

## THE EYE OF THE NEEDLE

Like every good story, today's Gospel can be interpreted on several different levels. On the surface, the narrative describes a sincere, law-abiding young man who wants to follow Jesus more closely. Jesus tells him to "Go, sell what you have, and give to [the] poor," (Mk 10:21b), and when he hears what Jesus has to say, "the man's face fell. He went away sad, for he had many possessions." (Mk 10:22) On this level, the story is about the cost of discipleship.

What follows next is one of the more interesting, intriguing, and challenging passages of the New Testament: "It is easier for a camel to pass through [the] eye of [a] needle than for one who is rich to enter the Kingdom of God." (Mk 10:25). When I was much younger, my catechists offered the following explanation for this Gospel passage:

*The "Eye of the Needle" has been claimed to be a gate in Jerusalem, which opened after the main gate was closed at night. A camel could only pass through this smaller gate if it was stooped and had its baggage removed.*

I took great comfort in this explanation because it meant that one could possess wealth and still enter the Kingdom of God. It would not be easy – one would have to remove excess baggage and squeeze through the narrow gate – but it would be possible. Difficult, but possible.

Unfortunately, this particular explanation – convenient as it is – has no basis in historical fact. We can trace this interpretation to at least the 15th century, and it may have actually appeared as early as the 9th century. However, in the literature of Jesus' day, there is no evidence for the existence of such a gate.

If there is no "eye of the needle" gate in the walls of Jerusalem, then the meaning of the passage completely changes: instead of being *difficult* for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God, it becomes *impossible* for a rich man to enter the Kingdom.

Unless, of course, one continues to read the passage:

*"For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God." (Mk 10:27)*

On this level, the meaning of the passage changes: Instead of being about the cost of discipleship, the passage can be seen as a lesson in God's *mercy*. Biblically speaking, *mercy* means "to do for another what he cannot do for himself." God "shows mercy" when he admits the rich to heaven, and a rich man can enter the Kingdom of God *only if* God "shows mercy". Here, it is God who accomplishes what it is impossible for a human being to do on his own.

The issue raised by this interpretation revolves around whether we can "get into heaven" on our own or whether our admittance to the Kingdom depends upon "God's mercy." Christians have wrestled with this issue for 2000 years; it deals with the deeper issues regarding *predestination*.

So what's the passage about? The cost of discipleship? God's mercy? or predestination? It's actually about all three, since there are many levels of meaning in today's Gospel passage.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.

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

SERVED BY THE CARMELITES

OCTOBER 11, 2015

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME



1490 19TH STREET (CHURCH)

LOCATED ON THE NE CORNER OF 19TH & CONNECTICUT STREETS

### PASTOR

Rev. Michael A. Greenwell, O. Carm.  
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### PAROCHIAL VICAR

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### DEACON

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### 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](http://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 Judy Warnock

### PARISH OFFICE / MAILING ADDRESS

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E-mail: [info@stteresasf.org](mailto: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, Oct 11 - Faith Formation, 9am, Hall  
 Mon, Oct 12 - Parish Office Closed  
 - AA Meeting, 6:30pm, Avila  
 - Choir Practice, 6:30pm  
 Tue, Oct 13 - SVdP Meeting, 9am, Hall  
 - SVdP Grocery Distribution  
 1:00 pm, Church Hall  
 Sat, Oct 17 - AA Meeting, 7pm, Church Hall  
 Sun, Oct 18 - Faith Formation, 9:00am, Hall

### MASS INTENTIONS

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

**Saturday, October 10**  
 4:15pm † Kathleen M. Burns  
 Henry Morgan Jr. (Spec. Int.)

**Sunday, October 11**  
 8:30am Souls with No One to Pray for Them  
 The People of the Parish  
 10:00am † John Warnock

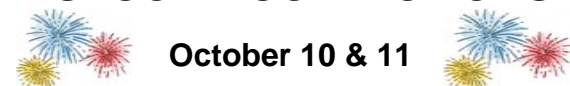
**Tuesday, October 13**  
 8:30am † Anne Marie Allio

**Friday, October 16**  
 8:30am † John Warnock

**Saturday, October 17**  
 4:15pm † Frank Burcina  
 Henry Morgan Jr. (Spec. Int.)

**Sunday, October 18**  
 8:30am The People of the Parish  
 10:00am † Vincent Cocciolone

## SECOND COLLECTIONS



**October 10 & 11**

There is no second collection this week.

**October 17 & 18**

Next weekend we will celebrate World Mission Sunday. This year we are invited to support the 1,150 of the youngest dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe. Please keep the Missions in your prayers and please be generous in next weekend's collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

## WEEKEND FIRST COLLECTION

**OCTOBER 3 & 4**

**\$2,119**

**THANK YOU!**

### Ministers Schedule for Next Week October 17 & 18

<b>4:15 PM</b>		<b>10:00 AM</b>
Lector: A. Rose		1 Lector: V. Flores
Bread: E. Perea		2 Lector: R. Pitts
Cup: B. Noelke		1 Bread: J. Schelstrate
Hosp: M. Perea		2 Bread: J. Warnock
		3 Bread: C. Arett
<b>8:30 AM</b>		1 Cup: C. Allen
Lector: D. Paquette		2 Cup: S. Miller
Bread: J. Newman		Hosp: J. Warnock
Cup: R. Kingman		
Hosp: T. Lando		



In Observance of  
 Columbus Day, the Parish  
 Office Will Be Closed  
 Monday, October 12

## Adult Confirmation Preparation Classes

Confirmation preparation classes for adults will be conducted by the Archdiocese Office of Religious Education & Youth Ministry on October 30 & 31 at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, One Peter Yorke Way, SF 94109. The classes are offered in coordination with the parish of the prospective Confirmation candidates. The classes will be on a retreat format and offered both in English and Spanish. For more information or to register for the classes, please call (415) 614-5650 or email [arbucklec@sfarchdiocese.org](mailto:arbucklec@sfarchdiocese.org)

Adult Confirmation will be celebrated at St. Mary's Cathedral at the Vigil Mass of feast of Christ the King, Saturday, November 21.

A reminder for the Food Drive was sent out on Friday, September 25 to every parishioner email in our records. If you did not receive this email, we would appreciate your completing the registration form on the opposite page so we can add you to our parish records. Please be assured that your information will be kept secure and we will only contact you to notify you of parish events, news, etc.

## MONTHLY DONORS & SECOND COLLECTIONS — SEPTEMBER

First Collection (Monthly Donors)	\$2,432
Building & Maintenance	\$1,654
Carmelite Seminary	\$1,516
Priests' Retirement Fund	\$1,632
St. Vincent de Paul	\$2,570

## HALLOWEEN & FALL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Fall brings in the chill but provides opportunities for lots of indoor fun!

Show off your dance moves with seniors; plan and coordinate an event for women and their children; assist in costume-making; decorate; and lead art activities for families—these are but a few ways you can share your talents and contribute to Catholic Charities Fall festivities.

Help your neighbors enjoy the season as much as you do by participating in Catholic Charities Fall festivities.

For more on how to get involved, contact Diana Contreras, Volunteer Manager, at

[dcontreras@CatholicCharitiesSF.org](mailto:dcontreras@CatholicCharitiesSF.org)  
 or 415 972 1297

**The Mass Intention book for 2016** is now available. If there are special dates on which you would like to dedicate a Mass to a loved one, please contact the Parish Office. There are also some dates left for 2015.

**Please check the bulletin boards** in the vestibule & hall for upcoming events or special notices from the Archdiocese.

## MEMORIAL MASS FOR SR. MAUREEN O'BRIEN, BVM

A Memorial Mass for our former Pastoral Associate, Sr. Maureen, is scheduled for 10am on Saturday, October 24 here at St. Teresa's. There will be a reception immediately following at which coffee and cakes will be served. Please join us as we honor Sr. Maureen.

## 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 |