The Parish Office will be closed Monday, January 20th in observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Poinsettias
Thank you again to our anonymous donor for all the beautiful plants. Parishioners are invited to take home one (or more) of these plants, located on the patio.

Walk for Life West Coast 2020
Join fellow Catholics and Pro-Lifers from all over California and beyond as we stand up for the littlest 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.

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

ST TERESE’S GREEN TEAM
Are you a San Francisco resident that has a toilet that uses more than 3.5 gallons per flush? If you purchased your home before July 1, 2009, you might be eligible for a rebate from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission! Check out the SFPUCS’s Plumbing Fixture Replacement Program (PREP) to see if your home qualifies.

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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: ___________ Email: _________________________________
City: ___________________________ State: ___________

☐ New Parishioner ☐ New Address and/or phone ☐ Send Sunday envelopes ☐ On-Line Giving

St Teresa of Avila Church is an EPA ENERGY STAR® certified building.

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 are on our way to meeting our goal with the collection of 1,000 pairs of socks as of Friday, January 17! 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?

Operation New Socks for the Homeless
Warm their hearts by warming their feet!

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THE COMPLEX IMAGE OF THE “LAMB OF GOD”

*Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!* (Jn 1:29)

This passage, taken from today’s Gospel, is certainly most familiar to Catholic Christians, since we say it at every Mass immediately before the distribution of communion. And yet, the image of Jesus as **Lamb of God** is one of the most complex and nuanced titles given to Jesus in the New Testament. In today’s column I’d like to trace its history and development.

There are three Old Testament sources that contribute to the Lamb of God image. The first is from the Book of Exodus (the Passover Lamb), the second from the prophet Isaiah (the Suffering Servant), and the third from Jewish apocalyptic literature (the Conquering Lamb).

We are most familiar with the first image from Exodus. At the first Passover, an unblemished lamb was sacrificed, its flesh was roasted and eaten, and the blood of the lamb was sprinkled on the doorpost so that the avenging angel “passed over” the house and did not kill the first born. Essentially, the Passover story explains how a household was saved “by the blood of the lamb” and – at some point in the Christian tradition – a connection was made between the Passover Lamb and Jesus. Just as the Hebrews in Egypt were saved by God’s awesome power, so Christians were saved by Jesus’ spilling his blood on Calvary.

The second image is taken from Prophet Isaiah (Is 53:7) in a section where the Prophet describes the **Suffering Servant**.

> "Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth, like a lamb to the slaughter, gives his life as an offering for sin. In the Christian tradition, Jesus is linked to Isaiah’s Suffering Servant.

The third image comes from Jewish apocalyptic literature in which a **Conquering Lamb** comes at the end of time to destroy evil and sinfulness. This image is alluded to in the Christian Book of Revelation where we read:

> "They will fight with the Lamb, but the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and king of kings, and those with him are called, chosen, and faithful." (Rev 17:14)

Returning to today’s Gospel passage, two things stand out. First, it is important to note that this is the first time in the scriptures that Jesus is addressed as the **Lamb of God**. This, in itself, is not remarkable . . . until considered in light of the second point: the Gospel of John was the last of the four canonical Gospels, written between 90-110 AD. In other words, the first written record of Jesus being called Lamb of God does not appear until the Gospel of John, at least 60 years after his death.

This 60-year gap tells us that the image of **Lamb of God** is complicated and nuanced. It tells us that the connection between Jesus and the Old Testament lamb imagery was not immediately apparent to the first followers of Jesus. It was not until long after his death and resurrection that the early community reflected on the person of Christ and began to make connections between Jesus and the Lamb.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.