chang	\$100
Anthony Fratto	\$100
Shiu-Mei Sim	\$100
Douglas Huey	\$50
Joe & Carol Marzullo	\$25
Rosetta Palumbo	\$15
Nora Gonzalez	\$200
Rosemarie Centofanti	\$100
Francine Caruso	\$50

St. Therese-site Christmas donations as of 12/18/2023. Thank YOU to all who donated!

Katharina & Budi Kusnoto	\$1,000
Hong Aninta	\$50
Joseph & Rena Zito	\$600
Tom Chan	\$75
Thereas Latham	\$100
Therese Vallina	\$50
Helen Distasio	\$50
Robert Alonzo	\$10
Paul Laura	\$25
Michael A. Madia	\$25
Mananne Cibulka	\$20
Rose Lee	\$100
Gemma Wong	\$100
Wing F Chan	\$100
Irene F. Lee	\$50
Monica Lam	\$100
Katherine Moy	\$100
Anonymous	\$200
Shile Chen	\$100
Teresa Moy	\$100
Peter Tse	\$200
Michael & Wanda Jordan	\$250
Marion Roti	\$100
Janice & Brian Chow	\$200
Cindy Fung Kam Oi	\$500
Shao-Chen Lin	\$35
Wendy Sln & Pat Culen	\$300
Linda & Willis Weiler	\$300
Lucille Salerno	\$100
Lawrence Pusateri	\$500
Herman Lew	\$50
Rita Co	\$10
Mary Nudo	\$100
Ruth Williamson	\$25
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Vinci	\$50
Ellen & Nick Andriacchi	\$500
Mei Ling	\$100
Peter Delich Family	\$100
Richard & Mary Lou	\$25
James Distasio	\$300
Mr. & Mrs. George Bonomo	\$50
Vivian Wong	\$100
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lee	\$10
Michael & Elizabeth Velten	\$100
Marlyn Lee	\$75
Miulan Yau	\$100
Rosalind Toy	\$25
Nancy Longmire	\$50

STC Total as of 12/18/2023 \$15,465

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish



St. Therese Worship site
New Year's Eve Mass and
Hot Pot Dinner

Please join us for a Mass of
Thanksgiving on
Sunday, December 31* at 5:00 pm

followed by Benediction & Hot Pot Dinner
in the community room.

Join us for a fun evening of food & fellowship to ring in the New Year!
All are welcome!

\$10.00 per person IN ADVANCE by Dec. 26th
\$15.00 at the door

(Checks can be made to SMTCP)

(See Darlene Chan-Lowe or Marian Woo Torrez
or call the parish office)

Free for Children 12 and under

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
no later than Tuesday, 12/26

Please sign up at the church entrance table so we can
plan for adequate food.

If possible, it would be helpful if you can
bring your own pot. Thank YOU!

HOLY NAME NEWS

The next Holy Name meeting is January 12, 2024. All men 18 and older are welcome. We meet at 7pm at the St. Barbara mobile unit in the north parking lot for a great meal and social gathering.

Tickets for Split the Pot, 100 Club, and Queen of Hearts are available from Holy Name members and in the back of church at the St. Barbara site. Thank you all for your support.

2024 English Calendars are available at the Church entrance tables. Please pick up as many as you want and feel free to share it with neighbors and friends

2024 Chinese Calendars are available at St. Therese Church.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

St. Barbara - Saturday, Dec. 30th:

5p.m. Lectors: M. Tse, J. Chau

Eucharistic Minister: C. Sokolowski

Sunday, Dec. 31st:

6a.m. Lector: J. Bertucci

Eucharistic Minister: C. Whitehouse

9:30 a.m. Lectors: B. Pienta, W. Podrazik

Eucharistic Minister: J. Lukwinski

Monday, January 1st:

9:30am Lectors: L & P. Saletta; **EM:** J. Lukwinski

WEEKLY COLLECTION—DECEMBER 17, 2023

St. Barbara

Sunday Envelopes	\$ 706.00
Sunday Loose	\$ 660.00
Give Central	\$ 428.00
Total Collection	\$ 1,794.00

YTD Weekly

Actual	\$ 47,976.00	\$ 1,794.00
Goal	\$ 67,500.00	\$ 2,700.00
% of Goal	71%	66%

	\$	
Mandarin Mass	\$.00

St. Therese

\$ 695.00
\$ 283.00
\$ 694.00
\$ 1,672.00

YTD Weekly

\$ 53,598.00	\$ 1,672.00
\$ 67,500.00	\$ 2,700.00
79%	62%

\$	
\$	433.00

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 **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, 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, 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, Rose Kisielowski, Anna Kolendo, Christine Krupa, 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, 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, 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, Diane Spata, Joanne Stewart, Lauren Stroncsek, Rose Stroncsek, Shirley Synal, Robert Synal, Baby Zachary Synal, Emily Rose Thomas, Norbert Trojanowski, Bill Ufferman, Dolores Ufferman, Dave Ulczycki, Christine Vanderford, 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, Jimmy Distasio, MAD & Rose Marie Donato, Mark Donato, Mia Rose Faciana, Kerry Fluder Setter, Gyna Gazzi, 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, Xue Ying Mou, Lucy Moy, Mina Preysler Munoz, Cita Orendain, John Paleoik, Anne Pataka, 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, Bai Xue, Ching Shiu Yau, Lan Ying Yee, Ramona Zavala, Susan Zibricky, Sonny Furmanek, Juliana, 蔡宏恩, Kate Lynch, Josephine Laco, Dolores Becatti, Michele Young, Charles Corbett, Rick Deleon, Shirley Mendoza, Gary Leverage, Diane Rzasa, MingYing Liu, FanYa Zhang, Diana Cardinal, Karen Zovko, Darlene Phillips Smith, Ella Dover, Jian GuoXin, Louis Phillips, Jeffrey Fockler

*****Please review the above Prayer List to identify if there is a name that should be removed OR inform us if there is someone that needs to be added. Please call the rectory to make changes. Thank YOU!**

PARISH STAFF

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

Resident: Fr. John Cuff
Jcuff@maryknoll.org

Oper. Director: Mr. Piotr M. Wojtasik
pwojtasik@archchicago.org

Music Director: Mr. Joe Delfin
jdelfin@sttheresechicago.org

Office Manager & Evangelization Lead:
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jzhang@stmothertereseparish.org

Office Assistant & Sacristan:
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jalukwinski@gmail.com

Office Assistant: Sr. Kathleen McNulty
kmcnulty@archchicago.org

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darlene.chan@sbcglobal.net

Ministry Coordinators

Youth Ministry: Mr. & Mrs. Nick & Ellen Andriacchi
Young Adult Ministry: Mr. & Mrs. Joseph & Naomi Lowe
Religious Education Program: Mrs. Christine Delfin
English OCIA: Mrs. Rose Lau
Cantonese OCIA: Mr. Perry Lau
Mandarin OCIA: HanFei Chan
Formation & 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
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
StTherese@ArchChicago.org
[Facebook.com/StThereseChinatown](https://www.facebook.com/StThereseChinatown)
[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. . The office is closed on Thur., Sat., and Sun.

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

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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

Director of Lifelong Faith Formation: Sr. Ria Angostura
RAngostura@sttheresechicago.org

247 W. 23rd Street, Chicago, IL 60616

Phone: (312) 326-2837

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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.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) 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.

Winson Tan Photography
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Luxy opened in 2011, it is an All Inclusive wedding services as well as photography studio (Winson Tan Photography) in Chicago. With more than 10 years of experience designing weddings of all sizes, Luxy can help tailor a plan for your wedding decorations, offering detailed options to consider and compare if you're feeling undecided. Most importantly, our approach to design ensures that every detail contributes to your once-in-a-lifetime event's ambience in a meaningful way. People called us "Dream Maker", we aim to deliver everything you could possibly need to make your dream wedding come true.

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PRAYER FOR Christmas Consolation

Come, Lord Jesus,

Come into the hearts of all in need of hope and consolation.

Expand our celebration of this sacred feast

so as to include them in our thoughts, prayers, and outreach.

Come into the lives of those bereft and overcome by despair.

Make manifest in us your incarnate love

so that we become messengers of hope and promise.

Come into the wastelands of a world immersed in violence and self-interest.

Bring us the light of your compassion, generosity, and peace

so that we, through your blessed Spirit, become instruments of transformation.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

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THE KING AND THE PAUPER

By John Cuff

There's an ancient legend which I think captures the true meaning of Christmas. Long ago, a wise and good king ruled Persia. He loved his people and wanted to know how they lived and their hardships. So he dressed himself up in the clothes of a peasant and went to the homes of the poor. No one he visited suspected that he was their king. One of them was a pauper who lived in a cellar. The king ate his coarse food with him and cheered him up. Then he left. Later he visited the poor man again and disclosed his identity. The king thought the man would surely ask for some gift or favor, but he didn't. Instead he said, "You left your palace and your glory to visit me in this dark, dreary place. You ate the coarse food I ate. You brought gladness to my heart! To others you may have given rich gifts. But to me you have given yourself!"

At Christmas we celebrate the King of Kings leaving his divine glory and coming to our dreary world to share with us our poverty, misery, and pain. It is not a question of Jesus bringing us any particular gift or blessing, it is a question of Him giving us Himself. This is the big difference between Jesus and Santa Claus. Santa Claus rides in an open sleigh giving gifts to children who have been good, so long as their houses have chimneys. Santa leaves the gifts under the Christmas tree and then disappears. Christ, on the other hand, does not leave a gift and disappear. He continues to live with us. He comes to share our human condition. His very presence is the gift. And as the poor man in our story knows, being with the king is a far more satisfying than receiving a gift from him.

When we speak of the eternal Son of God leaving his heavenly glory, taking on flesh and becoming a human being like us in all things except sin, we use the word "incarnation." This is the mystery that we celebrate at Christmas, of how the eternal Word of God took flesh in a little child of Bethlehem. Today we find ourselves in the same position as that pauper being visited by his king. Like the poor man, our hearts should be full of joy today, not because of any extra gifts the king will give us, but even more so, because of the fact that our King has come to be with us, to become one of us. What greater gift could we receive this Christmas? Move over, Santa Claus, our newborn King is here. Merry Christmas!

Heartfelt Thanks to the Lord's Fervent Servants for last week's Living Nativity



Our Cast

- ♦ The Holy Family - Clarissa, Jeremy, and Baby C. Ma.
- ♦ Three Magi - Michael Kordelewski, Fr. Godfrey Kyeyune, and Walter Podrazik
- ♦ Shepherdesses - Lily May, Jean Ng, Laura Saletta,
- ♦ Roman Soldiers - Eusebio Islas and Victor Sandoval
- ♦ Marketplace Vendors - Samantha Ng-Ortega, Elizabeth Pienta, and Jade Yee.
- ♦ Readers - Darlene Chan-Lowe, Regina Cheong, Grace Dumelle Podrazik, Lisa Gunawan, Chanelle Parcon, Sam Villa, and Frances Xu Lee.

Our Volunteers

- ♦ Joseph and Christine Delfin for handling all audio matters and for being always supportive of parish events.
- ♦ Joseph and Naomi Lowe for the time, effort, and care in building the stable and for costume creation and styling.
- ♦ St. Michael Ministry and Gerald Chan for security and logistical support.
- ♦ Tom Groark for all the on-site preparation support and many years of service to the parish and school.
- ♦ Jacob, Jen, and Baby M. Mellor for building the manger and being the back-up Holy Family.
- ♦ L.B., Wendy Sin, and Jing Zhang for the behind-the-scenes support and bridging the gaps across the parish.

Our Sponsors

- ♦ Stockyards Brick and Timber for supplying the wood for the stable. They give new life and purpose to things others discard.
- ♦ Gethsemane Garden Center for supplying the straw bales. Though from Andersonville, their generosity is far-reaching.
- ♦ A1 Country Firewood for supplying the firewood. They remind us of the warmth of our God, especially on cold winter days.
- ♦ Jewel-Osco for supplying the Marketplace fruits. It is great to have the support of a long-time Chicagoland business.

Beyond the Envelope Series

Week 4: Free Ways to Support SMTCP

So far we've talked about online giving, special giving with tax incentives, and increasing our weekly donation amounts, but we understand these are not for everyone – but there IS still something you can do to boost the parish's finances!

Sign up for your Employer's Matching Program – Ask your employer if it has a program that will match (and sometimes even triple) employee donations to charity.

Bring a friend to mass – you'd be spreading the good news, too! If you know someone searching for a new spiritual home or school, or those seeking weddings, baptisms, or other sacraments, encourage them to consider SMTCP.

Tell friends and family about why you love SMTCP, and invite them to contribute to our fundraising events, including the Super Duper Bowl coming up in February, the Carnival in May, our booth at the Chinatown Summer Fair, and the Walkathon in October.

Sell weekly bulletin ad space – the bulletin ads are one of our major fundraisers for the year. Do you know any business owners who would like the exposure? See the parish office for a bulletin ad sales form.

Provide goods and services as in-kind support. Do you have a skill that can be offered to the parish to reduce our bills? Perhaps you are handy with building maintenance, repairs, or cleaning, or maybe you own a restaurant or supplies business and can donate catering services and materials. Can you provide music at our masses or supplies for our booth at the Chinatown Summer Fair? Donating these in-kind gifts help to reduce or even eliminate parish expenses and are typically tax-deductible.

Arrange for discounts and donations from businesses the parish uses, such as local neighborhood restaurants or supplies stores.

Reduce usage anywhere you can – every little bit helps! Examples include making sure doors are shut to reduce loss of heat or air conditioning, turning off lights and equipment when not in use, returning the bulletin after reading if you will not be sharing it, reducing the amount of disposable goods used at parish receptions, or bringing your own water to parish events. This is also in support of our Christian call to care for creation.

Thank you for your efforts in growing SMTCP! If you have any questions, please reach out to the parish office or a Finance Council member.