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St. Teresa of Avila
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CHRISTMAS 2010



A FAMILY RITUAL AND PRAYER AT CHRISTMAS

On Christmas Day, light a special candle in your home to welcome Jesus, the Light of the World. Offer your own prayers or use the following:

*We thank you, heavenly Father,
for bringing us together this Holy Day.
We thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ,
to be our light and hope.*

*Bless us as we gather here,
and bless this Christmas candle.
Let it remind us of Christ, the Light of the World,
as it shines in our home.*

*Let us remember the poor and homeless
and let our hearts be open to all in need.
Bless all who are in any trouble this season,
and let them know your care
through the prayers of the Holy Family.
Bless our absent relatives and friends (name them)
Give eternal rest and peace to the dead,
and let the perpetual light shine on them and especially on (name them).*

(A member of the family now lights the candle)

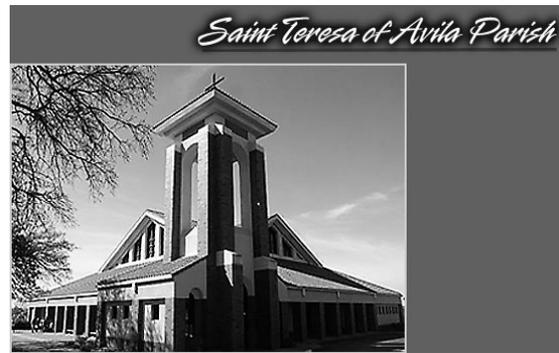
Blessing (said by Mom or Dad)

*May the kindness and Love of God, Our Savior,
be upon us and all we Love.
In the name of the Father, Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen*

God Bless, Fr. Mike



December, 2010



Dear Fellow Parishioners:

During the last two weekends I have been sharing with you some thoughts on our Christmas to Christmas Campaign. Four years ago I asked our Finance and Parish Councils to let us establish St. Teresa of Avila as a distinctive parish before we approached the parishioners for much needed funds.

In the meanwhile, you have been generous. Your weekly contributions and your designated funds for our Church, our school, our grounds, and all our ministries, have been excellent. Twelve hundred families have registered, and please God, this number will continue to grow. Most would say our parish is welcoming, the liturgies prayerful and full of joy. Our congregation is made up of all ages, but definitely young at heart.

Our portion of the debt for building our new Church was \$460,000.00. We now owe \$360,000.00. The time has come to pay back the diocese, build a home for the priests, and improve our parish hall. I know many families are experiencing tough times but others like myself can help pay for those who are stretched to the maximum and beyond.

We can help one another, and let's be honest with ourselves and God about our parish participation. By Christmas 2011, may we reach our goal of \$700,000.00. Keep your eyes on our progress barometer at the back of our Church. Please return the enclosed pledge card by January 14, 2011. Our campaign committee will report back to you monthly and share with you how we can move forward together. Thank you for your prayers and understanding.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Michael L. Carroll

Pastor

WELCOMING JOSEPH, MARY AND THE CHILD JESUS

A number of years ago, after attending Fr. Bill Broderick's funeral Mass, I was walking to the parking lot with Fr. Dan Madigan and he shared with me the following story. He said, "years ago I was stationed at Our Lady of Lourdes in The Heights". Before Christmas I got orders to move to Sacred Heart. The day my replacement, Fr. Broderick arrived, I was waiting for him, and also distributing twenty-five food baskets. While I was saying hello to Fr. Bill the telephone rang, it was a sick call. I offered to take the sick call if Fr. Bill would distribute the food baskets. The sick call took me some time. When I returned I found the house full of guests. Fr. Bill had invited everyone who came for a basket in for a Christmas drink. That day I learned so much about giving from my priest friend."

FIRST CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below, with tiny lights, like heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow. The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear, for I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear, but the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here. I have no words to tell you the joy their voices bring, for it is beyond description to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me—I see the pain inside your heart, but I am not so far away, we really aren't apart. So be happy for me, dear ones, you know I hold you dear, and be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I send each a special gift from my heavenly home above. I send you each a memory of my undying love. After all, "Love" is the gift more precious than pure gold. It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other as Jesus said to do, for I can't count the Blessings or Love He has in store for you. So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear. Remember, I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

MOST MEMORABLE CHRISTMAS (by Michelle Devincenzi)

When I was young, Christmas was a magical time for me, from the wonder of the nativity story, to the celebrations with my entire family and it always included extra friends. The Christmas traditions of the advent wreath, gathering with family for Christmas Mass, sharing a meal together, caroling in the neighborhood and then exchanging gifts was such a joy-filled time. When Don and I married and had a family of our own the traditions carried on, only in our home rather than Mom and Dad's, so our children could be at home. My most memorable Christmas occurred when Don and I were expecting our 3rd child. As I was preparing for family to arrive I started feeling little pangs of pain but tried to ignore them. As the evening progressed they became more persistent and it was quite evident that my little baby wanted to share the birth of the infant Jesus. I went to bed praying for the contractions to stop so I could spend Christmas morning with my little daughters as they marveled in the magic of Santa Claus, but that was not God's plan. Since my family was spending the night we woke them at 4:00am and told them we were on our way to the hospital and to take care of the girls. When we left we encountered one of the worst foggy nights I can recall. We could hardly see five feet in front of us. "Baby" was coming fast and daddy was beginning to panic. Fortunately, we made it just in time. Our most wonderful Christmas present ever was delivered, a beautiful baby girl. She is still the entire family's favorite gift, a gentle, loving, caring woman who is now a mother herself. Every Christmas we are thankful for all our family and friends and for the special gift we received one foggy night many years ago.

WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO ME ~ by Grandma Dee

When I think of Christmas I have wonderful memories of our Mexican traditions which I have passed on to my children. When we were little, all the Mexican families from the area would do the Posados in a different home each night. The children would carry Mary and Joseph and we would sing the beautiful songs of Christ, going from door to door. On Christmas Eve we would all go to Mass and then all have tamales. Then on January 6th we would have a big party for Jesus with laughter, music and a good time for all. No gifts-just the joy of being together.

*St. Teresa of Avila Parish
Confidential Registration Form*

Welcome to St. Teresa of Avila Parish Community! In order for us to best serve you and your needs, please provide us with the following information.

Last Name:	First:	Date of Birth
Address:	Phone #:	
City/State:	Zip Cpde:	Cell #
E-Mail Address:		
Occupation:		Work #:
Spouse Name:	Maiden Name:	Date of Birth:
Occupation:	Cell #:	Work #:

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
December 26, 2010**

Over all [other virtues] put on love,
that is, the bond of perfection.

— *Colossians 3:14*

SALVATION IN DAILY LIFE

This Sunday is the feast of the Holy Family, which comes on the first Sunday after Christmas Day. Today’s feast celebrates how the humanity of Jesus (including his entire family life) has brought saving significance into the daily rhythms of our human family life.

The scriptures offer instruction and encouragement on how to share—within our families, parish families, and the wider human family—the love that God shares with us in Jesus. Selections from Sirach, Psalm 128, and Colossians encourage us to reflect divine love and thus find holiness in all our human relationships. The reading from Matthew’s Gospel offers a living example of love in the actions Joseph took to protect his young family from danger and to nurture them within the larger family of faith of their time.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK (12/27/10—1/2/11)

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
 Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40
 Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
 Saturday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7;
 Lk 2:16-21
 Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a,
 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph; Kwanzaa begins
 Monday: St. John
 Tuesday: The Holy Innocents
 Wednesday: St. Thomas Becket
 Friday: St. Sylvester I
 Saturday: Octave of Christmas;

**MASS INTENTIONS
December 26—December 31**

Sunday	12/26	8:00am	+	Richard Gavranich
Sunday	12/26	10:30am	+	Francis Clarke
Sunday	12/26	3:30pm		All Parishioners
Sunday	12/26	5:30pm		All Parishioners



Let us pray for the sick in our parish, may their faith give them comfort and hope:

Dominic Ramos, Michelle Coakley, Anna Manzinali, Mary Jane Morgan, Bea Sheffield, David Davidson, Marissa Lopez, Mary Dent, Kristen Romburg, Lori Ford, Polly Bohnert, Allan Brant, Elsie Borba & Ed Gilligan.



**The parish office will be closed on Thursday, December 30TH
& Friday, December 31ST. Fr. Mike and the parish staff wishes everyone a very safe and
Happy New Year!**