

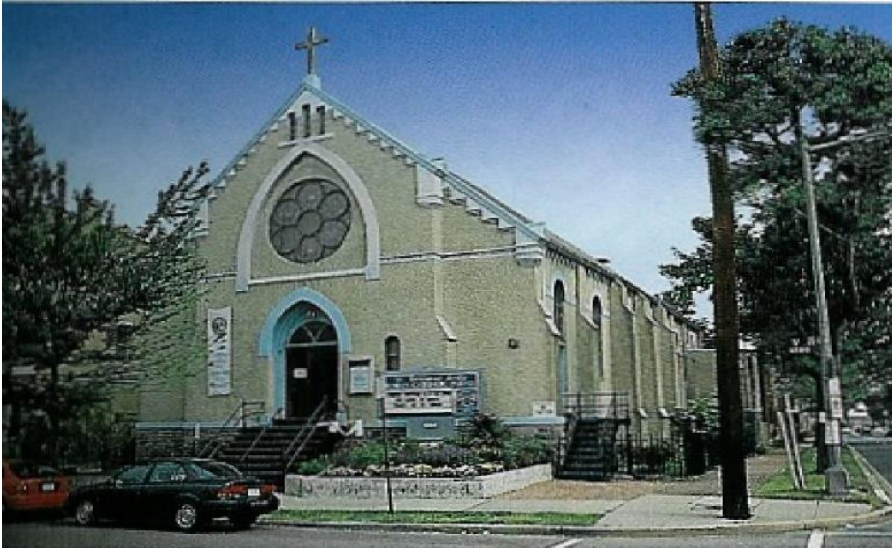
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 6, 2020

Saint Teresa of Avila Catholic Church

1244 V Street SE, Washington, DC 20020-7016 www.stachurchdc.org

Our 140th Year as an Evangelizing Parish that positively impacts its Members and the Community in which it lives.



Reconciliation: Monsignor East is available for drive-by confessions. Please contact the PLC to schedule a time

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 10:00am – 3:00pm and Friday, 10am – 1pm

Contact Us: 202-678-3709; Fax: 202-678-3325, Website: www.stachurchdc.org

Mailing Address: St. Teresa of Avila Parish Life Center
1401 V Street SE, Washington, DC 20020-4809

Pastor – Msgr. Raymond G. East Easter090@gmail.com; Mobile 202-355-8888

Deacon – Dr. William A. Hawkins, Jr. whawk39564@aol.com

Director of Worship & Arts – Shirli Hughes shirli.stamusic@gmail.com

Spiritual Direction – Sister Anne Marie Schreiner, DC (205) 919-0010 or srannema@stv.org

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Parish Receptionist – Pamela Council pcouncil2009@gmail.com

Parish Bookkeeper – Sister Pauline Oduekila paulineoduekila@yahoo.fr



Sunday Meditation

PANDEMIC PROSPERITY

The word “prosperity” has often been given a negative connotation with regards to spiritual matters because it is sometimes interpreted to be fixated on money and things. ***But at its root, the word comes from the Latin word prosperous which simply means “doing well”.*** So, I have come to view the desire for prosperity as a quest for wellness in **all** aspects of my life. During this pandemic, it feels like the rug has been pulled out from under the whole world and left us unable to follow our comfortable patterns or rely on the understandings that we thought were solid and safe. The importance of “whole person” wellness has been given a level of attention and scrutiny far greater than what I recall previously...and I have been compelled to take a closer look at it for myself. And what I’ve found is that it begins and ends with the direction of my thoughts and where I allow them to take me. Just this week in the Gospel, Jesus told Peter, “You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.” So, with each passing day during this challenging time, I endeavor to put on the “mind of Christ” each time I hear troubling news.

Where my human mind focused on the loss of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and so many others, my Christ-mind tells me that their deaths have sparked an outcry and demand for justice on a **global** scale and the conversation has shifted and expanded in new ways.

Where my human mind focused on the loss of John Lewis, my Christ-mind tells me that he left us with his own set of “Basic Instructions” to inspire a whole new generation to continue the work towards a society rooted in peace and love.

Where my human mind focused on the loss of Ms. Mary Smith, my Christ-mind tells me that she truly worshipped the Lord, “in Spirit and in Truth,” as if there was no one else around to witness the deeply personal encounters she had each and every Sunday. And so now, during this time when we’re in our homes and not physically together in worship, perhaps we’re all being given the chance to have our own deep, personal encounters with God in private and without concern about who might see our vulnerability.

When Chadwick Boseman died this week, the wave of despair and grief was swift and widespread. So much pain and sadness over the loss of his life...it sounded very much like the same lament we often hear when people my age or younger pass on. Statements about how it was, “too soon” and speculation that, “there was so much more he would have done,” and so on. But this time, I also started to hear more of a different story. People feeling like they should be grieving, but instead finding themselves unexpectedly at peace because of the purposeful way he lived his life. I saw more people focused on the inspiration found in his life rather than the sadness and tragedy they found in his death. I read more posts from people celebrating what his life and career meant to a generation of young boys and girls in his role as the Black Panther. I felt a shift in the atmosphere where more people were paying attention to what it meant to reach the ending of a life well-lived, regardless of its length. Suddenly, there was increased interest in what it looks like and what it takes to make your own life count. My Christ-mind pointed out that even in that powerful role, Chadwick (as T’Challa) encouraged us to look beyond our human perspective when he said, ***“In my culture, death is not the end.” Sound familiar?***

For me, ***prospering in this pandemic has meant actively and intentionally seeking the purpose in ALL things.*** Though we can’t know all that is at work in the mind of God, we can choose to trust that each life **and** each death has purpose and meaning in the divine plan. As our heroes and loved ones pass on, we still must give ourselves time to grieve, mourn, and express our sorrow. When the time for healing begins, let your Christ-mind whisper that they are not truly lost. Instead, they have each become a grain of wheat (John 12:24), no longer existing as a single grain, but bearing much fruit that will continue to live.

_____Namaste

Erin Wiley

PHYSICAL MASS PARTICIPATION AT STA

On June 22nd, the District of Columbia entered Phase 2 of its reopening plan. The Mayor's Executive Order allows D.C. parishes to resume public Mass at 50% capacity, with a maximum of 100 persons. *"Places of worship that choose to operate on this limited basis must clean the facility between services and are encouraged to take reservations and assign seats to conform to this requirement and to facilitate contact tracing. Singing, choirs, all physical touching of others, and the passing or sharing of items pose particular dangers and are discouraged to prevent the spread of COVID-19."*

To keep our parishioners safe and healthy, we will adhere to the rules and guidelines from both the District of Columbia and the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. We are pleased to announce that St. Teresa of Avila has implemented the Mayor's guidance on public gatherings effective Sunday, September 6, 2020 with the visit of Archbishop Gregory Wilton.

StreamingLive[®]

We will continue the *Livestream Mass on the STA Facebook page and St. Teresa of Avila YouTube channel every Sunday at 9:30am. Visit www.stachurchdc.org for links. We encourage you to get online 10 minutes early for virtual fellowship, praise, and worship time. Visit the Archdiocese website for additional recorded and live-streamed Masses at <https://adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/>*

Twining with our sister parish, St. Antoine, Vieux Bourg & with the Diocese of Jeremie in Haiti, West Indies



DAILY **MASS READINGS**

Sunday September 6th Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ezekiel 33:7-9, Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9, Romans 13:8-10, Matthew 18:15-20

Monday, September 7th Twenty-third Week in Ordinary Time
1 Corinthians 5:1-8, Psalms 5:5-6, 7, 12, Luke 6:6-11

Tuesday, September 8th Twenty-third Week in Ordinary Time Feast of the
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Micah 5:1-4A Or Romans 8:28-30, Psalms 13:6AB, 6C, Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23 Or
Matthew 1:18-23

Wednesday, September 9th Twenty-third Week in Ordinary Time Memorial of
Saint Peter Claver, Priest
1 Corinthians 7:25-31, Psalms 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17, Luke 6:20-26

Thursday, September 10th Twenty-third Week in Ordinary Time
1 Corinthians 8:1B-7, 11-13, Psalms 139:1B-3, 13-14AB, 23-24, Luke 6:27-38

Friday, September 11th Twenty-third Week in Ordinary Time
1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22B-27, Psalms 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12, Luke 6:39-42

Saturday, September 12th Twenty-third Week in Ordinary
1 Corinthians 10:14-22, Psalms 116:12-13, 17-18, Luke 6:43-49

Sunday September 13th Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sirach 27:30-28:7, Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12, Romans 14:7-9
Matthew 18:21-35

prayer&fasting

Please Pray for Our Sick, Our Shut-In, and all who are suffering from the scares of this Pandemic. And Jesus says, *let me fill you with My Love, “I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being”.* – Ephesians 3:16

Richie Allison (son of Sandi Allison-Harris), Kate Butler, Betty Cook (Aunt of Wanda Smith), Nadine and Earl Day, Helen Despertt, Clark James Durand, Sylvester Enlow (father of Denise Yorkshire), Ricardo Featherstone, Corey Fowler-Cooke, Patricia Franklin, William Gorham, Mary Greenfield, Grimes and Tolliver families, Renee Gross, Antonio “Big Tony” Haggins, Ethel Hale, Audrey Hawkins, Barbara and Kevin Hill, Patricia Pickens-James, Reginald Johnson, Sheila Kennedy, Ronald McCants, Paul McCloud (Ralph McCloud’s brother), Channing McKinney, Veronica McKinney, Inez Matthews, Dorothy Morgan, Mother Kamana Asteria Mukangango (mother of Fr. Didace), Vivian Parker (Sister Marie Bernadette’s sister), Jocelyn Reyes, Bonita Robinson, Barbara Savoy (mother of Liz Hall), Lee Scott (husband of Joanne Scott), Michelle Whatley-Seabrooks, Willa Spruill, Wanda Smith and the entire Smith Family on the loss of Mother Mary Smith, Frieda Stanley, Darian Taylor, Dorothy Taylor (cousin of Pauline Barnes), Yolanda Thomas, Bernadette Trowell, Paulette Vernon, Sharree Walls, and Denise Washington.

How can we pray for you and your family? You can send your request directly to stachurchcommunications@gmail.com or contact the PLC.



HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN



IN MEMORIAM

Please keep the families of our beloved parishioners who have gone home this month lifted in prayers.

Robert Lee Smith
(Uncle of Barbara and Kevin Hill)

*He has made his way to this **Highway to Heaven**. He will be missed dearly, but we know that he goes before us, and we will see him someday soon.*

Jesus Awaits Us in the Eucharist

Selection from Homilies by Pope Benedict XVI

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, many of us have had to go weeks or months without receiving the Eucharist.

This has been difficult for all of us, but it has also helped us to grow more in appreciation for this life-giving sacrament.

These homilies by Pope Benedict XVI can help us reflect on the amazing gift of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Do We Desire to Receive Jesus?

“I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer” (Luke 22:15). With these words, Jesus began the celebration of his final meal and the institution of the Holy Eucharist. Jesus approached that hour with eager desire. In his heart he awaited the moment when he would give himself to his own under the appearance of bread and wine. He awaited that moment, which would in some sense be the true messianic wedding feast: when he would transform the gifts of this world and become one with his own, so as to transform them and thus inaugurate the transformation of the world. In this eager desire of Jesus, we can recognize the desire of God himself—his expectant love for mankind, for his creation. A love that awaits the moment of union, a love that wants to draw mankind to itself and thereby fulfill the desire of all creation, for creation eagerly awaits the revelation of the children of God (cf. Romans 8:19). Jesus desires us, he awaits us.

But what about ourselves? Do we really desire him? Are we anxious to meet him? Do we desire to encounter him, to become one with him, to receive the gifts he offers us in the Holy Eucharist? Or are we indifferent, distracted, busy with other things?

From Jesus' banquet parables, we realize that he knows all about empty places at table, invitations refused, lack of interest in him and his closeness.

For us, the empty places at the table of the Lord's wedding feast, whether excusable or not, are no longer a parable but a reality in those very countries to which he had revealed his closeness in a special way. Jesus also knew about guests who come to the banquet without being robed in the wedding garment—they come not to rejoice in his presence but merely out of habit, since their hearts are elsewhere.

In one of his homilies, St. Gregory the Great asks: Who are these people who enter without the wedding garment? What is this garment and how does one acquire it? He replies that those who are invited and enter do in some way have faith. It is faith that opens the door to them. But they lack the wedding garment of love.

Those who do not live their faith as love are not ready for the banquet and are cast out. Eucharistic communion requires faith, but faith requires love; otherwise, even as faith, it is dead. . .

"I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you." Lord, you desire us, you desire me. You eagerly desire to share yourself with us in the Holy Eucharist, to be one with us. Lord, awaken in us the desire for you. Strengthen us in unity with you and with one another. Grant unity to your Church, so that the world may believe. Amen.

—Homily, Holy Thursday
St. Peter's Basilica, April 21, 2011

How to Make a Spiritual Communion

*Below are recommendations for how to make a 'spiritual communion' when unable to participate in **the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass**. The recommendations can be adapted based upon personal and family needs.*

- Gather with others in your household and begin a time of prayer with the sign of the cross.
- Take time to read and reflect upon the readings from Sunday Mass. You can find the readings in this Sunday Bulletin or at usccb.org and a Sunday Gospel reflection on our [YouTube channel](#). In addition to the STA Live Stream Mass at 9:30 AM every Sunday, a weekly televised Sunday Mass is available to watch at adw.org/tvmass.
- Share prayer intentions quietly or aloud.
- Pray the Lord's Prayer.
- Pray **"Prayer to the Most Holy Redeemer (Anima Christi)"** or **"Prayer to our Lord Jesus Christ Crucified"**
- Close with the sign of the cross.

Prayer to the Most Holy
Redeemer
(Anima Christi)

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, embolden me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me.
Within thy wounds hide me.
Never permit me to be parted from you.
From the evil Enemy defend me.
In the hour of my death call me.
and bid me come to thee,
that with your saints I may praise thee
for age upon age. Amen.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stay Connected

As we continue different phases of re-opening our cities, we must take care of our mental health. Take time for yourself and visit the **Health Awareness** page on the STA website at www.stachurchdc.org under the **Ministries Tab** for some articles on mental and behavioral health.



The Sodality invites you to join them in reciting the Rosary **each Sunday at 10:45 am** via free conference. The dial in **number is 1-602-580-9273**. The **access code is 5360845**. **Please remember**, when you call-in prior to 10:45 am, and after announcing your name, **please mute your phone**. If you call-in after 10:45 am, the Rosary has started, please **DO NOT announce your name and kindly mute your phone**. You may use *6 to mute landline phones. **All phones must be on mute unless you are speaking**. Thank you for your cooperation. Be safe and continue to pray for one another. God's peace and blessings to each of you.



While we cannot personally wish you a "Happy Birthday", we wanted you to know that we did not forget! Below is the list of ***birthdays for 2nd Week in September***. **If we have not listed your birthday, we don't have it! PLEASE CONTACT THE PLC IMMEDIATELY!**

(9/7) LaMont Baxter, David Coates

(9/11) Venita Hawkins

(9/12) Stephen Coates, Shae Garner

We thank God for the life he has given us in you!

Word Among Us Notice

September will be the last month for the printed version of the Word Among Us. The church will no longer purchase them. You may subscribe online by downloading Word Among Us in the app store, purchase online at <https://wau.org/subscribe/>, or by phone at 1-800-775-WORD(9673). Final printed copy of the September issue will be available for pick up from the PLC on Mondays and Wednesday between 10am-3pm.



KEEP UP WITH FLOCK NOTE

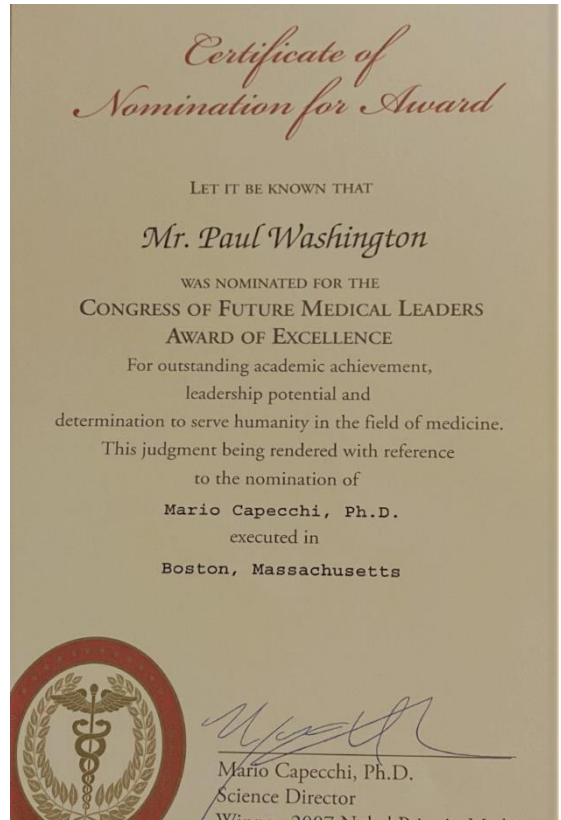
Missing important STA communications? Stay connected with the parish by signing up to receive email and text messages through our Flock Note communications tool. Sign up at www.stachurchdc.org.



Calling all writers! Has God been calling you to share your gifts and talents more during this time of social distancing? The STA Communications Committee is looking for writers to submit meditations for publishing in our weekly bulletin.

Share your gifts of the Holy Spirit with our parish family by submitting a meditation on the Sunday Gospel. Each week the bulletin will feature a new meditation based on the current week's readings. **If you are interested, please submit your name and email contact information to:** stachurchcommunications@gmail.com.

Congratulations to Paul IV, Grandson of the Paul & Denise Washington



Young-Onset Alzheimer's Disease and other Dementias SUPPORT GROUP

ON THE 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from noon to 1:30 p.m.

By phone and email during the COVID-19 emergency Jihan Starr: 443-717-2289 jtarr12@jhmi.edu OR Rita Anaka at ranaka1@jhmi.edu.

COVID-19 Financial Relief

As a result of the CARES Act, consumers started to see some financial relief through [Economic Impact Payments \(EIP\)](#) issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

The IRS began distributing EIPs to eligible individuals that file income taxes in April 2020. An estimated 12 million individuals who do not normally file income taxes are still eligible to receive payments. **Eligible filers only have until October 15, 2020 to submit their information to the IRS** through the [non-filers portal](#) to get their EIP. The Federal Government would like this information to go to as many people as possible.

Eat the Scroll Ministry Presents “Control What You Can Control”

Two Respected Presenters in Money and Health Issues



*Lamont Baxter
Chaplain of the Men of St. Teresa
St. Teresa of Avila Member*



*Robin Willis
Coordinator of the Health Ministry
St. Teresa of Avila Member*

**Evangelist Michael P. Howard, M.A.,
Moderator**

**Tuesdays - Sept 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2020
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**

Zoom Meeting Address: Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88554683086?pwd=UTdjOGIGaU5vZWZh2MWdwbkorSnp0UT09>

Meeting ID: 885 5468 3086

Passcode: 132548

Participants will engage in discussion about good health practices and wisdom in managing finances with an emphasis on **“Control What You Can Control.”**



89 • AON

SEPTEMBER PARISH CHALLENGE – “Who’s This Baby”

Many of us look the same but some have changed. Let’s see if we can guess whose baby picture it is. Send us a photo of you as a baby/child, with a few details on how old you were and where the photo was taken. During the month of September, we will share these photos showcasing our parish family when they were babies. Send photos to:

stachurchcommunications@gmail.com.



*Contribute to the needs of the saints;
extend hospitality to strangers.*

_____Romans 12:13

Say YES! to Volunteering

Catholic Charities is recruiting 50 volunteers to take on a weekly, year-long commitment to service.

General Volunteer Roles: Are you friendly, dependable, culturally sensitive, and able to encourage a person going through a big change – for example, returning to the community after incarceration or learning to speak English or finding a job? Become a virtual mentor or instructor.

Pro Bono Volunteer Roles: Are you a doctor, nurse, lawyer or financial professional? Contribute your expertise pro bono to our most marginalized neighbors.

All roles require an application, dialogue with program staff about expectations, and at least a 75-hour commitment including orientation and training. Except for medical professionals, volunteering is done remotely via video chat, phone calls, email, and regular mail. **Want more information?**

Attend our Volunteer Open House on **October 1. Register here** (<http://bttr.im/z03q8>) Have questions?

Send us an email to Volunteer@CC-DC.org. **Ready to commit?** Complete an application for the role of your choice. Apply by **October 14!**

SHARE Monthly Food Package Distribution Calling energetic **early-risers** who can do some moderately heavy lifting to join us at the SHARE Warehouse on a Friday or Saturday for the monthly food-package assembly and distribution. We start early! **Get information and sign up here: SHARE Food Package Distribution** (<http://bttr.im/iuidn>)

Sew Face Coverings:

Thank you to the many people who have already made and donated thousands of face covers to Catholic Charities for our clients and staff who work in the shelters and the community. As the pandemic continues, we need even more face covers. Here's how to help with this effort. <https://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Face-Covering-Instructions-for-Catholic-Charities.pdf>.

Food Distribution Events:

Volunteers distribute Catholic Charities food packages to over 1000 families each week.

Distribution events last a 2-4 hours, occur 4 days a week, and at 3 different locations: ***Columbia Heights, Wheaton and one location that changes weekly.***

Food packages are ~9lbs of frozen meats + ~10lbs of fresh produce + a homemade frozen meal for 4, that often includes ***produce from our Mona Farm*** (see below). **Food packages are assembled weekdays at the SHARE warehouse**, volunteers welcome! To learn more and to sign up **visit our COVID-19 Volunteer Opportunities Page**.

Mona Center Farm:

Join us on Monday or Saturday morning to tend the Mona Center Farm.

Volunteers do not need any gardening experience, but it is welcome! Come ready to get your hands in the dirt and with an eager attitude. The vegetables harvested will go to Catholic Charities' KitchenWork, a program that provides food for St. Maria's Meals and the weekly community food distribution events. Get information and sign up here: Volunteer for Mona Center Farm.

MARK YOU CALENDAR

Angel Tree

Provide gifts to a family so parents can create a Merry Christmas for their children.

Signup will be in mid-November at www.CatholicCharitiesDC.org.

Coat Drive

Donate new and gently used coats, especially sized XL and larger, starting in November. Keep an eye on the website for details. Catholic Charities is taking many steps to keep volunteers, clients, and staff safe at in-person volunteer activities, including health screening questions, social distancing at the site, and requiring all staff and volunteers to wear a mask.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

You can contribute your **tithes and love offerings** three ways:

- **eGiving:** Text staChurch to 77977, click the link and follow the prompts
- **www.stachurchdc.org** and click on “Tithes and Love Offerings”
- **The PLC secure lockbox**
- 1401 V Street, SE,
Washington DC 20020