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
DECEMBER 14 - 22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Parish Community of St. Theresa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun.</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Tina Bruno</td>
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<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Carmelina &amp; John Isola</td>
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<td>Mon.</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Ray Mariolle</td>
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<td>Tues.</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Pat Nobel</td>
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<td>Wed.</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Gabriel Decker</td>
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<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Elaine Moore</td>
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<td>Fri.</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Peter Oliverez, Sr.</td>
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<td>Sat.</td>
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<td>John McCole</td>
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<td>Parish Community of St. Theresa</td>
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<td>Al Gabriel</td>
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We want to 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@sttheresaoakland.org so we can place it back on the calendar.

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. 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/sttheresaoakland to sign up. Contact Cathy Brady with any questions. cathy_b@sttheresaoakland.org, 547.2777, ext. 26.

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, M . Cooper Little, Nadine McMillan, Heidi Parmeele, 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 Lambert, Michael Bamrick, Matt White, Mark Dreier, Tom Sanford, Maria Gabriel Decker, Fr. Alex Snyder, Wendy Parmeele, Roger Baylocq, 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”.

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 2019

St. Theresa Parish Goal - $35,800

Percentage Achieved 77.37%

$27,698.41 as of November 30, 2019

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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.
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@sttheresa oakland.org

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

December 24th
5:00 pm Children’s Mass with Gospel Tableau
9:15 pm Concert
10:00 pm Mass

December 25th
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 so we know how many to expect.

RISE & SHINE

Please join us for our monthly RISE & SHINE Mass at 9am on Sunday, January 26th.
This is a youth-friendly and youth-participatory Mass.
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 18th
Christmas Break

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@sttheresaoakland.org
(510) 547-2777 x 39

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@sttheresaoakland.org.

PARISH VOLUNTEERS
AND THEIR SIGNIFICANT OTHER
ARE INVITED TO AN
‘EPHAN Y 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@sttheresaoakland.org

this event is for adults only.

explore
life
faith
meaning

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

We are so grateful for our Parish Volunteers!
Weekly Readings

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.
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
Facebook: StTheresaChurch/Oakland

Parish Staff: 510.547.2777
Rev. Robert J. McCann, ext. 21
Pastor rjmcann@sttheresaoakland.org
Cathy Brady, ext. 26
Liturgy Director cathy_b@sttheresaoakland.org
Jenny Bruni, ext. 39
High School Youth Ministry Coordinator jenny@sttheresaoakland.org
Rob Cakebread, ext. 11
Music Ministry Director rob@sttheresaoakland.org
Joyce Holden
Middle School Youth Ministry joyce@sttheresaoakland.org
Melody Marr, ext. 20
Parish Administrator melody@sttheresaoakland.org
Keri Nims, ext. 24
Faith Formation Director keri@sttheresaoakland.org
St Theresa School:
Judith KoneffKlatt, 510.547.3146
School Principal j_koneffklatt@sttheresaschool.org
website: 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

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
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
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