

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 31, 2021**

Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us.

— Psalm 95:6

FALSE PROPHETS, TRUE PROPHETS

In Deuteronomy today we hear that God's very words will fill the mouth of a true prophet, but a false prophet will, in a manner of speaking, put mere mortal words into God's mouth. In Mark's Gospel, we see Jesus teaching and healing as a true prophet, one filled with the authority of God's own voice, the Holy One of God.

The whole history of our church is filled with both true and false prophets. But in today's Gospel we learn that Jesus' fame spread because he taught with authority; he wasn't an authority because he was popular or famous. We also learn from him, in his desert temptation confrontations with Satan, that anyone can quote scripture, even against God's purposes. And today we hear that his authority was not like that of the scribes, who held the official positions of religious authority in his day. Our work is to do our best to discern the true prophets in our midst, and to be true prophets as well. The psalmist tells us how to do this: by not hardening our hearts when God speaks. If we truly listen to God, it will be God's very words filling our mouths.

-J. S. Paluch Co.

FEAST OF FAITH

I Confess

One form of the penitential rite at the beginning of Mass is the traditional *Confiteor*, or "I confess," a prayer that was formerly prayed by the priest alone at the foot of the altar, but which is now prayed by the entire assembly. The *Confiteor* is at once personal—"I confess"—and communal, prayed aloud, together. We recognize that sin does not just separate us from God; sin comes between us and others, isolating us. We acknowledge that sin has many dimensions, individual and communal: sins of thought, sins of speech, sins of action, sins of omission. Sin is not something that happens to us; sin is something we do. In the *Confiteor*, we take responsibility for our own actions. The repeated insistence on our "fault," with the ritual gesture of striking the breast, an ancient sign of penitence, is not meant to lower our self-esteem. Rather, it acknowledges our human instinct to transfer the blame whenever we can ("The devil made me do it!"). This prayer stops us short. We take responsibility for ourselves, our actions, our failure to act. Then we cry out to God in those ancient words, *Kyrie, eleison*—Lord, have mercy. For the sinner who repents, there is mercy. This truth is at the heart of our faith, and it is where the Mass, our feast of faith, begins.

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Heb 11:32-40; Ps 31:20-24; Mk 5:1-20
 Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]
 Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a; Mk 6:1-6
 Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24; Ps 48:2-4, 9-11; Mk 6:7-13
 Friday: Heb 13:1-8; Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9; Mk 6:14-29
 Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Ps 23:1-6; Mk 6:30-34
 Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; Ps 147:1-6; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39

"Note regarding the Blessing of Throats on Wednesday, February 3, Memorial of St. Blaise: Due to the current circumstances, Bishop Vasa directed us priests to avoid administration of the blessing to individuals in the usual manner. **It is a sufficient pastoral reason to give the blessing to all assembled at St Philip's soon after the 9 am Mass by the priest extending hands, without the crossed candles, over the people while saying the prayer of blessing.**" -Fr. Bala.

WEEKLY



Finance Corner: Your generosity

is greatly needed and appreciated! For the month of **January/February** 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.

1/31: Rural Food. 2/7: Operating Expenses. 2/14: No 2nd collection.

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

Centering Prayer ZOOM: Tues. noon/Fri. 930am - info www.stphilipstteresa.org

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

1/31 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Mary Karp
 1/31 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Brendan Smith
 2/07 Sun. 8am Mass for the People
 2/07 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Bob Tiller

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., 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, Dennis M., Art H., Lynn, Gary S., Peter R., Gerry N.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Tuesday: The Presentation of the Lord; Blessing of Candles
 Wednesday: St. Blaise; St. Ansgar; Blessing of Throats;
 Friday: St. Agatha; First Friday
 Saturday: St. Paul Miki and companions; First Saturday

St. Philip's Ladies Guild Memo.....

1- Saint Philip's Ladies Guild is seeking volunteers from the Parish to assist with our Church upkeep and cleaning. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Penny Applegarth (559) 367-7403.
 2- Saint Philip's Ladies Guild is seeking ways to provide more community for our Parish members. We would like to know if there is interest in having a virtual weekly meeting to read the Mass readings of that day followed by a discussion on how the readings apply to our lives. If you are interested, please contact Penny Applegarth (559) 367-7403.

Pastor Speaks...

As per the direction given by Bishop Robert Vasa to all the Pastors during our recent deanery zoom meetings, I decided to provide two more opportunities to those of our parishioners who like to receive **Holy Communion**. Other than Sundays and some Holy Days of Obligation, those who would like to receive Holy Communion from me or another delegated by me may do so until otherwise notified on **Wednesdays at St Philip's and Thursdays at St Teresa's at 9:15 AM**. All who are interested to join me at Mass those days are most welcome. The Mass begins sharp at 9 am.

OUTDOOR SUNDAY MASSES:

Times & Zoom information can be found at our parish website ---- www.stphilipstteresa.org

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for JANUARY 2021



We prepared for stormy skies for the January 12 Rural Food distribution but were happy to get only a short sprinkle.

We were greeted with warm and sunny smiles as we distributed food to 61 families totaling 54 adults, 32 seniors, and 23 children.

As we plan for and adjust to distribution outside in inclement weather we have decided to adjust our set up and distribution times slightly. ***Please note the changes below.***

We are so thankful for the support provided to make this program flourish.

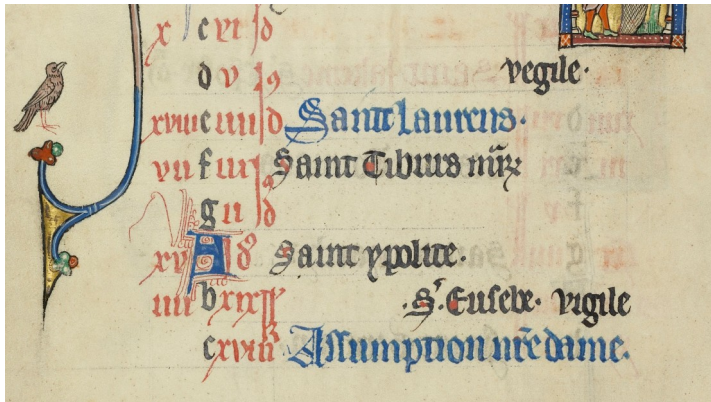
This program is funded through the Rural Food Collection each month, private donations and awesome volunteers. **Thank you for your generous donations as we strive to meet the nutritional needs of all attendees at our food distributions.**

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES in Hall:

Saturday, February 6, 9:00 - 10:00am repackaging;

***Monday, February 8,** 9:00 - 11:00am set up; and

***Tuesday, February 9,** 8:00 - 11:00am distribution of food to clients.



Deacon-structing Solemnities, Feasts, & Memorials

by [Deacon Pedro](#)

I remember being in Assisi in 2001 on the Feast of All Saints. The organizer of our trip had arranged for our group to have lunch with the Franciscan friars. It was a lovely meal. I remember thinking that there wasn't much poverty if they always ate like this: several courses, meat, lots of wine – even dessert and good Italian coffee!

When I commented on it to one of my travel companions, he clarified that the friars don't usually eat meat. In fact, normally their meals are very humble. But November 1st was a solemnity, and so they marked it by having a feast!

Had you asked me 10 years ago what a solemnity was, I'm not sure I would have been able to respond correctly. I knew that in the Church we had "feasts" – I also had a sense of what some of those feasts were, but I would not have known which were solemnities or what the difference was.

You are probably the same. You probably have a sense of the liturgical seasons: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time. These seasons help us identify the highs and lows of our faith journey (read more about this in [Deacon-structing Ordinary Time](#)). Those seasons

are marked by special days that the Church calls feasts to help us observe what's important in our Faith.

Feast days began when early Christians would commemorate the day someone was martyred as a way to remember them and to recognize their holiness. This is how we have such an accurate record of when all the saints died: because those around them recognized their holiness before they died and so made a point to remember their deaths. Eventually non-martyrs were also remembered as they were venerated as saints. Slowly, the [Calendar of Saints](#) began to grow. Some feast days are referred to as **feasts**, but there are also **solemnities** and **memorials**.

Solemnities

The most important of these are **solemnities**, from the Latin *sollemnitas*, which means festival or celebration. It is a day that is solemn, sacred, and dedicated to religious observances. We must first remember that every Sunday is a solemnity. Outside of Sundays, we have other solemnities, like Trinity Sunday, Corpus Christi, Immaculate Conception, and All Saints, to mention a few. Most solemnities are Christ-centred: for example, Christmas, Epiphany, Ascension, Pentecost, Sacred Heart, and Christ the King. Others are Marian: Annunciation, Assumption, Immaculate Conception, and Mary, Mother of God. Others commemorate saints, like St. Joseph, Nativity of John the Baptist, and Saints Peter and Paul. According to the General Roman Calendar, there are a total of 17 solemnities that apply to the Universal Church.

There are also what are referred to as "proper solemnities". These are solemnities which are not universal but may be observed in particular places. For example, St. Patrick's Day (March 17) is a solemnity in Ireland, Our Lady of Czestochowa is one in Poland, and the memorials of St. Rose of Lima and St. Martin de Porres are solemnities in Peru. Also, every religious congregation will celebrate the feast or memorial of their founder as a solemnity.

When you go to Mass on a day that is not a Sunday, you will know it is a solemnity because there will be a Gloria, a second reading, and the Creed (parts which are omitted during a regular daily Mass).

The differences between solemnities, feasts, and memorials become very clear once you begin to pray the Liturgy of the Hours. If you do, you know that each solemnity begins on the evening before (which happens every Saturday night with what is called Sunday Evening Prayer 1). Some solemnities (like Easter and Christmas) will have their own Vigil Mass that is celebrated on the eve of the feast (this is how we get "all hallows' eve" – which is the eve of All Saints Day. All Saints day begins on the prior evening).

Feasts

Of second importance are **feasts**. These days do not have an "Evening Prayer 1" on the evening prior. The only exception would be when one of these feasts occurs on a Sunday – which doesn't happen often because Sunday, being a solemnity, will always "trump" a feast day. Examples of feasts are Baptism of the Lord, Presentation of the Lord, Transfiguration (Aug 6), all the days commemorating the Apostles and the evangelists, the Conversion of St. Paul (Jan 25), the Visitation (May 31), the Birth of Mary (Sept 8), the feast of the Archangels (Sep 29), and the [dedication of St. John Lateran](#) (Nov 8).

The only non-apostle or evangelist saints who have a feast day are St. Lawrence (Aug 10) and Mary Magdalene (July 22).

Memorials

Lastly, we have **memorials**, which mostly commemorate saints but may also be Marian or Christ-centred, as in the memorial of the Holy Name of Jesus or the memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. If you were to attend Mass on a feast day or a memorial, the presider may choose to use the readings and prayers which are specific to the day. A memorial, for example, will always have at least an opening prayer (collect).

You may not have a tradition of feasting with the Church. Unless a solemnity or feast is celebrated locally or on a Sunday, you may never have had an experience like the one I had in Assisi. Perhaps this is something you can begin doing in your homes and with your families. What makes Sundays different in your home? Would you do a novena at home with your family? What separates an ordinary Monday from the feast of your own patron saint? Which holy days would you commemorate as a family?

I encourage you all to begin doing little (or big) things to celebrate these days that the Church has marked for us as a reminder that we are part of God's life.

To get you going, here are some feasts and solemnities coming up:

- Today, Conversion of Paul, Apostle, FEAST (Jan 25)
- Presentation of the Lord, FEAST (Feb 2)
- Chair of Peter, FEAST (Feb 22)
- Joseph, Husband of Mary, SOLEMNITY (March 19)
- Annunciation, SOLEMNITY (March 25)
- Easter Triduum, SOLEMNITY (April 1-4)

And come back next week so we can look at Holy Days of Obligation and a few more details about solemnities, feasts, and memorials.



Every week, Deacon Pedro takes a particular topic apart, not so much to explore or explain the subject to its fullness, but rather to provide insights that will deepen our understanding of the subject. And don't worry, at the end of the day he always puts the pieces

back together. There are no limits to *deacon-structing*: Write to him and ask any questions about the faith or Church teaching:

pedro@saltandlighttv.org.



The Sé Cathedral in Goa will make you want to go on a pilgrimage to India

J-P Mauro - published on 10/10/19

One of the largest churches in Asia, the Sé Cathedral has served the people of Goa since the 17th century.

On the western coast of the Indian peninsula, in the province of Goa, stands one of the largest Catholic churches in Asia: the Sé Cathedral de Santa Catarina (The See Cathedral of St. Catherine). Most commonly referred to as simply Sé Cathedral, this monumental building is one of the oldest and most celebrated in the province.

Sé Cathedral dates back to the 16th century, when Portugal sent its first missionaries to Asia. It was constructed to commemorate Alfonso Albuquerque's 1510 victory over Muslim forces, which led to an influx of Christianity in the region. This victory came on the feast day of St. Catherine of Alexandria, for whom the cathedral was named.

[The Government of Goa's Department of Tourism notes](#) that the cathedral was commissioned by the Portuguese Viceroy, Redondo, who said the church was intended to be:

"A grandiose church worthy of the wealth, power and fame of the Portuguese who dominated the seas from the Atlantic to the Pacific."

Construction began in 1562, and it would be 78 years before the cathedral was completed and consecrated in 1640. The architecture is a prime example of Portuguese-Gothic ingenuity, while the exterior and interior boast Tuscan and Corinthian styles respectively. The facade of the church is plain and humble, with high white walls accented by windows, but the interior is filled with such detailed ornamentation that it's almost dizzying.

Sé Cathedral was erected with two bell towers, one on either side of the entrance; however, the right tower was struck by lightning in 1776 and was never rebuilt. In the remaining bell tower are five bells, one of which is known as the "Golden Bell" and is said to have an exceptionally rich tone.

The altars, which were not completed until 1652, were dedicated to St. Catherine, and the walls on either side of the altar are decorated with oil paintings depicting the life and martyrdom of the early saint.

This cathedral contains eight chapels, with four on either side of the nave. Two of these are protected by ornately carved wooden grilles. One of these, the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, is accented by beautiful gilded walls and ceiling. The other, the Chapel of the Cross of Miracles, is the site where it is said a vision of Christ appeared in 1919

The most striking part of the interior is the enormous reredos — the ornamented screen covering the wall behind the altar — which is completely gilded and features an impressive array of sculpted biblical scenes. This reredos spans the entire back wall, which rises up 115 feet.

There is more to see in the Sé Cathedral than can be properly appreciated in one day, let alone one article. For an incredible look at Sé Cathedral's grounds, and some wonderful close up shots of the many priceless works of art within the storied building, check out the [video](#) featured in the cathedral photo.