

Birth is a miracle from God. Every mother of a newborn can look down with awe at the new life she cradles in her arms. She might ask her child, "Where did you come from, little one?" She might say the words of poet Maureen Hawkins: "Before you were conceived, I wanted you. Before you were born, I loved you. Before you were here an hour, I would give my life for you."

Today's Gospel of Luke describes this in one sentence: "Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart." We marvel at Mary, the Mother of God, a teenager from Nazareth. She gave birth to a tiny baby who was also God. It is a miracle within a miracle.

Deacon Dick Folger, *Celebration*

PLEASE NOTE

The Parish Office will be closed Monday, December 26 through Monday, January 2, 2012. We will re-open at 10am on Tuesday, January 3rd.

2011 AAA UPDATE

As of December 8:

Assessed Amount: \$26,600
 Amount Received: \$17,171 (64.6%)
 Additional Pledged: \$ 300 (1.1%)
 Amount Needed: \$ 9,129 (34.3%)

The 2011 Appeal is ending December 31st. **This is a great opportunity to receive a tax deduction for next year's taxes.** Remember, any monies not raised will need to be paid from our general funds.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Parents of children in both the Good shepherd and the Faith Formation programs are reminded that January 8th is a regular day of classes and sessions. Please be your remarkable selves and get the Good Shepherd children to the hall by 9:00 a.m. and the Faith Formation students here by 9:15 a.m. The time is always short since we try to get everyone to the 10:00 a.m. Mass on time. Your promptness is very appreciated.

Please join with us in thanking the individual members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society for their generous, personal donation of the large revised Roman Missal for use by our parish.

Thank you to all of our families who helped us to make our 4:15 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass special for our younger children. They are God's special gift to us and we need to focus on them once in a while. We thank all of our families for their many efforts to show their children how to **live their faith!** According to the parish directors of Religious Education who attend deanery meetings, our parish has the best parent participation in our activities. **May God continue to bless all of our families! We thank you for your support.**

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

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



JANUARY 1, 2012 THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY



1490 19TH STREET

LOCATED ON THE NE CORNER OF 19TH & CONNECTICUT STREETS

PASTOR

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

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Michael E. Kwiecien, O. Carm.
 mkwiecien@stteresasf.org

DEACON

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

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Sr. Maureen O'Brien, BVM
 maureen@stteresasf.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Laura Diaz-Flaviani
 lflaviani@pacbell.net

PARISH SECRETARY

Stephani Sheehan
 stephani@stteresasf.org

OFFICE HOURS

9:30am to 12:30pm
 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Please visit our 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 Briony Doyle
 Emmy Naranjo-Cabatic
 Steve Miller Ron Labuguen
 David Paquette Rick Pitts

PARISH OFFICE

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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.

Parish Calendar

- Sun, Jan 1 - New Year's Day, Masses at 8:30 & 10:00 am
 - No Good Shepherd
 - No Faith Formation
- Mon, Jan 2 - Parish Office Closed
 - Choir Practice, 7:00pm, Church
- Tues, Jan 3 - SVdP Grocery Distribution 1:00pm, Sammon Hall
- Sat, Jan 7 - AA Meeting 7:00pm, Avila Hall
- Sun, Jan 8 - Good Shepherd, 9:00am
 - Faith Formation, 9:15am
 - Rite of Acceptance (RCIA) 10:00am Mass



“And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.”

Luke 2:19

MASS INTENTIONS

As we celebrate Mass together we include in our prayers:

Saturday, December 31

4:15pm Rosa Maria Alonso (Spec. Int.)
 Henry Morgan Jr. (Spec. Int.)

Sunday, January 1

8:30am The People of the Parish
 10:00am + Ruth Allen

Tuesday, January 3

8:30am The Sick of the Parish

Friday, January 6

8:30am Little Children's Aid

Saturday, January 7

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

Sunday, January 8

8:30am The Sick of the Parish
 10:00am + Vincent Cocciolone

SECOND COLLECTION

December 31 & January 1

There is second collection this weekend benefits the St Teresa's Building & Maintenance Fund.

January 7 & 8

There is no second collection next weekend.

YEAR-LONG GIFT GIVEN BY YOU

Congratulations! Your support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society has provided groceries for almost 7000 people.

You probably never thought about how much good your monthly contributions provide. Thank you, parishioners, for your generous monthly contributions and a special thanks to the members of our parish who come down to the hall on Tuesday afternoons to fill the grocery bags and see to their distribution. You are a great team for “reducing hunger on the hill.”

WEEKEND COLLECTION

December 24 & 25

To be published next week

Ministers Schedule for Next Week January 7 & 8

4:15

Lector: M. Elsea
 Bread: J. Burns
 Cup: E. Perea
 Hosp: M. Comaich

10:00 AM

1 Lector: D.B. Bernstein
 2 Lector: L. Jacklevich
 1 Bread: S. Miller
 2 Bread: D. Tejada
 3 Bread: B. Robinson

8:30 AM

Lector: S. Cabatic
 Bread: J. Newman
 Cup: J. Marasco
 Hosp: J. Propster

1 Cup: C. Allen
 2 Cup: R. Labuguen
 Hosp: B. Cassidy

NEW YEAR'S DAY: A SOLEMNITY IN SEARCH OF A FEAST

Let me be honest: ever since I was a child I have been confused about today's feast. I never understood why January 1st was a Holy Day of Obligation, why we “had to go to Church” on New Year's Day. So, for today's column, I did some research on the history of today's feast.

Originally, today's feast was what is known as an *idea feast*. Idea feasts are celebrations in the liturgical calendar that focus on a particular doctrine or dogma. Examples of idea feasts would be the Immaculate Conception (Mary was conceived without original sin), *Corpus Christi* (emphasizing the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist), or Trinity Sunday (dealing with the mystery of Three Persons in One God).

The “idea” behind today's feast is that Mary is the Mother of God. This idea may strike contemporary Christians as obvious because – since at least the 3rd century – Christians have referred to Mary as the Mother of God (in Greek, *theotokos*, a word that means “God-bearer”). Mary as Mother of God was not a problem until the 5th century when a furious theological debate developed concerning the two natures of Christ (divine and human). Nestorius, the patriarch of Constantinople (428-431), maintained that Mary was only the mother of Jesus' human nature, but not his divine nature. The Councils of Ephesus (431) and Chalcedon (451) condemned Nestorius' ideas, proclaiming that Christ was fully God and fully human, these two natures united in one divine person, Jesus Christ. Thus Mary could be called “Mother of God” since she gave birth to Jesus who was fully divine and fully human. Mary as the Mother of God was the “idea” that was celebrated on the Octave of Christmas, January 1st.

Following the Council of Trent, the Roman Missal of Pius V (1570) changed the feast from the Mother of God to the feast of the *Circumcision of the Lord* (which, according to the scriptures, took place eight days after Jesus' birth). For the next 400 years the Solemnity on January 1st was celebrated under this title.

Following the Second Vatican Council, Pope Paul VI removed the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ from the liturgical calendar, returning to the more ancient celebration of the Maternity of Mary, the Mother of God. Nevertheless, for a brief time during the 1970s, January 1st was also observed as the “World Day of Peace,” alluding to one of Mary's titles as Queen of Peace.

In the United States and other countries, the bishops have received permission from the Vatican to abrogate (temporarily waive) the requirement for Catholics to attend Mass on certain Holy Days of Obligation, usually when those Holy Days fall on either Saturday or Monday. The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (January 1), is one such Holy Day. In 2011, when January 1st was a Saturday, the obligation to attend Mass was waived. Next year (2013), when January 1st falls on a Tuesday, it will be a Holy Day of Obligation unless the diocesan bishop waives the obligation.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.