

# 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.

DECEMBER 15, 2019

THIRD SUNDAY  
OF  
ADVENT

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return  
and enter Zion singing,  
crowned with everlasting joy.

— Isaiah 35:10a



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30 MANDALAY ROAD - OAKLAND, CA 94618 - 510.547.2777



## DECEMBER 14 - 22

Sat. 5:00 pm † Parish Community of St. Theresa  
 Sun. 9:00 am † Tina Bruno  
 11:00 am † Carmelina & John Isola

Mon. 8:30 am † Ray Mariolle  
 Tues. 8:30 am † Pat Nobel  
 Wed. 8:30 am † Gabriel Decker  
 Thurs. 8:30 am † Elaine Moore  
 Fri. 8:30 am † Peter Oliverez, Sr.

Sat. 5:00 pm † John McCole  
 Sun. 9:00 am Parish Community of St. Theresa  
 11:00 am † Al Gabriel

*We want apologize. There was a problem with the Mass Intention calendar and the Tuesday intentions were lost. If you had scheduled an intention on a Tuesday please contact Melody in the office 510.547.2777, melody@sttheresaokland.org so we can place it back on the calendar.*



FOR YOUR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SPIRITUAL JOURNEY, PLEASE PICK UP A COPY OF THE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS REFLECTION BOOKLET IN THE VESTIBULE.

### Low Gluten Hosts



Prior to the start of the liturgy there will be a small container of the hosts next to the bread and wine on the table in the back of the church. Take a host from the container and place it in the glass bowl. At communion you will receive Eucharist from one of the ministers in the center aisle.



### COME AND HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS!

**Sunday, December 22, at noon**

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.



**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, 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 Bayloq, Ida Scodella

### LIVING STEWARDSHIP



"We must wait for God, long, meekly, in the wind and wet, in the thunder and lightning, in the cold and the dark. Wait, and he will come. He never comes to those who do not wait".

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### Question of the Week

**Adult:** How do you prepare yourself to meet Christ in those around you?

**Child:** What good thing have you done so far during Advent to be like Jesus?

### 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 2019

**St. Theresa Parish Goal - \$35,800**

Percentage Achieved **77.37%**

**\$27,698.41** as of November 30, 2019



Keep in touch with us

VIA EMAIL OR TEXT MESSAGE

- Choose to receive updates from groups you're interested in
- Unsubscribe anytime
- No spam, we promise

### 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@sttheresaokland.org or 547.2777, ext. 20.



### 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/sttheresaokland> to sign up. Contact Cathy Brady with any questions. cathy\_b@sttheresaokland.org, 547.2777, ext. 26.

### BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINES

December 15 bulletin was due by December 6 (Friday)  
 December 22 bulletin was due by December 11 (Wednesday)  
 December 29 bulletin is due by December 17 (Tuesday)  
 January 5 bulletin is due by December 19 (Thursday)

Items must be received by 4:00 pm on the due date.  
 Email to cathy\_b@sttheresaokland.org.

# A WORD FROM THE PASTOR:

by Michael Sean Winters



Advent is the season in which the attention of the Church focuses most naturally on the Blessed Virgin Mary. In our own country, the seasonal focus on Mary is furthered by the coincidence of our nation's patronal feast, the Immaculate Conception, falling within the Advent season. As well as the most observed feast of the year in the United States, Our Lady of Guadalupe, lands in Advent too: In my neighborhood, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is the only feast commemorated with fireworks and they go on for a good fifteen minutes after the close of Mass.

Advent is the season of expectancy as the Holy Father said during his Angelus talk Sunday, and we all await the birth of the Savior, but Mary was the only one who was "expecting." She was free from the stain of original sin, but not from the emotional or the hormonal or the social or the psychological anxieties that attend childbirth, and hers was an age when childbirth was a dangerous moment for both mother and child. This act in the human drama that we call Christmas can be seen in many ways, but it must always be seen first in a very practical, historical way, as a recollection of the birth of that child by that woman.

Catholic devotion to the Blessed Mother is one of our most distinctive characteristics. Why is that? Mary evidences what it means to be a disciple from the first moment of her conception. Mary puts herself entirely at the Lord's disposal: "Let it be done to me according to thy word." The Magnificat, uttered by Mary when she visits her kinswoman Elizabeth, is one of the greatest of Christian prayers combining as it does the humility appropriate to a disciple with the revolutionary implications of discipleship. She repeats her belief that this great event of her pregnancy has been accomplished by God: "The Almighty has done great things for me." But, she then describes the consequences of this great event: "He has scattered the proud in their conceit, he has cast the mighty from their thrones, he has filled the hungry with good things and the rich he has sent away empty." She is the vehicle for these events, precisely in her lowliness. The "preferential option for the poor" is not something a group of Latin American theologians happened upon in the 1960s. The preferential option for the poor is ordained by God in his choice of Mary as the critical instrument in his divine plan.

There is another reason Mary plays such a central role in Catholic devotion. We first come to understand – no, not understand, for it exceeds our poor attempts at understanding – to appreciate, to acknowledge, that love is at the center of our own existence when we are held in our mother's arms. In that motherly embrace we first encounter the closest human approximation of the unconditional love of God. There we first experience the dignity of dependence. There we encounter what we mean when we say "the Kingdom." The God who created us knows from all eternity that we humans are stubborn folk, that we are reluctant to bend our wills to His, and so he introduces us to our own salvation, which is His work not ours, by means of a mother's love. Mary brings the savior into the world, into our world, just as our own mothers brought us into the world. "To Jesus, Through Mary" is not mere piety. It is how salvation worked then. It is how salvation works still.

In the seminary, I recall a classmate suggesting that the priest's vestments should be blue in Advent. Of course, we can't just make things up as we go along. The penitential color of purple is entirely appropriate for the season: Only a sinner knows he needs a savior. But, that seminarian was on to something. Advent is a time to turn our hearts and minds to Mary, the Mother of God. It is a time to consider the homely way God accomplishes His designs. It is a time to wait with Mary for the birth of Jesus.

***Pray for the Holy Father with this prayer, or with some other prayer of your own choosing:***

Father of mercy, we come before you with gratitude for the fifty years of priesthood of Pope Francis, whom you have made Peter's successor. Support him with the Spirit's gifts, so that he can continue to preach the Gospel with priestly zeal and lead the Church with wisdom and strength and courage. May his example of long and faithful service be an inspiration to your priests and to all your faithful. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

# PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS



## COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

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?

You can pick up a '*COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS*' card at the information desk and send them a personal invitation to our Christmas liturgies or share with us their name, and contact information. We will send them an invitation to come home for Christmas.

Drop off information at the Parish Office; or email to [melody@sttheresaokland.org](mailto:melody@sttheresaokland.org)



### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

#### December 24<sup>th</sup>

5:00 pm Children's Mass with Gospel Tableau  
9:15 pm Concert  
10:00 pm Mass

#### December 25<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am Mass



### ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Saturday, December 21

3:30 PM

Advent is a time of preparation. Make your heart and mind ready for the coming of Christ, which we are soon to celebrate in the Mass of Christmas.



ST. THERESA SCHOOL

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 17  
6:30 pm  
Event Center

### CHRISTMAS COOKIE SWAP & GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING PARTY HOSTED BY THE ST. THERESA SCHOOL PARENT CLUB

Members of the St. Theresa School and Parish are invited to come to the Hall to socialize and swap Christmas cookies.

- ◆ Please bring 2 dozen of your favorite cookie to swap and some extras to sample.
- ◆ The Parents Club will provide boxes for you to pack up other's holiday creations to take home.
- ◆ Bring 2 dozen of one kind, leave with a sampler of 2 dozen!

There will be space for you to decorate a gingerbread house and some "blank canvas" cookies and decorating supplies for anyone who wants to make a special creation. If you wish to decorate a gingerbread house, it's BYOGH (bring your own gingerbread house).

Coffee, hot chocolate, and milk will be served.

Saturday, December 21 ~ 1:00-3:00 pm ~ Please RSVP to [sttheresaparentsclub@gmail.com](mailto:sttheresaparentsclub@gmail.com) so we know how many to expect.



Please join us for our monthly *RISE & SHINE* Mass  
at 9am on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>.  
This is a youth-friendly and youth-participatory Mass.

## Advent: Less Hectic, More Holy...



### Children's Christmas Tableau

Advent is supposed to be 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 continue to having a no-rehearsals format for the Children's Christmas Tableau.

The Tableau will take 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 some costume pieces available in the church hall 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 will need 4-5 parents to help from the 4-5 timeslot with passing out of costumes in the Hall. Let me know if you would like to help with that.

If you have any questions please contact Keri Nims at [keri@sttheresaokland.org](mailto:keri@sttheresaokland.org).

## CONFIRMATION & HSYM

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

- Sunday, Dec. 15 - Annual Men's Club Pancake Breakfast, Event Center

For more information, please contact:



Jenny Bruni  
HSYM Coordinator  
[jenny@sttheresaokland.org](mailto:jenny@sttheresaokland.org)  
(510) 547-2777 x 39



WE ARE SO  
GRATEFUL FOR OUR  
PARISH VOLUNTEERS!

PARISH VOLUNTEERS  
AND THEIR SIGNIFICANT OTHER  
ARE INVITED TO AN  
*'EPIPHANY PARTY'*  
CELEBRATING THE VOLUNTEERS OF  
ST. THERESA PARISH

WHEN: January 11, 2020 (Saturday)  
WHERE: Meeting Rooms  
TIME: 6:00 - 8:00 PM  
HOSTED BY: Parish Staff

Please RSVP to [melody@sttheresaokland.org](mailto:melody@sttheresaokland.org)

**THIS EVENT IS FOR ADULTS ONLY.**

## Women in God's Spirit

**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! Our theme for this year is "Walking with God". Join us on opening day, October 9th. Say "Yes" to WINGS!



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

DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>

CHRISTMAS BREAK

explore

life  
faith  
meaning

The evening starts with  
a light dinner,  
followed by a  
presentation and small  
group discussion and  
sharing.

You're invited to  
TRY ALPHA  
Tuesdays, 6:30pm  
St. Theresa Catholic Church

Alpha

Cathy Brady



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# WEEKLY CALENDAR

	Start Time	Event	Location
December 14	8:00 AM	CYO Games	Event Center
Saturday	8:00 AM	Scout Training	Hall
	2:00 PM	Wedding	Church
	4:00 PM	Reconciliation	Church
	5:00 PM	Mass	Church
	December 15	9:00 AM	Mass
Sunday	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Pancake Breakfast ~ 10:00am-1:00pm</b>	<b>Event Center</b>
	11:00 AM	Mass	Church
December 16 Monday	8:30 AM	Mass	Church
	4:00 PM	CYO Practice	Event Center
	6:30 PM	Boy Scout Meeting	Hall
	7:00 PM	Memory Bears	Hall
December 17 Tuesday	8:30 AM	Mass	Church
	9:00 AM	Legion of Mary	Hall
	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>St. Theresa School Christmas Concert</b>	<b>Event Center</b>
December 18 Wednesday	7:30 AM	Cursillo Faith Sharing	PC Parlor
	8:30 AM	Mass	Church
	4:00 PM	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Church
	4:00 PM	CYO Practice	Event Center
	7:00 PM	Centering Prayer	Vestibule
December 19 Thursday	7:30 AM	Men's Cursillo Faith Sharing	PC Parlor
	8:30 AM	Mass	Church
	4:00 PM	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Church
	4:00 PM	CYO Practice	Event Center
	5:00 PM	Bell Choir	Church
	7:00 PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Offsite
December 20 Friday	<b>Parish Offices closed on Fridays</b>		
	8:00 AM	Women's Volleyball	Event Center
	8:30 AM	Mass	Church
December 21 Saturday	<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>Cookie Exchange</b>	<b>Hall</b>
	3:30 PM	Parish Reconciliation Service	Church
	5:00 PM	Mass	Church
December 22 Sunday	9:00 AM	Mass	Church
	11:00 AM	Mass	Church



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*December 16 - 22*

## Monday:

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a  
Ps 25  
Mt 21:23-27

## Tuesday

Gn 49:2, 8-10  
Ps 72  
Mt 1:1-17

## Wednesday

Jer 23:5-8  
Ps 72  
Mt 1:18-25

## Thursday:

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a  
Ps 71  
Lk 1:5-25

## Friday

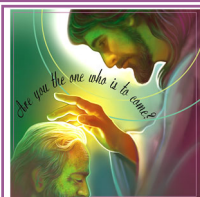
Is 7:10-14  
Ps 24  
Lk 1:26-38

## Saturday:

Sg 2:8-14  
Ps 33  
Lk 1:39-45

## Sunday:

Is 7:10-14  
Ps 24  
Rom 1:1-7  
Mt 1:18-24



## LIVING GOD'S WORD

We can ask God to give us that joy that the world cannot give, a joy that is found rooted in our faith in God, in our trusting that the God who raised Jesus up will also bring us to fullness of life.

# PARISH INFORMATION



## 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 ~~~ Fax 510.653.3575

After Hours Medical Emergency & 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. 21  
*Pastor*

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

Cathy Brady, ext. 26  
*Liturgy Director*

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

Jenny Bruni, ext. 39  
*High School Youth Ministry Coordinator*  
[jenny@sttheresaoakland.org](mailto:jenny@sttheresaoakland.org)

Rob Cakebread, ext. 11  
*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. 20  
*Parish Administrator*  
[melody@sttheresaoakland.org](mailto:melody@sttheresaoakland.org)

Keri Nims, ext. 24  
*Faith Formation Director*  
[keri@sttheresaoakland.org](mailto:keri@sttheresaoakland.org)

**St Theresa School:**  
Judith KoneffKlatt, 510.547.3146  
*School Principal*  
[j\\_koneffklatt@sttheresaschool.org](mailto:j_koneffklatt@sttheresaschool.org)  
website: [www.sttheresaschool.org](http://www.sttheresaschool.org)

**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](mailto:cathy_b@sttheresaoakland.org)

## Kinderchurch

Preschoolers and Kindergarteners  
9:00 am Sunday Mass

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

Grades 1-5, 9:00 am Mass

## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

First Friday of the month (September - May)

## Parish Organizations

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

**Finance Council:**  
Carolyn Mahoney [carolyn.mahoney675@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.mahoney675@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**  
Laurie Porter [laurinporter@att.net](mailto:laurinporter@att.net)  
Sharon Chipman [sharonchipman@gmail.com](mailto:sharonchipman@gmail.com)

**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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