

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 19, 2020

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish Archdiocesan Center for Chinese Apostolate

St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church 聖德力華人天主教堂

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The current staff at St. Barbara Church is not listed here.

St. Therese Chinese Catholic School

聖德力華人天主教學校

A 2010 & 2018 National Blue Ribbon School

Principal: Mrs. Deborah Oi

DOi@StThereseChicago.org

Assistant Principals: Ms. Catherine Biel
and Mrs. Kelly Rojas

Director of Religious Education:

Mr. Thomas Howard

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

<http://www.sttheresechicago.org>



Ministry Coordinators

Youth Ministry:

Mr. & Mrs. Nick & Ellen Andriacchi

Young Adult Ministry:

Mr. Joseph Lowe & Ms. Jennifer Sin

Religious Education Program:

Mrs. Christine Delfin

RCIA Coordinators:

English RCIA: Mrs. Rose Lau

Cantonese RCIA: Mr. Perry Lau

Mandarin RCIA: Mrs. Joyce Hsieh

Spiritual Formation:

Sr. Mary Caritas Wehrman

Parish Pastoral Council Co-Chairs

Mr. George Lee & Mrs. Sharon Wong

Sacraments

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

Weddings: Church arrangements must be made at least six months in advance, before booking a reception hall.

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

The **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** and **Communion Calls** are available to those who are homebound or hospitalized.

Please contact the church office for additional information.



From the Desk of Fr. Francis

Greetings of Christ's Peace and Joy! Hope you all had a blessed week.

Encounter with God

Last week I had a powerful encounter with two missionaries. They came to my office with overflowing joy and smile to announce to me that God loves me and that God is working in our community. I was so grateful to hear these words. One of them also shared with me how God's Word has transformed her life from addiction to alcoholism to a missionary disciple. Her extraordinary encounter with God's Word changed her life. My encounter with them reminds me that they are indeed the bearers of the Good News of Jesus and the visible signs of God's invisible grace. They are not only the hearers of the Word of God, but also the doers of the Word of God. This experience challenges me to pay more attention to God's work in my life and in the lives of others and empowers me to be God's instrument of the Good News.

We know that God is present at all times. Moments of conscious encounters with God can have a lasting positive impact for our lives. It can change us and move us to good actions.

Faith in action is at the heart of Jesus' teachings. Today's Gospel offers us more parables which present insight into the mystery of the kingdom of heaven. Using the imagery of weeds and wheat growing together until the harvest time, Jesus affirms that the kingdom of heaven contains both saints and sinners. Our World includes the good and the bad, the easy and the difficult, the hopeful and the despaired. At times, we may feel the weeds are stronger than wheat. But we know Jesus has conquered the evil. Our mission is to love all people and to influence others for better and to be bearers of the Good News of Jesus Christ to all whom we meet.

The parables of the mustard seed and the yeast offer us insight into the growth process of the kingdom of God. There is a powerful message for us in these parables. We might be small, but we can make a difference for the kingdom of God if we have enough love. God's kingdom is growing. It is only partially fulfilled in the here and now. There is much more to come.

Like the missionaries I encountered this past week, today's parables help us to understand the many ways that each of us can share the Good News of Jesus and point the way for others to the kingdom of heaven. We do so by our words, but more importantly by our actions. Putting in the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words."

How do you encounter God in your life? How do you announce the Good News of Jesus to others? Miracles continue to happen in our lives. Jesus continues to teach us in various different ways: our parents, spouses, friends, priests, co-workers, the Eucharist, other Sacraments, the Bible and nature...How do we notice God's presence? How receptive are we to God in the ordinary events and things of our lives?

Peace ~ Fr. Francis

Respect Life

Glimmers of Hope – The dominant culture has been making it harder and harder for Catholics to proclaim and live the Gospel of Life. In two newly released decisions, the US Supreme Court has provided some relief. The **first** case involved the Little Sisters of the Poor who devote their lives to serving the elderly poor consistent with Church teaching, including teaching on contraception and the sacredness of the unborn. They have spent years in court opposing the Obama-era contraceptive mandate which obligates them, despite their religious beliefs, to provide contraceptive coverage to their employees. Then when the Trump administration issued a rule providing exemption to those objecting to the mandate for religious or moral reasons, Pennsylvania and New Jersey sought to invalidate the rule. On July 8, the Supreme Court upheld the rule. As the decision was decided on procedural rather than constitutional or other substantive grounds, it won't stop a new administration or other hostile government body from again attacking the exemption or seeking to remove it. Those fights are for tomorrow. Today, the Little Sisters and other targeted groups sharing religious or moral objections to the mandate can take a short breather. The **second** case involved application of the Religious Clauses of the First Amendment to personnel actions two Los Angeles Catholic elementary schools had taken against teachers. Under existing Supreme Court precedent from 2012, the Religious Clauses protects “the right of churches and other religious institutions to decide matters ‘of faith and doctrine’ without government intrusion . . . [and] their autonomy with respect to internal management decisions that are essential to the institution’s central mission” One component of this autonomy gives rise to the so-called “ministerial exception”. Under it, “courts are bound to stay out of employment disputes involving those holding certain key positions with churches and other religious institutions”. In its new ruling, also issued on July 8, the Supreme Court found that the ministerial exception applied, shielding both schools from further scrutiny by government and the courts. Its language is possibly sufficient for religious institutions in future disputes to shield from state authority their ability to claim that any employee who plays a role in “conveying the Church’s message and carrying out its mission” is covered by the ministerial exception. Read more at: <https://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/supreme-court-delivers-two-important-victories-for-religious-freedom>.

Quote – “Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to create a new human being they will love care for together. . . . That power to create a new life with God is at the heart of and what spouses share with each other.” — USCCB, “Married Love and the Gift of Life”.

Our Prayer – May married couples embrace their call to total, faithful, and fruitful love, and joyful openness to new life; *We pray to the Lord*....

Our Parish’s Live-Streamed 10:30am Sunday Mass:

Catholics are still absolved from Sunday obligations. Those who can't yet participate in person can still join us online; our 10:30am Sunday mass is live-streamed via Facebook and YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzAgZ6h3s85o_fB3QSYO2VQ)

Remember to "like" our new SMTC Facebook page to receive the latest news about the parish: <https://www.facebook.com/StMotherTeresaParish/>

Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish Communication News



SMTCP Facebook:

"If you haven't done so already, please "like"

<https://www.facebook.com/StMotherTeresaParish/> to receive the latest news about the parish."

SMTCP New Email System:

If you haven't done so already, please take a moment to sign up

<https://stmotherteresaparish.activehosted.com/f/1> to receive weekly bulletins and news from the parish.

SMTCP New Bulletin Design:

We are working to unify our parish bulletins. If you would like to share your designing talent, please let Fr. Francis know.

SMTCP New Website:

We have been working on a unified website. Thanks to all who have helped so far. We need volunteers to assist with the content and translation (from English to Chinese).

If you would like to be part of this ministry, please let Fr. Francis know.

St. Therese Chinese Catholic School NEWS

2020 Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement Ceremony

- **Baccalaureate Mass** will be at 11:00 am at St. Barbara Worship site on Sunday, August 2.
- **Commencement Ceremony** will be at 11:00 am at the St. Barbara Worship site on Sunday, August 9.
- **Students** are asked to come promptly at 10:30 am to practice for both events. Doors will open at 11:00 am.

*Please note: **the above two events are by invitation only, not open to public.** Please keep our 2020 graduates in your prayers.

St. Therese School Student Registrations for the 2020-2021 School Year:

St. Therese School, two-time National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence winner, is accepting student registrations for the 2020-2021 school year. We continue to anticipate reopening our school doors for in-person classroom teaching this fall. St. Therese School has an advanced core curriculum, innovative classroom technology, one-to-one student devices, along with Mandarin and Spanish instruction for all students from PK3 to Grade 8. For more information, contact us by phone (312-326-2837), email (admissions@sttheresechicago.org), or visit our website (<http://www.sttheresechicago.org>).

Faith Witness #2: Having the Rug Pulled Out by Thomas Howard

Have you ever experienced an abrupt, unexpected lack of support from someone who you have been relying on and depending upon? A phrase often used in English to describe this is, "Having the rug pulled out from under you."

Recently, on a Sunday afternoon while enjoying a little sun on the patio in the backyard, a former graduate from the school where I teach, now 19, found me on FaceBook messenger, delivering this desperate plea: "Mr. Howard, PLEASE send me some prayers, ASAP. Something unexpected just happened. My fear is that I do not know what to do."



Instant messenger provided me with a platform for an immediate response, inviting a callback. Seconds later, the phone rang. After a few minutes of clarifying his situation, I delivered this unambiguous, unequivocal response: "Friend, it would make no sense for me to send you any prayers. Prayer requires discipline. In this respect, you are way out of shape. I am currently in good shape. Can I pray for you?"

After a short pause, he agreed. Invoking the creative action of the Holy Spirit, this prayer showered my former student with Christ's peace and God's mercy. When I asked him how he felt afterward, his response was, "I feel like a million dollars!!"

Next, for some strange reason, an unorthodox choice but a providential choice was then made. "Hey, friend. Can I ask you a favor? I just had a nasty fight over the phone with my dad. Can you now reciprocate, and pray over me?"

To my great surprise, this former Catholic student, someone who has not stepped foot in a church since his baccalaureate mass at his 8th-grade graduation, blessed me with one of the most authentic, sincere, and heartfelt prayers I have ever had the privilege to receive.

Thanks to iPhones, not only were mutual prayers shared on this beautiful Sunday afternoon, but an eternal truth was revealed in the ongoing flow of my apostolic existence: Jesus invites every human being to bear witness, even the unbaptized. Baptism does, of course, provide friends of Jesus with unparalleled access to grace.

Christians can depend upon the grace of baptism to overcome a hurdle in life, like learning how to cooperate with the Holy Spirit. Docility carves out a path such as cooperation. Truth is discovered by learning how to cooperate within a divine relationship. I am grateful that this young man to put his trust in me, so I could witness Christ's love for him.

This young man will be invited to explore this truth further when we start Alpha at our parish. If you have an interest in experiencing the dynamic action of the Holy Spirit in your own life, then look forward to ALPHA ONLINE.

Keep posted here or reach out to **Jing** or **Tom**. God Bless!

SPECIAL PARISH CELEBRATIONS

RCIA Sacraments

Our RCIA celebration is rescheduled to Saturday, Aug. 1st at 5pm at St. Therese Church. We will celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation- Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion- for our RCIA catechumens and candidates.

Attendance is by invitation only. Please keep them in your prayers.

8th Grade Confirmation

Our Confirmation Mass is rescheduled to Saturday, Aug. 22nd at the 5pm Mass at St. Barbara Church. Please keep our Confirmandis in your prayers.

First Communion

Our First Communion is rescheduled to Saturday, Aug. 29th at 5pm at St. Therese Church. **Attendance is by invitation only. Please keep them in your prayers.**

St. Rocco Feast

Our annual St. Rocco Feast Day Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, Aug. 16th at 10:30am at St. Therese Church. Novena Prayer to St. Rocco will take place on Sat., Aug. 15th at 7:30pm. On that Sunday, our regular 8am mass and 10:30am mass will be combined to a 9am mass. **Attendance to St. Rocco Feast is by reservation only. For details and other festivities, please contact St. Rocco Society.**

- - - - -
PRAYER IN ACTION IS LOVE, LOVE IN ACTION IS SERVICE! - - ST. MOTHER TERESA

"IF YOU WANT PEACE, WORK FOR JUSTICE." -POPE PAUL VI

Weekly Offering

Collection for July 12, 2020

Sunday Envelopes	\$1,475	
GiveCentral	480	July 1-To-Present (Actual): \$5,121
<u>Sunday Loose</u>	<u>622</u>	July 1-To -Present (Budget): \$4,400
Total Collection	\$2,577	

Weekly Budget: \$2,200 % of Budget Attained: 116%

Please consider giving one hour of **your weekly salary as your contribution.**
May God bless your generosity! Thank YOU!



Please remember in your prayers those who are ill, hospitalized, and homebound...

Cita Orendain
Lois Payton
Shiu Wah Leung
Lan Ying Yee
Amelia Lorraine Schroeder
Karl Schroeder
Phil Maraldi
Nicholas Tobar
Sister Noel Devine
Barbara McElroy
Ramona Zavala
Michael Howley
Mina Preysler Munoz
Richard Tobar
MAD & Rose Marie Donato

Bernie Wong
Anne Pataka
Gerard Phillips
Dolly Roti
Marie Panozzo
Lai I Fan
Xue Ying Mou
Ching Shiu Yau
Gyna Gazzi
Joseph Rubin
Ken Barber
Kay Siani
Ted Sin
James Rak
Mark Donato
Florence Yu

Roberta Cheong
Victor Roa
Felina Li
Debbie Annoreno
Richard Shew
Mia Rose Faciana
Angelo Iasillo
Anthony Valentino
Anthony Scuito
James Gemkow
Frank Karagianes
Levi Kirkland
Phyllis Robinson
Susan Zibricky
Joseph Caruso

Brian Cook
Hu Bin
Barbara Metzinger
Ali Powers
Jose Cardenal
John Palenik
Matthew Mantia
Luke Williamson
Bai Xue
David Leung
Luz Whitehead
James Longo III
Rose Perez
June Moy

The Kingdom of God, Weeds and Wheat by Sr. Caritas

My parents were born and grew up in Wisconsin in towns surrounded by farms. As I go to Wisconsin to visit my cousins and extended family, drive through many areas where the highway goes between many farms, some on my right and some on my left. My family did not live on a farm but in a small rural town. Our family knew that "corn should be knee high by the fourth of July" and was often harvested in mid or late August. I was familiar with my Grandfather's garden. When we would return home, he would make sure we had potatoes and fresh vegetables from his garden and I learned what such plants looked like by going with him. How proud he was of his garden and how good everything tasted. The life of a farm family is difficult and unpredictable because of the weather. How much we need their work to survive.

Today's Gospel again talks of seeds and yeast. These are things a rural community would understand. The people of simple backgrounds surely know these elements. If you are lucky enough to have a garden you understand weeds. In Chicago we can have empty lots filled with weeds which always tells me the soil is good. The owner in the parable lets weeds and wheat grow till the time of harvest. We usually want to pull up weeds. In our hearts and daily lives we may have "wheat and weeds." We all have good qualities, virtues, wheat and some things which are not so good, "weeds." Some changes in our lives take a long time to uproot. Does that mean we do no good until the not so good quality is gone? Sometimes if we concentrate on doing the good, the not so good lessens and may even disappear. We have to face the not so good but we need God's special help and grace sometimes to uproot "the weeds". God can always do what we cannot do by ourselves.

The farmer could not pull up all the weeds. We may not be able to change all the things in our lives we want to change. We can do good and work at change one thing at a time. We count on God to give the growth of the good and uproot and weed out the bad. His Spirit is with us and helps us to pray as we count on God's help.



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News and Events

Fr. Lukas' New Assignment

Fr. Lukas has been assigned as Associate Pastor at St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish, which encompasses three churches: St. Tarcissus, St. Cornelius, and St. Thecla. May God bless Fr. Lukas in his new home. At this time, we are unable to give Fr. Lukas a proper farewell. If you wish to express your best wishes to Fr. Lukas, you can mail your cards to his new parish. Please keep Fr. Lukas in your prayers.



Weekly Parish Rosary on Zoom:

You are invited to join our weekly **Mandarin Rosary on Tuesdays** at 2:30pm and **English Rosary on**

Wednesdays at 3:00pm. If you are able to join, please contact Jing Zhang at jjsttherese@gmail.com for details.

REMINDER:

If you are considered as "vulnerable population;" or if you are having pre-existing health conditions; or if you are experiencing any health issues, out of super abundant caution and pure love for yourself and others, we strongly encourage you not to join our mass in-person for now and we kindly invite you to join our online masses.

Please Pray for the following Mercy Hos-



pital Patients: Rose, Nancie, Donna, Kathleen, James, Francisca, Jessica, Michelle, David, Kellie, Dawn, Elliott, Walker, Clementine, Darryl, Elaine, Ruth

Anne, Maria, Jennifer, Fred, Tony, Richard, Paula

MASS SCHEDULE

St. Barbara Church:

Weekends:

Saturday: Anticipated Mass: 5:00PM

Sunday: 6:00AM & 9:30AM

Weekdays:

8:00AM Mass: Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays

St. Therese Church:

Weekends:

Sunday: 8:00AM & 10:30AM, and Mandarin Mass on 2nd Saturday at 4pm; and 4th Sunday of the month at 12:30PM

Cantonese Mass 粵語:

1st Sunday of each month at 10:30am

每月第一主日 上午十時三十分

Indonesian Mass 印尼語:

2nd Sunday of each month at St. Barbara Chapel at 11:00am

Mandarin Mass 國語:

2nd Saturday of each month at 4pm
4th Sunday of each month at 12:30pm

每月第二周六下午四点和第四 主日中午十二点半

Weekdays:

8:00AM Mass: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

Mandarin Mass 國語

Will resume on Sunday, July 26th at 12:30pm.