

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 5, 2025

TWENTY-SEVENTH 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 1

***Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world.***

This week I will be aware of my eyes: how I look at people – as individuals, as family, without judgment, with compassion; what I avoid looking at, what my eyes say to others.

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.

Jcel

Please join us in celebrating the
Baptism of Julius Jonoubeh Thurston



Child of Jordan Thurston & Tamar
Jonoubeh, Godchild of
Maura Elias. Julius will be baptized
by Rev. Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm
this Sunday.

Potrero Hill Street Fair Meet and talk to your neighbors

St. Teresa's will have a booth at the Potrero Hill Street Fair on October 18 from 10am to 4pm. We hope to use this opportunity to introduce Fair attendees to all our various ministries and have representatives of each take an hour or two and be present in the booth. Don't currently belong to a Ministry? Sign up and talk about our welcoming Parish community! There will be giveaways and handouts. If you can join us we will have a sign up sheet in the vestibule at each mass. You may request a specific time or you will be notified of a specific need. We hope to see you there.



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



Cremation

I was born in 1952 into a pre-Vatican II church. Growing up, it was unheard of that a Catholic would be cremated. Canon 1203 of the 1917 Code of Canon Law specifically forbade the practice, and this prohibition continued until 1963. That year, things began to change. A concession allowed for cremation in cases of necessity, as long as cremation was not chosen as a sign of denial of Christian teaching. What precisely constituted a case of necessity, however, was never adequately addressed or defined.

Jumping ahead to the end of the 20th century, we find that, in certain areas of the United States, cremation of the body was used in 40% of all funerals. Nationwide, cremation is used about 20% of the time, with a steady increase in its use by American Catholics.

In 1996, the American bishops petitioned Rome for an *indult* (i.e., permission) to allow, in the dioceses of the United States, the cremated remains of a body at the Funeral Liturgy. This indult was granted in 1997 . . . which means that, for Catholics, cremation has been permitted for just over a quarter century.

Nevertheless, there remains considerable confusion on the subject, and my purpose in this week's column is to try to clarify Church's position on cremation. Our starting point is the *Order of Christian Funerals*, which states the following:

Although cremation is now permitted by the Church, it does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body. The Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites, since the presence of the human body better expresses the values which the Church affirms in those rites. (OCF 413)

In its theology and instruction, the Church is quite clear in its preference that cremation not take place and that the bodily remains be both present at the liturgy and interred in the traditional manner. Almost reluctantly, the Church permits cremation, but when cremation takes place, there are some very specific directives that are brought into play. These instructions are grounded in an understanding that the cremated remains are to be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they came. This would include the following:

- ◆ *The use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes*
- ◆ *The manner in which they are carried, the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and the final disposition*
- ◆ *The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium*

In particular, the Church's instruction emphasizes the following:

The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires. (OCF 417)

To summarize, the Church prefers that the body not be cremated. When cremation does occur, the ashes are to be treated in the same way one would reverence the body. Specifically prohibited are both the scattering of ashes and the keeping of ashes in any place other than a mausoleum or columbarium.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm

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 scan the QR code below to register.



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).

FARLEY'S PET PARADE & COSTUME CONTEST



PET BLESSINGS @FARLEYS!!!

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.**

GUN SAFETY COMMITTEE Too Many, Too Soon: Youth Firearm Suicide in the United States

Firearm suicide is a devastating crisis in the United States, with rates averaging nearly 12 times greater than other high-income countries. **1** Tragically, young people are not spared: Over the past decade, firearm suicide rates increased over 40 percent for young people ages 10 to 24—more than most other age groups. **2** There is no single cause of suicide, and contributing factors can stem from the individual, relationship, community, and societal levels. **3** Researchers continue to seek explanations for what is behind this alarming rise in firearm suicide in the United States and are examining the lingering impacts of COVID-19, **4** Anxiety and depression, **5** Social media use, **6** Cyberbullying, **7** Stigma about seeking help, **8** The country's recent, unprecedented surge in gun sales. **9** We can help prevent suicide, including firearm suicide by removing access to firearms, a uniquely lethal means, from individuals at-risk for suicide and is the quickest and most effective intervention. Implement policies that limit easy and immediate access to firearms.
[Everytown Research & Policy](#)

ST TERESA'S GREEN TEAM greenteam@stteresasf.org

When Ivanpah began operating in 2014, and it seemed like a viable solution to California's renewable energy goals by employing affordable and efficient technology.



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

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 second collection benefits the St Teresa Building & Maintenance Fund. Donate [here](#).

NEXT WEEK second collection benefits the St Teresa Carmelite Seminary 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:

- 4:15pm † **Saturday, October 4**
Fr. Peter Sammon
- 8:30am † **Sunday, October 5**
Judy Hughes(Spc.Int.)
- 10:00am † Rachel Cariglia
- 8:30am † **Monday, October 6**
Bob Jacklevich
- 8:30am † **Tuesday, October 7**
Lupita Perea
- 8:30am † **Wednesday, October 8**
Mary Maglio
- 8:30am † **Thursday, October 9**
Mary Padiila
- 8:30am † **Friday, October 10**
John Klenke
- 4:15pm † **Saturday, October 11**
Kathleen M. Burns
- 8:30am † **Sunday, October 12**
Rick Pitts(Spc.Int.)
- 10:00am † Barbara McGrath

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