We Welcome You To
St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church
A Warm, Welcoming, Inclusive Faith Community
Served by the Carmelites

SEPTEMBER 15, 2019
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

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

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

We are in need of volunteers to serve as either Bread or Cup Ministers at all weekend Masses, but especially for the 8:30am Mass. All training will be provided at Mass. Below is a brief description of the duties:

Eucharistic Ministers are divided into Cup and Bread Ministers. You can volunteer for either or both.

Commitment:

• Bread Minister #1 arrives about 20 minutes ahead of Mass
• All other ministers report to Bread Minister #1 before Mass
• Greet the assembly as they leave Mass
• Help put away the cups, bowls etc.
• Find your replacement if you will not be at your assigned Mass

Please speak with one of the Eucharistic Ministers at your Mass to volunteer, or call the Office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Faith Formation classes begin with a Family meeting this Sunday, September 15 at 9:00am. If you still wish to enroll your child or children, please contact Anarose Schelstrate (anarose@stteresasf.org). Applications are available in the church vestibule. If you wish to participate in the RCIA program this year, please see Fr. Kwiecien.

SAVE THE DATE

Gathering in the Plaza
(Refreshments will be served)
Saturday, September 21
After 4:15pm Mass
We encourage all to come to this event, no matter which Mass you generally attend. Wouldn’t it be nice to meet some of your fellow parishioners in a social setting?

Announcing Shadow Days at Mercy High School, Burlingame!
For 8th Graders
Starting September 11, 2019
And continuing through January 2020
Prospective students experience the Mercy Sisterhood firsthand by attending classes, meeting teachers, and much more! Our Shadow Days are filling quickly, so start your journey toward becoming a Mercy Girl now! See posted flyer for more information.

VASES AND BASKETS FOR THE TAKING!
We would like to re-purpose the many vases and baskets accumulated over the years. They will be available in the vestibule through 22nd. There is no limit on the number you can take. You help the parish by clearing unused items and the environment by using them.

ST TERESA’S GREEN TEAM
Have you heard the buzz about saving bees? Bees are an important pollinator of food crops. Pollinators are wildlife that do plants a service by moving pollen from one plant to another, usually while they are feeding on nectar or pollen. So what can you do to help? If you want to help save bees and other pollinators, begin by greening the city which will provide food and shelter for hundreds of other species. Plant something organic (from soil to seed to starters); keep a garden alive; sponsor a block of trees in your neighborhood; even create a window planter. Or better yet, volunteer with a beekeeper (so many need your help!) Check out the link for more details: https://urbanbeesf.com

Eucharistic Ministers
might be the eleven “meal stories” found in the Gospel. Today I’d like to suggest another frame for reading the Gospel – the parables – several of which are unique to the third evangelist. Today’s Gospel features three parables, and the Lost Sheep is one of the best known and best loved stories in the Scriptures. It is also one of the parables found only in Luke. When it comes to parables, Christians make a common mistake in equating a parable with a fable. A fable is a western literary form: it is a story with a moral lesson. However, we make a mistake if we assume that the parables of Jesus are like fables. The truth is that parables are really quite different from fables. Unlike a fable, a parable is a middle-eastern literary form, and instead of being a story with a moral it is a story with a twist – its unexpected turn of events – often produces shock or disbelief in the hearer. When Jesus told parables, his audience was surprised and often shocked by these “twists”, and it is precisely this aspect of parables that makes the hearer perk up his ears and become engaged with the narrative.

Today’s Gospel consists of three parables: the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Prodigal Son. All three involve something that was “lost” and then “found”, and the bottom-line, theological interpretation is that there is much rejoicing in heaven when sinners repent and find their way back to God (be they lost sheep, lost coins, or prodigal children). The twist or surprise in these three parables occurs when we realize that they are more about the compassion of God than they are about the conversion of sinners. In the first parable – the Lost Sheep – the “twist” is that no shepherd would ever leave the flock unattended to search for a lost sheep. The flock would wander off, and instead of one lost sheep the shepherd would face the problem of a lost flock! No shepherd would ever abandon the flock in search of one lost sheep, yet this is precisely what God would do and how God would act. The second parable – the Lost Coin – describes the almost obsessive-compulsive behavior of a woman as she relentlessly searches for a lost coin. When she finds it, her subsequent rejoicing and calling of friends and neighbors reinforces the depth of her compulsion. The evangelist draws upon this dimension to demonstrate the almost obsessive way that God pursues sinners in order to reincorporate them into the fold. God’s unorthodox behavior is also found in the parable of the Prodigal Son, whose twist occurs when both sons are shocked by the father’s actions. The hearers of this parable expected that the father would exalt the elder son and shame the younger, and much to their surprise, they learn that the father loves them both, albeit differently. An additional twist occurs when, as human beings, we make the assumption that the father would act as we would act. We expect that the father will shame and punish the younger son because of this prodigal action. However, the father’s unfathomable forgiveness of his wayward son – as well as his interaction with the elder son – demonstrate how God might act differently compared to human beings in the same situation.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.