



St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church

**“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. ”**

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

Please join us in celebrating the
Baptism of Henry George Woodford



Child of Colleen Woodford &
Curtis Woodford, Godchild of
Rachel Lalli and Stephen Brown.
Carter will be baptized by Rev.
Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm this
Sunday.

FIRST & SECOND COLLECTIONS JULY & AUGUST

First Collection	\$10,170
Building & Maintenance	\$2,397
Garden Fund	\$320
Charity Fund	\$1,705
St. Vincent de Paul	\$2,089
Carmelite Missions	\$725
World Central Kitchen	\$3,097

Construction has Begun!

The retaining wall on the back side of the church has undergone repairs to prevent the slippage into the next property. Access through the lower hall entrance is limited during the week. Please expect multiple rapid and dramatic changes to occur over the next few weeks. We will keep you posted on progress, and the redesign of the garden as it is put back together.

Today September 7th

Immediately following the 10 AM Mass, Father Greg will be hosting a presentation about the parish finances and the state of the St Teresa Budget for the 25-26 Fiscal year.

All are invited to attend and participate as we shape the future of St Teresa and discuss how best have our message reach the community.

The Parish Finance Council will also be in attendance and available for any questions pertaining to past and future expenses. Please join us in person or on livestream, see St Teresa website for the link.

You are invited!

Join your 4:15 Mass community in the hall after Mass for wine and cheese - and kid friendly drinks and snacks



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 Curious Letter from Paul to Philemon

Once every three years, on the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, the second reading is the letter of Paul to Philemon. This happens in the C-cycle, and it is the only time that a reading from Philemon is heard on a Sunday. In today’s column I’d like to write about this letter because of its uniqueness in the New Testament corpus.

There are two things that set this letter apart. The first is that its length is only 25 verses, and the second is that it is a *private* letter written to an individual. Usually, Paul’s letters were public letters written to a particular church or community. Paul would establish a church (say, at Corinth or Philippi), and once the Church was “operating,” Paul would leave the community to continue his missionary activity. After Paul left, theological, liturgical, or moral issues would arise in the “church left behind,” issues which needed to be addressed and resolved. The local church would write to Paul with their concerns, and Paul would write back with his pastoral response. We don’t have the letters written by the communities to Paul, but we do have many of the letters he wrote back. Many of these letters were saved and were eventually incorporated into the New Testament Canon of Scripture.

The Letter to Philemon, however, involves a private matter between Paul and Philemon. The issue concerns Onesimus, a runaway slave who belongs to Philemon and who is now with Paul. It is not clear whether Onesimus is in service to Paul or is a co-worker with Paul; what is clear is that Onesimus has been baptized and become a Christian. Paul is civilly obligated to send Onesimus back to Philemon, and it would be within Philemon’s legal right to punish the runaway slave. Paul, however suggests something different:

“I am sending him . . . back to you . . . that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a brother, beloved especially to me, but even more so to you, as a man and in the Lord.” (Phlm12: 15b, 16)

In a not-too-subtle way Paul is suggesting that, because both Philemon and Onesimus are baptized, they are now *brothers* in Christ. Their relationship has changed. The relationship is no longer master-slave; it is now *brother-brother*. At the very minimum, Paul is pleading with Philemon, not necessarily to free Onesimus from slavery, but to treat this slave differently:

“So if you regard me as a partner, welcome him as you would me. And if he has done you any injustice or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, write this in my own hand: I will pay.” (Phil 17:19)

Some commentators have suggested that, in the Letter to Philemon, Paul is taking a position *against* slavery, but such is not the case. In fact, well into the 19th century people used this Letter to *justify* slavery. The fact is that Paul’s Letter to Philemon makes us aware that human slavery was an accepted institution in the world of antiquity. Slavery was prevalent, not only in the “secular world,” but also in the Christian community as well. Paul – who is usually outspoken and quite volatile – tip-toes around the issue and does not attack slavery. What Paul does in the Letter to Philemon is to raise the issue of equality within the Church.

When Paul asks Philemon to accept the slave Onesimus as a brother, he is voicing a revolutionary idea that is still pertinent today: How does being “baptized in Christ” impact and transform our relationships with one another?

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm

ST TERESA'S GREEN TEAM
greenteam@stteresasf.org

This weekend, whether you're hiking and exploring trails, fitting in another beach trip, or having a picnic in a park, we can all do our part to keep the environment clean and free of litter. As trash piles up at National Parks across the country, this is a gentle reminder to leave no trace while outdoors. Remember to carry in what you carried out, even if that means bringing trash home with you. Here are seven principles to follow from the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics: plan ahead and prepare; travel and camp on durable surfaces; dispose of waste properly; leave what you find; minimize campfire impacts; respect wildlife; be considerate of others.

GUN SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

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. Sensible gun laws.
2. Reduce easy access to dangerous weapons.
3. Establish a culture of gun safety
4. Reduce firearm access to youth and individuals who are at risk of harming themselves or others.
5. Hold the gun industry accountable and ensure there is adequate oversight over the marketing and sales of guns and ammunition.
6. [Engage responsible gun dealers and owners](#) in solutions.
7. Insist on mandatory training and [licensing](#) for owners.
8. Require safe and secure gun storage. (Full recommendations for each of these categories will follow each week.)

PREVENTION INSTITUTE, Oakland & Los Angeles

In Memory Of

We take time today to remember **Robert 'Bobby' Jones**, a long-time parishioner who passed away 2 years prior. Bobby had his trust structured to take care of the large family he left behind when his estate was settled. St. Teresa's received one final donation in his name. God speed Bobby. We thank you for your generosity and wish you rest well.

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 Vincent de Paul FOOD DRIVE

You may order items on line from Target, Costco or Amazon and have them delivered directly to St. Teresa. Please send to:
**390 Missouri Street,
San Francisco, CA 94107**

The Piano is back!



And sounds better than ever! The repair went just as expected and the deep cleaning brought the shine back to our beloved Piano. It looks and sounds brand new and we are excited to show it off in all of glory this weekend.

Thank you St Teresa!

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 Building and Maintenance Fund. Donate [here](#).

NEXT WEEK second collection benefits the Archdiocese Fund for Military Service. 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 6

4:15pm † Mary A. Burns

Sunday, September 7

8:30am Rev. Louis Vitak, OFM(Spc.Int.)

10:00am † Raymond McGrath

Monday, September 8

8:30am † Bob Jacklevich

Tuesday, September 9

8:30am Dante Jacobs(Spc.Int.)

Wednesday, September 10

8:30am † Bill Knaapen

Thursday, September 11

8:30am Dante Jacobs(Spc.Int.)

Friday, September 12

8:30am Rick Pitts(Spc.Int.)

Saturday, September 13

4:15pm † Robert 'Bobby' Jones

Sunday, September 14

8:30am † Thomas Piggee

† Barbara Collier

10:00am Rick Pitts(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