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 the 8:30 or 10am Mass on Sunday for refreshments and fellowship in our Hall.

ST TERESA’S GREEN TEAM

June 5th is World Environment Day! It is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations raises awareness and encourages people to take positive environmental action to protect nature and the planet. This year, the focus is on beating air pollution. 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.

We Welcome You To
St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church
Served by the Carmelites

JUNE 2, 2019
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
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

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Laura Diaz-Flaviani, laura@stteresasf.org

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION
Anarose Schelstrate, anarose@stteresasf.org

You are invited . . .
to attend a piano recital by the students of our parishioner Therese Labuguen on this Sunday, June 2 at 3pm here at St. Teresa’s.

Come, Enjoy the Music!

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.

Welcome to St. Teresa of Avila’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, or complete the form on our website.

Name: ___________________________________________ Phone: _________________________

Email: ____________________________________________ City: _______ Zip: ____________

Address: _________________________________________

☐ New Parishioner ☐ New Address and/or phone ☐ Send Sunday envelopes ☐ On-Line Giving

ON-LINE GIVING

To make a one time gift, scan the QR code, scroll past the log in, click on Quick Give
To register, scan the QR code and complete the log in, etc.

TOGETHER IN HOLINESS

Marriage Enrichment Conference
Saturday, August 3, 2019
9:00AM – 4:00PM
Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Belmont, CA

See Bulletin Board for more information

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WHY DO WE CELEBRATE ASCENSION THURSDAY ON A SUNDAY?

As recently as the 1980s the Ascension was celebrated on a Thursday. It was a Holy Day of Obligation, forty days after Easter and ten days before Pentecost. Now the Ascension is celebrated on a Sunday. Why the change? And how did this come about? Let’s begin by taking a look at the scriptural roots for this feast.

Surprisingly, the Ascension appears specifically in only one of the four Gospels. Luke mentions the Ascension in the second-to-last verse of his Gospel, and it is limited to one simple, declarative sentence:

“As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven.” (Lk 24:51)

In the Acts of the Apostles, Luke offers a more detailed account:

“... the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up to heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God.” (Mk 16:19)

However, we should note that this verse was added to the Gospel of Mark after the original Gospel was written in an attempt to harmonize Mark’s Gospel with material in Luke. In Matthew, the Gospel ends on a mountain near Galilee where Jesus commissions the disciples to baptize all nations. It appears as if Jesus is about to ascend to heaven, but the Gospel abruptly ends with Jesus promising to be “…with you always, until the end of the age.”

The Acts of the Apostles is the only place when any mention is made of “forty days”. In the first chapter of Acts, Luke tells us that:

“...presented himself alive to them by many proofs afer he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.” (Acts 1:3)

If we take a literal interpretation of this text, Ascension is celebrated forty days after Easter (which is always a Thursday). Pentecost follows ten days later, and for centuries the liturgical calendar for the Easter season followed this pattern. If only it were that simple!

What throws a wrench into this calculation is that mysterious number, forty. Thumbing through the Scriptures, we find that, in the story of Noah’s Ark, it rained for forty days and forty nights; in Exodus, the Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years; and after his baptism in the Jordan, Jesus spent forty days in the desert prior to beginning his public ministry. In the liturgical year, Lent lasts for forty days . . . which is followed by forty days between Easter and the Ascension. Obviously, the number “forty” has serious religious overtones in the Judeo-Christian tradition, as we seem to use the number “forty” whenever we want to emphasize a significant period of time. However, it is important to note that significant does not necessarily mean specific . . . which is another way of saying that forty days or forty years may not literally mean forty days or forty years.

Because there is ambiguity surrounding the number “forty”, local bishops’ conferences were permitted to move the Solemnity of the Ascension to a Sunday. That is why we celebrate the Ascension, not forty days after Easter (Thursday), but on the Seventh Sunday of Easter. This is now the practice in most English-speaking countries, including the United States and Canada.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.