



Abba - Father  
Hebrew names of God

## Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 24, 2022

You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

— Colossians 2:12

### CONVERSATION WITH GOD

Prayer is our focus this weekend. In the Gospel, Jesus gives his disciples, and us, the Lord's Prayer, which we have cherished through the centuries. The first two words encompass much about our faith—unity among all Christians (Our), and a sense that we are in a deeply bonded relationship with God (Father).

In Genesis, we see Abraham in conversational prayer, in his creaturely humility before his Creator, seeking mercy and compassion for the innocent. The psalm is a lyrical prayer of thanksgiving and praise for the God who answered the sincere prayers of a people who had called out for help, showing them mercy. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples want to pray like Jesus, with the same intimacy—to experience God as Abba in the depths of their being.

Do we try to talk to God? Do we listen for answers? This relationship is always a work in progress. -- © J. S. Paluch Co.

### PRAYER OF THE WEEK

#### Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

O God, protector of those who hope in you,  
without whom nothing has firm foundation,  
nothing is holy,  
bestow in abundance your mercy upon us  
and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide,  
we may use the good things that pass  
in such a way as to hold fast even now  
to those that ever endure.  
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:

In what ways can I use the good things of this world without clinging to them?

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### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-6; Mt 20:20-28  
Tuesday: Jer 14:17-22; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Mt 13:36-43  
Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21; Ps 59:2-4, 10-11, 17-18; Mt 13:44-46  
Thursday: Jer 18:1-6; Ps 146:1b-6ab; Mt 13:47-53  
Friday: Jer 26:1-9; Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14; Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42  
Saturday: Jer 26:11-16, 24; Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34; Mt 14:1-12  
Sunday: Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23; Ps 90:3-6, 12-17; Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lk 12:13-21

**Note:** The special collection on July 23-24 is this year's Missions Appeal, for missions at home and abroad, as needs are determined by the diocese office.

### Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

For the month of July offerings: PLEASE put in Mass collection basket or mail to St. Philip/St. Teresa Parish, P. O. Box 339, Occidental CA 95465. Or donate at our website [www.stphilipstteresa.org](http://www.stphilipstteresa.org) via Paypal or card. Please include your offering envelope # [if you have one].

7/03: 1<sup>st</sup> col: \$2046. 2<sup>nd</sup> col: \$372. 7/10: 1<sup>st</sup> col: \$4266. 2<sup>nd</sup> col: \$265.

7/17: 1<sup>st</sup> col: \$1574. 2<sup>nd</sup> col: \$250.

7/24: Mission Appeal. 7/31: Rural Food.



### Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

**Parish Council [PC]:** TBA  
**Finance Council [FC]:** Tues., 7/26/22 @ 3pm via Zoom  
**Liturgy Committee [LC]:** TBA  
**St. Teresa Ladies Guild:** Contact Diane, 823-6044  
**St. Philip Ladies Guild:** Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday. Details TBA

### ✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule 2022

|           |                               |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 7/23 Sat. | 5pm Mass                      |
| 7/24 Sun. | 8am Mass for the People       |
| 7/24 Sun. | 9:30am Mass                   |
| 7/24 Sun. | 11:15am Mass                  |
| 7/27 Wed. | 9am Mass for James Geving     |
| 7/29 Fri. | 9am Mass for Lawrence Steiner |
| 7/30 Sat. | 5pm Mass                      |
| 7/31 Sun. | 8am Mass                      |
| 7/31 Sun. | 9:30am Mass for the People    |
| 7/31 Sun. | 11:15am Mass                  |

### Prayer Requests: Please leave a message at 707-408-2650.

Gary S., Peter R., Gerry N., Diane K., River M.; Nikkie; Mr. C., Michelle, Christian A., Peter B., Samantha S., Gary E., Frederick K., John Geving, Donna L., James Geving, Lawrence Steiner

### RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE JULY 2022

On Tuesday, July 12, our very efficient volunteers welcomed 68 families, with lots of smiles as well as a wide variety of fresh produce, proteins, commodities, fresh milk which they prepared on Saturday and Monday. This is the largest group of clients we have welcomed this year.

We saw a significant increase in the number of clients who chose to return to shopping inside our hall rather than drive through so, we are considering using reusable cloth bags to reduce our cost for paper bags. More details in future bulletins. If you have extra reusable bags you are not reusing, please drop them off at the parish hall.

In the interim, please save your clean egg cartons and handled paper bags for donation to our program by dropping them off at the parish hall. We thank you in advance.

Our program is open to all who are in need. 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, Aug 6, 9am-10:00am repackaging; Monday, August 8, 9am-11:00am set-up; and Tuesday, August 9, 7:30am - 11:00am to distribute food to clients.



*Obliterating the bond against us, . . . he removed it, nailing it to the cross.*

Our biblical tradition is loaded with instances where the Source of our very universe, whom it calls Jahweh or Elohim, speaks directly to someone in order to instruct, warn, legislate – or say things like “let there be light.” In other words, speaks and things happen. And what happens? A universe happens as well as all its inhabitants – you and me. This mysterious Being is vocal, expressive, utters horizons, landscapes, space, a cosmic order as well as behaviors that can be judged as right or wrong. In sum, you might say he is outspoken.

Today’s readings, however, may coincide more with how this God really communicates. Many wise people down through history would rather view God as reticent, *withdrawn* more than *outspoken* – indeed that he *plays games* with us, like hide and seek. Consider today’s Gospel. May not God be better reflected as the cranky neighbor who has gone to bed and doesn’t want to be disturbed? “It’s nighttime. Closed till sunrise. Until then stop knocking. Let me alone in my divinity.” And this! Even though the fellow has a pressing problem. “Do not bother me; the door has already been locked ...”

May not the same distancing be true of God’s behavior in today’s first reading from Genesis? Already in biblical times as well as in our modern world (so devastated by the advanced technology of weaponry) the brutal consequences of human conflict have swept up so many innocent people along with

the guilty instigators of such violence. So even back in those days people were beginning to question the idea of an individual amounting merely to a cell within the body politic and fated to suffer along with the collectivity – with no worth individually. They all go off to the concentration camps. In other words, Abraham has begun to *think* (which is a kind of *persistent prayer*) – and *dares ask God* where is justice to be found in such an indiscriminate “collective” sense of human guilt that licenses, for example, an event like Hiroshima.

And here begins the hide and seek. God, who wants to destroy Sodom, the good along with the bad, allows Abraham to educate him. It’s as if he were saying: “Abraham, you raise interesting questions. If there are only fifty just citizens of Sodom or only forty-five or just ten, why must *they* suffer along with the sinners? Indeed your questions make even me – Almighty God – wonder why *anyone*, innocent or guilty, should be so treated! You are making me realize that I am not just a God of vindictive absolutes but a God of grace, forgiveness, mercy – that I should care, not terrify. Thank you for letting me un-conceal how I really am – humanely divine.

Too often the word prayer brings to mind asking for something – like our daily bread. But on a more authentic level prayer means interviewing God, raising questions, wondering, peering into the mystery of our lives, digging deeper into the why of things – even as meanings seem to elude us – because as the nature of God and our world unfold from one experience to another we find our horizons, our “absolutes” have changed, that we are becoming in some way as big as, as delightfully mysterious as the gracious God who eludes us – in order to provoke more inquiries to perpetuate the conversation and the journey.

*--Geoff Wood, 7/24/2022*

The Diocese of Santa Rosa invites everyone to attend the annual **Santa Rosa Religious Education Congress** on Saturday, September 24, 2022. This event is free. This year's theme is "The Church and the Most Holy Eucharist". Workshops are in English and Spanish. Come hear great speakers. For more information check out the diocesan website @ [www.srdiocese.org](http://www.srdiocese.org)

### **Greetings and Blessings to you all:**

As a reminder, this Sunday, July 24th, is "**World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**" as established by Pope Francis to fall on the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne (July 26th). This year's theme is: "*In old age they will still bear fruit.*" (Psalm 92:15)

Sunday, July 24th is also the start of "**Natural Family Planning Awareness Week**" (July 24 - 30) as established by the USCCB as the week acknowledging the anniversary of *Humanae Vitae* (July 25th). The theme this year is: "*Called to the Joy of Love.*" The USCCB has provided some great resources for you, most notably a sample homily for Sunday and each day of the week. (Here is a link: [NFP Week sample homilies](#) ). There are other associated resources on the USCCB website as well: [NFP Awareness Week resources](#) ..." Hopefully with these resources available you will be able to provide your parishioners with an inspiring and heartfelt message on the Church's teaching on NFP!

As always, if you have any questions, please contact us.

Pax Christi,  
**Deacon Dave & Carlin Gould, Co-Directors**  
**Marriage and Family Life Office, Santa Rosa Diocese**  
(707) 566-3305  
[familylife@srdiocese.org](mailto:familylife@srdiocese.org)



## **Our Parish Picnic**

*We'll provide fun games, exciting Pinewood car racing, burgers and hot dogs, ice cold non-alcoholic beverages (BYOB) and great camaraderie! Reconnect with your parishioners and friends!*

**Saturday, August 6**  
**12:30 - 3:30**

**Respini's Redwood Grove**  
**11333 Occidental Road**  
**Corner of Occidental & Furlong**

**RSVP via the Sign Up List**  
Or leave message at 707.408.2650

*Picnicker Surnames: A-M bring a side dish or salad;  
N-Z bring a dessert*