

**Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 29, 2020**

Out of the depths
I cry to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice!

— Psalm 130:1

GIVE GLORY TO GOD

On the Fifth Sunday of Lent, just before we begin to enter Holy Week, we are summoned to Bethany. If we had been friends of Mary, Lazarus, and Martha, and

found out that Lazarus was gravely ill, we probably would have dropped everything to be with them. This was what was so surprising about the behavior of Jesus. Although he was their close friend, he chose to stay away, that God's glory would be manifested. This is a persistent theme in John's Gospel. Right to the very end, Jesus' works were meant to give glory to the Father. As our Lenten journey reaches a crescendo, let us be mindful that, as people who have "put on Christ" in baptism, we are also called, by our attitudes and actions, to give glory to God.

—J. S. Paluch Co.

**SAINT POLYCARP (died 155)
February 23**

"Eighty-six years I have served Christ, and he never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my King and Savior?" Boldly answering the official who demanded he worship pagan gods, Polycarp, today's "Senior Citizen Saint," demonstrates that courage, far from being the preserve of the young, is a virtue cultivated through lifelong fidelity and crowned by final perseverance. A disciple of Saint John, who is said to have consecrated him bishop of Smyrna in modern-day Turkey, Polycarp witnesses to the truth that, whatever time and space may separate us, Jesus' gift of the Eucharist unites us. Polycarp's final words, preserved by the Church of Smyrna, sound like a Eucharistic Prayer in which the saint offers himself: "Lord, almighty God, Father of your beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ, through whom we have come to the knowledge of yourself . . . may I be received among the martyrs as a rich and pleasing sacrifice . . . through the eternal priest of heaven, Jesus Christ . . . through him be glory to you, together with him and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen."

—Peter Scagnelli, © 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: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59
- 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: Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]

Prayer Requests: Leave 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 [Ed] Arnold, Castellini family, Kathy R., Donna W., Jim K., Sherry Smith, Shirley Skeen, Gail Fitzgerald, and for all of us dealing with the global crisis, we pray



Finance Corner:

Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!



For the month of **March/April** offerings:

PLEASE mail to our parish at P.O. Box 339, Occidental CA 95465 or donate at our website www.stphilipstteresa.org via Paypal or card.

3/22: TBD. 3/29: Rural Food. 4/5: Operating Expenses.

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: Wed., 4/15/20, at 10AM in Hall
Finance Council [FC]: TBA

Liturgy Committee: TBA

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

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

Any Mass Intentions originally set for 3/29-4/5 will be rescheduled for a later date when our churches reopen.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Lent
- Thursday: St. Francis of Paola
- Friday: First Friday; Abstinence
- Saturday: St. Isidore; First Saturday

WITH GOD

With God, go over the sea. Without God, don't even go over the threshold.

—Russian proverb

LIFE

A well-spent life is the only passport to heaven.

—Pope Leo XIII

✂

saint snippets

We have to prepare to die, but peacefully, with lighted lamps and the happiness of the saints.

Bl. Giuseppe Girotti
Italian Dominican priest and professor who helped to shield Jewish people during the Holocaust. He was arrested and died in the Dachau Concentration Camp.
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April 1

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Pope Francis Quote

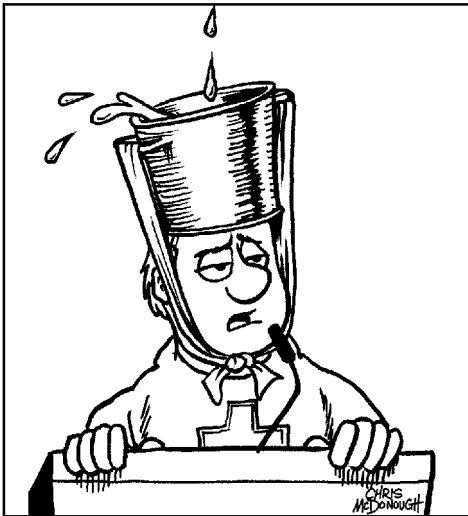
"From my point of view, God is the light that illuminates the darkness, even if it does not dissolve it, and a spark of divine light is within each of us."

Request from the Chancery: That we all take 15 minutes of each day to pray for the end of the Corona Virus crisis, begging Our Lady's help as she has asked us to do countless times! [option: say after the Rosary]

CATHOLIC TV MASS: Each Sunday a Catholic TV Mass is aired on a number of TV channels throughout the Bay Area Dioceses, offered by Monsignor Harry Schlitt and Father Dave Giorso.

This Catholic TV Mass focuses on our Catholic community for those who are homebound, residing in assisted living, hospitalized, or imprisoned, and unable to attend Mass at their parish church. You may find these Masses in the San Francisco Area each liturgical Sunday on KTSF at 6:00 AM -or- KOFY at 6:00 AM, or online any time at "FatherHarry.org".

Pastor Al™



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"With our old roof a top priority, there'll be a second collection. And no gift is merely a drop in the bucket."

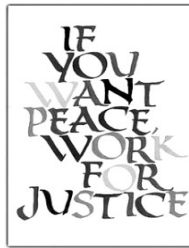
RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for MARCH 2020

Our client and volunteer health and safety is very important to our ongoing efforts of providing nutritional support. On March 10 we welcomed 102 families: 122 adults, 49 children and 40 seniors for a total of 211 people. Due to the current corona virus outbreak we changed our distribution process. Each volunteer and client was required to use hand sanitizer before entering the distribution area. Each volunteer was also required to wear gloves during the distribution and we all practiced "social distancing" throughout. We will continue this practice for the next few months. This program is funded through the Rural Food Collection on the last Sunday of each month as well as through private donations and the generous support of our volunteers.

Your used, clean, egg cartons and handled grocery bags are needed until we reach our goal of having only reusable cloth bags by the end of 2020. Thanks for dropping them off in the hall.

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, April 11, from 9-10:00am repackaging -- Parish Hall
Monday, April 13, from 10:00 – 12:00pm to set up the Parish Hall
Tuesday, April 14, from 8:30 – 11:00am to distribute the food and to assist clients.



Fourth Theme of Catholic Social Teaching OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

Tradition:

God's word teaches that our brothers and sisters are the prolongation of the incarnation for each of us: "As you did it to one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40). The way we treat others has a transcendent dimension: "The measure you give will be the measure you get" (Mt 7:2). It corresponds to the mercy which God has shown us: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you . . . For the measure you give will be the measure you get back" (Lk 6:36-38). What these passages make clear is the absolute priority of "going forth from ourselves toward our brothers and sisters" as one of the two great commandments which ground every moral norm and as the clearest sign for discerning spiritual growth in response to God's completely free gift. (Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel [Evangelii Gaudium. . .]*, no. 179)

"The Church's love for the poor . . . is a part of her constant tradition." This love is inspired by the Gospel of the Beatitudes, of the poverty of Jesus, and of his concern for the poor. . . . "Those who are oppressed by poverty are the object of a preferential love on the part of the Church which, since her origin and in spite of the failings of many of her members, has not ceased to work for their relief, defense, and liberation." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church. . .*, nos. 2444, 2448, quoting *Centesimus annus*, no. 57, and *Libertatis conscientia*, no. 68)

Love for others, and in the first place love for the poor, in whom the Church sees Christ himself, is made concrete in the promotion of justice. (*St. John Paul II, On the Hundredth Year [Centesimus Annus. . .]*, no. 58)

The obligation to provide justice for all means that the poor have the single most urgent economic claim on the conscience of the nation. (*United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Economic Justice for All*, no. 86) [To be continued]

Per Ella and others: For other Masses during our shelter at home time, we have additional online options:

1. Bishop Vasa will live stream Mass this Sunday at 10:00 am on the Diocesan Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/DioceseOfSantaRosa/>
2. For Pope Francis' and other masses in English and Spanish visit: <http://www.catholicv.org/shows/papal-programming>
3. For EWTN masses: <https://www.ewtn.com/tv/weekly-grid>
4. For Bishop Barron chapel: <https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/>

Scripture Reflection: Each week Pat Griffith of our parish reflects on the scriptures of the next Sunday's liturgy. His objectives are to expand on the specific meaning of the readings and to use them to address current issues and practical matters in living the Christian life. The regular postings usually appear between Wednesday evening and Friday morning. Occasionally he posts an additional reflection during the week. The reflections can be found at <http://thesoulprosper.blogspot.com>. If you would like to be on his email distribution, please send him an email at Patrick@fairhill.com

The Seven Signs

Hopefully you are familiar with the four Gospels of the New Testament to have noticed that the Gospel of John is quite different in style and make-up from the other three. That's because he intended not only to tell the story of Jesus but that he wanted to *highlight by reference to certain episodes* in Jesus' career what effect Jesus can have on you – right now! In other words he uses these episodes as *signs* – signals of the effect adherence to Jesus' power can have on our human race – not just back then but now and on into the indefinite future – your future as well. What are these signal episodes?

The Changing of water into wine at a wedding at Cana
The Cure of a man's son – from a distance
The Cure of a paralytic by the Pool of Bethesda
The Meeting with the Samaritan woman by Jacob's Well
The Cure of a man born blind
The Multiplication of loaves and walking on water
The Raising of Lazarus from his tomb.

Even as in these episodes - contact with Jesus (and his word, the potency of his Gospel) can have a similar "miraculous" effect upon your life, your way of seeing and doing things – change you from merely existing to really Being. Like the water at Cana – like the empty water jars – you can become an inexhaustible, premium wine.

Like the boy cured, even though he was not present, you, who are not present in so far as the days of Jesus are in the distant past – you too can be cured by the mere effect – if understood – of his words.

Like the paralytic waiting interminably for a chance to reach the somewhat stingy healing power of Bethesda's Pool – a relationship with Jesus can bring you to your feet in no time – if you listen well enough.

Like the woman at Jacob's well, whatever you are using to quench your thirst for genuine life, you can now turn to Jesus as "the living water" that will leave you never thirsty again.

Like the man born blind, Jesus can give you sight far beyond the chart in the optometrist's office and the news of the day and even the Law of Moses.

Like Jesus' miracles of multiplying loaves of bread in a desert place and walking across a turbulent sea to calm

his disciples – he can nourish you and help you cross "water" barriers as God did during Israel's original Exodus from slavery.

Like Lazarus, Jesus can call you out of the tomb you make of life to breathe fresh air – forevermore within Jesus' kind of world.

So there is a Lenten program for you to initiate – meditatively – and see if it doesn't make a difference in you by Easter.

--Geoff Wood, 3/29/2020

Memo from office: Please be patient with us all as we try to work under these new local and global parameters. Two quotes come to mind at this moment: "Be nice. Everyone is hiking uphill." (*Life's Little Instruction Book*) and always remember to "Be kind. Be kind. Be kind." (quote from Principal Carole Ellis to graduating class). Onward & upward!

[For God's Strength In Troubled Times](#)

Thank You Lord that You are my refuge and my strength in hard times and an ever present helper in times of trouble. Help me to cling to You and this truth from the Bible, that You keep bringing to my mind.

I know that You are the only, all-powerful God and that there is nothing that is too difficult in my life for You to deal with – nor is there any obstacle in my path that is so insurmountable that I cannot cross – knowing that You are by my side.

Give me I pray Your strength to face today's hard and troubled times with the confidence of knowing that Your strength is made perfect in my weakness. Thank YOU that my strength comes from You and that Your grace is sufficient for all the tasks and duties that will cross my daily path – not only for today but for the rest of my journey through life.

Thank YOU Father that Your grace is sufficient – help me to meditate on this truth every day,

Amen.

*"Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee."*

Please intercede for us with your Son. Amen.