

# 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

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

FIRST SUNDAY  
OF  
LENT

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*Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:  
“This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand.  
Repent, and believe in the gospel.”*

*Mark 1:14-15*

30 MANDALAY ROAD - OAKLAND, CA 94618 - 510.547.2777

**MASS INTENTIONS - FEBRUARY 21 - 28**

Sun. 10:00 am Parish Community of St. Theresa

Mon. 8:30 am † Kam Malloy

Tues. 8:30 am Richard Rauscher

Wed. 8:30 am

Thurs. 8:30 am

Fri. 8:30 am

Sun. 10:00 am † Betty Hannelly

**KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US****Via email or text message:**

- ♦ Receive parish updates and notices of special events
- ♦ Choose to receive updates from groups you're interested in
- ♦ Unsubscribe anytime



Sign-up at  
[flocknote.com/StTheresa30](https://flocknote.com/StTheresa30)

OR

Text: STT To: 84579

**SUNDAY OFFERING****ONLINE GIVING :***(February 8 - 14)* 69 DONORS **\$ 4,140.60****DROP-OFF/MAILED DONATIONS:***(February 8 - 14)* 32 DONORS **\$ 3,400.00**

*You can help us*  
 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During this challenging time, we depend on online donations to continue our ministry. Use eGiving from your computer, smartphone or tablet to set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift.

*Use the link on the parish website to donate.*

**BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINES**

February 21 bulletin, was due by February 12 (Friday)

February 28 bulletin, was due by February 19 (Friday)

March 7 bulletin, is due by February 26 (Friday)

March 14 bulletin, is due by March 5 (Friday)

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

Email to [cathy\\_b@sttheresaokland.org](mailto:cathy_b@sttheresaokland.org).**SUPPORT ST. THERESA CHURCH**

By using [smile.amazon.com](https://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.

**BISHOP'S APPEAL 2021****Bishop's Appeal 2021**

St. Theresa Parish Goal - \$35,800

**Collection February 28th****ONLINE PRAYER REQUEST FOR THE SICK OR DECEASED**

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

Please complete the form on the parish website page Prayer/Mass & Confession Time, their name will be included in the weekly bulletin and our Sunday live-stream Mass.

*This form is not for Mass Intentions.*

**DECEASED**

Please remember in your prayers, those who have died especially Eleanor Wilson, step-mother of Greg Wilson.

**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, Kristine Berman, Helen Buty, Aiden Farinella, Liza Mitra, Guido M., Jim Testa, Kevin Stallone, Dolores Gomez, Alegria Hipolito, Betty Wharton, Patricia Green, Hazel Villata, Juanita Estrella, Diane Longfield, Leslie Fischer, Mike Reilly, Dorothy Donnelly, Pat Tynan, Olga Lamberti, Matt White, Mark Dreier, Tom Sanford, Fr. Alex Snyder, Wendy Parmelee, Roger Bayloq, Ida Scodella, Tom Jones, Sigrid Castaldo, Alicia Gonzalez, Denise Moore, Barbara Krummer, John Bouey, Mirella Baldo, Karis Chodzko, Diana Martínez, Susan Springer, Rachel Cecchetti, Br. Michael Gillette, Takako Smith, Jeanne Cuttitta, Melinda Parker, Margie Sullivan Maddie Heitkemper, Lennox Peerson, Joan Simmons, Badri Nakhjavani, Greg Govan, Grace Castelazo Diaz de Leon, Richard Rauscher, Eddie Bradford, Wendy Jones, Bob Rogers, Orlanda Gonzalez and all who have the corona virus throughout the world.

**LIVING STEWARDSHIP**

"Here is the fast you must keep for God: do not commit any wicked deed in your life and serve the Lord with a pure heart; keep his commandments by walking according to his directions and do not let any evil desire enter your heart; have faith in God."

—The anonymous author of *The Shepherd of Hermas*, 2nd century A.D.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

To request a Mass Intention contact Melody Marr at  
[melody@sttheresaokland.org](mailto:melody@sttheresaokland.org)  
 or 510.547.2777, ext. 120 (Tuesday - Thursday).

## A SYNOPSIS OF MY VOCATION STORY: FR. NGEMA W. ENOW

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood, I am delighted to share with you, beloved parishioners of St Theresa's Church, Oakland, the story of my journey to the priesthood. I could never have imagined that it would be in this community that I will be marking this significant event. Contemplating this fact, I cannot thank God enough, and you too dear people of God.

Sandwiched somewhere between fascination for the army and the lure of politics, laid this mysterious attraction to the priesthood, deep in my heart. The attraction initially manifested itself in little ways such as, first, obsession with mimicking priests and, later, overwhelming zeal for serving at Mass. It, however, took the intervention of some holy souls in my parish community for me to begin considering the possibility of a call to the priesthood.

Once that happened, in 1993 I expressed the wish to study in the Minor Seminary. But the desire did not initially materialize. I suspect that my Dad (RIP) frustrated this move at the time because he had cold feet about it. Things turned around, however, five years later. After my secondary education, the same Dad of mine enthusiastically probed me to secure a place in my dream Bishop Rogan College, Soppo, the minor seminary where I completed the last two years of my pre-university studies in June 2000.

It was only logical, then, for me to apply to proceed to the Major Seminary. But this logic was not shared by many of my nearest and dearest who somehow felt I had gone insane. I heard this jibe, "you must be mad," from so many lips that I eventually started wondering if all was truly well with me. Thank God, my Dad had become an enthusiastic supporter of my vocation to the priesthood. On the part of my Mum, I could discern carefully concealed dissent and pain, understandably because she was not yet a Catholic.

The Catholic faith was pretty young then in my Nguti locality where the Immaculate Conception Parish had been established in 1987. Before that time the closest Catholic parish to us was some 62 miles away. No one from my locality had become a priest; none had even a partial major seminary experience. But my zeal for the priesthood was simply unstoppable.

I began the journey in September 2000 as a candidate for the Diocese of Mamfe (my home diocese created in 1999). All went well until the end of the seventh year of my studies for the priesthood. In June 2007, I suffered from what I now describe as a spiritual blackout. My mind was suddenly invaded by myriads of expressible and inexpressible questions about God, the Church, and the priesthood. I could not quite understand myself anymore.

When I returned to St Thomas Aquinas' Major Seminary, Bambui, in September 2007, I was expected to submit my application for ordination to the diaconate like the rest of my classmates. I could not. I did not. Though visibly taken aback, the seminary authorities were very kind and understanding. My formators did their best to dissuade me from quitting the seminary. They further succeeded to counsel me to return the next academic year to complete the program of studies even though I was not on the path to ordination.



In that final academic year, I was offered the opportunity to attend the International Congress for Seminarians in Rome organized by the Focolare Movement in January 2009. The package included a prior one month experience at the Vinea Mea Spiritual Centre in Loppiano, near Florence, Italy. The high point of this experience was my moment of prayer at the Tomb of St Peter. I asked God for clarity, but none came, or so it seemed to me.

Therefore, upon returning to Cameroon, I formally notified the Bishop of my decision to withdraw. The good Bishop Francis T. Lysinge paid a visit to our seminary and had a long talk with me. He resolved to spend two nights in the seminary to give me the last chance to rethink my decision. When we eventually met on the third day, I reaffirmed my stance and he served me my letter of disengagement.

News of that development was a bitter pill for the people of Nguti who had become thrilled at the prospects of having their first priest. Jibes could once again be heard – this time around mostly in whispers: "he must be mad!"

So how did I eventually find myself in the priesthood? Well, the candid and complete answer is that I do not know. Things just happened in a way that is humanly not easy to explain. I think the Vinea Mea experience yielded dividends and the prayer at St Peter's tomb got answered after all, well beyond my imagination. God was not done with me yet. He kept visiting me through many people and many occasions of deep prayer and reflection that eventually turned things around for me. One of the high points, in retrospect, was a meeting arranged for me with the then Bishop of Buea, Immanuel Bushu, by one of my ex-formators.

I only got to know how personally interested this bishop had become in my case the day he gave me the surprise of my life. It was a rainy August afternoon. I was all alone in my room, thinking about everything and nothing at the

Continued on page 4

## FR. NGEMA *CONTINUED*

same time, when I got a summon from Bishop Bushu. He was in my home town Nguti and wanted to meet with me at the Rectory! When we met, he told me he had come for me and asked his driver to accompany me home as my mover. Once in Buea, he hosted me in his house for two weeks at the end of which he assigned me to the Saints Peter and Paul University Church in Buea. It was while there that I got ordained as a deacon on June 29, 2010 and as a priest on February 17, 2011 for the Diocese of Buea out of which the Diocese of Mamfe had been carved.

As I look back ten years after my priestly ordination, I cannot thank God enough for his patience with my human obstinacy. Though painfully aware of my many ministerial blunders and personal failures in discipleship all these years, I am simply marveled at the marvels God has done through my one decade of priestly ministry. I have been something of an itinerant priest who is moved to a different location with new or additional assignments each year. I have always had to double or triple and even quadruple challenging functions at the local and national levels. I am particularly struck at how richly God has blessed my life and how greatly he has enriched my priestly ministry through the amazing people he places on my path. Someday, I hope to find the motivation to write a book on the fulfillment of Mark 10:29-30 in my priestly ministry.

I sincerely think that God could have made no better arrangement for me at this phase of my vocation journey than place me in the warmth of this welcoming faith community of St Theresa's Church. For the multifaceted welcome and the love, and the care and concern that the Pastor and Parishioners daily and variously shower on me, I remain immensely grateful.

## ST. THERESA SCHOOL

### St Theresa Sunday Dinners Cookbook

The St Theresa Parents' Club invites you to share your family's favorite Sunday dinner recipes and menus. We will be compiling all the submissions into a community cookbook. Please share your Sunday dinner traditions, why this is your go to menu or recipe, a photo of your family, etc. Cookbooks will be printed and available to purchase, with a target delivery date in early May. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go to benefit the school.

Please make your submissions by March 15<sup>th</sup> to allow time for collating and printing. Use the link below to make your submissions: <https://bonapp.typeform.com/to/Gihi5dNt> or via email by sending their submissions to the Parents Club email: [sttheresaparentsclub@gmail.com](mailto:sttheresaparentsclub@gmail.com)

## LENT 2021



Lenten Soup is taking a whole new twist!!

Use our new drive thru pickup  
(4:30-6:00)

OR

Delivery option for those who are  
unable to pickup in person  
(weekly prayer provided)

A different soup will be  
prepared each week by our  
very own parishioner Paul  
Canales, chef and owner of  
Duende in Oakland

Place order online using link below or by phone- 510-547-2777 x123

All orders need to be placed by Wednesday of the previous week

\$7 donation per person each week you order

Special Pay It Forward option-buy soup for someone who may need a little help.  
<https://sttheresaokland.org/pray/lent-2021/lenten-supper-soup>

Check out the Lent 2021 page on the Parish website for details on all the Lenten activities being offered.

<https://sttheresaokland.org/pray/lent-2021>

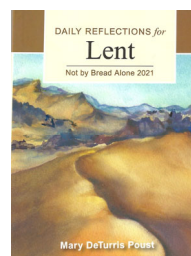
PARISH RETREAT WITH DEACON ZACH  
LENTEN BIBLE JOURNEY WITH FR. NGEMA

LENTEN SOUP

OPERATION RICE BOWL

LENT IN A BAG

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



LENTEN REFLECTION BOOKLETS  
are available in the church vestibule.

This is a prayerful journey through  
lent with day by day reflections on  
the Mass readings.

### DAYS OF FAST AND 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.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER**

**Catholic Relief Services—Operation Rice Bowl**

“We use a holistic approach called integral human development to help people reach their full potential in an atmosphere of peace, social justice and human dignity.

This long-term, dynamic process facilitates collaboration across civil society and the public and private sectors. We engage people at every level—individual, family, community, regional, national and international—to promote transformative and sustainable change.”

Read more on [crs.org](http://crs.org)

**Ignatian Solidarity Network**

*“Our call to love [is] one that transcends all prejudices, all historical and cultural barriers, all petty interests.”  
Fratelli Tutti 83*



“During Lent, in these turbulent times, how can we persevere in our work for justice with a steadfast spirit, rooted in love?”

Join writers from the Jesuit and broader Catholic network as we seek to answer this question, renewing each day throughout Lent our commitment to care for both our fellow human beings and our common home.”

Go to [ignatiansolidarity.net](http://ignatiansolidarity.net) and sign up for meditations and prayers.

Stay tuned for more meetings and gatherings.

Email: Lydia Deck at [ldeck@me.com](mailto:ldeck@me.com) for questions and information.

**GIRL SCOUT COOKIES**

It's GIRL SCOUT COOKIE time! St. Theresa Girl Scout Troop #30723 will be selling cookies via their virtual troop site this year. Due to Covid-19, unfortunately they can't sell directly to you at their cookie booths. Delicious flavors such as Thin Mints, Samoas and Tagalongs are just clicks away! If you don't want these amazing treats in your home, consider donating, and your cookies will be sent along to our Armed Forces or local food banks. Thank you for supporting this fantastic organization.

<https://DigitalCookie.GirlScouts.org/scout/troop30723-636>

**ST. THERESA SCHOOL**

The fourth graders at St. Theresa School have been learning about the mission system of California. They learned why the Spanish government had the missions built along the coast, how the Franciscan missionaries, especially Father Junipero Serra, were dedicated to spreading the Gospel and baptizing the Indian tribes near each mission sight, and how this system was good for some Indians, but not for others. They came to appreciate how hard the Indians worked to build these missions and the beautiful artwork they created inside of the churches.



Each student was assigned one of the missions along the El Camino Real to research. Each student wrote a report on the history of their mission, the Indian tribe that lived there, and how it is used today. They were asked to create a model, a painting, a mosaic, or a mural of their mission. They could also recreate a piece of artwork found in their mission.

The students have worked hard to create beautiful representations of their missions, and they are proud of their work!

**WINGS ~ WOMEN IN GOD'S SPIRIT**

WINGS is a faith enhancement group for women that encourages spiritual growth through prayer, Scripture study, life sharing and community. We meet on Wednesdays on the Zoom platform from 9:15-11:15am for the rest of this year. 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. Invite a friend! Women from local parishes and other denominations are welcome! If you were a member last year you will automatically receive a Zoom invitation. If you're new to WINGS or wish to sample a meeting, send your email address to Nancy Midlin [midlin.nancy@gmail.com](mailto:midlin.nancy@gmail.com). She will send you the link to Zoom.



*“Strength for the Journey”*

FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>

**OUTREACH PROJECT**

### First Sunday of Lent

God told Noah that the whole earth would never be flooded again. God put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of that agreement. You can read the story in your Bible at Genesis 9:8-15. To find what God called this promise, finish writing the names of the pictures shown. Then start at the star and read across to see what the boxes spell.

God protected Noah and his family during the terrible flood. To see where they lived, follow the directions.

1. Color all spaces with numbers 1-10 brown.
2. Color all spaces with numbers 11-20 blue.

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I set my bow in the clouds ... as a sign of the covenant.

Genesis 9 : 13



### PUBLIC MASSES

The weekend Mass will be Sunday at 10:00 am which will continue to be live-streamed, weekday (Mon. - Fri.) at 8:30 am.

Due to the limited number (100) of people (which include clergy/staff/volunteers) who are allowed in the church must make a reservation for Sunday Mass. A Flocknote is sent out every Tuesday with the link to place a reservation for the upcoming Sunday. Reservations will be taken from Tuesday at 9:00 am through Thursday at noon.

### WALK-UP HOLY COMMUNION

#### FOLLOWING SUNDAY 10:00 AM MASS



Communion will be distributed in the church vestibule following the live-stream Mass. We ask that you line up using the social distancing markers on the steps and blacktop. **You will be ushered one person at a time into the vestibule for communion.** Volunteers will be there to assist you.

Masks **MUST** be worn at all times. Please use a hand sanitizer before receiving communion. If you are wearing gloves, you must remove them before receiving Eucharist. It is preferred that you receive the Host in your hands for the time being.

After receiving Holy Communion, there will be a table where you may pick up a bulletin and a basket for your Sunday offering, and then please return to your car and depart.

### VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT PUBLIC MASSES

Your assistance is needed at our weekend Mass. All the information on how to volunteer and the varied options can be found on the parish website at:

<https://sttheresaokland.org/reopening>

### PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,  
Come spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you were already there And unite myself wholly to you.  
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

### WEEKLY READINGS

*February 22 - 28*

#### Monday:

1 Pt 5:1-4  
Ps 23  
Mt 16:13-19

#### Tuesday

Is 55:10-11  
Ps 34  
Mt 6:7-15

#### Wednesday

Jon 3:1-10  
Ps 51  
Lk 11:29-32

#### Thursday:

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25  
Ps 138  
Mt 7:7-12

#### Friday

Ez 18:21-28  
Ps 130  
Mt 5:20-26

#### Saturday

Dt 26:16-19  
Ps 119  
Mt 5:43-48

#### Sunday:

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18  
Ps 116  
Rom 8:31b-34  
Mk 9:2-10

# PARISH INFORMATION



## Mass Schedules:

Weekday: 8:30 am

Sunday: 10:00 am

*[reservation required for Sunday public Mass]*

Live-Stream on Facebook  
Walk-Up Holy Communion  
following Mass

**Reconciliation:** *(call for an appointment)*

## Parish Center Office Hours:

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

**THE PARISH OFFICES ARE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.  
THE PARISH STAFF IS AVAILABLE BY PHONE AND EMAIL  
DURING OFFICE HOURS.**

Phone: 510.547.2777

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)

## PARISH STAFF: 510.547.2777

Rev. Robert J. McCann, ext. 121

*Pastor*

[rjmccann@sttheresaoakland.org](mailto:rjmccann@sttheresaoakland.org)

Rev. Abraham Addam, ext. 122

*In Residence*

Rev. Ngema Wi Enow, ext. 128

*In Residence*

Cathy Brady, ext. 126

*Liturgy Director*

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

Jenny Bruni, ext. 123

*High School Youth Ministry Coordinator*

[jenny@sttheresaoakland.org](mailto:jenny@sttheresaoakland.org)

Rob Cakebread, ext. 127

*Music Ministry Director*

[rob@sttheresaoakland.org](mailto:rob@sttheresaoakland.org)

Joyce Holden

*Middle School Youth Ministry*

[joyce@sttheresaoakland.org](mailto:joyce@sttheresaoakland.org)

Melody Marr, ext. 120

*Parish Administrator*

[melody@sttheresaoakland.org](mailto:melody@sttheresaoakland.org)

Keri Nims, ext. 124

*Coordinator for Early Childhood Catechesis & RCIC*

[keri@sttheresaoakland.org](mailto:keri@sttheresaoakland.org)

ST. THERESA SCHOOL

Katie Murphy, 510.547.3146

*St. Theresa School Interim Principal*

[k\\_murphy@sttheresaschool.org](mailto:k_murphy@sttheresaschool.org)

website: [www.sttheresaschool.org](http://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 1-5)

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

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

Joyce Holden ~ [joyce@sttheresaoakland.org](mailto:joyce@sttheresaoakland.org)

## High School Youth Ministry/Confirmation

Jenny Bruni ~ [jenny@sttheresaoakland.org](mailto:jenny@sttheresaoakland.org)

## R.C.I.A.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Contact

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

## Parish Organizations

### Pastoral Council:

Carrie Schaefer [caralee\\_schaefer@yahoo.com](mailto:caralee_schaefer@yahoo.com)

### Finance Council:

PJ McGahan [pjmcgahan@gmail.com](mailto:pjmcgahan@gmail.com)

### St. Vincent de Paul Society

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

### CYO (Catholic Youth Organization):

Clarence Robinson [sttheresaathletics@gmail.com](mailto:sttheresaathletics@gmail.com)

### St. Theresa Men's Club

PJ McGahan [pjmcgahan@gmail.com](mailto:pjmcgahan@gmail.com)

### Legion of Mary

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

### WINGS

Sharon Chipman [sharonchipman@gmail.com](mailto:sharonchipman@gmail.com)

Ruthanne Allen-Hunt [ruthanneah@gmail.com](mailto:ruthanneah@gmail.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

Sharon Chipman [sharonchipman@gmail.com](mailto:sharonchipman@gmail.com)

### Kinderchurch

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



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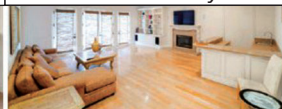
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