“You . . . must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

— Matthew 24:44
**NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 8**

**Mass Intentions**

- **Sat. 5:00 pm** - Edward Reinhardt
- **Sun. 9:00 am** - Kam Malloy
  - **11:00 am** - Parish Community of St. Theresa
- **Mon. 8:30 am** - Deceased Members of the Parish
- **Tues. 8:30 am** - Those who are Homeless
- **Wed. 8:30 am** - Gabriel Decker
- **Thurs. 8:30 am** - Jerome McCabe
- **Fri. 8:30 am** - Immigrants & Refugees
- **Sat. 5:00 pm** - Carlo Pernecco
- **Sun. 9:00 am** - Irene Crosetti
  - **11:00 am** - Parish Community of St. Theresa

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We want apologize. There was a problem with the Mass Intention calendar and the Tuesday intentions were lost. If you had scheduled an intention on a Tuesday please contact Melody in the office 510.547.2777, melody@sttheresaoakland.org so we can place it back on the calendar.

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**Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

This year (2019), the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred from its usual date (December 8th, which falls on a Sunday) to the following day, Monday, December 9th.

Because it has been moved to Monday it is not a Holy Day of obligation this year.

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**Due to an Early Publishing Date, the Sunday Offering for November 24th Will Be Posted in the December 8th Bulletin.**

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**Online Giving**

Online Giving is available for anyone who prefers to donate through automatic draft for their Sunday Offering, Building Maintenance and Second Collections.

Go to: [https://giving.parishsoft.com/sttheresaoakland](https://giving.parishsoft.com/sttheresaoakland) to sign up. Contact Cathy Brady with any questions. cathy_b@sttheresaoakland.org, 547.2777, ext. 26.

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**Retirement Fund for Religious Collection, Dec. 7 & 8**

Aging religious need your help. Thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests spent years working in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies - often for little pay. Their sacrifices leave their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

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**Low Gluten Hosts**

Prior to the start of the liturgy there will be a small container of the hosts next to the bread and wine on the table in the back of the church. Take a host from the container and place it in the glass bowl. At communion you will receive Eucharist from one of the ministers in the center aisle.

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**Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill especially:** Matt Mercier, Irene Clark, Daniel Sullivan, Dave DeMonte, Sven Cooper Little, Nadine McMillan, Heidi Parmelee, Denise Bridges, Fredrika May, Kristine Berman, Helen Buty, Aiden Farinella, Liza Mitra, Guido M., Jim Testa, Kevin Stallone, Dolores Gomez, Alegría Hipolito, Betty Wharton, Patricia Green, Hazel Villata, Juanita Estrellé, Diane Longfield, Leslie Fischer, Mike Reilly, Dorothy Donnelly, Pat Tynan, Olga Lamberti, Michael Bamrick, Matt White, Mark Dreier, Tom Sanford, Maria Gabriel Decker, Fr. Alex Snyder, Wendy Parmelee.

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**Living Stewardship**

Drop something you usually do at this time of year but do not enjoy. Choose an Advent custom and make it part of your daily routine.

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**Question of the Week**

**Adult:** What will you do during Advent so that others can see that you have put on the light of Jesus Christ?

**Child:** What will you do during Advent so that others can see the light of Jesus in you?

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**Support St. Theresa Church**

By using smile.amazon.com and choosing St. Theresa Catholic Church, location: Oakland, CA as your charity when you shop, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the parish.

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**Bishop’s Appeal 2019**

St. Theresa Parish Goal - $35,800
Percentage Achieved 75.9%
$27,173 as of October 15, 2019
A Word from the Pastor:

A new year of Grace begins this weekend with the short but wonderful season we call Advent. Everyone I have spoken with recently already feels the push of the holidays now that Thanksgiving is behind us. Most years, we have eight to ten days between Thanksgiving and the First Sunday of Advent but this year only two.

With a new year of grace, we are continuing and starting things to help us celebrate these special days. Next Sunday, we inaugurate our first **Rise and Shine Mass**. We invite and hope all children from our school and religious education programs will help facilitate a special Mass each month. It will connect us better to each other as parishioners and hopefully generate a moment of prayer that will rise our hearts even more to the Lord. Want to know more: just come and see what happens next Sunday at the 9am Mass. All are welcome!

The following week is the annual Men’s Club pancake breakfast which will be held in the Event Center. It is the best deal in town and plenty of great food. Last year the men found a way to keep the line from getting too long. We may need an extra table or two, but that is part of the fun. Rumor has it that you can again get a picture with Santa.

Our annual October count (you are counted at every Mass in October) indicates attendance numbers are down at our parish and in most parishes. For the past few years, you have been asked to invite someone you know who has no attachment to a church to **Come Home for Christmas**. This year we ask you again to bring these invitations to those you know may not have a place to go. But if you also notice someone who has been here and is not around recently, please contact them also and invite them. If you bring any name and contact information to parish staff, we are happy to personally make a call and invite them to be with us.

Advent is the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas (or sometimes from the 1st December to Christmas Day!). Advent means ‘Coming’ in Latin. This is the coming of Jesus into the world. Christians use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas.

There are three meanings of ‘coming’ that Christians describe in Advent. The first, and most thought of, happened about 2000 years ago when Jesus came into the world as a baby to live as a man and die for us. The second can happen now as Jesus wants to come into our lives now. And the third will happen in the future when Jesus comes back to the world as King and Judge, not a baby.

No one is really sure when Advent was first celebrated but it dates back to at least 567 when monks were ordered to fast during December leading up to Christmas.

Some people fast during Advent to help them concentrate on preparing to celebrate Jesus’s coming. In many Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Churches, Advent lasts for 40 days and starts on November 15th and is also called the Nativity Fast. (Advent also starts on November 15th in Celtic Christianity.)

There are some Christmas Carols that are really Advent Carols! These include ‘People Look East’, ‘Come, thou long expected Jesus’, ‘Lo! He comes, with clouds descending’ and perhaps the most popular Advent song ‘O Come, O Come Emmanuel!’.

There are several ways that Advent is counted down but the most common is by a calendar or candle(s). The Advent Wreath appears in the church and in many homes.

One candle is lit on the first Sunday of Advent, two are lit on the second Sunday and so on. Each candle has a different meaning. Different churches have given them different meanings, but I was taught the following:

- **The first represents Isaiah and other prophets in the Bible that predicted the coming of Jesus.**
- **The second represents the whole Bible and how it predicts the coming of the Messiah.**
- **The third represents Mary, the mother of Jesus.**
- **The fourth represents John the Baptist, Jesus’ cousin, who told the people in Israel to get ready for Jesus’ teaching.**

The middle or separate candle is lit on Christmas Day and represents Jesus, the light of the world. In Germany this fifth candle is known as the ‘Heiligabend’ and is lit on Christmas Eve.

The color purple is used to signify the season of Advent. On the third Sunday, representing Mary, the color is sometimes changing to rose or blue.

Happy Advent! In the midst of the preparations, let the season prepare for what the holidays are all about: Jesus in our midst.
Please join us for our monthly **RISE & SHINE MASS** at 9am on Sunday, December 8th.
This is a youth-friendly and youth-participatory Mass.

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**COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS**

Do you know people
~ friends, family, neighbors ~
who used to be a part of this community, and who for various reasons no longer worship with us?

Shall we extend a gracious and loving invitation to these brothers and sisters to come home for Christmas?

You can pick up a ‘**COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS**’ card at the information desk and send them a personal invitation to our Christmas liturgies or share with us their name, and contact information. We will send them an invitation to come home for Christmas.

Drop off information at the Parish Office; or email to melody@sttheresaoakland.org

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**ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT**

**DECEMBER 3 ~ 7:00 PM ~ EVENT CENTER**
St. Theresa Ladies – Please join us.
7:00 to 7:30 p.m. Check in, 7:30 to 8:00 Program,
8:00 to 9:00 Coffee, Tea & Desserts

Advent by Candlelight is a special evening event for the women of the parish to come together and celebrate the season of Advent.

In the spirit of Christmas giving, we invite guests to bring diapers (size 3-6), pull-ups (toddler size 3-6) and wipes to donate to the Children’s Primary Care Clinic at Children’s Hospital.

**TO ATTEND THIS EVENT, YOUR RSVP IS REQUIRED BY DECEMBER 1, 2019.**

RSVP in the church vestibule, or contact Shirley Fairbairn at shirley_fairbairn@yahoo.com / 510-333-8598

Seating for the event is random, there are no assigned tables. Please keep in mind there are a limited number of seats.

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**Men’s Club Pancake Breakfast**

**December 15th**
10:00a.m. - 1:00p.m.
St. Theresa Event Center

Visit with Santa and take holiday photos.

$9/adult
$5/child

Make reservations online.

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**Visit with Santa and take holiday photos.**

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**Parish Community News**
**Women in God’s Spirit**

**WINGS** is a faith enhancement group that encourages spiritual growth through prayer, Scripture study, life sharing and community. We gather on Wednesdays in Meeting Room 1 at 9:15am from October through May with hospitality, followed by the guest speaker and program until 11:15am. Our engaging speakers will uplift you and keep you informed. You’ll experience a welcoming community as we support each other in our spiritual growth. Bring a friend! Women from local parishes and other denominations are welcome! Our theme for this year is “Walking with God”. Join us on opening day, October 9th. Say “Yes” to WINGS!

The theme for the year is: **“Walking With God”**

**DECEMBER 4TH**

**ANNE SYMENS-BUCHER**

FOUNDER, CANTICLE FARM

**Active Hope in the Season of Darkness**

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**FAMILY ROSARY**

**Sunday, December 8th**

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe

5 pm Rosary in the Church

Dinner and Celebration to Follow

All are invited to join us as we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Contact Patrick McGahan with any questions at pjmcgahan@gmail.com

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**Infant/Child Baptism**

If you are interested in having your child/children baptized at St. Theresa Church, Baptism classes for parents and godparents are held once a month in the rectory from 7:00 - 8:00 pm. These classes are for adults only. Contact the parish office to register, melody@sttheresaoakland.org or 547.2777, ext. 20.

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**CONFIRMATION & HSYM**

High Schoolers and Parents, please note the following dates and remember that all Sunday Sessions begin with 9am Mass:

♦ Sunday, Dec. 8 - Years I & II - 10am-12noon, Meeting Rooms

Other parish community events:

- Tuesday, Dec. 3 - Advent By Candlelight, 7-9pm, Event Center
- Saturday, Dec. 8 - RISE & SHINE Mass for all
- Sunday, Dec. 15 - Annual Men’s Club Pancake Breakfast, Event Center

For more information, please contact:

Jenny Bruni
HSYM Coordinator
jenny@sttheresaoakland.org
(510) 547-2777 x 39

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**St. Theresa Music Ministry**

**JOIN A CHOIR TODAY!**

The Adult Choir rehearses on Thursday at 7 pm.

The Children’s Choir rehearses on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 4:00-4:30 pm in the church. We learn about the liturgy and the role of music in it, as well as about music.

All are welcome to attend!

Contact Rob at rob@sttheresaoakland.org.

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**explore**

**life**

**faith**

**meaning**

You’re invited to **TRY ALPHA**

Tuesdays, 6:30pm

St. Theresa Catholic Church

The evening starts with a light dinner, followed by a presentation and small group discussion and sharing.

Cathy Brady
Alpha
cathy_b@sttheresaoakland.org
Weekly Readings

December 2 - 8

Monday:
Is 4:2-6
Ps 122
Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday:
Is 11:1-10
Ps 72
Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday:
Is 25:6-10a
Ps 23
Mt 15:29-37

Thursday:
Is 26:1-6
Ps 118
Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday:
Is 29:17-24
Ps 27
Mt 9:27-31

Saturday:
Is 30:19-21, 23-26
Ps 147
Rom 15:4-9

Sunday:
Is 11:1-10
Ps 72
Mt 3:1-12

What will it mean for you to “walk in the light of the Lord” this Advent? Will it mean changing an aspect of your life that is darkened by sin, or noticing and alleviating some of the suffering in our world?

Pictures of our beloved dead
Any pictures not removed from the table of remembrance are available for pickup at the information desk in the vestibule.

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**Mass Schedules:**

- **Monday - Friday:** 8:30 am
- **Saturday Vigil:** 5:00 pm
- **Sunday:** 9:00 am & 11:00 am *unless otherwise noted in bulletin*

**Reconciliation:**

- **Saturdays:** 4:00-4:30 pm
- or by appointment

**Parish Center Office Hours:**

- **Monday - Thursday:** 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
- **THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED ON FRIDAY**
- **Phone:** 510.547.2777  ~~~  **Fax:** 510.653.3575
- **After Hours Medical Emergency & Emergency Line:** 510.610.7715

**Parish Website:** www.sttheresaoakland.org  
**Facebook:** StTheresaChurch/Oakland

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**Baptisms and Marriages**  
by appointment

**Confirmation (High School)**

- **Sunday Sessions**
  - **Year 1:** 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
  - **Year 2:** 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

**R.C.I.A.**

- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Contact
  - Cathy Brady - cathy_b@sttheresaoakland.org

**Kinderchurch**

- Preschoolers and Kindergarteners
  - 9:00 am Sunday Mass

**Children's Liturgy of the Word**

- Grades 1-5, 9:00 am Mass

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

- First Friday of the month (September - May)

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**Parish Organization**

**Pastoral Council:**
- Carrie Schaefer  caralee_schaefer@yahoo.com

**Finance Council:**
- Carolyn Mahoney  carolyn.mahoney675@gmail.com

**St. Vincent de Paul Society:**
- Greg Govan  glgovan@comcast.net

**CYO (Catholic Youth Organization):**
- Clarence Robinson  sttheresaathletics@gmail.com

**St. Theresa Men's Club**
- PJ McGahan  pjmcgahan@gmail.com

**Legion of Mary**
- Tom Wallace  tomw1313@sbcglobal.net

**WINGS**
- Laurie Porter  laurinporter@att.net

**Men's Faith Sharing**
- Sharon Chipman  sharonchipman@gmail.com
- Jim Frei  jim@ottofrei.com

**Cursillo**
- Sharon Chipman  sharonchipman@gmail.com

**Kinderchurch**
- Shanon Ciston  s.ciston@gmail.com