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

DECEMBER 1, 2019
FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

1490 19TH STREET (CHURCH)
LOCATED ON THE NE CORNER OF 19TH & CONNECTICUT STREETS

PASTOR
Rev. Michael A. Greenwell, O. Carm.
pastor@stteresa.sf.org

PAROCHIAL VICAR
Rev. Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.
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Laura Diaz-Flaviani, laura@stteresa.sf.org

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Anarose Schelstrate, anarose@stteresa.sf.org

SUNDAY MASSES
Saturday Vigil  4:15 pm
Sunday   8:30 & 10:00 am

WEEEKDAY MASSES
Tuesday  8:30 am
Friday   8:30 am

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE
This year we are again delighted to be working with The Lantern to distribute Christmas cheer.
Beginning this weekend, the tree with all the sparkling tags is our annual Giving Tree. Each child has 2 tags, with the name & age of the child along with clothing sizes or something practical on one tag; the other tag has a toy the child desires. There is no need to buy both, unless you take 2 tags for the same child. Some ask for gift cards—please be thoughtful in your selection of card & amount (to be age appropriate). We suggest the $25-$50 range.
Return the wrapped package, with tag attached, no later than Sunday, December 15 to ensure that Santa is able to make timely deliveries.
Thank you for your generosity – be assured you will be making a child very happy.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING
We are in need of volunteers to help decorate the church for Christmas. The more volunteers, the quicker we will be done. If you are available on Sunday, December 22nd following the 10am Mass, please plan to stay for a while to help.

CHRISTMAS MASSES
Volunteer Lectors & Liturgical Ministers are needed for the 4:15 & 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Masses and for the 8:30 & 10:00 am Masses on Christmas Day. There are sign-up sheets in the back of the church.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
This year the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on Monday, December 9th and is not a Holy Day of Obligation in this Archdiocese.

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.

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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: ___________ Zip: ___________ Email: ___________________________
I suspect that – for many Catholics – Advent is like Lent . . . only two weeks shorter! After all, many of the things that happen in Lent occur in Advent as well: we don’t sing the Gloria or Alleluia; we wear purple vestments; and, in many parishes, there are those semi-annual penance services, the first in Advent, the second in Lent.

Despite such surface similarities, Advent and Lent are actually two completely different seasons. In Lent the focus is on penance (the confessions, and preparing for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery at Easter). Eventually, Lent evolved into a fast of fasting and penance, the Period of Penance and Enlightenment before receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter.

The tone of Advent is completely different from the tone of Lent. While Lent emphasizes fasting and penance, Advent focuses on anticipation and longing. Perhaps the best analogy for the season of Advent is to compare it to the experience of pregnancy. As a couple journeys through the nine months of pregnancy, they experience a plethora of emotions. On the one hand, there is incredibly joy and longing as they anticipate the birth of their child. However, this joy and longing walk hand in hand with incredible anxiety and fear. The couple asks, will there be complications with the pregnancy and birth? Will the child be healthy? And what about the child’s future? Will the child’s life be meaningful and fruitful, or will it be marked by suffering, sadness, tragedy and pain? During the nine months of pregnancy, parents vacillate between hope-joy and anxiety-fear.

Advent is like that. During the darkest, coldest time of the year – the winter solstice – we anticipate the Light of Christ, the Son of God, coming into our darkened, sinful world. We anticipate and hope that the presence of Christ can and will make a difference, yet we also know “the rest of the story”: that the life of Jesus will end in suffering, crucifixion, and death. The fact that this tragedy of death is triumphed by Resurrection does not diminish the tragedy. Hence, in the Paschal Mystery, we experience both sadness and joy. This is true for the life of Jesus; this is true for each of our lives; this is true for those waiting to be born.

I hope it’s become quite evident that there is quite a bit of difference between the seasons of Advent and Lent. In some of the non-Catholic Christian denominations – especially in the Anglican and Lutheran Churches – this difference is emphasized by the color of vestments. During Advent, midnight blue vestments are worn instead of purple, and this subtle, nuanced color shift from purple to blue highlights the difference between these two liturgical seasons. Unfortunately, the Roman Catholic Church does not include “midnight blue” among its official liturgical colors . . . which is why the wearing of purple vestments in Advent sometimes causes us to think that Advent is kind of a “little Lent”.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.