We are thinking of you this holiday season. May you have all you desire and much more. May your heart overflow with all that you receive this season.

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.

Welcome to St. Teresa of Avila’s Parish Community

Your Pastors, Rev. Michael A. Greenwell, O. Carm. and Rev. Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm., along with the Pastoral staff, Anarose, Laura, Stephani, Francisco, and Drew, want to take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Happy, Healthy, Prosperous & Blessed New Year!

On Wednesday, January 1st, we will celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation) With Mass at 9:00am

Starting January 1st and continuing through the month of January, there will be baskets throughout the church and hall awaiting your donations of new, white athletic socks. A pair of new socks can make a huge impact on the lives of those without resources. Won’t you please help us meet or exceed our goal of 2,000 pairs of socks?

Diocese of Santa Clara
Archdiocese of San Francisco
Archdiocese of San Diego
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
Archdiocese of Oregon
Archdiocese of Portland
Archdiocese of Seattle
Archdiocese of San Antonio
Archdiocese of San Diego
Archdiocese of San Francisco
Archdiocese of San Jose
Archdiocese of Santa Barbara

You can help support Operation New Socks by giving a donation today.

To make a one time gift, scan the QR code, scroll past the log in, on click Quick Give
To register for the program, scan the QR code and complete the log in, etc.
The Twelve Days of Christmas mark the interval between Christmas (December 25th) and Epiphany (January 6th). This becomes somewhat confusing because, in the Church, the day begins, not with dawn, but with dusk the night before. Hence, the First Day of Christmas begins on Christmas Night and continues through the daylight hours of December 26th. Following this pattern, when you count the days you’ll discover that the Eleventh Day of Christmas begins at sundown on January 5th and continues through the day of January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany.

The Twelve Days of Christmas found its way into a Christmas carol of the same name, first published in England (1780). But there is a strong possibility that the carol originated in France, and over the past two centuries people have been intrigued by the carol’s lyrics. However, any hidden meaning – if there is one – has yet to be satisfactorily explained.

One of the most common explanations is that the song’s lyrics were written as a “catechism song” to help young Catholics learn their faith at a time when it was a crime to practice Catholicism in England (1558-1829). In this theory, the “coded lyrics” are as follows:

- A Partridge in a Pear Tree = Jesus Christ
- Two Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments
- Three French Hens = The Three Theological Virtues
- Four Calling Birds = The Five Books of the Pentateuch
- Five Gold Rings = The Ten Commandments
- Six Geese A-laying = The Eleven Faithful Apostles
- Seven Swans A-swimming = The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Eight Maids A-milking = The Eight Beatitudes
- Nine Ladies Dancing = The Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- Ten Lords A-leaping = The Twelve Points of Doctrine in the Creed
- Twelve Drummers Drumming = The Twelve Points of Doctrine in the Creed

Such an interpretation – as intriguing as it may be – simply does not survive the test of critical scrutiny. First and foremost, there is nothing specifically “catholic” about this analysis. Since most Christians agree on the eight beatitudes, ten commandments, eleven faithful apostles, et al, there is nothing uniquely Catholic in the “hidden meaning” of the lyrics. Secondly, this “hidden meaning” interpretation is relatively modern. It was first suggested by Canadian English teacher and hymnologist Hugh McKellar who published an article in 1979 titled “How to Decode the Twelve Days of Christmas”. In a later article Mr. McKellar stated that any “hidden meaning” associations were his. Hence, any claim that this Christmas carol contains “hidden meanings” is an interpretation that dates, not from 1780, but from 1979.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.