



**Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 13, 2021**

They that are planted
in the house of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts
of our God.

—Psalm 92:14

GOD'S TIME

We either pay attention to or ignore “clock time” as we play in the summer sun and note the earth’s tilt and the lengthening days. We live by time. We reckon time in seconds and minutes and hours, or we use broader chunks like supertime and summertime.

God keeps another sort of time. God speaks to us of “saving time,” that is, the time of salvation. This sense of time is called *kairos*, and this time is always now, always present and available, always revealing, often surprising.

This Sunday’s readings alert us to the reality and the import of God’s time. Ezekiel and the Gospel of Mark remind us that our labor and our plotting and our planning rest in God. For God takes our smallest efforts and makes of them great works. Paul points us to the “harvest” time, urges us to be watchful for its coming, and calls us to recognize that we must spend our time pleasing God.

—J. S. Paluch Co.

FEAST OF FAITH

The Preparation of the Altar

The altar is the focal point of our churches. It is a sign of Christ in our midst; indeed, it has been said that “the altar is Christ” (*Dedication of an Altar*, 4). The altar is a table “on which the sacrifice of the cross is perpetuated in mystery throughout the ages until Christ comes”; but it is also the place for a festive meal: “a table at which the Church’s children assemble to give thanks to God and receive the body and blood of Christ” (*Dedication of an Altar*, 4).

Both these functions of the altar are clear in the rites for the preparation of the altar that follow the general intercessions, which remind us of the preparations we make at home for a festive meal. The deacon or altar servers come forward and, bowing, place a cloth known as a corporal (from the Latin for “body”) over the altar cloth. They place the chalice, the cup to be used in the celebration of the Eucharist, and the *Sacramentary* or *Roman Missal*, which contains the prayers of the Mass, on the altar. These reverent preparations help us to focus on what is about to happen: the sharing of a holy meal, a solemn sacrifice.

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Mon: 2 Cor 6:1-10; Ps 98:1, 2b, 3-4; Mt 5:38-42
- Tues: 2 Cor 8:1-9; Ps 146:2, 5-9a; Mt 5:43-48
- Wed: 2 Cor 9:6-11; Ps 112:1bc-4, 9; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
- Thurs: 2 Cor 11:1-11; Ps 111:1b-4, 7-8; Mt 6:7-15
- Fri: 2 Cor 11:18, 21-30; Ps 34:2-7; Mt 6:19-23
- Sat: 2 Cor 12:1-10; Ps 34:8-13; Mt 6:24-34
- Sun: Jb 38:1, 8-11; Ps 107:23-26, 28-31; 2 Cor 5:14-17; Mk 4:35-41

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Saturday: St. Romuald; Blessed Virgin Mary

HONESTY

The most important person to be honest with is myself.

—Anonymous

WEEKLY



Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated! For the month of **June** 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. Please include your offering envelope # [if you have one] with your donation. Bless you!

6/13: Operating Expenses.

6/20: Capital Expenditures. 6/27: Rural Food.

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: 6/15/21, 4pm in Hall

Finance Council [FC]: 6/15/21, 4pm in Hall

Liturg Committee: TBA

St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044

St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

- 6/12 Sat. 5pm Mass for the People
- 6/13 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Judith Munson Andrews
- 6/13 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Jacqueline Windler
- 6/16 Wed. 9am Mass for James Geving (healing)
- 6/19 Sat. 5pm Mass for the People
- 6/20 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Arthur Munson & David Papke
- 6/20 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Brendan Smith

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, Lorrin K., Hugh P., Robert S., Britney N., Chuck, 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 G., Gary S., Peter R., Gerry N., Diane K., Janet K., Norma M., Elaine J., River M.

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for June 2021:

On Tuesday, June 8, 34 families received nutritional support during our drive- through distribution at the St Philips Parking lot. This month we began outreach to client families who may be needing school supplies for the return to school in the fall.

We are looking into revising our services as the COVID pandemic restrictions are lessened. We are surveying our clients to determine whether we will continue drive- through distribution or return to our traditional walk- through distribution.

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.

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, July 10, 9-10:00am repackaging; **Monday, July 12, 9:00 - 11:00am** set-up; and **Tuesday, July 13, 7:30a- 11:00am** to distribute food to clients.



Detail of *Death of Ephrem the Syrian* by Emanuele Zanfurnari (Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#))

Deacon-structing Church Fathers: Syriac Fathers

by [Deacon Pedro](#)

For the last couple of weeks, we've been looking at our Church Fathers. [Three weeks ago](#), we learned about the **Apostolic Fathers**, so named because they learned the faith from the apostles; [two weeks ago](#), we learned about the **Eastern Fathers**, who wrote in Greek; and last week, we learned about the **Western Fathers**, who wrote in Latin.

Today we will learn about the **Syriac Fathers**. They wrote in Syriac and came from or lived in the region of Mesopotamia, where Syria, Iraq, and Iran are in the present day.

Aphrahat (or Aphraates) (c. 270–c. 345) is considered the first Syriac Father. He was a Persian convert to Christianity who took the name Jacob at his baptism, a name that some of his writings are sometimes attributed to (not to be confused with Jacob of Nisibis, though). His twenty-three “homilies”, sometimes referred to as the *Demonstrations*, are pastoral in nature and deal with various topics of faith and practice. Aphrahat exhorts against the conversion (or return) to Judaism, deals with apocalyptic themes, and uses biblical commentaries to explain many of his teachings. He writes about charity, fasting, prayer, penitence, humility, preaching, persecution, and virginity, as well as about the resurrection, Jesus as Messiah, and the last days. Most of his works have been translated into Latin and Greek, as well as into Armenian and Arabic, although those are sometimes mistakenly attributed to either Jacob of Nisibis or Ephrem the Syrian.

Isaac of Antioch (451–452), sometimes confused with Isaac of Nineveh (and an Isaac of Edessa), lived in Edessa, in present-day Syria. He was likely a priest and is considered one of the great writers of Syriac literature for his homilies, written in verse. Perhaps the most well-known of these is the “*Memra on the Parrot*” in which Isaac expresses the theology behind one of the most ancient Eastern prayers, the *Trisagion* (“Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us”), and also of the Cross and the Eucharist.

Isaac of Nineveh (c. 613–c. 700) is also known as Isaac the Syrian (*Mar Isaac*). He was born on the shores of the Persian Gulf and was an ascetic monk who became Bishop of Nineveh, in present-day northern Iraq. He wrote many homilies on the inner life and is venerated across many Christian traditions, likely because he avoided writing on topics that were disputed. He writes about the Holy Spirit, faith, providence, obedience, love, mercy, and prayer.

The last Syriac Father is **Ephrem the Syrian**, who is also considered a Doctor of the Church. You can read about him in [Deacon-structing Doctors of the Church part 4](#).

Other lists of Syriac Fathers include **Jacob of Serugh**, who also wrote several “*memres*”, **Jacob (or James) of Edessa**, who produced a revision of the Bible, and **Maron**, after whom the Maronite Church is named. Though venerated in the Latin Church, they have not been as influential to Western Christianity as the others.

Come back next week so we can look at our Desert Fathers (and mother).



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. Contact: pedro@saltandlighttv.org.



Shoelaces | Everyday Miracle

by [Cheryl Yarek](#)

One day, while on the bus in Port Credit, I encountered a man and his two young daughters. The young girls immediately gravitated towards me, and we chatted the whole ride. Several minutes later, my stop arrived. As I was getting off the bus, I noticed that the shoelaces of the youngest were undone.

“Oh sweetie,” I called over, “I wish I had seen that your laces are undone. I would have tied them for you!”

“Tie my shoelaces now!!!” she screamed at the top of her lungs. Fortunately, it seemed this was their stop as well, since the father and his daughters exited the bus.

I asked her father permission to tie the girl’s shoelaces, and he gave it. I tied her laces. Soon, the older daughter was also exclaiming, “One of my laces is undone too!” I didn't want her to feel left out or ignored, so I simply tied her shoes.

I thanked the gentleman for allowing me to help his daughters. He thanked me back, explaining, “Myself, I cannot help them. I only have use of one hand.”

In parting, I recalled the words of my father so many years ago:

“Do you know what it is to be Christian?” my father asked.

“Yes,” I replied, “we go to church.”

“It is much more than that,” he instructed. “If you are somewhere in society and see someone struggling, you need to walk over to them and help. That is being Christian.”

Cheryl Roma Yarek is a mental health advocate and public speaker with an interest in seeing Christianity and its focus as a means of helping people manage, cope, love, and even - survive. Her book is [Worst Thing Best Thing](#).



photo by [Tom Robertson](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Uncovering|Unveiling|Unnerving

Posted by [johnpmcginty](#) June 9, 2021 Posted in [Words!](#)

This is the 9th evening of this month of digital disconnect (limited) from my personal Facebook page.

In getting to our parish Facebook pages to get necessary stuff done, I sometimes see a bit of the top of my own page. I have not been tempted to look further, nor to linger. What I *have* experienced is the desire to do what I usually do in my use of FB. When I have taken a photo that I want to share, or when I see a quote or an article or a video that I think has a positive message, there is a moment when I think: I want to share this with folks on FB now. But I have been able each time to let go of that. It is interesting to note and track the impulse though. It remains, and it doesn't feel to me like a negative thing.

Perhaps more important are experiences and feelings in me that are not directly connected with whether I am putting stuff on FB or reading what other people put there right now. I am talking now about the ways in which life feels different since (though I am not ready to say there is a direct connection between this felt change and not using FB).

How can I describe it?

For some time, since about 3 months into the pandemic, I have been aware of a constant and abiding anxiety in me. It is there all the time. When I am content, when I am not; when I am alone, when I am with others; when I am actively engaged in activity; when I am at rest. That awareness has deepened here in June. So it well may be (after all) that social media can provide a kind of 'distraction' away from things inward which one (this one!) would be better off attending to, rather than avoiding.

A linked realization is this. When I was first ordained (38 years ago this Friday OMG) I was living in a rectory with 3 and 4 other priests at a time. Of course you got along better with some than with others. Sometimes they would drive you crazy. Sometimes they would delight you. But even when they drove you crazy, if I can put it this way - they drove you. There was a connection. There was a social reality. There was a human presence that moved you and shaped you and challenged you.

Now there are almost no rectories anywhere that have that number of priests living together in the Roman Catholic Church, unless it is a residence for a number involved in a variety of ministries and living in one place for community's sake.

For community's sake is an important phrase there. I have always known myself to be an introvert, that is still true. But the experience of isolation through the pandemic has been damaging. Even for an introvert. Living alone historically in my life never bothered me. Now and of late, however, to use the vernacular, living alone sucks. I hate it. People need to share life with people.

So this time off FB begins to open up firmer and deeper realization of important realities, of things that are challenging and difficult and place important questions along the path. To not be able to evade those questions is ultimately a positive thing. In fact, it's a positive thing right now, even if not easy to bear.

So it well may be (after all) that social media can provide a kind of 'distraction' away from things inward which one (this one!) would be better off attending to, rather than avoiding.

See priest-author's twitter at <https://twitter.com/johnpmcginty>

Bishop Vasa on EWTN

World Over - 2021-05-13 - Most Rev. Ro... Watch later

WORLD OVER The Vatican Health Conference @RAYMONDARROYO ON TWITTER

Watch on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/wuMj2s08tH8>



THE APPLE TREE PROJECT

"In class" school will be starting in August, and with it, the need for the children in our Rural Food Program to obtain necessary, and costly, backpacks and school supplies. You can help! Beginning June 6, there will be collection jars in our churches. Please support our program with your financial donations. Volunteers will purchase and distribute the supplies in July and August. Questions, contact Diane at 823-6044. Thanks for helping our children.