


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

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

MARRIAGE
Please call 6 months prior
BAPTISM
Please call for appointment
RECONCILIATION
Monday—Friday
Following 8:30am Mass
or call for appointment

SECOND COLLECTIONS

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

NEXT WEEK there is no second collection.

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

You are invited . . .

to attend a short piano recital by the talented students of our parishioner Therese Labuguen at 3 pm today.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY EPIC!!!

Happy 90th Birthday to one of the most important parishioners of St Teresa, Mr. Epic Perea! A life long member of St Teresa, strong voice on the Saint Vincent de Paul council, and the one and only reason the food bank distribution is so organized each week. Congratulations to a truly important member of our community for hitting this milestone, you really are everything your name conveys. Happy Birthday Epic!



MASS INTENTIONS

As we celebrate Mass together we include in our prayers:

Saturday, December 13
4:15pm † George Gabriel Muhek

Sunday, December 14
8:30am Rick Pitts (Spc.Int.)
10:00am † Julian Baez
† Dory Yochum
† Javier Navarro

Monday, December 15
8:30am Rick Pitts (Spc.Int.)
7:00pm † Fr. Peter Sammon

Tuesday, December 16
8:30am Carol Dureen(Spc.Int.)

Wednesday, December 17
8:30am † Marysia Slonina & Wanda Kaczmarska

Thursday, December 18
9:00am Carol Dureen(Spc.Int.)


Friday, December 19
8:30am † George Gabriel Muhek


Saturday, December 20
4:15pm † George Gabriel Muhek

Sunday, December 21
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
“Look for Christ our Lord in everyone and you will then have respect and reverence for all.”
– Saint Teresa of Avila

DECEMBER 14, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

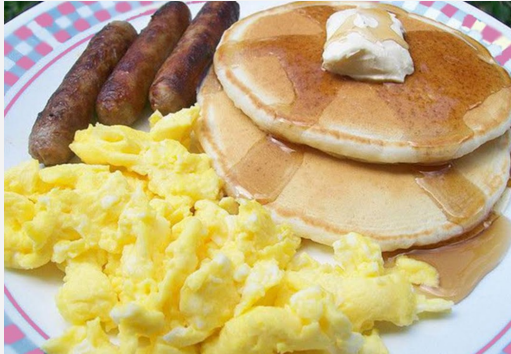
Help us decide where we are going!

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 month and will build a road map for the parish to take action.



Its today!

Partake of a scrumptious breakfast - **PANCAKES, SCRAMBLED EGGS, SAUSAGE - 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!




CHRISTMAS MASSES
Our Christmas Mass Schedule this Year:

- 4:15 PM & 9:00 PM Christmas Eve
- 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM Christmas Day

Merry Christmas - Feliz Navidad * Joyeux Noel
So many ways you can share your Christmas cheer:

- Giving Tree 1 - make sure to bring your card or gift, with the tag, to the church or the office BY December 16.
- Giving Tree 2 - Help us deliver the gifts on the afternoon of Decmeber18.
- Bring your Nativity front and center in our celebrations by sharing a Nativity set that you are not using this year, or perhaps one that's been 'retired'. They will be part of our sanctuary decorations so our every view during Mass will be of each other and the Christ Child.
- December 21, after 10:00 AM Mass, help carry decorations down from the loft.
- December 23, starting at 10:30 AM, decorate for Christmas! Bring energy and ideas. Decorating takes from 2-4 hours - any time you have will be much appreciated.

Please contact Lynn Jacklevich at 415-490-7104 or kq6cev@yahoo.com to be part of preparing for Christmas.



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 Third Sunday of Advent: Gaudete Sunday

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!”

– Philipians 4:4

Gaudete is the Latin word for *rejoice*. Today, the Third Sunday of Advent, is known as *Gaudete Sunday*, and you may notice a few subtle differences in today’s liturgy. In the tradition of the Church, the organ and flowers (normally not used during the Advent season and reserved until Christmas Eve) may be reintroduced on this day, and rose-colored vestments may be worn in lieu of the familiar Advent purple. Rose is the color of the third candle in the Advent wreath, and the hymn, *Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming*, is most appropriate for today’s liturgical celebration. Why does the Church do this?

When we look at the history and evolution of the liturgical year, we start with the major feast of Easter. Christmas did not appear on the liturgical calendar until about the fourth century, and, when it did, it was preceded by the season of Advent. Initially, Advent paralleled Lent in that it was a 40-day preparation for a major feast (Christmas) and, at that time, Advent – like Lent – was considered a penitential season. Originally, Advent began in November and lasted six weeks, a practice which, by the way, still exists in the Archdiocese of Milan.

Two things happened rather quickly. First, the Season of Advent was reduced from six weeks to four, and, secondly, the *tone* of the season changed. Whereas Lent was a penitential season that focused on prayer, penance, almsgiving, and fasting, Advent developed into a season of longing, both for the anticipated second coming of Christ at the end of time and the commemoration of his first coming in the celebration of his birth at Christmas.

You may have noticed that the season of Advent and the liturgical year are “out of sync” with the rest of the world. In the secular world, the new year is celebrated on January 1st, whereas the Church marks the beginning of the new year on the First Sunday of Advent (which this year fell on November 30th). In the secular world it seems that the Christmas season begins with Macy’s Thanksgiving Parade and “Black Friday,” whereas the Church does not officially begin her Christmas celebration until Christmas Eve, December 24th. The secular world looks at things in chronological order, but the Church seems to juxtapose that order. Where do we see this juxtaposition? On the First Sunday of Advent the Gospel zeros in on *second* coming of Christ, and it is not until the Fourth Sunday of Advent that the Gospel shifts its focus to his *first* coming. This year, we begin to tell the Christmas story on Sunday, December 21st, four days before the actual celebration of his birth on December 25th.

This weekend – the Third Sunday of Advent – marks the shift from Jesus’ second coming to the first. For the first two weeks of Advent, the liturgy has focused on Christ’s return at the end of time; in this, the third week of Advent, we shift our focus to the upcoming feast of Christmas. The readings begin to point to the imminent birth of Jesus, and next week – on the Fourth Sunday of Advent – the Gospel reading serves as a prelude to the Christmas story. This shift in focus from Christ’s second coming to the first is symbolized by the shift in color, music, and tone that we experience on this day.

As noted above, rose colored vestments may be worn on *Gaudete Sunday*, which marks the approximate half-way point in Advent.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm



Let’s bring the Nativity into our hearts not only through telling the story, but by seeing it. And by seeing it in different ways. If you have a nativity set that you don’t use or that you’re willing to part with for this Christmas season, or perhaps it’s missing a few pieces but is too precious to discard, share it with the parish. We will display them in the sanctuary so our every view will be of each other and the Christ Child.



Please contact Lynn Jacklevich at 415-490-7104
kg6cev@yahoo.com

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 third week of Advent is “to bring **joy** into places of darkness, oppression, and need.



ST TERESA'S GREEN TEAM
greenteam@stteresasf.org

Gifts Without the Stuff: Experiences, Skills & Time

Not every meaningful gift has to come in a box. Research consistently shows that experiences create longer-lasting happiness than material items, in part because experiences build memories and social connection. Many people now say they’d prefer something they can do rather than something that adds to the closet.

Experience gifts can be simple and local: a class at a neighborhood art studio, tickets to a community performance, a coffee date at a favorite spot, or a shared hike. Gifts of time and skills - cooking a meal, helping with a home project, tutoring, babysitting - often mean even more.

Experiences generally use fewer resources, support local businesses, and avoid the packaging, shipping, and waste that come with physical goods.

Resource: Ideas for low-impact gifting (Center for Biological Diversity): biologicaldiversity.org (search: “Unwrapped” report)

GUN SAFETY COMMITTEE

Gun violence has significant health consequences

Especially among child and adolescent survivors and their families. Among children and adolescents, nearly 80% of those that are shot survive. Following firearm injury, survivors and their families experience substantial increases in physical, mental, and substance use disorders. Families of children and adolescents who died have even more pronounced impacts. Gun violence has significant health and economic consequences, especially among child and adolescent survivors. Gun violence can place a strain on health care systems, with survivors increasing hospitalizations and spending by 1,449% and 1,713% respectively. Child and adolescent survivors experienced significant increases in pain, psychiatric, and substance use disorders immediately after firearm injury.