



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

This year we are again delighted to be working with The Lantern to distribute Christmas cheer.

The tree with all the sparkling tags is our annual Giving Tree. Each child has 2 tags, with the name & age of the child along with clothing sizes or something practical on one tag; the other tag has a toy the child desires. There is no need to buy both, unless you take 2 tags for the same child. Some ask for **gift cards**—please be thoughtful in your selection of card & amount (to be age appropriate).

Return the wrapped package, with tag attached, no later than Sunday, December 17 to ensure that Santa is able to make timely deliveries.

Thank you for your generosity – be assured you will be making a child very happy.

ADVENT MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesdays & Fridays 8:30am

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24th

4:15 Family Mass

9:00 pm (Choir); Caroling Prior to Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 25th

8:30am & 10:00am

Caroling Prior to 10:00am Mass

While shopping this season, keep a look-out for inexpensive white athletic socks. We will have our annual **SOCK DRIVE** in January.

ST TERESA'S GREEN TEAM

Many studies have shown that material possessions do not equal happiness and that experiences are much more intrinsically fulfilling than things. Rather than buying more toys, clothes, and other trinkets for loved ones, consider giving them the gift of an experience! Buying a museum membership, orchestra season tickets, sport game tickets, annual national park passes, or even a pottery making lesson, are all great ways to provide somebody the gift of experiencing something new. For the kids on your Christmas list, consider giving movie tickets, taking them to a bowling alley or jump gym, or possibly even horseback riding lessons. Even if you've already purchased gifts for this year, consider adding some experiences as well or slowly transitioning to more experience based gifts over time.

YOU'RE INVITED!!

December 17th is the Third Sunday of Advent, *Gaudate Sunday*. *Gaudate* means "Rejoice!", and it marks the half-way point of Advent. After both the 8:30 am & 10 am Masses, we invite you to the Parish Hall to rejoice" with a breakfast of sausage, eggs, and pancakes. (vegetarian/vegan options available)

We promise plenty of food and fellowship, please join us.



We are in need of volunteers to help decorate the church for Christmas. The more volunteers, the quicker we will be done. If you are available on Sunday, December 24, following the 10am Mass, please contact Dn. Chuck or the office.



You are invited to attend parishioner Therese Labuguen's piano student recital on Sunday, December 10 at 3PM in our church. Come and enjoy the music!

2018 DONATION ENVELOPES . . .

are available in the back of the church. If you would like to be added to our Envelope Donor program, please contact the Parish Office.

If you would like the convenience of writing just one check per month, please contact the Parish Office to enroll in the Monthly Donor Program.



SOLSTICE is delighted to come back to sing their eclectic mix of old and new holiday songs and carols in the beautiful acoustics of Saint Teresa, 8 pm., Saturday December 16. Donation \$15-20, no one turned away for lack of funds. We hope you will join us!

CHRISTMAS MASSES

We are in need of Liturgical Ministers for the 4:15 & 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Masses and for the 8:30 & 10:00 am Masses on Christmas Day. There are sign-up sheets in the back of the church.

We Welcome You To St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church

Served by the Carmelites

DECEMBER 10, 2017 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



1490 19TH STREET (CHURCH)

LOCATED ON THE NE CORNER OF 19TH & CONNECTICUT STREETS

PASTOR

Rev. Michael A. Greenwell, O. Carm.
PastorStTeresaSF@aol.com

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.
mkwiecien@carmelnet.org

PARISH SECRETARY

Stephani Sheehan
stephani@stteresasf.org

DEACONS

Rev. Mr. Charles Allen, Jr.
chuck@stteresasf.org

Rev. Mr. Martin Schurr
svdpms@yahoo.com

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Laura Diaz-Flaviani
lflaviani@pacbell.net

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

Anarose Schelstrate
anarose0707@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS

10:00am to 12:30pm
1:00pm to 4:30pm

Website: stteresasf.org

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil 4:15 pm
Sunday 8:30 &
10:00 am

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 8:30 am
Friday 8:30 am

MARRIAGE

Please call six months in advance.

BAPTISM &

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Please call the Parish Office for an appointment.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Jim Schelstrate Steve Miller
David Paquette Ron Labuguen
Judy Warnock Victoria Flores

PARISH OFFICE / MAILING ADDRESS

390 Missouri St
San Francisco, CA 94107
Phone: 415.285.5272
Fax: 415.285.8510
E-mail: info@stteresasf.org

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

As we celebrate Mass together we include in our prayers:

- 4:15pm **Saturday, December 9**
† Vincent Cocciolone
- 8:30am **Sunday, December 10**
The People of the Parish
- 10:00am † Dory Yochum
- 8:30am **Tuesday, December 12**
Those seeking Divine Help & Cure through Frederic Ozanam's Intercession
- 8:30am **Friday, December 15**
† Albert Salvi
- 4:15pm **Saturday, December 16**
† Edward F. Henke
The People of the Parish
- 8:30am **Sunday, December 17**
† Alberto Salvi
- 10:00am † Francine Berry

Parish Calendar

- Sun, Dec 10 - Faith Formation, 9:00am, Hall
- Mon, Dec 11 - AA Step Meeting, 6:30pm
- Tue, Dec 12 - SVdP Grocery Distribution
1:00pm, Hall
- Pastoral Council
7:00pm, Avila
- Wed, Dec 13 - Choir Practice, 6:30pm
- Sat, Dec 16 - AA Meeting, 7pm, Avila
- Sun, Dec 17 - Pancake Breakfast
9am—12 noon, Hall
- NO Faith Formation

ATTENTION ALL LECTORS

If you have not yet picked up your new Workbook, they are in the Sacristy. Please note you have picked-up your book on the provided sheet.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

December 9 & 10

Today the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious is being taken. The women and men Religious of the Archdiocese are appreciative of any help you can give and count on your assistance as they face retirement with limited resources. More importantly, though, please remember in your prayers the more than 500 women and men religious living and serving in the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

December 16 & 17

There will be no second collection next weekend.

WEEKEND COLLECTION

(Envelope Donors & Loose Cash)

NOVEMBER 25 & 26

\$1,499

DECEMBER 2 & 3

\$1,848

THANK YOU!

Ministers Schedule for Next Week

December 16 & 17

4:15 PM

- Lector: T. Jackson
- Bread: B. Noelke
- Cup: J. Burns
- Hosp: J. Marasco

10:00 AM

- 1 Lector: B. Doyle
- 2 Lector: G. Femec
- 1 Bread: R. Labuguen
- 2 Bread: A. Schelstrate
- 3 Bread: K. McMahon

8:30 AM

- Lector: T. Lang
- Bread: R. Kingman
- Cup: S. Lang
- Hosp: T. Lando
- 1 Cup: C. Allen
- 2 Cup: S. Miller
- Hosp: E. Gries
- M. Gries

THE COMPLICATED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JESUS AND JOHN THE BAPTIST

It doesn't matter whether we are in Cycle A, B, or C; the pattern for the Advent Gospel readings is always the same: the First Sunday of Advent focuses on the Second Coming of Christ; the Second and Third Sundays of Advent center on the figure of John the Baptist; and the Fourth Sunday of Advent begins the Christmas Story.

Today's Gospel is actually the beginning of the Gospel of Mark, and it opens with the Evangelist referencing today's first reading from the Prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! (Is 40:3)

The Gospel continues with a description of John the Baptist, a bizarre character clothed in a camel's hair garment, feeding on locusts and wild honey, and baptizing in the Jordan. "One mightier than I is coming after me . . . he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (Mk 1:8)

Next Sunday's Gospel is taken from John, and it parallels today's reading from Mark. It is, however, a bit different: John the Evangelist is especially adamant in claiming that John the Baptist is **not** the Christ . . . which raises the question: if John claims that he is **not** the Christ, does that mean there were people who claimed that the Baptist was, in fact, the Messiah?

This notion is not as far-fetched as it might seem. Later in the Gospel of Matthew (Mt 11:2-11), we have a curious story about John the Baptist. John is in prison, and he instructs his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Mt 3:11) This incident is puzzling for two reasons. First, earlier in the Gospel of Matthew, the Baptist appears to recognize Jesus as the Messiah ("I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" (Mt 3:14)) Eight chapters later, the Baptist not only questions whether Jesus is the "one who is to come," but also instructs his *disciples* to ask the question. This is puzzling because it raises the issue of what the Baptist is doing with a group of *disciples*.

Scholars have long puzzled over these cryptic stories dealing with Jesus and John. It's almost as if the Evangelists are trying to "smooth over" some tension that existed between Jesus and the Baptist, and the best explanation I've heard goes something like this.

The major difference between Jesus and the Baptist involves *methodology*. John the Baptist abandoned the city and moved to the desert. If a person wanted to repent, he or she had to "make the first move" and travel to the desert for John's baptism of repentance. For John the Baptist, sinners had to take the initiative and seek out John in the desert.

Jesus did just the opposite. After his baptism, Jesus spent 40 days in the desert as a prelude to his public ministry. But instead of remaining in the desert waiting for sinners to come to him, Jesus returned to the city and actively sought them. Both Jesus and John preached repentance; they just went about it in a different way.

The fact that, on two of the four Sundays of Advent, the Gospel focuses on John the Baptist indicates that the early Church held the Baptist in high esteem. But the fact that John the Baptist had his own disciples and, perhaps, questioned whether Jesus was the Messiah indicates that the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist is more complicated than it might seem.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.

Welcome to St. Teresa'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.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

- New Parishioner
- Send Sunday envelopes
- New Address
- Send Monthly Donor Form
- New Phone
- Moving—remove from mailing list