



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!

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

 Due to the holidays and our Parish Secretary taking vacation time, the Parish Office will be closed December 21 — January 4

**ST TERESA'S GREEN TEAM**  
A common mistake many people make around the holidays is loading their recycling bins with wrapping paper, tissue, ribbons and more. Unfortunately, the shiny, laminated (metallic) paper is not recyclable. Please be mindful when separating items into the appropriate bin. Further, keep an eye out for bows, ribbons, bags, and other wrappings that can be salvaged and used again next year!



Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

Next weekend we will be celebrating the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God at all our Masses

Saturday, December 31 at 4:15pm  
Sunday, January 1 at 8:30 & 10:00 am

The Mass times listed in Catholic San Francisco are incorrect.

**YEAREND TAX REPORTING**  
Letters acknowledging donations for 2016 will be sent out during the month of January to all Envelope & Monthly donors who contributed more than \$200. If you donated by checks in the basket and would like a tax letter, please email Stephani.



Operation New Socks for the Homeless

Warm their hearts by warming their feet!

Starting next weekend and continuing through the month of January, there will be baskets throughout the church and hall awaiting your donations of new, white athletic socks.

With the wet weather this winter, 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 before the end of January?

**WE WELCOME YOU TO**  
**ST. TERESA OF AVILA CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
SERVED BY THE CARMELITES



**DECEMBER 25, 2016**  
**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**



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

**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

**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  
Judy Warnock

**PARISH OFFICE / MAILING ADDRESS**  
390 Missouri St  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
Phone: 415.285.5272  
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**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.*

## THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Most of us are familiar with the song, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, but few of us know the origin and history of these twelve days.

The Twelve Days of Christmas are the days between Christmas and Epiphany. The First Day of Christmas is December 25<sup>th</sup>, and if you count the next twelve days, you'll discover that the "Twelfth Night" falls on the evening of January 5<sup>th</sup>. The Epiphany is celebrated on January 6<sup>th</sup>, and – as is the custom in the church – a feast "officially begins" when the sun goes down the night before.

The origins of the Twelve Days of Christmas are uncertain, but they have been celebrated in Europe since the middle ages. Many of the days celebrate a saint, but there are also different celebrations associated with this 12-day period. In this week's column I'd like to write about the days from Christmas to New Year's, and, next week, I'll write about the days between New Year's and Epiphany.

Day 1 (December 25<sup>th</sup>) is Christmas day, and it celebrates the Birth of Jesus.

Day 2 (December 26<sup>th</sup>) is the Feast of St. Stephen (Stephen was a deacon and the Church's first martyr). It is also known as *Boxing Day* . . . but not because it has anything to do with fist-cuffs. *Boxing Day* was the day when the alms boxes – collection boxes for the poor, often kept in churches – were opened so that the contents could be distributed to the poor. Some churches still open these boxes on Boxing Day. Boxing Day is the day that the hymn *Good King Wenceslas* takes place, when the king brings food to a poor family.

Day 3 (December 27<sup>th</sup>) is the Feast of St. John the Apostle, the only Apostle who was not a martyr. According to tradition, John was "the disciple Jesus loved," the Evangelist of the Fourth Gospel, and the person who, at the foot of the cross, was charged with caring for Mary the Mother of Jesus. Whether John the Apostle and John the Evangelist are the same person is the subject of scholarly debate, but this feast has been celebrated on this date since at least the middle ages.

Day 4 (December 28<sup>th</sup>) is the Feast of the Holy Innocents. According to the Gospel of Matthew, when King Herod could not find the infant Jesus he massacred innocent children, just as Pharaoh killed innocent Hebrew babies 1200 years before. And, just as Moses escaped Pharaoh's wrath, so too did Jesus escape from the clutches of Herod.

Day 5 (December 29<sup>th</sup>) is the Feast of St. Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury. He was in conflict with Henry II, King of England, over the rights and privileges of the Church, and was murdered by the king's followers in Canterbury Cathedral on this date in 1170.

Day 6 (December 30<sup>th</sup>) is the Feast of St Egwin of Worcester, who is not even listed in the latest calendar of saints! (As you can see, the Twelve Days of Christmas are decidedly English in origin, in that several of the days and celebrations trace their roots to Great Britain.)

Day 7 (December 31<sup>st</sup>). Pope Sylvester I – one of the earliest popes (in the 4th Century) – is traditionally celebrated on this day. In the United Kingdom, New Years Eve was a traditional day for 'games' and sporting competitions. (Once again, the "English roots" are apparent.)

Which brings us to Day 8, the Octave of Christmas (January 1<sup>st</sup>). In next week's column I'll pick up with New Year's Day and write about the remaining Twelve Days of Christmas.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.

## SECOND COLLECTIONS

### December 24 & 25

This week's second collection benefits the St. Teresa Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

### December 31 & January 1

Next week's second collection benefits the St. Teresa Building & Maintenance Fund.

## WEEKEND COLLECTION

### DECEMBER 17 & 18

**\$1,620**

**THANK YOU!**

The Ministers' Schedules for January & February will be sent out the first week of January. There will be copies available in the Sacristy the weekend of Jan 7/8.

### Ministers Schedule for Next Week

#### December 31 & January 1

<b>4:15 PM</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
Lector: R.M. Ostler	1 Lector: L. Jacklevich
Bread: E. Perea	2 Lector: A. Schelstrate
Cup: B. Noelke	1 Bread: S. Miller
Hosp: L. Lechich	2 Bread: K. Schelstrate
	3 Bread: J. Warnock
<b>8:30 AM</b>	1 Cup: C. Allen
Lector: T. Lang	2 Cup: J. Schelstrate
Bread: J.T. Wymer	Hosp: J. Warnock
Cup: S. Lang	
Hosp: T. Lando	

### MASS INTENTIONS

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

#### Saturday, December 24

4:15pm † Edward Henke  
 9:00pm † James Burns, Jr.  
 Henry Morgan Jr. (Spec. Int.)

#### Sunday, December 25

8:30am † Joyce Huddleston  
 10:00am † Mike Comaich

#### Tuesday, December 27

8:30am Tyler Murray

#### Friday, December 30

8:30am † Anita Sorokolit

#### Saturday, December 31

4:15pm Audrey & Bob Rose (Spec. Int.)  
 Henry Morgan Jr. (Spec. Int.)

#### Sunday, January 1

8:30am The Sick of the Parish  
 10:00am The People of the Parish

## Parish Calendar

- Sun, Dec 25 - NO Faith Formation
- Mon, Dec 26 - Choir Practice, 6:30pm
- AA Step Meeting, 6:30pm
- Tue, Dec 27 - SVdP Sandwich Tuesday
- 9:00am, Parish Kitchen
- SVdP Grocery Distribution
- 1:00pm, Hall
- Sat, Dec 31 - AA Meeting, 7pm, Avila
- Sun, Jan 1 - NO Faith Formation

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Parishioner       | <input type="checkbox"/> New Address             | <input type="checkbox"/> New Phone                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Send Sunday envelopes | <input type="checkbox"/> Send Monthly Donor Form | <input type="checkbox"/> Moving—remove from mailing list |