

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 19, 2025

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The relics of St. Thérèse of Lisieux are coming to San Francisco

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

Celebrating the Feast Day of
Saint Teresa of Avila

ITS TODAY!!!

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

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



Lets All Get Online!

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).



**"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 3

Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world. This week I will be aware of my hands: extending them to help, to touch another in kindness and caring, to join in action, to hold in grief, to fold in prayer.

Planning Meeting

If you have ideas about the parish and where we should invest our time-talent-treasure, come to the **Town Hall Futuring Meeting** — Sunday, November 2nd at 11 o'clock (during coffee and donuts).

PASTOR

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

IN RESIDENCE

Bro. David Semmens, O.Carm.,
brotherdave@stteresasf.org
Rev. Brian Henden, O.Carm.,
bhenden@carmelites.net
Rev. Michael Kwiecien, O.Carm.,
mkwiecien@carmelites.net



Widows in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures

Suffice it to say, the two characters in today's Gospel are not especially attractive. The first is a corrupt judge, a feisty curmudgeon "who respected neither God nor man;" the second is a persistent widow, an annoying woman who spends her time and energy nagging the judge. Jesus told this parable "on the necessity of praying always and not losing heart," but his point is easily lost because we, as hearers of the parable, identify with neither of the two characters. Today's is a tough Gospel, and making sense of it is a formidable task for today's homilist. That is why, in this week's column, I'll take a rain check on the specific characters in the gospel and focus instead on the generic topic of widows.

Widows appear frequently in both the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. Here are several examples where they play a central role in the narrative or story:

- ♦ **1 Kgs 17:7-16** (*Elijah and the Widow*): The widow takes what little food she has and feeds Elijah; the miracle which follows provided her with food for a year.
- ♦ **Lk 7:11-17** (*Raising of the Widow's Son*): Jesus, journeying to the city of Naim, encounters a funeral procession of a man who had died. The deceased is the only son of a widow and, moved with pity, Jesus commands the man to rise. The dead man sits up and begins to speak, whereupon Jesus returns him to his mother.
- ♦ **Lk 21:1-4** (*The Poor Widow's Contribution*): A widow puts two small coins in the temple offering; from her poverty, she "has offered her whole livelihood."
- ♦ **Acts 6:1-7** (*The Need for Assistants*): The Hellenists complained against the Hebrews "because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution." The Apostles choose seven men to serve the widows; these are the first deacons.

Why do the Scriptures "feature" widows? The reason is because, in the social structure of the first century Judeo-Christian world, women and children had few (if any) rights. They were dependent on husbands and fathers for survival and sustenance, and should the head of the household die, the survivors had nowhere to go. In some cases, the widow's extended family might take them in and provide for them, but if this didn't happen, the widows and orphans were dependent on the generosity of others for their sustenance and survival.

In the Gospel of Luke widows are part of a larger group collectively known as the *anawim*, a word that might be best translated as the "poor people of God." The list of *anawim* is extensive, and includes women, children, widows and orphans; lepers, the sick, shepherds and criminals; aliens, foreigners, refugees, Samaritans, and Gentiles. Basically, the *anawim* are the outcasts and margined people of a society, and – because they live on the fringe – they have no voice, no rights, no power, nor privileged status.

Both the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures emphasize that the *anawim* are special in the eyes of God. Additionally, the Scriptures hint that we will be judged on how well we attend to the needs of the *anawim*. Those who are in positions of power – religious, economic, and political leaders – bear the responsibility of utilizing their privileged position to minister to and care for those who are less fortunate. These less fortunate – the *anawim* – are not able to make it on their own, and they are dependent on the community for support. The Scriptures are quite clear in emphasizing that the religious community, whether Hebrew or Christian, is challenged to care for the *anawim*. This is a central message of the Hebrew Prophets, and in the Christian Scriptures the Gospel of Luke especially focuses on attending to the needs of the *anawim*.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm

Thomas Parenty is leading Tai-Chi every Wednesday morning at 9:00am in the patio. You're invited to check this out, or join right in. Each session ends at 9:30pm. Beginners are welcome any time.



**DO YOU HAVE AN IRA?
DONATE TO ST TERESA FOR TAX RELIEF!**

- If you are 70 or over you can transfer up to \$100,000 a year to a charity tax free every year.
- This is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution, and it counts toward your required minimum distributions.
- A qualified charitable distribution is only tax free as long as the distribution is paid from the individual retirement account directly to the charitable organization, like St Teresa

GUN SAFETY COMMITTEE

The challenge of tracking "stray bullet deaths"

Unlike with mass shootings or accidents involving mishandled weapons, the circumstances of stray bullet incidents are often unclear, making them hard to track accurately. For a bullet to be officially classified as "stray," investigators must definitively determine that the victim was not the intended target. These tragic incidents highlight the devastating impact of stray bullets on innocent children and their families. Such events have sparked renewed conversations about gun safety and the urgent need for community interventions to prevent similar tragedies in the future. Case examples of stray bullet deaths:

-In October 2025, a 14-year-old boy in St. Louis County, Missouri, was killed by stray bullets while playing video games in his bedroom. The bullets were fired during a dispute between two groups of teenagers outside his home.

-In October 2023, a 10-year-old boy in Olivehurst, California, was killed by a stray bullet from a drive-by shooting while playing with his cousins inside his uncle's home.

-In January 2025, a 10-year-old girl in Miami was struck and killed by a stray bullet resulting from celebratory gunfire while celebrating New Year's Day with her family.

**FARLEY'S
PET PARADE &
COSTUME CONTEST**



PET BLESSINGS @FARLEY'S!!!

St Teresa's and St Gregory's are teaming up to do a "St Francis of Assisi Pet Blessings" during Farley's Coffee Pet Parade Sunday October 26th at 1:00 PM.

ST TERESA'S GREEN TEAM
greenteam@stteresasf.org

Fall is a good time to plant native wildflowers in your garden or a little pot on your windowsill if you want to have them bloom for a long time! Bonus points if you make a little pollinator hotel to go along with the flowers.

November is called "the month of the Holy Souls". During November a Book of Remembrance will be placed inside the Church. Parishioners are invited to write the names of deceased loved ones in this book and to bring a photo(s) for display during the month. All photos will be returned at the end of the month. Please put your name & phone number on the back of the picture. We will remember those we have lost this year on Sunday, November 3rd at the 10am Mass.



Eternal Rest
*Remembrance of the Holy Souls
during the month of November*

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 World Mission Sunday Fund. Donate



NEXT WEEK's second collection benefits the St Teresa order of St Vincent de Paul Fund. Donate



**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 18**
4:15pm + [Kathleen M. Burns](#)
- Sunday, October 19**
9:30am + [Bianca & Peter Lodolo](#) & [Paul Sullivan](#)
- Monday, October 20**
8:30am The St Teresa order of Saint Vincent de Paul
- Tuesday, October 21**
8:30am The St Teresa Green Team
- Wednesday, October 22**
8:30am The St Teresa Gun Safety Team
- Thursday, October 23**
8:30am The St Teresa Pastoral Council
- Friday, October 24**
8:30am + The St Teresa Finance Council
- Saturday, October 25**
4:15pm + [Margaret O'Neill](#)
- Sunday, October 26**
8:30am + [Lena Sicoli](#)
10:00am + [Frank 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