What happens to Christmas trees after the holidays? Fortunately, San Francisco enjoys a robust Christmas tree recycling program. It’s a major undertaking with 500 tons of Christmas trees collected off city sidewalks in the first two weeks of January. To gather Christmas trees from every residential route in the city and transport thousands of trees, Recology assigns designated crews to pick up residential Christmas trees exclusively. From January 2 to January 15, Christmas tree collection crews make an extra pass on scheduled residential routes to pick up trees. Through much of January, Recology workers feed the trees into a large and powerful grinder that reduces them into wood chips. For that month, the smell of Christmas is prominent at Recology.

A big thank you to all who donated so generously to the kids on the Giving Tree. You brightened the Christmas of many children. Thanks also to the elves—who worked to make this happen so smoothly.

Please join us in welcoming to our parish community:

Asher Zain Ronquillo, the son of Preejak & Christy Ronquillo. Asher will be baptized by Rev. Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm. this Sunday at the 10am Mass.

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

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

DECEMBER 22, 2019
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

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

WEEKDAY MASSES
Tuesday  8:30 am
Friday  8:30 am

MARRIAGE
Please call 6 months in advance

BAPTISM & RECONCILIATION
Please call for an appointment

PARISH OFFICE / MAILING ADDRESS
HOURS—10:00AM TO 4:30PM
390 Missouri St, San Francisco, CA 94107
Phone: 415.285.5272 Fax: 415.285.8510
E-mail: info@stteresasf.org
Website: stteresasf.org

CHRISTMAS EVE
Tuesday, December 24th
4:15 Family Mass
9:00 pm (Choir)
Carolining Prior to Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY
Wednesday, December 25th
8:30am & 10:00am
Carolining Prior to 10:00am Mass

NEW YEAR’S DAY
SOLEMNIY OF MARY
Wednesday, January 1st
9:00am
Holy Day of Obligation
The Sunday Gospels in Advent follow a particular pattern. On the First Sunday of Advent, the Gospel speaks, not about the birth of Christ and the beginning of Salvation History, but on the Annunciation, where the Angel Gabriel asked Mary whether she would be the Mother of God. Last year’s Gospel was the Visitation, C, Luke’s Gospels focus on Mary, but this year – in Cycle A – Matthew’s focus is on Joseph.

There are cultural dimensions to this story that, when examined, not only enrich our understanding, but turn it on its ear. The first concern is that, in first century Judea, no one would have been shocked by Mary’s pregnancy. Because Joseph and Mary were betrothed and were referred to as husband and wife, not the father. Should this indiscretion come to light, Mary could be punished under Jewish law, perhaps even by being put to death.

A third point to consider is that, in first century Judea, no one would have been shocked by Mary’s pregnancy. Because Joseph and Mary were betrothed and were referred to as husband and wife, Mary’s pregnancy would not have been considered unusual or out of the ordinary. However, it would be both shocking and scandalous should it emerge that Joseph was not the father. Should this indiscretion come to light, Mary could be punished under Jewish law, perhaps even by being put to death.

In light of these cultural insights, what stands out in high relief is the faith of Jesus’ parents, not only Mary’s consent to be the Mother of God, but also Joseph’s decision to take Mary into his home and accept the child as his own. And when we take a deeper look at this Sunday’s Gospel, we discover that what is most extraordinary about Joseph’s decision is that he made this act of faith based upon knowledge gained from a dream!