POINSETTIAS
A big Thank You to our anonymous donor for all the beautiful plants. They truly bring a Christmas feel to our church every year.

SERVICES FOR GENEVIEVE VIDA (updated since email was sent)
Service have been scheduled, as follows:
9:30—10:15 am  Viewing & Visitation
10:15—12 noon  Service
1:30—2 pm  Interment at Olivet
3:00—5:00 pm  Celebration of Life at Eric’s Chinese Restaurant
Viewing & Service to be held at Duggan Welsh Funeral Home, 3434 17th Street. Please see notice on the bulletin board for more information.

ST TERESA’S GREEN TEAM
Many times over the Holidays people are filled with holiday cheer and will spend their time volunteering and giving donations. However, after the Holidays and for the rest of the year, nonprofits still need your support. This year, consider volunteering your time with your favorite charities throughout the year!

AAA 2020
We have recently been notified that our goal for 2019 is $28,860. We will kick-off the campaign February 1 & 2. More information to follow.

Walk for Life West Coast 2020
Join fellow Catholics and Pro-Lifers from all over California and beyond as we stand up for the liighest among us at the 16th Annual Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco on January 25, 2020. There will be Mass at 9:30AM at St. Mary’s Cathedral celebrated by Archbishop Alexander Sample from Portland, OR. The rally begins at 12:30PM in San Francisco’s Civic Center Plaza, and the Walk, down Market Street, begins at 1:30PM. Last year’s Walk drew 50,000+ people. For complete information about the Walk, visit: www.walkforlifewc.com or call 415-658-1793.

We are on our way to meeting our goal with the collection of 589 pairs of socks as of Friday, January 10! Throughout the remainder of January, there will be baskets throughout the church awaiting your donations of new, white athletic socks.
Remember, you can order socks on-line and have them directly shipped to St. Teresa’s, 390 Missouri St, SF, CA 94107.
With the promise of more rain this winter, 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?

Parish Office / Mailing Address
390 Missouri St, San Francisco, CA 94107
Phone: 415.285.5272  Fax: 415.285.8510
E-mail: info@stteresasf.org
Website: stteresasf.org

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
Name: __________________________ Phone: __________________________
Address: __________________________ Zip: __________________________
City: __________________________ Email: __________________________
☐ New Parishioner  ☐ New Address and/or phone  ☐ Send Sunday envelopes  ☐ On-Line Giving

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WEYEND TAX REPORTING
Letters acknowledging donations for 2019 will be sent out during the month of January to all Envelope donors who contributed more that $200. If you donated by checks in the basket and would like a tax letter, please email Stephani.
If you donate on-line, you can print a record of your donations directly from the donation site. Instruction are on pages 11 & 26 of the On-line Giver Users Guide, located near the bottom of your homepage. If you have any questions, please call Stephani in the Parish Office. If you also donated via envelopes or “checks in the basket”, email Stephani@stteresasf.org and a separate record of those donations will be sent out.
THEOPHANY AT THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This weekend we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, the feast which brings to a close the Christmas Season. Since we are in Cycle A, our Gospel is taken from Matthew, and in today’s text, when Jesus comes out of the water,

“... the sky opened and he saw the Spirit of God descend like a dove and hover over him. With that, a voice from the heavens said, “This is my beloved Son. My favor rests on him.” (Mt 3: 16b - 17)

These circumstances surrounding Jesus’ baptism—the descent of the Spirit and a voice from the heavens—are an example of a *theophany*. Simply put, a *theophany* is a Greek word that describes the manifestation of a deity to a human being.

In the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, theophany takes on a more nuanced and refined meaning. In our Judeo-Christian tradition, a theophany refers to the manifestation of God through an extraordinary sign, usually involving nature. In the Hebrew Scriptures, examples of theophanies include:

- The *Burning Bush* where God reveals himself to Moses (Ex 3:1ff)
- The *pillar of cloud by day and fire by night* which led the Israelites through the Sinai (Ex 13:21–22)
- The *thunder and lightning on Mount Sinai* that occurs when Yahweh gave Moses the Ten Commandments (Ex 19:16-25)
- The *storm* described in the Song of Deborah (Judges 5:2-31)
- A *earthquake* on Easter Morning when the women approach the tomb (Mt 21:2)
- The *storm* described in the Song of Deborah (Judges 5:2-31)

The common element in these examples it that each describes an event in nature which is then interpreted as a manifestation of God. This concept of theophany is carried over from the Hebrew Scriptures to the New Testament. Here are several examples:

- The *announces the Birth of Jesus and directs the Magi to his birthplace* in Bethlehem (Mt 2:2)
- Jesus mysteriously *calms the sea*, which prompts the apostles to ask, “What sort of man is this, whom even the winds and the sea obey?” (Mt 8:23-27)
- The *earthquake and the tearing of the sanctuary veil in two*, events that take place at the moment of Jesus’ death (Mt 27:51)
- The *earthquake* on Easter Morning when the women approach the tomb (Mt 21:2)
- And, of course, there is today’s Gospel when a *voice from heaven* proclaims, “This is my beloved Son. My favor rests on him.” (Mt 3:17)

In our modern world, what was formally called a *theophany* is now often referred to as a coincidence, and as we become more secularized we tend to dismiss theophanies as something belonging to more primitive and unsophisticated era. Yet there is another way to look at these phenomenon: theophanies question our scientific, rational approach to the world. They challenge us to look at the world “with different eyes”, with eyes that are open to wonder and mystery.

The community of St. Teresa’s finds its strength to fulfill this through participation in the Eucharist, prayer, learning the building of relationships, and action for Justice.