

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 there is no second collection.

NEXT WEEK there is no second collection.

Father Greg raises a toast to you, the beautiful patrons of St Teresa. A toast, with a beverage better than champagne. Happy New Year!!!



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

WELCOME ALL PARISHIONERS, GUESTS AND NEWCOMERS AT ST. TERESA'S

You are always warmly welcomed, but on the first weekend of each month we make a special point of spending time to get to know one another.

If you are visiting our church today, know that we are honored by your presence. Our parish serves the needs of the community in many different ways. If we can be of service to you, do not hesitate to call on us.

If you have not already done so, please take a moment to make a name tag in the vestibule. If you are here early reading your bulletin, say hello to someone sitting close by, particularly if you have not met before. Join us after the 8:30 or 10am Mass on Sunday for refreshments and fellowship in our Hall.

NAME TAG SUNDAY!

WE WELCOME ALL NEWCOMERS TO ST TERESA, PUT ON A NAME TAG AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF

NOT REGISTERED TO OUR PARISH? PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND PLACE IT IN THE COLLECTION BASKET. WE WILL KEEP YOU UP TO DATE WITH EVERYTHING WE ARE DOING AT ST TERESA.

St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church

"In the measure you desire him, you will find him."
— Saint Teresa of Avila

JANUARY 4, 2026

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

A reminder that we would like all parishioners to shift to on line donation through our QR code. Seamless, simple, and easy to register the online donations or weekly tithing. Please scan the QR code in this box.

As a second giving option, the parish has just added Venmo. If you know what this is - great! If you don't, it's time to enter the 21st century :-)

venmo

NEWSPAPERS REPORT a flu bug that is especially hard on he elderly is all over the East Coast and heading our way.

Beginning Next Sunday, January 11th, only consecrated hosts will be offered communion until the end of the flu season.

Lector Workshop

On Saturday, January 31st, there is a Lector Workshop for all the parish lectors. Here's the schedule:

- 12:30pm – we'll start with sandwiches, etc., while we do a deep dive into how Saint Augustine understands and interprets Scripture. His understanding is the Catholic understanding.
- 1:15pm – we'll then have a workshop on the how's of proclaiming the Word.
- 2:00pm – then we will practice inside the church (in a most non-judgmental way, of course).
- 3:00pm – End (or maybe a bit earlier if we're good).
- Yes, please RSVP to Lynn Jacklevich at kg6cev@yahoo.com (or see her at the door and tell her in person).

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.

PASTOR
Rev. Gregory Houck, O.Carm.
pastor@stteresasf.org

IN RESIDENCE
Rev. Brian Henden, O.Carm.
bhenden@carmelites.net
Rev. Michael Kwiecien, O.Carm.
mkwiecien@carmelites.net

SOCIAL OUTREACH COORDINATOR
Bro. David Semmens, O.Carm.
brotherdave@stteresasf.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Laura Diaz-Flaviani, lflaviani@pacbell.net

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION
Anarose Schelstrate, anarose@stteresasf.org

Christmas and Epiphany

In secular terms, an epiphany is a moment of sudden insight or realization. It may describe a scientific breakthrough, a religious or philosophical discovery, or any circumstance in which a problem or situation is understood from a new or deeper perspective.

In theological terms, epiphany occurs when we have a new insight or realization into the mystery of God. In the New Testament, epiphany moments occur when John the Baptist points to Jesus and says, “Behold! the Lamb of God!” (Jn 1:29b), or when Peter blurts out, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God!” (Mt 16:16). In fact, the entire Christmas season might be viewed as a season of Epiphanies. Epiphany moments include:

- ♦ Elizabeth’s recognition of Mary as the bearer of the Christ (the Visitation)
- ♦ the angels’ appearance to shepherds to announce Jesus’ birth
- ♦ the appearance of the Star of Bethlehem
- ♦ the Wise Men who, upon following the star, find the newborn King
- ♦ the aged Simeon’s recognition of the infant Christ (The Presentation)
- ♦ the finding of the 12-year old Jesus in the Temple
- ♦ the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan
- ♦ the Wedding Feast at Cana

In each of these examples, someone experiences an “epiphany moment” in which Jesus shines forth, is revealed, or is understood in a new and different way.

Of course, the epiphany moment par excellence is the actual birth of Christ, and many Christians may be surprised to learn that it was not until the fourth century that Christians celebrated Christmas on December 25th. In fact, the roots of Christmas lie in the Feast of the Epiphany, and here is where the story gets both interesting and complicated.

Initially, the Eastern (Orthodox) Churches celebrated the Birth of Christ on January 6th, calling this feast Epiphany. However, the Orthodox celebration was not limited to Christ’s birth. It may also have included the Visit of the Magi, the Finding in the Temple, and even the Baptism of the Lord and the Wedding Feast at Cana.

By the end of the fourth century, the Western (Latin) Church established December 25th as the date for celebrating the Birth of Christ. The Feast of the Epiphany was celebrated on January 6th, twelve days after December 25th (this is the origin of the Twelve Days of Christmas). In many western cultures, December 25th was reserved as a religious feast, whereas January 6th took on a more secular favor. As Epiphany narrowed its focus to the Visit by the Magi, the custom of gift-giving evolved. This paralleled the wise men’s presentation of the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Even today, in some cultures gift exchange does not take place on Christmas; rather, it takes place on the Feast of the Three Kings.



Today, the Orthodox celebration of the Epiphany focuses on the Baptism of Jesus, whereas the Latin Church focuses on the Visitation of the Magi. After the Second Vatican Council, the revised liturgical calendar moved the Feast of the Epiphany from January 6th to the Sunday after New Year’s which, this year, falls on January 5th.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm

GUN SAFETY COMMITTEE

Let’s do all we can to ban assault weapons in 2026.



MASS INTENTIONS

As we celebrate Mass together we include in our prayers:

4:15pm † **Saturday, January 03**
† Mary A Burns

8:30am † **Sunday, January 04**
10:00am † Daniel Ornelas
† Robert & Lois Biniek

8:30am † **Monday, January 05**
Karin Garcia(Spc Int)

8:30am † **Tuesday, January 06**
Zakaria El Fatihi(Spc Int)

8:30am † **Wednesday, January 07**
Karin Garcia(Spc Int)

8:30am † **Thursday, January 08**
Zakaria El Fatihi(Spc Int)

8:30am † **Friday, January 09**
Mary Ellen Healy

4:15pm † **Saturday, January 10**
† Daniel Ornelas

8:30am † **Sunday, January 11**
10:00am † Sr. Kathleen Healy
† Mary Katherine Law

Coffee and Donuts and More

The Town Hall told us that social action is a front-burner concern. So from time to time (maybe once a month or so) there will be a short and interesting social action presentation during Sunday’s coffee-and-donuts - maybe 10 to 15 minutes. So don’t worry, there’ll be plenty of time for regular conversations and more donuts too.



ST TERESA'S GREEN TEAM

greenteam@stteresasf.org

After the Holidays: What to Do With What You Don’t Need

Even with the best intentions, many households end up with gifts that don’t fit, duplicates, or items they simply won’t use. The worst option is letting them gather dust — or throwing them away. A better approach is to keep items circulating so someone else can use them.

Donation centers such as Goodwill and Salvation Army accept clothing, household goods, electronics, and books (check condition guidelines). Online platforms like eBay, Craigslist, or neighborhood groups can help items find a new home. Community “Buy Nothing” groups are especially effective for quick, free, ultra-local exchanges.

For items you do keep, consider setting a reminder in mid January to sort and pass along anything that still isn’t needed — before it becomes clutter. And don’t forget packaging: gift bags, boxes, tins, and ribbons can all be saved and reused next year.

Buy Nothing Project: buynothingproject.org;
Goodwill donation guidelines: goodwill.org

The end of the Jubilee Year

Tuesday January 6th marks the end of the Jubilee Year, with Pope Leo XIV closing the Holy Door in St. Peter’s Basilica. Just because the Holy Year has ended doesn’t mean our holy resolution changes. For those looking to make a community minded new years resolution, make it a point in 2026 to help your neighbor and those in the St Teresa Parish.

