



**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 16, 2022**

Nations shall behold your vindication,
and all the kings your glory.

— *Isaiah 62:2*

REVELATION OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Today's first reading from Isaiah arises out of the ordeal of the people of Jerusalem and Judea as they anticipate the end of seventy years of exile in Babylon. Their sufferings and their oppression will end, and they are promised joy like that of a great wedding upon returning to their homeland. Although this passage is probably set in the early sixth century B.C., it is free of historical particulars. Accordingly, the Church has understood its imagery universally, as it proclaims God's promise of healing, hope, and happiness for all peoples, in this world and in the next. When read against this background, the story of Jesus' turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana becomes a revelation of God's presence in the person of Jesus, making these promises real for us in the here and now, in the transformation of our own lives. -- © J. S. Paluch Co.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Almighty ever-living God,
who govern all things,
both in heaven and on earth,
mercifully hear the pleading of your people
and bestow your peace on our times.
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:

What can I do to help to bring about God's peace?

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mk 2:18-22
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13; Ps 89:20-22, 27-28; Mk 2:23-28
 Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Mk 3:1-6
 Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Ps 56:2-3, 9-13; Mk 3:7-12
 Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21; Ps 57:2-4, 6, 11; Mk 3:13-19
 Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Ps 80:2-3, 5-7; Mk 3:20-21,
or any of a number of readings for the Day of Prayer
 Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; Ps 19:8-10, 15;
 1 Cor 12:12-30 [12-14, 27]; Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 Tuesday: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins
 Thursday: St. Fabian; St. Sebastian
 Friday: St. Agnes
 Saturday: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated! For the month of **January** 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! 1/9: summary provided soon.



1/16/22: No 2nd collection. 1/23: CH URCH IN LATIN AMERICA.

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: TBA
Finance Council [FC]: TBA
Liturgy Committee [LC]: TBA
St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044
St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule 2022

1/15 Sat. 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith
 1/16 Sun. 8am Mass Jerry Loizzo [healing]
 1/16 Sun. 9:30am Mass for the People
 1/16 Sun. 11:15am Mass ✠ Lorrin Kroska
 1/22 Sat. 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith
 1/23 Sun. 8am Mass Jerry Loizzo [healing]
 1/23 Sun. 9:30am Mass
 1/23 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.

YOUR BEST

Give to the world the best you have and the best will come back to you.

—Anonymous



THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

No one who understands the reality that God is can think that God does not exist.

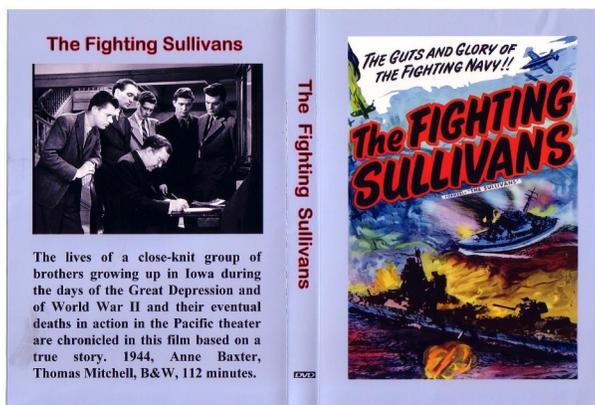
—St. Anselm of Canterbury

Health Advisory: Out of mutual kindness and respect for the law, please wear a mask and keep social distance when in our churches. Thank you.

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for January 2022 On sunny Tuesday, January 11, 64 families (135 individuals) braved the very cold weather and received nutritional support during our distribution at the St Philips Parking lot and parish hall. We have opened the hall to in person shopping for clients who follow COVID guidelines while inside. This allows our clients to choose their own food items while getting out of the cold weather and reconnecting with our volunteers. We had many new clients for both our general distribution and our Senior Box program.

After our distribution was completed, many of our dedicated volunteers stayed on and helped to clear food and other items from the hall in preparation for fumigation later this month. 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 the Parish** **Hall and parking area: Saturday, February 5, 9-10:00 am** repackaging; **Monday, February 7, 9:00 – 11:00am** set up and **Tuesday, February 8, 7:30a – 11:00a** to distribute food to clients.



In the desert prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!

Something recently reminded me of the 1944 film ***The Fighting Sullivans*** (originally titled just *The Sullivans*). It commemorated the loss of five brothers who served in the USS Juneau – sunk in the slugfests between surface ships near Guadalcanal. It was against Navy policy that siblings should serve on the same ships but the Sullivans insisted and the luck of the Irish ran out.

The film takes us back to the birth and baptisms of each boy in Waterloo, Iowa. Their father was a railroad freight conductor. We are carried along by episodes during their boyhood and early adult years – recalling their solidarity – a kind of “all for one and one for all” attitude. One scene shows them gathering upon a water tower platform beside the railroad waving to their father as he boards his caboose to commence his work.

And so it goes – even fist fights with bullies and admonitions for better behavior from their Catholic pastor. And then one Sunday (which I recall): Pearl Harbor! – and the boys all enlist together and within only months the Juneau went down leaving only ten survivors. Which is where the film’s audience “falls apart”. The scene follows where Ward Bond as a naval officer comes to the Sullivan home one morning. The family is up – the father getting ready for work. The mother welcomes Bond into their parlor. It’s clear he has a message. The father senses what it is and asks: “Which one?” And Ward Bond (and I assume he had to redo this scene several times) pauses and says: “All five.” I have seen grown men in the audience break into tears. When I was studying in Rome in the early 1950’s I watched the film a second time in a parish hall full of Italian mothers. When that scene happened – the floor of that hall literally began to flow with tears – and the air became loud with moans and no! no! no!

Now in order to close the film on a positive note (a positive note??) the producers’ final scene shows the five brothers in their naval uniforms alive in a ghostly way ascending toward a distant light we assume is heaven – and waving goodbye. It doesn’t work. And in our day it’s unlikely that any such happily-ever-after ending would work. For judging by the global media the systems, the values of our world seem to be deconstructing. As a poet has said: *Things fall apart; the center cannot hold; / Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world.* Which makes me want to return to the scene played before that ghostly goodbye.

It shows the father going off (after Bond’s visit) to work as on any other day. He climbs up to the platform of his caboose and as the freight train pulls away he looks up to the water tower from which the boys used to wish him goodbye. Far from imagining his sons on their way to an afterlife in heaven, the look on the father’s face (played by Thomas Mitchell) is dubious, quizzical, like asking “why?” The tragedy has begun to make him *think*, *interrogate* his store of beliefs – which is where authentic philosophy and theology *begin*. It’s a good place to be, without our waiting for tragedies to strike, because our beliefs over time can go stale, become rote and if now in the history of the world it isn’t a time for us to *think*, to *ponder*, to *wonder* instead of to *argue* our way back into community, when will it ever be? --Geoff Wood, 1/09/2022

