

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

As a giving option, the parish has just added Venmo. If you know what this is - great! If you don't, it's time to enter the 21st century :-)


venmo

MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD | WORLD DAY OF PEACE

Please note that Thursday, January 1st, is a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Yes, this Thursday.

GUN SAFETY COMMITTEE
Let's do all we can to ban assault weapons in 2026.



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 **Saturday, December 27**
† [James J Burns, Jr.](#)

8:30am **Sunday, December 28**
† [George Gabriel Muhek](#)
10:00am † [Bob Jacklevich](#)

8:30am **Monday, December 29**
† [George Gabriel Muhek](#)

8:30am **Tuesday, December 30**
† [George Gabriel Muhek](#)

8:30am **Wednesday, December 31**
† [Agostino Sicoli](#)


8:30am **Thursday, January 01**
† [Fr. Peter Sammon](#)
7:00pm † [Mary Katherine Law](#)

8:30am **Friday, January 02**
† [Lupita Perea](#)


4:15pm **Saturday, January 03**
† [Mary A Burns](#)

8:30am **Sunday, January 04**
† [Bill & Mickey Knaapen](#)
10:00am † [Robert & Lois Biniek](#)

SECOND COLLECTIONS

THIS WEEK's second collection benefits the St Teresa Conference of St Vincent de Paul. Donate here ➡ 

NEXT WEEK there is no second collection.



St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church
“The safest way is to want only what God wants. He knows more than we ourselves do, and he loves us.”
– Saint Teresa of Avila

DECEMBER 28, 2025
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JESUS

Christmas Wows
The word that describes everything about this Christmas here at Saint Teresa's is “**WOW!**” The church décor: “**Wow!**” The music: “**Wow!**” All the paperwork setting up Venmo: “**Wow!**” (especially when the first Venmo came in). The unexpected sunny weather: “**Wow!**” And even the big Santa in front of the Parish Office: “**Wow!**” Saying all these “Wows” was a lot of fun, so for everyone who put time and effort into the décor, the music, the paperwork, and that big Santa I say “thank you.” And before I forget, “thank you” to everyone who brought in a Nativity set.

Lector Workshop
On Saturday, January 31st, there is a Lector Workshop for all the parish lectors. Here's the schedule:


- 12:30pm – we'll start with sandwiches, etc., while we do a deep dive into how Saint Augustine understands and interprets Scripture. His understanding is the Catholic understanding.
- 1:15pm – we'll then have a workshop on the how's of proclaiming the Word.
- 2:00pm – then we will practice inside the church (in a most non-judgmental way, of course).
3:00pm – End (or maybe a bit earlier if we're good).
- Yes, please RSVP to Lynn Jacklevich at kg6cev@yahoo.com (or see her at the door and tell her in person).

FIRST & SECOND COLLECTIONS 2025

First Collection	\$xxx
Building & Maintenance	\$xxx
Garden Fund	\$xxx
Charity Fund	\$xxx
St. Vincent de Paul	\$xxx
Carmelite Missions	\$xxx
World Central Kitchen	\$xxx

New Year's Resolution!

As we near the end of the year let's see if we (in particular, you; and in particular, me) can get a “Wow! out of God. How? By giving in and letting God have God's way. At the end of Paul's Letter to the Galatians, he writes, “In the end, all that matters is that one becomes a new creation in Christ” (Galatians 6:15). That could be the New Year's Resolution for each of us: “to become a new creation in Christ.” Note: we don't do this; but if we give our consent to this, God does the rest. And then God (and everybody you know) will say “Wow!” , sincerely yours, in Jesus and in his way of wow, Fr. Greg.



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 Christmas Stories

All of us know the stories surrounding Jesus' birth. But what most Christians do not know is that these infancy narratives appear in only two of the four gospels, Matthew and Luke. The Gospel of Mark opens with John the Baptist baptizing Jesus in the Jordan, and the Gospel of John begins with a long prologue introducing the Baptist before moving to the Baptism of Jesus. That the infancy narratives are conspicuously absent from the Gospels of Mark and John is a surprise for most Christians. An even bigger surprise is that these Christmas stories in Matthew and Luke are quite different from each other, so different, in fact, that they cannot be reconciled.

The Gospel of Matthew begins with a long genealogy, tracing Jesus' ancestry from Abraham through David to Joseph. In the Matthean text, the stories surrounding Jesus' birth focus on Joseph. As detailed in last Sunday's Gospel on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, when Joseph becomes aware of Mary's pregnancy he plans to divorce her quietly. But when he learns in a dream the origin and true identity of Jesus, he accepts both Mary as his wife and Jesus as his son. Matthew's account includes the star of Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, the wicked king Herod and his plot to murder the infant Jesus, the slaughter of the innocents, the flight into Egypt, and (following Herod's death) the return of the Holy Family from Egypt to Nazareth.

Whereas Matthew's Gospel focuses on Joseph, Luke's infancy narrative focuses on Mary. In the Lucan text we are introduced to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, who conceived in her old age, a story which parallels Luke's Annunciation story where Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. Luke's Gospel contains the Visitation, as well as the familiar elements surrounding the Birth of Christ, but Luke's details are decidedly different from Matthew's. Instead of a star directing astrologers from the east, angels in the sky announce to shepherds the birth of Jesus. In the Gospel of Luke the evil King Herod is nowhere to be found, and there is no slaughter of innocent children, no wise men, and no flight into Egypt. Instead, Luke has Mary and Joseph present Jesus in the temple eight days after his birth, after which the Holy Family returns to Nazareth in Galilee.

Why are the infancy narratives in Matthew and Luke so different? They're different because they were not written as "history" but as theology. The infancy narratives were not written to convey historical facts; rather, they were written to convey theological truths.

From a theological perspective there are several important ideas that emerge. First, Jesus was a descendant of David; second, Jesus was born in Bethlehem and raised in Nazareth; and third, Jesus was born of a virgin. These are the theological truths that the infancy narratives try to convey, and the other elements of the stories – divine messengers (angels), extraordinary circumstances surrounding the birth (the star), and revelation to people who wouldn't expect it (i.e., shepherds and magi) – are introduced in order to emphasize that there was something special and unique about Jesus. The evangelists Matthew and Luke emphasize these notions in order to demonstrate that this specialness and uniqueness of Jesus were evident from the very beginning of his life on earth.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm



New Years Eve Mass

Mass this Wednesday is 8:30 AM and 7:00 PM. Please come to which ever suits your sleep schedule this holiday

ST TERESA'S GREEN TEAM
greenteam@stteresasf.org

After the Holidays: What to Do With What You Don't Need

Even with the best intentions, many households end up with gifts that don't fit, duplicates, or items they simply won't use. The worst option is letting them gather dust — or throwing them away. A better approach is to keep items circulating so someone else can use them.

Donation centers such as Goodwill and Salvation Army accept clothing, household goods, electronics, and books (check condition guidelines). Online platforms like eBay, Craigslist, or neighborhood groups can help items find a new home. Community "Buy Nothing" groups are especially effective for quick, free, ultra-local exchanges.

For items you do keep, consider setting a reminder in mid January to sort and pass along anything that still isn't needed — before it becomes clutter. And don't forget packaging: gift bags, boxes, tins, and ribbons can all be saved and reused next year.

Buy Nothing Project: buynothingproject.org;
Goodwill donation guidelines: goodwill.org

Note from the Editor

If Jonah came out
of the great fish,



Daniel came out
of the lions' den,



and Lazarus came
out of the tomb,



you will also come
out of your problems.



If you believe, Amen

Happy New Year to the
wonderful people of St Teresa of
Avila Parish!!