



**15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 12, 2020**

You have crowned the year with your bounty, and your paths overflow with a rich harvest.

— Psalm 65:12

GOD'S WORDS

Each day we are bombarded with thousands of words. From the moment our clock radios click on in the morning, until the last moment of the day when the television is turned off or someone bids us "good-night," our life is filled with words. Some words that we hear bring news that leaves us feeling low. Some words lift our spirits. Many of the words we hear are trying to get us to buy something. Some words are hurtful. Today the Church focuses our attention on hearing the word of God. Are God's words just more of the same—part of the endless stream of words that flow into our ears each day? The challenge today is to allow God's word to inspire us in new ways so that our outlook and attitudes align themselves more closely with the heart and mind of Christ Jesus.

—J. S. Paluch Co.

SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA (1656-1680) July 14

Though the New York State Thruway runs close by the North American Martyrs' Shrine, traffic's roar never pierces the peace enveloping Auriesville—Osseron to Native Americans—in the lovely Mohawk Valley, where Kateri Tekakwitha was born barely ten years after the martyrdom of Isaac Jogues and his Jesuit and lay companions. Daughter of a Christian Algonquin mother and non-Christian Mohawk chief, Kateri's parents died in a smallpox epidemic widely blamed on the missionaries. Moreover, many Native Americans had experienced exploitation at the hands of "Christian" traders and trappers, further discrediting the faith Kateri embraced in baptism, then pledged to live even more intensely in vowed virginity. Misunderstanding led to harassment, prompting her move to a Christian village farther north along the Saint Lawrence River. Despite this, Kateri's faith remained undaunted, her selfless charity undiminished. Both before and after her death at twenty-four, this young "Lily of the Mohawks" drew countless converts to Christ by the fragrance of her goodness. Through us, does "the aroma of Christ" (2 Corinthians 2:15), attract others to the beauty of his gospel?

—Peter Scagnelli, ©J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 1:10-17; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 10:34 — 11:1
 Tuesday: Is 7:1-9; Ps 48:2-8; Mt 11:20-24
 Wednesday: Is 10:5-7, 13b-16; Ps 94:5-10, 14-15; Mt 11:25-27
 Thursday: Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19; Ps 102:13-14ab, 15-21; Mt 11:28-30
 Friday: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8; Is 38:10-12abcd, 16; Mt 12:1-8
 Saturday: Mi 2:1-5; Ps 10:1-4, 7-8, 14; Mt 12:14-21
 Sunday: Wis 12:13, 16-19; Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Monday: St. Henry
 Tuesday: St. Kateri Tekakwitha
 Wednesday: St. Bonaventure
 Thursday: Our Lady of Mount Carmel
 Saturday: St. Camillus de Lellis; Blessed Virgin Mary



LIVE TODAY

Live today the way you will wish you had lived when you stand in judgment before God. —Anonymous

Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!



For the month of **July** 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.*

In June: 1st Collections: \$4190. Capital Exp.: \$110.

Add'l Oper.: \$2869. Rural Food: \$2486.

7/12: Operating Expenses. 7/19: Capital Expenditures.

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

Fr. Bala is more than willing to fulfill Mass Intentions in his daily Private Mass celebration. (There is a customary \$10 stipend for any Mass Intention.) But it is left to the wish of those who have already submitted (or have yet to submit) to the office their Intentions, as to choice of a private or public Mass. Email to philip.teresa@yahoo.com Or leave a message at the alternate office number: 707-408-2650.

RE-OPENING ALERT: Welcome back! We have started the two new outdoor Masses as of Sunday, July 12, one at Bodega Calvary Cemetery (at 9 am) and the other in front of St Philip's Church (at 11:15 am). Please wear a mask and use safe social distancing. See you soon!

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"

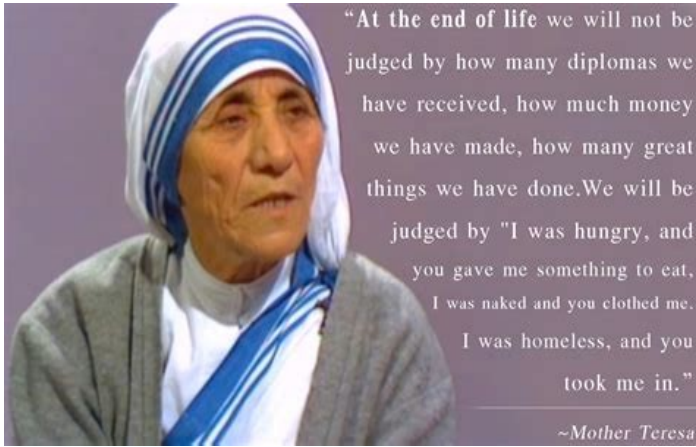
Each week Patrick Griffith writes one or more reflections on Scripture, including the Liturgy for the coming Sunday. The objectives are to tie Scripture into our daily lives and address spiritual and moral issues of the world around us. The reflections can be found at <http://thesoulprosper.blogspot.com>.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

The Holy Spirit comes where he is loved, where he is invited, where he is expected.

St. Bonaventure
 13th-century theologian, philosopher, Cardinal, and Doctor of the Church who played a significant role in the history of the Franciscan Order.

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saint snippets *July 15*



[Mother Teresa of Calcutta on Irish Television, 1974](#)

Be like Mother Teresa during the coronavirus crisis,
urges Pope Francis

Vatican City, Apr 2, 2020 / 03:45 am (CNA).- *Mother Teresa's example should inspire us to seek out those whose suffering is hidden during the coronavirus crisis, Pope Francis said at his daily Mass on Thursday.*

At the start of the Mass April 2, Pope Francis said he had seen a photograph in the newspaper of homeless people sleeping in a parking lot. He may have been referring to a widely circulated image of the homeless lying six feet apart at Cashman Center in Las Vegas March 29.

"These days of pain and sadness underline many hidden problems," he said. "In the newspaper today there is a photo which moves the heart: many homeless people from a city lying in a parking lot, under observation... There are many homeless people today."

"We ask St. Teresa of Calcutta to reawaken in us the sense of closeness to so many people who, in society, in normal life, are hidden but, like the homeless, in a moment of crisis, are pointed out in this way."

In his homily via livestream from Casa Santa Marta, the chapel in his Vatican City residence, Pope Francis reflected on God's covenant with Abraham in the Book of Genesis.

"The Lord has always remembered his covenant," he said. "The Lord never forgets. Yes, he forgets only in one case, when he forgives sins. After he has forgiven he loses the memory, he does not remember the sins. In other cases, God does not forget."

The pope highlighted three aspects of God's relationship with Abraham. First, God had chosen Abraham. Second, he had promised him an inheritance. Third, he had established a covenant with him.

"The election, the promise and the covenant are the three dimensions of the life of faith, the three dimensions of the Christian life," the pope said. "Each of us is an elect. No one

chooses to be a Christian among all the possibilities that the religious 'market' offers him, he is an elect."

"We are Christians because we have been elected. In this election there is a promise, there is a promise of hope, the sign is fruitfulness: 'Abraham will be father of a multitude of nations and ... you will be fruitful in faith. Your faith will flourish in works, in good works, in works of fruitfulness too, a fruitful faith. But you must – the third step – observe the covenant with me.' And the covenant is faithfulness, to be faithful. We have been elected. The Lord has given us a promise. Now he is asking us for a covenant, a covenant of faithfulness."

The pope then turned to the Gospel reading, John 8:51-59, in which Jesus says that Abraham rejoiced to think that he would see Jesus' day.

"The Christian is a Christian not because he can show the faith of baptism: the baptismal faith is a certificate," the pope said. "You are a Christian if you say yes to the election that God has made of you, if you follow the promises that the Lord has made to you and if you live a covenant with the Lord: this is Christian life."

"The sins of the journey are always against these three dimensions: to not accept the election – and we 'elect' so many idols, so many things that are not of God; to not accept hope in the promise, to go, to look at the promises from afar, even many times, as the Letter to the Hebrews says, greeting them from afar and making the promises today with the little idols that we make; and forgetting the covenant, living without the covenant, as if we were without the covenant."

He concluded: "Fruitfulness is joy, that joy of Abraham who saw the day of Jesus and was full of joy. This is the revelation that the word of God gives us today about our Christian existence. That it is like that of our father: conscious of being elected, joyful of going towards a promise and faithful in fulfilling the covenant."



RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE: JUNE 2020.

Eighty-six local families, including 33 children and 33 seniors received nutritional support on June 9. Recipient families were very appreciative of the fresh produce, dairy products and other much needed food which filled their vehicles as they made their way through our drive through distribution. Families who requested them also received protective masks. We will maintain our use of social distancing, hand sanitizer, gloves and masks as indicated for the next few months. 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, July 11, 9-10:00 am repackaging.
Monday, July 13, 10:00am – 12:00pm set up.
Tuesday, July 14, 8:30 – 11:00am distribution of food to clients.***

Parable: a revolving door that can convey you beyond or right back to where you are

July is our month of parables. A parable is a brief method of not just instruction but of *stimulation*. In other words, you don't just *read* them; you are expected to react to them – as if you were *struck* (physically) or jettisoned by them into a new sense of self – a new way of being and behaving. They are brief narratives, like tiny grenades that can cause a minor explosion in your brain, your imagination – unless they become a dud thanks to your absent-mindedness. In literature outside the Gospels our modern short story may pass as a parable. Consider Eudora Welty's "A Curtain of Green".

Here we are told of a Mrs. Larkin who in a small Mississippi town spends her time working her garden despite the extreme heat of a summer's day. People watching from windows wonder how she can stand the heat, her hair uncombed, eyes dull, tirelessly chopping away. She is angry – and understandably, since her husband recently died in a freak accident, leaving her looking for anything to do – like planting *every kind of flower she could order from a catalogue* chaotically, frantically. On this day her grief reached a climax; she raised her hoe to strike her helper Jamey as he stooped to his task. [Now the revolving door] *At that moment, the rain came . . . like the wings of a bird alighting . . .* Mrs. Larkin fainted, to possibly awaken to a sense of life as soft and refreshing as the rain?

But then Eudora Welty has this other parable about "A Campfire Girl" named Marian, who, perhaps to acquire a merit badge, pays a visit to an Old Ladies Home. She brings a plant and an apple as gifts. She is escorted to a room inhabited by two "old ladies" – one feebly up and about, the other bedridden. The one snatches the potted plant; the other referring to it as "Stinkweeds". The women get into a screaming argument; they apparently can't stand each other – or more likely their aged condition – so closeted. One begins to cry. [Revolving door?] *Marian ran from the room, . . .*

past the nurse . . . out into the cold air. 'Wait for me!' she shouted to a passing bus. Once on board, she ate the apple she had kept for herself.

In each case a critical event that summons each out of the confusion of existence into a more gracious way of being. Such moments amount to the seedlings that the Gospels sow that can take root and fructify or – as in Marian's case – land upon trodden or rocky soil and dry up. Or as in next week's Gospel parables: of a merchant seeking fine pearls who finds one valuable beyond his wildest dreams – and sells all that he owns to own *that* pearl, indeed his life *renewed*. Or a man stumbles across a buried treasure that invites him, challenges him to take advantage of it and radically change his life (in ways more than just economical). Both "revolutions" that advance one's humanity!

However there is another very old version of the buried treasure parable that says that the man in whose field it was buried without his knowing it, then left the field to his son who also unwittingly sold it to another who in plowing *did* discover it and invested it to increase his wealth. In other words, those first two had a chance, a summons to become rich human beings in Christ's sense of rich – but ignorantly by passed the chance. So beware: life ain't that long!

-Geoff Wood, 7/12/2020

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



"And other seed fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear." Mt 13:8-9

ST Philip/ St Teresa Rural Food Program 2019/2020 Annual Report

As we begin a new fiscal year, we want to share with you the work of the Program including its changes and challenges.

We began the year with a major change to our program. We decided it was in the best interest of our clients to provide select food products rather than distribute commodities and produce provided by government programs. This created budget, transportation and procurement challenges. We restructured our volunteer schedule for this change, revised and refined our processes and carefully managed our budget.

In March, we again restructured our processes to meet the challenges of COVID 19. Using social distancing, gloves, masks and sanitized equipment, we packaged and distributed pre-bagged food. This process reduced exposure but had the potential to increase costs. Since April we have again changed our processes to being a "drive-through" distribution. We expect to continue this touch-less distribution for the next several months.

Over the past 12 months we have served 1237 families an average of 103 families each month. We've provided over 49,000 pounds of food and over 1800 hours of volunteer time to serve these families.

The monthly collection provided \$27,643, additional donations \$5895 combined, covered 65% of our total operating expenses this year. **We are so grateful to all of our parishioners and donors for your financial support and for the many generous volunteers from St. Philip and St. Teresa who enable us to offer this critical ministry.**

A very generous donation from the Freitas Family Foundation provided funding to allow us to address the challenges and changes described above. Contributions from the family of Betty Gluch allow us to provide additional nutritional support to families with children. Over 200 "Betty Bags" were distributed. Thanks to parishioner Jack Balestreri of Coastal Hill Farm, fresh, organic, grass-fed pastured eggs are provided each month.

The Rural Food Program makes a monthly contribution to the Catholic Charities Rural Food Outreach in Sonoma and Lake Counties and to the Family Support Center which provides shelter for the homeless. We also ensure no food is wasted by sending any remaining perishables to The Palms, a permanent shelter. Additionally, The Program pays for the use and cleanup of the parish hall as well as utility usage for the freezers and refrigerators we use.

If you have any questions about the Rural Food Program, please contact either of us by leaving a message at the parish office (707-408-2650) or by emailing cmccool318@hotmail.com or mcguirks.farmhouse@gmail.com

Cathy McCool, Hal McGuirk, co-coordinators

SUNDAY MASSES FOR THE CHURCHES OF ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE AND ST. TERESA OF AVILA

Sunday Mass and Communion services for our Parish will resume Sunday, July 12. For St. Teresa's, the Mass will be outdoors at 9:00 a.m. at Bodega Calvary Cemetery, and for St. Philip's, at 11:15 a.m., in the parking lot fronting the Occidental church.

It is important to remember that the bishop has extended the dispensation decree for attendance at Mass for those who are at high risk for infection or are fearful of catching or spreading the virus. Notwithstanding the measures taken to provide a safe environment, parishioners and visitors must understand that they attend mass at their own risk.

The following procedures, consistent with CDC, Sonoma County Health Department, and Diocesan guidelines, will be in place:

1. Do not come to Mass if you are sick, feeling unwell, or consider yourself to be at risk.
2. Participants are to bring their own chairs or ground covers, since no seating will be provided. Masks are required. Social distancing of six feet is to be maintained during the service. Please note, no bathroom services will be available.
3. Upon arrival, participants will sign in with a volunteer to record name and contact information. (This information will be kept should Health Department contact tracing be necessary due to exposure to a possible new infection.)
4. A second volunteer will conduct temperature screening and provide hand sanitizer. Participants can then move to the site for Mass.
5. Communion will be distributed after Mass. The celebrant will remain for twenty minutes to provide communion for those who are not prepared to join the Mass at this time.
6. Freestanding baskets will be available for the weekly donation.
7. For St. Teresa's, parking at the Cemetery is limited, so please consider parking at the Church or in Bodega if you are able. For St. Philip's, half of the parking lot will be used for services, so please consider parking in the lot across the street.

Please consider joining your Parish community in resuming services for our congregation. Should you have any questions, please email the Parish Office (philip.teresa@yahoo.com) or leave a voicemail message for the Parish Office (707-408-2650).