



**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 16, 2020**

What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him, this God has revealed to us through the Spirit.
— 1 Corinthians 2:9-10

CHOICE

"If you choose you can keep the commandments," Sirach tells us. God "has set before you fire and water; to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand" (Sirach 15:15, 16). This is a great mystery: God does not control us so completely that we cannot choose our own path. We have certain boundaries, of course, but no one but we can choose our way within those boundaries.

In today's reading from Matthew's Gospel, Jesus reminds us of our freedom and our responsibility for our lives. He calls us to look beyond the words of the commandments, all the way to their meaning. Look beyond the adultery to the selfishness that poisons our love. Look beyond the murder to the anger that eats away at our compassion. Look beyond the perjured testimony to the lies and deception that drive our behavior.

Our vocation is to choose life for ourselves, and to choose a path through our part of the world that helps make life possible and more abundant for others as well.
--J. S. Paluch Co.

**THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER THE APOSTLE
February 22**

In brushing up for "Catholic Jeopardy," it might help to know that there is only one feast on the calendar for a thing, rather than a person or mystery. It's for a chair: Saint Peter's chair in fact

After the Resurrection, there can be no doubt that the disciples reserved a special place for Simon Peter in the upper room. Later, Peter became the bishop of Antioch in today's Syria, the place where we were first called Christians. From there, he went to Rome, the center of the Empire, where it is said that Peter sat in a chair in the house of Priscilla and Aquila to instruct his flock. Jesus, in entrusting the keys of the Kingdom to Peter and his successors, entrusted his compassion and mercy to them, and charged them with pointing to the Kingdom of God. Compassion and mercy are to resonate through their teaching.

Since the ancient sign of a teacher is the chair ("disciple" literally means one who sits at the feet of a teacher), Peter's chair has long been treasured. Today there is a symbolic shrine of Peter's chair above the main altar of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. This monument is the last work of Bernini, a huge bronze throne supported by four doctors of the Church: Augustine and Ambrose from the Western Church, and Chrysostom and Athanasius from the East. High above it is the alabaster window of the descent of the Holy Spirit.
--Peter Scagnelli, © J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Mon: Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67-68, 71-72, 75-76; Mk 8:11-13
- Tues: Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-13a; 14-15, 18-19; Mk 8:14-21
- Wed: Jas 1:19-27; Ps 15:2-4ab, 5; Mk 8:22-26
- Thurs: Jas 2:1-9; Ps 34:2-7; Mk 8:27-33
- Fri: Jas 2:14-24, 26; Ps 112:1-6; Mk 8:34 — 9:1
- Sat: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19
- Sun: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; Ps 103:1-4, 8-13; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

Prayer Requests: Call 874-3812. 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 [Ed] Arnold, Castellini family, Anne Favre, Kathy R., Donna W., and for all in the path of manmade or natural disasters, we pray

Finance Corner:



Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

For the month of **February** offerings:

- 2/9: 1st [only] Collection: \$2497.
- 2/16: Capital Expenditures. 2/23: Rural Food.

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: Tues., 2/18/20, at 10AM in Hall
Finance Council [FC]: Tues., 4/7/20, at 3PM in Hall

Liturgy Committee: Thurs., 3/5/20, at 9:45AM in Hall

St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044
St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

Every Friday, Centering Prayer: 9:30AM at St Philip
Coffee & Goodies: Following 8AM Sunday Mass and Wednesday/Friday after 9AM Mass, at St Philip Hall



Mondays & Wednesdays-Seniors Lunch at 12noon:
All seniors welcome! (No lunch Monday before 2nd Tues. of month)

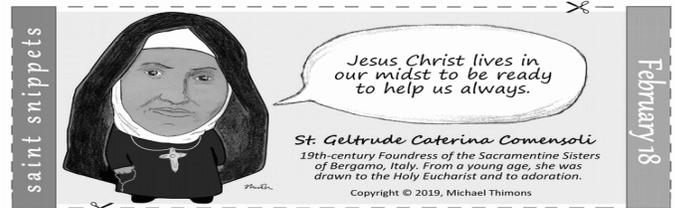
Our Parish website: www.stphilipstteresa.org

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

- Sat., Feb. 15, 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith
- Sun., Feb. 16, 8am Mass for the People
- Sun., Feb. 16, 9:30am Mass ✠ Janet Young
- Sun., Feb. 16, 11:15am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer
- Mon., Feb. 17, 9am Prayer Service
- Tues., Feb. 18, 9am Mass ✠ Bob Tiller
- Wed., Feb. 19, 9am Mass ✠ Tina Bartolo
- Thurs., Feb. 20, 9am Mass
- Fri., Feb. 21, 9am Mass
- Sat., Feb. 22, 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith
- Sun., Feb. 23, 8am Mass
- Sun., Feb. 23, 9:30am Mass for the People
- Sun., Feb. 23, 11:15am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday: The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order; Presidents' Day
- Friday: St. Peter Damian
- Saturday: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle



Pope Francis Quote

"I entrust to the Virgin Mary, Health of the Sick, all those who carry the burden of illness, along with their families and healthcare providers. I warmly assure everyone of my closeness in prayer."

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for FEBRUARY 2020

On February 11th, 48 dedicated volunteers welcomed 98 families representing 110 adults, 28 children and 41 seniors, a total of 179 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.

We have set goals of eliminating use of plastic bags and transitioning to reusable grocery bags by the end of 2020 to reduce our costs and to reduce our contribution to landfill. Please continue to collect reusable grocery bags, paper bags with handles, and clean egg cartons.

Spring cleaning? If you have clean, gently used sleeping bags or blankets, we are collecting now for distribution this fall when weather turns colder. Drop off at the parish hall.

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Sat., March 7, from 9:00 – 10:00am repackaging in Parish Hall

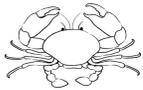
Mon., March 9, from 10:00am – 12:00pm to set up the Parish Hall

Tues., March 10, from 8:30 – 11:00am to distribute the food and to assist clients

Please be mindful of others during the virus / flu season. If you are sick, please refrain from hugs or holding hands during the Our Father / kiss of peace. You are welcome to receive the host communion. We appreciate your thoughtfulness. Get well soon!



"I know you want to guarantee he'll be a great athlete, but I can't substitute Gatorade® for baptismal oil."



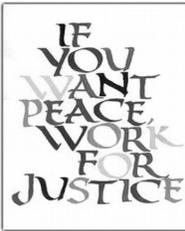
Crab Dinner is next Sat. 2/22 at Parish Hall. RSVP at 861-9302 or 874-3812.

ASH WEDNESDAY (Fast & Abstinence) is **Feb. 26**

Masses & Ashes: 9am at St. Philip's, Occidental

12noon at St. Teresa's, Bodega

6pm at St. Philip's, Occidental



First Theme of Catholic Social Teaching:

Life and Dignity of the Human Person
[Part One] Note: theme series source=uscbb.org

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and euthanasia. The value of human life is being threatened by cloning, embryonic stem cell research, and the use of the death penalty. The intentional targeting of civilians in war or terrorist attacks is always wrong. Catholic teaching also calls on us to work to avoid war. Nations must protect the right to life by finding increasingly effective ways to prevent conflicts and resolve them by peaceful means. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

"When we fail to acknowledge as part of reality the worth of a poor person, a human embryo, a person with disabilities – to offer just a few examples – it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself; everything is connected." (Pope Francis, *On Care for Our Common Home [Laudato Si' . . .]*, no. 117)

Just as the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" sets a clear limit in order to safeguard the value of human life, today we also have to say "thou shalt not" to an economy of exclusion and inequality. Such an economy kills. How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points? This is a case of exclusion. Can we continue to stand by when food is thrown away while people are starving? This is a case of inequality. Today everything comes under the laws of competition and the survival of the fittest, where the powerful feed upon the powerless. As a consequence, masses of people find themselves excluded and marginalized: without work, without possibilities, without any means of escape. Human beings are themselves considered consumer goods to be used and then discarded. We have created a "throw away" culture which is now spreading. It is no longer simply about exploitation and oppression, but something new. Exclusion ultimately has to do with what it means to be a part of the society in which we live; those excluded are no longer society's underside or its fringes or its disenfranchised – they are no longer even a part of it. The excluded are not the "exploited" but the outcast, the "leftovers". (Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel [Evangelii Gaudium. . .]*, no. 153)....**To be continued**

BAD COMPANY

People who live solely for themselves are eventually corrupted by their own company.

—Anonymous

CONSCIENCE

Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire, called conscience.

—George Washington