

## Fourth Sunday of Lent March 27, 2022

Whoever is in Christ is  
a new creation:  
the old things have  
passed away;  
behold, new things  
have come.

— 2 Corinthians 5:17

### LOST AND FOUND

The parable of the father and his sons is one of the most familiar of all of Jesus' stories. The father in the parable is lavish in forgiveness and revels in the return of his young son, who was lost and now is found. The older son is also lost—lost in his refusal to forgive, lost in his failure to grasp his father's generous spirit. The Israelites spent many years lost in the desert, seeking the land of milk and honey, yet often failing to seek the God who delivered and fed them. We are sometimes lost as well. We lose sight of the Lord and the Lord's ways. God never loses sight of us, however. God waits, ready for us to come to our senses, ready to welcome us back with open arms.

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### PRAYER OF THE WEEK

#### Fourth Sunday of Lent

O God, who through your Word  
reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way,  
grant, we pray,  
that with prompt devotion and eager faith  
the Christian people may hasten  
toward the solemn celebrations to come.  
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:

How am I preparing myself for the celebrations of Holy Week? Is there more that I can do?

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### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54  
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16  
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30  
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47  
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30  
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53  
Sunday: Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Friday: First Friday; Abstinence; April Fool's Day  
Saturday: St. Francis of Paola; First Saturday

### HURDLING

God's grace within me and God's strength behind me  
can overcome any hurdle ahead of me.

—Anonymous

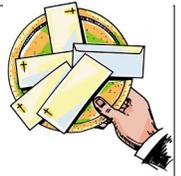
### Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

For the month of **March/April** 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] with your donation. 3/13: 1<sup>st</sup> col: \$2455. 2<sup>nd</sup> col: \$440.

3/20: 1<sup>st</sup> col: \$1885. 2<sup>nd</sup> col: \$361.

3/27: Rural Food. 4/03: Operating Expenses.



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

**Parish Council [PC]:** Wed., 3/30/22, at 4pm on Zoom

**Finance Council [FC]:** TBA

**Liturgy Committee [LC]:** Fri., 4/01/22, at 9:45am in Hall

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

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

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

3/26 Sat. 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith  
3/27 Sun. 8am Mass John Geving  
3/27 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Timothy Patrick Bonnel  
3/27 Sun. 11:15am Mass for the People  
3/29 Tues. 9am Mass Zeller family special intention  
3/31 Thurs 9am Mass Ann Zeller  
4/02 Sat. 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith  
4/03 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Hugh Peterson  
4/03 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Sr. Monica Collins, OSB  
4/03 Sun. 11:15am Mass for the People

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

Robert S., Britney N., Chuck, Rebecca A., April K., Leo A., Ed C. family, Kathy R., Donna W., Sherry S., Gail F., Marie N., Christine, James G., Gary S., Peter R., Gerry N., Diane K., River M.; Nikkie; Mr. C., Michelle, Christian A., Samantha S., Gary E., Frederick Kasl, John Geving

### RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for MARCH 2022

On Tuesday, March 8, warm sweaters, jackets and sweatshirts were waiting for our Rural Food recipients. Clients were able to select a style and fabric that would work best for their needs. This additional offering was made available by parishioners who provided gently used clothing and coordinated by a Rural Food Volunteer.

Sixty-four families, (153 individuals) selected fresh produce, milk, eggs, poultry, beef, fish or vegetarian items, commodities, snacks and bread. All are welcome to receive nutritional support from our Program.

We have opened the hall to in-person shopping by clients to choose specific foods from our program for their families. It also allows volunteers to re-connect with clients we haven't been in touch with since COVID.

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



### ***What makes us inquisitive?***

As a boy back around 1940 I used to listen regularly to a radio program called *I Love A Mystery*. It was about three fellows who ran a detective agency but unlike your usual detective series or film noir these adventures carried you to many exotic places and sometimes dealt with supernatural themes. But do we really “love mysteries”? Every such story tries to solve, erase, track down the cause of a mystery and thus end it logically. Isn’t that also what modern science and technology and our rational powers try to do – like track down that virus that has had us closed down for so long? We often do our best to get rid of “mystery” – purge even outer space of its riddles. We do it partly out of fascination, a yen for discovery, but also to be secure. Correct knowledge leaves us “in control”. Mystery makes us uneasy.

The Pharisees in today’s Gospel who were the experts in law and health matters are unsettled by a claim that a beggar, born blind, can now see. That’s very odd, mysterious. So caution, a cross-examination takes place. “Tell us how that happened?” The young man says someone put clay on his eyes and told him to wash it off. “Well first of all, he shouldn’t have done that. It’s the Sabbath, not to be profaned by any such labor.” So they pressed on: “What do you know of this

man who opened your eyes?” The fellow says, “I think he’s wonderful, considering that he helped me see!” Next phase. These professionals interrogate his parents. “Was your son born blind?” The parents reply: “ Yes he was, nor do we understand this change in him. Ask him about it.” (They knew the Pharisees were already convinced that such a cure was impossible or sinister, so why drag out this inquiry?)

By this time the young man senses the insecurity of his inquisitors and talks back. “Isn’t it obvious: the man who healed me must have operated out of some mysterious dimension – something, somehow divine? If so, do you Pharisees want to regulate God?” And the fact is, they do – they want God to operate the way they have decided he should operate – according to their rubrics and rules and the limits of ordinary experience. Otherwise things get shaky.

I mean, aside from the fascination with mystery that motivates science and technology and human reason to reach beyond current objectivity and come up with surprises, such investigations also reveal our worry about things unknown – not proven. Though we may be lured by mystery, we also live concerned about it – we also want to control it, secure our status quo. Which is the intent of these Pharisees. The Gospel of Jesus envisions a world of grace that exists *beyond* the Pharisical harnesses designed to keep us safe or else sorry. It’s the manifold, creative, surprising – well high miraculous - nature of gracious events that’s the *real* threat they fear.

And so it is interesting that only after the young man with all his new clairvoyance is expelled from the Pharisees’ jurisdiction that his healer returns to the story. “Do you believe in the *truly Human Being*?” “Who is he?” “You have *seen* him, he’s speaking to you right now within this clearing which encircles the very nearness of God.”

(Cycle A Option)

**-Geoff Wood, 3/27/22**

### **Announcement about AMA Annual Ministry Appeal 2022**

The work of the Annual Ministry Appeal is at heart your work, the work to which you are oriented by the Baptism: the service of God through service of your brothers and sisters in Christ. By making a gift to the Annual Ministry Appeal, ONE FAMILY IN MISSION, you are able to touch souls and change lives throughout our Diocese. Thank you to all who have already pledged [a total of \$4,298], moving us closer to our goal as a parish community of \$13,754.

- Father Bala, Pastor



**The Chancery was closed Friday, March 25, 2022, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of Our Lord.** While not a Holy Day of Obligation, attendance at Mass was encouraged. All were invited to

join with the Holy Father and all bishops in praying the Act of Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Holy Father began to celebrate the ceremony in the Vatican at 5:00 pm (9:00 am Pacific time) with the consecration at 6:30 pm (10:30 am here). The actual prayer PDF is now inserted in this weekend’s bulletin and/or clickable at this link [www.stphillpsteresa.org](http://www.stphillpsteresa.org)