



Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 22, 2021

As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

— *Joshua 24:15b*

DECISIONS

There is an axiom that states, "Not to decide is to decide." This saying was popular in the turbulent times of the Vietnam War. It urged us not to allow others to answer the moral questions raised by our nation's involvement in that terrible conflict, but to decide for ourselves. Making such choices is never easy. Avoiding them is common. Jesus, for his part, was not only a gallant risk-taker, but a clear decision-maker. As he pursued the mission to which the Father called him, he continually decided for us and for the Father. He worked hard to lay out a scenario that would enable others to make similar choices. Never did he make decisions for others or force others into decisions, even decisions that had eternal ramifications. Jesus is inviting us to make such decisions today. We won't be absolutely sure. What is sure, however, is the command that issues from God's word: Take the risk. Decide!.

— *J. S. Paluch Co.*

FEAST OF FAITH
Come, Spirit!

The presider at the Eucharist can choose from among a number of different Eucharistic Prayers, all of which follow a similar pattern. Almost always, they begin with an *epiclesis*, a Greek word that means "invocation upon" or "calling over here." At this moment in the prayer, the priest calls down the Holy Spirit upon the gifts of bread and wine that we have brought to the altar: "Father, we bring you these gifts. We ask you to make them holy by the power of your Spirit, that they may become the body and blood of your Son" (Eucharistic Prayer III). The words of the prayer are accompanied by the ritual gesture of the laying on of hands, the ancient sign of the gift of the Spirit, which is also used in most sacramental celebrations, from the rite of confirmation to the ordination of deacons, priests, and bishops. Liturgists sometimes call this first *epiclesis* the *epiclesis* of consecration. Later in the Eucharistic Prayer, there will be another *epiclesis*, the *epiclesis* of communion, as the priest asks that the Holy Spirit be sent upon us to transform us. "Grant that we, who are nourished by his body and blood, may be filled with his Holy Spirit, and become one body, one spirit in Christ" (Eucharistic Prayer III).

— *Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Mt 23:13-22
 Tuesday: Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51
 Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13; Ps 139:7-12ab; Mt 23:27-32
 Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13; Ps 90:3-5a, 12-14, 17; Mt 24:42-51
 Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8; Ps 97:1, 2b, 5-6, 10-12; Mt 25:1-13
 Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Mt 25:14-30
 Sunday: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Ps 15:2-5; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Current Mass Schedule:

St. Philip, *Occidental*: 8am Sun.; 9am Wed. & Fri.
 St. Teresa, *Bodega*: 5pm Sat.; 9:30am Sun.; 9am Tues. & Thurs.

Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated! For the month of August offerings: PLEASE put in Mass collection box 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. Bless you!



8/15: collections summary available soon.

8/22: *Haiti Disaster Relief.* 8/29: *Rural Food.*

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: TBA
Finance Council [FC]: Tues., 9/7/21, at 3pm on Zoom:: call Jim to RSVP at 707-292-6092
Liturgy Committee [LC]: TBA
St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044
St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

8/21 Sat. 5pm Mass for the People
 8/22 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer
 8/22 Sun. 9:30am Mass

 8/28 Sat. 5pm Mass ✠ Liz Watson
 8/29 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Tina Bartolo
 8/29 Sun. 9:30am Mass for the People

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

Teresa K., Pat K., Thomas T., Susan B., Lorri McC., Sarah, Clifford J., Terri A., Fred P., Theresa S., Sara, Mary Anne P., Barbara, Dave C., Jim P., William, Parson P., Dave, Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally T., Michael D., Richard M., Kathleen, Peter, Rosa S., Susan B., Joyce D., Anita C., George H., Mimi H, Steve, Barry, Lorrin K., Hugh P., Robert S., Britney N., Chuck, Rebecca A., April K., Jacinta G., Leo A., Ed C. family, Kathy R., Donna W., Jim K., Sherry S., Papke family., Gail F., Marie N., Christine, James G., Gary S., Peter R., Gerry N., Diane K., Janet K., River M.; Nikkie; and for repose of the soul of Claudia Munoz's mother.

Mission San Luis Rey de Francia (link)



RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for August 2021

On Tuesday, August 10, 46 families, 114 individuals received nutritional support during our modified distribution at the St Philips Parking lot and parish hall.

We will continue to look at a variety of ways to distribute food as the COVID pandemic restrictions change. 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.

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, September 11, 9-10:00 am repackaging;

Monday, Sept 13, 9 –11:00am set up; and

Tuesday, September 14, 7:30a – 11:00a to distribute food to clients.



Photo by [Fray Foto](#) on [Cathopic](#)

Asking God for **BIG** things | *Everyday Miracles*

by *Nina Sanchez*

My name is Nina Sanchez, and I'm the Director of St. Mary's Early Childhood Center in Texas City, TX. But this is never what I wanted to do.

You see, my plan had been to go back to school and finish my degree in business, and I was looking for a small church-based center that could take care of my 2-year-old son for two or three days a week. When I heard that the priest at our parish wanted to start an Early Childhood Center, I thought to myself, "Perfect! I've started a business before. I'll get this started, help find someone to direct it, enroll my son, and be on my way."

I've been in this position now for almost 4 years. Ha! Our God sure does have a sense of humor!

Now not only do I LOVE my job, but I have never been happier or more fulfilled! God knows me better than I know myself, and His plan is ALWAYS better than mine.

Throughout my journey as Director at the ECC, God has always provided – He's always given me what I need, whether it be tangible needs for the center, staffing needs, or just some inspiration to keep me going. It's like He hears my heart, knows when I need that jolt, and gently whispers, "See Nina, I got you.

Don't grow weary as there's still so much work to be done. Trust me."

I remember one morning in particular. Our parish priest paid me visit at the ECC and shared a story that reminded me to be bold and ask for BIG things from our King.

We had just opened up a new room at the ECC and were in need of a small refrigerator and microwave. Having just left the conversation with our priest, I decided to heed Father's words and be bold. I posted on Facebook asking if anyone had a used microwave and/or small refrigerator that they would be willing to donate.

Ten minutes later, I got a text from one of our parishioners saying she would like to give us a new refrigerator but would need a ride to Lowes to buy it. I dropped what I was doing and went immediately to pick her up, smiling at the thought of God at work. I felt like he was whispering to me, "You asked for used. I've got something better! How about a new fridge?" Then while we were at Lowes, the parishioner says to me, "I'd like to buy you the microwave, too!"

At checkout, there was a delay at the register, and we got into a conversation with the two men in line in front of us. When they were finished checking out, they asked if they could help us load our stuff. I was still recovering from a recent back injury, so this gesture was heaven sent! God was whispering, "Nina, I know your back is hurt and I don't want you to make it worse, so I'll send you help."

Then when I dropped the parishioner off at her home, she asked me if I'd had lunch. "Wait a bit," she said. "I will send you some chicken and dumplings and cheesecake." God whispered, "As a bonus, I'll feed you, too!"

And it didn't stop there!

We were in dire need of staffing. After returning from Lowes, I went to our parish office to share the good news, including Father's story about asking for big things. I told the ladies that I was now asking for qualified staff and needed a prospect by midnight! They joked with me about giving God a deadline.

I hadn't even made it back to my office when one of them called me. Just after I had left, a couple of ladies had come into the parish office to get information about a baptism. They were about to leave when one turned around and asked if we happened to be hiring. The ladies at the parish office immediately called me, and we all sat in shock for a few moments.

An hour later, I interviewed the lady and started the process of hiring her. God's final whisper to me that day was, "Oh, you're giving me a deadline now! You said midnight on Friday night, but I'll do better than that! Now do you trust me?"

In a world that we often so badly want to control, thinking that OUR actions will make or break our situations, we need to be reminded to stop and listen to those whispers that God so gently gives us. HE is in control, and HIS way is always so much better than our own. Our only job is to listen and trust. And don't forget to be BOLD!

About the author: Xochitl (Nina) Sanchez is married to the love of her life, Jesse, and together they have five children ranging in age from 6 to 22 years old. She is the Director of St. Mary's Early Childhood Center in Texas City, TX.

Magnificat

The composer of the Annunciation and Birth Narratives that commence the Gospel of St. Luke must have been musical. I mean the composition includes what we call Canticles, long poetic pieces sung by John the Baptist's aged father and by Mary, the young mother of Jesus. Then there is the aged Simeon uttering a kind of finale beginning with *Now . . . you may dismiss your servant in peace, . . . / for my eyes have seen your salvation . . .* Even the dialogue could have been sung in the manner of Puccini baritones and sopranos.

As regards music, I grew up during the swing and jazz age. The air was full of Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller . . . vocalists like Bing Crosby and Dinah Shore doing love ballads. Then there was Spike Jones and his City Slickers. It made the air we breathed either bouncy or sentimental. And then one day my freshman high school class was ushered into the school's music room – about forty of us arranged in rows of desks. The teacher was Brother Raymond, a young and well built Christian Brother. He was going to introduce us to classical music.

Now try to get fourteen year old boys to sit still for an hour of classical music! He had a formidable task because whenever he turned to the blackboard, fidgeting and note passing and giggles grew noticeable. That is until Brother Raymond turned swiftly around and threw a piece of chalk at about ninety miles per hour at some prankster in the back. Soon it was quiet enough to play a piece, which happened to be Franz Schubert's 1822 "Unfinished Symphony".



Suddenly I sat transfixed. The melody infiltrated my being and lifted me to nameless and imageless levels of delight, peace. I was delivered for ever so lovely a moment from my adolescence. Assumption? The classroom receded from view as that spiral of notes carried me aloft like a gentle whirlwind from which vantage point I could sense the reality of a world beyond my hitherto petty interests. As an authority of those times expressed it: *The whole movement is a sweet stream of melodies, . . . so crystal-clear that you can see every pebble on the bottom. And everywhere the same warmth, the same golden sunshine . . .*

In this regard I think of the character in Marcel Proust's novel *In Search of Lost Time* – Charles Swann. Present at a Parisian salon party he heard a piece of music he had heard before – a sonata by Vinteuil. But now, like a confirmed invalid whom a change of air . . . seems to have relieved of his malady, *Swann found in himself . . . the presence of those invisible realities in which he had ceased to believe . . . of the power to re-consecrate his life.* It was as though the music was coming from an immeasurable keyboard . . . on which . . . some few among its millions of keys . . . have been discovered by certain great artists who do us the service . . . of showing us what richness . . . lies hidden, unknown to us, in that . . . impenetrable night of our soul.

Hearing Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony" set me on a path whereby I began to realize that my very life (even yours) could become itself an Unfinished Symphony if I could but shut up that prankster in the back of the room.

--Geoff Wood, 8/15/2021



<https://youtu.be/WY5h1uNX4Cg>

**Spruce up St Philip grounds on Saturday,
August 28, 2021**
sponsored by the Boosters Club.



Join parishioners & friends to tidy up the grounds around our Occidental parish church and hall.
We will begin at 9 am and plan to finish by 12 noon.

Tasks include: pick up trash; sweep patio and walkways; power wash; pull weeds; trim hedges, trees, vines, and shrubs; clean gutters; rake leaves, and other possible tasks.

Choose a task you can help with and bring your gardening tools.

After completing tasks, enjoy a **FREE LUNCH** of hot dogs, pizza, chips, soda, and ice cream.

For questions and to choose a task, please call Kelly & Cathy McCool at (707) 861-9302.

Thank you!

