**ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL 2019 WEEK 5**

Assessed Amount: $26,642  
Amount Pledged: $23,686  
Balance Remaining: $ 2,956

If you wish to donate online, access is through:  
www.sfarch.org/aaa  
Select St. Teresa Church

Please check with your employer to see if they provide matching funds for charitable donations.

We are currently at 89% of our goal! Thank you to all who have donated & pledged. Last year we had AAA wrapped up in 11 weeks (including pledges to be paid over the year) and received donations from 88 parishioners/families. We would like to receive pledges from 100 people this year. So far we have received donations from 61 individuals/families.

**THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU**

This Lent, the Archdiocese will join an initiative to encourage greater participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, especially among those who have not received this sacrament recently.

In accordance, all parishes in the three counties of the Archdiocese will be open for confessions on the Tuesdays of Lent from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

*Join us at the same time for Eucharistic Adoration*

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**ST TERESA’S GREEN TEAM**

As Pope Francis said in Laudato si’, “[pollution] problems are closely linked to a throwaway culture which affects the excluded just as it quickly reduces things to rubbish”. This week try to be conscious about how much waste you are creating. Make it a goal to produce only as much as (or even better, less than) a bread bags worth of trash per week. Remember that most items should either be recycled or composted!

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**ST LENT & HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

**Tuesdays in Lent**
- Mass: 8:30am
- Reconciliation & Adoration, 6–8 pm

**Fridays in Lent**
- Mass: 8:30am
- March 29: Stations of the Cross & Soup Supper at 6:30pm

**Palm Sunday**
- Saturday Vigil, April 13: 4:15pm
- Palm Sunday, April 14: 8:30 & 10am

**TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK**, April 16
- Holy Hour of Adoration: 8:00pm

**EASTER TRIDUUM**
- Holy Thursday, April 18: 7:30pm
- Good Friday, April 19: 12:15pm
- Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil, April 20: 8:00pm
- Easter Sunday, April 21: 8:30 & 10:00am

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**ON-LINE GIVING**

stteresasf.org  
Click Online Giving  
or scan this QR code

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**PARISH OFFICE / MAILING ADDRESS**

390 Missouri St  
San Francisco, CA  94107

Phone:  415.285.5272  
Fax:  415.285.8510  
E-mail:  info@stteresasf.org

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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.
SECOND COLLECTIONS.

March 23 & 24

This week, we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to help Jesus in disguise. This collection helps six Catholic agencies provide relief and support to struggling communities and work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief

March 30 & 31

Next week’s second collection will benefit the St. Teresa Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

RECONCILIATION AND THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about today’s Gospel is that the story of the Woman at the Well can be interpreted in a number of different ways. On one level, it is a story about conversion, but it can also be read as a story about discipleship. A third interpretation suggests that this is a story about evangelization or mission, but the strong image of living water suggests a fourth interpretation along baptismal lines. In today’s homily my focus will be on the baptismal reference to “living water”, but in today’s column I’d like to explore a fifth interpretation along the lines of reconciliation and healing.

The context of this story is the cultural world of Jesus. In that world, the well was the central, common area of the village where people gathered to interact and socialize. Community happened at the well, and the first thing we notice about today’s passage is that the woman is alone. She comes to the well only when everyone else has gone, and from this we may conclude that the woman is either estranged from or shunned by the community. We do not know the reason that she has been so ostracized, but we do learn three things from her conversation with Jesus: first, she has no husband; second, she has had five previous husbands; and third, the man she is now living with is not her husband. Given this curious history, we should not be surprised that the woman finds herself on the periphery of the town community. Jesus and the woman engage in deep conversation… which puzzles both the woman and the disciples. At one point the woman asks, “How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?” The woman’s question reveals that she is aware of Jesus’ violation of social taboos: Jews and Samaritans don’t interact, and a person wouldn’t carry on a conversation with a member of the opposite sex unless that person were one’s spouse. Both the Samaritan woman and the disciples are aware that Jesus is, once again, “crossing the line” and breaking boundaries. Continuing to read between the lines, we realize that Jesus’ love for this woman is unconditional. He does not judge her, nor does he require her to repent or change. The woman – aware of her own estrangement, alienation, and sinfulness – is awed by Jesus’ non-judgmental acceptance. Essentially, Jesus’ unconditional love and acceptance of the woman – in spite of who she is and what she has done – allows her to accept herself and move towards healing and reconciliation, conversion and change.

One lesson from today’s Gospel is this: if our attitude is that of Jesus, we can facilitate reconciliation and healing through our tolerance, unconditional love, and acceptance of others. When we display such an attitude, we empower others to change. On one level the story is about the woman’s conversion. But on another level, the story is about our conversion. We are challenged to become like the Jesus in today’s Gospel. When we accept and love others unconditionally, we empower them to change.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.