

## Fourth Sunday of Easter May 3, 2020

He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness.

— 1 Peter 2:24a

### IN NEED OF A SHEPHERD

For a while it was very fashionable to own pigs as pets. The publicity surrounding these creatures informed us that they were—contrary to their popular image—very clean animals, and also quite smart. Sad to say, sheep will most likely never enjoy this sort of domestic vogue. They are neither clean nor smart and are largely defenseless when left on their own, even in large numbers. The biblical image of us as the flock of sheep is not a particularly flattering one. Sheep without a shepherd are truly sad, because they most likely will perish either from their inability to fend for themselves or from their lack of defenses against predators. Placing ourselves in the heart of this unflattering image can reinforce our faith. Until we come to a profound realization of how much we need a shepherd, we cannot appreciate how deeply blessed we are to have been given a Shepherd, one who laid down his life for us and was raised to life eternal in the Spirit, so he might guide us and we might follow him in faith forever.

--J. S. Paluch Co.

### SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES May 3

Call Philip the gospel's "Answer Man." "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Nathaniel asked Philip, who had proclaimed Jesus "the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets" (John 1:45). Jesus asked Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" (John 6:5). Greeks brought Philip their request: "We would like to see Jesus" (John 12:21). Philip's answer to each question: bring people to Jesus! At the Last Supper, finally, Philip had a request of his own: "Show us the Father!" (John 14:8). Jesus had three last questions for Philip: "You still don't know me? How can you ask that? Don't you believe?" And an answer: "I am in the Father and the Father is in me" (John 14:10). Today's James is not John's brother, Zebedee's son, but, tradition says, author of the New Testament Letter of James, who died praying for his murderers in Jesus' words: "Forgive them, for they know not what they do." Few historical details for either saint, but lessons aplenty: Bring every question we have and everybody we meet to Jesus; be, as James' letter challenges, "doers of the word and not hearers only" (James 1:22).

--Peter Scagnelli, © J. S. Paluch Co.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:11-18  
Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30  
Wednesday: Acts 12:24 — 13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Jn 12:44-50  
Thursday: Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; Jn 13:16-20  
Friday: Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6  
Saturday: Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14  
Sunday: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

**saint snippets**

"Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity."  
—1 Timothy 4:12

**St. Nunzio Sulprizio**  
19th-century Italian who lived a brief life filled with faith and piety, even in the midst of very poor health. He was canonized in 2018.

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May 5

Excerpt from *the Mass* © 2010, 1991, 1970, CCD

Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!



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

PLEASE 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.

Easter: \$7830. 4/26: Rural Food [March/April]: \$1999.

5/3: Catholic Home Missions. 5/10: Operating Expenses.

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

**Parish Council [PC]:** TBA

**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

Fr. Bala is more than willing to fulfill Mass Intentions in his daily Private Mass celebration. (There is a customary \$10 stipend for any Mass Intention.) But it is left to the wish of those who have already submitted (or have yet to submit) to the office their Intentions, as to choice of a private or public Mass. Email to [philip.teresa@yahoo.com](mailto:philip.teresa@yahoo.com) Or leave a message at the alternate office number: 707-408-2650.

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Easter;  
World Day of Prayer for Vocations  
Tuesday: Cinco de Mayo  
Thursday: National Day of Prayer

**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 A., Ed C. family, Kathy R., Donna W., Jim K., Sherry S., Papke family., Gail F.



[Mass Readings for Sunday](#)

## Message from Fr. Bala:

\*First and foremost, I would like to say, I MISS YOU ALL especially in liturgical and social events at both our churches. But I am always with you in spirit and prayer. When I pray or celebrate Mass privately, I think of you and pray for you and with you spiritually. Hope and pray that all of you, our parishioners, and others who visit our churches from time to time whom I consider as part of our faith family are safe and healthy. It is most unfortunate that we and the whole world is experiencing still this unprecedented COVID-19!

\*One of our parish Programs that I started liking from the first week of my coming here as your Pastor is the Rural Food Program. With our second collection at the last weekend of each month and with several private donations, our ever committed team of leaders and volunteers do this great service, on your behalf and in the name of Christ, to the poor and homeless, who are our sisters and brothers in our neighborhood, through this program. With the help of Santa Rosa Diocese Catholic Charities our parish team works miracles in the hearts and lives of many individuals and families. In the midst of this crisis situation too, I want you to know that this our team and volunteers distributed the food, the groceries and the like on April 14. Congratulations to all who carry out this program! Recently, I appealed to some of my personal friends in the Bay Area if they could be the sponsors for this program. They are excited to hear about our program and are willing to sponsor at least one month program for the month of June to start with.

Since our churches are not open and do not get our regular weekly offerings, I appeal to you to come forward to help this program and our onward maintenance of the parish by your generous donations either online or through mailing checks to our office. I take this opportunity to thank all those who sent in their special donations and regular offerings for the last four weeks. But we still need more people to come forward to assist your/our faith community, I appreciate and am grateful to your donations, small or big.

\* Hope you are able to get connected to each other in spirit and prayer, primarily by watching the Sunday Masses, and other devotional and liturgical programs on our parish website through Face Book. I wish to place on record the services done by Ted Luthin, our website manager, and his wife and daughter. I thank also others who have been directly and indirectly helping in these programs, to mention a few, namely Joe Conway, Ella Rozett, Mary & Patrick Griffith, Janis Wilson and Fran Osegueda. Pray, Stay home and Stay healthy!

\*I am eagerly waiting to visit you and your homes as soon as all restrictions are lifted up. If you are interested and are ready to welcome me, please call the office by leaving your name, phone number and address. I will visit you with newly blessed Holy Water, with the Sacred Hosts, and the kit of Anointing of the Sick. I will present this to our Liturgy Committee who can find the Ministers of Holy Communion to form a team of two, call the homes or the individuals and visit such to conduct a simple prayer and distribute Holy Communion.

**During the current church closure and concomitant lack of Holy Communion for a congregation, here is the suggested prayer of *Spiritual Communion* recommended for home use:**

“Jesus, really present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar, since I cannot now receive thee under the sacramental veil, I beseech thee, with a heart full of love and longing, to come spiritually into my soul through the Immaculate Heart of thy most Holy Mother, and to abide with me, thou in me, and I in thee, in time and in eternity. Amen.”

## Seventh Theme of Catholic Social Teaching: CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

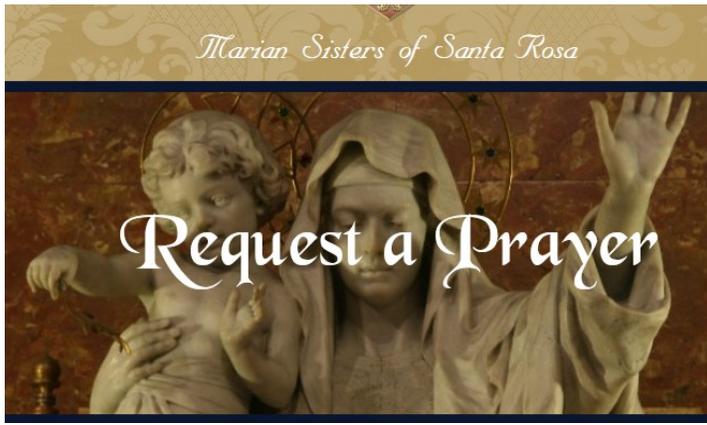


Changes in lifestyle based on traditional moral virtues can ease the way to a sustainable and equitable world economy in which

sacrifice will no longer be an unpopular concept. For many of us, a life less focused on material gain may remind us that we are more than what we have. Rejecting the false promises of excessive or conspicuous consumption can even allow more time for family, friends, and civic responsibilities. A renewed sense of sacrifice and restraint could make an essential contribution to addressing global climate change. (*United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, [Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good](#)*)

Equally worrying is *the ecological question* which accompanies the problem of consumerism and which is closely connected to it. In his desire to have and to enjoy rather than to be and to grow, man consumes the resources of the earth and his own life in an excessive and disordered way. . . . Man, who discovers his capacity to transform and in a certain sense create the world through his own work, forgets that this is always based on God's prior and original gift of the things that are. Man thinks that he can make arbitrary use of the earth, subjecting it without restraint to his will, as though it did not have its own requisites and a prior God-given purpose, which man can indeed develop but must not betray. Instead of carrying out his role as a co-operator with God in the work of creation, man sets himself up in place of God and thus ends up provoking a rebellion on the part of nature, which is more tyrannized than governed by him. (*St. John Paul II, On the Hundredth Year [\[Centesimus Annus . . .\]](#), no. 37*)

The dominion granted to man by the Creator is not an absolute power, nor can one speak of a freedom to "use and misuse," or to dispose of things as one pleases. The limitation imposed from the beginning by the Creator himself and expressed symbolically by the prohibition not to "eat of the fruit of the tree" (cf. Gen 2:16-17) shows clearly enough that, when it comes to the natural world, we are subject not only to biological laws but also to moral ones, which cannot be violated with impunity. A true concept of development cannot ignore the use of the elements of nature, the renewability of resources and the consequences of haphazard industrialization - three considerations which alert our consciences to the moral dimension of development. (*St. John Paul II, On Social Concerns [\[Sollicitudo rei Socialis . . .\]](#), no. 34*).



<http://www.mariansisters.com/request-a-prayer.html>

### Of doors and butterflies

Back in the autumn of 1956 an elderly cousin informed me that I had relatives living in Baltimore whom I never knew. So upon completing a Sunday pastoral assignment in South Jersey, I interrupted my trip back to the seminary in Washington to visit them. It turned out to be a family of eight children ranging from 16 to 5 (two sets of twins!). And their reception was overwhelming, so much youth. They were poor – the best dinner they could come up with was hot dogs and baked beans. But it was an exhilarating discovery. I finally had family within an hour's reach.

Nor was it long before – among them – I acquired a taste for rock n roll – a music I detested until hearing so much of it among these kids – myself being brought up on the swing style and ballads of earlier years. One piece that I retain in memory is the Jim Lowe performance of *Green Door*. As with such music the lyrics get lost in the bedlam and dialect of its rendition – but they do set up an intelligible episode in which a listener can participate.

*In this case the vocalist speaks of being unable to sleep night after night because there's an old piano playing hot behind a green door. He'd like to know what's going on behind that green door: wish they'd let me in . . . knocked once, tried to tell them I'd been there [a lie] – door slammed, hospitality's thin there – wonder just what's going on in there. He hears laughing behind the green door . . . wants to join the happy crowd. Midnight . . . watching till the morning comes creeping – Green door, what's that secret you're keeping. [During Prohibition a green door signaled a speakeasy.]*



Jesus says in today's Gospel: *I am the door*. The evangelist uses the Greek word *Θύρα*. Our Catholic text translates it "gate" but other translations of the Gospel prefer "door." So Jesus, too, like the Green Door of the song, presents himself to us as a portal that entices us to awake from that *midnight sleep* that too often leaves us bereft of all the rich, deep stuff we can get out of life – the experiences that amount to our birthing into ever new, gracious, caring, astonishing consciousness and vitality.

When do we experience Christ as a door? Possibly every day of our lives – as when a situation challenges us to say or do something generous; or as when we open up to a poem that catches not only our eye but our heart; or when events occur that make us think twice about the way we have been living. Doors open and a vista appears that makes life more meaningful or more curious - ourselves more energized than before.

As I mentioned last week, this is the anniversary of my son's death years ago. We used to remember him by climbing Corona Heights in the city, whose view he liked so much. Once upon climbing with Jane along a rough, steep path, Jane exclaimed: "Oh! Look: a butterfly!" I looked down and saw nothing – pebbles, a stick . . . "I don't see anything," I replied. And then the "stick" opened its wings – a monarch in all its glory.

*Doors, butterfly wings - openings upon a world we have yet to discover – even at this late date in history.*

**--Geoff Wood, 5/3/2020**

### **RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for APRIL 2020**

One could hear the expressions of appreciation among recipient families and volunteers as we conducted our first COVID19 drive through food distribution on April 14 in the St Philip Church parking lot. Donning masks and gloves to protect the safety of all, volunteers welcomed 112 families (23 first time at our distribution): 135 adults, 40 children, and 37 seniors for a total of 112 people. We will maintain our use of social distancing, hand sanitizer, gloves, and masks as indicated 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.

**Thank you for your donations as we strive to meet the nutritional needs of all attendees at our distributions.**

### **RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**Saturday, May 9,** from 9:00 --10:00am repackaging -- Parish Hall

**Monday, May 11,** from 10:00 – 12:00pm to set up the Parish Hall

**Tuesday, May 12,** from 8:30 – 11:00am to distribute the food and assist clients.