



Fourth Sunday of Advent December 23, 2018

Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your
womb.

— Luke 1:42

MEMORIES AND DREAMS

Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family of origin. Should we return to our home after a long absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices. Our deep memory is reflected in old stories and words and speech patterns. This familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go.

Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory. In remembering and recollecting, we are in turn gathered up and re-collected.

Today we remember Mary, a small figure travelling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lord's words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.

-- © J. S. Paluch Co.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In ancient pagan Rome, these days in mid-December were a time for general slacking off at work and far too much rejoicing. The period of leisure after the harvest and a whole cluster of pagan festivals were a force for the church to reckon with. The Saturnalia, breaking out on December 17, was a time of high living and loose morals. Christians were advised by their bishops to drop out of the mayhem and do some serious fasting. A famous church council at Saragossa in Spain made a season of fasting mandatory from December 17 to December 23, exactly coinciding with the Saturnalia. The bishops at that time were perhaps less concerned with preparing for Christmas than with resisting the kind of loose living going on.

Modern times have restored a bit of the Saturnalia spirit to our culture, so that a general period of partying with a vague connection to religion is now upon us. How does a Christian keep balance? The practice of charity by remembering the poor in our gift-giving, of hospitality in finding a place at our holiday tables for the poor and lonely, and of daily prayer in the home and at church are great helps. Although Advent is not a penitential season like Lent, it is a time for making room in our lives for what matters most.

-Rev. James Field, © J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Tuesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25] Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Friday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

Pope Francis Quote

“This is the first step in order to grow
on our journey of faith: *listening*.
Before speaking, listen.”

Finance Corner:

Your generosity is greatly
needed and appreciated!

Weekly Offering



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For the month of **December** offerings:

12/16: 1st (only) collection: \$1566. 12/23: No 2nd collection.
12/25: Capital Expenditures and Christmas. 12/30: Rural Food.

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council: Fri., 1/25/19, at 10AM in Hall

Finance Council: Wed., 2/13/19, at 11AM in Hall

Liturg Committee: Fri., 2/22/19, at 9:30AM in Hall

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

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

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

Coffee & Goodies: Following 8AM Sunday Mass and
Wednesday/Friday after 9AM 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. 22, 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith

Sun., Dec.23, 8am Mass ✠ Marie Tran

Sun., Dec. 23, 9:30am Mass for the People

Sun., Dec. 23, 11:15am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer

Mon., Dec. 24, 3:30pm Children's Mass, *Occidental*

Mon., Dec. 24, 5pm Christmas Eve Mass, *Bodega*

Mon., Dec. 24, 10pm Christmas Vigil Mass, *Occidental*; Eileen Wallace

Tues., Dec. 25, 8am Christmas Mass, *Occidental*; Annie Osegueda

Tues., Dec. 25, 9:30am Christmas Mass, *Bodega*; for the People

Wed., Dec. 26, 9am Mass ✠ Tina Bartolo

Thurs., Dec. 27, 9am Mass Patrick Maguire

Fri., Dec. 28, 9am Mass Darren Wallace

Sat., Dec. 29, 5pm Mass ✠ Marcella & Joseph Kiefer

Sun., Dec. 30, 8am Mass for the People

Sun., Dec. 30, 9:30am Mass ✠ Holly White

Sun., Dec. 30, 11:15am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Monday: Vigil of Christmas

Tuesday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Wednesday: St. Stephen

Thursday: St. John

Friday: The Holy Innocents

Saturday: Fifth Day within Octave of Nativity; St. Thomas Becket

Prayer Requests: Teresa K., Pat K., Thomas T., Susan B., Jamie Silva, Lorri McCamen, Sarah, Clifford J., Terri Andrews, Marilyn Vitali, Fred Pisani, Theresa Spiteri, Sara, Mary Anne Parque, Sr. Marjorie Krusky, Barbara, Kathy Higgins, Fr. Logan, Dave Creeth, Jim P., William, Parson Pfsorich, Dave, Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally Tillsbury, Mary Karp, Columбина A., Michael Dan, Richard Macche, Kathleen, Lisa, Rosa Santos, Papke family, Susan Bonomine, Zeidan family, all suffering from homelessness or discouragement

New mailing address for Fr. Loren Allen:

P. O. Box 640592
San Francisco, CA 94164

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for DECEMBER 2018

On December 11, we welcomed 112 families representing 155 adults, 72 children and 37 seniors for a total of 264 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.

During this season of Christmas, all of us who volunteer each month to offer nutritious groceries and produce to our clients give special thanks for the incredible generosity of our parish and other donors. We also give thanks for the many examples of faith, hope and love expressed in the lives of those we serve each month. Together we witness God's love in action.

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, January 5, from 9-10:00am repackaging -- Parish Hall Monday, January 7, from 12:30 – 2:30pm to set up the Parish Hall Tuesday, January 8, from 8:30 – 11:00am to distribute the food and assist clients. We need more volunteers on Monday and Tuesday to help with set up and help our clients and their loaded grocery carts to their vehicles. Thank YOU!

CELEBRATE 2019
SUNDAY - JANUARY 27, 2019
4-8PM AT THE UNION HOTEL

>Each ticket is \$45. Tickets are on sale after Sat/Sun Mass and at the office weekday mornings.

>For the past few weeks we've announced that tickets are available for \$45 and we are welcoming your donations of items for our raffle on January 27. That is still the case but we also want to share how your support of the CELEBRATE event has impacted this parish.

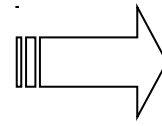
>We want to say THANK YOU -- With your generous financial support:
We gave local fire victims \$16,000 after last year's event.
We repaired and repaved St Philip Parking lot.
We painted St Teresa and repaved driveway.
We repainted the parish hall, replaced the hall floor and dining tables.
We put a new roof on the rectory and upgraded the landscaping.
We made improvements at Calvary Cemetery.
We have increased our endowment fund by \$22,000.
We truly have much to be thankful for-- Merry Christmas!

> We welcome your donation of items for raffle at the event. Please contact Cathy McCool (after Mass or call 861-9302) if you have an item you'd like to donate.

NOTE: As of November 30, 2018, our endowment fund balance was \$92,774.

Exclusive Limited Print of Ansel Adam's original picture of St. Teresa Church from 1953: All proceeds 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 donation of \$175. Please contact a restoration committee member for your own limited print: Peg 707-867-6073 or Bob 707-875-9148.

Featured Parish Bulletin Advertiser:



Mark Ciddio

"For all your hardwood floor needs"

707-292-5465 markciddio@gmail.com

Parish Music Director News from Fr. Fergal

Janis Wilson will be returning to the position of Parish Music Director on January 26, 2019. She has told us that she is very grateful to be returning and that she has missed her church family very much. We are very grateful that Janis will be returning to us. We look forward to welcoming her back and once again having our liturgy enhanced by her musical talent and leadership.

O COME, LONG FORETOLD



O come, Desired of nations,
Whom priest and prophet long foretold
Will break the captive fetters,
Redeem the long-lost fold.
Dear Savior, haste; come, come to earth,
Dispel the night and show your face,

And bid us hail the dawn of grace.

—Simon J. Pellegrin (1663-1745), Tr. by Mary of St. Philip (1825-1904)

DISCERNMENT DAY: Are you seeking for Truth? Are you yearning for the infinite and for happiness? Christ is the Answer! Come and See!

The Dominican Nuns of Corpus Christi Monastery are hosting a Come and See Day for single, Catholic women ages 18-38 on January 19, 2019 at their monastery on 215 Oak Grove Avenue in Menlo Park, California.

For those outside the San Francisco Bay Area, the nuns also have limited accommodations for overnight guests. For more information and to register visit www.opnunsmenlo.org/upcoming-events/ or contact Sister Joseph Marie O.P. at vocations@opnunsmenlo.org.

The day begins with Mass at 8:00 a.m. followed by Divine Office, Rosary, Conferences on Discernment, Recreation with the nuns, Adoration and more!

The event is free and all meals will be provided.

Monday, 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



Tuesday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day Masses

8am at St. Philip
9:30am at St. Teresa

Tuesday, Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

9am at St. Teresa
12noon at St. Philip