

Operation New Socks for the Homeless



Warm their hearts by warming their feet!

Starting January 1st and continuing through the month of January, there will be baskets throughout the church and hall awaiting your donations of new, white athletic socks. A pair of new socks can make a huge impact on the lives of those without resources. Won't you please help us meet or exceed our goal of 2,000 pairs of socks?

AAA 2018

We have recently been notified that our goal for 2018 is **\$28,224**. We will kick-off the campaign February 3 & 4. More information to follow.

SAVE THE DATE

Retirement Luncheon for Deacon Chuck

Sunday, January 28
Following 10:00am Mass

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE


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

ST TERESA'S GREEN TEAM

Save the ribbon and gift wrap! As you're unwrapping your gifts, try to avoid wrinkling and ripping the gift wrap and ribbons. You can roll it into a tube and store it for reuse, or use it for other projects.

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



On Monday, January 1st, we will celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God With Mass at 9:00am

THANK YOU . . .

To Fr. Greenwell, Fr. Kwiecien, Anarose Schelstrate, and Deacon Chuck for organizing the wonderful parish breakfast last Sunday. A thank you also to the volunteers who helped with serving and decorating. And a Special Thank You to our anonymous parishioners, who donated most of the food served!

THANK YOU!

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

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

2018 DONATION ENVELOPES . . .

are available in the back of the church. 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.

We Welcome You To
St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church
Served by the Carmelites



DECEMBER 24, 2017
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

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:

- Saturday, December 23**
4:15pm † Michael J. Comaich
Henry Morgan, Jr. (Spec Int.)
- Sunday, December 24**
8:30am The People of the Parish
10:00am † Giuseppe & Maria Molinari
4:15pm † Edward M. Henke
9:00pm † James J. Burns, Jr.
- Monday, December 25**
8:30am Tyler Murray (Spec. Int.)
10:00am † Elena & Edilberto Natividad
- Tuesday, December 26**
8:30am Philip Harkins (Spec. Int.)
- Friday, December 29**
8:30am † Georgeanna Mema
- Saturday, December 30**
4:15pm † Steven Marquart
Henry Morgan, Jr. (Spec. Int.)
- Sunday, December 31**
8:30am The People of the Parish
10:00am The Deceased of the Parish

SECOND COLLECTIONS

December 23 & 24
There will be no second collection this weekend.

December 30 & 31
Next week's second collection will benefit the St. Teresa Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

WEEKEND COLLECTION

(Envelope Donors & Loose Cash)

DECEMBER 16 & 17
\$2,791

THANK YOU!



The Parish Office
will be closed
December 25 —
January 1
(will re-open 10am on
January 2)

Parish Calendar

- Sun, Dec 24 - NO Faith Formation
- Christmas Vigil Mass
4:15 & 9:00 pm
- Mon, Dec 25 - Parish Office Closed
- Mon, Jan 1 - All Week
- Mon, Dec 25 - AA Step Meeting, 6:30pm
- Tue, Dec 26 - SVdP Sandwich Tuesday
9:00am, Parish Kitchen
- SVdP Grocery Distribution
1:00pm, Hall
- Sat, Dec 30 - AA Meeting, 7pm, Avila
- Sun, Dec 31 - NO Faith Formation

Ministers Schedule for Next Week
December 30 & 31

	4:15 PM	10:00 AM
Lector:	R.M. Ostler	1 Lector: A. Schelstrate
Bread:	A. Rose	2 Lector: G. Femec
Cup:	J. Daddio	1 Bread: G. McGrath
Hosp:	L. Lechich	2 Bread: M.K. Law
		3 Bread: Volunteer
8:30 AM		1 Cup: C. Allen
Lector:	T. Lang	2 Cup: J. Warnock
Bread:	P. English	Hosp: L. Gauna
Cup:	S. Lang	
Hosp:	T. Lando	

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

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: THE BEGINNING OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY

It doesn't matter whether we are in Cycle A, B, or C . . . the pattern of the Advent Gospel readings is always the same. The first Sunday of Advent speaks, not of Christ's first coming at Christmas, but of his second coming at the end of time. The second and third Sundays feature John the Baptist, and on the Fourth Sunday we begin the Christmas story. The Gospel on the Fourth Sunday of Advent serves as a prologue to the events of Christmas, but before I focus on today's text, I'd like to briefly examine the Gospel accounts surrounding Jesus' birth.

There are two things that Christians find surprising about the Christmas stories. The first is that the accounts of Jesus' birth are found in only two of the four Gospels, Matthew and Luke. The other two Gospels – Mark and John – begin, not with the birth of Jesus, but with Jesus' baptism in the Jordan. For Mark and John, the Gospel begins with Jesus' public ministry, and stories of Jesus' birth are conspicuously absent from these two Gospels.

The second surprise is that the Christmas stories in Matthew and Luke are so *different* from each other. In Matthew the "main character" is Joseph, not Mary, and it is in Matthew's Gospel that we find the Star of Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, the massacre of Jewish infants by wicked King Herod, and the Holy Family's miraculous flight and escape into Egypt.

In the Gospel of Luke, Joseph is barely mentioned; instead, the focus is on Mary. In Luke's Gospel, the Star of Bethlehem gives way to Angels singing "*Glory to God in the Highest!*", and there are no wise men from the East. Instead, shepherds replace the wise men as the first to worship the newly-born King; there is no wicked King Herod to murder innocent children; and the Holy Family has no need to flee to the safety of Egypt. Instead, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph return to their hometown of Nazareth in Galilee, and we hear nothing about Jesus until he is "lost" in the Temple at the age of twelve. When we compare the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke, we are surprised, not simply because they are so different from each other, but because they are so *incompatible* with each other!

Last year, on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we read from the Gospel of Matthew. In that passage we learned that, when Joseph discovered Mary's pregnancy, he decided to "divorce her quietly". Such was Joseph's plan until he had a dream which revealed the special circumstances of Jesus' conception and birth. Ultimately, Joseph accepts both Mary as his wife and Jesus as his child, and Matthew's infancy narrative revolves around the faith of Joseph.

In Cycles B and C, the Gospels are taken from Luke and the focus is primarily on Mary. This year's Gospel describes the *Annunciation*, when the Angel Gabriel visited Mary and asked whether she would be the mother of Christ. Next year, we will read about the *Visitation*, when Mary's visits her kinswoman, Elizabeth, and John the Baptist kicks in Elizabeth's womb. In both of these accounts, the focus is on Mary, the Mother of God.

We should note that these stories were never intended to be precise historical narratives. Instead, their purpose has always been theological, and several theological points stand out. First, God can and will do "impossible things" (Elizabeth conceives in her old age; Mary conceives by the power of the Spirit). Second, these stories involve faith and trust in God (notice that Elizabeth, Mary, and Joseph demonstrate incredible faith and trust). And finally, God's divine action incorporates human cooperation, participation, and consent.

The bottom line is that all too often we miss the most important point of the infancy narratives: that the birth of Jesus happened only because Mary said "Yes!" to God.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.