

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!

ADVENT MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesdays in Advent 6:15pm
Tuesdays & Fridays 8:30am

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th
4:15 Family Mass
9:00 pm (Choir); Caroling at 8:30pm

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25th
8:30am & 10:00am
Caroling at 9:30am

Parking for all Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses will be available in the ACTCM parking lot. Enter on Connecticut Street between 19th & 20th Streets.

THANK YOU . . .

To Fr. Kwiecien and Anarose Schelstrate for organizing the wonderful parish breakfast last Sunday. A thank you also to the Social Committee for their lovely decorations. And we want to send a Special Thank You to our anonymous parishioners, who donated most of the food served!

GARDEN FUND

Did you have a great year? If so, you may have a need to donate before year's end. We have started a fund earmarked for upgrades to our churchyard, turning it into a more usable space. Won't you please consider making an end-of-year donation to this worthy cause, sure to benefit the entire parish community!

WE WELCOME YOU TO ST. TERESA OF AVILA CATHOLIC CHURCH

SERVED BY THE CARMELITES

DECEMBER 21, 2014

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.
mkwiecien@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

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

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.

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!

Due to the holidays and our Parish Secretary taking vacation time, the Parish Office will be closed December 18 — December 30

**WEEKEND COLLECTION
DECEMBER 13 & 14
\$1,622
THANK YOU!**

DONATION ENVELOPES

The envelopes for those who are already enrolled in this program are available for pick-up in the vestibule of the church.

Parish Calendar

Sun, Dec 21 - Faith Formation, 9:00 am
Mon, Dec 22 - Choir Practice, 6:30pm
Tue, Dec 23 - SVdP Sandwich Tuesday
9:00am, Parish Kitchen
- SVdP Grocery Distribution
2:00pm, Sammon
Wed, Dec 24 - Mass, 4:15pm & 9:00pm
Thur, Dec 25 - Mass, 8:30am & 10:00am
Sat, Dec 27 - AA Meeting, 7pm, Sammon
Sun, Dec 28 - No Faith Formation

MASS INTENTIONS

As we celebrate Mass together
we include in our prayers:

Saturday, December 20

4:15pm The People of the Parish
Henry Morgan Jr. (Spec. Int.)

Sunday, December 21

8:30am + Michele Foss, Ray Cooke &
Paul Beaumont

10:00am The People of the Parish

Tuesday, December 23

8:30am The Sick of the Parish

Wednesday, December 24

4:15pm Lasting Peace on Earth
9:00pm The People of the Parish

Thursday, December 25

8:30am Cessation of Suffering from War
10:00am + John Warnock

Friday, December 26

8:30am The Deceased of the Parish

Saturday, December 27

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

Sunday, December 21

8:30am The People of the Parish
10:00am + John Warnock

SECOND COLLECTION

December 20 & 21

No second collection is scheduled.

December 27 & 28

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

REVIEWS, PLEASE

'Tis the season when folks are on the lookout for a great place to embrace the season. Won't you please take a moment to write a review (or update) of our parish on Yelp? Let others in on the St. Teresa "secret".

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.

Ministers' schedules were emailed on Wed, Dec 17. Copies are available in the Sacristy.

Ministers Schedule for Next Week December 27 & 28

4:15 PM

Lector: J. Kennedy
Bread: E. Perea
Cup: B. Baird
Hosp: R. DeTagle

10:00 AM

1 Lector: L. Jacklevich
2 Lector: D. Aikins
1 Bread: C. Arett
2 Bread: Volunteer
3 Bread: Volunteer

8:30 AM

Lector: E. Dunn
Bread: R. Kingman
Cup: S. Lang
Hosp: T. Lando

1 Cup: C. Allen
2 Cup: G. McGrath
Hosp: K. Varandas
B. Cassidy
L. Mastrangelo

THE CHRISTMAS STORY BEGINS ON THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Whether we are in Year A, B, or C, the pattern of the Gospel readings for the Season of Advent is always the same. The first Sunday of Advent – which marks the beginning of the liturgical year – speaks, ironically, not about the first coming of Christ (his birth), but about the second coming of Christ (the end of time). The second and third Sundays of Advent center on John the Baptist, and on the Fourth Sunday we begin the Christmas story. Today's Gospel serves as a prologue to Christmas, but before I focus on this Sunday's Gospel I'd like to say a few words about the Christmas stories in general.

With respect to the Christmas stories, there are two things that surprise most Christians. First, the Christmas stories appear in only two of the four Gospels. Mark and John begin their Gospels with the preaching of John the Baptist, which is immediately followed by Jesus' Baptism by John in the Jordan. Stories of Jesus' birth are conspicuously absent from Mark and John; they appear only in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

The second surprise is that the Christmas stories in Matthew and Luke are so *different*. Matthew's Gospel focuses on Joseph, and features the Star of Bethlehem, the visit of the Wise Men (the Magi or Three Kings), the flight into Egypt, and the massacre of Jewish infants by the wicked King, Herod. In the Gospel of Luke, Joseph is barely mentioned. Instead, the focus is on Mary, and in Luke's Gospel the Star of Bethlehem gives way to Angels singing "*Glory to God in the Highest!*", Magi are replaced by Shepherds in the adoration of the infant Christ child, and – because there is no wicked King Herod murdering innocent children – the Holy Family has no need to detour into Egypt, returning instead to their hometown of Nazareth in Galilee. What is most surprising about these two infancy narratives is just how different they are!

Last year, when we read from the Gospel of Matthew, we learned that when Joseph discovered Mary's pregnancy he "decided to divorce her quietly" . . . that is, until he had a dream in which the exceptional circumstances of Jesus' conception and birth were revealed. Joseph accepts both Mary as his wife and Jesus as his child, and Matthew's infancy narrative revolves around the person of Joseph.

This year and next, when the Gospels are taken from Luke, the focus is on *women*. This year, we read about the *Annunciation* (when the Angel Gabriel visits Mary and asks whether she will be mother of the Messiah); next year we will read about the *Visitation* (when Mary visits her kinswoman, Elizabeth, and John the Baptist kicks in Elizabeth's womb). In both of these accounts the main character is Mary, the Mother of God.

What is important to note about these stories is that they were never intended to be precise historical narratives. Instead, their purpose has always been theological. With respect to these Gospels, several theological points stand out. First, God can and will do "impossible things" (Elizabeth conceives John the Baptist in her old age; Mary conceives Jesus by the power of the Spirit). Secondly, these stories involve faith and trust in God (Elizabeth, Mary, and Joseph demonstrate unbelievable faith and trust). And, thirdly, God's divine intervention incorporates human cooperation and consent: what is all too often missed when we talk about the infancy narratives is that the birth of Jesus only happened because Mary said "Yes!" to God.

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