



Starting this weekend (Jan 3 & 4) and continuing through the month of January, there are baskets throughout the church and hall awaiting your donations of new, white athletic socks.

With the promise of a wet 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 1,000 pairs before January ends!

All December long, we have been awash in Christmas-card images of bejeweled kings riding camels across the desert, following yonder star; or manger scenes with kneeling kings worshipping at the crib; or cards in glittering foil, displaying the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. We have stood before our own parish crèche and tried to imagine that most wonderful night of the world.

Then, suddenly, the images stop. (Christmas lasts one more week on the liturgical calendar, but we won't find any Christmas cards of Christ's baptism.) Maybe this year, as we leave Christmas behind and step out into the cold, dark winter, we are called to become modern-day magi, kings who step into those images and bring them to life in our own time and place. The magi made the extraordinary effort to travel a great distance, across unknown lands, following the Christmas star. That star of the Holy Spirit will surely guide us, too. We can then offer our humble lives to the real King.

Deacon Dick Folger
Celebration Magazine

THANK YOU FOR THE SHOES

the St. Teresa's Men's Shoe Drive collected 95 (including 14 Women's) pairs that were delivered to SVDP Help Desk on Monday, December 8th!

- No Shoes? Basic Items needed:
- Housewares: Coffee Cups, Bowls, Twin Size Sheets & Comforters
- Men's Clothing: Outerwear, Socks, Pants with a smaller waist, XL Long Sleeve Shirts
- Women & Men: Undergarments
- Hygiene: New Toothbrushes, Hairbrushes, Hygiene, etc....

Drop-off located at Sumner St. Entrance, Left after 1175 Howard St.

*Please Ring Bell whether or not door is open

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE OUR CHRISTMAS LITURGIES SPECIAL



- Laura and the choir, as well as the additional accompanists, for the beautiful Music;*
- Anarose and the Faith Formation children for a wonderful Family Mass;*
- Deacon Chuck and Rick Pitts for creating the wonderful environment in the church.*

YEAREND TAX REPORTING

Letters acknowledging donations for 2014 will be sent out during the month of January to all Envelope & Monthly donors who contributed more than \$200. (If you contributed less, but would like a letter, let us know.)

If you donated by putting checks in the basket and would like a tax letter, please email Stephani.

WE WELCOME YOU TO
ST. TERESA OF AVILA CATHOLIC CHURCH
SERVED BY THE CARMELITES
JANUARY 4, 2015
THE EPIPHANY 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
- 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.

Parish Calendar

Sun, Jan 4 - No Faith Formation
 Mon, Jan 5 - Choir Practice, 6:30pm
 Tue, Jan 6 - SVdP Grocery Distribution
 2:00pm, Sammon
 Thur, Jan 8 - NERT Meeting
 7:00pm, Sammon
 Sat, Jan 10 - AA Meeting, 7pm, Sammon
 Sun, Jan 11 - Faith Formation
 9:00am, Parish Hall

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Saturday, January 3

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

Sunday, January 4

8:30am The Sick of the Parish
 10:00am + Michelle Gargotto

Tuesday, January 6

8:30am The Sick of the Parish

Friday, January 9

8:30am An End to Homelessness

Saturday, January 10

4:15pm + Eloisa Perea
 Henry Morgan Jr. (Spec. Int.)

Sunday, January 11

8:30am The People of the Parish
 10:00am + Dan Sullivan & Patty Griffin

SECOND COLLECTION

January 3 & 4

The second collection this weekend benefits the St. Teresa Building & Maintenance Fund.

January 10 & 11

There will be no second collection next week-end.

REVIEWS, PLEASE

'Tis the season when folks are on the look-out 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".

Our Facebook page needs some updated posts. Won't you also take a moment to write about your experience at our parish?

Ministers Schedule for Next Week January 10 & 11

4:15 PM		10:00 AM	
Lector: A. Rose		1 Lector: M. Schelstrate	
Bread: J. Burns		2 Lector: D. Aikins	
Cup: E. Perea		1 Bread: J. Schelstrate	
Hosp: M. Comaich		2 Bread: M. Schelstrate	
		3 Bread: K. Schelstrate	
8:30 AM		1 Cup: C. Allen	
Lector: E. Dunn		2 Cup: S. Miller	
Bread: R. Kingman		Hosp: K. Varandas	
Cup: J. Newman		B. Cassidy	
Hosp: T. Lando		L. Mastrangelo	

EPIPHANY

Let me be right up front and say it: In the liturgical year, Epiphany is my favorite day to preach. Why? During the homily, not only do I get to sing, but I also get to do "show and tell". Plus, I can be a kid again and dangerously play with fire (by burning incense) . . . not to mention the fact that I get to make the whole Church smell of myrrh. The bottom line is that today's homily is just plain fun.

The story about the Epiphany appears only in Chapter 2 of the Gospel of Matthew. According to the evangelist, "magi from the east" – following a star – arrive in Jerusalem searching for the newborn king of the Jews. They learn from King Herod that the prophecies declare that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem, the City of David. The magi make an arrangement with Herod that, when they find the child, they will send Herod word so that he, too, might do him homage. When the magi find Jesus and Mary, they prostrate themselves, do him homage, and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Notice that Matthew does not tell us the names of these exotic visitors, nor does he tell us how many there were. Throughout the ages we have assumed that, because the magi present Jesus with three gifts, there must have been three magi, but this may not have been the case. In early Christian art we have examples of two, three, four, or eight magi (in fact, in the Orthodox Churches, the tradition favors *twelve* magi), and the names of Balthasar, Melchior, and Gaspar date from the seventh century. The names and number of magi may perk our curiosity, but there are more important questions. Who are these "wise men"? Where did they come from? And why do they appear in the Gospel of Matthew?

Matthew's Gospel was written about 50 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus, and his "audience" included both Jewish and Gentile Christians. In a very real sense, the Gospel of Matthew reflects the evolution and development of the Christian community by the late first century. By the time Matthew's Gospel was written, Gentile Christians far outnumbered those who were the "original followers" of Jesus (i.e., Jewish Christians).

For Matthew, the magi symbolically represent what happened with respect both to Jesus and to the early Church. Jesus' own people – in particular, the Jewish leadership – rejected Jesus and put him to death; later, the early missionaries were not favorably received or welcomed by synagogues in the Mediterranean. The Jewish authorities rejected Jesus, just as the Jewish synagogues rejected the first Christian missionaries. The Gentiles, however, embraced the message of Jesus, and by the end of the Apostolic Period, Gentile Christians outnumbered Jewish Christians.

The magi – exotic figures from the east – were non-Jews (gentiles) who recognized Jesus as the King of the Jews (messiah). Whereas the (Jewish) religious authorities rejected Jesus and put him to death, the "wise men from the east" (gentiles) recognized Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God. This story in Matthew's Gospel mirrors the early Church when Greek-speaking Jews in the diaspora rejected the Christian message while non-Jews (gentiles) embraced this new religion.

Because the story of the magi appears only in the Gospel of Matthew and is not mentioned anywhere else in the scriptures, scholars question whether this represents an actual historical event. Actually, the question of historicity is irrelevant: the stories surrounding the magi have enormous symbolic meaning, not only in terms of how Jesus was accepted and rejected in the first century, but also in how these gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh are linked to Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension to glory.

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: _____

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|--|--|--|
| <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 |