



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 19, 2020

Those who are just must be kind.

— Wisdom 12:19

GOOD SEEDS

Today Jesus continues to speak to his followers using parables. What a rich treasure we are given today in three parables about the kingdom of heaven! The kingdom is likened to a man sowing good seed in his field, a mustard seed, and yeast mixed with flour. As they did last week, today the disciples press Jesus for an interpretation of one of the parables—the parable of the man sowing good seed. Lest we think that these parables are simply amusing little anecdotes, Jesus' interpretation should be seen for what it is—a warning. Wailing and grinding of teeth in a fiery furnace await those who are children of the evil one. This parable points to the struggle for today's believer. Sometimes, through sin, we sow weeds and prevent the love of Christ from blossoming. Let today's Gospel help put us back on track. Let us recommit ourselves to preparing for the last days, the harvest, by blossoming as the good seeds we were created in love to be.

—J. S. Paluch Co.

SAINT SHARBEL MAKHLUF (1828-1898) July 24

The convenience store owner chatted animatedly in Arabic with coworkers, but hardly at all with his American clientele. So soon after 9/11, he probably figured, with my accent, the less said, the better. That changed when an American customer recognized Saint Sharbel's portrait on the wall: "So you're Lebanese Maronites!" The owner was happily incredulous: "You know our saint?" "Not at first," the customer admitted. "But we help the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, and their magazine published that picture and called Sharbel the 'Paradoxical Artisan of Peace.'" "Everyone thinks we're Muslims," said the owner, "and some of my workers are. Saint Sharbel helps us live together in peace!" A hermit for twenty-three years, little is known of Sharbel's life. He died after suffering a stroke while celebrating the liturgy. Miracles attributed to his intercession number in the thousands, and in war-torn Lebanon, Catholics, Orthodox, and Muslims pray together where his incorrupt body is entombed. How lovely if after our passing, we too could be remembered for having brought very different people to the one God, together in peace.

—Peter Scagnelli, ©J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Mt 6:1-4, 6-8; Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 12:38-42
Tuesday:	Mt 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 85:2-8; Mt 12:46-50
Wednesday:	Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17; Ps 63:2-6, 8-9; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
Thursday:	Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Ps 36:6-7ab, 8-11; Mt 13:10-17
Friday:	Jer 3:14-17; Jer 31:10-12abcd, 13; Mt 13:18-23
Saturday:	2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-6; Mt 20:20-28
Sunday:	1 Kgs 3:5,7-12; Ps 119:57,72-77,127-130; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday:	St. Apollinaris
Tuesday:	St. Lawrence of Brindisi
Wednesday:	St. Mary Magdalene
Thursday:	St. Bridget
Friday:	St. Sharbel Makhluf
Saturday:	St. James

DO

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.

—Theodore Roosevelt

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.

7/19: Capital Expenditures. 7/26: Rural Food.

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.

SUMMER RE-OPENING ALERT: Welcome back! We have started the two new outdoor Sunday Masses as of mid-July: one in front of St. Philip's Church (now at 8AM) and the other at Bodega Calvary Cemetery (now at 9:30AM). 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.





RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE: JULY 2020

Over seventy recipient families were very appreciative of the fresh produce, dairy products, proteins and other much needed food which filled their vehicles as they made their way through our drive through distribution. We continue to maintain our use of social distancing, hand sanitizer, gloves and masks as indicated.

As we welcomed them we began discussing how we can meet the needs as schedules and weather conditions change. We will continue providing handmade, cloth masks for adults and especially school age children.

Again this year we are collecting blankets for our families. Gently used blankets can be dropped off in the hall after St Philip Sunday masses or leave a message at 707-408-2650 to arrange pick up. If you prefer, send a donation to the parish office for purchase of new blankets for our families. 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, August 8, 9-10:00 am: repackaging
Monday, August 10, 10:00 – 12:00pm: set up
Tuesday, August 11, 8:30 – 11:00am: distribution of food to clients.



Fr. Thomas Hoisington reflects on [Matthew 13:24-43](#)

"Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

One day a sidewalk preacher proclaimed the Good News to passersby. Most kept walking. One fellow, however, listened to him preach for a few minutes. At a strategic moment, the preacher paused and then said, "Brother, why don't you join us Sunday at my church?" The fellow scowled and growled, "Not a chance: your church is full of hypocrites." The preacher replied, "Don't worry yourself about that. We can always make room for one more!"

Weeds and wheat are everywhere. Jesus' first parable in today's Gospel Reading can help you sort through the weeds and wheat. Like the grain of wheat, this parable can bear much fruit.

Saint Augustine of Hippo wrote one of his three greatest works— *On the City of God*—on this parable's theme. St. Augustine shows how complex and messy the world can be as weeds and wheat grow together in the same field.

St. Augustine's masterpiece is actually a contrast between "the city of God" and "the city of man". This contrast is similar to the parable's consideration of the wheat and the weeds. But it's not that Heaven is the City of God while earth is the City of Man: a contrast that condemns this world in which we live. Nor is the Church the City of God while the state is the City of Man: a contrast that presents the Church as flawless.

In the 21st century, the Church lives in a precarious setting. Not only are foundational moral truths being attacked by Western society. The Church herself is at pains to preach the fullness of Christ's moral teaching. This difficulty stems in part from her credibility being diminished by the scandalous actions of some of her leaders. Mindful of this two-fold attack—from without and from within—we can consider Jesus' parable.

We have to start with a question like the one raised by St. Augustine's masterpiece. Who exactly are the weeds and who are the wheat? At the end of the long form of today's Gospel Reading, Jesus explains the parable: "*the good seed*" are "*the children of the kingdom*", while the "*weeds are the children of the evil one*". But how are we practically to apply this explanation to our own day?

Perhaps another saying from our Lord could help us. "*You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye*" [Luke 6:42]. In other words, in seeking to apply the parable of the weeds and the wheat to the real world of today, each of us ought to begin with the real weeds in one's own soul. From there each of us could move on to consider the weeds elsewhere in one's family, parish, country and Church.

Short of the Blessed Virgin Mary, there is no disciple without weeds in his soul. In your case as in mine, then, the parable first of all describes the individual Christian's spiritual life. You are a "*child of the kingdom*" by the grace of God, beginning on the day of your baptism. Yet you are also a "*child of the evil one*" by your sins: actions, thoughts, and words, done and left undone.

Between the day of your baptism and the day of your death, you are free to cultivate your spiritual life. You are free to break up the hard soil of your soul through acts of penance and humility. You are free to soak the soil with tears of repentance and the Blood of Christ.

You must also be patient, like the parable's householder, who is God our Father. For you are free also to sin in this life, allowing weeds to proliferate in your soul. God, in His paternal love, does not force anyone to reform his life. God's providential love judges us only three times: the first is when we present ourselves for judgment in Confession, and the second is at the hour of our death. At that hour, God sifts the dead similar to the parable's description of sifting. We might think of this sifting in terms of the state of Purgatory, and also in terms of the final decision of God as to whether each of us deserves the burning fate of the weeds or the gathering into God's barn.



"But while men sleep, his enemy came and sowed tares."

REFLECTIONS ON THE SACRED LITURGY

By Fr. Thomas Hoisington

Subscribe at
[ReflectionsOnTheSacredLiturgy.com](#)

Extended reflections
at [HPRweb.com](#)

WORDS AND WEEDS

A man of words and not of deeds
Is like a garden full of weeds.

—Anonymous nursery rhyme

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

We have started the two new outdoor Sunday Masses as of mid-July: one in front of St. Philip's Church (now at 8AM) and the other at Bodega Calvary Cemetery (now at 9:30AM). Please wear a mask and use safe social distancing.

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).

The Pastor Speaks....

My dear Sisters and brothers in Christ,

First of all, I would like to thank the Organizers and Volunteers who did a great job in making all the arrangements for the two Masses last Sunday in the Calvary Cemetery and in the St. Philip's Church Parking Lot. I was so overjoyed to see about 35 people in Bodega and about 30 people in Occidental actively participating in the outdoor Masses. We shall continue to do the same but with a change of times for Masses: 8 am Mass at Occidental and 9:30 am Mass in the Calvary Cemetery. As always, I wish one and all to stay safe and healthy. All those who are sick or vulnerable in age, please stay home and watch the Mass and other religious services online. Remember that you are all in our thoughts and prayers.

I have recovered almost 95 % from my knee surgery, and I was able to do Masses last Sunday. Several of you sent me your good wishes and offered special prayers for me. Thank you for this concern and care for me. Praise the Lord!

To inform you briefly of what the CCD department in our parish has planned to do under the leadership of Ella Rozett, I am happy to announce that there will be a Day of Retreat for the children, the parents and grand parents/sponsors in the CYO Camp Grounds from 10 am through 5:30 pm on Saturday, July 25, 2020. 10 children will be receiving First Communion and 2 will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in the CYO Camp on Saturday, August 1, 2020. Please keep those children and families in your valuable prayers.

Last month, the Finance Council and Pastoral Council along with their acquaintances joined in the "Fast Fund Raising Program" with generous donations solely to help our parish meet the Operating Expenses in this crisis time. There is an anonymous donor willing to give a matching grant to such donations. Thanks to that donor! But I appeal to you all to come forward adding your own donations [for the matching fund available] to our parish in the coming two to three weeks. Soon you will hear more information about this program from our two Parish Councils.

At the same time, I am happy to note and thank you for the incoming weekly or special offerings mailed through envelopes and online. God bless you for your generosity and keep us all safe and healthy during this difficult time!

"Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful." "May you be happy, be well, have comfort, have courage, have peace, have joy! May you be Blessed Today and Everyday!"

Father Bala.

What then shall we say . . .? If God is for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31

Dorothy Parker (1893- 1967) was a poet (lots of wit in what she wrote), also an essayist and New Yorker magazine book reviewer. One of her satirical pieces is titled *The Telephone*. A young woman is waiting for a phone call from her guy. He promised to call at five o'clock. It is five minutes after five. She thinks (in my edited quote):

Please, God, let him telephone me now . . . I won't ask anything else of You, truly I won't. It isn't very much to ask. It would be so little to You, God, such a little thing . . . please, please, please . . . If I didn't think about it, maybe the telephone might ring . . . If I could think of something else . . . Maybe if I counted five hundred by fives . . . Five, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five . . . Oh, please ring. Please. This is the last time I'll look at the clock . . . He said . . . "I'll call you at five, darling." I think that's where he said "darling." I know I shouldn't keep telephoning . . . But I hadn't talked to him in three days – . . . He couldn't have thought I was bothering him . . . I don't think he would say he'd telephone me, and then just never do it. Please don't let him do that, God . . . Look. Suppose a young man says he'll call a girl up, and then something happens, and he doesn't. That isn't so terrible, is it? . . . Why can't that telephone ring? Why can't it? . . . Couldn't you ring? . . . You d-d, ugly, shiny thing. It would hurt you to ring, wouldn't it? . . . I'll pull your filthy roots out of the wall . . . No, no, no, I must stop . . . I'll put the clock in the other room . . . Are you punishing me, God? . . . All right, send me to hell . . . I mustn't do this . . . Maybe he is coming on here without calling me up. Something may have happened to him . . . Maybe I could read . . . God aren't you really going to let him call me? . . . Five, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, thirty, thirty-five . . .

Isn't this something each of us goes through? A neighbor, who kept a spotlight shining over his construction equipment at night, agreed to turn it off at 10 pm since I complained it flooded the room I sleep in. He held to that for months, years – and then recently on it went again, much to my chagrin. I spent that night doing what the young lady does in that story: I thought of all the reasons he turned it on again, all having to do with forgetting our agreement or giving priority to his needs or not caring about my losing sleep; then pondering how I would approach him again, his reaction,

a future of hostility . . . wide awake all night. And then I found out: his yard had been robbed two nights earlier and he needed to light it up on subsequent nights to protect his property. When I heard that, I relaxed and even wonderfully gave up thinking about the issue entirely – and have slept well.

We do that so often as individuals and nations. We assume someone dislikes us and retreat into endless analysis of why? When with most it's not a matter of dislike; the other party isn't even thinking of us or may have positive thoughts we are not aware of. And so we sulk – we turn ourselves into "objects" of another's assumed attitude toward us – self-objectification. Once we crawl out of that "skin" and remember our Gospel – recover that we are worth the very incarnation of God – we cease to be objects, to make targets of ourselves. We become the persons, the unique beings we ARE – and no longer have to waste time counting: five, ten, fifteen, twenty . . . before we can relax in God's grace and be our real selves.

--Geoff Wood, 7/19/2020

