



**Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 9, 2020**

Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.

— Psalm 85:12

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

After the miracle of Jesus walking on water, the disciples exclaimed, "Truly, you are the Son of God" (Matthew 14:33). Most Christians will probably never experience such a dramatic miracle. Like Elijah, we await the manifestation of God in other moments. Perhaps the biggest challenge for the believer is to be constantly attuned to the possible presence of God in the everyday events of life. This is a stance that takes some people years to develop. Others seem to find the Lord easily in the simple things. As the week unfolds, let us look for the presence of God in the little things around us. Perhaps, like Elijah, we will be surprised at what we find. And, like the disciples, we can add our voice to the confession, "Truly you are the Son of God." —J. S. Paluch Co.

**SAINT TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS (EDITH STEIN)
(1891-1942)
August 9**

"Come," Edith gently whispered, taking her sister Rosa's hand, "let us go for our people!" These were Edith Stein's last words as the Nazis, enraged at the Dutch bishops' condemnation of their genocide, took into custody all Catholic converts from Judaism. Born Jewish, but non-practicing from her teens, Edith's search for truth led to a doctorate in philosophy, a brilliant career as professor and author and, finally, to the *Autobiography of Saint Teresa of Avila*, which she read in one sitting, then declared, "That is the Truth!" Baptized on January 1, 1922, observed then as the feast of Jesus' initiation into the covenant of Abraham, confirmed on February 2, the feast of Jesus' Presentation in the Temple, Edith entered the cloistered Carmelites in Cologne, transferring to a convent in Holland when she realized that, because of the Nazi persecution of the Jews, her presence could imperil the safety of the other nuns. She died in the gas chambers of Auschwitz as a daughter of Israel and of the Church. —Peter Scagnelli, ©J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Cor 9:6-10; Ps 112:1-2, 5-9; Jn 12:24-26
 Tuesday: Ez 2:8 — 3:4; Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131; Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14
 Wednesday: Ez 9:1-7; 10:18-22; Ps 113:1-6; Mt 18:15-20
 Thursday: Ez 12:1-12; Ps 78:56-59, 61-62; Mt 18:21 — 19:1
 Friday: Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 [59-63]; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Mt 19:3-12
 Saturday: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10-16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56
 Sunday: Is 56:1, 6-7; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; om 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Nagasaki Memorial Day
 Monday: St. Lawrence
 Tuesday: St. Clare
 Wednesday: St. Jane Frances de Chantal
 Thursday: Ss. Pontian and Hippolytus
 Friday: St. Maximilian Kolbe
 Saturday: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

GOD'S IMAGE

Nature has perfections in order to show that she is the image of God, and defects to show that she is only God's image. —Blaise Pascal

Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!



For the month of **August** offerings:

PLEASE 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. *Include your offering envelope # with your donation.*

8/9: *Capital Expenditures.* 8/16: *Operating Expenses.*

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: TBA Zoom

Finance Council [FC]: TBA Zoom

Liturgy Committee: TBA Zoom

St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044

St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

Every Friday, Centering Prayer: cancelled for now

Coffee & Goodies: cancelled for now

Mondays & Wednesdays-Seniors Lunch at 12noon: cancelled for now

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

All Mass Intentions requested before Covid-19 mid-March closure are now being rescheduled for Sunday outdoor Masses. New requests will be appended to later in the 2021 calendar.

8/09 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Ron Schultz

8/09 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Bob Tiller

8/16 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Jimmy Newlands

8/16 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Florence Mullins

Prayer Requests: 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., Mary K., 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., Jacque W., 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, Pat P.

"Reflections on the Liturgy" Each week Patrick Griffith writes one or more reflections on Scripture, including the Liturgy for the coming Sunday. The objectives are to tie Scripture into our daily lives and address spiritual and moral issues of the world around us. The reflections can be found at <http://thesoulprosper.blogspot.com>. Selected reflections are also recorded and posted on the Parish website.

saint snippets

August 11

"God will never refuse her anything she asks for us."

—St. John Vianney speaking of St. Philomena

St. Philomena

4th-century virgin and martyr to whom many miracles have been attributed; patron saint of infants and youth.

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RURAL FOOD PROGRAM July UPDATE:



Over seventy recipient families were very appreciative of the fresh produce, dairy products, proteins and other much needed food which filled their vehicles as they made their way through our drive through distribution. We continue to maintain our use of social distancing, hand sanitizer, gloves and masks as indicated.

As we welcomed them we began discussing how we can meet the needs as schedules and weather conditions change. We will continue providing handmade, cloth masks for adults and especially school age children.

Again this year we are collecting blankets for our families. Gently used blankets can be dropped off in the hall after St Philip Sunday masses or leave a message at 707-408-2650 to arrange pick up. If you prefer, send a donation to the parish office for purchase of new blankets for our families. This program is funded through the Rural Food Collection each month, private donations, and awesome volunteers. **Thank you for your donations of time, talent, and treasure as we strive to meet the nutritional needs of all attendees at our food distributions.**

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES in Parish Hall:

Saturday, August 8, 9-10:00 am: repackaging

Monday, August 10, 10:00 – 12:00pm: set up

Tuesday, August 11, 8:30 – 11:00am: distribution of food to clients.



19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Gospel

reflection by Fr. Thomas Hoisington

“After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound.”

This Sunday's First Reading is iconic in the Church's spiritual tradition. Its most obvious lesson appears in light of the fact that the All-Powerful Lord, Creator of the heavens and the earth, chooses to manifest Himself to Elijah through a tiny, whispering sound rather than by more dramatic means. This lesson encourages us to be mindful of God's presence amidst what is small, simple, and seemingly insignificant.

This scriptural lesson can be compared to two other passages of Scripture. Making these comparisons will set the stage for Sunday's Gospel Reading. Consider first the Lord's self-revelation to Moses centuries earlier on the same mountain where He later appeared to Elijah. It was on this occasion that the Lord entrusted the Ten Commandments to Moses [Exodus 19]. The Lord did manifest Himself at that time through dramatic means: thunder and lightning, fire and a heavy cloud of smoke, and the violent trembling of the whole mountain. The radically different ways in which the Lord revealed Himself to Moses and Elijah offer complementary views of the Lord's power in all things, great and small.

However, that contrast also draws our attention to the similarity of the responses of Moses and Elijah. Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave on Mount Horeb. He recognized the tiny, whispering sound for what it was, and so adhered to the divine warning: *“my face you cannot see, for no man sees me and lives”* [Ex 33:20]. Elijah's awe-filled reverence for the Lord echoes the reverence of Moses, who on the same mountain had been commanded by the Lord: *“Take care not to go up the*

mountain, or even to touch its base. If anyone touches the mountain he must be put to death” [Ex 19:21]. Both Moses and Elijah show their reverence to the Lord Himself, not to the manner of His appearance. Sunday's Gospel Reading presents a sharper pair of contrasts. After sending the disciples ahead across the water, Jesus went up on a mountain by Himself to pray. We cannot know what this simple, serene contemplation with God the Father, in the Holy Spirit, was like for Jesus. But it's obvious that Jesus is not bound by any command similar to the one given to Moses. Jesus ascends this mountain in order to gaze directly on His Father's countenance, through His humanity, in the fullness of His divinity.

Stronger yet is the contrast made by Jesus' outreach to Peter. At 3:00 a.m., amidst darkness and strong winds, Jesus walks on the water towards His disciples. He announces Himself to them, and emboldens them: *“Take courage ... be not afraid!”* Yet Peter immediately expresses doubt and issues a challenge to Jesus. When Jesus complies and commands Peter to walk to Him on the water, Peter is frightened by the wind and begins to sink. Yet he does not end up sinking, for Jesus reaches out to him. In this, Peter symbolizes each of us.

God the Father sent His Son into our world to reach out to each of us and to offer reconciliation for our sins. On the occasion heard in Sunday's Gospel Reading, this divine Son stretches out a human hand to save Peter from his doubts. Not only does Jesus not forbid His disciples to approach, gaze upon and touch Him. Jesus reaches out to and catches Peter. The compassionate outreach of the God-man here stands in contrast, but not contradiction, to the reverential distance mandated by the Lord in the Old Testament. Of course, these two are one and the same Lord.

It's not as if God became more compassionate with the passing of millennia. All the whys and wherefores of salvation history—including the prudence of divine Providence—may perplex us. We shouldn't underestimate the significance of the Old Testament's lessons. Each of us sinners needs to approach our Lord with awe-filled reverence. However, this reverence ought to be matched by our trust in the Lord's desire to save us. This desire has been fulfilled through the Incarnation of God the Son. Jesus stretches out both arms on the Cross to catch us and keep us from sinking within the misery of our sins and into the depths of eternal death.

Catholic Reading...

In 1941, a brilliant, good-looking young man decided to give up a promising literary career in New York to enter a monastery in Kentucky, from where he proceeded to become one of the most influential writers of this century. Talk about losing your life in order to find it. Thomas Merton's first book, *The Seven Storey Mountain*, describes his early doubts, his conversion to a Catholic faith of extreme certainty, and his decision to take life vows as a Trappist. The best reason to read *The Seven Storey Mountain*, however, may be the one Merton provided in his introduction to its Japanese translation: "I seek to speak to you, in some way, as your own self. Who can tell what this may mean? I myself do not know, but if you listen, things will be said that are perhaps not written in this book. And this will be due not to me but to the One who lives and speaks in both." [audiobook link here](#)

