

## AID FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

This year our Parish Council added envelopes to the Giving Tree. If you wish to make a donation to refugee families—mothers, fathers, and children—please put a check made out to St. Teresa of Avila in the envelope. All funds received will go to the refugees c/o Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR). All donations are tax-deductible.

## THANK YOU!

A big thank you to all who donated so generously to the kids on the Giving Tree. You brightened the Christmas of more than 100 children.

Thanks also to the elves – who worked to make this happen so smoothly!

## ADVENT MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesdays & Fridays 8:30am

### Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

4:15 Family Mass

9:00 pm (Choir); Caroling @ 8:30pm

### Christmas Day

Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

8:30am & 10:00am

Caroling Prior to 10:00am Mass

Parking will be available in the ACTCM lot, enter on Connecticut (between 19 & 20 Sts.)

The **DONATION ENVELOPES** for those already enrolled in this program are available for pick-up in the back of the church. Contact the Parish Office if you would like envelopes.

Your Pastors, Rev. Michael A. Greenwell, O. Carm and Fr. Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm., along with the Pastoral staff, Anarose, Laura, Stephani, and Deacons Chuck & Marty, want to take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Merry, Happy and Blessed Christmas!

We are in need of volunteers to help decorate the church for Christmas. If you are available on Wednesday, December 23, please come to the church after 11am. We expect to be done by 3:00pm.

Due to the holidays and our Parish Secretary taking vacation time, the Parish Office will be closed December 17 — December 29

## 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.

## ST TERESA'S GREEN TEAM

*In those countries which should be making the greatest changes in consumer habits, young people have a new ecological sensitivity and a generous spirit, and some of them are making admirable efforts to protect the environment. At the same time, they have grown up in a milieu of extreme consumerism and affluence which makes it difficult to develop other habits.*

From the Papal Encyclical, *Laudato Si*, ¶1206)

# WE WELCOME YOU TO ST. TERESA OF AVILA CATHOLIC CHURCH

SERVED BY THE CARMELITES



## DECEMBER 20, 2015 FOURTH 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.  
mkwicien@carmelnet.org

### DEACON

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

### PARISH SECRETARY

Stephani Sheehan  
stephani@stteresasf.org

### OFFICE HOURS

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

Website: [stteresasf.org](http://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  
Tricia Lawrence Judy Warnock

### PARISH OFFICE / MAILING ADDRESS

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

## Parish Calendar

Sun, Dec 20 - Faith Formation, 9:00am, Hall  
 Mon, Dec 21 - AA Meeting, 6:30pm, Avila  
 - Choir Practice, 6:30pm  
 Tue, Dec 22 - SVdP Sandwich Tuesday  
 9:00am, Parish Kitchen  
 - SVdP Grocery Distribution  
 1:00pm, Hall  
 Thur, Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Masses  
 4:15pm & 9:00pm  
 Fri, Dec 25 - Christmas Day Masses  
 8:30am & 10:00am  
 Sat, Dec 26 - AA Meeting, 7pm, Church Hall  
 Sun, Dec 27 - No Faith Formation

**WEEKEND FIRST COLLECTION**  
**DECEMBER 12 & 13**  
**\$2,222**  
**THANK YOU!**

### Ministers Schedule for Next Week December 26 & 27

<b>4:15 PM</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
Lector: A. Rose	1 Lector: R. Pitts
Bread: E. Perea	2 Lector: D.B. Bernstein
Cup: B. Noelke	1 Bread: C. Arett
Hosp: R. Jones	2 Bread: J. Warnock
	3 Bread: M. Suisala
<b>8:30 AM</b>	1 Cup: C. Allen
Lector: T. Lang	2 Cup: G. McGrath
Bread: J. Newman	Hosp: J. Warnock
Cup: S. Lang	
Hosp: T. Lando	

## SECOND COLLECTIONS

**December 19 & 20**

There is no second collection this weekend.

**December 26 & 27**

The second collection next weekend benefits the St. Teresa Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

### MASS INTENTIONS

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

**Saturday, December 19**

4:15pm The Sick & Troubled Seeking  
Frederic Ozanam's Divine intercession  
 Henry Morgan Jr. (Spec. Int.)

**Sunday, December 20**

8:30am The People of the Parish  
 10:00am † James & Louise Holden

**Tuesday, December 22**

8:30am † Mike Comaich

**Thursday, December 24**

4:15pm † Maria Canonica  
 9:00pm † Mike Comaich

**Friday, December 25**

8:30am Ruby & Eulagio Sanchez (Spec. Int.)  
 10:00am † Daniel Sullivan

**Saturday, December 26**

4:15pm † James J. Burns, Jr.  
 Henry Morgan Jr. (Spec. Int.)

**Sunday, December 27**

8:30am The People of the Parish  
 10:00am † Dory Yochum

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: HERE BEGINS THE CHRISTMAS STORY

It doesn't matter whether we are in Year A, B, or C: the Gospels for the four Sundays of Advent follow the same pattern. The first Sunday is always about the end of time, the second coming of Christ. The second and third Sundays center on John the Baptist. And, on the fourth Sunday, we actually begin the Christmas story, with the gospels providing "background material" surrounding the Birth of Christ.

Two years ago (Cycle A), the Gospel for the this Sunday was from Matthew (Mt 1:18-24). In this passage, Joseph learns of Mary's pregnancy, and . . .

*"[he]. . . decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream and said to him: 'Joseph, son of David, have no fear about taking Mary as your wife. It is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived this child.'"*

When Joseph awoke from his dream, he decided to receive Mary into his home as his wife, rather than expose her to the law.

Last year (Cycle B), the Gospel for this Sunday was the *Annunciation* (Lk 1:26-38) . In this passage, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and asked whether she was willing to be the Mother of God. Perplexed, Mary asked, "How can this be since I do not know man?" Gabriel explained how "the Holy Spirit will come upon you," and "the holy offspring will be called the Son of God," for "nothing is impossible with God." Gabriel pointed out that Mary's kinswoman Elizabeth conceived in her old age and was now in her sixth month, and Mary consents to the angel's request: "I am the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say."

This year (Cycle-C), our Gospel is again taken from Luke (Lk 1:39-45). It continues where last year's passage left off with the story of the *Visitation*. In this narrative, Mary leaves Galilee for the hill country to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, now six months pregnant with John the Baptist. When Mary enters Zechariah's house, the baby stirs in Elizabeth's womb, whereupon Elizabeth cries out, "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb!"

When we examine the three liturgical cycles, we notice that the Gospels for this Sunday serve as a type of prelude to the Christmas story. On one level, the stories provide additional "background material" to the birth of Christ. Luke's stories of the *Annunciation* and *Visitation* speak of the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the conception of both Jesus and John the Baptist, while the Matthean text helps us to understand how Joseph not only accepts Mary's pregnancy but also accepts the child Jesus as his own.

But there is more to these stories than just background material. There is a deeply-rooted theological message underlying these texts. Each narrative focuses on *faith* and *trust in God*. In the case of the barren Elizabeth, the conception of John the Baptist – though unusual and extraordinary – is not necessarily miraculous; the same cannot be said of the conception of Jesus. Mary's belief that "all things are possible with God" grounds her faith and trust in God . . . which is matched only by Joseph's faith: he learns the details of Mary's conception and pregnancy *in a dream!* What is truly remarkable is that Joseph believes it!

On the surface, the Gospels for the Fourth Sunday of Advent "lead in" to the Christmas stories. But on another level, they are three of the most profound examples of faith and trust in God found anywhere in the scriptures.

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