

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

DECEMBER 20, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
ADVENT

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me
according to your word.

Luke 1:38



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30 MANDALAY ROAD - OAKLAND, CA 94618 - 510.547.2777

MASS INTENTIONS - DECEMBER 20 - 27

Sun. 10:00 am † Peter Oliverez, Sr.

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday † Special Intention

Thurs. 5:00 pm Parish Community

Fri. 10:00 am Parish Community

Sun. 10:00 am Parish Community

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
 OR
 Text: STT To: 84579

SUNDAY OFFERING

DUE TO AN EARLY BULLETIN PUBLISHING DATE THE SUNDAY OFFERING FOR DECEMBER 7 - 13 WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE DECEMBER 27TH BULLETIN.

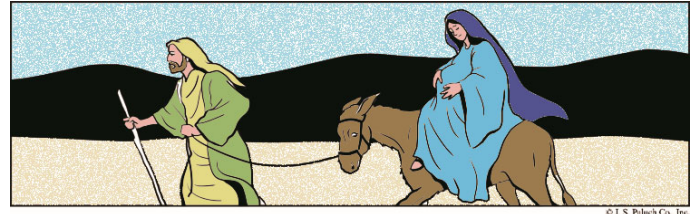
You can help us
 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.

BISHOP'S APPEAL 2020**Bishop's Appeal 2020**

St. Theresa Parish Goal - \$35,800

Percentage Achieved **99.73%****\$35,704.00** as of October 31, 2020**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 Martinez, Susan Springer, Rachel Cecchetti, Br. Michael Gillette, Takako Smith, Jeanne Cuttitta, Melinda Parker, Margie Sullivan Maddie Heitkemper, Chris Cuttitta, Daryl Shields, Lennox Peerson, Joan Simmons, and all who have the corona virus throughout the world.

LIVING STEWARDSHIP

What can you do for a God who has already loved you so much? Give your heart to God, and be prepared like Mary to take some risks.


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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Adult: How do you open your heart to what God wants for you? How do you follow the pathway that leads to happiness?

Child: Is there something hard you need to do this week? What might make it easier?

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.

BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINES

December 20 bulletin, was due by Dec. 9 (Wednesday)
 December 27 bulletin, is due by Dec. 15 (Tuesday)
 January 3 bulletin, is due by December 21 (Monday)
 January 10 bulletin, is due by January 1 (Friday)

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

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

This has been a strange and difficult year for everyone. Due to the Covid-19 virus we are unable to gather with family, friends and as a parish community to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus. However, we share a spiritual bond which cannot be seen. Divine love unites us as members of the Body of Christ.

At Christmas we celebrate not a birthday but a birth. God's Word of love takes on human existence in Jesus. Now the Risen Christ takes flesh in each of us. Christ shares our humanity so we can share in his divine nature. It was Mary's "yes" that allows the divine to take flesh within her. With our "yes" we all are sacred vessels in which holiness dwells.

St John of the Cross wrote a beautiful poem for this time of the year.

"If you want, the Virgin will come walking down the road pregnant with the Holy, and say, "I need shelter for the night, please take me inside your heart, my time is so close."

Then, under the roof of your soul, you will witness the sublime intimacy, the divine, the Christ, taking birth forever, as she grasps your hand for help, for each of us is the midwife of God, each of us. Yes there, under the dome of your being does creation come into existence eternally, through your womb dear pilgrim—the sacred womb of your soul, as God grasps our arms for help: for each of us is his beloved servant, never far.

If you want, the Virgin will come walking down the street pregnant with Light and sing."

In the name of the whole St. Theresa staff, we wish you, your family and friends best wishes for this Christmas season that begins this week. We have ached to figure a way for you to be present as you are each year for our Christmas services, but with a horrible surge climbing higher, we have sadly limited our celebrations to the live-streamed Masses that so many have viewed and participated in each week.

It isn't the same for you and us to not be able to be together at this special time, but following the

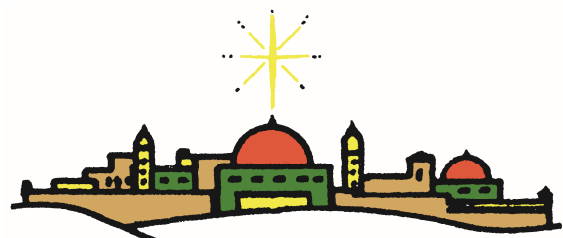
advice of our county, and experts within our own parish, we continue to operate this way until the experts and science say it is again safe to do so.



Be assured we miss you and be assured we long for the day to be together again.


Many thanks for the amazing faithfulness, loyalty, and generosity you continue to give to your parish since last March when the pandemic began to change all our lives! Through your good support and volunteering, we have been able to have a few open Masses when Alameda County allowed it. We have adapted ways of learning for our young people in online and sometimes outdoor religious education, Confirmation and Sacrament preparation programs. Our parochial school administration and faculty have climbed herculean obstacles to provide good education for the children enrolled in our school. Your continued support has allowed us to make many a deferred repair a reality that guarantees a site that will be safer, cleaner, and more accessible when all are able to return to regular Masses and gatherings. WINGS has led the way in example of keeping their gatherings going via zoom with pastoral council, finance councils, school board and other groups supporting the energy of our parish.

It seems trite to simply say 'thank you' to all. But I say it with the assurance of my daily prayers, gratitude, and sincere wish that your Christmas will be blessed, and we will soon be able to offer one another a sign of Christ's peace in person. Merry Christmas! To a Happy and healthy New Year!



MERRY CHRISTMAS

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Join us as we journey to Bedford Falls in a 4 session Advent Bible Study.

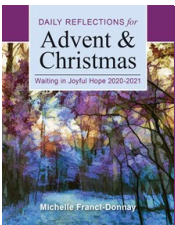
Wednesday Nights
Final Evening, December 23rd, Join Us
7:00
Via Zoom

Based around the scenes and themes of the beloved film *It's a Wonderful Life*, this retreat emphasizes it is Christ who makes our life precious.

Discussion questions, prayer and reflection will help us see the wonderful things Christ has done in our lives.

RSVP: via the link below or email
Keri@sttheresaokland.org

<https://sttheresaokland.org/A Wonderful Life in Christ>



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

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. She will send you the link to Zoom.

The theme for the year is:

"Strength for the Journey"

CHRISTMAS BREAK
THEY WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 6TH



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

5:00 PM - December 24

10:00 AM - December 25

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS AT 10:00 AM

All Masses will be live-streamed on the St. Theresa Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/sttheresaok>
The Masses are not open to the public.

Walk-Up Holy Communion will be offered following all Masses.

WALK-UP HOLY COMMUNION



FOLLOWING THE LIVE-STREAM MASSES ON CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY AND 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. The church will not be open for individual prayer during this time.

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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

Let's celebrate hope by keeping it simple. Let's live gently on the earth.

Advent is a time of hope and waiting for the coming of Jesus, who came to give us abundant life. In this Advent season, we invite you to reflect on the difference between the "abundant life" offered by Jesus and the "good life" promoted by society which says in order to be happy, we must always have more (money, possessions, and power). Living the abundant life often corresponds to living gently on the earth. This Advent, learn ways to live life more abundantly that will also heal the earth. Check out Ignatian Solidarity Network Advent Calendar on their website.

Advent Faith in Action Projects:**Oakland Catholic Worker:**

Hospitality house for Latin American immigrants and refugees.

WISH LIST:

- ◆ Gas cards
- ◆ toilet paper
- ◆ Paper towels
- ◆ earphones
- ◆ baseball hats for men
- ◆ sweatshirts for men and boys
- ◆ Women's & girls' sweaters and skirts and blouses
- ◆ Sweaters and sweatshirts for kids (1-18 years old)
- ◆ Women's sandals
- ◆ shampoo especially for dandruff
- ◆ tote bags
- ◆ Sewing machines
- ◆ A Washing machine

Due to restrictions, items cannot be dropped off in the church vestibule. There will be someone stationed at their car in the parking lot to collect donations each Sunday after Mass 11:00 - 11:30am. Lydia Deck will also coordinate the pick up of items at people's homes within the parish. Contact her at ltdeck@me.com. This project will start today, December 13th and go through January 6th.

ONLINE PRAYER REQUEST FOR THE SICK OR DECEASED

You can now submit names for the Prayers of the Faithful (*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.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

WEEKLY READINGS

December 21 - 27

Monday:

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

Tuesday

1 Sm 1:24-28
Ps 1 Sm 2
Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24
Ps 25
Lk 1:57-66

Thursday:

Is 9:2-4, 6-7
Ps 96
Ti 3:4-6
Lk 2:1-14

Friday

Is 62:11-12
Ps 97
Ti 3:4-7
Lk 2:15-20

Saturday

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59
Ps 31
Mt 10:17-22

Sunday:

Gn 15:1-6
Ps 105
Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Lk 2:22-40



GOD'S WORD FOR CHILDREN!

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a woman's house named Mary. He said, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus."

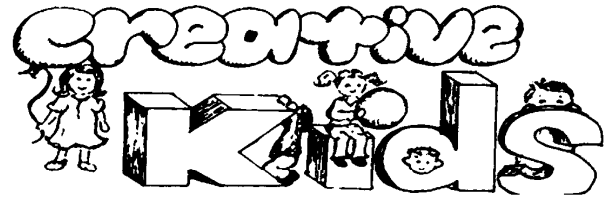
2 Sm 7:1-8, 8-12, 14, 16
Rom 16:25-27

Ps89:2-5, 27, 29
Lk 1:26-38

Directions: Complete the dot-to-dot to finish the picture.



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Hail Mary

Directions:

Recite the prayer below every night before going to bed to honor the Mother of Jesus.

Hail Mary, full of grace
The Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women
And blessed is the fruit
of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God
Pray for us sinners.
Now and at the hour of our death.
Amen

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The words below are from an important story found in the first chapter of Luke's Gospel (Luke 1:26-38). Decide where each word belongs and write it onto the blanks.

Joseph	Nazareth	Gabriel	Mary	baby

An angel named _____
came to the town of _____.
He appeared to _____. She
was engaged to marry _____.
The angel told this woman she
would have a _____! This
child would be the Son of God!

God can do anything—
nothing is impossible for God.
Connect the dots to see whom God sent
to give Mary this message.

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PARISH INFORMATION



Mass Schedules:

Weekday: 8:30 am (*suspended*)

Sunday: 10:00 am (*public Mass suspended*)

Live-Stream on Facebook

Walk-Up Holy Communion
following Sunday 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.sttheresaokland.org

 Facebook: [StTheresaChurch/Oakland](https://www.facebook.com/StTheresaChurch/Oakland)

PARISH STAFF: 510.547.2777

Rev. Robert J. McCann, ext. 121
Pastor

rjmccann@sttheresaokland.org

Rev. Abraham Addam, ext. 122
In Residence

Rev. Ngema Wi Enow, ext. 128
In Residence

Cathy Brady, ext. 126
Liturgy Director

cathy_b@sttheresaokland.org

Jenny Bruni, ext. 123
High School Youth Ministry Coordinator

jenny@sttheresaokland.org

Rob Cakebread, ext. 127
Music Ministry Director

rob@sttheresaokland.org

Joyce Holden
Middle School Youth Ministry

joyce@sttheresaokland.org

Melody Marr, ext. 120
Parish Administrator

melody@sttheresaokland.org

Keri Nims, ext. 124
Coordinator for Early Childhood Catechesis & RCIC

keri@sttheresaokland.org

ST. THERESA SCHOOL
Katie Murphy, 510.547.3146
St. Theresa School Interim Principal

k_murphy@sttheresaschool.org

website: www.sttheresaschool.org

Baptisms and Marriages

by appointment

Family Faith Formation (Grades 1-5)

Keri Nims ~ keri@sttheresaokland.org

Middle School Youth Ministry (Grades 6-8)

Joyce Holden ~ joyce@sttheresaokland.org

High School Youth Ministry/Confirmation

Jenny Bruni ~ jenny@sttheresaokland.org

R.C.I.A.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Contact

Cathy Brady ~ cathy_b@sttheresaokland.org

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

Sharon Chipman sharonchipman@gmail.com

Ruthanne Allen-Hunt ruthanneah@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

Kinderchurch

Shanon Ciston s.ciston@gmail.com



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