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: ____________________________________________________________
City: ___________________ Zip: _________ Email: _______________________
☐ New Parishioner ☐ New Address and/or phone ☐ Send Sunday envelopes ☐ On-Line Giving

WHITE MASS 
FOR CATHOLIC MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS 
Friday, October 18 at 6pm 
Mater Dolorosa Church 
307 Willow Ave South San Francisco 
Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone invites all faithful to attend a Mass invoking the Holy Spirit to provide His guidance and protection on the caring hands of medical professionals. After Mass, the archbishop will also impart a special apostolic blessing to all medical professionals in attendance. The Archdiocese will then host a special reception afterwards honoring all medical professionals.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS AT UCSF MISSION BAY

Spiritual Care Services at UCSF Mission Bay will be offering two different 8 week support groups in the coming months:

Learning to live with the loss of a loved one: This group is specifically geared to those who have experienced the death of an adult loved one. Group will meet on Wednesdays, starting October 16th and running through December 11th. These meetings will be held on the Mission Bay Campus from 5:30—7:00pm.

Grief Support Group for Parents: This group is specifically geared to parents who have experienced the death of a child. There will be no meeting on November 28th, December 26th or January 2nd. Group will meet on Thursdays, starting November 21st. Please call for an appointment.

Both groups are open to all and offered FREE OF CHARGE.

For more information, please see the flyers posted on the bulletin boards in the church vestibule or hall.
MASS INTENTIONS
As we celebrate Mass together we include in our prayers:

Saturday, October 12
4:15pm
↑ Kathleen M. Burns
Henry Morgan, Jr. (Spec. Int.)
8:30am
↑ John & Gertrude Lech
Cup: E. Kudyba
Bread: Volunteer

Sunday, October 13
8:30am
↑ Jennifer Price
Cup: Volunteer

Monday, October 14
8:00am
↑ Paul Sullivan
The People of the Parish
Bread: Volunteer
Cup: Volunteer

Tuesday, October 15
8:30am
↑ Jimmy Burnett
8:30am
↑ John & Gertrude Lech
The People of the Parish
Cup: C. Illich
Bread: Volunteer

Wednesday, October 16
8:30am
↑ Shirley Marasco
Henry Morgan, Jr. (Spec. Int.)
Sunday, October 20
8:30am
↑ Peter & Bianca Lodolo
The People of the Parish
10:00AM
↑ Jennifer Price

Ministers Schedule for Next Week October 19 & 20
4:15PM
Lector: A. Rose
Bread: B. Noelke
Cup: J. Burns
Hosp: J. Skowara
8:30AM
Lector: N. Drego
Bread: S. Siebel
Hosp: T. Lando
10:00AM
Lector: L. Martin
Bread: D. Bernstein
Cup: Volunteer
1 Cup: E. Kudyba

SECOND COLLECTIONS
October 12 & 13
There is no second collection this weekend.
October 19 & 20
Next week is World Mission Sunday, in a special Extraordinary Missionary Month. We are called through our baptism to be part of the Church’s missionary efforts, through prayer, self-sacrifice and support of missionary vocations through material aid. Remembering that we are baptized and sent as a Universal Church of Christ on mission in the world, we can...
PRAY for the Church’s worldwide missionary work
OFFER financial HELP and CHARITY through The Society for the Propagation of the Faith for vulnerable communities throughout Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Pacific Islands.

Parish Calendar
Sun, Oct 13 - Faith Formation, 9am, Hall
Coffee & Donuts after Masses
Mon, Oct 14 - Choir Practice, 7pm, Church
AA Step Meeting, 6:30pm, Hall
Tue, Oct 15 - Meeting, 7:30am, Avila
SVDP Sandwich Tuesday, 9am, Parish Kitchen
SVDP Grocery Distribution 1pm, Hall
- Young Adult Scripture Study 7pm, Priory
Wed, Oct 16 - AA Meeting, 7pm, Avila
AA Meeting, 7pm, Avila
- Faith Formation, 9am, Hall
- Coffee & Donuts after Masses
- Youth Rally, 12 noon

Leprosy in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures
Today is the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, and both the Old Testament and Gospel readings deal with leprosy. Most of us have at least a vague notion that leprosy is a skin disease, yet probably none of us have ever seen a leper or have first-hand knowledge of the disease. Incidents involving leprosy frequently appear in both the Old and New Testaments, and because there are so many misconceptions about the disease, I’d like to focus today’s column on leprosy in the Bible: what is leprosy, and why is there such stigma attached to the disease?

Leprosy has affected humanity for over 4000 years, but for most of history it was a disease that was quite misunderstood. It was not until 1873 that Dr. Gerhard Hansen discovered leprosy was the result of a bacterial infection. Leprosy is spread when one comes in contact with an infected person, but – contrary to popular belief – it is not highly contagious. However, it is an unusual disease in that its incubation period can be as short as a few weeks or as long as 30 years.

Skin lesions are the primary external sign of leprosy, and the disease is progressive, causing permanent damage to the skin, nerves, limbs, and eyes. Contrary to folklore and popular belief, leprosy does not cause body parts to fall off, although they can become numb or diseased as a result of secondary infections. In Hansen’s leprosy, the skin thickens and then becomes an ulcerated and deformed, and can also cause nerve damage leading to numbness of the skin over parts of the body. Beginning in about 1930, antibiotics were used to treat leprosy, but it was not until the 1980s that an effective drug regimen was developed that “cured” the disease.

For most of history – including the Old and New Testaments – human beings knew neither the cause nor the cure for leprosy. As a result, people were afraid of lepers and, because of their fear, they stigmatized those victimized by the disease. To use Biblical and theological language, lepers were excommunicated. Until they “became clean” they were segregated in leper colonies, ostracized from the community because they were “unclean”.

Because people knew nothing about “real leprosy” (now known as Hansen’s Disease), virtually any form of skin disorder would arouse suspicion, resulting in the victim being segregated, ostracized, or quarantined. In other words, a person was treated as a leper if he or she had lesions, skin eruptions, dry or flaky skin, psoriasis, measles, chicken pox, shingles, or any type of a rash . . . perhaps even athlete’s foot!

In the case of minor skin diseases or infections, once the symptoms disappeared the priest pronounced the person clean and he or she was incorporated back into the community. But in those cases where the condition was leprosy (Hansen’s disease), the victim’s condition never improved, only worsened. In such cases, victims were forced to live in leper colonies, segregated and ostracized from the community.

Because people knew neither the cause of leprosy nor how it was transmitted, anyone suspected of leprosy – as well as anyone who came in contact with lepers – was treated as a leper. In other words, when one touched a leper one became a leper. Given this understanding, we are not surprised that, when Jesus cured lepers, he was treated with suspicion and shunned: Jesus “became a leper” when he “touched a leper.”

In the popular view, lepers were treated as sinners, their disease being a punishment for some transgression against God. Therefore, to cure a leper was, in effect, to forgive sin . . . which expands our understanding of what it means when Jesus touched and cured lepers.

In today’s two readings there is an additional twist: Naaman the leper [Old Testament] and the ten lepers [Gospel] were foreigners. Given this additional information, the action of God’s prophets (Elisha and Jesus) must have been quite a shock to those witnessing the miracles. Why? Because if they held the belief that only Jews were God’s chosen people, then the actions of Elisha and Jesus – the healing of sinful foreigners – would have turned their world upside down!

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.