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**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph
December 31, 2017**

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

—Luke 2:30-31

BEARERS OF THE WORD

The Church has placed a number of notable feast days immediately after Christmas. The feasts of Stephen, John the Evangelist, and the Holy Innocents form a summary of the life lived in Christ, the Word made flesh. What do these have to do with the feast of the Holy Family, which crowns the Octave of Christmas? These feasts remind us that suffering will occur in fulfilling the mission of Christ, and that we are all called to be bearers of this Word whose birth we celebrate.

We also see this manifested in the lives of Joseph and Mary, both of whom took social and religious risks in obedience to the will of God, and both of whom were open to the word of God sent to them from on high. In these ways they prefigured the life of Jesus himself.

Most likely, few of us found ourselves at Mass this past Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, but the essence of these feasts and the essence of the holiness of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus remain central, a holiness we celebrate today.

— J. S. Paluch Co.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

There's no more unusual setting to celebrate today's Feast of the Holy Family than Barcelona, Spain and the towering unfinished sandcastle known officially as the Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Familia. In 1882, the plan was hatched to build a vast place of worship in reparation for the revolutionary and liberal leanings of the city. The modern artist Antoni Gaudi dedicated his life to the project, living in the building, attending Mass daily, and giving up his personal wealth. When people pressed him to pick up the pace, he responded, "My client is not in a hurry." (Gaudi's cause for beatification is moving along, and he could be the first professional artist and architect to be beatified.)

The Spanish Civil War, a disaster for the Catholic Church in which thousands of priests, brothers, and nuns were murdered, halted work in 1935. In the 1950s work began anew, speeded up by computers in the 1980s. Still, the final stage of construction is not due to end until 2026. If the original methods had stayed in place, it would take several hundred more years to complete the plan. So far there are eight towers, with four to go. The highest steeple is three feet shorter than the nearest hill, since the architect didn't want his work to surpass God's artistry. The three faces of the basilica each have three doors, with the faces named Passion, Nativity, and Grace. The interior is crammed with geometric figures that almost seem to spin, crazy-quilt windows, spiral staircases, and jumbles of statues and figures. Although inspired by ancient Gothic cathedrals, the style is called Expressionist, and very little is left unexpressed by the masonry. If you can't afford a visit, Sagrada Familia maintains a web site, and virtual visits are free.

—Rev. James Field, © J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34
- Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42
- Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 1:43-51
- Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]
- Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

TIME

Do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of.

—Benjamin Franklin

Weekly Offering



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Finance Corner:

Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

For the month of **December/January** offerings:

- 12/24: 1st Collection: \$2407.
- 12/25: Christmas: \$4164. Capital Expenditures: \$1702.
- 12/31: Rural Food. 1/1: Mary, Mother of God. 1/7: Operating Expenses.

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. 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
- Mon., Jan. 1, 9am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer
- Tues., Jan. 2, 9am Mass for the Poor Souls
- Wed., Jan. 3, 9am Mass ✠ Tina Bartolo
- Thurs., Jan. 4, 9am Mass ✠ Zachary Freese
- Fri., Jan. 5, 9am Communion Service
- Sat., Jan. 6, 5pm Mass for the People ✠ Brendan Smith
- Sun., Jan. 7, 8am Mass ✠ Randy Tonelli
- Sun., Jan. 7, 9:30am Mass for the People
- Sun., Jan. 7, 11:15am Mass ✠ Roger Mast

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
- Monday: Mary, the Holy Mother of God; The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord; World Day of Prayer for Peace
- Tuesday: Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
- Wednesday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus
- Thursday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- Friday: St. John Neumann; First Friday
- Saturday: St. André Bessette; First Saturday

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

"Modesty is a virtue that is essential for anyone who wants to be like Jesus, who is meek and humble of heart."

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@srdiocese.org.

Featured Parish Bulletin Advertisers:

Adobe Creek Funeral Home

Petaluma, 707-789-9000

Pleasant Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary

Sebastopol, 707-823-5042

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 31st 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 own 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](mailto:Fr. Loren Allen) contact information:

Mailing address:

PO Box 2656
Sebastopol CA 95473-265

Email remains the same:

LORALL@PRODIGY.NET

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



And over all these put on love

Col 3:14

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: 874-3812 or fmcguinness@srdiocese.org

CELEBRATE 2018

SUNDAY, January 28th, from 4-8pm at the 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 now during office hours (MTWTFH 930am-1230pm) at the parish office. Call 874-3812 to arrange payment and delivery.

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 at 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. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.