



Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 27, 2022

Every tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not pick figs from thornbushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles.

— Luke 6:44

WE ARE KNOWN BY OUR FRUIT

This week, Jesus tells us that we must examine our own inner selves, our attitudes and dispositions, virtues and faults, rather than judging others. What is in our hearts comes out in what and how we speak. If our hearts are filled with kindness and compassion, those qualities will be evident in our speaking, just as beautiful, wholesome fruit comes only from healthy trees. And vice-versa. The Wisdom writer Sirach in the first reading agrees with this concept—that we will be judged by our words. Paul reminds us that the reward of discipleship is eternal life. Today's psalm of thanksgiving and praise reminds us of God's kindness and faithfulness, which we are to emulate in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We are known, each of us, by our own fruit.

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PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Grant us, O Lord, we pray,
that the course of our world
may be directed by your peaceful rule
and that your Church may rejoice,
untroubled in her devotion.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question:

How can I help bring about God's peaceful reign?

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Pt 1:3-9; Ps 111:1-2, 5-6, 9, 10c; Mk 10:17-27
 Tuesday: 1 Pt 1:10-16; Ps 98:1-4; Mk 10:28-31
 Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17;
 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
 Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25
 Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15
 Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32
 Sunday: Dt 26:4-10; Ps 91:1-2, 10-15; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Tuesday: Mardi Gras; Shrove Tuesday
 Wednesday: Ash Wednesday; Fast and Abstinence; Almsgiving
 Thursday: St. Katharine Drexel
 Friday: St. Casimir; First Friday; Abstinence;
 World Day of Prayer
 Saturday: First Saturday

Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

For the month of February 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.stphilipsteresa.org via Paypal or card. Please include your offering envelope # [if you have one] with your donation.

2/20: 1st coll.: \$1709. 2nd coll.: \$161.

2/27: Rural Food. 3/02: Church in Central & Eastern Europe.



Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: TBA
Finance Council [FC]: Tues. 3/01/22, at 3:30pm on Zoom
Liturgy Committee [LC]: Fri., 4/01/22, at 9:45am in Hall
St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044
St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule 2022

2/26 Sat. 5pm Mass
 2/27 Sun. 8am Mass Katie Screes
 2/27 Sun. 9:30am Mass for the People
 2/27 Sun. 11:15am Mass ✠ John Hart
 3/05 Sat. 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith
 3/06 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Hugh Peterson
 3/06 Sun. 9:30am Mass
 3/06 Sun. 11:15am 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, Hugh P., Robert S., Britney N., Chuck, Rebecca A., April K., Jacinta G., 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

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for February 2022

Tuesday, February 8, brought lots of warm sunshine and 60 families (136 individuals) who were all smiles as they selected fresh produce, milk, eggs, poultry, beef, fish or vegetarian items, commodities, snacks and bread, including a wonderful selection from our local Wildflour Bakery and some sweet kiwi fruit from a local resident's garden. Clients broke out into more smiles as each was presented with Valentine roses, a donation from our volunteers. We continue to have an increase in attendance each month. All are welcome to receive nutritional support from our Program. We are collecting jackets and sweatshirts for our clients—see separate notice in this bulletin.

We have opened the hall to in-person shopping for clients who follow COVID guidelines while inside. This allows clients to be selective in choosing specific foods from our program for their families. 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 Parish Hall /parking area: Saturday, March 5, 9-10:00 am repackaging; Monday, March 7, **9:00 – 11:00am** set up; Tuesday, March 8, 7:30-11:00am distribution.



***A good person out of the store of goodness
in his heart produces good.***

My guess is that today's first and Gospel reading promote the moral virtue called prudence, which in today's constantly contested atmosphere has fallen off the charts. In the simplest terms prudence means "handle with care", which could pass as an aspect of love. But we live in a media age of extremely "careless" talk as if one side or the other might claim its exclusive grasp of what's true.

Of course "true" popularly means correct, factual, verifiable in some experimental way – in the manner of Thomas Gradgrind in the novel *Hard Times* by Charles Dickens. Gradgrind ran a school in the industrial (and smoky) town of Coketown in the mid 1800's. His aim was to *Teach these boys and girls nothing but Facts. Facts alone are wanted in life. Plant nothing else, and root out everything else. You can only form the minds of reasoning animals upon Facts; nothing else will ever be of any service to them.*

Thereupon he asks a student named Bitzer to define a horse. Bitzer's correct answer is: *Quadruped. Graminivorous. Forty teeth, namely twenty four grinders . . . its anatomy reduced to numbers – which can't lie!* Seems like that's what prevails as true nowadays. I used to see my doctor and talk about my health; now I'm shown a screen with 2.4, 2.6. . . . 3.1. No signal at all about my growing anxiety as I see the statistic rise!

So also with Bitzer's horse. His "useful" description bears no likeness to that of God's description of a horse in the Book of Job: *Do you give the horse his strength, / and*

clothe his neck with a mane? / Do you make him quiver like a locust, / while his thunderous snorting spreads terror? / He paws the valley, he rejoices in his strength . . . Those are "facts" only poetry can reveal. Something Gradgrind's daughter reveals when later in life she says: *Father, you trained me from my cradle. How could you give me life and take from me all those precious things that make life worth living. Where are the graces of my soul? Where are the sentiments of my heart? What have you done, oh Father, with the garden that should have bloomed in this great wilderness here?* And she struck her breast.

We normally take truth to mean correct – case closed. After the evidence is weighed in a courtroom we declare a verdict based as the clerk said on "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth". However, the New Testament word for truth is the Greek *aletheia* which prudently means the unconcealed or revealed (as if to say that everything we see is but the outcome of a veil drawn back). In other words there is an abyss of still concealed reality, hidden, yet to emerge that is inexhaustible.

Doesn't this require then a less brash, a "learn but wait and see" attitude – together? When a sieve is shaken, the husks appear. Moments occur when we find out we were wrong. The fruit of a tree shows the care it has had. If it was cultivated by Gradgrind, expect it to be bland if not sour. Could it be that we are living in a world in which the blind teach the blind? And especially: what a wonderful revelation it is when it is no longer concealed that I who saw all the faults of my neighbor so clearly awoke to my own embarrassing mistakes – but in my case I was merciful.

--Geoff Wood, 2/27/22

Rural Food Program Volunteers are collecting sweatshirts and jackets for our clients. Child and adult sizes are needed.

Please leave your donation of jackets and sweatshirts in the marked bins at the back of either church until Sunday, March 6. We will distribute the items to our Rural Food clients on March 8.



**Clothing
Donation**

**Liturgy note: *Ash Wednesday Service Times*
in Today's Mass Announcements**