

**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](http://stteresasf.org)  
Email: [info@stteresasf.org](mailto: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

**SOLEMN VESPERS FOR THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

**20th Anniversary of Shared Prayer Catholic Archdiocese & Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco.**

Thursday January 22, 2026 @7:00 PM  
@St. Pious X Catholic Church Woodside

**This Week at Saint Teresa**

**Monday, 12th of January**

- 10:30 am Church Decorating
- 1030 am SVdP team meeting
- 6:30 pm Choir Practice

**Tuesday, 13th of January**

- 7:00 pm Pastoral Council(Zoom Only)

**Wednesday, 14th of January**

- 7:00 pm YAC Bible Study

**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

**SECOND COLLECTIONS**

**THIS WEEK** there is no second collection.

**NEXT WEEK** there is no second collection.




**Brace Yourselves!!!**

Change is coming to the inside of our church! We are rearranging the statutes to face the people of the parish and not the wall. The following statues will be moved Monday the 12th:

- Guadalupe
- St Anthony of Padua
- Laguardia
- Sacred Heart

You may not even notice their repositioning




**St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church**

**“In the measure you desire him, you will find him.”**  
– Saint Teresa of Avila


**JANUARY 11, 2026**

**THE BAPTISM 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**

**Pop Quiz!**

**Without looking, which biblical figure is featured in three panels of Michealangelo's work at the Sistine Chappel? Bring all of your answers to Father Brian after mass.**



**PASTOR**  
Rev. Gregory Houck, O.Carm.  
[pastor@stteresasf.org](mailto:pastor@stteresasf.org)

**IN RESIDENCE**  
Rev. Brian Henden, O.Carm.  
[bhenden@carmelites.net](mailto:bhenden@carmelites.net)  
Rev. Michael Kwiecien, O.Carm.  
[mkwiecien@carmelites.net](mailto:mkwiecien@carmelites.net)

**SOCIAL OUTREACH COORDINATOR**  
Bro. David Semmens, O.Carm.  
[brotherdave@stteresasf.org](mailto:brotherdave@stteresasf.org)

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**  
Laura Diaz-Flaviani, [lflaviani@pacbell.net](mailto:lflaviani@pacbell.net)

**DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION**  
Anarose Schelstrate, [anarose@stteresasf.org](mailto:anarose@stteresasf.org)

**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](mailto:kg6cev@yahoo.com) (or see her at the door and tell her in person).

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

Beginning this Sunday, only consecrated hosts will be offered communion until the end of the flu season.

Please join us in celebrating the Baptism of Julia Skylar Thai Vo & Eleanor June Vo

Children of Richard Vo and Elizabeth Donohue, Godchild of Trang Jensen & Lorraine Myszkowski. Julia and Eleanor will be baptized by Rev. Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm this Sunday at 10 AM mass.



## The Baptism of Jesus: An Embarrassment for the Early Church

Reading through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, it's surprising to discover that very few things appear in all four Gospels. For example: the stories of Jesus' birth – as well as the *Sermon on the Mount* and the *Our Father* – are found only in Matthew and Luke, and the *Institution of the Eucharist* at the Last Supper occurs in only three of the four Gospels (Jesus washes the disciples' feet in the Gospel of John). The fact is that only a handful of things appear in all four Gospels. These include the *Feeding of the Five Thousand*, the *Crucifixion*, and the *Resurrection*. The *Baptism of Jesus* also finds itself in this elite category, which begs us to ask, "What was so important about Jesus' Baptism that all four evangelists chose to write about it?"

It may come as a shock to many Christians that, perhaps, the Baptism of Jesus appears in all four gospels because it was an *embarrassment* to the early church. How did such a bizarre conclusion come about? Let me suggest what may have happened.

First and foremost, we need to recognize that, since the earliest days of the church, Baptism was the means by which new members were initiated into the community. The *Acts of the Apostles* gives us several examples of this practice. In Acts 2:41, on Pentecost, "Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day." In Acts 9:18, after his conversion on the Damascus road, Saul was baptized. And in Acts 10:48, Cornelius and other Gentiles were baptized after listening to the preaching of Peter.

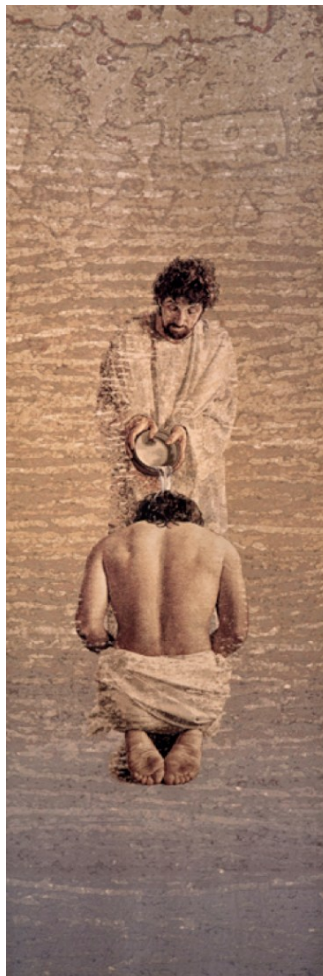
It is quite clear that Baptism was the means through which people were initiated into the Christian Community. What is less clear is the *meaning* of that Baptism. Baptism symbolized changing one's life, leaving the past behind and "putting on Christ. Given this rich symbolism, it is not hard to jump from "washing away the past" to the "cleansing and forgiveness of sin." By the time that the Gospels were written, the Theology of Baptism included the forgiveness of sin. One "washed away the past" and "put on Christ."

The "embarrassment" occurred when someone asked the obvious question: "If Baptism washes away sin, why does Jesus – who is without sin – go into the baptismal waters?"

In order to answer this question, we have to recognize that the baptism by John in the Jordan was categorically different from the Sacrament of Baptism practiced in the early church. John's baptism was an act of repentance, much like what we do on Ash Wednesday. When we place ashes on our foreheads, we "turn away from sin and follow the Gospel." Being signed with ashes is a sign that we want to change our behavior and live out faith on a deeper level. Being signed with ashes does not mean that our sins are forgiven; it does mean that we want to change our behavior and eliminate the "sinful practices" in our lives. John the Baptist never claimed that his baptism washed away sin. Only at later date did the Church connected Baptism with the forgiveness of sin.

When Jesus was baptized by John, he was "turning away" from his hidden life in Galilee to begin his public ministry, a path that would culminate in his death and resurrection.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm



### MASS INTENTIONS

*As we celebrate Mass together we include  
in our prayers:*

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

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

8:30am † **Monday, January 12**  
† Patty & Dan Sullivan

8:30am † **Tuesday, January 13**  
† Sr. Kathleen Healy

8:30am † **Wednesday, January 14**  
† William J. Burns

8:30am † **Thursday, January 15**  
† Daniel Ornelas

8:30am † **Friday, January 16**  
† Eloisa Perea

4:15pm † **Saturday, January 17**  
† Anita Ramirez

8:30am † **Sunday, January 18**  
† Sr. Lucia (Sp. Int)  
10:00am † Bob Jacklevich

Good-bye Christmas Season, Welcome Ordinary Time. You are welcome to take Christmas home with you by taking a poinsettia or tiny tree after Mass. For those attending the 4:15 and 8:30 Mass, please do take a plant but also please leave the plants around the ambo and the altar so it will still be Christmas-y for the 10:00 Mass.

We will be taking down decorations and redecorating for Ordinary Time on Monday, January 12, starting at 10:30. If you have time and energy, we will have work.

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

**Start the Year with Impact: Know Your Footprint!** New Year's resolutions often focus on personal improvement—health, finance, or learning a new skill. This January, consider adding "planet improvement" to your list. It is difficult to manage what you do not measure, so the first step toward a more sustainable year is understanding your current environmental impact.

Calculating your personal "footprint" gives you a baseline for improvement. It doesn't have to be drastic; awareness helps you spot the easiest wins.

- **Carbon:** Use an online calculator to see how your travel and energy habits stack up.
- **Water:** Look at your utility bill or consider how often you run appliances like dish-washers and washing machines.
- **Waste:** Do a simple "bin audit." What are you throwing away most often? Can it be reduced, composted or recycled?

Once you have your number, set one achievable goal—like reducing your waste by 10% or taking one fewer car trip per week.

**Resource:** EPA Carbon Footprint Calculator:  
[epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator](https://epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator)

### 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.

