

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

MARRIAGE
Please call 6 months prior


BAPTISM
Please call for appointment


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

WEEKDAY MASSES
Monday—Friday
8:30am

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's second collection benefits the St Teresa Building and Maintenance Fund.
Donate here ➡ 

NEXT WEEK's second collection benefits the Retirement Fund for Religious.
Donate here ➡ 

Help us decide where we are going!

Please take a moment to fill out the survey in this QR code. The survey will help us narrow down the most popular tasks listed by Mary McLeod in her report from last week and will build a road map for the parish to take action.



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

MASS INTENTIONS
As we celebrate Mass together we include in our prayers:

4:15pm † George Gabriel Muhek

8:30am † George Gabriel Muhek
10:00am † Beatrice Cocciolone

8:30am † Rick Pitts (Spc.Int.)
7:00pm † Fr. Peter Sammon

8:30am Tuesday, December 9
Carol Dureen(Spc.Int.)

8:30am † Marysia Slonina &
† Wanda Kaczmarska

9:00am Thursday, December 11
Carol Dureen(Spc.Int.)


8:30am † George Gabriel Muhek


4:15pm † George Gabriel Muhek

8:30am † Rick Pitts (Spc.Int.)
10:00am † Dory Yochum
† Javier Navarro

Let's All Get Online!

All parishioners are strongly encouraged to support the parish through online giving.





St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church
“The path of self-understanding must never be abandoned for it is the bread upon which the soul is fed.” – Saint Teresa of Avila
DECEMBER 7, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St Teresa Holiday Craft Faire

**Craft Faire**
Saturday & Sunday
Dec 6th 10am-5pm
Dec 7th 9am-noon

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Tomorrow, Monday, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. It is a day of Holy Day of Obligation this year. Masses here at St Teresa's are at 8:30 AM and 7:00 PM.

Advent Reconciliation

In preparation for Christmas, the sacrament of reconciliation will be available:

- Friday, December 19th, 7:00 — 8:00 PM
- Saturday, December 20th, 10:00 — 11:00 AM
- Any weekday after the 8:30 AM morning Mass

NAME TAG SUNDAY!

WE WELCOME ALL NEWCOMERS TO ST TERESA, PUT ON A NAME TAG AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF



Save the Date

Partake of a scrumptious breakfast - **PANCAKES, SCRAMBLED EGGS, SAUSAGE** - next Sunday, **December 14th**, served after both the 8:30am Mass and 10am Mass. Here's a great idea: bring a friend with you to mass and then to breakfast!



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

IN RESIDENCE
Rev. Brian Henden, O.Carm.,
bhenden@carmelites.net
Rev. Michael Kwiecien, O.Carm.,
mkwiecien@carmelites.net

SOCIAL OUTREACH COORDINATOR
Bro. David Semmens, O.Carm.,
brotherdave@stteresasf.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Laura Diaz-Flaviani, lflaviani@pacbell.net

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION
Anarose Schelstrate, anarose@stteresasf.org

The Advent Wreath

Last Sunday was the First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the liturgical year. As part of our preparation for Christmas, we mark each Sunday of Advent with the lighting of a candle on the Advent wreath. But where did it come from? and how did it become incorporated into the liturgy?

It will probably come as a surprise to most Catholics that the concept of the Advent wreath originated in the 16th century among German Lutherans. Its origins are uncertain. In pre-Christian times, Germanic peoples used wreaths with lit candles during the dark days of winter as a sign of hope in the future warmth and extended sunlight days of spring. In Scandinavia, lighted candles were placed around a wheel. Prayers were offered to the god of light to turn the “wheel of the earth” toward the sun to lengthen days and restore warmth. However, it was not until three centuries later that the modern Advent wreath took shape.

A 19th century Protestant pastor, Johann Wichern (1808–1881), is credited as the “inventor” of the modern Advent wreath. Wichern was a pioneer in urban mission work among the poor, and, during Advent, children at Wichern’s mission school would ask daily if Christmas had arrived. In 1839, Wichern built a large wooden ring (made out of an old cart-wheel) with twenty small red and four large white candles. During Advent, a small candle was lit successively every weekday and Saturday, and on Sundays, a large white candle was lit. The custom gained ground among Protestant churches in Germany and evolved into the smaller wreath with four or five candles that is known to us today. Roman Catholics in Germany began to adopt the custom in the 1920s, and in the 1930s it spread to North America, finding its way into both Catholic and Lutheran congregations.

Advent wreath symbolism is both nebulous and complex. Evergreen signifies continuous life; laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine and holly as associated with immortality; and cedar is connected to strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian meaning: the prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and an English legend claims that the cross was made of holly. The circle wreath – which has no beginning or end – symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and everlasting life found in Christ.

It is not surprising that the original candles of the wreath evolved into four candles representing the four weeks of Advent, and the candles’ colors (three purple and one rose) correspond to the four Sundays of the season. The light, of course, is the light of Christ, and the progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the journey towards Christmas when the “light came into the world.”

It will also come as a surprise to many Catholics that the Advent wreath is not part of the “official liturgy” of the Church. Rituals and devotions surrounding the Advent wreath are not found in any of the official liturgical books; they belong to what liturgists call “popular piety.” And because the Advent wreath is not part of the “official liturgy” of the Church, it allows us to exercise both imagination and creativity in how we incorporate, integrate, and utilize this mysterious and ancient symbol.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm

ST TERESA'S GREEN TEAM

greenteam@stteresasf.org

Holiday season = record-high consumption. On average, Americans spend about US \$1,447 on gifts, travel, and entertainment each December - yet upwards of US \$8.3 billion of that goes to unwanted or unused gifts every year. Once returned, many of those items don't head back to store shelves; roughly 5 billion pounds of returned goods end up in U.S. landfills each year. That's not just an economic cost - it's a burden on the planet: more waste, more landfill volume, more carbon emissions from shipping and destruction. The weight of holiday over-consumption stretches far beyond our wallets or gift lists. Over the next three weeks, we'll share ideas and alternatives — from meaningful experiences to second-hand gifting, and how to reduce waste when you do buy. Because thriving through the holidays doesn't have to mean buying more stuff. It can mean making smarter, kinder choices.

Advent of Lanterns

1. Whenever you see Saint Joseph he is carrying a lantern – on the road to Bethlehem, knocking on the door of the inns, or on the Flight into Egypt.
2. The emblem of the Presentation Sisters is the lantern (carried by their founder, Nano Nagle) with their motto: “bringing light into places of darkness, oppression, and need.”
3. Based on our well-lit bell tower, the motto of this parish is “a light on the hill.”

This all ties together in using a lantern as the symbol of this Advent. You'll see lanterns on the church pillars, and each week a new banner will be added to the rotunda with the themes of Advent.

Week One: Hope
Week Two: Peace
Week Three: Joy
Week Four: Love

So our job as we enter this second week of Advent is “to bring **peace** into places of darkness, oppression, and need.



GUN SAFETY COMMITTEE

GUN BUY-BACK

Help end the pollution and be the solution to gun violence

No questions asked!

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 13, 2025
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

UNITED PLAYAZ
1038 HOWARD ST.
SAN FRANCISCO



Handguns = \$100

Assault Weapons = \$200

Advent Giving Tree

The gifts and/or gift-cards for disadvantaged youngsters and families are due this week. Please bring your Advent Giving tree gift(s) to the church or parish office by December 16th.

