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

SEPTEMBER 22, 2019
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1490 19th Street (Church)
LOCATED ON THE NE CORNER OF 19TH & CONNECTICUT STREETS

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

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.

FEED THE HUNGRY
There is a wonderful opportunity to feed the hungry in our community. An Interfaith Church group provides a winter shelter program for homeless men. The men are housed in various religious buildings. Many different religious communities take turns providing a hot meal for the 75 to 100 men that are housed for the night.
A prayer group at St. Teresa’s has been doing this ministry for several years now. It has been an eye-opening, and heartwarming experience. The meal is sometimes prepared as a group at the Church kitchen, sometimes individuals prepare food at home and meet to serve. Lots of details to come, but please do calendar the dates and consider sharing your time and talents for this much needed work. We sure could use your help!

January 29, 2020 – 5 pm at St. Marks Lutheran, 1111 O’Farrell Street, San Francisco, CA 94109
February 12, 2020 – 5 pm at First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St, San Francisco, CA 94109

For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Lynn Jacklevich—kg6cev@yahoo.com or Judi Daddio—daddios@comcast.net.

SAVE THE DATE!
On October 5th, St. Teresa’s Green Team is hosting a workshop – “Working with Others to Fight Climate Change Globally, Nationally, and Locally”. Join us to learn how people are working in coalitions to respond to our climate challenge and how we can support and join in their efforts.

We hope that you can attend!

When: October 5th: 9am-12noon
Where: St Teresa Parish Hall

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 longtime 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: ____________ Email: __________________________
City: ____________ Date: __________________________
□ New Parishioner □ New Address and/or phone □ Send Sunday envelopes □ On-Line Giving
MASS INTENTIONS
As we celebrate Mass together we include in our prayers:

Saturday, September 21
4:15pm
- Shirley Marasco
- R.M. Ostler
- B. Noeke
- J. Burns
- R. Jones

10:00 AM
- T. Labuguen
- R. Pitts
- S. Miller
- Volunteer
- J. Warnock
- E. Kudyla

Sunday, September 22
8:30am
- Roman Lech
- Volunteer
- Volunteer
- C. Illich
- J. Warnock
- T. Lando

4:15pm
- Henry Morgan, Jr. (Spec. Int.)
- N. Drego
- Volunteer
- Volunteer
- T. Lando

SECOND COLLECTIONS
September 21 & 22
This weekend’s second collection benefits the Priests’ Retirement Fund. This collection provides retirement benefits to priests of our Archdiocese. This serves to supplement their Social Security benefits, which are based on modest salaries earned while a priest. These priests use this money for basic needs, such as food, housing, etc. This fund also provides health insurance and extended care benefits.

September 28 & 29
Next week’s second collection will benefit the St. Teresa Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

PARISH CALENDAR
Sun, Sep 22
- Coffee & Donuts after Masses
- AA Step Meeting, 6:30pm, Hall
- AA Meeting, 7:30am, Avila
- SVDP Sandwich Tuesday 9am, Parish Kitchen
- SVDP Grocery Distribution 1pm, Hall

Mon, Sep 23
- Choir Practice
- AA Step Meeting, Ed

Tue, Sep 24
- AA Meeting, 7:30am, Avila
-SVDP Sandwich Tuesday 9am, Parish Kitchen

Wed, Sep 25
- AA Meeting, 7pm, Avila
- AA Meeting, 7pm, Avila
- Coffee & Donuts after Masses

Sun, Sep 29
- Coffee & Donuts after Masses

The Troubling Parable of the Dishonest Steward

After nearly four decades of priesthood (and about two thousand homilies), I’ve come to realize that, for the people in the pews, the parable in this week’s Gospel is, perhaps, the most offensive parable in the entire New Testament. Today’s puzzling text chronicles the antics of a dishonest steward who is about to be fired for the mismanagement of his master’s property. Realizing that he is about to be sacked, the unscrupulous steward contacts his master’s debtors and cuts each a deal: a hundred jars of oil is reduced to fifty, while a hundred measures of wheat becomes eighty. In doing this, the stewards hopes “. . . to make sure that people will take me into their homes when I am let go.”

One would suspect that the owner would condemn such devious behavior, but herein lies the parable’s twist: The owner gives the devious employee credit for being enterprising!

For centuries both scripture scholars and people in the pews have been puzzled by this parable, and both have been hard-pressed to make sense of Jesus’ apparent blatant approval of such dishonesty. Over the centuries, the most widespread attempt at a reasonable explanation has been to suggest that the manager wasn’t cheating his master at all. In this context, the fifty jars of oil and twenty measures of wheat represent the steward’s “commission” for administering his master’s affairs. Essentially, the dishonest steward is like a stock broker who takes a commission on every trade or transaction. In this view, the steward is enterprising because, by forgoing his commission, everyone comes out ahead: the owner is happy because he’s been paid; the debtors are happy because they’ve received a discount; and the steward is happy because he enjoys good standing, both with his boss and his clients. It is worth noting that such an interpretation also allows both scripture scholars and church-going Christians to save face, since it saves us the embarrassment of Jesus endorsing a sycophant.

A similar, face-saving maneuver is an interpretation which assumes that it is the owner who is dishonest. In this interpretation, the steward’s discount to the two debtors is a remission of the interest that the owner is illegally charging. Once again, an interpretation along these lines gets Jesus off the hook. Unfortunately, there is nothing in the gospel to suggest that the owner is anything but honest. Furthermore, such an interpretation transforms the dishonest steward into an honorable person of integrity, which is exactly the opposite of how he’s portrayed in the text.

The pivotal line in the parable is verse 8: “And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently.” Notice that it is the master – not Jesus – who commends the dishonest steward. Jesus uses this parable – which originally ends with the master’s commendation – to shock his audience and get their attention. He does so to make the point that the steward – about to be fired and “not strong enough to dig and . . . too ashamed to beg” – is in a desperate situation. Desperate situations demand desperate action, and the steward cuts a deal with the master’s debtors in order to survive.

Scripture scholars make the point that the “hearsers” of this parable are also in a desperate situation, but they probably are not aware of it. Basically, the hearers are being challenged to make a decision for or against Christ. The gospels are filled with such challenges. Unfortunately, in today’s gospel the challenge of whether or how to follow Christ is obscured because we are unable to shift our attention away from the unscrupulous action of the dishonest steward.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.