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.

March 1, 2020
First Sunday of Lent

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

MATTHEW 4:1
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, Alegria Hipolito, Betty Wharton, Patricia Green, Hazel Villata, Juanita Estrella, 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, Roger Baylocq, Ida Scodella, Tom Jones, Sigrid Castaldo.

Please remember in your prayers, those who have died especially, Tessie Ochoa.

**LIVING STEWARDSHIP**

**A PRAYER FOR LENT:**

“O Lord, who has mercy upon all, take away from me my sins, and mercifully kindle in me the fire of thy Holy Spirit. Take away from me the heart of stone, and give me a heart of flesh, a heart to love and adore Thee, a heart to delight in Thee, to follow and enjoy Thee, for Christ’s sake. Amen.”

---Saint Ambrose of Milan (339-397)

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

**Adult:** What helpful advice could you offer someone faced with a temptation?

**Child:** What helps you do the right thing when you want to do something wrong?

**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.

**BISHOP’S APPEAL 2020**

Bishop’s Appeal 2020
St. Theresa Parish Goal - $35,800
A Word from our Pastor

We are always on a journey through life to the Lord. This is what the Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans represents and the weekly procession to the altar to begin Mass, offer our gifts and receive Holy Communion is about. Communion, together with each other that follows Jesus own example to become like us so one day we will become like Him in glory.

I hope you have started Lent well and will take advantage of all that our parish is offering this season: meditation booklets, the retreat March 22-26, Seder Dinner, and other things found on our website and on the table in the back of the Church.

Deacon Greg Kandra again has a wonderful way of explaining this in a 2010 talk:

“Lent is a time of penitence and confession. So today, I want to begin with a confession: I love “Undercover Boss.”

This reality show debuted on CBS right after the Super Bowl. The premise is surprisingly simple: the CEO of a Fortune 500 company agrees to spend one week living and working as an entry-level employee in his own company. He changes his name, wears a disguise, and literally goes “undercover.”

In each show, the CEOs got to experience what their employees have to put up with – indignity, long hours, low pay, sexism. But they also got to share in the spirit that sustains these workers – optimism, faith, love of family. They saw the enthusiasm and sense of humor that some people bring to even the most menial jobs. The corporate leaders ultimately left their experiences changed.

In some ways, these are small stories of redemption and conversion – and not a bad fit, really, for the season we are just beginning, the season of Lent.

The story of an “undercover boss” — the story of a powerful leader lowering himself to menial work, and enduring all the struggles, hardship and pain that go with it — that story is also the story of something we celebrate every Sunday.

**It is the Incarnation.**

It is the reality of God becoming man. Sharing our sufferings. Bearing our burdens. Facing our trials. And knowing, as well, our hopes and joys. Jesus did all that – he was a man like us in all things but sin, Paul wrote – and we get a vivid example of it in today’s gospel.

The Gospel today presents us with the story of Christ’s 40 days in the desert. It is more than a period of sacrifice. It is a time of testing – and temptation.

Matthew describes three particular temptations – hunger, power and immortality. Face it: those are three of the most urgent desires anyone know. And they go to the heart of who we are.

Hunger can be more than just a craving for a hamburger; there is the hunger for love, or for sex, or for attention. The human appetite is sometimes insatiable.

Power is about more than political ambition or world domination or celebrity; it is also about control, and independence -not being accountable to anyone, and being able to do what you want whenever you want, however you want.

And immortality is about more than never dying. It’s about more than having the constant protection of angels. It is also about never feeling pain, or loss, or sickness, or sorrow.

Think of what the devil is offering: total satisfaction... absolute power...complete freedom. That would be irresistible to most of us. But not to Jesus. And for one startling reason: these are all things that would deprive Christ of his humanity. In saying “no” these temptations, and not giving in to them, Christ is saying “yes” to being one with us.

He is saying: I will know what it is like to be hungry, to crave something that I can’t have. He is saying: I will know what it is like to want power, but to be powerless. And he is saying: I will know what it is to hurt, and to bleed, and to die.

And so, as his earthly ministry unfolds, he will share our hardships and frustrations, our temptations and trials. He will feel what it is like to be denied, and betrayed. He will know every kind of person. He’ll know Judas – and St. John, the beloved disciple. He’ll meet the woman at the well, and Mary and Martha. He will know our dreams, and the things that sustain us. He will see all that we are – the good, the bad, and the ugly.

**He will be the ultimate “Undercover Boss.”**

As we begin our journey through Lent, Luke’s gospel reminds us: we do not go into the desert alone. We go with Christ. He knows what we are living with and living without. So, turn to him in moments of temptation or need. Take his hand. Receive his strength. Look into his eyes, the eyes that have shed tears, and blinked away sweat. Ask for his help. He is God – but he is also us.

Because none of us goes into the desert alone.

The Boss is with us.”
Please join us for our monthly RISE & SHINE Mass at 9am on Sunday, March 29th. This is a youth-friendly and youth-participatory Mass.

PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

Where Do You Find God in the Everyday? A DIP INTO IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY

This year’s Parish Lenten Retreat will begin with the weekend Masses on March 21st and 22nd, and continue Monday through Thursday of that week. AJ Rizzo, SJ, will preside at the weekend Masses, and open the retreat on Monday.

Weekday sessions will be held in the Event Center meeting rooms each morning after the 8:30am Mass and repeated in the evening from 7:00-8:30pm. Sessions will include a presentation, testimonial, time for personal reflection, faith sharing, and will end with a prayer ritual.

Monday, March 23rd *
It’s All About God’s Love
*Lenten Soup at 6:15pm followed by the program

Tuesday, March 24th
How Do You Nurture God’s Love?

Wednesday, March 25th
How Do You Mess Up?

Thursday, March 26th *
How Do You Manifest God’s Love?
*Lenten Soup at 6:15pm followed by the program

We look forward to sharing this year’s Lenten Retreat with you, Laura Bennett, Sharon Chipman, Cindy Crimmins, Lydia Deck, Nina Green, Bob Hernandez, and Fr. Bob McCann.

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. 120.
**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! Say “Yes” to WINGS!

The theme for the year is: "Walking With God"

**CONFIRMATION & HSYM**

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

♦ **SUN, March 22** - Years I and Year II, Mtg Rms
♦ **SUN, March 29** - Church Hall, class TBD

For more information, please contact:

Jenny Bruni  
HSYM Coordinator  
jenny@sttheresaoakland.org  
(510) 547-2777 x 123

**WINGS - WOMEN IN GOD’S SPIRIT**

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**MARCH 4TH**

**WINGS SHARING 4TH SESSION**

**Rice Bowls**

All families are invited to pick up a Rice Bowl packet in the church vestibule and join in this simple yet powerful Lenten practice.

**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.

**Stations of the Cross**

have been a long standing tradition during Lent. The school invites you to join the school children in the church to pray the Stations of the Cross on March 6, 13, 27, April 3; 9:50 am (primary grades) & 2:30 pm (middle school).

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. 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.

**Consolation Ministry (NEW)**

At the suggestion of parishioners, a new Consolation Ministry is being formed, and we would like to invite interested parishioners to sign up to participate. When a family is planning a funeral or memorial service at St. Theresa’s, they are offered the use of the meeting rooms or the Event Center for a reception following the church service. As you know this can be a very confusing and stressful time. In order to relieve the grieving family of one less detail, our Consolation Ministry members will provide homemade baked goods and coffee for any reception and will assist by setting up the meeting rooms or Event Center, and ensuring that during the reception, everything runs smoothly and as effortlessly as possible. If a professional caterer is used, Consolation Ministry members will also assist the caterer as needed with set-up, food service, etc. You can volunteer to bake, to assist with the set-up and reception, or both. When needed, an email will be sent asking for volunteers and you may choose to participate or not, as your schedule allows. We welcome any and all to this new ministry. It is a great honor to assist our fellow parishioners in their time of need, and we hope you will decide to join us. If you have any questions or would like to participate, please email Cecile Cuttitata at cecile.cuttitta@att.net.
We pray that this Lent will be a time of deeper understanding of what it means to be God’s beloved child. We ask God to open our eyes to recognize those things that draw us away and to be open to how God might be drawing us closer.

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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
After Hours Medical Emergency & Emergency Line: 510.610.7715

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

Parish Staff: 510.547.2777
Rev. Robert J. McCann, ext. 121
Pastor
rjmccann@sttheresaoakland.org

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

Jenny Bruni, ext. 123
High School Youth Ministry Coordinator
jenny@sttheresaoakland.org

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

Joyce Holden
Middle School Youth Ministry
joyce@sttheresaoakland.org

Melody Marr, ext. 120
Parish Administrator
melody@sttheresaoakland.org

Keri Nims, ext. 124
Faith Formation Director
keri@sttheresaoakland.org

St Theresa School:
Judith KoneffKlatt, 510.547.3146
School Principal
j_koneffklatt@sttheresaschool.org
website: www.sttheresaschool.org

Parish Information

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

Family Faith Formation (Grades 1-5)
Sunday, 10:00 am (twice a month)

Middle School Youth Ministry (Grades 6-8)
Sunday 6:30 pm (once a month)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
First Friday of the month (September - May)

Parish Organizations

Pastoral Council:
Carrie Schaefer  caralee_schaefer@yahoo.com

Finance Council:
PJ McGahan  pjmcgahan@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
Sharon Chipman  sharonchipman@gmail.com

Men’s Faith Sharing
Jim Frei  jim@ottofrei.com

Cursillo
Sharon Chipman  sharonchipman@gmail.com

Kinderchurch
Shanon Ciston  s.ciston@gmail.com