

**Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 14, 2021**

Heaven and earth
will pass away,
but my words
will not pass away.

— Mark 13:31

GOD'S REIGN

By pointing to the end times, today's readings speak to the coming reign of God, when God will make all things new. In Christ, this time has already begun. We, by our energized watchfulness, can further God's reign. We can heal broken hearts, free captives, spread the Good News. Even so, the reign of God will not be complete without the second coming of Christ. Our weekly eucharistic gathering is a sign of the fullness of the end times. At Mass we join as an assembly to recall and to claim the story of Jesus as our own. Together we give thanks to God for the many gifts bestowed upon us. We receive nourishment in the simple but profound meal. And our weak and weary selves are invigorated and transformed by the power of Christ, so that we ourselves might become effective signs of God's reign present and to come.

-J. S. Paluch Co.

FEAST OF FAITH

Blessing and Dismissal

At the beginning of Mass, the priest made the sign of the cross with us. At the conclusion of Mass, he makes the sign of the cross over us, a sign of blessing. We are then dismissed—not just let out, but sent forth with a mission “to love and serve the Lord.” Just as Jesus blessed his disciples as he ascended to heaven, so this leave-taking is joined to a blessing, a prayer for God's continuing protection. As we leave the church, we bear the invisible sign of the Master whom we follow. In the words of an ancient letter to Diognetus, “Christians are indistinguishable from other [people] either by nationality, language, or customs. They do not inhabit separate cities of their own, or speak a strange dialect, or follow an outlandish way of life. . . . And yet, there is something extraordinary about their lives” (*Liturgy of the Hours*, Vol. II, p. 840). We are ordinary people sent forth to live extraordinary lives, lives like Christ's own life—pouring ourselves out for others in prayer, service, and love.

-Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158; Lk 18:35-43
 Tuesday: 2 Mc 6:18-31; Ps 3:2-7; Lk 19:1-10
 Wednesday: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b, 15; Lk 19:11-28
 Thursday: 1 Mc 2:15-29; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Lk 19:41-44
 Friday: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; 1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11-12; Lk 19:45-48
 Saturday: 1 Mc 6:1-13; Ps 9:2-4, 6, 16, 19; Lk 20:27-40
 Sunday: Dn 7:13-14; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Rv 1:5-8; Jn 18:33b-37

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: St. Albert the Great
 Tuesday: St. Margaret of Scotland; St. Gertrude
 Wednesday: St. Elizabeth of Hungary
 Thursday: Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss. Peter and Paul; St. Rose Philippine Duchesne
 Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

HOPE

If you do not hope, you will not find what is beyond your hopes. -St. Clement

Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated! For the month of **October** offerings: PLEASE put in Mass collection box or mail to St. Philip/St. Teresa Parish, P. O. Box 339, Occidental CA 95465. Or donate at our website www.stphilipstteresa.org via Paypal or card. Please include your offering envelope # [if you have one] with your donation. Bless you!



11/7: summary provided soon.

11/14: *Capital Expenditures.* 11/21: *Cath. Comm./Cath. U. of Amer.*

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: Tues., 11/16/21 at 4pm on Zoom
Finance Council [FC]: TBA
Liturgy Committee [LC]: TBA
St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044
St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

11/13 Sat. 5pm Mass for Papke family special intention
 11/14 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Denis & Josephine Poynter
 11/14 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Lodavico & Sabina Del Curto and the Del Curto family
 11/14 Sun. 11:15am Mass for the People
 11/20 Sat. 5pm Mass
 11/21 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer
 11/21 Sun. 9:30am Mass for the People
 11/21 Sun. 11:15am Mass ✠ Al Gerhardt

Prayer Requests: Please leave a 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., 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., Chuck, Rebecca A., April K., Jacinta G., Leo A., Ed C. family, Kathy R., Donna W., Jim K., 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.

Mission San Carlos Borromeo De Carmelo (link)



(the California missions are featured in our current bulletins)

Our Current Parish Mass Schedule:

St. Philip, Occidental: 8am & 11:15am Sun.; 9am Wed. & Fri.
 St. Teresa, Bodega: 5pm Sat.; 9:30am Sun.; 9am Tues. & Thurs.
 Note: Please continue to wear a mask in church. Thank you.

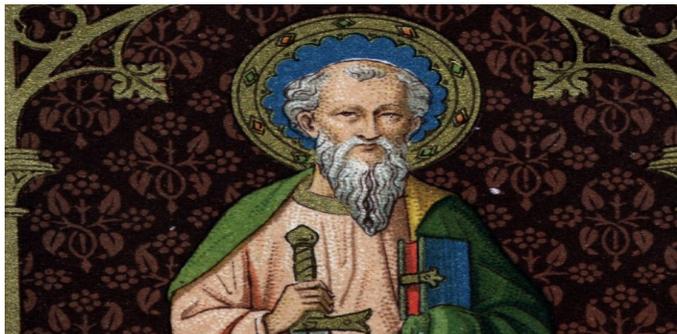
RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for November 2021

Heavy rain and wind did not deter our dedicated volunteers from providing bags and bags of proteins, cheeses, fresh milk, eggs and warm socks at this month's Rural Food distribution. On Tuesday, November 9, 54 families (138 individuals) received nutritional support during our distribution at the St Philips Parking lot and parish hall. Star Child sign-ups were completed for our traditional December distribution of toys, clothes or gift certificates for children in the parish. In December, we will continue our tradition of providing each family with enough blankets, scarves or hats for each member of the family.

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.

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, December 11, 9-10:00am** repackaging; **Monday, December 13, 9:00 – 11:00am** set up and **Tuesday, December 14, 7:30 – 11:00am** to distribute food to clients.



[Not to blame: Saint Paul, circa 60AD](#) (Getty Images)

I am amazed that you are so quickly forsaking the one who called you - by grace - for a different gospel (not that there is another). Galatians 1: 6-7)

The *Letter to the Galatians* is a bombshell. The Apostle Paul is angry. Having passed through Galatia during his journeys sharing the good news of the Jesus event, he had relieved many a Galatian along with the local Jews of their fear of God and the future and hereafter . . . free of their prior and constant worry that if you didn't do this and that, pay this tithe, make this sacrifice, carry this amulet, keep your proper place within the required segregations of the human race . . . – in a word: if you didn't trust in the absolute graciousness of the Maker of this universe, proclaimed and manifest in Christ, releasing the human race to become finally full of grace itself in the image of its Maker, you were backtracking into the perpetual conflict that arises out of perpetual malaise – missing the aim of your existence.

And what had happened? Proponents of the better effectiveness of *fear* to compel people to stay in line followed Paul into town – scaring his converts back into their prior worries – insisting they pick up the tools of ignorance that insecurity generates (as in more modern times guns as much as fetishes). So that Paul rants: *O stupid Galatians! Who has bewitched you . . . Are you so stupid? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh? . . . how can you turn back again to the weak and destitute elemental powers* (which is a way of saying elementary school when it comes to religion?).

Indeed we should be grateful that the early Church preserved these challenges of Paul even as it in some ways allowed things to go elementary again itself. Hence the need for Councils like Vatican II.

But I only bring all this up because this week I came across a lecture by a well educated (Princeton Theological Seminary!) minister in which he appeals to this *Letter to the Galatians* to protest against the efforts of the medical and public establishment encouraging people to get vaccinated! I would wager that St. Paul wouldn't even know what the word means – that medical issues were not on his mind but ailments much more profound. Nevertheless this fellow lines things up like this – within the playing field of Paul's long ago letter. On the one side you have (in the role of the Pharisees) governments aggressively pushing COVID vaccine, instituting vaccine mandates and passports, segregating the unvaccinated as “deplorables” – outcasts. Doctors and other health professionals are the new “priests” imposing complex laws in authoritarian ways . . . with religious zeal, creating the “cult of covid” – a civil religion.

On the other hand you have the “Galatians” – the “true Christians” whom Paul is portrayed as warning: “don't succumb to those doctors, those vaccination requirements – maintain your freedom and trust (and here is where Jesus gets dragged into it not too subtly) in the Lord who set you free. This seems to be a case of forcing the right foot to fit the wrong shoe. And so it goes down through history: counterpunching in front of a mirror wherein your right *appears to become* your left and your left, your right. Nor will it ever end - nor maybe should it? It may pretend to be theology but it's really “politics”.

--Geoff Wood, 11/7/2021

Parish Memo from Liturgy Committee:

In our ongoing efforts to keep our parishioners safe, we would like to clarify our decision to bring music, which enriches the Mass, back into the parish.

We have brought in special “Singer's Masks” for our cantors which are designed specifically to help contain droplets while providing comfort and space while singing.

We have reduced the number of hymns and Mass parts that are sung. We ask that you *do not* join in the singing of the Processional hymn, nor the Gloria, *but maybe sing this quietly to yourself*.

We will announce and ask you to join in the Recessional hymn if you are comfortable doing so. If not, we will allow a moment for you to leave at the end of Mass before beginning the hymn. As things change during this pandemic, we will also make changes, as appropriate.



Photo by [Elia Pellegrini](#) on [Unsplash](#)

What lack can you offer up to God?

by [Louisa Florentin](#)

“This is literally all I have left. Beyond this, I have nothing else to give or receive.”

That’s what I would have said if I were the widow in the Gospel reading. I would have probably hesitated to give my two small coins to the treasury. I would have held onto those coins as tightly as I could, fearing that I would lose the only two things that were still mine. Maybe I would have even compared my offering to the larger offerings given by the rich people, which could have prevented me from giving anything at all.

But that is the exact opposite of what Jesus asks of us. These readings remind us to give, not just what we can, not just what we’re comfortable parting from, **but to give our all to God**. Even when we think we don’t have enough, we must give what we lack so that God can complete and fulfill it. Beyond just monetary offerings, our God desires for us to **give every piece of our heart to Him**.

He is a God of abundance. What we lack is what He abounds in, and His strength is made perfect in our weakness. He replenishes our jars of flour and jugs of oil, He sustains the fatherless and the widowed, and He welcomes the poor in spirit into His Kingdom.

What “two small coins” do you have left to give?

When we return to the image of the widow and her two small coins, what comes to mind? If you were in her shoes, what two small coins would you be offering up to the treasury? Are there any areas in your life where there is lack? Is there anything you’re holding onto that you can give to God?

Perhaps you’re on the brink of burnout and need to surrender your struggles to the Lord. Maybe you’re running low on patience and need to ask for God’s grace to replenish you. Or maybe there’s a wound you’re keeping from Jesus’ healing hand.

Whatever it is, however filled your jug of flour or jug of oil is, know that **it will never go empty when you offer it up to the Lord**. Because extending your hand to give also opens it up to receive.

Below are some practical ways we can allow Jesus to replenish our lack:

Go to Adoration: Sometimes we just need some silence. If it’s uncomfortable at first, try going for a few minutes and try to stay longer with each new visit. Even if it’s just for 5 minutes, taking the time to re-centre your heart to Christ uplifts the spirit and restores your peace.

Attend daily Mass: Let’s strive to be more than just Sunday Catholics! If this isn’t already a regular routine for you, try to go to daily Mass before Sunday. It doesn’t have to be every day, though that’s a beautiful goal to aim for. Going to daily Mass even just once a week or month can still radically change your life. Why wait

for Sunday to have your jug refilled when you can also have it replenished an additional day in the week?

Serve others: St. Teresa of Kolkata said it best when she said, **“I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love.”** Whether that’s through volunteering, mentoring someone, or doing random acts of kindness, making time to serve others does wonders to the soul. If you’re unsure of where to start, first ask yourself: what brings you joy, what are you good at, and more importantly, how might God be asking you to give of yourself?

Join us in prayer for the intentions entrusted to us by Pope Francis.

*For November 2021, we join the Holy Father in praying for:
People who suffer from depression*

- ***We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.***

Overwork and work-related stress cause many people to experience extreme exhaustion — mental, emotional, affective, and physical exhaustion. Sadness, apathy, and spiritual tiredness end up dominating people’s lives, who are overloaded due to the rhythm of life today.

Let us try to be close to those who are exhausted, to those who are desperate, without hope. Often, we should just simply listen in silence, because we cannot go and tell someone, “No, life’s not like that. Listen to me, I’ll give you the solution.” There’s no solution.

And besides, let us not forget that, along with the indispensable psychological counseling, which is useful and effective, Jesus’ words also help. It comes to my mind and heart: “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

Let us pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

Daily Offering Prayer

God, our Father, I offer You my day. I offer You my prayers, thoughts, words, actions, joys, and sufferings in union with the Heart of Jesus, who continues to offer Himself in the Eucharist for the salvation of the world. May the Holy Spirit, Who guided Jesus, be my guide and my strength today so that I may witness to your love. With Mary, the mother of our Lord and the Church, I pray for all Apostles of Prayer and for the prayer intentions proposed by the Holy Father this month. Amen.

Traditional Daily Offering of the Apostleship of Prayer

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month.