



Fourth Sunday of Lent March 31, 2019

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

— 2 Corinthians 5:17

GOD FORGIVES

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have removed the reproach of Egypt from you." After forty years of wandering in the desert, this hard-headed people have finally reached the Promised Land. No more do they eat the manna in the desert, but they partake of the fruits of their new homeland. God has kept the promise to their parents in Egypt. Even though they were a sinful people, many times questioning God and even worshiping false gods, God has forgiven them and fulfilled the promise. The "take-away" for us is that there is no sin that is unforgivable. We may have offended our neighbors, given a bad example to someone, even worshiped the false gods of money and power. But God is a merciful God, true to the words spoken to us. God forgives all and calls us back to love.

-- © J. S. Paluch Co.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Today, "Laetare Sunday," breaks the somberness of Lent for a little rejoicing, and the readings all summon us to an awareness of reconciliation. One of the best-loved stories of our tradition is today's Gospel story of the runaway son and the prodigal father. Prodigal, of course, is an adjective meaning "spendthrift or extravagant to a degree bordering on recklessness," and although the boy maxes out the credit cards, it is really the father who is prodigal with forgiveness.

Part of the excitement of this Laetare Sunday is rooted in the ancient catechumenate. Long ago, midway through Lent, the "elect" were focusing more and more on the gift of reconciliation accomplished for them by Christ and about to be realized in the Easter sacraments they were preparing to celebrate. In some places, the elect were even bedecked with roses on this day. A person bedecked with roses sticks out in a crowd; a person formed by the Eucharist and committed to living a life of reconciliation does, too. That's you!

-- Rev. James Field, © J. S. Paluch Co.

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

GOD'S CAPACITY FOR FORGIVENESS

Where is the foolish person who would think it in his or her power to commit more than God could forgive?

—St. Francis de Sales

saint snippets



Fix your minds on the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ who burned with love for us.

St. Francesco di Paola
15th-century Italian mendicant (begging) friar who modeled the life of St. Francis of Assisi in his poverty, miracles, and sanctity

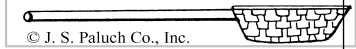
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April 2

Finance Corner:

Christian Giving

Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!



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

3/24: 1st Collection: \$2139.

3/31: Rural Food. 4/7: Operating Expenses.



Social Ministry

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council: Wed., 6/5/19, at 10:00AM in Hall

Finance Council: Wed., 4/3/19, at 11:00AM in Hall

Liturgy Committee: Fri., 5/3/19, at 9:30AM in Hall

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

St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Susan, 829-1189

Every Friday, Centering Prayer: 9:30AM at St Philip

Coffee & Goodies: Following 8AM Sunday Mass and Wednesday/Friday after 9AM Mass, at St Philip Hall

Mondays & Wednesdays-Seniors Lunch at 12noon:

All seniors welcome! (No lunch Monday before 2nd Tuesday of month)



✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

Sat., March 30, 5pm Mass ✠ Marcella & Joseph Kiefer

Sun., March 31, 8am Mass for the strength of the bishops to be holy shepherds in protecting and leading their sheep from all harm

Sun., March 31, 9:30am Mass for the People

Sun., March 31, 11:15am Mass Papke family special intention

Mon., April 1, 9am Prayer Service

Tues., April 2, 9am Mass ✠ Phidella Lemieux

Wed., April 3, 9am Mass ✠ Tina Bartolo

Thurs., April 4, 9am Mass

Fri., April 5, 9am Mass ✠ Tom Joyce

Sat., April 6, 5pm Mass ✠ Mike Pettibone

Sun., April 7, 8am Mass for all souls

Sun., April 7, 9:30am Mass for the People

Sun., April 7, 11:15am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Lent; Second Scrutiny

Tuesday: St. Francis of Paola

Thursday: St. Isidore of Seville

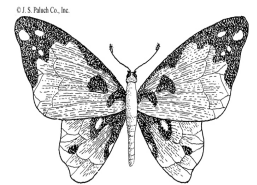
Friday: St. Vincent Ferrer; First Friday; Abstinence

Saturday: First Saturday

HAPPINESS

Happiness will never be ours if we do not recognize to some degree that God's blessings were given us for the well-being of all.

—Anonymous



Prayer Requests: Call 874-3812 to add names. (Names cycled out periodically) Teresa K., Pat K., Thomas T., Susan B., Jamie S., Lorri McC., Sarah, Clifford J., Terri A., Marilyn Vitali, Fred Pisani, Theresa Spiteri, Sara, Mary Anne P., Barbara, Dave Creeth, Jim P., William, Parson Pfsorich, Dave, Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally T., Mary K., Columbina A., Michael Dan, Richard Macche, Kathleen, Lisa, Rosa S., Susan B., Zeidan family, Joyce Doughty, David Bettencourt, Gina, Lorri K., Anita C., Steve, Al Bello, Jan, Barry, George H. and Mimi H.

POPE FRANCIS QUOTE

"The culture of appearance, which leads us to live for passing things, is a great deception. Because it is like a flaring blaze: once it is over, only ashes remain."

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for March 2019

On March 12 we welcomed 99 families representing 115 adults, 25 children and 34 seniors for a total of 174 people receiving nutritional support. 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.

Please continue to collect paper grocery bags, especially with handles, and egg cartons. We are looking into biodegradable produce bags and recyclable grocery bags for our clients.

(Looking for recipes using Rural Food items. Call office with ideas.)

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, April 6, from 9-10:00am repackaging -- Parish Hall

Monday, April 8, from 12:30– 2:30pm to set up the Parish Hall

Tuesday, April 9, from 8:30–11:00am to distribute food/assist clients.

Want to get more involved but not sure how? Come see what we do. We need more volunteers on distribution day to help our clients and their loaded grocery carts to their vehicles. We can also use some behind-the-scenes help with paperwork, ordering, etc. **THANK YOU!**

Flowers for the Altar during the Year are a spiritual investment for a loved one, to celebrate any occasion, or just to express gratitude for your blessings. Flowers are also a gift to all of us as we enter and see the glorious display around the altar and experience the liturgy framed by such exquisite beauty. We appreciate your donations! To contribute for St. Philip Church flowers, please call 874-6072.

Remember Lord, those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. These beautiful words at Mass recall our beloved dead. A Mass intention is a way to remember a beloved friend or family member, whether in death, for healing, in celebration of a special day, or simply for prayer and guidance. Come by the office (or call 707-874-3812) to arrange the Mass. A customary donation of \$10 is appreciated.

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, April 28, 2019

8:00AM – 11:30 AM

Bodega Fire Hall

(17184 Bodega Hwy, Bodega, CA)

Sponsored by the St. Teresa Restoration Committee
Benefits Historic Bodega Church

Adults: \$10 Children under 12: \$5

Please come join us! Tickets sold at the door

Looking for a special gift in honor or in memory of a loved one? The Rural Food program has a beautifully designed card that is sent to the recipient indicating that you made a gift to the program. The cards are available on entry tables at both St. Philip & St. Teresa Churches, or by emailing your request to: roddemar@comcast.net

Parish news: The net raised from CELEBRATE 2019 was \$15,562.31. (Note that 50% will be earmarked for our endowment fund.) If parishioners have questions, they can check with the Finance Committee. Thanks to all!

We now have an Automatic Electric Defibrillator (AED) at St. Teresa's to be used in the event of a medical emergency. This AED is on loan to the church, thanks to the generosity of the Bodega Fire Station. It is located on the wall of the church left of the organ and has a sign above it with AED printed in red. For more information, contact Pat Pettibone 875-8826 or Diane Merget 823-6044

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



Exclusive Limited Print of Ansel Adam's original picture of St. Teresa Church from 1953: All proceeds support needed restoration of St. Teresa of Avila Mission. A limited number of prints have been printed from Ansel's original negative. Each reprint is individually numbered. Prints are available for a donation of \$175. Please contact restoration committee member Peg for a limited print: 707-867-6073.

Marriage for Life: marriage preparation retreat

Upcoming 2019 Dates:

May 4, August 17, October 19

Engaged Catholic couples can register online for one of these dates (and find more information) at:
www.marriageforlifef.com

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE 2019

April 18: Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper
7pm at St. Philip Church, Occidental
(No 9am Mass at St. Teresa Church, Bodega)

April 19: Good Friday Solemn Liturgy
12noon at St. Teresa Church, Bodega
(No 9am Mass at St. Philip Church, Occidental)

April 20: Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass
8pm at St. Teresa Church, Bodega
(No 5pm Mass)

April 21: Easter Sunday Masses
8am at St. Philip Church, Occidental
and 8am at St. Teresa Church, Bodega
9:30am at St. Teresa Church, Bodega
11:15am at Philip Church, Occidental