

# St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church



**"It is Love alone that gives  
worth to all things."**  
— St Teresa of Avila

**AUGUST 17, 2025**

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**  
1490 19TH STREET (CHURCH)  
NE CORNER OF 19TH & CONNECTICUT STS.



## You are invited!



Join us in the hall after 4:15 Mass on September 6. Let's take the opportunity to visit and enjoy some refreshments, we will be serving wine and cheese. And if you're not a 4:15 regular - you are welcome to join us and meet more of the St. Teresa community.

## FAITH FORMATION & OCIA

Our religious education programs will be starting next month.

To enroll your child/ren in **Faith Formation**, please submit an application, available at the front of the church.

For more information with respect to **OCIA**, please contact Anarose or the Parish Office.

## The Prayer Garden is now closed!

This week Demolition has started in the garden in anticipation of the work that needs to be done to repair the retaining wall. Thank you to Paul English for taking such great care of the garden.



### PASTOR

Rev. Gregory Houck, O.Carm.  
[pastor@stteresasf.org](mailto:pastor@stteresasf.org)

### IN RESIDENCE

Bro. David Semmens, O.Carm.,  
[brotherdave@stteresasf.org](mailto:brotherdave@stteresasf.org)  
Rev. Brian Henden, O.Carm.,  
[bhenden@carmelites.net](mailto:bhenden@carmelites.net)  
Rev. Michael Kwiecien, O.Carm.,  
[mkwiecien@carmelites.net](mailto:mkwiecien@carmelites.net)



### OFFICE MANAGER/ BUSINESS MANAGER

Joel Gile, [joel@stteresasf.org](mailto:joel@stteresasf.org)

### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Laura Diaz-Flaviani, [lflaviani@pacbell.net](mailto:lflaviani@pacbell.net)

### DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

Anarose Schelstrate, [anarose@stteresasf.org](mailto:anarose@stteresasf.org)

## OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS: WHO ARE THEY and WHAT DO THEY DO?

Today's first reading, taken from the Prophet Jeremiah, is one of my favorite passages in the entire three-year lectionary cycle. The reading finds Jeremiah in a muddy cistern, and my homily will focus on what did Jeremiah do to warrant getting thrown in a well and left there to die. Today's column is intended to supplement the homily with background material, not only on Jeremiah the Prophet, but also on the Prophetic Tradition in Judeo-Christianity.

In the New Testament there are frequent references to "the Law and the Prophets," a phrase that many Christians don't quite understand. Strictly speaking, *Law* refers to the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible), whereas *Prophets* refers to eighteen books, divided along the lines of major and minor prophets. Jeremiah is classified as one of the major prophets.

In Israelite history, the prophets and the monarchy came into existence at about the same time. This happened about a thousand years before Christ when Saul united the twelve tribes of Israel and became its first king. At about the same time, Elijah, the first prophet, "emerged from the cave" and initiated the prophetic tradition in Judeo-Christianity.

It is important to note that, in both Judaism and Christianity, prophets are *not* seers or soothsayers. Their intention is not to predict specific future events, such as the "day, the time, and the hour" of the second coming. Rather, the Israelite Prophet exists in constant tension with the "powers that be." On one side we have the king, the aristocracy, and religious leaders, and on the other side we have the prophets. The prophets always "face off" against the country's religious and political leaders, and this tension is expressed in two ways.

First, prophets remind those in power that religion and religious practices are matters of the heart. Prophets continuously point out that religious rituals should be an *external* manifestation of an *internal* disposition. If there is no inner conversion, no inner disposition, then religious practices are nothing more than empty rituals or "going through the motions."

The second aspect of Israelite Prophecy is that prophets constantly remind those in power that God's chosen people includes *all* Israelites, not just the "chosen few" that make up the aristocracy and temple court. Additionally, prophets remind those in power that, because they enjoy a privileged position, they have a responsibility to care for those who are less fortunate.

Which brings us to the subject of today's first reading, the Prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah was born about 650 BC, and the time of his prophecy coincided with one of the most critical time in Israelite history: the events leading up to the fall of Jerusalem and the Babylonian Captivity (587-537 BC).

Jeremiah is somewhat of an anomaly among the prophets. What makes Jeremiah so unique is that, for a time, he was a member of the king's "inner circle" and had the distinction of being a "court prophet." Jeremiah served as counselor to the king, and it is in this capacity and context that today's first reading takes place.

Jesus sees himself in continuity with the line of Israelite prophets that began with Elijah and includes Jeremiah. In the ministry of Jesus, advocating for the marginalized, disadvantaged, and the poor is central to his message and preaching. Also: it is the prophetic tradition which anchors and grounds the Church's teachings on social justice.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm



## AAA 2025—WEEK 25

Assessed Amount: \$28,663  
Amount Rec'd/Pledged: \$24,442  
Balance Remaining: \$4,221

We are at **86%** of our goal! Thank you to all who have donated & pledged. Last year we met our goal within 11 weeks with 73 donors. So far 56 donors have given/pledged. Let's try to wrap this up with a bang!

Please check with your employer to see if they provide matching funds for charitable donations.

Any excess funds received are returned directly back to our parish.

You can donate now on the Archdiocesan website:

<https://sfarch.org/aaa>

or Scan this QR code



You may also donate on our online portal [here](#) or Scan this QR code

## LIKE US ON FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/stteresasf>

## ST TERESA'S GREEN TEAM [greenteam@stteresasf.org](mailto:greenteam@stteresasf.org)

It's almost back to school time! Before rushing out to buy all new stuff, try taking an inventory of what you already have so you don't accidentally waste money, time, and CO2 emissions. Whenever possible, reuse what you've got; if you need to buy new, non-disposable materials, consider buying second-hand to avoid new consumption or investing in sturdier gear so you can get your money's worth (and the Earth can get its trees' worth) for longer!

## AUGUST 31<sup>ST</sup> 2025 IS A CELEBRATION

The celebration of Madonna della Guardia, also known as **Our Lady of the Guard**, is a significant event for us Catholics, particularly in Italy and among Italian communities worldwide. It commemorates the Virgin Mary's appearance to Benedetto Pareto on Mount Figogna near Genoa in 1490. The celebration of Madonna della Guardia is a vibrant expression of faith, tradition, and community, uniting people in their devotion to the Virgin Mary. We dedicate the 10 AM mass on August 31<sup>st</sup> to the celebration happening worldwide in honor of Madonna della Guardia.

## Christmas in July Update

Thank you to all who donated to the drive. **Wednesday at 11 AM** our Jeanne Burns oversaw all the packages picked up by the Boys & Girls Club. There was much excitement and delight amongst the 3 employees who came and filled a van and an SUV. This gives their kids so many benefits that would otherwise be impossible!

THANKS & GRATITUDE!

## GUN SAFETY COMMITTEE

Gun Safety Policies Save Lives/ Gun laws work

**EVERYTOWN** compared gun policy across the country, scoring every state on the strength of its gun laws and comparing it with its rate of gun violence. In states where elected officials have taken action to pass gun safety laws, fewer people die by gun violence. When **EVERYTOWN** compared the states head-to-head on the top 50 gun safety policies, a clear pattern emerges. States with strong laws see less gun violence. Indeed, the states that have failed to put basic protections into place "national failures" on our scale—have a rate of gun deaths two and a half times higher than the states that are national gun safety leaders.



<https://everytownresearch.org/>

## ST. TERESA'S MISSION STATEMENT

*As members of St. Teresa's Parish we fulfill our baptismal commitment by being the hands and heart of Christ in our world.  
We achieve this commitment by accepting the human dignity of all persons, and by advocating for and serving those oppressed in our society.  
The community of St. Teresa's finds its strength to fulfill this through participation in the Eucharist, prayer, learning the building of relationships, and action for Justice.*

### SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil 4:15 pm  
Sunday 8:30 & 10:00 am

### WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday—Friday  
8:30am

### MARRIAGE

Please call 6 months prior

### BAPTISM

Please call for appointment

### RECONCILIATION

Monday—Friday  
Following 8:30am Mass  
or call for appointment

### PARISH OFFICE / MAILING ADDRESS

HOURS—10:00AM TO 4:30PM

390 Missouri St, San Francisco, CA 94107

Phone: 415.285.5272

[stteresasf.org](mailto:info@stteresasf.org)  
Email: [info@stteresasf.org](mailto:info@stteresasf.org)

## SECOND COLLECTIONS

**THIS WEEK** the second collection benefits St Teresa's commitment to World Center Kitchens, who are providing food for Gaza relief. Donate [here](#) to support the fund.



ONLINE  
GIVING  
QR code



St Teresa of Avila Church is an EPA ENERGY STAR® certified building.

## MASS INTENTIONS

*As we celebrate Mass together we include in our prayers:*

### Saturday, August 16

4:15pm † Mary Katherine Law

### Sunday, August 17

8:30am † Bianca & Peter Lodolo  
10:00am † Rachael Cariglia & † Ray Flores

### Monday, August 18

8:30am Erica Santoni(Spc.Int.)

### Tuesday, August 19

8:30am Joseph Zuvella(Spc.Int.)

### Wednesday, August 20

8:30am Nicole Baron(Spc.Int.)

### Thursday, August 21

8:30am Elwood MacMurray(Spc.Int.)

### Friday, August 22

8:30am Olivia Guthrie(Spc.Int.)

### Saturday, August 23

4:15pm † The Deceased Poor of the Parish

### Sunday, August 24

8:30am The People of the Parish  
10:00am Rick Pitts(Spc.Int.)

## Welcome to St. Teresa of Avila's Parish Community

We extend our hands and hearts in Christian fellowship to you here celebrating with us. Whether long-time residents or newly arrived in our parish, we thank God that you are with us. If you are not registered or have changes to your registration, please fill in the form below, or complete the form on our website.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ New Parishioner

☐ New Address and/or phone

☐ On-Line Giving