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

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE
This year we are again delighted to be working with The Lantern to distribute Christmas cheer.
Continuing 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 next 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 1-2 hours to help. You may wish to bring work clothing to change into after Mass.

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.

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As the temperatures start to drop, rather than turning on the furnace, opt for grabbing a warmer sweater instead. Additionally, install draft stoppers in doorways or window sills that are prone to letting cold air inside. Not only will you save energy, but you’ll save money as well.

Next Sunday, December 15th is the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means “Rejoice”, and it marks the half-way point of Advent. After the 8:30 & 10 am Masses we invite you to the Parish Hall to rejoin” with a breakfast of sausage, eggs, and pancakes. (vegetarian/vegan options available)
We promise plenty of food and fellowship.

Please Join Us

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.

Please call for an appointment

You are invited to attend a piano recital by the students of our parishioner Therese Labuguen on Sunday, December 15 at 4:30 pm here at St. Teresa’s.

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 Welcome You To
St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church
A Warm, Welcoming, Inclusive Faith Community
Served by the Carmelites
DECEMBER 8, 2019
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

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

PAROCHIAL VICAR
Rev. Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.
mkwiecien@sttereesasf.org

PARISH SECRETARY
Stephani Sheehan, stephani@sttereesasf.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Laura Diaz-Flaviani, laura@sttereesasf.org

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION
Anarose Schelstrate, anarose@sttereesasf.org

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This year, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 8th) falls on a Sunday. Because it is a Solemnity, the Immaculate Conception is celebrated with white vestments, special readings, the Gloria, and the Creed. Why, then, are we wearing purple vestments and celebrating the Second Sunday of Advent?

The answer is complicated and messy, and stems from the fact the Church, in effect, has not one but seasonal perspectives (e.g., Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time); the other looks at the year from a sanctoral perspective (e.g., St. Patrick’s Day, March 17th, or the Feast of St. Francis, October 4th). The sanctoral calendar focuses on the saints, the liturgical calendar focuses on the seasons, and sometimes these two calendars are in tension with one another. When this happens, we are faced with a dilemma: do we celebrate the season? or the saint?

The tension between the two calendars, I believe, mirrors an unnamed tension among believers. Catholics are known for their great devotion to saints, and they are at a loss when a saint seems to be “ignored” because of the season. The best example of this is St. Patrick’s Day, March 17th, which always occurs during the Season of Lent. For many of Irish ancestry, March 17th is almost a religious and national holiday, and they seem a bit confused (and upset!) when the priest will not wear green vestments. The reason for no green is simple: the Feast of St. Patrick is a memorial, and memorials of saints do not take precedence over days in Lent. Hence, the liturgical color for March 17th is purple, not green. (As an aside: even if we were to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day, the liturgical color would be white. Why? because St. Patrick was a bishop, and white vestments are worn on memorials for bishops.)

The general rule is that the season trumps the saint, which means that the Second Sunday of Advent takes precedence over the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. In practice, the Church usually follows the seasonal calendar; in fact, liturgical law dictates that it must do so during Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter.

Just as St. Patrick’s Day always occurs during Lent, so does the Immaculate Conception always occurs during Advent. December 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation, and it is celebrated with special readings, white vestments, the Gloria, and the Creed. However, when December 8th falls on a Sunday, the Season of Advent takes precedence. That’s why today’s vestments are purple and the readings are taken from the Second Sunday of Advent. In years when this happens, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is moved to the following day, Monday December 9th, but it is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

Speaking of liturgical colors, next Sunday is Gaudate Sunday. Gaudate means rejoice, and rose is the liturgical color of the day. On the Third Sunday of Advent, it’s become a St. Teresa’s tradition to offer a parish breakfast of eggs, sausage, bacon, pancakes, sweet rolls, juice, and coffee. This is our way of saying Thank You to our wonderful Parishioners!

If you know of Catholics in the area who might be looking for a Church, invite them to Mass and breakfast. If you know old parishioners who have moved from the area, invite them back. Be sure to join us next week for breakfast as we rejoice on Gaudate Sunday.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.