

ST. THERESA PARISH COMMUNITY

DECEMBER 22, 2024

FOURTH 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

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

 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
Pastor

Rev. Abraham Addam, ext. 122
In Residence

Rev. Ngema W. Enow, ext. 128 ngemawil.enow@gmail.com
In Residence

Cathy Brady, ext. 126 cathy_b@sttheresaoakland.org
Liturgy Director

Rob Cakebread, ext. 127 rob@sttheresaoakland.org
Music Ministry Director

Joey Gutierrez, ext. 123 joey@sttheresaoakland.org
Youth Ministry Coordinator, Middle School & High School

Keri Nims, ext. 124 keri@sttheresaoakland.org
Coordinator for Early Childhood Catechesis & RCIC

ST. THERESA SCHOOL

Alicia Ortegon, 510.547.3146 a_ortegon@sttheresaschool.org
St. Theresa School Principal

website: www.sttheresaschool.org

Baptisms and Marriages

by appointment, call parish office 510.547.2777, ext. 120, or email admin@sttheresaoakland.org

To arrange a Funeral

call parish office 510.547.2777, ext. 120, or email admin@sttheresaoakland.org

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

Keri Nims ~ keri@sttheresaoakland.org

Middle School Youth Ministry (Grades 6-8)

Joey Gutierrez ~ joey@sttheresaoakland.org

High School Youth Ministry/Confirmation

Joey Gutierrez ~ joey@sttheresaoakland.org

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

Cathy Brady ~ cathy_b@sttheresaoakland.org

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

Parish Organization Contacts

Pastoral Council:

Chris Colby ccolby@well.com

Finance Council:

Carolyn Mahoney carolyn.mahoney675@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Greg Govan glgovan@comcast.net

CYO (Catholic Youth Organization):

Carlos Palacios sttheresaathletics@gmail.com

St. Theresa Men's Club

mensclubsttheresa@gmail.com

Legion of Mary

Tom Wallace tomw1313@sbcglobal.net

WINGS

Cindy Crimmins cyncrim@gmail.com

Social Justice Committee (SJC)

Lydia Deck ltdeck@me.com

Consolation Ministry

Cecile Cuttitta cecile.cuttitta@att.net

Men's Faith Sharing

Jim Frei jim@ottofrei.com

Cursillo

Geri Tong gt4palancaoakland@gmail.com

Kinderchurch

Shannon Ciston 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 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



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.



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.

MEMORY BEARS



Buon Natale, Joyeux Noel, Nollaig Shona Duhuit, Feliz Navidad, Mele Kalikimaka—in any language, a very merry and blessed Christmas to all from the St. Theresa's Memory Bear makers! We want you to assure you that we are still around and are beavering away making bears for families who have lost loved ones, for ill children, and for those in hospice care. If you or someone you know are mourning the loss of a cherished family member or dear friend and would like a special remembrance of that person, we would be more than happy to make a little bear(s) out of a favorite article of their clothing at no charge to you. You'll have a lovely (or handsome) handmade little bear filled with memories and made with our love. We made this Santa Bear for a family whose late husband/father loved Christmas! If you would like a bear made, or would like more information about our ministry, please get in touch with either Marlene McShane (510-653-2688) or Cecile Cuttitta (cecile.cuttitta@att.net).

January 1, 2025

Solemnity of Mary,
the Holy Mother of God

Join us for Mass at 9:00 am.

The Mass will be livestreamed



MASS INTENTIONS - DECEMBER 21-29

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

- Mon. 8:30 am Sandy Hermending
- Tues. 5:00 pm Parish Community of St. Theresa
- 10:00 pm Parish Community of St. Theresa
- Wed. 10:00 am Parish Community of St. Theresa
- Thurs. 8:30 am Donna Pleva
- Fri. 8:30 am Jennifer Price

- Sat. 5:00 pm Steve Giuntoli
- Sun. 9:00 am Parish Community of St. Theresa

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 or call 510.547.2777, ext. 120 if you do not wish to use the online option.

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 9-15):
 ONLINE: 41 DONORS \$ 2,368.00
 MASS DONATIONS: 47 DONORS \$ 3,465.00

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 67.96%

\$24,331 as of November 30, 2024

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



ST. THERESA CHURCH 100TH JUBILEE CELEBRATION

The parish will celebrate its 100th 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.

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

Did it go by faster than other years? Where did this Advent go that we are already here on the fourth and last Sunday with Christmas just three days away?!



Special thanks to all who decorated for Advent, prepared and presented at the 'Family Advent celebration, Advent by candlelight (for women with amazing eight grade girls giving extraordinary help this year) and a warmer Advent for Men last Tuesday night. Amazing thanks to the Men's Club who hosted a wonderful 'Pancake breakfast with Santa' and a school concert featuring every St. T student with choral and band! Thanks to all who right after this Sunday Mass will transform the church for Christmas with the choir members waiting for their last practice immediately afterwards!

Sincere gratitude to all who contributed clothes, food, and gift cards to help those in need among us through St. Vincent DePaul and Catholic Worker, Oakland. And thanks to all who have so generously responded to an authentic appeal letter from me that assures us of trying to fulfill our mission as a Catholic parish!

My good friend, Fr. Ron Schmit who has been the pastor of St. Anne's in Byron for over twenty-five years wrote a wonderful reflection for Christmas that I want to share:

"We all are looking for something. Each year we tell the stories of the coming of Christ, the Anointed One. One of those stories tells us about seekers from the East. The Magi were important people in an ancient culture. They were wise sages who observed the heavens, constellations, and stars. They represent the wise women and men who look for God in nature, and the world's religions and philosophies. They are those who are on an unending quest to seek God.

With restless hearts the Magi were filled with expectation. They were not satisfied with their secure income or their respectable place in society. They were seekers. They leave the comfort of home and the familiar. With the rising of the star, they set out on a journey. It takes them to a foreign land and people. The Magi teach us that we need to set out anew each day, in life and faith. Faith is not a suit of armor which seals us off from the world. Faith is a fascinating journey, and a constant restless search for God. It is always looking for a way forward as the saints through the ages give witness.

On their journey the Magi ask questions. Where should they find the Christ Child? They teach us to ask questions. We must listen to the questions of our hearts. That is where God often speaks to us. The Magi also defied King Herod. They have a courageous faith unafraid to challenge the sinister logic of power. They plant the seeds of justice and solidarity in society where modern day Herods sow death, destruction, and indifference for the poor and innocent. Instead of cooperating with Herod they find a way home around him. Sometimes the Spirit challenges us to seek new paths.

When the Magi reached the end of their journey they were surprised. They did not find the royal child in the palace. They follow the star to a stable with a poor Jewish family. Overcome with joy, they fell down and worshipped the child, who is Emmanuel "God-with-us." We can't forget that our journey of faith finds renewed strength and fulfillment when it is made in the presence of God. Our desire for God can only grow when we place ourselves in God's presence. Our desire for God purifies us from the tyranny of our wants. The Child Jesus elevates our desires, heals them of selfishness, opens us up to love of God, and all our sisters and brothers whoever they may be.

Beginning Christmas Eve 2024 Pope Francis will inaugurate a Jubilee Year of Hope. Quoting St Paul, Francis tells us "Hope does not disappoint." (Romans 5:5) Every twenty-five years a Jubilee is a door to a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus who is our salvation. The motto for the year is "Pilgrims of Hope." Like the Magi we are all pilgrims on a journey. The logo for the Jubilee has figures representing humanity coming from the four corners of the earth. Our journey sometimes takes us through rough waters, but we remember we are all together in the same boat. We hold onto the cross, our anchor of hope, God never abandons us! This year let us be living signs of hope!" (Fr. Ron Schmit)

Remember, the Church wisely says this is so great a feast that one day is never long enough to celebrate it properly. (Remember the song: *The Twelve Days of Christmas*). If every day for the next twelve days we try to demonstrate our love clearly and demonstratively, what a great start it will be for the New Year, and what a great example to our family and friends and the world itself it can be about the true meaning of Christmas.

If you are visiting us for Christmas, please know we are grateful for your presence and hope you will feel welcomed and will taste the joy and love we profess. Please know our doors will always be open to you if you live close to our parish site and we sincerely hope you will join us again soon. Our parish is so much more complete with all of you.

To all who are here each week, I thank you in the name of our whole staff for your presence, generosity, and ongoing support. We thank you because we know God loves you and is overjoyed at your faith and faithfulness. We wish you every Christmas blessing. May the joy of Christmas be yours this week and throughout the coming parish Jubilee New Year as we mark our hundred years as a parish! Long ago, you learned the gift it is to walk this pilgrimage together. We pray that each of you will have an adventurous and great journey in the coming year knowing we are here for one another.

Have a blessed and wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

Fr. Bob McCann, Cathy Brady, Keri Nims, Alicia Ortega, Rob Cakebread, Joey Gutierrez, Fr. Abraham Addam, Fr. Ngema W. Enow

Christmas Blessings and May God Fill You with Peace in the New Year!

WEEKLY READINGS: DECEMBER 23-29

Monday:	Tuesday:	Wednesday:	Thursday	Friday	Saturday:	Sunday:
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Ps 25 Lk 1:57-66	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps 89 Lk 1:67-79	Is 62:11-12 Ps 97 Ti 3:4-7 Lk 2:15-20	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31 Mt 10:17-22	1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97 Jn 20:1a, 2-8	1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Ps 124 Mt 2:13-18	1SM 1:20-22, 24-28 Ps 84 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 Lk 2:41-52