



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

April 10, 2022

The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced.

— Isaiah 50:7a

THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST'S LOVE

From the proclamation of the Gospel at the beginning of the liturgy, we know that today is different, not only because we hear two Gospel passages, or because we hold palms and move in procession. Today begins Holy Week, a time set apart, a week in which to listen, pray, reflect, and take to heart the truth of Christ's passion, crucifixion, death, and ultimately, resurrection. It takes a week, and a lifetime, to truly hear the message of Christ's love. It is difficult for us to comprehend that Jesus willingly sacrificed himself, so we must hear the story again and again. Let this week be for us a new moment of faith in which we, together with the criminal who was crucified with Christ, cry out, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

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PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Almighty ever-living God, who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our Savior to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question:

How can I heed Jesus' lesson of patient suffering?

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1-3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday: Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Mt 26:14-25
Thursday: Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
Friday: Is 52:13 — 53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 — 19:42
Saturday: a) Gn 1:1 — 2:2 [1:1, 26-31a]; Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35; or Ps 33:4-7, 12-13, 20-22; b) Gn 22:1-18 [1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18]; Ps 16: 5, 8-11; c) Ex 14:15 — 15:1; Ex 15:1-6, 17-18; d) Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13; e) Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-6; f) Bar 3:9-15, 32 — 4:4; Ps 19:8-11; g) Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3-4; h) Rom 6:3-11; i) Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Lk 24:1-12
Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Lk 24:1-12

Recycling old palms:

Please bring back to church next week any blessed palms you might have at home from prior years. They will be recycled into holy ashes for 2023. Thank you!

Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

For the month of April offerings: PLEASE put in Mass collection basket or mail to St. Philip/St. Teresa Parish, P. O. Box 339, Occidental CA 95465. Or donate at our website www.stphilipstteresa.org via Paypal or card. Please include your offering envelope # [if you have one] with your donation. 4/03: 1st col: \$1480. 2nd col: \$501.



4/10: Capital Expenditures. 4/15: Holy Land. 4/17: Easter.

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: TBA
Finance Council [FC]: TBA
Liturgy Committee [LC]: TBA
St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044
St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule 2022

4/09 Sat. 5pm Mass ✠ Mary Schratz
4/10 Sun. 8am Mass John Geving
4/10 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Grace Casano
4/10 Sun. 11:15am Mass for the People
4/14 Thurs. 6pm Holy Thursday Mass, *St. Philip's*
4/15 Fri. 12noon Good Friday Passion Service, *St. Teresa's*
4/16 Sat. 7:30pm Easter Vigil Service, *St. Teresa's*
4/17 Sun. 8am Easter Mass, *St. Philip's*: Papke family intention
4/17 Sun. 9:30am Easter Mass at Calvary Cemetery, *Bodega*
4/17 Sun. 11:15am Easter Mass, *St. Philip's*: for the People

Prayer Requests: Please leave a message at 707-408-2650.

Robert S., Britney N., Chuck, Rebecca A., April K., Leo A., Ed C. family, Kathy R., Donna W., Sherry S., Gail F., Marie N., Christine, James G., Gary S., Peter R., Gerry N., Diane K., River M.; Nikkie; Mr. C., Michelle, Christian A., Samantha S., Gary E., Frederick Kasl, John Geving, Noelle G., Arnie, Reece

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Monday: Monday of Holy Week
Tuesday: Tuesday of Holy Week
Wednesday: Wednesday of Holy Week
Thursday: Holy Thursday; Paschal Triduum begins
Friday: Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday); Fast and Abstinence
Saturday: Holy Saturday; Vigil of Easter

Pastor's memo: In preparation for the celebration of Paschal Mystery during the Holy Week and on Easter, Fr. Bala is available to hear your Confessions any day but with an appointment by calling the Office. In particular, he is available to hear your Confessions after the 9 am Mass (9:30 am through 10:15 am)- next Tuesday in St. Teresa Church, Bodega, and next Wednesday in St. Philip Church, Occidental. Please make use of this spiritual opportunity and prepare yourselves for a worthy and fruitful celebration of Holy Week & Easter.



RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for MARCH 2022

On Tuesday, March 8, warm sweaters, jackets and sweatshirts were waiting for our Rural Food recipients. Clients were able to select a style and fabric that would work best for their needs. This additional offering was made available by parishioners who provided gently used clothing and coordinated by a Rural Food Volunteer.

Sixty-four families, (153 individuals) selected fresh produce, milk, eggs, poultry, beef, fish or vegetarian items, commodities, snacks and bread. All are welcome to receive nutritional support from our Program.

We have opened the hall to in-person shopping by clients to choose specific foods from our program for their families. It also allows volunteers to re-connect with clients we haven't been in touch with since COVID.

If you are aware of a family which needs nutritional assistance, please let them know about our program. Leave a message at the parish office, (707) 408-2650 to get a call back with additional information and to answer your questions.

This program is funded through monthly Rural Food Collection, private donations and the dedicated, awesome volunteers. **Thank you for your generous donations as we strive to meet the nutritional needs of all attendees at our food distributions.**

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES in the Parish Hall and parking area: **Saturday, April 9,** 9-10:00am repackaging;
Monday, April 11, 9:00 – 11:00am set up; and
Tuesday, April 12, 7:30–11:00am to distribute food to clients.

March Update AMA 2022: Thank you to all who have now already pledged a total of \$9,426.00, moving us closer to our goal as a parish community of \$13,754.00. Keep up the good work and generosity!



[Pope Francis prays in the Grotto of St. Paul in Rabat on April 3, 2022, during his apostolic visit to Malta. Photo courtesy of Vatican Media.](#)

On Sunday, April 3, 2022, the second day of his apostolic visit to Malta, Pope Francis travelled to the west side of the island of Malta to visit the Grotto of St. Paul, a popular pilgrimage site – also visited by his predecessors on their apostolic visits in 1990 and 2010 – where tradition maintains that St. Paul and his companions were shipwrecked while the apostle was being transported to Rome to stand trial before Caesar (Acts 27:27–28:10).

After reciting a special prayer in the grotto before a statue of St. Paul, Pope Francis greeted a group of religious leaders in the nearby Church of St. Publius

*and a group of sick and vulnerable people in the Basilica of St. Paul.
Below is the text of the prayer he recited during his visit to the Grotto of St. Paul:*

Prayer of His Holiness Pope Francis

**Basilica of St Paul in Rabat
Sunday, 3 April 2022**

God of mercy,
in your wondrous providence
you wished the Apostle Paul
to proclaim your love to the inhabitants of Malta,
who did not yet know you.
He preached your word to them
and he healed their infirmities.
Saved from shipwreck,
Saint Paul and his fellow travelers
found here to welcome them
pagan people of kindly heart,
who treated them with rare humanity,
recognizing that they were in need
of shelter, security and assistance.
No one knew their names,
their place of birth or their social status;
they knew only one thing:
that these were people in need of help.
There was no time for discussions,
for judgements, analyses and calculations:
it was the time to lend a helping hand:
they left their jobs, and did exactly that.
They lit a great fire,
to dry them and warm them.
They welcomed them with open hearts
And, together with Publius,
first in government and in mercy,
they gave them shelter.
Good Father,
grant us the grace of a kindly heart
that beats with love for our brothers and sisters.
Help us to recognize from afar those in need,
struggling amidst the waves of the sea,
dashed against the reefs of unknown shores.
Grant that our compassion
be more than empty words,
but instead light a bonfire of welcome,
that can dispel the memory of the tempest,
warm hearts and bring them together:
the fireplace of a house built upon rock,
the one family of your children,
sisters and brothers all.
You love them without distinction
and you desire that they may be one
with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,
through the power of the fire sent from heaven,
your Holy Spirit,
who burns away all enmity
and in the darkness of night lights the way
to your kingdom of love and peace.

R/. Amen

St. Philip the Apostle, Occidental



St. Teresa of Avila, Bodega



2022 Holy Week Schedule

April 9

Saturday: Vigil of Palm Sunday

5:00 pm Mass at St. Teresa's

April 10

Palm Sunday:

8:00 am Mass at St. Philip's

9:30 am Mass at St. Teresa's

11:15 am Mass at St. Philip's

April 14

Holy Thursday:

6:00 pm Mass at St. Philip's

April 15

Good Friday:

12:00 noon Passion Service at St. Teresa's

April 16

Holy Saturday:

7:30 pm Easter Vigil Services at St. Teresa's

April 17

Easter Sunday:

8:00 am Mass at St. Philip's

9:30 am Mass at Calvary Cemetery in Bodega

11:15 am Mass at St. Philip's

Simon, Simon, behold Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat.

Even if we know nothing about farming, we know that wheat grows as a nutritional kernel enclosed in chaff and has to be separated by being threshed (thrashed?) or put through a sieve while the chaff is blown away before the grain can be processed into bread.

Of course, Simon Peter and the other disciples were gathered for a Passover meal, congenial, wine served . . . the central festival of their people, when Jesus spoke those words. He had just a day or two earlier been welcomed by a large crowd – almost as though he were the awaited successor of old King David: Hosanna in the highest!

But the Gospels give evidence of a shortfall in his disciples' appreciation of Jesus. Sure, he had drawn them away from their prior occupations – including laborious fishing. They shared the glow of his popularity due to healings he performed and the creative way he spoke and taught. This Jesus was headed somewhere and they wanted to be there – hopefully in positions of honor, like heads of a Jesus bureaucracy, when the time came. And now Jesus has to spoil their fantasies with a warning: they are to be sifted, threshed, thrashed like wheat before the night is over! *Not I*, says Simon Peter, *if they take you they take me too.*

Please don't take it as profane if I illustrate (again) what then happened to Peter. It's a scene from the silent film [Steamboat Bill](#) starring Buster Keaton. To be exact, it's the scene where a powerful tornado strikes a river town. Keaton is shown standing with his back to the façade of a two story clapboard building. He is confused. And then without his noticing, the building's façade falls slowly forward upon Keaton – except: he is straddled by the open attic window. Saved, standing erect above the flattened façade. He turns; the whole interior of the house is exposed. He realizes what has happened and runs off.



To me that scene illustrates masterfully what happens when a conversion takes place – a real conversion. One's world falls apart or radically changes, one awakens to a new dimension. One's prior life takes on a vacancy – out of which – life and world take on a space, a meaning, an invitation to live more sensitively, curiously, responsive to whatever that Pentecostal wind was trying to say when it blew a world of facades away.

Simon Peter did, as Jesus predicted, decide at *first* to save his skin. But later he must have begun to ponder: what was it *really* that drew him toward this Jesus? The profundity of his words which Simon only took at face value? The slow fuse of his "touch" upon Simon's traditional all too standardized prejudices? The world as Jesus saw it – full of grace? Simon's later tears of remorse suggest he had at last arrived at the conviction that this Jesus was no less than a wellspring of Being unfathomable?

Conversion! Defined as being blown away – the interior, the inner Being of a world revealed when ultimately all facades are "gone with the wind".

--Geoff Wood, 4/10/2022