

ST. THERESA


PARISH COMMUNITY

ST. THERESA MISSION STATEMENT

WE ARE A WELCOMING,
ACTIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
UNITED BY OUR FAITH, OPEN TO TRANSFORMATION,
GROWING SPIRITUALLY AND REACHING OUT
TO LOVE AND TO SERVE OTHERS
AS JESUS TAUGHT US.

FEBRUARY 19, 2023

SEVENTH SUNDAY
IN
ORDINARY TIME



Love your enemies,
that you may be children
of your heavenly Father,
for he makes the sun rise
on the bad and the good.

Matthew 5:44, 45

MASS INTENTIONS - FEBRUARY 18 - 26

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

Mon. 8:30 am
 Tues. 8:30 am
 Wed. 8:30 am Parish Community of St. Theresa
 10:30 am St. Theresa School Community
 7:30 pm Parish Community of St. Theresa
 Thurs. 8:30 am
 Fri. 8:30 am

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

MASS INTENTIONS

To request a Mass Intention contact Melody Marr at melody@sttheresaokland.org or 510.547.2777, ext. 120

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US

Via email or text message:

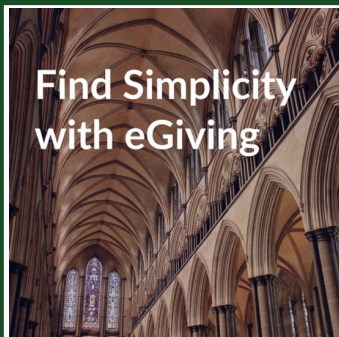


- ◆ Receive the weekly Friday Flocknote
- ◆ Receive parish updates and notices of special events
- ◆ Unsubscribe anytime

Sign-up at: flocknote.com/StTheresa30
 OR Text: STT To: 84579

SUNDAY OFFERING

ONLINE GIVING:
(February 6 - 12) 58 DONORS **\$ 3,904.50**
 MASS/DROP-OFF/MAILED DONATIONS:
(February 6 - 12) 42 DONORS **\$ 2,959.00**



Find Simplicity
with eGiving

Online Giving makes spreading generosity quick, convenient, and secure!
 Please consider choosing one of our e-giving methods listed below and schedule a recurring gift:



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

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS

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

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

DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers, those who have died especially Alejandro Esparza.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS ALL THOSE WHO ARE ILL ESPECIALLY:

Matt Mercier, Heidi Parmelee, Aiden Farinella, Dolores Gomez, Alegria Hipolito, Betty Wharton, Juanita Estrella, Leslie Fischer, Olga Lamberti, Wendy Parmelee, Roger Baylocq, Ida Scodella, Alicia Gonzalez, Denise Moore, Diana Martínez, Susan Springer, Margie Sullivan, Joan Simmons, Badri Nakhjavani, Wendy Jones, Orlanda Gonzalez, Kevin Chapman, Diane Cerille, Ruth McCabe, Tom Wilberding, Shirley Roberts, Karen Milliman, Danny Ramos, Mark Leonard, Christopher Rodriguez, Maryanne Walsh, Rhonda Santeen, John Whatley, Bishop John Cummins, Nancy Coyne, Kevin Stallone, Della Spinelli, Jeanne Cuttitta, Susan Buller, Amy Kantowitz, 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, Patty Estopinal, Laura Jones, Jeff Mills, Mary Pat Power, Bonnie & John Bouey, Susan Rubio, Martin Tierney, Denise Baylocq, Fr. Paul Schmidt, Marley Malone, John Lynch, Isabella Guillot Williams, Violet Chancey, Ann Kirkman, Ann & Hal Lauth.

LIVING STEWARDSHIP

Make a list of enemies—people who have harmed you personally or those you love, harmed our country, and harmed our world. Put this list in a place where you can pray for each one on it regularly for the next month.

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BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINES

February 19 bulletin was due by February 10 (Friday)
 February 26 bulletin was due by February 17 (Friday)
 March 5 bulletin is due by February 24 (Friday)
 March 12 bulletin is due by March 3 (Friday)

Items must be received by 4:00 pm on the due date.

Email to cathy_b@sttheresaokland.org.

SCAM ALERT

A number of people have received phony emails from Fr. Bob and/or our principal Alicia Ortegon asking for gifts cards. If you receive an email from either of them requesting help with gifts, gift cards, money PLEASE IGNORE and DELETE. It's a scam! They will never request help from you in this manner.

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

This coming Wednesday, we begin the great season of Lent. We certainly have extra prayers this year with wars raging in the Ukraine and twenty other places in our world. We have to be horrified by what we are seeing after the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria! Here is an article written by Deacon Greg Kandra proposing a perspective of Lent we might miss (and if you haven't seen it, I urge you to watch a Disney movie sometime during these forty days!)

"In the Disney film *Encanto*, the Madrigal family's story begins when Abuela and Abuelo flee civil war in their home country of Colombia. Abuelo sacrifices himself to save his wife and three infant children and out of this sacrifice comes a miracle: Symbolized by a lit candle adorned with butterflies, a magical house (the *Casita*) embraces the Madrigals and keeps them safe in an idyllic village.

With their safety secured, the miracle continues: Each Madrigal child is given a magical power, referred to as their "gift." (Mirabel is the exception, which is the fuel of the plot.) Abuela determines that each gift must be used for the good of the community, singing that "we pledge to always help those around us / and earn the miracle that somehow found us / ...work and dedication will keep the miracle burning." (A little theology of works.)

I am struck by how timely *Encanto*, the film is as we begin our Lenten journey. It inspires us to examine our own gifts and where we fall short of being the person God created us to be. Lent is a time for embracing and tackling our imperfections head on, exactly as God created us, and discerning when those qualities need to be refined and when they need to shine. This season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving is not meant to be purely penitential for its own sake, but to focus our energies on where we need to grow.

Although it is problematic in the film, Abuela's encouragement of each member of the family to consider how their gift can make the community better is actually a very significant piece of vocational discernment. To paraphrase Frederick Buechner, where do your great gifts meet the town's great needs? Perhaps it is to heal, like Julieta; or to ease burdens, like Luisa; or to make people feel heard, like Dolores; or to spread beauty, like Isabela. Each person's gifts have a distinct role to play in the body of Christ.

We discover early on in *Encanto* that something is threatening the family's magic: the *Casita* is starting to fail and the Madrigal's magical powers are weakening. Cracks begin to show both in the brick and mortar of the *Casita* and in familial relationships, straining under the pressure to be perfect and to serve the community and one another.

The film takes us through the Madrigals' almost purgative journey to heal these cracks. Mirabel seeks whatever is hurting the magic, and in turn, to save the family she

loves. The viewer becomes aware that Abuela's hold on the family is fueled by the fear that, if the miracle dies, she will lose her family. And yet her insistence that everyone maximize the use of their gifts and thus keep the miracle alive is in fact the vice grip suffocating the magic. To move forward, the family Madrigal must offer penance, naming where they have hurt one another through crushing expectations, fractious relationships, or abandonment and exclusion.



This healing comes in the penultimate song, which also offers the most ringing account of vocation. The whole family sings as they stand in the rubble of their collapsed home—and collapsed family. In the end, the family Madrigal discovers that their true gift is not their magical powers, their assigned family roles, or the ways they improve the lives of the townspeople. As Abuela sings, "The miracle is not some magic that you've got / the miracle is you / not some gift, just you / all of you."

What a profound spiritual truth: Who you are in the eyes of a loving God cannot be measured by skills or contribution, but is simply based on who you are as God's own beloved. When we accept that truth and allow it to be our foundation (just as it is for the rebuilt *Casita*), we enter a realm of freedom and possibility beyond our wildest dreams—just as God desires for us.

As the Madrigals awaken to the truth that they are more than just their gifts, there is another message for their weary hearts that almost gets lost in the shuffle of the song but is of paramount importance for our Catholic identity. While the Madrigals stand amidst the destroyed *Casita*, the entire village comes to the family, singing "Lay down your load . . . We have no gifts, but we are many / and we'll do anything for you."

It is only through community that the family can begin to heal: Although the people around them have no magical powers and are often the beneficiaries of the Madrigals' gifts, they are willing to put themselves to work to rebuild the Madrigals' home. In the end, their humanity is the gift they give back to the family that has given so much to them. Human existence is what ends up being a true gift in this family and is lauded as the *Casita*'s "the new foundation

From the ashes of the Madrigals' home comes a sign of hope: the sense of community they found when the walls fell. In our Catholic faith, we live this each time we gather at the table of the Lord for the reading of scripture and the breaking of the bread. (Is it any coincidence that Mirabel's mother, Julieta, possesses the gift of healing through food? Is there anything more eucharistic than this analogy to the bread of life?) When they welcome this community and accept the townspeople's gift, their own gifts return—but absent the burden of unattainable perfection and free in exactly how they were created to be.



It's not too late to support the St. Theresa School Auction by purchasing Sweepstakes tickets to win a big cash prize. You can scan the QR code on the poster in the vestibule.

Winners will be announced at the Auction on Saturday February 25th.

WINGS ~ WOMEN IN GOD'S SPIRIT

WINGS meetings, take place on a Zoom platform from 9:15-11:15am, on Wednesdays. If you need the zoom link contact Denise Mollen at mollend@aol.com. She will send you the link to Zoom. Our theme for the 2022/2023 year is: *"Abide in God's Love"*



FEBRUARY 22ND

ASH WEDNESDAY PROGRAM

A WORD FROM THE PASTER CONTINUED

In considering our vocations, we take stock of the gifts we have been given, but we are not simply our gifts. We are custodians of those gifts; they are tools we use to do good and bring about the kingdom of God, not singular markers of who we are. This is one of the most critical messages of *Encanto*, which also addresses themes such as generational trauma, colonialism, societal and familial pressures, exclusion of those who are different, and so much more.

We began the Lenten season with the imposition of ashes, reminded of the humility of our human existence. We are exhorted to turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel. We spend a season assessing the cracks in our own foundation, like the *Casita*. And then, with the igniting of the flame at the Easter Vigil, light penetrates the darkness. The candle representing the miracle in our own lives—salvation through Jesus Christ—is lit once again. This Lent, we too have the opportunity to strip away all that is unnecessarily burdening us or distancing us from one another and from the perfect God who created even our imperfections."



February 22, 2023

8:30 am Mass

10:00 am School Mass

7:30 pm Mass, will be live-streamed.

There will be a collection at all Masses.



Fast & Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence.

The law of fasting allows one full meal and two smaller ones.

The law of abstinence prohibits the eating of meat. The Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence in the United States.

The obligation of abstinence begins at age 14. The norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59.

St. Theresa Parish Lenten Opportunities

PARISH LENTEN RETREAT "THE 99"

March 9, 16, 23

DAILY REFLECTION BOOKLETS

Fr. Ngema, Weekly Lenten Reflection

February 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 3

"HOLY MOMENTS"

Daily Flocknote Reflection

HOLY MOMENTS BOOK

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Provided by the school

9:30 am & 2:30 pm

RICE BOWLS

LENT IN A BAG

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

March 26, 9:00 am Mass

SEDER DINNER

March 29, 6:00 pm

Check out the Lent page on the parish website for details.

<https://sttheresaokland.org/lent-2023>

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE (SJC) CORNER

At a recent conference called Prophetic Communities, Austen Ivereigh co-author of *Let Us Dream: the Path of a Better Future- Pope Francis in conversation with Austin Ivereigh*,

Mr. Ivereigh discussed how Catholic Social Teaching, Community Organizing, and Synodality all come together. He also discussed how the Synod is calling on the faith and insight of ordinary people around the globe to restore the church. During the Synod we listened deeply to each other as the Spirit moved us to share and now we will begin to hear what others have shared.

Read about the resulting document from Catholics all over the world. This is what we all contributed to with our meetings last year. The Spirit is moving! [https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/common/phases/continental-stage/dcs/ Documento-Tappa-Continentale-EN.pdf](https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/common/phases/continental-stage/dcs/Documento-Tappa-Continentale-EN.pdf)

With the call to “Enlarge the space of your tent.” (Is 54.2), we are called as a church to restore belonging. **As we enter into Lent** the Social Justice Committee would like to invite you to pray and meditate over Pope Francis’ encyclical of *Laudate Si*. It is important to remember our relationship to this beautiful Earth. And also take a look at Pope Francis’ other encyclicals that **call us to relationship with God** in *Lumen Fidei* (the Light of Faith) and **relationship with each other Fratelli Tutti (social friendship)**.

Pray and lift up our brothers and sisters in Turkey and Syria. There are many places to donate but here are just a few:

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the world’s largest humanitarian network

Turkish Philanthropy Funds, which will provide survivors with food, water, shelter, and medicine

Project Hope, a global health and humanitarian relief organization addressing public health challenges

Doctors Without Borders, a humanitarian medical non-governmental organization known for its work in conflict zones, disease outbreaks and natural and human made disasters

For more information about The Social Justice Committee please reach out to Lydia Deck at ltdeck@me.com. Next meeting is March 9th Thursday at 7pm

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL****CURRENT NEEDS**

Volunteers Needed for the Dining Room at the Direct Services Campus in West Oakland: 8:30am to 1pm Tuesday through Saturday. Volunteers help prepare, and bag warm meals for our guests and serve the meals at the gated entrance to the courtyard. Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Kristen Bernal: Email kbernal@svdp-alameda.org 510-277-6435.

Men’s Clothing (casual, work, denim, and work pants, and shoes in good condition) and women’s hygiene articles can be dropped off in the Church vestibule. These donations are distributed through SVDP Clothes Closet in our Downtown Community Center.

Nonperishable, non-expired food donations: Our on-going food collections for the needy people in the Sacred Heart Parish have been graciously acknowledged by those who have been served. This is becoming a regular opportunity for us to feed the hungry, especially during these difficult economic times. We bring the food to Sacred Heart around the third Sunday of the month. Food donations may be left in the back of the vestibule in various baskets next to the “Giving Tree at any time.

Our Parish SVdP Conference meets bimonthly, every third Saturday at 9:30am. If interested in learning more about our Conference’s work, contact Judy Bojorquez at jtsbojorquez@yahoo.com to be added to email distribution or with any questions.

You may use online giving to make a donation to the St. Theresa St. Vincent de Paul conference. <https://sttheresaokland.org/donate>.

WEEKLY READINGS*February 20 - 26***Monday:**

Sir 1:1-10
Ps 93
Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday:

Sir 2:1-11
Ps 37
Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday:

Jl 2:12-18
Ps 51
2 Cor 5:20-6:2
Mt 6:1-6

Thursday:

Dt 30:15-20
Ps 1
Lk 9:22-25

Friday

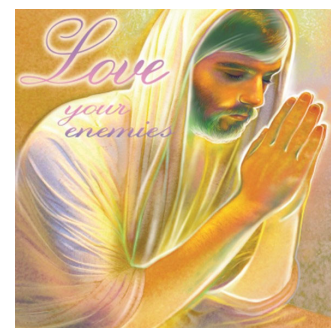
Is 58:1-9a
Ps 51
Mt 9:14-15

Saturday:

Is 58:9b-14
Ps 86
Lk 5:27-32

Sunday:

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Ps 51
Rom 5:12-19
Mt 4:1-11



God's Word for Children

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Do you know what Jesus told his disciples to do for their enemies?
 First connect the letters, then connect the numbers.
 You'll find two symbols that show the answer.
 If you need help, see Matthew 5:44 in your Bible.

The Lord wanted Moses to give a message to the whole Israelite community.
 Fill in each blank below with the letter "o" to see what God said.

“Be h _ ly,
 f _ r I,
 the L _ rd,
 y _ ur G _ d,
 am h _ ly.”

Leviticus 19:2

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Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.
Matthew 5:42

CATHOLIC CORNER

LENTEN PREPARATION

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday—the beginning of Lent, an important time in the church year. The season of Lent is the forty days of preparation before the great feast of Easter.

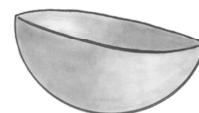
Do you belong to a sports team? Play a musical instrument? Dance? Do gymnastics? In any of these activities you need to practice skills, learn to concentrate, and listen to your coach or instructor. You may even have to do extra work to prepare for a big event. If you don't do the work you will not be ready. The same is true for Lent. We make extra preparations for the great celebration of Easter.

The Church names three principal practices that we should perform every Lent. You can get a head start this year by planning with your family how you will do each one. They can be accomplished in many different ways, so it is important to decide which way is best for you and your family. Take the next two days to make a plan for Lent.



• **Prayer:** We prepare by praying more. During this Lent we will do some extra praying. As a family and individually, how will we do this?

• **Fasting:** We prepare by fasting more often. Fasting means doing without something—food, video games, TV, trips to the mall. When we fast from certain things we make more space in our lives for other things like prayer and good works. What will we do without this Lent?



• **Almsgiving:** We prepare by giving alms more freely. God commands us to give to the poor, not because we are rich but because we have received from God all that we have. Sharing with the poor enriches us in many ways. We each give to one another. As a family and individually, how will we share what we have with those in need?

PARISH INFORMATION



MASS SCHEDULE:

Face Masks are required for all unvaccinated people attending Mass.

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 CENTER OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Tuesday - Thursday: 10:00 am - 2:30 pm

Phone: 510.547.2777

After Hours Medical Emergency Line: 510.610.7715

Parish Website: www.sttheresaoakland.org

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

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn5JX1e3QrqXTsa_7qmNClw

PARISH STAFF: 510.547.2777

Rev. Robert J. McCann, ext. 121

Pastor

rjmccann@sttheresaoakland.org

Rev. Abraham Addam, ext. 122

In Residence

Rev. Ngema W. Enow, ext. 128

In Residence

ngemawil.enow@gmail.com

Cathy Brady, ext. 126

Liturgy Director

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Jenny Bruni, ext. 123

High School Youth Ministry Coordinator

jenny@sttheresaoakland.org

Rob Cakebread, ext. 127

Music Ministry Director

rob@sttheresaoakland.org

Melody Marr, ext. 120

Parish Administrator

melody@sttheresaoakland.org

Keri Nims, ext. 124

Coordinator for Early Childhood Catechesis & RCIC

keri@sttheresaoakland.org

ST. THERESA SCHOOL

Alicia Ortegon, 510.547.3146

St. Theresa School Principal

a_ortegon@sttheresaschool.org

website: www.sttheresaschool.org

Baptisms and Marriages

by appointment (call parish office 510.547.2777)

To arrange a Funeral

call parish office 510.547.2777, ext. 120

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

Keri Nims ~ keri@sttheresaoakland.org

Middle School Youth Ministry (Grades 6-8)

Jenny Bruni and Keri Nims: Co-Coordinators

High School Youth Ministry/Confirmation

Jenny Bruni ~ jenny@sttheresaoakland.org

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

Cathy Brady ~ cathy_b@sttheresaoakland.org

Parish Organizations

Pastoral Council:

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

Chris Bruni mensclubsttheresa@gmail.com

Legion of Mary

Tom Wallace tomw1313@sbcglobal.net

WINGS

Geri Tong geritong1944@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

Shanon Ciston s.ciston@gmail.com

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