



# 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 26, 2025

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**"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 4

**Christ has no body but yours.**

This week I will be aware that I am Christ to the world: I act for Him with all the gifts God has given me and the blessings I enjoy. I will give time, skill, love, prayer.

## Let's 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).



### Eternal Rest

Remembrance of the Holy Souls  
during the month of November

We will commemorate the deceased of the parish of the past year during 10:00 AM Mass  
Next Sunday, November 2nd

### 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)

## OUR TOWN HALL MEETING IS NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>

You will be asked to share your ideas about how you & our parish community could become more active in:

- Caring for the underprivileged & underserved;
- Enhancing & expanding worship experiences;
- Expanding our educational programs to reach all ages and demographics.
- Etc.

**JOIN US AFTER THE 10:00 MASS DURING  
COFFEE & DONUTS FOR BRAINSTORMING!**

November 1st is not a holy day  
of obligation this year!

## Tax Collectors (Publicans)

"Tax collectors, prostitutes, and sinners" is the Gospel's catch-all expression for the riffraff Jesus hangs out with. The Pharisees in particular are fond of this expression, uttering their derogatory comment whenever they want to discredit Jesus because of the company he keeps.

This Sunday's Gospel (found only in Luke) is the parable of the *Publican and the Pharisee*. One of the more well-known parables, its meaning is better appreciated when we understand the social status of tax collectors (publicans) in first-century Judea. But before we look in depth at tax collectors, it might help to touch upon Jewish thinking with respect to civil authority.

For a first-century Jew, there is only one God, Yahweh, and Jews understood their kings as Yahweh's representatives on earth. Given this understanding, any foreign king or power that ruled over Israel was *illegitimate*. Surveying Jewish history, we note that the Jews despised every foreign power that ruled over them, be it the Egyptians (1600-1240 BC), the Babylonians (587-539 BC), the Greeks (325-190 BC), or the Romans (63 BC ff). When the Jews were under foreign domination, it was an almost religious duty to revolt and overthrow the occupying power.

Given this background, any Jew who associated with or worked for the illegitimate civil authority was regarded as a traitor, not only to his own countrymen, but also to God as well. Tax collectors, because they worked for the hated Romans, were seen as turncoats. Instead of fighting Roman oppression, tax collectors were not only tacitly supporting the invading power but also were enriching themselves at the expense of their fellow Jews. Dianne Bergant writes:

"Tax collectors were despised because they were part of the economic system put in place by the occupying Romans. They were not paid by their employers, so they added fees to the taxes collected. There was no standard scale involving this added charge, and tax collectors often extracted exorbitant amounts. They could easily fall under the Pharisees' category of the greedy and the dishonest" (Dianne Bergant, *Preaching the New Lectionary*, p. 399).

It was common knowledge that tax collectors cheated the people they collected from. How did they do this? Each district was assessed a certain amount. Any money collected above the assessed amount was the tax collector's profit. The more money the tax collector extracted from the district, the greater his profit. No wonder tax collectors were so hated and despised!

Because they extorted their constituents and "skimmed of the top," tax collectors were often wealthy and well-to-do. This further separated the tax collectors from the lower classes who resented the injustice of having to support such a lavish lifestyle.

For these reasons, publicans (tax collectors) were, in effect, excommunicated from Judaism. Their allegiance and association with the hated Romans made them pariahs in Jewish society, which is quite evident in today's Gospel where the Pharisee shuns the Publican.

Given this understanding, the crowds would have been shocked when they learned that one of Jesus' twelve apostles, Matthew, was a tax collector. They would also have been shocked at the twist in today's parable: it was the Publican, not the Pharisee, who went home justified.

**Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm**

## MASS INTENTIONS

*As we celebrate Mass together we include in our prayers:*

**Saturday, October 25**  
4:15pm † Margaret O'Neill

**Sunday, October 26**  
8:30am † Lena Sicoli  
10:00am † Frank Sullivan

**Monday, October 27**  
8:30am † Cathy & Dan Grassi

**Tuesday, October 28**  
8:30am † Bob Jacklevich

**Wednesday, October 29**  
8:30am Stephanie Sheehan(Spc. Int.)

**Thursday, October 30**  
8:30am Bob Noelke(Spc. Int.)

**Friday, October 31**  
8:30am Therese Labuguen(Spc. Int.)

**Saturday, November 01**  
4:15pm † Margaret O'Neill

**Sunday, November 02**  
8:30am † Sr. Patricia Mahoney, BVM  
10:00am † Special Mass for Deceased Parishioners

## HOMEBOUND CHURCH SHUTTLE

Do you know someone who would like to attend church in person but is unable? Are you at home catching our updates and bulletins digitally and missing the connection of an in person Mass? Fr. Greg and I are discussing the possibility of adding a shuttle service for the Saturday afternoon mass. This will be a pick up and drop off service provided by the church with a range inside the parish Boundaries (Potrero Hill, Mission Bay, & Mission Dist). If you are interested please email at [info@stteresasf.org](mailto:info@stteresasf.org)

## We are back, and you are invited!

November 1 - after 4:15 Mass

This will be the final Saturday cheese and crackers gathering before the Holiday Season. We will resume again in February. Please join us for conversation and refreshments.



## THANK YOU ST TERESA!

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL THE PARISHIONERS WHO WORKED THE ST TERESA OF AVILA TABLE AT THE POTRERO HILL FESTIVAL LAST SATURDAY. IT WAS SMASHING SUCCESS, ST TERESA RECEIVED THE VISIBILITY IN THE COMMUNITY WE NEEDED, AND EVERYONE WHO CAME BY WAS EXCITED TO HEAR WHAT WE ARE DOING UP HERE ON THE HILL. A MEGA-THANKS TO ALL INVOLVED!!



## OUR FEAST OF ST TERESA WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!



A big thank you to all who helped organize and make our celebration of Teresa of Avila's Feast Day both impactful and fun. Three cheers to good food, great people, and a fantastic celebration of our lady up on the hill.

**The Mass Intention book for 2026 is now open. If you would like to dedicate a Mass to a loved one, please contact the Parish Office.**

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

## ST TERESA'S GREEN TEAM

[greenteam@stteresasf.org](mailto:greenteam@stteresasf.org)

If you picked up some native wildflower seeds from St. Teresa's booth at the Potrero Hill Festival, you may be thinking about ways to get the most out of your new native flower garden. Consider building a "pollinator hotel", which is kind of like a birdhouse for bees, butterflies, and all other sorts of pollinators. For an easy introduction to these, look up Epic Gardening's post on how to build a pollinator hotel:

<https://www.epicgardening.com/pollinator-hotel/>

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

Cathedral of St. Mary: October 28, 2:10 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Carmelite Monastery of Cristo Rey: October 29  
7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

ONLINE  
GIVING  
QR code



St Teresa of Avila Church is an EPA ENERGY STAR® certified building.

## SECOND COLLECTIONS

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



**NEXT WEEK's** second collection benefits the St Teresa Building and Maintenance Fund. Donate



## GUN SAFETY COMMITTEE

### FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT GHOST GUNS

1. Ghost guns can be assembled from parts or 3D-printed
2. Ghost guns can be assembled rapidly and in large quantities, creating new avenues for gun trafficking schemes and networks
3. Ghost guns make it difficult or ineffective to develop investigative leads or conduct firearms tracing
4. The number of crime-involved ghost guns increased substantially in 2020 for many agencies
5. Recovered ghost guns should be identified as such and should be processed to the fullest extent possible.

San Francisco has banned the possession, sale, and manufacturing of ghost guns, including unserialized parts like unfinished frames and receivers. These local laws work in conjunction with state laws that also prohibit the sale and manufacture of ghost guns within California. Recent legal actions and state legislation further reinforce these bans by restricting the sale of kits and parts and requiring serial numbers on all firearms.

-NATIONAL POLICE FOUNDATION

## 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