



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

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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.

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.



St Vincent de Paul Canned Food Drive

We have received **1239** cans for our pantry which is **261** short of our goal of **1500**. You may still bring cans to the rectory this coming week or to church next weekend. Let's hit our goal of 1500 St Teresa!

OCIA

If you are wondering about getting baptized or maybe you want to become fully Catholic (receive any sacraments you might be missing), please see Anarose and/or Fr. Greg after mass. Or simply walk into the OCIA session - 11 o'clock in the RE every Sunday.

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.

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.

Joel

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



The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus

This year the majority of our Sunday gospels are taken from Luke, and today's parable – the *Rich Man and Lazarus* – is unique to Luke's gospel. The parable consists of two parts. The first describes the lives and fates of two men, the rich man and Lazarus; and the second describes when, after his death, the rich man voices concern about the fate of his five brothers.

Jesus' audience would have been quite familiar with the first part of this parable. Folklore from different Mediterranean cultures include stories of a wicked rich man and a pious poor man whose fortunes are reversed after death. With the reversal of fortune, we are quick to conclude that the rich man is punished for being rich and the poor man is rewarded for being poor. Unfortunately, the meaning of today's parable is nowhere nearly that simple or straightforward.

When Jesus tells the story, he subtly omits two details: the rich man is not portrayed as wicked, nor is the poor man (Lazarus) portrayed as pious. Diving beneath the surface, we realize that the rich man's "sin" was not that he was rich; rather, his sin was that he was completely oblivious to the presence of the poor man at his door step. When the text notes that the beggar Lazarus was "covered with sores", the hearer would realize that, under Jewish law, Lazarus was ritually unclean. If the rich man should touch Lazarus, he, too, would become ritually unclean.

The second part of the parable opens the door for the "twist" that allows a different, nuanced interpretation. This part is decidedly Jewish in that Lazarus now rests in the bosom of Abraham while the rich man is tormented in the abode of the dead. The two are separated by a great abyss that cannot be crossed, and the rich man offers a final plea:

"Father, I ask you then, send him (Lazarus) to my father's house where I have five brothers. Let him be a warning to them so that they may not end in this place of torment." Abraham answered, "They have Moses and the prophets. Let them hear them."

The rich man indicates that his brothers will not repent unless someone (Lazarus) would go to them from the dead. Abraham's reply – "If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead." – is a not-too-subtle rebuke of those hearers of the parable who will not recognize the legitimacy and authority of Jesus.

The "Jewish twist" to the parable challenges us to analyze and interpret it in light of the Hebrew prophetic tradition. The prophets emphasized that God's chosen people included both rich and poor, and that there was a moral obligation on the wealthy and powerful to "show mercy" to the poor, (i.e., to take care of them). We see this in today's first reading when Amos begins "*Woe to the complacent in Zion!*" before raging against the rich, not because they are rich, but because they revel in their wealth and are completely oblivious to the poor. This prophetic theme is echoed by Jesus, who understands himself as being in continuity with Israel's prophetic tradition.

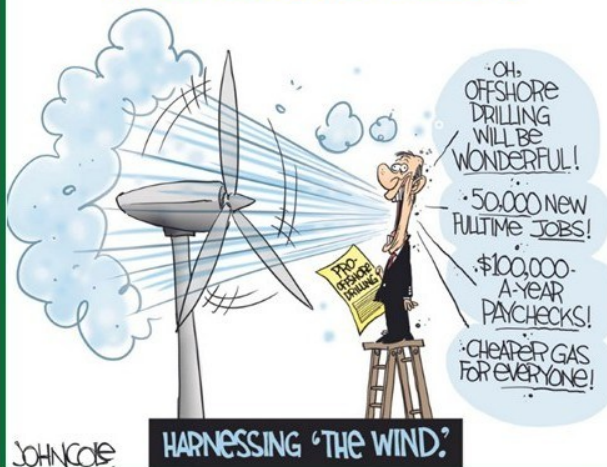
Given this insight, today's Gospel can be seen in a different light. The rich man and Lazarus, although worlds apart with respect to wealth, nevertheless have something in common: both are members of God's chosen people. As such, the rich man has the *moral obligation* to attend to Lazarus, and the fact that he is oblivious to the beggar at his doorstep indicates that he is not fulfilling the moral imperative demanded by the covenant.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm



To see more about these famous San Francisco Dogs, click [HERE](#)

ST TERESA'S GREEN TEAM
greenteam@stteresasf.org



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

GUN SAFETY COMMITTEE

California's strong gun safety laws continue to save lives

Year after year, **California is ranked as the #1 state** in the country for its **strong gun safety laws** — along with some of the lowest rates of gun deaths by [Giffords Law Center](#) and [Everytown for Gun Safety](#). In states where officials have passed gun safety laws, **fewer people die by gun violence**. Texas and Florida, which ranked **32nd and 21st**, respectively in gun law strength, had firearm mortality rates more than **50% higher than** California. Strong gun laws save lives. **California has reduced its gun violence rate** because of its leading gun safety laws. If the gun death rate in the rest of the U.S. matched California's over the past decade, there would have been nearly **140,000 lives saved** and potentially hundreds of thousands fewer gunshot injuries, according to the [California Department of Justice's Office of Gun Violence Prevention](#).

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

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.



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

Email: info@stteresasf.org

SECOND COLLECTIONS

THIS WEEK second collection benefits the St Teresa Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society. Donate [here](#).

NEXT WEEK second collection benefits the St Teresa Building & Maintenance 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, September 27

4:15pm † [Agostino Sicoli](#)

Sunday, September 28

8:30am † Robert & Lois Biniek

10:00am † [Marie Ehner](#)

Monday, September 29

8:30am Nick Daddio

Tuesday, September 30

8:30am † Bob Jacklevich

Wednesday, October 1

8:30am † James J. Burns Sr.

Thursday, October 2

8:30am † Alfonse Talmadge

Friday, October 3

8:30am [Rick Pitts\(Spc.Int.\)](#)

Saturday, October 4

4:15pm † [Fr. Peter Sammon](#)

Sunday, October 5

8:30am [Judy Hughes\(Spc.Int.\)](#)

10:00am † [Rachel Cariglia](#)

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