

# St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church

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

-St Teresa of Avila

OCTOBER 12, 2025

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



## ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE ANNUAL FALL CANNED FOOD DRIVE BRAVO FRIENDS OF OUR ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE!

Over 1700 cans of food were donated to replenish our Pantry shelves. Our St Teresa of Avila Conference, & the people we serve, offer heartfelt thanks to our Parishioners for your continued, generous support. Your donation of **1,703** cans of food will enable us to continue our weekly grocery bags and our Thanksgiving Outreach Program which serve several community groups on & around Potrero Hill.

You are all Contributing Vincentians and we are so grateful for your participation. We are also very thankful for your continued financial support throughout the year.



## Joint Meeting

St Teresa Pastoral and Finance Council  
If you have ideas about the parish and where we should invest our time-talent-treasure, come to the joint Pastoral and Finance counsel meeting this Tuesday, October 14th. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM and will be hosted by Father Greg in the lower hall. All are welcome and invited, come in and help us form the new direction for our parish.

**"Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on Earth  
but yours,  
Yours are the eyes which he looks  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to  
do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which he  
blesses all the world."**  
-St Teresa of Avila

During October we honor St. Teresa of Avila every day by reflecting on this prayer and reflecting its words through our actions.

### Week 2

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. This week I will be aware of my feet: standing firm in what is right, to give support to another; walking to welcome, to carry, to spare the air, to give company to another.

## Potrero Hill Festival October 18th

We have a booth and most importantly we have you! Thank you to all those signing up to represent St Teresa. Come by and have a great time!

### 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)



## Leprosy in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures

Today is the 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, and readings from both the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures deal with leprosy. Most of us have at least a vague notion that leprosy is a skin disease, yet probably none of us have ever seen a leper or have first-hand knowledge of the disease. Incidents involving leprosy frequently appear in both the Old and New Testaments, and because there are so many misconceptions about the disease, I'd like to focus today's column on leprosy in the Bible: what is leprosy? and why is there such stigma attached to the disease?

Leprosy has affected humanity for over 4000 years, but for most of history it was a disease that was quite misunderstood. It was not until 1873 that Dr. Gerhard Hansen discovered that leprosy was the result of a bacterial infection. Leprosy is spread when one comes in contact with an infected person, but – contrary to popular belief – it is not highly contagious. However, it is an unusual disease in that its incubation period can be as short as a few weeks or as long as 30 years.

Skin lesions are the primary external sign of leprosy, and the disease is progressive, causing permanent damage to the skin, nerves, limbs, and eyes. Contrary to folklore and popular belief, leprosy does not cause body parts to fall off, although they can become numb or diseased as a result of secondary infections. These secondary infections, in turn, can cause fingers and toes to become shortened and deformed, and can also cause nerve damage leading to numbness of the skin over parts of the body. Beginning in about 1930, antibiotics were used to treat leprosy, but it was not until the 1980s that an effective drug regimen was developed that "cured" the disease.

For most of history – including the Old and New Testaments – human beings knew neither the cause of nor the cure for leprosy. As a result, people were *afraid* of lepers and, because of their fear, they *stigmatized* those victimized by the disease. To use biblical and theological language, lepers were *excommunicated*. Until they "became clean" they were segregated in leper colonies, ostracized from the community because they were "unclean."

Because people knew nothing about "real leprosy" (now known as Hansen's Disease), virtually any form of skin disorder would arouse suspicion, resulting in the victim being segregated, ostracized, or quarantined. In other words, a person was treated as a leper if he or she had lesions, skin eruptions, dry or flaky skin, psoriasis, measles, chicken pox, shingles, or any type of a rash . . . perhaps even athlete's foot!

In the case of minor skin diseases or infections, once the symptoms disappeared the priest pronounced the person clean and he or she was incorporated back into the community. But in those cases where the condition was leprosy (Hansen's disease), the victim's condition never improved, only worsened. In such cases, victims were forced to live in leper colonies, segregated and ostracized from the community.

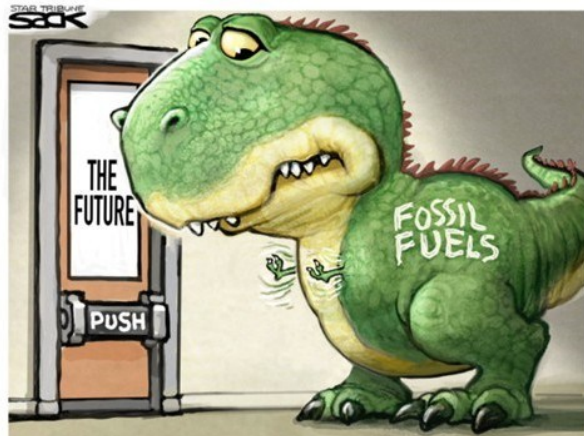
Because people knew neither the cause of leprosy nor how it was transmitted, anyone suspected of leprosy – as well as anyone who came in contact with lepers – was treated as a leper. In other words, when one *touched* a leper one *became* a leper. Given this understanding, we are not surprised that, when Jesus cured lepers, he was treated with suspicion and shunned: Jesus "became a leper" when he "touched a leper."

In the popular view, lepers were treated as sinners, their disease being a punishment for some transgression against God. Therefore, to cure a leper was, in effect, to forgive sin . . . which expands our understanding of what it means when Jesus touched and cured lepers.

In today's two readings there is an additional twist: Naaman the leper (Old Testament) and the ten lepers (Gospel) were *foreigners*. Given this additional information, the action of God's prophets (Elisha and Jesus) must have been quite a shock to those witnessing the miracles. Why? Because if they held the belief that only Jews were God's chosen people, then the actions of Elisha and Jesus – the healing of sinful foreigners – would have turned their world upside down!

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm

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



**Celebrating the Feast Day of  
Saint Teresa of Avila**

**DATE:** SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19TH

**TIME:** 9:30AM MASS  
followed by a finger-food  
reception on the patio

*Please note that there  
is only one Mass that  
Sunday morning.*



**Celebrating St Teresa of Avila**

We're moving the feast day of Saint Teresa of Avila from the actual day to the Sunday morning following: October 19th. We will have only one Mass that day, 9:30 AM, followed by finger foods on the patio. Saint Teresa will guarantee us good weather.



VISIT OF THE RELICS  
OF  
ST. THERÈSE OF LISIEUX

OCTOBER 1 – DECEMBER 8

2025

**The relics of St. Thérèse of Lisieux  
are coming to the USA**

Cathedral of St. Mary: October 28, 12:10 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. October 29

Carmelite Monastery of Cristo Rey: 1:00 p.m.  
October 29– 11:00 a.m. October 30

The magnificent reliquary of St. Thérèse, containing some of her bones, has visited more than 70 countries around the world since 1994. There have been great crowds and great blessings everywhere. Such continued worldwide acclaim is unprecedented in the history of the Church. St. Thérèse continues to be loved as "the greatest saint of modern times." She wrote in her autobiography, *Story of a Soul*: "I would like to travel over the whole earth to preach the Gospel..."

**GUN SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**US Supreme Court agrees to hear private  
property case**

News from January 2025 indicated that South Carolina and Louisiana would become "constitutional carry" states, allowing residents to carry firearms in public without a permit. On October 3, 2025, the Supreme Court agreed to hear a case that could expand gun carry rights by clarifying whether states may bar people from carrying firearms on private property, such as malls and restaurants, without the owner's permission. While the case was announced in early October, it followed multiple federal court rulings in September that dealt with Second Amendment rights.

**We are heading into the 22nd Century**

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

1. It is easier to budget when the Sunday collection is not dependent on the weather.
2. Even if you forget to carry cash (which is more and more likely) Sunday collections remain strong.
3. It is easy to support special collections (World Kitchen, Garden Fund, Retirement Collection).

And in the next few weeks we will be adding other ways to donate, such as Venmo or Zelle. If you are not already donating online give it a shot and



**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](http://stteresasf.org)

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

**SECOND COLLECTIONS**

**THIS WEEK's** second collection benefits the Carmelite Seminary Fund. Donate [here](#).

**NEXT WEEK's** second collection benefits the World Mission Sunday 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:*

**Saturday, October 11**  
4:15pm + Shirley Boden

**Sunday, October 12**  
8:30am Rick Pitts(Spc.Int.)  
10:00am + Barbara McGrath

**Monday, October 13**  
8:30am Kathleen O'Brien

**Tuesday, October 14**  
8:30am Christina Hinkle

**Wednesday, October 15**  
8:30am Marc Levin

**Thursday, October 16**  
8:30am + Mary Padiila

**Friday, October 17**  
8:30am + Bill & Micky Knaapen

**Saturday, October 18**  
4:15pm + Kathleen M. Burns

**Sunday, October 19**  
8:30am + Bianca & Peter Lodolo  
10:00am + Paul Sullivan

**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