

# St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church

**"More tears are shed over answered prayers than over unanswered ones."**  
— St Teresa of Avila

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2025**  
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



## 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.

## Planning Meeting

Where are we going St Teresa? Father Greg would like to invite you all to the Parish Planning Meeting held after the 10 O'clock Mass on Sunday November 2nd in the hall. We will discuss and agree on the future direction of St Teresa as a group. Be there, or be square!

## Potrero Hill Festival

During the Potrero Hill Festival on Saturday October 18th, Saint Teresa's has an info booth. The parish's various ministries will be featured, and you can also stop by for a piece of trick-or-treat candy.

## 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).



## 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 Farleys's Coffee Pet Parade Sunday October 26th at 1:00 PM.

### 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)



## The Troubling Parable of the Dishonest Steward

After over four decades of priesthood (and over two thousand homilies), I've come to the realization that, for the people in the pews, the parable in this week's Gospel is, perhaps, the most offensive parable in the entire New Testament. Today's puzzling text chronicles the antics of a dishonest steward who is about to be fired for the mismanagement of his master's property. Realizing that he is about to be sacked, the unscrupulous steward contacts his master's debtors and cuts each a deal: a hundred jars of oil is reduced to fifty, while a hundred measures of wheat becomes eighty. In doing this, the steward hopes ". . . to make sure that people will take me into their homes when I am let go."

One would suspect that the owner would condemn such devious behavior, but herein lies the parable's twist: The owner gives the devious employee credit for being enterprising!

For centuries both scripture scholars and people in the pews have been puzzled by this parable, and both have been hard-pressed to make sense of Jesus' apparent approval of such blatant dishonesty. Over the centuries, the most widespread attempt at a reasonable explanation has been to suggest that the manager wasn't cheating his master at all. In this scenario, the dishonest steward is like a stock broker who takes a commission on every a trade or transaction. Given this context, the fifty jars of oil and twenty measures of wheat represent the steward's "commission" for administering his master's affairs. In this view, the steward is enterprising because, by forgoing his commission, everyone comes out ahead: the owner is happy because he's been paid; the debtors are happy because they've received a discount; and the steward is happy because he saves his job and enjoys good standing, both with his boss and his clients. It is also worthy to note that such an interpretation also allows both scripture scholars and church-going Christians to save face, since it saves us the embarrassment of Jesus endorsing a scoundrel.

A similar, face saving maneuver is an interpretation which assumes that it is the owner who is dishonest. In this interpretation, the steward's discount to the two debtors is a remission of the interest that the owner is illegally charging. Once again, an interpretation along these lines gets Jesus off the hook. Unfortunately, there is nothing in the gospel to suggest that the owner is anything but honest. Furthermore, such an interpretation transforms the dishonest steward into an honorable person of integrity, which is exactly the opposite of how he's portrayed in the text.

The pivotal line in the parable is verse 8: "*And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently.*" Notice that it is the master – not Jesus – who commends the dishonest steward. Jesus uses this parable – which originally ends with the master's commendation – to shock his audience and get their attention. He does so to make the point that the steward – about to be fired and "*not strong enough to dig and . . . [too] ashamed to beg*" – is in a desperate situation. Desperate situations demand desperate action, and the steward cuts a deal with the master's debtors in order to survive.

Scripture scholars make the point that the *hearers* of this parable are also in a desperate situation, but they probably are not aware of it. Basically, the hearers are being challenged to make a decision *for or against* Christ. The gospels are filled with such challenges. Unfortunately, in today's gospel the challenge of whether or how to follow Christ is obscured because we are unable to shift our attention away from the unscrupulous action of the dishonest steward.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm



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



## SAVE THE DATE

### 2025 White Mass for Medical Professionals

Friday, Oct. 3, 2025 – 6:00p  
St. Dunstan Parish – 1133 Broadway, Millbrae  
Contact:

Valerie Schmalz | 415-614-5571 |  
[lifeanddignity@sfarch.org](mailto:lifeanddignity@sfarch.org)

Join the Archdiocese of San Francisco's Office of Human Life and Dignity for the 2025 White Mass for Medical Professionals celebrated by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone. All are welcome to participate, particularly doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals!

A White Mass, so named for the traditional color of physicians' coats, is a way to honor and pray with and for all those who serve in the medical professions.



## GUN SAFETY COMMITTEE

Gun Violence Must Stop. Here's What We Can Do to Prevent More Deaths (Part 3)

**Gun safety:** Part of a public health approach to gun violence is about preventing the imminent risk of lethality through sensible gun laws and a culture of safety.

- 1. Hold the gun industry accountable** and ensure there is adequate oversight over the marketing and sales of guns and ammunition. Five percent of gun dealers sell 90% of guns used in crimes and must be held accountable to a code of conduct. There is a need to [repeal gun industry immunity](#) in states that have them.
- 2. Engage responsible gun dealers and owners in solutions.** For example, some gun dealers and range owners are already being trained in [suicide prevention](#).
- 3. Insist on mandatory training and licensing for owners.** This training should include recurring education to renew permits, with a graduated licensing process at least as stringent as for driver's licenses.
- 4. Require safe and secure gun storage.** For example, in King County, Washington, public health has teamed up with firearm storage device retailers. In addition to safe storage being tax exempt in Washington, through ([LOK-IT-UP initiative](#)) residents can learn about the importance of safe storage, purchase devices at discounted rates and learn how to practice safe storage in the home.

**PREVENTION INSTITUTE** Oakland & Los Angeles

## ADULT CONFIRMATION



Have you received the Sacrament of Baptism, but not the Sacrament of Confirmation? Confirmation is required to be a godparent.

If you would like to be confirmed, please speak with Anarose or Father Greg.

**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.**

## 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** second collection benefits the Archdiocese Clergy Retirement Fund. Donate [here](#).

**NEXT WEEK** second collection benefits the St Teresa Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society. 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, September 20**  
Canonization of Frederic Ozanam

**Sunday, September 21**  
8:30am † Beatrice Bunn(Spc.Int.)  
10:00am † Alfonse Talmadge

8:30am **Monday, September 22**  
† Antonette & Ray Roberts

8:30am **Tuesday, September 23**  
† Bill & Mickey Knaapen

8:30am **Wednesday, September 24**  
† Ronald Lech

8:30am **Thursday, September 25**  
† Bianca & Peter Lodolo

8:30am **Friday, September 26**  
† Mary A Burns

4:15pm **Saturday, September 27**  
† Agnostino Sicoli(Spc.Int.)

8:30am **Sunday, September 28**  
† Robert & Lois Biniek  
10:00am † Marie Ehnert(Spc.Int.)

## 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