



**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24, 2017**

The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

—Luke 1:35

**GOD'S PROMISE**

The lengthy passage from Samuel is a wonderful exposition of God's promise to the house of David: that his throne would forever be gloriously occupied by his descendants. Hidden in the mystery of the prophecy is the promise of the Savior, the Messiah, Son of God and Son of David. The prophet Nathan, speaking in God's name, poetically turns around David's plan to build a house for God, and announces God's plan to build a "house," that is, a dynasty for David. From this house of David will come the Messiah, the Christ, not in kingly splendor as David ruled, but as a humble man, destined to rule forever and over all. When God gives a gift, it's amazing what we are given—so different from what we ever could have imagined.

— J. S. Paluch Co.

**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

Children of the parish are somewhat focused on Santa Claus these days, who is keeping an eye on who's naughty and who's nice. Santa Claus, with his heavenly patron Saint Nicholas, has been more or less in charge of gift-giving to American children for a hundred years or so. In other places, perhaps more attentive to our Christian tradition, there are different gift-bearers. In Greece, Saint Basil delivers the presents on his feast day, December 31, and makes sure everyone is sprinkled with holy water. The Baby Jesus is in charge elsewhere, called the *Christkind* in Austria and Belgium, *El Niño Jesús* in Columbia, and *Le Petit Jesus* in France, where he shares his duties with *Père Noël*. In the Czech Republic almost everyone is atheist, but *Ježíšek*, the infant Jesus, brings gifts to one and all. In Poland the "Star Man" is said to bring the gifts, although often he turns out to be the village priest in disguise. Saint Nicholas, not his Americanized cousin, is the giver in Holland, where he wears a bishop's miter, and in Russia, where he wears a bishop's crown. Soviet Russia tried to dethrone Saint Nicholas and promote Grandfather Frost, but no one was much fooled by this attempt to squeeze religion out of Christ's birth. One country has a saintly woman in charge of the gifts, Saint Lucy, honored in Sweden on December 13, when children serve their parents breakfast in bed, and others awake to news that they have been nominated for a Nobel Prize. Some children have a second round of gifts on Epiphany, when the magi assume the gift-giving duties. In general, the gifts of Christmas are simple pleasures, not great heaps of treasures. Once upon a time, a new pair of socks or an orange was enough for us. No matter what gifts we receive, all of them are to point us to the true gift, and the true giver.

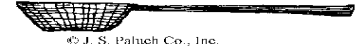
--Rev. James Field, © J. S. Paluch Co.



**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Mon: 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]  
During the 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]  
 Tues: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22  
 Wed: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
 Thurs: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18  
 Fri: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35  
 Sat: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40  
 Sun: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128: 1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17]

**Weekly Offering**



**Finance Corner:**

Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

For the month of **December** offerings:

12/17: 1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$2001. Retired Religious (Sr. Marjorie): \$1099.  
 12/24: no 2<sup>nd</sup> collection. 12/25: Christmas & Capital Expenditures.  
 12/31: Rural Food.

**Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:**

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

**Liturg 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. 23, 5pm Mass for the People ✠ Brendan Smith  
 Sun., Dec. 24, 8am 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Advent Mass ✠ Frank Oddo  
 Sun., Dec. 24, 9:30am 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Advent Mass for the People  
 Sun., Dec. 24, 11:15am 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Advent Mass ✠ Em & Joe Palmer  
 Sun., Dec. 24, all Christmas Eve Masses for the People  
 Mon., Dec. 25, all Christmas Day Masses ✠ Fr. Philip Ryan  
 Tues., Dec. 26, 9am Mass for the Poor Souls  
 Wed., Dec. 27, 9am Mass ✠ Tina Bartolo  
 Thurs., Dec. 28, 9am Mass ✠ Arthur Munson  
 Fri., Dec. 29, 9am Communion Service  
 Sat., Dec. 30, 5pm Mass for the People ✠ Marcella & Joseph Kiefer  
 Sun., Dec. 31, 8am Mass Papke Family Special Intention  
 Sun., Dec. 31, 9:30am Mass for the People  
 Sun., Dec. 31, 11:15am Mass ✠ Carolyn Hall

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent  
 Monday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)  
 Tuesday: St. Stephen  
 Wednesday: St. John  
 Thursday: The Holy Innocents  
 Friday: Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord;  
 St. Thomas Becket  
 Saturday: Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

**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

**Prayer Intention Books:** Parishioners and visitors are invited to write their prayer intentions in the books now available in each church. The books are on the tables behind the rear pew on the right as you enter the church. Father Fergal prays for these intentions in his weekly "Mass for the People" (*Missa pro populo*) and asks that all parishioners pray for these intentions, too.

## Pope Francis Tweet

"Go out to meet Jesus, spend time with Him in prayer, and entrust your whole life to His merciful love."

### Training for Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors:

All Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors for both churches are asked to mark their calendars for training sessions in the New Year. The session for Eucharistic Ministers will be on Saturday, February 10, from 10am to Noon at St. Teresa's. The session for Lectors will be on Saturday, February 24, from 10am to Noon at St. Philip's. The sessions will be for current ministers and those who would be interested in joining these ministries. If you are interested in joining one of these ministries in our parish, especially if you were involved in another parish, please contact Father Fergal by email at [fmcguinness@srdioocese.org](mailto:fmcguinness@srdioocese.org).

### Featured Parish Bulletin Advertiser:

**Michael Murphy, ranch & land sales**  
707-836-7080 [m\\_murphy@sonic.net](mailto:m_murphy@sonic.net)  
[michaelmurphyhomesandland.com](http://michaelmurphyhomesandland.com)

### RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for DECEMBER 2017

On December 12 we welcomed 144 families representing 211 adults, 87 children and 40 seniors for a total of 338 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.

**Once again in December the Rural Food distribution served 10% more clients than the same time last year. Thanks to the many volunteers who came to set set-up and distribute food to our clients. The spirit of caring and commitment is a blessing for our clients. We could not carry out this ministry without the financial support of the parishioners of St. Philip and St. Teresa and other faithful donors. In 2018, we begin our 31<sup>st</sup> year of service—may God bless us with the strength and resources to serve our sisters and brothers in need for many years.**

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 6**, from 9-10:00 am repackaging -- Parish Hall  
**Monday, January 8**, from 12:30 – 2:30pm to set up the Parish Hall  
**Tuesday, January 9**, from 8:30 – 11:00am to distribute the food and assist clients.

**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.

For those who want to get in touch, here is [Fr. Loren Allen's](#) contact information:

#### Mailing address:

PO Box 2656  
Sebastopol CA 95473-265

#### Email remains the same:

[LRALL@PRODIGY.NET](mailto:LRALL@PRODIGY.NET)

### The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



When the angels went away from them to heaven,  
the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go,  
then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place,  
which the Lord has made known to us."  
So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph,  
and the infant lying in the manger. Lk 2:15-16

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Scripture from the New American Bible, rev. ed. © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970, CCCB. 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 [fmcguinness@srdioocese.org](mailto:fmcguinness@srdioocese.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.