



Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2017

Rejoice always.
Pray without ceasing.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

REJOICE

Isaiah proclaims truly good news to us! God's coming brings not sadness, guilt, fear, wrath, or condemnation. No, God's coming is a source of comfort and joy. Saying it once is not enough, for today's readings are full of joy. Mary's Magnificat substitutes for our psalm today, and our second reading encourages us to rejoice, to give thanks and praise. This is the root meaning of the Greek word for eucharist. We are urged to rejoice and give thanks, because the coming of the Lord brings joy, healing, liberty, release, vindication. It makes the very earth spring up with new life! Good tidings!

— J. S. Paluch Co.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Last week, we looked at a form of nativity scene called a *presipio*, characterized by framing the crèche of Jesus with a vast array of personalities and a rich geographical context. The tradition was carried to the New World, and finds very rich expression in Latin America today. While in Europe the *presepio* was reserved mostly to the homes of wealthy nobles and great churches, in Latin America it was claimed by the poor and expressed the skills of native artisans. In Mexico, you can still find clay figures in every village market. In a way, the native people took the religion of Spanish rule and baptized it with their Indian culture by surrounding the crib of Jesus with local geography and people. In Brazil, where Christmas falls in summer, the figure of the baby Jesus is wrapped in gold and gems, and set on a hillside surrounded by flowers and animals of all kinds. Sometimes there is a double *presepio*, presenting both Nativity and Crucifixion.

In some places in Latin America, even non-religious people take care to have a *presepio* in the home, sometimes dedicating one whole room in the house or apartment to the scene. Some cities have markets where people from the countryside sell plants and figurines. In Cuzco, churches and families provide hot chocolate for the children of the poor who come down to help create the nativity scenes. In Paraguay, the baby Jesus grows—the small infant who arrives on Christmas Eve is replaced at New Year with a toddler Jesus who holds in one hand the globe and in the other a cross. Few Christmas traditions have the vitality and variety of *presepios* and crèches honoring the Nativity.

—Rev. James Field, © J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday:	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Thursday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Friday:	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Saturday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Sunday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12-16; Ps 89:2-5, 27-29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Prayer Requests: Sergio, Gary, Teresa Kooi, Pat Kampmann, Pete, Thomas Tolar, Susan Brown, Felicia Gonzalez, Holly White, Kathleen, Jamie Silva, Lorri McCamen, Sarah, Clifford James, Terri Andrews, Marilyn Vitali, Fred Pisani, Theresa Spiteri, Sara, Mary Anne Parque, Dorothy Komarek Denton, Steve, Sr. Marjorie Krusky, Barbara, Kathy Higgins, Dave Creeth, Sheila & Art Hansen, Jim Pearson, Ronald Porter, Annie Tobin, Darren and Michael, William, Parson Pfsorich, Dave, Mary O'Donnell, Bill Zandoski, Papke family, Mary Karp, Randy Tonelli, Daniel

Finance Corner:

Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

Weekly Offering



For the month of **December** offerings:

12/8: Immaculate Conception: \$412. 12/10: 1st Collection: \$2698.
12/10 & 12/17: Retired Religious: Sr. Marjorie Krusky.
12/24: no 2nd collection. 12/25: Christmas & Capital Expenditures.

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council: Tues., 1/30/18, at 10:00 AM in Hall

Finance Council: TBA

Liturgy Committee: TBA

St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044

St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Susan, 829-1189

Every Friday, Centering Prayer: 9:30 AM at St Philip

Coffee & Goodies: Following 8 AM Sunday Mass and Monday/Wednesday after 9 AM Mass, at St Philip Hall

Mondays & Wednesdays-Seniors Lunch at 12noon:

All seniors welcome! (No lunch Monday before 2nd Tuesday of month)



† ♥ † Mass Intentions † ♥ † Schedule

Sat., Dec. 16, 5pm Mass for the People † Brendan Smith
Sun., Dec. 17, 8am Mass † Al Gerhardt
Sun., Dec. 17, 9:30am Mass for the People
Sun., Dec. 17, 11:15am Mass † Hailey Ponte
Mon., Dec. 18, 9am Mass † Emily & Joe Palmer
Tues., Dec. 19, 9am Mass for the Poor Souls
Wed., Dec. 20, 9am Mass † Tina Bartolo
Thurs., Dec. 21, 9am Mass for the Poor Souls
Fri., Dec. 22, 9am Communion Service
Sat., Dec. 23, 5pm Mass for the People † Brendan Smith
Sun., Dec. 24, 8am 4th Sunday of Advent Mass † Frank Oddo
Sun., Dec. 24, 9:30am 4th Sunday of Advent Mass for the People
Sun., Dec. 24, 11:15am 4th Sunday of Advent Mass † Emily & Joe Palmer



SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent

Thursday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins

Saturday: St. John of Kanty



Sunday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Masses

3:30pm Children's Mass at St. Philip

5pm Christmas Eve Mass at St. Teresa

10pm Christmas Vigil Mass at St. Philip [carols at 9:30pm]

Monday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day Masses

8am at St. Philip

9:30am at St. Teresa

Pope Francis Tweet

"Political activity must truly be conducted at the service of the human person, with respect for creation and for the common good."

Are you interested in the possibility of becoming a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Usher, or Choir member at our parish? Please leave a message at the office: 874-3812.

PROPER UNDERTAKING

Never undertake anything for which you wouldn't have the courage to ask the blessings of heaven.

—Georg C. Lichtenberg

A Mass intention is a beautiful way to remember a beloved friend or family member, whether in death, for healing, in celebration of a special day, or simply for prayer and guidance. Call or come by the office to arrange this. A customary donation of \$10 is appreciated.

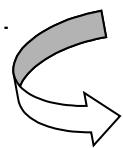
Featured Parish Bulletin Advertiser:

Your Pets Market

4411 Gravenstein Hwy. N., Sebastopol

Open Mon-Sat 10am-6pm

707-824-4411 bucksnbarks@gmail.com



RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for NOVEMBER 2017

On November 14 we welcomed 131 families representing 194 adults, 86 children and 39 seniors for a total of 319 people receiving nutritional support. This program is funded through the Rural Food Collection on the last Sunday of each month as well as through private donations and the generous support of our volunteers.

In November the Rural Food distribution served 14% more clients than the same time last year. Requests for Star Child gifts also grew. Many clients expressed appreciation for our service and we expect that Rural Food will continue to serve more clients in the coming months. Parishioners are encouraged to promote the program in our service area, particularly to people who have been displaced by the wildfires. Please continue to collect paper grocery bags, especially with handles, and egg cartons. We are looking into biodegradable produce bags and recyclable grocery bags for our clients.

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, December 9, from 9-10:00am repackaging -- Parish Hall

Monday, December 11, from 12:30 – 2:30pm to set up the Parish Hall

Tuesday, December 12, from 8:30 – 11:00am to distribute the food and assist clients. Star Child Gifts will also be available.

Flowers for the Altar during the Year : Flowers for the altar are a spiritual investment for a loved one, to celebrate any occasion, or just to express gratitude for your blessings. Flowers are also a gift to all of us as we enter and see the glorious display around the altar and experience the liturgy framed by such exquisite beauty. We appreciate your donations! To contribute for St. Philip Church flowers, please call 874-6072.

Exclusive Limited Print of Ansel Adam's original picture of St. Teresa Church from 1953: All proceeds will support needed restoration of St. Teresa of Avila Mission. A limited number of prints have been printed from Ansel's original negative. Each reprint is individually numbered. Prints are available for a tax deductible donation of \$175. Please contact restoration committee members for your limited print: Peg 707-867-6073 or Bob 707-875-9148.



Our lovely senior lunch program serves meals on Mondays & Wednesdays to a group of fun and dedicated diners in St Philip Hall at noon. We are extending an invitation to all seniors and caregivers to attend any time you would like to join us. Sample menus online at www.stphilipsteresa.org/hall-rental.html

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



A man named John was sent from God.
He came for testimony, to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him. He was not the light,
but came to testify to the light. Jn 1:6-8

Scripture from the New American Bible, rev. ed. © 2010, 1991, 1976, 1971, 1966, 1962, CCED. Used with permission.

Parish Notes: The Endowment Account with Christian Brothers Financial Services of San Francisco for the benefit of our parish of St. Philip/St Teresa provides a financial resource for this parish that will last forever. Contact Fr. Fergal McGuinness, Pastor, to discuss further: 707-874-3812 or fmccguinness@srdiocese.org

CELEBRATE 2018

SUNDAY 1/28/2018

4-8p UNION HOTEL, Occidental

Join us to Celebrate and honor the history of our historic churches.
Join us to raise funds for the neediest victims of the Sonoma Co. fires.

Mingle with your neighbors, meet new parishioners, enjoy a delicious Union Hotel dinner with local wines. Bid on creative and unique silent and live auction items, raise your paddle to help fire victims, and be on the look out for a few surprise guests.

Do you have a unique item or idea you would like to donate for the auction? Please call the office or any of the committee members to let us know. We are also requesting sporting, opera, symphony, concert tickets, dinner parties, gift certificates to local stores and restaurants. We are also looking for donations of magnums for a special live auction wine lot.

Tickets are \$90 (50% to help fire victims) and are available after Sat/Sun Mass and during office hours.

Celebrate Committee: Cathy McCool 861-9302, Mary Briggs 827-3471, Pat Pettibone 875-8826, Diane Benson 823-5460, Mary Griffith 225-2546, Susan Small 829-1189, Jane Vitale 526-6856, Barbara Gonnella 874-3390

Tables, chairs, or any other church property request:

If you wish to borrow any of our hall tables, chairs, etc., please first contact Hal (874-3304) or the parish office to find out the availability so we can try to accommodate & process your request. Items must be returned promptly. We need all chairs/tables here before a 12/30/17 wedding reception. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.