

St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church



"In this house all are loved, all are held dear, all are helped."
— St Teresa of Avila

AUGUST 24, 2025

TWENTY FIRST 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.

AUGUST 31ST 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 31st to the celebration happening worldwide in honor of Madonna della Guardia.

PASTOR

Rev. Gregory Houck, O.Carm.
pastor@stteresasf.org

IN RESIDENCE

Bro. David Semmens, O.Carm.,
brotherdave@stteresasf.org
Rev. Brian Henden, O.Carm.,
bhenden@carmelites.net
Rev. Michael Kwiecien, O.Carm.,
mkwiecien@carmelites.net



ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL FALL FOOD DRIVE

Starting September 1 our SVDP Conference is having its annual CANNED FOOD DRIVE for our pantry.

The food from the pantry goes into 22 grocery bags distributed every Thursday and is offered at Thanksgiving to those invited to receive our help.

Our GOAL is 1500 CANS to replenish our current supply. We ask that you bring or have delivered to the rectory at 390 Missouri FRUIT, BEANS, VEGETABLES, SOUP and MEAT. We hope to meet our goal by September 27, the Feast Day of St. Vincent de Paul. Baskets will be available in church. To kick off the drive, SVDP members will speak at all masses August 30/31. Look for us in the up coming bulletins:

- Aug 30/31 This weekend begins the drive
- Sept 20/21 Update on the drive progress

OFFICE MANAGER/ BUSINESS MANAGER

Joel Gile, joel@stteresasf.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Laura Diaz-Flaviani, lflaviani@pacbell.net

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

Anarose Schelstrate, anarose@stteresasf.org

The Journey of a Christian mirrored in the Architecture of a Church

As an experiment, stand on the top step in front of the Church, looking in through the open doors. What do you see?

The first thing we see is the baptismal font, and as our eyes move past the font they next fall upon the altar. Continuing towards the front of the Church the eyes move upward, catching sight of the cross. Font, altar, and cross: why is the space structured in this way?

The structure and layout of the Church mirrors the journey of a Christian: *through* the font to the altar then to the cross. In Baptism a person becomes a member of God's family; at the altar the person is nourished and sustained by the Eucharist; and the cross reminds us that, as disciples and followers of Jesus, we too will share in his suffering.

A person enters the Church through Baptism. St. Paul writes, "Do you not realize that when you are baptized in Christ you are baptized into his death?" When a person is submerged in the font, the old self dies. Symbolically, this plunging into the waters of baptism is the act of drowning. In the process the old self dies, only to emerge as a "new creation" in Christ. When the newly-baptized is clothed in a white garment and given a candle lighted

from the Paschal candle, it is a vivid symbol of the "new creation" that has emerged from the water.

The Christian then moves from the font to the altar where, at the table of the Lord, the person partakes in the Eucharist, the central sacrament of our Church. We gather around the Lord's table to be fed and nourished by God, partaking in spiritual food that sustains us through the journey of life.

The cross reminds us that as followers of Christ we share in his death. Just as Christ passed through the realm of death ("He de-

scended into hell, the third day he rose from the dead"), so too must we pass through death in order to reach eternal life. But the cross symbolizes more than actual death: just as Christ suffered persecution, so too may we experience suffering because we are his followers.

Font, altar, and cross: symbols of and way points on the Christian journey. In the renovation of Churches since the Second Vatican Council, the floor plans have retrieved these ancient symbols, incorporating and integrating them in a manner reminiscent of ancient churches of the early Christian centuries. In particular, the baptismal font has been moved from either the vestibule or back of the church to a place of prominence at the entrance, emphasizing the centrality of Baptism in the life of the Christian.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm



AAA 2025—WEEK 25

Assessed Amount: \$28,663
Amount Rec'd/Pledged: \$24,542
Balance Remaining: \$4,121

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

ST TERESA'S GREEN TEAM greenteam@stteresasf.org

Sometimes taking steps to reduce your environmental impact can feel like it always requires a less convenient option. What if we told you that, in some cases, the more convenient option is also more Earth-friendly? Welcome to the world of washers! Dishwashers, clothes washers, and automated car washes are more water-efficient than manually doing those same chores and if you choose your temperatures and timings wisely they can be pretty energy-efficient too! Generally it's best to use any electricity around midday, when California's grid has a surplus of solar power, and to only use heated washes when you need to. Car washes of course don't need heat, and your clothes will generally prefer cold washes to help them last longer. Especially with modern detergents being so effective, we recommend skipping the warm or hot washes for your clothes for most stains.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday September 7th

Immediately following the 10 AM Mass, Father Greg will be hosting a presentation about the parish finances and the state of the St Teresa Budget for the 25-26 Fiscal year.

All are invited to attend and participate as we shape the future of St Teresa and discuss how best have our message reach the community.

The Parish Finance Council will also be in attendance and available for any questions pertaining to past and future expenses. Please join us in person or on livestream(@mass livestream link).

THANK YOU ST TERESA PARISH

Your compassion and generosity helped us raise \$1600 for World Center Kitchen and the people of Gaza.

We are going to leave the donation open until the end of the month. If you or anyone you know would like donate, please scan this QR code.



CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

There's new content weekly, including Fr. Gregory's homilies, announcements, and great pictures of our church.

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

GUN SAFETY COMMITTEE



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

Email: info@stteresasf.org

SECOND COLLECTIONS

THIS WEEK there is no second collection.

NEXT WEEK second collection benefits the St. Teresa Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Donate [here](#).

Donate [here](#) to support our Charity 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 23

4:15pm + The Deceased Poor of the Parish

Sunday, August 24

8:30am + Joe Baresford & Margaret Keyes
10:00am Rick Pitts(Spc.Int.)

Monday, August 25

8:30am Sasha Lee(Spc.Int.)

Tuesday, August 26

8:30am Stephani Sheehan(Spc.Int.)

Wednesday, August 27

8:30am Sarah Vallarino(Spc.Int.)

Thursday, August 28

8:30am + Bob Jacklevich

Friday, August 29

8:30am Sandra Seibel(Spc.Int.)

Saturday, August 30

4:15pm + Mary A. Burns

Sunday, August 31

8:30am + Ray Sierra & Mary Padilla
10:00am Madonna Della Guardia

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