

Will the "Fiscal Cliff" cause a drop-off in your family's Estate Plan?

Find out how to patch the cracks and flaws in your estate plan through which can blow the chilling winds of probate costs, unforeseen taxes, and frustrated intentions. The parishes in Deanery Five of the Archdiocese, are sponsoring an Estate Planning seminar on **Saturday, February 9th, 9:30am to noon, at Saint Philip's Parish Hall**. This free seminar, which will feature separate sessions in Spanish and English, is designed to help you create or tighten up an estate plan, be it a simple will or complex living trust. Attorneys John Gonzales-Madrid and Peggy O'Dowd, a Saint Philip's parishioner, will be the presenters. Reservations are appreciated and can be made by calling (415) 282-0141.

The Archdioceses of San Francisco requests the honor of your presence at a

Mass for Couples Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries

The Most Reverend Salvatore Cordileone
Principal Celebrant

**Saturday, the second of February
Two thousand and thirteen
at ten o'clock in the morning
Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption**

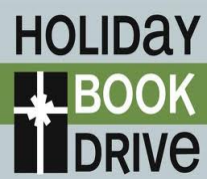
Reception following the ceremony.
All Married couples are invited to attend

Contact the Parish Office to register

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 to all who donated books for the Reading Partners program at Flynn Elementary School in the Mission.

**WE WELCOME YOU TO
ST. TERESA OF AVILA CATHOLIC CHURCH**

SERVED BY THE CARMELITES



**JANUARY 6, 2013
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 E. Kwiecien, O. Carm.
mkwiecien@stteresasf.org

DEACON

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

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Laura Diaz-Flaviani
lflaviani@pacbell.net

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

Anarose Schelstrate
schelstrate@earthlink.net

PARISH SECRETARY

Stephani Sheehan
stephani@stteresasf.org

OFFICE HOURS

10:00am to 12:30pm
1:00pm to 4:30pm

**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 Judy Warnock
Emmy Naranjo-Cabatic
Steve Miller Ron Labuguen
David Paquette Rick Pitts

PARISH OFFICE / MAILING ADDRESS

390 Missouri St
San Francisco, CA 94107
Phone: 415.285.5272
Fax: 415.285.8510
E-mail: info@stteresasf.org

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

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 6 - No Good Shepherd or Faith Formation
- Mon, Jan 7 - Choir Practice, 6:30pm
- Tue, Jan 8 - SVdP Grocery Distribution 1:00pm, Sammon
- Pastoral Council 7:00pm, Avila
- Sat, Jan 12 - AA Meeting 7:00pm, Sammon Hall
- Sun, Jan 13 - Good Shepherd & Faith Formation, 9:00am

Donation Envelopes

Donation envelopes for the new Liturgical year are available for pick-up in the back of the church. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to request envelopes or enroll in the monthly donor program.

MASS INTENTIONS

As we celebrate Mass together we include in our prayers:

Saturday, January 5

4:15pm + Rachel Humphrey
Henry Morgan Jr. (Spec. Int.)

Sunday, January 6

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

Tuesday, January 8

9:00am The Sick of the Parish

Friday, January 11

8:30am The Deceased of the Parish

Saturday, January 12

4:15pm + Elvira Ybarra
Henry Morgan Jr. (Spec. Int.)

Sunday, January 13

8:30am The Sick of the Parish
10:00am + Joseph Ferrando

SECOND COLLECTION

January 5 & 6

This Second Collection next weekend benefits the St. Teresa Building & Maintenance Fund.

January 12 & 13

This is no scheduled Second Collection next weekend.

WEEKEND COLLECTION

December 22 & 23

\$3,649

December 24 & 25

\$4,170

December 29 & 30

1,173

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We would like to notify parents of children in the Good Shepherd and Faith Formation programs of a change in the class schedule for January. There will be **no** classes this weekend. Classes will resume on January 13th, and will meet every Sunday for the remainder of the month. We apologize for any inconvenience caused by this schedule change.

Ministers Schedule for Next Week January 12 & 13

4:15		10:00 AM
Lector:	M.L. Green	1 Lector: D.B. Bernstein
Bread:	E. Perea	2 Lector: J. Alber
Cup:	J. Daddio	1 Bread: S. Miller
Hosp:	R. Jones	2 Bread: T. Mana
		3 Bread: D. Tejada
8:30 AM		1 Cup: C. Allen
Lector:	T. Lang	2 Cup: C. Arett
Bread:	R. Kingman	Hosp: K. Varandas
Cup:	S. Lang	B. Cassidy
Hosp:	T. Lando	

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE . . .

Balthazar, Melchior, and Gaspar. Unfortunately, their names are not found in the Bible; in fact, we're not really sure that the kings number three!

The passage concerning the magi only appears 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 Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem, and they make an arrangement with Herod that, when they find the child, they will send him word so that he, too, may do him homage. When they find Jesus and Mary, the magi 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 (in fact, in the Orthodox Churches, the tradition favors *twelve* magi), and the names of Balthazar, 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 to Jesus. His own people – the Jewish authorities – rejected him and put him to death. After the resurrection, the early missionaries, especially Paul, were not favorably received or welcomed by synagogues in the Mediterranean. The Gentiles, however, embraced the message of Jesus, and by the end of the Apostolic Period there were many more Gentile Christians than Jewish Christians.

The magi – exotic figures from the east – are non-Jews (Gentiles) who recognize 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 is mirrored in the early Church when Greek-speaking Jews in the diaspora rejected the Christian missionaries 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.