

Fifth Sunday of Lent March 21, 2021

I will place my law within
them and write it upon
their hearts;
I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.

—Jeremiah 31:33

THE NEW COVENANT

Today's first reading is an enormously important passage, not only in the history of the Jewish people, but also for us as disciples of Jesus, who see in it a foreshadowing of the Christian dispensation. The prophet announces that God has chosen to forgive the people, and that as a sign of divine forgiveness a new covenant will be established. Contrasting the new covenant with the one made with Moses on Mount Sinai, Jeremiah says that the new covenant will be written on the people's hearts rather than on tablets of stone. No longer will the community's tradition be the sole bearer of the covenant; henceforth, God will speak directly and personally to each individual, forgiving sin and calling for a return to God in faithfulness. No longer will mere outward compliance with the dictates of the Law suffice; henceforth, God asks for an obedience that springs from the depths of one's heart.

Precisely that kind of obedience is highlighted in today's second reading, where the author of the Letter to the Hebrews describes Jesus as the mediator of the new covenant whose obedience has made him the source of salvation for all who, in turn, obey him.

—J. S. Paluch Co.

FEAST OF FAITH

The First Reading

Each Sunday, we listen to three scripture readings. The first reading usually comes from the Old Testament. "The New Testament lies hidden in the Old; the Old Testament comes fully to light in the New," we read in the *Introduction to the Lectionary*. "Christ himself is the center and fullness of the whole of Scripture" (5). On Sundays, these readings usually have a close connection to the Gospel. In this season of Lent, for example, the Exodus account of the thirst of the Israelites in the desert is paired with the Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus at the well. Ezekiel's vision of the Lord raising people from their graves is paired with the narrative of Christ raising Lazarus from the dead.

The readings are taken from many sources—historical books like Judges, Kings, and the Acts of the Apostles, prophets like Isaiah and Ezekiel, wisdom literature like Proverbs or Ecclesiastes. But no matter its genre, the first reading always ends with the same acclamation: "The word of the Lord." The scriptures are written by human authors who wrote in widely different cultural and historical contexts, but these human authors are also divine instruments through whom God speaks to us. And so we say, "Thanks be to God."

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42
Thursday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42
Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56
Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1 — 15:47

SUNDAY MASSES:

Times & Zoom information can be found at
our parish website ---- www.stphilipstteresa.org

WEEKLY



Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated! For the month of **March** 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.
3/21: *Capital Expenditures.* 3/28: *Rural Food.* 4/2: *Holy Land.*

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

Centering Prayer ZOOM: Tues. noon/Fri. 930am - info www.stphilipstteresa.org

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

Email or voicemail the office to request a future Wed/Thurs/Sun Mass Intention. (\$10 offering is mailed to PO Box 339, Occidental CA 95465.)

3/21 Sun. 8am Mass for the People

3/21 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Brendan Smith

3/25 Thurs. 9am Mass ✠ Carrie Sue Lue

3/28 Sun. 8am Mass for the People

3/28 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Carrie Sue Lue

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., Michael D., Richard M., Kathleen, Peter, Rosa S., Susan B., Joyce D., Anita C., George H., Mimi H, Steve, Barry, Lorri 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, Lynn, Gary S., Peter R., Gerry N., Diane K., Robin A.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

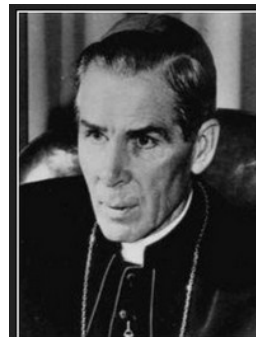
Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Lent; Third Scrutiny
Tuesday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo
Thursday: The Annunciation of the Lord
Friday: Abstinence

Pastor's Memo...

1. Email philip.teresa@yahoo.com or voicemail (707-408-2650) the office to request a future Wed/Thurs/Sun Mass Intention. (Then mail the customary \$10 offering to St. Philip/St. Teresa Parish, PO Box 339, Occidental CA 95465.)

2. Coming soon: Check our website for the St. Philip / St. Teresa

Holy Week Liturgies Schedule: www.stphilipstteresa.org



We can think of Lent as a time to eradicate evil or cultivate virtue, a time to pull up weeds or to plant good seeds. Which is better is clear, for the Christian ideal is always positive rather than negative.

— Fulton J. Sheen —

AZ QUOTES

https://www.azquotes.com/author/13447-Fulton_J_Sheen



Mosaic depicting an angel instructing Joseph in a dream to flee to Egypt, from the Baptistery of Saint John in Florence, Italy. Photo credit: Marie-Lan Nguyen

Deacon-structing Devotions to St. Joseph

by [Deacon Pedro](#)

For the last couple of weeks, as we've been discussing spiritual reading and, last week, our spiritual tool bag, I've been thinking about all those prayers and devotions that were so much a part of Catholics in my mother's time. I would like to take a closer look at them – but we'll do that next week.

This week, since we celebrate his feast day on Friday and since it's [his year](#), let's start by looking at some of prayers and devotions to St. Joseph.

Even though there are records of a formal devotion to St. Joseph from around the year 800, the devotion began to grow around the 14th century. It was then that the [Servite Friars](#) used to observe his feast on March 19, the date when he is believed to have died. Pope Sixtus IV introduced the devotion in 1480 when he allowed the Franciscans to celebrate that same feast day. Slowly, the observance spread throughout the Church.

150 years later St. Joseph was chosen as Patron of Canada.

In 1624, Recollect Franciscan Fr. Joseph Le Caron wrote to his provincial father in France:

"It will always be much to gain some souls to God; we expect the rest from His grace. We have since that time had a great solemnity, when all the settlers were present and many Indians, for a vow we have made to Saint Joseph whom we have chosen Patron of the country and protector of this rising Church."

From the history of the Ursulines of Quebec we know that this vow to St. Joseph was made by "all French settlers and Christian Indians of Quebec on St. Joseph's Day, March 19th".

In 1625, the Jesuits arrived in Canada, and there are many references in [The Jesuit Relations](#) to the devotion of St. Joseph as patron saint of Canada.

St. Jean de Brebeuf wrote about a time when no one wanted to take him and his missionaries back to the Huron Mission:

"Several times I was completely baffled and desperate, until I had special recourse to Our Lord Jesus for whose glory alone we were undertaking this painful journey, and until I had made a vow to glorious St. Joseph, the new Patriarch of the Hurons. Immediately I saw everything become quiet and our savages so satisfied that those who embarked Father Daniel had already placed him in their canoe." (Jesuit Relations, Cleveland Edition, 8,73.)

In fact, the residence from where Brebeuf was writing was called St. Joseph.

In 1637, Fr. François Joseph Le Mercier writes from that same residence in Huronia about the conversion of a young boy, "which we have every reason to attribute to the merits of St. Joseph". The boy was baptized and named Joseph.

Jesuit Superior in New France, Fr. Paul Lejeune, in his *Relation* of 1637 implies that Pope Urban VIII had approved this choice of patron for Canada. He wrote, "His Holiness, wishing to crown us with his blessings, has had sent to us this year plenary indulgences for the feasts of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin and of our glorious Patron and Protector, St. Joseph" (*Jesuit Relations*, 11, 47).

In Quebec City, that same year, the choice of St. Joseph as Patron of Canada was celebrated with a festival, fireworks, and a bonfire. This annual festival continued to be celebrated in Quebec until 1647.

Bishop Laval had a great devotion to the Holy Family and recognized St. Joseph as the Patron of Canada when he wrote in 1668 asking that Christ bless their labours. He concluded: "We beg it most humbly by His merits, by the intercession of His Holy Mother, of the Blessed Joseph, special Patron of this rising Church, of all the tutelary angels of the souls under our charge and of all the saints who are the protectors of this Christian Church."

In 1621, Pope Gregory XV declared March 19 a Holy Day of Obligation in the Church.

In 1870, Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph Patron of the Universal Church, and in 1955, Pope Pius XII established May 1 as the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. Pope John XIII inserted his name into Eucharistic Prayer I, and then Pope Francis added St. Joseph's name to the other three Eucharistic Prayers.

In 2020, with the apostolic letter [Patris Corde](#), on the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis proclaimed a "Year of St. Joseph" from December 8, 2020, to December 8, 2021.

When this special year was declared, I wondered why there wasn't a prayer, like the Hail Mary, that was standard for all Catholics to pray to St. Joseph. Turns out there are many prayers to St. Joseph. There is also a very [popular novena](#), prayed by many every year. I hope that you are [praying it with your Salt + Light Media family this year](#). Don't worry about starting it late. Start it any time! Here are a few other prayers to St. Joseph. How many do you know?

By St. Alphonsus Liguori:

Go, then to Joseph, and do all that he shall say to you;
Go to Joseph, and obey him as Jesus and Mary obeyed him;
Go to Joseph, and speak to him as they spoke to him;
Go to Joseph, and consult him as they consulted him;
Go to Joseph, and honour him as they honoured him;
Go to Joseph, and be grateful to him as they were grateful to him;
Go to Joseph, and love him, as they love him still.

Litany to St. Joseph

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.
 God the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us.*
 God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*
 God the Holy Ghost, *have mercy on us.*
 Holy Trinity, One God, *have mercy on us.*
 Holy Mary, *pray for us.*
 St. Joseph, *pray for us.*
 Illustrious son of David, *pray for us.*
 Light of patriarchs, *pray for us.*
 Spouse of the Mother of God, *pray for us.*
 Chaste guardian of the Virgin, *pray for us.*
 Foster father of the Son of God, *pray for us.*
 Watchful defender of Christ, *pray for us.*
 Head of the Holy Family, *pray for us.*
 Joseph most just, *pray for us.*
 Joseph most chaste, *pray for us.*
 Joseph most prudent, *pray for us.*
 Joseph most valiant, *pray for us.*
 Joseph most obedient, *pray for us.*
 Joseph most faithful, *pray for us.*
 Mirror of patience, *pray for us.*
 Lover of poverty, *pray for us.*
 Model of workmen, *pray for us.*
 Glory of home life, *pray for us.*
 Guardian of virgins, *pray for us.*
 Pillar of families, *pray for us.*
 Solace of the afflicted, *pray for us.*
 Hope of the sick, *pray for us.*
 Patron of the dying, *pray for us.*
 Terror of demons, *pray for us.*
 Protector of Holy Church, *pray for us.*
 Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Spare us, O Lord!
 Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Graciously hear us, O Lord!
 Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us!
 He made him the lord of His household,
And prince over all His possessions.
Let Us Pray
 O God, Who in Thine ineffable Providence didst vouchsafe to
 choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of Thy most holy Mother,
 grant, we beseech Thee, that he whom we venerate as our
 protector on earth may be our intercessor in Heaven. Who lives
 and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Memorare to St. Joseph

Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed
 Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph, that
 no one ever had recourse to your protection, or
 implored your aid without obtaining relief.
 Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come
 before you. Do not turn down my petitions, foster
 father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive
 them. Amen.

Consecration to St. Joseph

O dearest St. Joseph, I consecrate myself to thy honour and give
 myself to thee, that thou mayest always be my father, my
 protector, and my guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me a
 great purity of heart and a fervent love of the interior life. After
 thine example, may I do all my actions for the greater glory of
 God, in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate

Heart of Mary! And do thou, O Blessed St. Joseph, pray for me that
 I may share in the peace and joy of thy holy death Amen.

Prayer to St. Joseph for Purity

Saint Joseph, guardian and father of virgins, to
 whose safekeeping were entrusted Innocence Itself,
 Christ Jesus, with Mary the Virgin of virgins; by these
 dear pledges, Jesus and Mary, I pray and beseech
 you to keep me free from all uncleanness, and make
 me with spotless mind, pure heart and chaste body,
 ever to serve Jesus and Mary most chastely all the
 days of my life. Amen.

O happy indeed are you, blessed Joseph, to whom
 was given the privilege not only of seeing and
 hearing the God whom many kings desired to see
 and saw not, to hear and heard not; but also of
 carrying, nourishing, embracing, clothing and
 guarding him!

V. Pray for us, blessed Joseph.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of
 Christ.

From a 19th Century French Prayer Book

Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the
 impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and
 difficulty.

Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations
 that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome.
 My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I
 invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus
 and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power.
 Amen.

Traditional Novena Prayer to St. Joseph from the second century:

O St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so
 strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place
 in you all my interests and desires.

O St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful
 intercession and obtain for me from your divine son
 all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
 so that having engaged here below your heavenly
 power I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to
 the most loving of fathers.

O St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and
 Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while
 he reposes near your heart. Press him in my name
 and kiss his fine head for me, and ask him to return
 the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph,
 patron of departing souls, pray for us.
 Amen.

The official prayer of the Year of St. Joseph, *Ad te, beate Ioseph*, was
 composed by Pope Leo XIII for his 1889 encyclical, [*Quamquam*](#)
[*Pluries*](#). For this Year of St. Joseph, Pope Francis asked that it be
 added to the end of the Rosary.

To you, O blessed Joseph (Ad te, beate Ioseph)

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our
 afflictions, and having implored the help of your
 most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your
 patronage also. ...

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

From Pope Francis' *Patris Corde*:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

May St. Joseph guide you, defend you and protect you and your family.



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. And don't worry, at the end of the day he always puts the pieces back together.

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for Mar 2021

On Tuesday, March 9, fifty families received nutritional support during our drive through distribution at the St Philip's Parking lot. Rural Food volunteers braved cold, rainy weather to participate in setting up for and distributing a wide variety of food to support those who attended. This month marks one year since we dramatically changed our operations to become a drive-through distribution due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

This program is funded through the Rural Food Collection each month, 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, April 10 , 9-10:00 am repackaging; **Monday, April 12, 9:00 - 11:00am** set up and **Tuesday, April 13, 7:30 - 11:00** to distribute food to clients.

There are appearances and then there are appearances

[During the last three weeks of Lent prior to Palm Sunday the Church provides alternative readings from John's Gospel to each Cycle's standard readings – as beneficial to any candidates scheduled for reception into the Church at Easter time. The readings however warrant the attention of anyone and so I have focused on them on these three Sundays.]

Over the years Jane and I have enjoyed reruns of the British sitcom *Keeping Up Appearances*. The series highlights a lower middle class social climber named Hyacinth Bucket (pronounced Bouquet). We catch an idea of where she came from by visits to her sister's house – located in a run down neighborhood, broken gate, indoor space dominated by a stout, beer drinking brother-in-law. Hyacinth lives in suburbia nervously creating the appearance of good taste and aristocratic manners, yet always (as we used to say) “showing her slip” – revealing she isn't what she appears to be.



In today's first reading the prophet Samuel is assigned by the Lord to find a successor to King Saul – some “heir apparent” out of the seven sons of Jesse. The eldest son Eliab seems the right choice – given his appearance: *his lofty stature*. But the Lord restrains Samuel: *Do not judge from his appearance . . . his lofty stature . . . Not as man sees does God see, because man sees from appearance, . . . the Lord looks into the heart*. So “appearance” here means façade, a surface appearance that conceals rather than reveals the limitations of the candidate. When Samuel finally sees Jesse's youngest son David who makes *a splendid appearance* in the sense of *this is the real thing*, he anoints David. He discerns qualities that will create a new age for Israel.

In today's Gospel we read of a man who was blind from birth. As human beings you could say we are all born blind – in so far as – while we see biologically – we don't see a lot of things, we don't see in the sense that we understand who and why and where we really are. We are educated to make our way through life in practical ways – even in factual ways, but not in ways that make us say: Aha! so that's the why and destiny of it all! We live among “appearances”, myopically.

Until the Jesus of today's Gospel comes along – and something sensational happens to you. Things begin to appear progressively in all their deeper reality and significance. Life opens up, goes multidimensional, leaving you possibly an enigma to the collective status quo. “Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?” Some say, “It is,” but others say, “It only *appears* to be him . . . This isn't the Joe or Sally I once recognized.” But, if you let the tradition you follow really sink in, you will somehow begin to look real, be the more radiant self you were created to be, you will finally *appear*, come out into the open - as an appearance as visionaries experience apparitions - as an authentic human being.

As St. Paul says: *You were once darkness (you wore shades), but now you are light in the Lord – so Awake, O Sleeper, and get out of bed – and wake up the world wherever you appear.*