Welcome to all Parishioners, Guests and Newcomers at St. Teresa’s.

You are always warmly welcomed, but on the first weekend of each month we make a special point of spending time to get to know one another.

If you are visiting our church today, know that we are honored by your presence. Our parish serves the needs of the community in many different ways. If we can be of service to you, do not hesitate to call on us.

If you have not already done so, please take a moment to make a name tag in the vestibule. If you are here early reading your bulletin, say hello to someone sitting close by, particularly if you have not met before. Join us after either the 8:30am Mass on the garden patio (weather permitting) or 10am Mass in our hall on Sundays for refreshments and fellowship.

ENERGY STAR® is a voluntary government program backed by EPA that provides unbiased information to organizations and consumers about cost-effective, energy-efficient products, practices, and services. It is the same program that certifies energy efficient appliances like refrigerators and washing machines.

We welcome you to St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church
Served by the Carmelites

May 5, 2019
Third Sunday of Easter

1490 19th Street (Church)
Located on the NE Corner of 19th & Connecticut Streets

Pastor
Rev. Michael A. Greenwell, O. Carm.
Pastor@stteresasf.org

Parochial Vicar
Rev. Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.
mkwiecien@stteresasf.org

Parish Secretary
Stephani Sheehan
stephani@stteresasf.org

Deacon
Rev. Mr. Martin Schurr
svdpms@yahoo.com

Director of Music
Laura Diaz-Flaviani
lflaviani@stteresasf.org

Director of Faith Formation
Anarose Schelstrate
anarose0707@stteresasf.org

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

Website: stteresasf.org

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.
MASS INTENTIONS

As we celebrate Mass together we include in our prayers:

Saturday, May 4
4:15pm
James J. Burns, Sr.
Henry Morgan, Jr. (Spec. Int.)

Sunday, May 5
8:30am
Elise Kottra
The People of the Parish
10:00am
Dominic Bogni

Tuesday, May 7
8:30am
The Sick of the Parish

Friday, May 10
8:30am
The Deceased of the Parish

Saturday, May 11
4:15pm
Audrey Rose (Spec. Int.)
Henry Morgan, Jr. (Spec. Int.)

Sunday, May 12
8:30am
The People of the Parish
10:00am
Dory Yochum

SECOND COLLECTIONS.

May 4 & 5
This week’s second collection benefits the St. Teresa Building & Maintenance Fund.

May 11 & 12
Next week is Catholic Charities Sunday. This second collection is an invitation to parishioners to personally invest in the lives of marginalized and vulnerable residents in San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin counties. Your generous support keeps families together by preventing poverty and homelessness; enriches the lives of aging and disabled adults; welcomes and supports immigrants and unaccompanied minors, and nurtures the healthy development of children and youth. You can donate by using the pew envelopes, you can also text CSSunday to 41444 or visit CatholicCharitiesSF.org to donate.

Parish Calendar

Ministers Schedule for Next Week
May 11 & 12

4:15 PM
10:00 AM
Lector: P. Diaz
1 Lector: S. Jeong
Bread: B. Noelke
2 Lector: G. Jeong
Cup: J. Daddio
1 Bread: J. Schelstrate
Hosp: R. Jones
3 Bread: Volunteer

8:30 AM
1 Cup: R. Labuguen
Lector: T. Lang
2 Cup: C. Illich
Bread: S. Siebel
Hosp: L. Gauna
Cup: S. Lang
Hosp: T. Landt

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 ☐ On-Line Giving

ABOUT THAT MIRACULOUS CATCH OF 153 FISH . . .

The Gospels of the Easter Season follow a particular pattern. The Easter Vigil features the Resurrection account from Matthew, Mark, or Luke; on Easter Sunday, the Gospel is the Resurrection account from John. The Gospel for the Second Sunday of Easter is the “doubting Thomas”, and on the Third Sunday of Easter we have a post-resurrection appearance story. In year A, Jesus appears to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Year B has the same two disciples returning to Jerusalem (where Jesus appears to the eleven on Easter Sunday night). And this year we have Jesus on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, cooking breakfast for the disciples (who have had an unsuccessful night of fishing). When the disciples near shore, Jesus commands them to cast their nets on the starboard side, whereupon they haul in a remarkable catch of fish.

As with most of John’s Gospel, the narrative is quite complex. The bread and fish hint at Eucharistic overtones, and perhaps the main focus of the passage is Jesus’ instruction to Peter to “feed my lambs, feed my sheep.” Nevertheless, over the centuries Christians have skipped over these more significant aspects of the passage, zeroing-in instead on the unusual number of fish: one hundred fifty-three of them! Why this fascination with the number of fish? In the first six centuries, the Fathers of the Church had an almost mystical fascination with numbers, especially combinations which make up other numbers. The number 153 includes five “core numbers” (100, 50, 10, 7, and 3), and combinations of these numbers were used to offer a mystical interpretation of the text. For example:

- St. Gregory the Great maintained that 10 and 7 are perfect numbers, which added together make 17. This, times 3 (for the perfection of faith in the Trinity) makes 51.
- St. Cyril interprets 153 as follows: 100 is the great number of gentiles to be saved which, when added to 50 (the smaller number of Jews to be saved) totals 150. When added to 3 (for the Trinity, who saves all), we arrive at the number 153.
- St. Jerome—who translated the Scriptures into Latin—suggests that there were only 153 species of fish in all the world. Hence, the disciples caught 153 fish, signifying that men of every class and time would be saved through the Gospel.

Now perhaps you are wondering, why dedicate a column to such bizarre interpretations of the significance of 153 fish? I do so to point out that, during the Patristic Period, the “Fathers of the Church” often interpreted Scripture allegorically. Essentially, the Church Fathers were not concerned with the “historical accuracy” of scripture. Instead, they regarded Scripture as symbolic, and tried to find allegorical or “hidden” meanings in the texts. At this point we should note that there are many ways of interpreting scripture. For example, there is an existential approach which, like the allegorical approach, is not concerned with historical accuracy. When the allegorical approach asks, “What does this passage symbolically mean?”, the existential approach asks, “What does this passage mean to me?” in some of the Protestant traditions, this existential approach is extremely popular.

For the most part, modern Catholic interpretation of Scripture is grounded in what is known as the historical-critical approach. Basically, this method asks, “What did the sacred author mean when he or she wrote the text?” and “Given this understanding, how do we interpret the text today?” Mainline contemporary homilists, both Catholic and Protestant, begin with the historical-critical approach — which, unfortunately, does not offer much insight as to why there were 153 fish. To unlock the mystery of this peculiar number we have to use another method.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.