

# ST. THERESA PARISH COMMUNITY

DECEMBER 15, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## MASS SCHEDULE:

Weekday: 8:30 am (Mon.-Fri.)

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am

(live-streamed on our YouTube channel for the sick and homebound)

## RECONCILIATION:

Saturday: 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday - Thursday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

The office is closed on Monday and Friday

Phone: 510.547.2777, ext. 120

After Hours Medical Emergency Line: 510.610.7715

 Parish Website: [www.sttheresaoakland.org](http://www.sttheresaoakland.org)

 Facebook: [StTheresaChurch/Oakland](https://www.facebook.com/StTheresaChurch/Oakland)

 [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn5JX1e3QrqXTsa\\_7qmNClw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn5JX1e3QrqXTsa_7qmNClw)

PARISH STAFF: 510.547.2777

Parish Office: ext. 120

Rev. Robert J. McCann, ext. 121 [rjmccann@sttheresaoakland.org](mailto:rjmccann@sttheresaoakland.org)  
*Pastor*

Rev. Abraham Addam, ext. 122  
*In Residence*

Rev. Ngema W. Enow, ext. 128 [ngemawil.enow@gmail.com](mailto:ngemawil.enow@gmail.com)  
*In Residence*

Cathy Brady, ext. 126 [cathy\\_b@sttheresaoakland.org](mailto:cathy_b@sttheresaoakland.org)  
*Liturgy Director*

Rob Cakebread, ext. 127 [rob@sttheresaoakland.org](mailto:rob@sttheresaoakland.org)  
*Music Ministry Director*

Joey Gutierrez, ext. 123 [joey@sttheresaoakland.org](mailto:joey@sttheresaoakland.org)  
*Youth Ministry Coordinator, Middle School & High School*

Keri Nims, ext. 124 [keri@sttheresaoakland.org](mailto:keri@sttheresaoakland.org)  
*Coordinator for Early Childhood Catechesis & RCIC*

## ST. THERESA SCHOOL

Alicia Ortegon, 510.547.3146 [a\\_ortegon@sttheresaschool.org](mailto:a_ortegon@sttheresaschool.org)

*St. Theresa School Principal*

website: [www.sttheresaschool.org](http://www.sttheresaschool.org)

## Baptisms and Marriages

by appointment, call parish office 510.547.2777, ext. 120, or email [admin@sttheresaoakland.org](mailto:admin@sttheresaoakland.org)

## To arrange a Funeral

call parish office 510.547.2777, ext. 120, or email [admin@sttheresaoakland.org](mailto:admin@sttheresaoakland.org)

## Family Faith Formation (Grades TK-5) & R.C.I.C.

Keri Nims ~ [keri@sttheresaoakland.org](mailto:keri@sttheresaoakland.org)

## Middle School Youth Ministry (Grades 6-8)

Joey Gutierrez ~ [joey@sttheresaoakland.org](mailto:joey@sttheresaoakland.org)

## High School Youth Ministry/Confirmation

Joey Gutierrez ~ [joey@sttheresaoakland.org](mailto:joey@sttheresaoakland.org)

## R.C.I.A. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Cathy Brady ~ [cathy\\_b@sttheresaoakland.org](mailto:cathy_b@sttheresaoakland.org)

Parish Calendar: <https://sttheresaoakland.org/calendar>

## Parish Organization Contacts

### Pastoral Council:

Chris Colby [ccolby@well.com](mailto:ccolby@well.com)

### Finance Council:

Carolyn Mahoney [carolyn.mahoney675@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.mahoney675@gmail.com)

### St. Vincent de Paul Society

Greg Govan [glgovan@comcast.net](mailto:glgovan@comcast.net)

### CYO (Catholic Youth Organization):

Carlos Palacios [sttheresaathletics@gmail.com](mailto:sttheresaathletics@gmail.com)

### St. Theresa Men's Club

[mensclubsttheresa@gmail.com](mailto:mensclubsttheresa@gmail.com)

### Legion of Mary

Tom Wallace [tomw1313@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tomw1313@sbcglobal.net)

### WINGS

Cindy Crimmins [cyncrim@gmail.com](mailto:cyncrim@gmail.com)

### Social Justice Committee (SJC)

Lydia Deck [ltdeck@me.com](mailto:ltdeck@me.com)

### Consolation Ministry

Cecile Cuttitta [cecile.cuttitta@att.net](mailto:cecile.cuttitta@att.net)

### Men's Faith Sharing

Jim Frei [jim@ottofrei.com](mailto:jim@ottofrei.com)

### Cursillo

Geri Tong [gt4palancaoakland@gmail.com](mailto:gt4palancaoakland@gmail.com)

### Kinderchurch

Shannon Ciston [s.ciston@gmail.com](mailto:s.ciston@gmail.com)

Additional information and events can be found in the Friday Flocknote available on our website: <https://sttheresaoakland.org/Bulletin/Flocknote>

30 MANDALAY ROAD -- OAKLAND, CA 94618 -- 510.547.2777

# JOY *to the* WORLD

## Christmas Mass Schedule

**December 24**  
 5:00 pm Children's Liturgy  
 9:00 pm Concert \*\*  
 10:00 pm Mass \*\*

**December 25**  
 10:00 am Mass \*\*

\*\* Service will be live streamed for the sick & homebound




**COME AND HELP DECORATE  
 THE CHURCH FOR  
 CHRISTMAS!  
 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22  
 AT 10:15 AM**

**Many hands are needed especially to assemble the Christmas trees, hang wreaths, put together the nativity scene and many other jobs.**

**Come and volunteer for  
 1 or 2 hours.**



**ST. THERESA AND CORPUS CHRISTI GIVING PROGRAM**

St. Theresa's Social Justice Committee and Corpus Christi Living Our Faith Program are teaming up to provide Christmas cheer to 50 Families served by Oakland Catholic Worker and 50 Seniors at St. Mary's Center.

OCW staff indicated we could best be of service if we provided gift cards for each member of the family. They asked that gift cards be in the amount of \$25 and that the gift cards come from Target or Walmart as these are the stores that are conveniently located to the families who are served. St. Mary's Center would also like similar gifts cards.

We will collect gift cards after all Masses on the weekend of December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Again, we need donations of cards in by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

If you prefer to write a check, please make out the check to: Oakland Catholic Worker. In the memo, please write Christmas program. All checks must be received by December 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> so that they can purchase the gift cards in time.

Please email me with any questions. Lydia Deck, [ltdeck@me.com](mailto:ltdeck@me.com)

## Come Home for Christmas




please join us for

# Christmas Mass

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? Please share with us their names, and if you have it, the contact information for such people. We will send them an invitation to come home for Christmas.

Send an email to [admin@sttheresaokland.org](mailto:admin@sttheresaokland.org)




### Children's Christmas Tableau

Advent is a time of quiet, holy mystery, but often it is the busiest time of the year. In our intention to be "**Less Hectic and More Holy**" we have a no-rehearsals format for the Children's Christmas Tableau.

The Tableau takes place during the 5:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve. All children through the fifth grade are invited to participate. Bring your child to church dressed in one of these costumes: stable animal, angel, shepherd or sheep. Please use whatever costumes are easiest for you and your child. If you don't have a costume we will have costume pieces available in the church vestibule beginning at 4:00 pm. Children will sit with their families during the entire Mass. Parents be sure to pick up instructions for the pageant as you enter the church.

We are looking for few parents to help from the 4pm-5pm timeslot with passing out of costumes in the vestibule as well as right after Mass with collecting costumes from children. Let me know if you would like to help with that.

If you have any questions please contact Keri Nims at [keri@sttheresaokland.org](mailto:keri@sttheresaokland.org).



### ST. THERESA CHURCH 100<sup>TH</sup> JUBILEE CELEBRATION

The parish will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> Jubilee in October 2025. There will be monthly events leading up to the Anniversary beginning January 2025.

Check out the Jubilee website to see many of the events that are being planned.

<https://sttheresaokland.org/about-us/100th-jubilee>

If you would like to be a part of the planning process for these events, send an email to: [anniversary@sttheresaokland.org](mailto:anniversary@sttheresaokland.org).

**MASS INTENTIONS - DECEMBER 14-22**

Sat. 5:00 pm † Filippo & Teresa Pernecco  
 Sun. 9:00 am Parish Community of St. Theresa

Mon. 8:30 am † Patricia Nebel  
 Tues. 8:30 am † Dermot McMillan Harris  
 Wed. 8:30 am † George Gabor  
 Thurs. 8:30 am For all who give of their time and talent in the parish  
 Fri. 8:30 am For the poor and those in need

Sat. 5:00 pm Parish Community of St. Theresa  
 Sun. 9:00 am † Bishop John Cummins

**ONLINE PRAYER REQUEST FOR THE SICK OR RECENTLY DECEASED**

You can submit names for the Prayers of the Faithful for our Weekend Masses and the bulletin prayer list (*Prayers for the Sick or Recently Deceased*) online.

Please complete the form on the parish website page:

<https://sttheresaokland.org/pray/mass-and-confession-times>

their name will be included in the weekly bulletin, Friday Flocknote, and Weekend Masses.

*This form is not for Mass Intentions.*

**SUNDAY OFFERING**

**SUNDAY COLLECTION (DECEMBER 2-8):**  
 ONLINE: 50 DONORS \$ 3,484.00  
 MASS DONATIONS: 47 DONORS \$ 2,740.00

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS:**  
 ONLINE: 4 DONORS \$ 351.00  
 MASS/DROP-OFF/MAILED: 11 DONORS \$ 726.00

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
 ONLINE: 3 DONORS \$ 60.00  
 MASS/DROP-OFF/MAILED: 12 DONORS \$ 180.00

**LOW GLUTEN HOSTS**

Low Gluten hosts are available at all weekend Masses. They are less than 20 parts per million gluten, under .002%. For additional information go to

<https://www.parishcrossroads.com/low-gluten.htm>.

Please use the presider's communion station to receive a low gluten host.

**Bishop's Ministries Appeal 2024**



St. Theresa Parish Goal \$35,800  
 Percentage Achieved 63.76%

\$22,827 as of November 30, 2024

<https://www.oakdiocese.org/bishops-appeal-donation-page>

**SCHEDULE A MASS INTENTION ONLINE!**

<https://sttheresaokland.org/pray/mass-confession-times/mass-intention>

Mass Intentions may only be made up to a year in advance. You may only submit one Mass Intention per form. We will make every effort to use the date you have requested. If there is a conflict with the date we will contact you. If a date shows **BUSY** on the calendar, there is already a Mass Intention scheduled for that date.

You can also send an email to: [admin@sttheresaokland.org](mailto:admin@sttheresaokland.org) or call 510.547.2777, ext. 120 if you do not wish to use the online option.

**DECEASED**

Please remember in your prayers, those who have died especially Patrick Caulfield.

**PARISH CALENDAR**

Find out what is happening at the parish:

<https://sttheresaokland.org/calendar>

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS ALL THOSE WHO ARE ILL**

Matt Mercier, Heidi Parmelee, Dolores Gomez, Alegria Hipolito, Betty Wharton, Juanita Estrella, Olga Lamberti, Wendy Parmelee, Roger Baylocq, Alicia Gonzalez, Susan Springer, Wendy Jones, Orlanda Gonzalez, Kevin Chapman, Diane Cerille, Tom Wilberding, Shirley Roberts, Danny Ramos, Mark Leonard, Christopher Rodriguez, Maryanne Walsh, Rhonda Santeen, John Whatley, Nancy Coyne, Kevin Stallone, Della Spinelli, Jeanne Cuttitta, Susan Buller, Ann Springer, Guy Wallace, Ray Bertolotti, William McCarthy, Cindy Crimmins, Fred & Lidia Loupy, Rebecca Rogers, Kathleen Guevara, Clarence Robinson, Armando Diaz de Leon, Fr. Ron Schmidt, Laura Jones, Bonnie & John Bouey, Susan Rubio, Fr. Paul Schmidt, Marley Malone, Isabella Guillot Williams, Ann Kirkman, Hal Lauth, Phil Stover, Joey Smith, Raymond Buckley, Jr., Norma Ninalga, Betty Jo Olson, Jennifer Walwark, Greg Govan, Anita Lim, Marilyn McCabe, Helen Lightner-Smith, Steve Lauth, Mary Malloy, Peter Cuttitta, James Lang, John Donovan, Mary & Leo Martinez, Sr., James Spalding, Tiffany Converse, Adrian McEville, Joan Marchi, Diana Nelson Curtis, Charlie Schnellbacher, Theresa Joyce, Maureen Carver, Ernestine Pernecco, Vince Nims, Barrett Baker, Genevieve 'Beth' McElroy, Rick Fama, Eleanor Ceccarelli, Maureen Querio, Karin Milliman.



You can use our online giving platform to deepen your commitment to the church and the ministries you care about most. Your recurring gifts will sustain our mission month after month. You will also help our parish by cutting costs for envelopes and paper, and allowing our staff to spend less time processing cash and checks and more time on ministries.

*It's easy to get started. Here are the ways to sign up:*



Text 510-876-9679  
 Text "GIVE" to this number to receive a link to our online giving page.

Visit us at <https://sttheresaokland.org/donate>

*Thank you for giving generously to St. Theresa Parish*

## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

For the Jubilee, I want to acknowledge and celebrate that so many women in our parish have made contributions throughout these hundred years. We never would have fulfilled our mission in so many ways without the teachers and principals in our parish school, committee members serving on the Pastoral Councils, Parish Finances, School Boards, CYO boards, Ladies Guild, ICF, Parents Club, WINGS, sacristans, choir members and the list goes on and on. Many parish staff members through these years have done above and beyond what was needed. Therefore, I think we should hear from some of them, and I am asking someone at least once a month to write in place of my weekly column.



Since she is just back from Rome, Lydia Deck offers these words:

*“The Spirit is Moving...Adelante!*

During Advent we contemplate peace, joy, love, and hope. Let me share how I find *hope!*

I am a member of a worldwide group called Discerning Deacons. Its vision includes embracing the prophetic call and ministry of deacons, providing witness to the historical and contemporary diaconal ministry of Catholic women, and trust in the Holy Spirit to guide discernment, thereby renewing the Church and healing the world.

In September, our St. Theresa’s community celebrated St. Phoebe’s Feast Day with a prayer service. Hundreds of Catholic faith communities around the world did likewise. At our prayer service, we blessed women in ministry and learned that St. Phoebe was a deacon in our early Church. St. Paul recognized Phoebe in Romans 16:

*I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon, of the church in Cencheræ. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of these people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me.*

In October, members of Discerning Deacons and CEAMA (a group from the Amazonian Synod), representing 54 pilgrims from 5 countries, travelled to Rome. Our visit coincided with the meetings of the Second Synod. Our group included nuns, priests, theologians, lectors, chaplains, catechists, physicians, and social justice leaders. We traveled to Rome to reflect on women’s ministries and give voice to women from every corner of the world.

Our pilgrimage included days of fervent prayer for our Church. We also attended the Global Synod Opening Mass in St. Peter’s Square and prayed with (and over!) the Synod delegates.

We processed through Vatican Square singing and praying “Adsumus Sancte Spiritus” – *we stand before you, Holy Spirit.* (Every session of the Synod begins with this prayer). We wore our baptismal whites and then, with banners and icons of St. Phoebe, we walked to the Church of San Lorenzo.

We held our own St. Phoebe prayer service which opened with a traditional cleansing rite. We were reminded to trust in the Holy Spirit. We invited the Holy Spirit to work within us and mold us into a people of grace. We sang “Receive her in the Lord” (as St. Paul said about St. Phoebe). We prayed the Litany of Deacons, asking the many Deacons of our Church history to pray for us. We recalled the graces of many journeys.

In the Church of San Lorenzo, my fellow pilgrims and I, along with some of the Synod delegates, prayed for women who are called to the diaconate ministry. Sister Laura Vicuna from CEAMA preached and reminded me of God’s faithfulness.

Her words resonated with me and the other pilgrims:

*The kingdom of God is accessible to everyone. We are all prophetic missionary disciples.*

*This time of SYNOD is a unique moment in our Church history.*

*The Spirit comes both as a gale as well as a gentle breeze. Now is the time to walk together and be Church. Whoever listens the Spirit becomes filled with the peace of the spirit. God calls us in ways that we, as humans, understand. We are vessels that carry a great treasure. The Gospel calls us out of our comfort. We can’t take our eyes away from those who are marginalized. Hope can never be taken from us.*

The following days of our pilgrimage included many highlights:

- We celebrated the Feast Day of St. Francis, calling to mind the spirit of *Laudate Si.*
- We hosted an educational panel on Integral Ecology and The Ministry of Women and Synodality, featuring voices of indigenous women.
- We prayed a Rosary for Peace led by Pope Francis.
- In retreat, we recalled the blessings, prophetic voices and little milagros (miracles) during our pilgrimage. A horizon-to-horizon rainbow followed me as I brought Father Bob’s intentions for our St. Theresa community and our little scrolls from St. Theresa’s Phoebe prayer service and offered them at St. Paul’s Basilica.

Many women are called to the diaconate, but they are not able to answer their calling. They do good work and serve the marginalized but can neither answer the call through Orders nor receive sacramental grace to give them strength. Some would say that women are not able to “image Christ.” We must remember that we are all baptized as priest, prophet, and king. You can imagine my emotion seeing the cover of our December issue of The Catholic Voice showing 7 men with the attached article reading “Our Bishop is calling forth men to discern a vocation to the diaconate.”

Where is my hope? The Holy Spirit did fall like rain on the Synod Assembly. And I saw many hearts opened during the pilgrimage! Below is a paragraph from the document that was approved by the Synod assembly. Pope Francis has called on all world churches to accept and implement proposals from the final document:

*By virtue of Baptism, women and men have equal dignity as members of the People of God. However, women continue to encounter obstacles in obtaining a fuller recognition of their charisms, vocation, and place in all the various areas of the Church’s life. This is to the detriment of serving the Church’s shared mission.*

*Scripture attests to the prominent role of many women in the history of salvation...It is important that the Scripture passages that relate these stories find adequate space inside liturgical lectionaries.*

*Crucial turning points in Church history confirm the essential contribution of women moved by the Spirit. Women make up the majority of churchgoers and are the first witnesses to the faith in families...They run schools, hospital, and shelters. They lead initiatives for reconciliation and promoting human dignity and social justice. Women contribute to theological research and are present in positions of responsibility in Church institutions, in diocesan cura and the Roman Curia. There are women who hold positions of authority and are leaders of the communities.*

*This Assembly asks for full implementation of all the opportunities already provided for in Canon Law with regard to the role of women, particularly in those places where they remain underutilized. There is no reason or impediment that should prevent women from carrying out leadership roles in the Church: **what comes from the Holy Spirit cannot be stopped.** Additionally, the question of women’s access to the diaconal ministry remains open. The discernment needs to continue. The Assembly also asks that more attention be given to the language and images used in preaching, teaching, catechesis, and the drafting of official Church documents giving more space to the contributions of female saints, theologians, and mystics. “*

I am reminded that by virtue of baptism women and men have dignity. I am reminded that the Spirit is moving among all the people of God. And during this time of Advent, we remember that the word became flesh by the grace of God and the Holy Spirit and a woman who said “Yes.” Hope – no one can take it away from us.

Adelante,  
Lydia Deck

### WEEKLY READINGS: DECEMBER 16–22

| Monday:                                   | Tuesday:                            | Wednesday:                        | Thursday                                 | Friday                            | Saturday:                        | Sunday:   |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a<br>Ps 25<br>Mt 21:23-27 | Gn 49:2, 8-10<br>Ps 72<br>Mt 1:1-17 | Jer 23:5-8<br>Ps 72<br>Mt 1:18-25 | Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a<br>Ps 71<br>Lk 1:5-25 | is 7:10-14<br>Ps 24<br>Lk 1:26-38 | Sg 2:8-14<br>Ps 33<br>Lk 1:39-45 | Mi 5:1-4a<br>Ps 80<br>Heb 10:5-10<br>Lk 1:39-45 |