



**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



**MARCH 8, 2026
THIRD SUNDAY
OF LENT**

2026 Franciscan Jubilee Year

St. Francis of Assisi: Lessons for Life and Death

Fr. Larry Webber

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

9:30 AM - 2 PM

ST. MOTHER TERESA HALL

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Fr. Larry Webber has been a Capuchin Franciscan Friar for 55 years and an ordained Priest for 46 years. He has worked in jail Ministry, a Central City Parish in Milwaukee, 27 years in Central America, 6 years as Director of the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit, one year in the Capuchin Development Office in Detroit, 6 years with the Northern Cheyenne at St. Labre Mission in Montana, and is presently stationed at St Francis Monastery in Milwaukee accompanying the newly developing Capuchin Spirituality Center and assisting in the Milwaukee area and beyond in preaching and spiritual accompaniment.

Please RSVP by Tuesday March 17 via parish email or calling the offices. You may also sign up at the Church entrance table. This helps us to prepare lunch and handouts.

office@stmotherteresaparish.org

312-842-6777 or 312-842-7979

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 & Rosary

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)

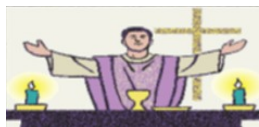
4th Sunday: 12:30 p.m.

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, Feb. March 7th | Vigil Third Sunday of Lent

- 5:00 p.m. God's Will be Done on Earth as it is in Heaven by Kisielente Family
- Health Blessings: Dolores Lenicki by Bette Pienta
- + Margaret O'Connell by Paula Schipiour
- + Joseph Spina by Joe & Rena
- + Birthday Remembrance for Rosemarie & Howard Thome by Joe & Rena

Sunday, March 8th | Third Sunday of Lent

- 6:00 a.m. Birthday and Continued Health Blessings: James "Jim" Bertucci
- + Katherine Mesa Ramberg by Family
- + Lisa Mesa Steinberg by Family
- + Anniversary: Leopoldo Roque Saludo by Maria Saludo
- 9:30 a.m. + Teresita Holcomb by King Family
- + Gina Ferro by Family
- + Marilyn Ricci by Dolores Becatti
- + 20th Anniversary: Eugenia Becatti by Dolores
- 11:30 a.m. **INDONESIAN MASS**
- + Thomas Glaser by cousins Jim & Christine Bertucci

Tuesday, March 10th | Lenten Weekday

- 8:00 a.m. + Birthday Remembrance: Vincent Briglio by A. Briglio

Thursday, March 12th | Lenten Weekday

- 8:00 a.m. + Gloria Nawrocki by Mr. & Mrs. Stan Nawracaj

Saturday, March 14th | Lenten Weekday

- 8:00 a.m. + Fred Cermak Roti by Marion

St. Therese Worship Site

Sunday, March 8th | Third Sunday of Lent

- 8:00 a.m. Birthday Blessings: Betty Fung by Sherry
- + Birthday Remembrance: Catherine Spina by Joe & Rena
- + Birthday Remembrance: Joseph Spina by A. Briglio
- + Gina Pusateri Ferro by Family
- 10:30 a.m. Smooth Operation & Health Healing for Jian GuoLiang by Jean Wu
- + Kee Chung Leong by Lisa Chan
- + Shinta Tirtadharsana by Kusnoto Family
- + Rita Sinulingga by Kusnoto Family

Monday, March 9th | Saint Frances of Rome

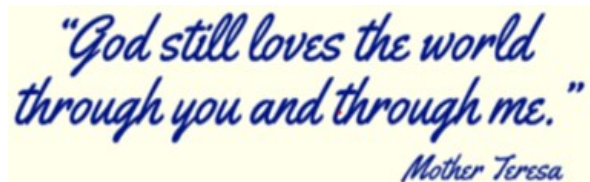
- 8:00 a.m. Birthday Blessings: Bernadette Glabicki by Rosary Group
- + Birthday Remembrance: Rosemarie & Howard Thome by A. Briglio
- + Rev. Anthony Chen by Friend

Wednesday, March 11th | Lenten Weekday

- 8:00 a.m. Blessings for Family Peace by Linda Wang
- + Fr. Aniello Salicone by Darlene

Friday, March 13th | Lenten Weekday

- 8:00 a.m. . Thanksgiving by Linda Wang



"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

Saint Mother Teresa

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

St. Barbara - Saturday, March 14th

- 5p.m. Lectors:** Chris, Frances
- Eucharistic Minister:** Cheryl

Sunday, March 15th

- 6a.m. Lector:** J. Bertucci
- Eucharistic Minister:** Margaret
- 9:30a.m. Lectors:** Mina, Johann
- Eucharistic Minister:** Angeleo

St. Therese – Sunday, March 15th

- 8:00a.m. Greeters:** Joey, Naomi
- Lectors:** RoseMarie, Nora
- St. Michael Ministry:**
- 10:30a.m. Greeters:** Darlene, Jade, Marian
- Lectors: Religious Ed MASS**
- Eucharistic Ministers:** Sheila (Altar) John (Choir)
- St. Michael Ministry:** Pat

Thanks and Congratulations

Thanks to all of our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Ministers of Care for their service to our parish. They had a wonderful day of recollection last Saturday to pray together and renew their ministry. Special thanks to **Elizabeth Pienta and Sheila Lin** for coordinating this ministry and for leading the recollection day.



Congratulations to all of our OCIA catechumens and candidates. They celebrated the Rite of Election last Sunday at Holy Name Cathedral. This Sunday and the next two Sundays, they will celebrate the three Scrutinies. Below are their names for you to keep them in your prayers.

Charles Chan
Marissa Colosimo
Sandra Zambrano
Wayne Servin
王若辰 **Ruochen Wang**
胡杰帝 **Jiedi Hu**
宋美瑶 **Meiyao Song**
王宜璇 **Yixuan Wang**
曹艳梅 **Fiona Yanmei Cao**
梁智森 **Sam Leung**
刘重阳 **Chongyang Liu**
Bolunatife Adesuyi
Adebambo Adesuyi



Peace, Fr. Francis



Liturgy for Encounter: Encountering God through Music By Eva Mrgan

Last week, we looked at “Encounter God through Preaching in Liturgy.” Today, I would like to share the importance of music for us to encounter God in liturgy.

When we sing, we glorify God. “When we sing, we pray twice,” says St. Augustine.

Singing has such an extraordinary way of bringing our hearts, soul and mind together to center our attention completely on God. In Colossians 3:16-17 it says “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Congregational singing is an important part of Catholic worship. The relationship between music and the Mass is structured around the liturgical action.

The key musical parts of the Mass in order are:

INTRODUCTORY RITES:

Entrance Hymn: accompanies the procession
Kyrie (Lord have mercy) recited or sung
Gloria (Glory to God) which is omitted during Advent and Lent

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

Responsorial Psalm: sung between the readings
Gospel acclamation (Alleluia): sung before the gospel reading

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST:

Offertory Song: Accompanies the preparation of the gifts.
Eucharistic Prayers: (Holy, Holy, Holy, Memorial acclamation, Great Amen, Agnus Dei)
Communion Hymn: Sung during the reception of Communion.

CONCLUDING RITE:

Recessional/Sending Forth: the final hymn at the end of Mass.

Singing helps us meet God. The sung words are turned into prayer; so when we, the assembly, sing the texts of the hymns and Mass parts, we are all praying together.

Singing expresses our soul. We find that singing brings us joy, sorrow, gratitude and peace in ways that words alone cannot. It supports full, conscious and active participation in the liturgy. The next time you come to Mass, consider this simple invitation: don't just “sing at” Mass—let your song become your prayer, and let God meet you there.

Next week, we will explore “Encountering God through Gestures in Liturgy.”



2026 St. Francis Jubilee Year

“Make me a channel of your peace...It is in giving that we receive...”.

Stations of the Cross - Fridays at 7pm

a. March 20 at St. Therese. b. March 13 & 27 at St. Barbara.

CRS Rice Bowl---Pick up a bowl on church entrance table and return on March 21-22 and 28-29

OCIA *Scrutiny Rites will be celebrated on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent. The 1st on Sunday, March 8 at 9:30am Mass at St. Barbara Church and the 2nd on Sunday, March 15th at 10:30am Mass and the 3rd at the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, March 22nd at St. Therese Church

Mandarin Mass & Faith Sharing---12:30pm on Sunday, March 22 followed by Faith Sharing

First Friday Devotion---Friday March 6th at 8am Mass with Divine Mercy Chaplets and Benediction at St. Therese

Evangelization Outreach---1pm Rosary at Senior Suites of Bridgeport

First Saturday Anointing of the Sick---March 7th 8am Mass with Rosary and Benediction at St. Barbara Chapel

1st Reconciliation ---March 7 at 10am at St. Therese

Youth Ministry---March 7th at 6:30pm at St. Mother Teresa Hall

Family Mass---9:30am on Sunday March 8th followed by Open Gym and Coffee and Donuts

Indonesian Mass---March 8th at 11:30am at St. Barbara

Commissioning of All Liturgical Ministers---March 7th -8th at All Masses

Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit and Presentations---March 14th -15th at St. Mother Teresa Hall

RE Led Mass and Confession---Sunday, March 15th 9am to 10:15am Reconciliation & 10:30am Mass

Parish English Lenten Retreat---March 21, 9:30am ---2:00pm on St. Francis Jubilee Year

English Alpha---6pm at St. Mother Teresa Hall

Parish Lenten Reconciliation---Monday, March 23rd 7pm at St. Barbara Church

St. Therese School Mass---8am on March 25th followed by Reconciliation at St. Therese

Mandarin Lenten Retreat---Saturday, March 28th; 10:30am to 4:30pm at St. Therese Community Room

Living Stations of the Cross by St. Therese School Students: Friday, March 27th at 1pm with School Students & 7pm at St. Barbara Church and Sunday March 29th at 12 pm at St. Therese Church

Lenten Regulations (from Feb. 18th, 2026, Ash Wednesday--- the Paschal Triduum):

Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays of Lent. Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those who are bound by this may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. The special Paschal fast, as well as abstinence, are prescribed for Good Friday and encouraged for Holy Saturday.

NEWS & EVENTS

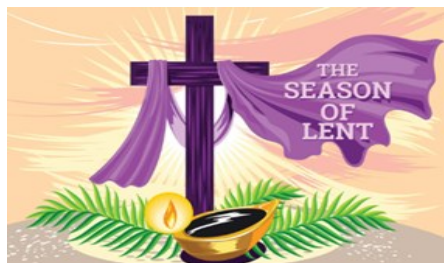


Mondays with the Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity:

4pm-5pm, Street Rosary and 5pm-6pm.
Adoration at St. Therese Church.
All are welcome.

Good Shepherd Catechism

Sundays for children from 3 to 7 years old at 10:30am. This class is taught by Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity.



Wisdom on Lent from Pope Leo XIV

"I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace."

~ Pope Leo XIV

Devotional Candles Update



Due to the increased cost of devotional products, it is necessary to increase the requested amount for devotional candles at the St. Barbara worship site. It is important that we cover the cost of this offering, and appreciate the need for each person who lights a candle to give the following donation:

Votive candles \$1 and Large candles \$5.

Please be generous in your intention.

HOLY NAME NEWS

Holy Name welcome men of the community to meet every 2nd Friday of the month at 7 pm at St. Barbara convent dining room. The next meeting is March 13th. Look for the next \$10 Split the Pot coming soon.

Tax Letters: Registered parishioners can obtain letters for last year's donations by calling or emailing the parish offices.



International Exhibition THE EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES OF THE WORLD

Designed and created by St. Carlo Acutis, the first millennial saint

March 14 - 15, 2026

Presentation: The Life of St. Carlo Acutis, Mary, and the Real Presence

St. Mother Teresa Hall 2832 S. Quinn, Chicago, IL
Sat., March 14 at 10:30 AM

Lunch at 12:30 PM

Presentation by
Patrick Brueggen,
the International Coordinator for
the Marian Catechist Apostolate on
the Eucharistic Miracles and
St. Carlo Acutis



Exhibit Information

Located at the Gym.

Sat. Mar 14: 1 PM to 5 PM

Sun. Mar 15: 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Open to the public.

Free parking.

Free will donations accepted.

Volunteers needed for the Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibit If you would like to volunteer at the exhibit on Sunday, March 15th from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm in the St. Barbara Gym, please contact Roberta or the parish office.

LET YOUR VOICE

..... *Be Heard*

DMI Survey Now Open

If you're a parishioner and haven't already taken the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey, NOW is the time! It's the very important first step in St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta growing in our discipleship. We are currently assessing our parish's greatest strengths and opportunities, and need your response to help strengthen our parish and better prepare us for the future - as we strive to reflect more of Christ's love in our community.



For the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey link, please visit <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/pbca7p> or scan the QR code.

The survey closes on March 29, 2026.



WEEKLY COLLECTION– MARCH 1, 2025

	St. Barbara		St. Therese	
Sunday Envelopes	\$ 1,493.00		\$ 880.00	
Sunday Loose	\$ 739.00		\$ 737.00	
Give Central	\$ 408.00		\$ 796.00	
Total Collection	\$ 2,640.00		\$ 2,413.00	
	YTD	Weekly	YTD	Weekly
Actual	\$ 75,492.00	\$ 2,640.00	\$ 78,835.00	\$ 2,413.00
Goal	\$ 94,500.00	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 94,500.00	\$ 2,700.00
% of Goal	80%		85%	
	\$		\$	
	\$		\$	

ATTENTION: For those who make your offering in the form of a check, please make checks to **St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish**. Our parish has a **new givecentral** account, through which people can still choose to make their donations to either Worship Site.
www.givecentral.org/customizable-online-giving/1405-St_Mother_Teresa_of_Calcutta_Parish_-_Chicago
 Electronic giving through **GiveCentral.org** is the safe and secure way to make your weekly donations. Donate via credit card or electronic check (ACH).



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, Marlene & Walter Annerino, 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, Laverne Connolly, Joe Cruz, Patti Cuchetto, Paul DeGrazia, Henry Diaz De Leon, Nenita Feliciano, Jerry Felske, Minnie Ford, Natalia Francone, Bill Frank, Darlene Frost, Paul Gadomski, Ray Gadomski, Lily Ann Galloway, John Gasca, Bernadette Glabicki, Koen Guest, Kellar Harris, Jasmine Henson, Barbara Herr, Denise Holland, Morris Humphrey, Michaeline Hunter, Ted Hunter, Suzanne Ivester, Jennifer Janson, Dr. Joe, Anna Kolendo, 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, Cydney Muti, Stephanie Nicks, Deacon Jack O'Leary, Allison Pakula, Virginia Pakula, Eva Castillion Parcon, Josie Petkus, Michael Petruck, Theresa Pickens, Dolores Pienta, Beverly Pirelli, Megan Pirelli, Barbara Rekar, Josephine Richardson, Sandra Rios, Joel Rivera, Jose Rodriguez, Jose C. Rodriguez, Mila Rolon, Dolly Roti, Maria Saludo, Kennedy Shepski, Anthony Sinople, Adeline Skokal, Joanne Stewart, Lauren Stroncsek, Emily Rose Thomas, Norbert Trojanowski, Bill Ufferman, Dave Ulczycki, Christine Vanderford, George Vanderford Jr., Juan Vargas, Joyce Vogt, Ava Walczak, Sadie Walker, Sylvia Wiertel, Madison Young, Eugene & John Zabek, Evelyn Zaleski, Virginia Zawacki, Al Zipf

Ken Barber, Hu Bin, Jose Cardinal, Joseph Caruso, Roberta Cheong, Kim Chiu, Sister Noel Devine, Jimmy Distasio, MAD & Rose Marie Donato, Mark Donato, Mia Rose Faciana, 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, John Paleok, Anne Pataka, Rose Perez, Gerard Phillips, Ali Powers, James Rak, Victor Roa, Phyllis Robinson, D. Mary R. Joseph Rubin, David Sero, Kay Siani, Nicholas Tobar, Richard Tobar, Anthony Valentino, Luz Whitehead, Luke Williamson, Bai Xue, Ching Shiu Yau, Lan Ying Yee, Yaoyao Wu, Ramona Zavala, Susan Zibricky, Sonny Furmanek, Juliana, Kate Lynch, Josephine Laco, Dolores Becatti, Michele Young, Charles Corbett, Rick Deleon, Shirley Mendoza, Gary Leverence, MingYing Liu, FanYa Zhang, Diana Cardinal, Karen Zovko, Darlene Phillips Smith, Ella Dover, Jian GuoXin, Jeffrey Fockler, Anthony A. Briglio, Kelly Chrusciel, John Allan, Jack Martin, Sharon Solverson, XiaoMei Rack, Bach-Tuyet Therese Nguyen Chau, Shirley Podobailo, RenYing Huang, Dan Spano, Marion Roti, Mary Keating, Cheri Groark, Ron Lukwinski, Cory Chan, Martha Barajas,

*****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@stmotherteresaparish.org

Resident: Fr. John Cuff
Jcuff@maryknoll.org

Oper. Director: Ms. Leslie Flores
leslieflores@archchicago.org

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

Office Manager & Evangelization Lead:
Ms. Jing Zhang
jzhang@stmotherteresaparish.org

Office Assistant & Sacristan:
Ms. Judy Lukwinski
jalukwinski@gmail.com

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

Bulletin Editor: Mrs. Darlene Chan-Lowe
darlene.chan@sbcglobal.net

Ministry Coordinators

Youth: Mrs. Heba Jaqman
Young Adult: Mr. & Mrs. Joseph & Naomi Lowe
Religious Education Program: Mrs. Christine Delfin
English OCIA: Mrs. Rose Lau
Cantonese OCIA: Mr. Perry Lau
Mandarin OCIA: Mrs. HanFen Chan
Ministry of Care: Sr. Kathleen McNulty
Chinese Apostolate: Ms. Jing Zhang
International Students Outreach: Mr. Haber He, Mr. John Zheng & Ms. Jordan Qiao
Parish Pastoral Council Chairs: Mrs. Sharon Wong & Mr. Walter Podrazik
Finance Council Chair: Mr. Nick Andriacchi

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
[Facebook.com/StThereseChinatown](https://www.facebook.com/StThereseChinatown)
Phone: (312) 842.6777 Fax: 312-842-7978

St. Mother Teresa Hall: 2832 S. Quinn



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St. Therese Chinese Catholic School

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

Religion Teacher and Faith Formation Coordinator:

Mrs. Heba Jaqman
hjaqman@sttheresechicago.org

247 W. 23rd Street, Chicago, IL 60616
Phone: (312) 326-2837
Fax: (312) 326-6068

sttheresechicago.org

Sacraments/Sacramental

Please contact parish office for any of the following:

Baptisms: Parents must be registered practicing parishioners 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. Parish has English, Cantonese & Mandarin-OCIA available.

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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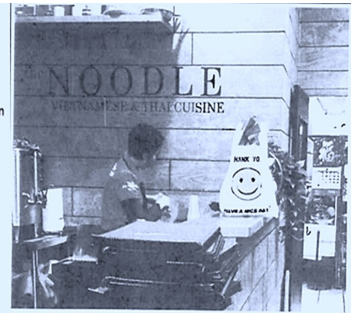
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“LEAVE EVERYTHING AT THE ALTAR” - Part 3 by Roberta Cheong

In Colossians 1:24, St. Paul wrote, “Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church.” What could be “lacking” in the afflictions of Christ? OUR sufferings (the sufferings of His Mystical Body) joined to the sufferings of the Head (Jesus Christ). The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass IS the complete fulfillment of this, because it is where we offer our sacrifices to God **united** to Jesus’ offering of His life on the cross to God as **Head** (Jesus Christ) + **Body of Christ** (the Church) = **ONE OFFERING to God**. This is why our participation in the Mass is necessary, because we are a continuous living sacrifice to God in union with the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and participating with Jesus in the redemption of the world.

Following after Jesus Christ (the Head), every baptized Catholic (the Mystical Body of Christ) share in Jesus’ three offices: priest, prophet, and king. Since a priest’s role is to offer sacrifices and gifts to God, then when we offer ourselves and the very best of everything we have to God, we are exercising our role as a priest.

THIS is what the Mass is about—the three-level collaboration of priesthoods:

During the Offertory at Mass, we (in *our* priesthood) offer ourselves and all of our sufferings, joys, hopes, prayers, praises, sacrifices, etc. and present them to the earthly priest. What we individually offer to God is joined together with the Church’s offering of bread and wine and the combined offerings of all the other members of the Church (the parts of the Body), and entrusted into the hands of the celebrant.

The celebrant (in *his* priesthood) receives the collective offerings of the Mystical Body of Christ (the Church) and unites them with his *own* offerings and sacrifices. He says to us, “Pray, brothers and sisters, **that my sacrifice and yours** may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.” To which we respond, “May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.”

Then Jesus, in *His* role as the Heavenly High Priest, receives our offerings and the priest’s offerings from the celebrant, makes them into His *own* offering of Himself on the crucifix, and altogether as **Head** (Jesus) + **Body** (the Church), Jesus offers ONE SACRIFICE to the Almighty God the Father. The priest becomes “in persona Christ,” i.e. Jesus Christ, at the Consecration during Mass, and this is when Jesus gives His offering of His life on the cross as the unblemished sacrificial Lamb of God to God, sacrificed once for all. The gifts we offer to God—the bread and wine—transubstantiates into the physical Body and Blood of Jesus Christ Himself, and He offers Himself back to us to consume as our heavenly food and drink. This is the very Body broken for us and nailed to the cross. The very Blood shed from Jesus’ Body. Thus, it is Jesus Himself who says to us, “Take this, all of you, and eat of it...”

In this three-level collaboration of priesthoods, each “priest” who receives offerings adds their own offerings and sacrifices to the collective whole offering. Simultaneously, this invisible action of collaboration further extends into the visible realm in the collection basket that is passed around the pews during the Offertory when each person adds their own tithe and almsgiving to the collective whole, which is presented to God as ONE OFFERING.

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THE SAMARITAN WOMAN’S THIRST by Fr. John Cuff

Thirst can be both physical or spiritual. Often it’s both, as in the case of the Samaritan woman who meets Jesus by Jacob’s well where they both come to get water. Physically she’s thirsty for water, which brings her to the well day after day. But spiritually, she’s also thirsty with an inner thirst, that evidently drives her from one man to another and for which she can find no satisfaction. Indeed, by the time she meets Jesus, she’s in her sixth marriage, and when she tells Jesus, “**I have no husband,**” she’s probably already on the lookout for husband number seven.

In the Bible, in John’s Gospel especially, numbers are often symbolic. Look closely at his mention of her six husbands. According to the Biblical symbolism of numbers, six is the number of imperfection, incompleteness, lack and deficiency. So the fact that this woman was in her sixth marriage would seem to indicate that she was living in a situation of lack and deficiency. Seven, on the other hand, is the number of perfection, completion, finality and sufficiency. Note that Jesus comes to this woman as the seventh man in her life. She opens up to him and finally experiences the satisfaction of everything her soul desires, the full quenching of her spiritual thirst. It’s a conversion experience. Don’t we all wish for the same during this season of Lent? For the first time in her life she meets a man who really understands her, and as a result she undergoes a deep conversion. Jesus has touched her heart. In her excitement she forgets her water jar and physical thirst (in fact it seems Jesus also has forgotten his own thirst) and runs back to the village inviting the villagers to “**come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done.**” In fact, Jesus is probably the first man to know her so well without rejecting her; and before you know it, this convert herself has become a missionary, bringing others to Jesus and to the joyful experience of conversion.

Let’s ask ourselves if we too have personally come to experience Jesus as the answer to our incompleteness, and decide what we’ll do during the rest of Lent, including prayer and self-denial, to quench our spiritual thirst. And let’s notice that today’s Gospel speaks not only of water, both physical water and the water of eternal life welling up from within one’s soul, but also of the need for inner conversion this Lent, and the duty we have to become missionaries to others.



ST. THERESE SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Chinese New Year Benefit such a wonderful celebration! A very special thank you to our student performers and to the teachers and staff who worked so hard to prepare them for this special night.

We are deeply grateful to our generous sponsors, donors, volunteers, families, and guests whose support made this event possible. Your kindness and dedication strengthen our school community and help sustain the mission of St. Therese Chinese Catholic School.

Congratulations to our Lifetime Community Service Award recipients, Larry and Theresa Wong, who were honored for their dedication to our school and parish community.

Gung Hay Fat Choy! Thank you for celebrating with us and for helping make the evening such a success.

