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 22, 2019
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.”

Matthew 1:23
DECEMBER 21 - 29

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

Mon. 8:30 am  An Intention for Ann Henning
Tues. 5:00 pm  Parish Community of St. Theresa
10:00 pm  Parish Community of St. Theresa
Wed. 10:00 am  Parish Community of St. Theresa
Thurs. 8:30 am  Gerry Berthnick
Fri. 8:30 am  Kam Malloy
Sat. 5:00 pm  Parish Community of St. Theresa
Sun. 9:00 am  Parish Community of St. Theresa
11:00 am  Robert ‘Bob’ Stallone

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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.

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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.

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Question of the Week
Adult: Whom do you find it difficult to welcome in your life? What can you do to overcome that?
Child: What could you do this week to make someone feel welcome, as Joseph welcomed Mary?

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BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINES
December 22 bulletin was due by December 11 (Wednesday)
December 29 bulletin was due by December 17 (Tuesday)
January 5 bulletin was due by December 19 (Thursday)
January 12 bulletin is due by January 3 (Friday)

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

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St. Vincent de Paul Collection
The collection for St. Vincent de Paul will be on December 28 & 29. This collection benefits the St. Vincent de Paul Society conference in our parish, 100% of your donation benefits people in our community.

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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.

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Living Stewardship
Ways to help new life: Make donations or volunteer time to the Gabriel Project, Birthright, Right to Life, or any other organization that benefits expectant mothers or new mothers and their children.

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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.

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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.

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Bishop’s Appeal 2019
St. Theresa Parish Goal - $35,800
Percentage Achieved 77.37%
$27,698.41 as of November 30, 2019
A Word from the Pastor:

Happy Fourth Sunday of Advent and Happy Christmas!

My prayer is that the mystery of love that we celebrate with the event that happened centuries ago in Bethlehem will continue to bless your lives and the lives of all you love.

How wonderful and amazing, the fact that our God chose to be born into our world as one like us so that he could lead us back to the fullness of love.

The gifts we exchange with one another are mere tokens and reminders of this ultimate gift from God. Our exchange of gifts lets others know about our love for them. The token of our gift will remind those we love of that fact and also make their lives richer and happier because of the care and personal attention we put into producing or procuring the gift. We will probably get gifts in return as a reciprocation of our love.

I invite you to meditate and pray about the gift that God gives us. God spared nothing, not even his beloved Son so that we might have life and love to the fullest.

As the Psalmist writes, “how can we ever give back to God for all that God has given and done for us. Let us lift the cup of salvation and give thanks to the Lord.” Let us do what is demonstrated with the birth of the Savior. That is, love as God loves us. God’s gift has no strings. It is pure unconditional love. Let us try to imitate that kind of love!

The hymnology of the Church eloquently chants this theology: What wondrous love. God’s love can do anything. God’s love can lead us to a paradise we cannot even yet imagine.

May the celebration of this feast be a time for us to reflect on our relationships and how in the coming New Year we can better demonstrate our love for one another.

Remember, the Church wisely directs that Christmas is so great a feast that one day is not enough with which to celebrate it. (Remember the song: The Twelve Days of Christmas). I encourage all beginning this Tuesday night and for the following twelve days to consciously reflect on the gift God has given us in the birth of his Son. Try to demonstrate your love in your family and all around.

Even though the radio stations will stop playing Christmas music at midnight on Christmas night, the true meaning of Christmas should continue to be part of our lives through twelve days and all through the year to all around us.

Thank you for being part of the St. Theresa Parish Community. I look forward with you to a new year where our faith and joy in Christ can grow and find happiness that will not be fleeting.

On behalf of Cathy Brady, Keri Nims, Rob Cakebread, Jenny Bruni, Melody Marr, Judy KoneffKlatt, Joyce Holden and myself, we wish you a happy fast end to Advent and joyful celebration of Christmas!

If you are visiting us for Christmas, please know we are grateful for your presence and hope you will feel welcomed and will taste the joy and love we profess. Please know our doors will always be open to you.

To all who are here each week, I thank you in the name of our whole staff for your presence, generosity and ongoing support. Many wonderful things have happened here over the past calendar year. This could not have happened without your presence, guidance, generosity and at times diligent work. We wish you every Christmas blessing. May the joy of Christmas be yours this week and throughout the coming New Year!

Have a blessed and wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!
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@sttheresaoakland.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

January 1st
9:00 am Mass

Christmas Flower Donation

We are asking for monetary donations to offset the cost of our Christmas flowers. Donations in memory of your loved one(s) may be made through the special flower envelopes in the vestibule of the church. All memorials will be inscribed in our parish memory book, on display during the Christmas season. You donation envelope can be placed in the collection basket or dropped off at the Parish Office.

DO YOU NEED TO REGISTER,
HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS,
HAVE A NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER,
DO YOU RECEIVE OUR FLOCKNOTE EMAILS & TEXTS?

Let us know so we can update our parish database and keep you current with all upcoming events, news and year-end reports or give you a registration form.

You can stop by the Information Desk in the church on the weekend or the Parish Office (2nd floor of the Parish Center), Monday - Thursday or email melody@sttheresaoakland.org.

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 25TH**

**CHRISTMAS BREAK**

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**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 have 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.

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**CONFIRMATION & HSYM**

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

- MON, Dec. 23 - Service Opportunity @ GRIP, Richmond - preparing, cooking & serving a meal for the shelter residents
- SUN, Jan. 5 - good Sunday HABITS-Years I + II, 10am-12noon, Church Hall
- SUN, Jan. 12 - Confirmation Year II - SPONSOR & CANDIDATE Session - 9am Mass together, then 10am-12noon, Mtg. Rms. / 15 minute RETREAT MTG. following our session
- SUN, Jan. 26 - Confirmation Year I RETREAT-9am-3pm, begin with Rise & Shine Mass together, then proceed to the Retreat
- FRI, Jan. 31 - SUN, Feb. 2 - Confirmation Year II WEEKEND RETREAT @ Camp Arroyo, Livermore

For more information, please contact:
Jenny Bruni
HSYM Coordinator
jenny@sttheresaoakland.org
(510) 547-2777 x 39

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**THE EPHESY PARTY FOR PARISH VOLUNTEERS WILL BE RESCHEDULED.**

Archbishop Peter will be with us on Saturday, January 11 at the 5:00 pm Mass to celebrate the 28th Anniversary of his ordination. There will be a reception following Mass.

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**PARISH VOLUNTEER EPIPHANY PARTY**

**explore**

**life**

**faith**

**meaning**

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

**Next Meeting, January 7**

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

Cathy Brady
### Weekly Readings

**December 23 - 29**

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

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

**Wednesday:**
- Is 62:11-12
- Ps 97
- Ti 3:4-7
- Lk 2:1-14

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

**Friday:**
- 1 Jn 1:1-4
- Ps 97
- Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Saturday:**
- 1 Jn 1:5-2:2
- Ps 124
- Mt 2:13-18

**Sunday:**
- Sir 3:2-6, 12-14
- Ps 128
- Col 3:12-21
- Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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**Living God’s Word**

We ask God to continue to save us in our own day from all that would lead us away from God. We ask God to continue to help us to know Jesus as Emmanuel, God with us, so that our father may be rooted in the wisdom and power of God.
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**

Telephone 510.547.2777  ~~~  Fax 510.653.3575

After Hours Medical Emergency & Emergency Line:
510.610.7715

Parish Website: www.sttheresaokland.org

Facebook: StTheresaChurch/Oakland

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Parish Organization:

**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