ALL SAINTS
Friday, November 1st is the Feast Day of All Saints. This year it is a Holy Day of Obligation in our Archdiocese.
Please join us as we Celebrate the Eucharist at 8:30am or 7:30pm.

Daylight Saving Time
Turn clocks back Saturday night before going to bed
And while you’re at it, use Daylight Saving Time to change batteries in your smoke alarms and refresh items in your emergency supply kits.

REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED LOVED ONES
November is called “the month of the Holy Souls”. During November a Book of Remembrance will be placed inside the Church. Parishioners are invited to write the names of deceased loved ones in this book and to bring a photo(s) for display during the month. All photos will be returned at the end of the month. Please put your name & phone number on the back of the picture.
We will remember those we have lost this year on Sunday, November 3rd at the 10am Mass.

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

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.

We have had on-line giving up and running here at St. Teresa’s for 10 months! It’s proven to be a big success with parishioners. We have seen an increase in offerings each month.
If you have hesitated, but are interested in supporting our parish through this program, please do not hesitate to contact Stephani in the parish office.

Please take a moment before you leave to replace the hymnals in their racks, bring any unwanted bulletins up front to the vestibule, and look around your area for anything that may need to be thrown out or returned to its proper place.
In the hall, please be aware that we have a special spill kit in the kitchen. If you spill something please help us by cleaning it.

St. Teresa’s Green Team
Good news- The EPA officially re-certified St Teresa as an ENERGY STAR parish. This makes St Teresa the only worship facility in San Francisco (and in California) to hold the certification in 2019! ENERGY STAR is the government-backed program for certifying energy-efficient buildings. A special thanks to Stephani for helping gather the data and to Gail Kendall for compiling the data that was needed to earn the re-certification!

Do you know that there are special Children’s Bulletins available in the vestibule every week?
There are 2 versions available: for ages 3-6 or for ages 7-12. They feature a link to online games, etc. on most bulletins.

ON-LINE GIVING
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

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

OCTOBER 27, 2019
THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1490 19th Street (Church) Located on the NE Corner of 19th & Connecticut Streets

WEDDING Please call 6 months in advance
MARRIAGE Please call for an appointment
BAPTISM & RECONCILIATION

PARISH OFFICE / MAILING ADDRESS
HOURS—10:00AM TO 4:30PM
390 Missouri St, San Francisco, CA 94107
Phone: 415.285.5272 Fax: 415.285.9510
E-mail: info@stteresasf.org Website: stteresasf.org

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The phrase, “tax collectors, prostitutes, and sinners” is the Gospel’s catch-all expression for the riffraff Jesus hangs out with. The Pharisees in particular utter this derogatory comment whenever they want to discredit Jesus because of the company he keeps.

This Sunday’s Gospel, found only in Luke, is the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee. It is one of the more well-known parables in the Christian Scriptures, and its meaning is more deeply appreciated when we understand the social status of tax collectors in first-century Judea.

Before we look in depth at tax collectors, it is essential to grasp a central component of Judaism. For a Jew, God (Yahweh) is the only higher power, and Jews understood their kings as Yahweh’s legitimate representatives on earth. Given this understanding, any foreign power was regarded as illegitimate. Surveying Jewish history, the Jews consistently despised foreign dominion, it was an almost religious duty to revolt and overthrow the occupying power.

Given this background, we note that any Jew who associated with or worked for the Romans was regarded as a traitor, not only to his own countrymen, but also to God as well. Because they worked for the hated Romans, tax collectors were seen as turncoats. Rather than but also were enriching themselves at the expense of their fellow Jews. Dianne Bergant writes: “Tax collectors were despised because they were part of the economic system put in place by the occupying Romans. They were not paid by their employers, so they added fees to the taxes collected. There was no standard scale involving this added charge, and tax collectors often extracted exorbitant amounts. They could easily fall under the rubric of extortionists.”

It was common knowledge that tax collectors cheated the people they collected from. How did they do this? Each district was assessed a certain amount. Any money collected above the assessed amount was the tax collector’s profit. The more money the tax collector extracted from the district, the greater his profits. No wonder tax collectors were so hated and despised.

Because they extorted their constituents and “skimmed off the top”, tax collectors were often wealthy and well-to-do. This further separated the tax collectors from the lower classes who resented the injustice of having to support such a lavish lifestyle.

For these reasons, publicans (tax collectors) were, in effect, excommunicated from Judaism. Their allegiance and association with the hated Romans made them pariahs in Jewish society, which is quite evident in today’s Gospel where the Pharisees shuns the Publican. Given this understanding, the crowds would have been shocked when they learned that one of Jesus’ twelve apostles, Matthew, was a tax collector. They would also have been shocked at the twist in today’s parable, when it is the prayer of the Publican that is heard instead of the prayer of the Pharisee.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.

TAX COLLECTORS

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In the Gospels, we have an example of such a revolutionary. His name was Barabbas, the criminal who they crowd chose to be released by Pilate instead of Jesus.

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