



## Sixth Sunday of Easter May 22, 2022

May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you!

-Psalm 67:6

### RETURNING TO ORDINARY LIFE

Six weeks into our Easter rejoicing, the Church gives us readings today that start preparing us for a return to ordinary life. The Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel both dwell on proper daily behavior for followers of Jesus, while the reading from Revelation reminds us why we bother with laws at all. In Acts, leaders of the church meet to discuss which essential elements of the Mosaic Law converts must obey if they wish to be disciples of Jesus Christ. John's Gospel reflects back to the Last Supper discourse when Jesus himself emphasizes the importance of obeying God's commandments. Observing God's law, says Jesus, shows a desire to be intimate with the Lord. We follow rules not for their own sake, but to love God and neighbor better. This more excellent love brings us closer to Revelation's vision of paradise, gleaming with "the splendor of God."

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### PRAYER OF THE WEEK

#### Sixth Sunday of Easter

Grant, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honor of the risen Lord, and that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do. 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 can I participate more fully at Mass?

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### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Jn 15:26 — 16:4a  
Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Jn 16:5-11  
Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22 — 18:1; Ps 148:1-2, 11-14; Jn 16:12-15  
Thursday: Acts 18:1-8; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 16:16-20  
Friday: Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47:2-7; Jn 16:20-23  
Saturday: Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3, 8-10; Jn 16:23b-28  
Sunday: (for Ascension) Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23; Lk 24:46-53

**SAVE THE DATE:** Our Parish Picnic returns on Saturday, August 6, 2022. Join us for barbecue, games, and a chance to re-connect with friends. Hope to see you there!



### Finance Corner: Your generosity is

**greatly needed and appreciated!** For the month of **May** 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].

5/08: 1<sup>st</sup> col.: \$1806. 2<sup>nd</sup> col.: \$681. 5/15: 1<sup>st</sup> col.: \$1809. 2<sup>nd</sup> col.: \$341.

5/22: *Weekly church offering.* 5/29: *Ascension & Rural Food.*



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

**Parish Council [PC]:** TBA

**Finance Council [FC]:** TBD

**Liturgy Committee [LC]:** TBA

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

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

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

5/21 Sat. 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith

5/22 Sun. 8am Mass

5/22 Sun. 9:30am Mass for the People

5/22 Sun. 11:15am Mass

5/28 Sat. 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith

5/29 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Joseph Madsen

5/29 Sun. 9:30am Mass @ *Bodega Cemetery* ✠ Arnold Pieri

5/29 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., Peter B Samantha S., Gary E., Frederick Kasl, John Geving, Donna L.

**For Memorial Day Weekend, the Mass at Bodega Calvary Cemetery will be held on Sunday, May 29, at 9:30 am, instead of on Monday.**

You have heard of the Camino de Santiago in Spain yet have you heard of the Camino de Sonoma? Closer to home and no bad airplane food to endure.

Our Camino offers a day or two of walking, spirituality, reflection and camaraderie. May 26, a walk of 9 miles, and June 2, 11 miles, showcase two of the five stages on the Camino de Sonoma. And yes, there two stages involving St. Philips. For more information on these two walks and the five walks of the Camino de Sonoma contact: For More Info, & What to Bring: Stephen Morris email [dsryouth@srdiocese.org](mailto:dsryouth@srdiocese.org) or Joe Conway email [BodegaJoe@icloud.com](mailto:BodegaJoe@icloud.com)

*Organizers: Santa Rosa Diocese & St. Eugene's Cathedral in partnership with The Camino de Sonoma.*

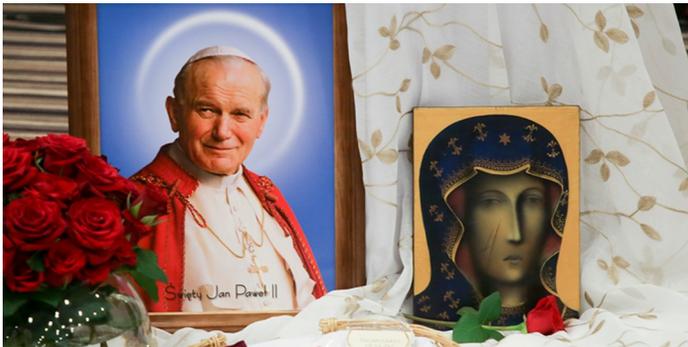
## RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for MAY, 2022

On Tuesday, May 10, we welcomed fifty-seven families, (125 individuals) to receive nutritional support from our Rural Food Program. All who are in need are welcome to attend this monthly food distribution.

Each month our dedicated volunteers repackage proteins including fresh eggs for our clients. They repackage eggs into over 80 dozen egg cartons. This month we came very close to running out of egg cartons! PLEASE CONSIDER SAVING YOUR CLEAN EGG CARTONS and donate them to our program by dropping them off at the parish hall. We thank you in advance. We also appreciate your donation of clean, handled paper bags. We can save the environment and save some money with your support.

Our program is open to all who are in need. 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, June 11, 9-10:00 am repackaging; Monday, June 13, 9:00 – 11:00am set up and Tuesday, June 14, 7:30a – 11:00a to distribute food to clients.



### ***On Memorial Day, a prayer to the Virgin Mary for peace by St. John Paul II***

by [Philip Kosloski](#) - published on 05/27/19

**As we remember the fallen, let us pray for an end to the violence in the world.**

Memorial Day in the United States is a day when fallen soldiers are remembered by their relatives and friends. Often it is a day for visiting cemeteries and the graves of those who died in battle.

While many died valiantly defending the innocent, their deaths remind us of the sadness of war and how God desires peace to reign in the hearts of all.

As we ponder this mystery, below is a prayer for peace composed by St. John Paul II, on the [World Day of Peace in 2002](#).

Let us continue to pray for peace and an end to all violence in the world.

*“Salve, Madre santa!” Virgin Daughter of Zion, how deeply must your Mother’s heart suffer for this bloodshed! The child you embrace has a name that is dear to the peoples of biblical religion: “Jesus,” which means “God saves.” So the Archangel named him before he was conceived in your womb (cf. Lk 2,21). In the face of the newborn Messiah, we recognize the face of all your children, who suffer from being despised and exploited. We recognize especially the faces of your children, to whatever race, nation or culture they may belong. For them, O Mary, for their future, we ask you to move hearts hardened by hatred so that they may open to love and so that revenge may finally give way to forgiveness. Obtain for us, O Mother, that the truth of this affirmation — no peace without justice, no justice without forgiveness — be engraved on every heart. Thus the human family will be able to find the true peace, that flows from the union of justice and mercy. Holy Mother, Mother of the Prince of Peace, help us! Mother of Humanity and Queen of Peace, pray for us!*

*my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give . . .*

The early Christian community came out of a tradition that structurally and morally related to God's being as much a legislator as a creator, a source of behavioral maxims that bore consequences of either good or bad depending on one's behavior. The realm of God (as in the *Book of Job*) was often imagined as a celestial courtroom presided over by God and among its personnel was a prosecutor named Satan (or the Adversary) whose job was to suspect us of sin and accuse us if necessary – which of course it always was!

Yet the good news proclaimed by Jesus (for which he was executed) was: God is not a judge but a Source of absolute Grace, graciousness, ready to forgive, quick to enlighten our lives behaviorally (in the sense of unburden them) as well as illuminate the world and beings around us as fundamentally worthy of care and cordiality – love, affirmation, and thereby – liberation. But human nature being what it is, old habits preferred a schoolmaster or district attorney or “tradition” or “what we are used to” more than that wide open region of a graceful God which Jesus preached, wherein one might also break into a graceful way of being – the dance of life.

And so in today's first reading we find some Jerusalem Christians demanding that the earlier Jewish initiation rite of circumcision be retained by the Church, which led to “no little dissension and debate” in which this man named Paul was prominently involved. Indeed there were other old legalities under discussion regarding diet (kosher abstinence) and valid marriage. In other words there lingered that human nostalgia for being told what to do rather than letting grace and sensitivity, the ethic of the Jesus parables, guide one toward authentic maturity.

Which, as we might say, “drove Paul right up the wall!” Because if you read this Paul's later New Testament letters to other Christians who wanted to set up all sorts of legal practices to insure their salvation – not to have to *think* but simply to observe, to *do*, to pay the fines, to keep their records clean - you can imagine Paul slamming his fist on the table and saying – as he did to new Christians in Asia Minor - *O stupid Galatians! Who bewitched you . . . I want to learn only this from you: did you receive the Spirit from observing laws or from trusting the parables of Jesus. Are you so stupid? . . . Does the one who supplies the Spirit to you and does mighty deeds (of mercy, care, concern) among you do so from works prescribed by the law or from trust in the good news of this grace in which you stand?*

He says similar things elsewhere in his letters – and also argues that while the Law of Moses had long been in force, it was four centuries *earlier* that God challenged ancient Abraham to end his nomadic, meandering existence and step with abandon, with trust, faith, into the wide open region of miracles (like old Sarah's otherwise impossible birth of Isaac) that got the ball rolling toward human redemption. A new region where: *There is neither Jew nor Greek (no need of passports), neither slave nor citizen, neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus* – where there is no Temple . . . for the radiance of God gives it light, and its lamp is **that metaphor of gentleness and self-sacrifice – of Christic being – that Lamb which we identify as divine.**



--Geoff Wood, 5/22/2022