

First Sunday of Advent November 29, 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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www.StBarbaraChicago.org <https://www.facebook.com/StMotherTeresaParish>

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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

Director of Religious Education:

Mr. Thomas Howard

247 W. 23rd Street, Chicago, IL 60616

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Ministry Coordinators

Youth Ministry:

Mr. & Mrs. Nick & Ellen Andriacchi

Young Adult Ministry:

Mr. Joseph Lowe

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.

Advent and Liturgical Year



Today is the First Sunday of Advent, the first day of the liturgical year B. You probably have already noticed the change of the color of the Altar Linens and the devotional ritual to the Advent Wreath. For the next four weeks, we will particularly walk with John the Baptist and Mary, to prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of the birth of our Savior.

As we begin this new liturgical year in the midst of the global pandemic, our sense of time has been heightened and I think it is good for us to review on our liturgical year, a seasonal cycle of celebrating Jesus' birth, death and resurrection. The Second Vatican Council's *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* summarizes the profound meaning of the liturgical celebrations of the Church and their organization as follows:

Holy Church celebrates the saving work of Christ on prescribed days in the course of the year with sacred remembrance. Each week, on the day called the Lord's Day, she commemorates the Resurrection of the Lord, which she also celebrates once a year in the great Paschal Solemnity, together with his blessed Passion. In fact, throughout the course of the year the Church unfolds the entire mystery of Christ and observes the birthdays of the Saints. (no. 1)

The liturgical year is made up of six seasons:

- ***Advent** - four weeks of preparation before the celebration of Jesus' birth
- ***Christmas** - recalling the Nativity of Jesus Christ and his manifestation to the peoples of the world
- ***Lent** - a six-week period of penance before Easter
- ***Sacred Paschal Triduum** - the holiest "Three Days" of the Church's year, where the Christian people recall the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus
- ***Easter** - 50 days of joyful celebration of the Lord's resurrection from the dead and his sending forth of the Holy Spirit
- ***Ordinary Time** - divided into two sections (one span of 4-8 weeks after Christmas Time and another lasting about six months after Easter Time), wherein the faithful consider the fullness of Jesus' teachings and works among his people

For detailed explanations, please see <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year-and-calendar>

Throughout the liturgical year, we celebrate the different dimensions of the life of Jesus and these celebrations help us to be mindful of our salvation history. Our Sunday readings are divided into Years A, B, and C and our weekday readings are consisted of years I and II. All the readings are arranged seasonally to help us to commemorate the saving work of Christ.

As we begin this new liturgical year with the season of Advent, a time to prepare and to wait, let's pray for God's grace to renew, to heal, and to purify us.

Peace ~ Fr. Francis

Advent Wreath

An Advent wreath symbolizes our longing for the coming of Christ. The wreath is a circle of evergreen branches into which are set four candles. Traditionally three candles are violet, and one is rose, but four violet or four white candles may also be used.

The wreath symbolizes many things. Evergreens signify God's enduring promise of redemption, evident like green branches in the midst of snow. The circle signifies our hope for the return of Christ, whose Kingdom will have no end. The colors of the candles match the traditional colors of the vesture for the four Sundays of Advent. Violet garments signify our penitent hope for salvation. The rose color, which may be worn on Advent's Third Sunday, signals that the season is nearly over—joy is at hand!

The wreath's most luminous symbol is its growing light. One candle is lit on the First Sunday of Advent, two on the Second, three on the Third and all four on the Fourth. In the northern hemisphere, Advent comes at a time when the days decrease to their shortest length. As the hours of darkness increase, we light more candles on the wreath. The wreath, which symbolizes the coming of Christ, grows in intensity as the anniversary of Jesus' birth draws near.

The Advent wreath may be used at home or at church. It should be blessed on the First Sunday of Advent after the homily at one Mass, at evening prayer Saturday night, or during a prayer service including biblical readings and Advent songs. At home, a family member can bless the wreath. It may be lit during the evening meal, to remind everyone of the true meaning of this holy season.

Advent Wreath Year B

If you are setting up an Advent wreath in your home this year, here are some prayers you could say while you light its candles. You may say these before or after a meal, when waking up, before going to bed, or whenever you and the members of your household can gather for prayer. Before you say the prayer, read and talk over the gospel you heard at Sunday Mass that week.

Week 1: O God, who ask us to be watchful and alert because we do not know when you will come, let this candle give us light and help us stay awake. At those times when you ask us to act, give us strength to respond at once. Through Christ our Lord.

Week 2: O God, who sent John the Baptist to proclaim a Baptism of repentance, let these two candles prepare the way for the Lord within us. Forgive our sins and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Make us ready to celebrate the birthday of our Savior. Through Christ our Lord.

Week 3: O God, who sent John the Baptist as a voice crying out in the desert, open our ears to hear his message as we light the rose candle. Shape our lives so that they will become a straight path to you. Make us ready to greet your Son when he comes to us. Through Christ our Lord.

Week 4: O God, who sent your angel Gabriel to announce good news to Mary, make us happy with your word of life. Let our hearts be so filled with love for you that they glow with the light of these four candles. May we live in a way that will please you. Through Christ our Lord.

Congratulations, Fr. Francis Li



We have some good news! On November 19th, Fr. Francis Li, along with two other priests, one from Chile and one from Columbia, was incardinated into the Archdiocese of Chicago.

You may wonder what this strange word, incardination, means. This canonical term means a 'permanent attachment' of a particular priest to a particular diocese. In other

words, Fr. Li now belongs to the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Fr. Tom Cima, dean of our area, presented Fr. Li to Cardinal Cupich, highlighting how hard Fr. Li has worked on the Chinese Apostolate in Bridgeport and Chinatown. "Fr. Li is committed to growing evangelization and faith formation," Fr. Cima reported.

Congratulations, Fr. Li! We are blessed to have you as our pastor.

*You can watch Fr. Li's incardination on Catholic Chicago's YouTube page.

~ Tom Howard

Praying the Rosary

St. Mother Teresa loved praying the rosary and taught her Sisters to love this wonderful devotion too. She taught that *our fervent praying of the rosary is a very special way for us to contemplate with our Heavenly Mother the mysteries of Jesus' life that she shared so fully. Yes, we must always be very faithful and never give up praying the Rosary.*



Our parish offers the following regular opportunities to pray the rosary together.

- 1) 5:30am on Sundays at St. Barbara Church
- 2) 5pm on Mondays with Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity at St. Therese Church
- 3) 2:30pm on Tuesdays in Mandarin on Zoom
- 4) 7pm on Wednesdays in English on Zoom
- 5) First Friday of the Month at 7pm at St. Therese Church

Please email Jing Zhang for the Mandarin Zoom information at jzsttherese@gmail.com or contact Perry Lau via our parish offices at 312-842-7979 or 312-842-6777 for the English Zoom information.

Bible Sharing

Our parish offers bi-weekly Mandarin and weekly Cantonese Bible Sharing on Zoom during this pandemic. All are welcome to join. For the Mandarin group, please email Jing Zhang for the Zoom information at jzsttherese@gmail.com or contact John Lin via our parish offices at 312-842-7979 or 312-842-6777 for the Cantonese Zoom information.

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St. Therese School held the 50/50 Grand Raffle Early Bird Drawing on Monday, November 23rd. **Congratulations to Araceli Garcia**, parent of Citlalli and Carmen Huerta (6th and 8th grade students)! ***It's not too late to get your ticket for a chance to win the Grand Prize!***

Baby Bottle Project



This year our parish will once again participate in the Baby Bottle Project. You can pick up a bottle at both entrances of St. Barbara Church and St. Therese Church, and return it on the weekend before Christmas. Thank you in advance for your support which will help:

- + ***The Ministry of the Women's Center***
- + ***Teen parents with their babies***
- + ***Pregnant women with babies***
- + ***People of good will to have a great opportunity for conversations***

about life and to help people in our community and beyond who might be in need. We depend on you, and they depend on us.

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish Hats, Gloves, Scarves, Socks Clothing Drive

St. Vincent de Paul Society - *Our generosity will support St. James!*
Donations will be accepted through Thanksgiving weekend.
Boxes are at the church entrance for your donations.





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

Cita Orendain	Bernie Wong	Roberta Cheong	George Lee
Lois Payton	Anne Pataka	Victor Roa	Hu Bin
Shiu Wah Leung	Gerard Phillips	Felina Li	Barbara Metzinger
Lan Ying Yee	Dolly Roti	Debbie Annoreno	Ali Powers
Amelia Lorraine Schroeder	Marie Panozzo	Richard Shew	Jose Cardenal
Karl Schroeder	Lai I Fan	Mia Rose Faciana	John Palenik
Phil Maraldi	Xue Ying Mou	Matthew Mantia	Lucy Wong
Nicholas Tobar	Ching Shiu Yau	Anthony Valentino	Luke Williamson
Sister Noel Devine	Gyna Gazzi	Bai Xue	David Leung
Barbara McElroy	Joseph Rubin	James Gemkow	Luz Whitehead
Ramona Zavala	Ken Barber	Frank Karagianes	James Longo III
Michael Howley	Kay Siani	Levi Kirkland	Rose Perez
Mina Preysler Munoz	Ted Sin	Phyllis Robinson	June Moy
Michael Tobar	James Rak	Susan Zibricky	Brian Cook
MAD & Rose Marie Donato	Mark Donato	Rose AnnFormusa	
	Florence Yu		

Get Ready, it's Advent by Sr. Caritas

If you go into stores these days, some are putting up their Christmas decorations. A couple of weeks ago I heard on the radio, another radio station had started playing Christmas music. The secular world around us is already building the anticipation for the Christmas shopping season. News people are discussing how much money will be spent on gifts this season. Our material world around us, puts much energy into preparing for Christmas.

This Sunday we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. Our Gospel today has Jesus telling His Apostles to prepare, wait, and be ready. We do not know the day or the hour of God's coming. The first reading calls us to remember our sinfulness, our lack of fidelity. It is easy to be involved in everyday life and not to be willing to prepare for God's coming. God knows our weakness. He is our Father. We are called at this time to recognize our need for God and our call to change our lives. We are to get ourselves ready, as a woman prepares her home for the coming of visitors. We are called in Advent to prepare our hearts, our lives, for God's coming to us. "Show us your face Lord, and we shall be saved." Wait, prepare, be open. We do not know the day or the hour. Come Lord Jesus. Emanuel, God with us.



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to celebrate the God of life, the God
who gives life...

In every child which is born and in every
person who lives or dies we see the im-
age of God’s glory. We celebrate this

glory in every
human being, a sign of the living God,
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(The Gospel of Life).


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News and Events

First Friday Holy Hour Devotion

There will be a Holy Hour on Friday, Dec. 4th in Church with Divine Mercy Chaplets prayer and benediction. All are welcome!

First Saturday Holy Hour Devotion and Healing Mass at St. Barbara

Saturday, Dec. 5th at the 8am mass at St. Barbara Chapel with the prayer of the Marian Litany and Anointing of the Sick.

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)

Our Parish has a new Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StMotherTeresaParish>. Please like us and follow us for parish events!

RCIA Programs

Our English, Cantonese and Mandarin RCIA have started. Classes are taught online this year. You may still invite interested parties to join our programs.

Religious Education (RE) for children from 1st to 8th Grade. If you would like to enroll your child, please contact: Chris Delfin at: ChrisDelfin@gmail.com

Parish Office at 312-842-6777

Please pray for all Mercy Hospital Patients.



PRAYERS

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Mrs. Judy Moy**, our eldest parishioner, and member of our Sacred Heart Ladies Club who passed away last Friday. May she rest in heavenly peace.

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

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 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.

