We have begun making preparations for the upcoming Religious Education programs. Letters/emails will be sent out to parents of students enrolled in the programs last year. For families new to our programs, forms will be available in the vestibule.

We encourage all parents to register early. Please note the parish expectation that parents and guardians participate in our Sunday Eucharistic celebrations and attend a number of our class sessions. The parents are the primary teachers and we are your helpers.

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: __________________________

Address: ___________________________ Zip: ______ City: ____________

Email: ___________________________ 

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

Ministers’ Schedules

The schedules for July and August were emailed on Friday, July 12. There are copies available in the Sacristy. The schedules are also available on our website’s home page.

The Young Adult Catholics of St. Teresa’s invite all to attend Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesday, July 17th, from 7:30 to 8:30 pm.

Pick up donuts on your way to church on Sunday? Donuts need to be here in time to be served after the 8:30 Mass. If enough people volunteer, each may only have to pick up every couple of weeks.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please speak with Fr. Greenwell or call the Parish Office.

Welcome to St. Teresa’s Green Team

Don’t forget to grab your reusable bags as you head to the grocery store. It takes 12 million barrels of oil to produce the plastic bags that the U.S. uses every year. Think custom paper tote bags are better? Think again- The U.S. cuts down 14 million trees a year to supply the raw materials to make paper shopping bags. One person using reusable bags over their lifetime would remove more than 22,000 plastic bags from the environment! Make a goal this summer to stop using plastic bags at the grocery store. Bonus points for bringing your own reusable produce bags too!

Pick up donuts on your way to church on Sunday? Donuts need to be here in time to be served after Mass and view them.

A very generous parishioner has donated some wonderful poster sized pictures of this historic event. We have them displayed in the hall. Please take a few moments to go downstairs after Mass and view them.

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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

July 13 & 14

Today is the Peter’s Pence Collection, a worldwide collection that supports the charitable works of Pope Francis. Funds from this collection help victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters. Take this opportunity to join with Pope Francis and be a witness of charity to our suffering brothers and sisters.

Jul 20 & 21

There will be no second collection next weekend.

Parish Calendar

Sun, Jul 14
- Coffee & Donuts after the 8:30 & 10 am Masses

Mon, Jul 15
- NO Choir Practice
- AA Step Meeting, 6:30pm, Hall
- AA Meeting, 7:30am, Avila
- SVDP Sandwich Tuesday
- 9am, Parish Kitchen
- SVDP Shopping Trip, 1pm, Hall
- Young Adult Scripture Study

Tue, Jul 16
- AA Meeting, 7pm, Avila
- Eucharistic Adoration, 7:30pm
- AA Meeting, 7pm, Avila
- Coffee & Donuts after the 8:30 & 10 am Masses

Why is there such animosity between Samaritans and Jews?

Today’s Gospel is taken from the 10th Chapter of Luke and includes the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Both Christians and non-Christians are familiar with this story, and most of us know that there is animosity between Samaritans and Jews. However, few of us know the underlying reasons for this tension, so in today’s column I’d like to provide background material as to why Samaritans and Jews don’t like each other.

The first thing we need to do is examine the history and geography of Biblical Israel. Referring to the map, notice that Jerusalem is in the southern part of the country (Judea), due west of the northern tip of the Dead Sea. Nazareth – where Jesus grew up – is in the northern part of the country, west of the Sea of Galilee. Samaria is the region between Galilee and Judea, and in order to get from Nazareth to Jerusalem one must pass through Samaria.

Turning now to Israelite history, we note that, a thousand years before Jesus, Saul united the Twelve Tribes of Israel into a single nation. Saul was succeeded by David then Solomon, and when Solomon died (about 931 BC), the Kingdom divided in two, with Israel in the North and Judah in the South. Both kingdoms were Jewish, but Israel and Judah had separate kings.

Two hundred years later, the Northern Kingdom fell to the Assyrians (721 BC). This Northern Kingdom included the lands of Samaria and Galilee, and, after the fall of the North, Jews from Samaria and Galilee not only began to intermarry with these “foreigners” but also began to worship their gods. Intermarriage and idolatry scandalized the Jews in the South, and herein lies the root of the animosity between Samaritans and Jews.

What gets lost in this discussion is that, for all intents and purposes, Samaritans are Jews! In the fourth chapter of the Gospel of John, the Woman at the Well is a Samaritan woman who asks Jesus, “Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?” (Jn 4:12) The woman is referring to Jacob’s well, and it is apparent from her question that the Samaritan Woman is a descendant of Jacob, the father of twelve sons who later became the twelve tribes of Israel. Essentially, the Samaritan Woman and Jesus share the same ancestry.

The Jews from the South (Judea) – especially from the area around Jerusalem – were trying to preserve and maintain religious and ethnic purity. As such, they were suspicious of those Jews in the Mediterranean who spoke Greek instead of Hebrew. They also refer to Jesus’ homeland as “Galilee of the Gentiles”, and – when discussing Jesus – they make the cynical comment, “What good ever came out of Nazareth?”

But the brunt of their animosity was directed towards Samaritans, and today’s Parable of the Good Samaritan would have deeply offended the Jews of Jesus’ day. Jews and Samaritans would not talk to one another, and the suggestion that a Samaritan, moved by compassion, would attend to a Jewish victim and arrange for his care and recovery would have the hearers of this parable shake their heads in disbelief. But in order to understand why Samaritans provoked such a hostile response, we have to know something about the History of Israel and recognize that the roots of the conflict go back at least 700 years.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.