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.

April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion

Palm Sunday

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Matthew 21:9

OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
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, Fredrika May, Kristine Berman, Helen Buty, Aiden Farinella, Liza Mitra, Guido M., Jim Testa, Kevin Stallone, Dolores Gomez, Alegría 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, Markos Addam, all who have the corona virus throughout the world.

COVID-19 Update

All public Masses have been suspended per the directive from Bishop Barber.

All other events at parishes and schools have been postponed, or cancelled until further notice.

Liturgy During Coronavirus Outbreak - Update #5

While the parish offices are closed, the parish staff is available by phone and email.

Continue to check the parish website, Facebook, and sign-up for FlockNote for the latest updates.

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill especially:

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SUNDAY OFFERING

Online Giving (March 23 - 29): $2,710.61
57 Families donated

Online Giving

Online Giving is available for anyone who prefers to donate through automatic draft for their Sunday Offering, Building Maintenance and Second Collections.

Go to: https://giving.parishsoft.com/sttheresa oakland to sign up. Contact Cathy Brady with any questions. cathy_b@sttheresa oakland.org, 547.2777, ext. 126.

Bulletin Submission Deadlines

April 5 bulletin was due by March 25 (Wednesday)
April 12 bulletin is due by April 3 (Friday)
April 19 bulletin is due by April 10 (Friday)
April 26 bulletin is due by April 17 (Friday)
Items must be received by 4:00 pm on the due date.
Email to cathy_b@sttheresa oakland.org.
A Word from Our Pastor

Whether we like it or not, we will have a different remembrance of Holy Week forever after what we are experiencing this year!

We continue to join each other, the Holy Father, our bishop, members of all the parishes of the diocese and good people of other faiths to pray for all currently. We especially pray for those who are afflicted with Convid-19, those who are dying because of it, the professionals who are trying to treat and care and heal, and the rest of us as we get cabin fever and wonder when will our normal lives return.

I hope you have read the Flocknote we have sent, tuned into the live streamed Mass on Sunday (and the ceremonies that will be live streamed on our website for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. I hope the many links we have listed have brought you some comfort and meditation. I rejoice on hearing of the number of you who are calling a neighbor, checking in with a fellow parishioner, encouraging a school family that never wanted to be a ‘home school’ and going out of your way to help someone in need. This is what we are about as Christians and how a disciple declares faith and trust in the God who loves us.

If you have a good site we might list, let us know. If you witness or perform a good act, let us know. These are the things that will get us all through this crisis. As always, the parish staff and I are here for you as best we can.

So, with all the challenges and worries, I still hope we can spend Holy Week as the Church intends: a mini retreat to remember, celebrate and offer gratitude for all that God has done for us in Christ Jesus.

The parish website has many links to prayerful opportunities and webcast meditations and talks. We have tried to include sites that are geared for children and Keri Nims has provided many possibilities for all families with children. (She has tested many of them out with her three children.) Jenny Bruni has stepped up and has produced the first web streamed Mass from our parish. We will try to do this at the original times posted for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Vigil on Holy Saturday and Easter morning Mass. Most of the staff has forwarded their work phone calls to go right to their personal phones at home. I hope this will still be a prayerful Holy Week for all despite the extraordinary circumstances we find ourselves in.

So, let us from afar, sing Hosana to the Lord who comes to save and redeem us. Palms will be blessed and look for directions on how to get your palms from the parish next week. The Triduum begins on Holy Thursday night with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper. This year with direction from Rome it will be simplified, but appreciate as we wash our hands several times each day during this time, think of the Lord’s example when he washed his disciples feet and commanded them to do the same for others. The gift of the Eucharist, the Bread of Angels that sustains us like manna in the desert is most appreciated this year when we for the most part have not been able to receive at Mass these Sundays. I invite you to recite the prayer for a spiritual communion that is on our website and the diocesan website and to pray for many in our world due to the shortage of Mass availability like we are used to, endure this Eucharistic fast for most of the year. They join us in solidarity, and we praised Jesus for this amazing gift.

Good Friday will take on new meaning this year and I invite you to follow along the account of the Lord’s passion as it is read. You cannot venerate the cross in church this year but take time today to look at a crucifix you have at home and again demonstrate gratitude for what Jesus has freely done for us.

We say Holy Saturday’s Vigil is the apex of our worship! Traditionally as we remember salvation history as it is revealed through more scripture readings than any other Sunday, lite the Christ candle singing the Exsultet that praises God for the wonderful raising of the Christ to glory and proclaiming to us that this is where we one day will follow because of the paschal mystery, we rejoice. If adults are to be welcomed into our Church, the Body of Christ, through Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist we recall our own Baptism that made us one with Jesus. As St. Paul writes “if we are one with him in likeness to his death, so we will be like him in likeness to his Resurrection.”

This year, baptisms are being postponed, the Vigil, like the previous parts of the Triduum will be shortened and I will miss shouting: “Christ is Risen.” Nevertheless, I invite you to join the parish via the live cast presentation of the Triduum.

Continued on page 4
Last week, our parish Finance Committee met via zoom. They are understandably concerned since we have had no Sunday donations on which the parish depends for day to day operations. They have asked me to make an appeal to all and I asked them for some thoughts to send all of you. I will be making that appeal, but here is what one of our members sent me:

“For two weeks, we have not been able to gather in our worship space on Mandalay Road due to the COVID-19 directives. Though the church building is empty on Sundays during these extraordinary times, we continue to be community to one another through our prayers and words of encouragement. We continue to be united with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, if not sacramentally in receiving the Eucharist, spiritually.

As always, our community requires financial support to remain a vibrant community. This need is particularly acute during these times when we are not able to receive your support through the weekly collections at Mass. If you are not already enrolled in online giving, I ask that you prayerfully consider enrolling in online giving, making a onetime online gift by going to our parish website and following the directions to do that today and continuing to financially support our community.

We all look forward to the day when we will be united in worship in our church giving thanks to God for guiding us through the challenging days in which we currently find ourselves.”

A million thanks to many who already use online giving, and a million thanks to several of you who have been dropping off your weekly collection envelopes. I have no doubt that this whole community will see us and others through these challenges.

Know you are in my daily prayers. If anyone has intentions or people you want us to pray for, please let us know. One staff member has offered to write those intentions into the book at the back of the church. Stay healthy and at home, wash your hands, keep the social distance and remember we are another week closer to being together again!
**WEEKLY REFLECTION**

**Holy Week**

**Trust**

Isaiah 50:4-7  
Psalm 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24  
*My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*  
Philippians 2:6-11  

In Matthew we hear the familiar words of the Passion story. Isaiah, in a reading about the suffering servant, declares "The Lord is my help." Jesus says the words of the psalm of the day, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" Paul tells us that Jesus was exalted by God and given the name above all other names. Can I come to praise God even in my sufferings? The first step is to trust God. Trust is a decision.

This week I will look at my life and decide where I need to trust God. I will make that decision and commitment, and make it again, and again, and again, as often and for as long as I need to for it to become a habitual way of thinking. Yes, the Lord is my help.

**FIVE SIMPLE WAYS TO CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK AT HOME**

Create a simple prayer space in your home, and gather there to pray during the week.

- **Palm Sunday**: At your regular Mass time, read the first Palm Sunday Gospel (Mt 21:1–11) and meditate on or discuss what Jesus might be thinking as he enters Jerusalem for the last time.
- **Holy Thursday**: Bake bread for sharing at dinner; make a ritual of stripping the dinner table of all cloths and decorations after dinner.
- **Good Friday**: Pray the Stations of the Cross at 3 p.m.
- **Holy Saturday**: In the morning, read Psalm 64 and break your Good Friday fast solemnly with a simple meal.
- **Easter Sunday**: Dress up the dinner table again. Include candles and crosses, so that the candy baskets aren’t the only festive items present. Sing Alleluia and read the Easter Gospel (Matthew 28:1-10) with solemnity and joy.

Look online for other suggestions for celebrating Holy Week at home, to deepen and enrich your experience at this time of social isolation.

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

**Adult**: We are called to die to ourselves in love for others. How do you live that in your own life?

**Child**: How do you allow Jesus to live in your heart?
People are willing to do many things for those they love.  
But do you know what Jesus was willing to do?  
Find and use the nine hidden words on the cross to complete 
the “Greatest Love Story” ever.

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God’s Word for Children

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

People are willing to do many things for those they love.  
But do you know what Jesus was willing to do?  
Find and use the nine hidden words on the cross to complete 
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Easter Preparation

During this week, prepare your hearts for Easter.

Monday - Do something nice for 3 different people.
Tuesday - List 3 things that Jesus would be proud of 
you for 3 things that need improvement.
Wednesday - Talk to an adult or friend about what the 
true meaning of Easter is all about. Don’t be 
afraid to ask silly questions.
Thursday - Pray to Jesus and thank Him for what He 
suffered for you.
Friday - Do the stations of the cross. They are listed 
in your Bible.
Saturday - Read through the Glorious Mysteries (also 
listed in your Bible) or say the Rosary.

Read the instructions below to see what people shouted 
as Jesus rode through the city of Jerusalem.  
It meant they adored him!  
They even laid their coats down so Jesus would ride over them.

Color the shapes with a 
number from one to five

orange

Color the shapes with a 
number from six to ten

yellow

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**Parish Information**

**Mass Schedule:**

**All Public Mass are Suspended**

Live-stream Mass on Facebook
Sunday at 10:00 am

Reconciliation: **Suspended**

**Parish Center Office Hours:**

The Parish offices are closed until further notice.
The Parish staff is available by phone and email.

Phone: 510.547.2777

After Hours Medical Emergency Line: 510.610.7715

Parish Website: www.sttheresaoakland.org

Facebook: StTheresaChurch/Oakland

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**All Activities are Suspended Until Further Notice.**

**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

**Kindergarten**
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)

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**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

**Consolation Ministry**
Cecile Cuttitta cecile.cuttitta@att.net

**Men's Faith Sharing**
Jim Frei jim@ottofrei.com

**Cursillo**
Sharon Chipman sharonchipman@gmail.com

**Kindergarten**
Shanon Ciston s.ciston@gmail.com

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**Parish Staff:** 510.547.2777

Rev. Robert J. McCann, ext. 121
**Pastor**
rmccann@sttheresaoakland.org

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

Rev. Tegha Afuwi Nji, ext. 128
**In Residence**
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Cathy Brady, ext. 126
**Liturgy Director**
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Jenny Bruni, ext. 123
**High School Youth Ministry Coordinator**
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**Music Ministry Director**
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Joyce Holden
**Middle School Youth Ministry**
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Melody Marr, ext. 120
**Parish Administrator**
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Keri Nims, ext. 124
**Faith Formation Director**
keri@sttheresaoakland.org

Judith KoneffKlatt, 510.547.3146
**School Principal**
j_koneffklatt@sttheresaschool.org

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**Facebook:**
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  - Sunday at 10:00 am

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