

Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 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
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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

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Ministry Coordinators

Youth Ministry:

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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.

Mass Intentions

December 6, 2020 Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 A.M.** + Sau Fong Yuan by Margaret & Teresa
+ Delfin Masangcay by Pam Spano & Family
+ Yang TongGuan & Lin BaoGui by Bi Jiang
+ Yang ShiHong & John Yang by Bi Jiang
- 10:30 A.M.** + Joanna Wai Nin Law Wan by Law Family
+ Bow Kam Woo by Darlene & Chris Lowe
+ Delfin Masangcay by Sheila & John Lin & Family
+ Francis Parrilli by Gertrude Chan
+ Judy Moy by Monica Lam
+ Fr. Aniello Salicone by Marian Torrez & Family

MON. Dec. 7th Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
****(Mass at St. Therese Church)***

- 8:00 A.M.** + Judy Moy by Monica Lam
+ Monica Liu by Bi Jiang
+ Rosemarie Warnock by Bi Jiang
+ Viginia by Bi Jiang

TUE. Dec. 8th The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:00A.M. *(Mass at St. Barbara Church)

- 7:00 P.M.** ****(Mass at St. Therese Church)***
+ David & Cookie Jarzyna by Marion Roti

WED. Dec. 9th Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin *(Mass at St. Therese Church)

- 8:00 A.M.** + Bernadette Zito by Briglio Family
+ Judy Moy by Rose Lee
+ Mark Garza by Wendy Sin

THU. Dec. 10th Advent Weekday *(Mass at St. Barbara Chapel)

8:00 A.M. +

FRI. Dec. 11th Saint Damasus I, Pope *(Mass at St. Therese Church)

- 8:00 A.M.** + Judy Moy by Rose Lee

SAT. Dec. 12th Our Lady of Guadalupe *(Mass at St. Barbara Chapel)

- 8:00 A.M.** + Kay Culen by Pat , Wendy & Family

5:00 P.M. ****(Mass at St. Barbara Church)***



From the Desk of Fr. Francis

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

Thanks

Our heartfelt thanks to **Eva Mrgan** for nearly 30 years of music service to our faith community. Please take a moment to read her retirement announcement in this bulletin. This is a not a good-bye, but a transition. Eva will continue to provide music at St. Barbara Worship Site primarily on Sundays. We are blessed to have her continuous service and involvement. As much as we would like to celebrate her retirement as our Music Director, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we might have to hold her party until later. Meanwhile please join me to thank Eva for her dedication and love to our community; wish her well as she goes through this transition; and assure her of our prayers.

Thanks to all students, families, and catechists from our Parish's Religious Education Program for taking the lead at the 10:30am mass on Sunday, Nov. 22. Their participation as greeters, lector, and leaders of the Prayer of the Faithful is greatly appreciated. Since their weekly classes are held online, it was particularly good to see them and have them as part of our Mass. We also want to thank our catechists for faithfully navigating their online classes during this difficult time. They are doing an awesome job.

Thanks to all who helped with the Advent decoration of our churches. It was wonderful to see so many children who helped. Their enthusiasm and eagerness brought much joy and good feelings to the work.

Being Attentive During this Advent

One of the central messages of Advent is about watching and being prepared. It calls us to consciously take some quality time daily to be attentive to our spiritual lives, to see if there are things that we need to make changes, and to be aware of God working in and through us.

We all know how busy our lives can be during this holiday season. With the challenge of the COVID - 19, this year is particularly hard. We are being distracted by many obligations, responsibilities, and hardships.

The necessity of doing self-examination as a practice of being attentive has been taught by many sages in our history. For example, Confucius taught his students to do self-examination three times a day. Tseng Tzu said: "I daily examine myself on three points: —whether, in transacting business for others, I may have been not faithful; —whether, in intercourse with friends, I may have been not sincere; —whether I may have not mastered and practiced the instructions of my teacher."

In the Jesuit tradition, Ignatius taught his brothers to practice **The Daily Examen** which is "*a technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day in order to detect God's presence and discern his direction for us.* The Examen is an ancient practice in the Church that can help us see God's hand at work in our whole experience."

We have so many examples of heroes and heroines in faith who can be our guides and teachers for being attentive to God in our daily discipleship. As we celebrate the Feast of St. Barbara this Sunday, we are reminded how St. Barbara has been a source of inspiration for countless of our parishioners throughout the over 100 years of history. Being a convert, St. Barbara was always attentive to God and was always willing to learn more about the Trinity. The transformations which took place in her life are manifestations of her attentiveness to God's grace, God's love, and God's mercy. What an example we have in St. Barbara.

So this Advent, let's strive to be attentive to God, and we do so by being attentive first to one another.

Peace ~ Fr. Francis

THE THREE MEANINGS OF ADVENT

By Fr. John Cuff

The roots of the English word ADVENT are found in two Latin words. The verb, VENIRE, which means to come and the preposition AD, which means toward. The four weeks of advent focus on the coming of God to us. Advent has three meanings.

There is the coming of God in the person of Jesus of Nazareth who entered into time and history born into human flesh in Bethlehem of Judea. This coming is celebrated and remembered annually at Christmas. Advent prepares us for the coming of Christ at His birth.

There is the coming of God at the end of time to judge the living and the dead. God will appear as Lord in majesty on the last day. Advent looks to the final times, which some refer to as the Rapture, and it prepares us for when the Lord will come and usher in the fullness of God's Reign and the end of this world.

There is the coming of God in the present moment, when we may least expect it---the advent of God into my own life. Some refer to this as God's coming in mystery. God's nearness can be experienced in a variety of ways, in persons, events, in the Sacraments and in prayer.

In the past God came in the historical coming of Jesus Christ to save us. In God's hands is the future God will come again. And, in the now of everyday God comes to us. Advent invites us to be ready, alert and prepared for these many comings of God to us.

Thus, while Advent is structured around these comings of God to us, now is also the time for us to come to God. Advent is like a two way street--- God to us and us to God. Have we begun our Advent journey yet?



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.



ST. BARBARA

Photo taken in Amethyst, Maissau, Austria and Story provided by Eva Mrgan

SAINT AND MARTYR: PATRON SAINT FOR MINERS, FIREFIGHTERS, and ARTILLERY. (She's venerated by Catholics who face the danger of sudden and violent death)

St. Barbara known in the Eastern Orthodox Church as the Great Martyr Barbara, lived and suffered during the reign of the emperor Maximian (305-311). Because of doubts about the historicity of her legend, she was removed from the General

Roman Calendar in the 1969 revision, though not from the Catholic Church's list of saints.

Barbara was the daughter of the rich pagan named Dioscorus and when his wife died, Dioscorus put all his attention on his only daughter. Barbara was extraordinarily beautiful so Dioscorus decided to hide her from the eyes of strangers. Her father built her a tower where only her pagan teachers were allowed to see her. From her tower, Barbara was able to view the wooded hills, rivers and meadows blanketed with flowers, which was breathtaking. She came to a realization that idols could not have made the surrounding world. Her father and teachers offered worship to these idols, but Barbara's desire to know the true God, consumed her soul so she decided to devote all her life to this goal and to spend her life in virginity.

Before Dioscorus set off on a journey, he ordered a bath-house to be erected for Barbara's use near her tower. Originally, two windows were to be put in, but Barbara had three windows put in as a symbol of the Holy Trinity. When her father returned, Barbara acknowledged herself as a Christian, which infuriated her father.

The short end of her story, was that her father, being so angry at his daughter for not renouncing her Christian faith, took out his sword and beheaded her. However, as punishment, on his way home, he was struck by lightning and his body was consumed by flames. Barbara was buried by a Christian, Valentinus, and her tomb became the site of miracles.

St. Barbara Symbols:

The Tower: is a reference to the Holy Trinity and this symbol is frequently associated with military engineering emblems.

The Cannon: a modern symbol referenced to her role as patron of artillerymen.

The Peacock Feather: a traditional Christian symbol of immortality due to the belief that peacock flesh does not decay. The peacock feather is frequently associated with St. Barbara in reference to her home city of Heliopolis.

The Crown: an early Christian symbol of immortality and martyrdom, in reference to the crown of thorns worn by Jesus Christ during his crucifixion.

The Chalice: symbol of the Sacrament, which is often associated with St. Barbara because of her final wish for the grace of Sacrament. St. Barbara is the only female saint to be depicted with the communion chalice and wafer.

* * * * *

Dear Parishioners,

The time has come for me to retire from my post as your Music/Choir Director as of December 31st. I have developed deep and lasting friendships with many of you and I am thankful to God for allowing me to serve St. Barbara for nearly 30 years. I arrived here first in 1990 as a pianist/organist accompanist and then became Music Director and Music Teacher for both, the church and the school in 1996. I left for another Director position in 2001 but came back to St. Barbara in 2006 till present time. I've considered how I'd like to spend my final working years as a church musician and playing as a sub-organist is what I'll be doing, so you will still see me at the organ for the 6:00 a.m. mass and most 9:30 a.m. masses. I will miss working with the choirs and cantors, and I will personally be thanking all of them including the staff.

Please keep me in your prayers as I make this transition to a new phase in life and career.

~Eva Mrgan

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HERE IS OUR WINNER FROM LAST YEAR – THIS YEAR'S WINNER COULD BE YOU!



Please support our school...
There's still time to purchase a 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.

CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

St. Barbara and St. Therese School alumni are invited to join a newly formed Alumni Committee to help further the mission of our school.



Please contact Nicole Yong at nyong@sttheresechicago.org for more information.

As part of our Religious Education program, St. Therese School's 7th and 8th grade students and Parish PREP students continue working on their **Saint Project**. Their research and reflection was conducted in preparation for both All Saints Day and their Confirmation next spring.

St. Barbara (C. 273 - 306 AD)

- She secretly became a Christian and dedicated her life to know God and making him known to others.
- When she professed to Christianity she didn't tell her father. But when he found out that she did he tortured her and beheaded her.
- Feast Day: December 4

Student Reflection: What impresses me the most is even though her dad wanted her to marry she didn't do it because she believed in God. She didn't want to get married yet because she wanted to learn more about God. I admire her bravery because when she was getting tortured she was praying to God and she got healed.



Weekly Offering

Collection for November 29, 2020

Sunday Envelopes	\$ 970	
GiveCentral	460	July 1-To-Present (Actual): \$ 42,401
Sunday Loose	125	July 1-To -Present (Budget): \$ 48,400
Total Collection	\$ 1,308	

Weekly Budget: \$2,200 % of Budget Attained: 87%

Thanksgiving Donation \$ 6,988

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
Michael Tobar
MAD & Rose Marie Donato

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Anne Pataka
Gerard Phillips
Dolly Roti
Marie Panozzo
Lai I Fan
Xue Ying Mou
Ching Shiu Yau
Gyna Gazzi
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Kay Siani
Ted Sin
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Felina Li
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Rose AnnFormusa

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Barbara Metzinger
Ali Powers
Jose Cardenal
John Palenik
Lucy Wong
Luke Williamson
David Leung
Luz Whitehead
James Longo III
Rose Perez
June Moy
Brian Cook

Messengers by Sr. Caritas

Everywhere we go or look in the world, there are messages for us to see and hear. Sometimes the messenger is part of the message. If you are a parent, you get messages from the school through your children. Soon, some of us, will send Christmas messages to people using the messenger of the Christmas Card sent though the post office. Our Gospel today tells of a very important and powerful messenger.

Let us imagine that today instead of Father Li we had a different messenger, proclaiming a special message to us. It would be someone we have never seen before, dressed in camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist. Probably he would be wearing sandals. He had lived in the desert for many years, eating what he could find there. He brings us a very special, clear, and direct message. He comes, as it were, through many centuries, times, and countries to be with us this day just to give us this message.

This person is John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus, coming today to tell us, "Repent of your sins and be baptized. I am the voice crying out. Prepare the way of the Lord. One greater than I is coming to Baptize with the Holy Spirit." As Isaiah says, a messenger will come to prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths."

Would you follow John's powerful, clear, message? Would you make the paths in your life straight? Would you repent of your sins? Would you get ready for the coming of the Lord? Listen to the messenger. Follow his directives. Get ready for the coming of Jesus, the Lord, the Messiah. Time is growing short. Christmas will soon be here. Get Ready!



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News and Events

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is on Tuesday, Dec. 8th. Our masses are at 8am in St. Barbara Church and 7pm in St. Therese Church.

Our annual **Simbangbi Mass** will take place on Saturday, Dec. 12th at the 5pm mass at St. Barbara.

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



Cynthia

Please pray for the following Mercy Hospital Patients:

Angeline, Guadalupe, Delia, James, Mary, Michael, Sharon, Catherine, Pate, Henry, John,

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.