

# St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church



**"In this house all are friends,  
all are helped, all are loved, all  
are held dear."**

— St Teresa of Avila

**AUGUST 31, 2025**

**TWENTY-SECOND 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 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.

## 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.

The Parish Finance Council will also be in attendance and available for any questions pertaining to past and future expenses. Please join see website and use the mass link.

## 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 CANNED 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 upcoming bulletins:

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

### 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)



## Table Manners & Meal Etiquette in the First Century

Luke the Evangelist is the best writer in the New Testament. A convert to Christianity, Luke was a physician from Macedonia who accompanied Paul on at least one of his missionary journeys. Luke also wrote the *Acts of the Apostles*, which chronicles the history of the early Church from the Ascension of Jesus until the deaths of Peter and Paul.

One of the peculiarities of Luke's Gospel – which is not immediately apparent – is the presence of eleven "meal stories." Eugene LaVerdiere, a Lucan scripture scholar, has written a book titled *Dining in the Kingdom of God: The Origins of the Eucharist in the Gospel of Luke*. LaVerdiere contends that these meal stories serve as a lens for viewing the entire Gospel.

Luke Chapter 14 contains the sixth of these eleven meal stories, and it includes a cure, two parables, and a Sabbath dinner in the home of a Pharisee. This Sunday's Gospel zeroes in on the first of the two parables (Lk 14:7-14).

The parable has two parts. Jesus addresses the first part to the invited guests, noting that those who choose places of honor may be asked to move to a lesser place in order to accommodate a more distinguished guest. Jesus suggests that it is better choose a lower place at table so that the host might extend an invitation to move to a higher position. For

*"... every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."*

The second part of the parable is addressed to the host, and suggests that, when holding a lunch or dinner,

*"... do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you."*

The challenge of this parable becomes more powerful when seen through the lens of "table manners" in the Greco-Roman world. "Dinner parties" were highly-structured ritual events. Everybody knew his place, and to shuffle the seating arrangements translated into a shuffling the social order. Christianity challenged the social distinctions of the day with radical ideas such as *"the last shall be first and the first shall be last"* and *"let the greater among you be the junior; the leader your servant."*

What is even more radical is suggesting that dinner invitees might include the poor, the sick, and the lame. In that first-century world, *reciprocity* governed dinner party etiquette: when one was invited to supper it was expected that a return invitation would be received. In the first century world, any suggestion of inviting those who could not repay would have been revolutionary.

This "problem" appears in Paul's correspondence with the Corinthians. After celebrating Eucharist, the Corinthian community shared supper . . . but they divided and segregated themselves along social lines. Paul reprimanded them for this, pointing out that, with the coming of Jesus, a new order came into being: *"Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more!"*

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm



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

Are you (or do you know) a college student looking to liven up your dorm? Check out your local thrift stores like ReStore for furniture or decorations. In college towns, second-hand goods and furniture will often be filled with cool stuff that students leave behind at the end of the academic year. For an extra thrifty pro tip, keep an eye out for any free stuff that students are getting rid of at the end of each semester! You'd be surprised what some folks will get rid of, and both your wallet and the Earth will thank you.

### PARISH OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY SEPTEMBER 1ST

In honor of Labor day, the office will be closed this Monday. Please contact the parish office by email if you have request.

### PRAYER GARDEN CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

The weeks long church retaining wall repair is set to begin this coming Tuesday at 8 AM. The prayer garden will be permanently closed for the next 3 to 6 weeks. If anyone has any questions about the wall or the future of the prayer garden, please contact the parish office via email.

### The Mass Intention book for 2026

is now open. If you would like to dedicate a Mass to a loved one, please contact the Parish Office.

### AAA 2025—WEEK 25

Assessed Amount: \$28,663  
Amount Rec'd/Pledged: \$29,496  
Balance Remaining: \$0.00!

We are at **103%** 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 Vincent de Paul FOOD DRIVE

You may order items on line from Target, Costco or Amazon and have them delivered directly to St. Teresa. Please send to:  
**390 Missouri Street,  
San Francisco, CA 94107**

The Church piano repair is going well and will need a few more days to complete. We expect to have the piano back in all its glory for Mass on Sunday September 7th.

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

### SECOND COLLECTIONS

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

**NEXT WEEK** second collection benefits the St. Teresa Building & Maintenance Fund. 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:*

- 4:15pm + **Saturday, August 30**  
Mary A. Burns
- 8:30am + **Sunday, August 31**  
Ray Sierra & Mary Padilla  
10:00am Madonna Della Guardia
- 8:30am **Monday, September 1**  
Dante Jacobs(Spc.Int.)
- 8:30am + **Tuesday, September 2**  
Raymond McGrath
- 8:30am **Wednesday, September 3**  
Dante Jacobs(Spc.Int.)
- 8:30am **Thursday, September 4**  
Kendra Kay Smallwood(Spc.Int.)
- 8:30am **Friday, September 5**  
Rick Pitts(Spc.Int.)
- 4:15pm + **Saturday, September 6**  
Mary A. Burns
- 8:30am + **Sunday, September 7**  
Rev. Louis Vitak, OFM(Spc.Int.)  
10:00am Raymond McGrath

### 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