



**Twenty-eighth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
October 11, 2020**

I can do all things
in him who
strengthens me.

— Philippians 4:13

GOD REVEALED TO THE NATIONS

What wonderful images we have today of the reign of God! Isaiah speaks to us of a great feast—a heavenly feast—a feast of abundance with rich foods and choice wines. It is the Lord's own affair, Isaiah explains, when God will unite all nations, dry every tear, and destroy death forever. Then, too, will the entire earth rejoice in the Lord and bask in God's saving grace.

Jesus speaks of heaven in terms of a feast as well. Here, the kingdom of heaven is likened to a king's wedding feast given for his son. This is a feast of abundance also, with the fattened cattle prepared just so. But many of the people invited don't want to come, so the king invites anyone who would honor his son by their presence there. And Paul tells us that whether we live abundantly or in humble circumstances, we can do all things in the Lord who strengthens us.

--J. S. Paluch Co.

**SAINT TERESA OF JESUS (1515-1582)
October 15**

Let nothing disturb you; let nothing frighten you. Gifted with a passionate spirit, young Teresa dreamed of converting Muslims and becoming a martyr. *All things are passing; God never changes.* But her mother's death when Teresa was fourteen inspired lifelong devotion to Our Lady, and Teresa entered the Carmelites, Mary's order, despite her father's objections and her own fragile health. *Patience gains everything.* Initially, she enjoyed her lax convent's sociability and "busyness," but mystical prayer and John of the Cross's collaboration inspired her to reform the Carmelites. *Whoever has God, lacks nothing.* When her ideals encountered resistance and brought suffering, she maintained her peace—and humor. Discovered devouring leftovers, she told her mildly scandalized nuns, "When I fast, I fast! When I eat, I eat!" To nuns demanding less work and more prayer in the convent schedule, she retorted: "What we really need around here are fewer starry eyes and more strong arms!" *God alone is enough!* The italicized sentences here are her "Breviary Bookmark," the simple, profound prayer of Teresa, the first woman Doctor of the Church.

-Peter Scagnelli, ©J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31 — 5:1; Ps 113:1b-5a, 6-7; Lk 11:29-32
 Tuesday: Gal 5:1-6; Ps 119:41, 43-45, 47-48; Lk 11:37-41
 Wednesday: Gal 5:18-25; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 11:42-46
 Thursday: Eph 1:1-10; Ps 98:1-6; Lk 11:47-54
 Friday: Eph 1:11-14; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 12-13; Lk 12:1-7
 Saturday: Eph 1:15-23; Ps 8:2-3ab, 4-7; Lk 12:8-12
 Sunday: Is 45:1, 4-6; Ps 96:1, 3-5, 7-10; 1 Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21

REPENTANCE

Of all
human acts,
repentance is
most divine.

—Thomas Carlyle



Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

For the month of **October** offerings:

PLEASE 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. *Include your offering envelope # with your donation.*

In Sept.: 1st Collections: \$5752. Rural Food: \$1970.

Add'l Op: \$3763. Cap. Ex: 605

10/11: Capital Expenditures. 10/18: World Mission Sunday.

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: TBA Zoom

Finance Council [FC]: TBA Zoom

Liturgy Committee: TBA Zoom

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

All Mass Intentions requested before Covid-19 mid-March closure are now being rescheduled for Sunday outdoor Masses. New requests will be appended to later in the calendar.

- 10/11 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer
- 10/11 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Bob Tiller
- 10/18 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Jimmy Newlands
- 10/18 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Brendan Smith

Prayer Requests: 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., 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., Marie N., Christine, James, Pat P., Dennis M., Art

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Monday: Columbus Day
- Wednesday: St. Callistus I
- Thursday: St. Teresa of Jesus
- Friday: St. Hedwig; St. Margaret Mary Alacoque
- Saturday: St. Ignatius of Antioch

"Reflections on the Liturgy" Each week, parishioner Patrick Griffith writes one or more reflections on Scripture, including the Liturgy for the coming Sunday. The objectives are to tie Scripture into our daily lives and address spiritual and moral issues of the world around us. The reflections can be found at <http://thesoulprosper.blogspot.com>. Selected reflections have also been recorded and posted on our website.

ACTION

What I began by reading
I must finish by acting.

—Henry David Thoreau





Deacon-structing Angels: What Does the Bible Say?

by [Deacon Pedro](#) from [saltandlighttv.org](#)

A few months ago I received a message from a reader, asking that we deacon-struct angels. I've been thinking about it since and waiting for the right time. Since the Feast of the Archangels is coming up on September 29 and October 2 is the Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels, I thought this would be the perfect time to learn something new.

And it is new, at least for me.

It turns out the Church has been celebrating guardian angels since the 16th century and observing the Feast of the Archangels, also known as Michaelmas (more on that next week), since the 5th century.

But I can't think of angels without thinking of Sarah McLaglan's song "Angel", Real Life's "Send Me an Angel", or the Christmas classic by Alabama, "Angels Among Us". And who did not love sitting once a week in front of the TV for *Highway to Heaven* with Michael Landon or *Touched by an Angel* with Roma Downey? Then there are all those fun films about angels: *Angels in the Outfield*, *All Dogs Go to Heaven*, *City of Angels*, and *Heaven Can Wait*.

And, who doesn't love the most famous of all fictional angels, Clarence, from the classic *It's a Wonderful Life*?

Angels are so ingrained in our popular culture that I never really thought of how integral they are to our Catholic doctrine.

Did you know that believing in angels is doctrinal? It is one of the truths of our Faith. Remember when we spoke about [doctrine](#) we spoke about divinely revealed truths?

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says:

The existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls "angels" is a truth of faith. The witness of Scripture is as clear as the unanimity of Tradition. (CCC #328)

For me this was a new revelation. We are so used to reading about angels in Scripture that I never really thought that these mentions in the Bible actually constitute divine revelation that angels are real. Jesus didn't need to explicitly say, "Angels are real," for us to glean from Scripture that they very much are.

Angels have been around since creation and throughout salvation history (see CCC #332).

The most famous angel in the Bible is probably Gabriel, "God is my strength". He announces to Zechariah that Elizabeth will give birth to John the Baptist (Luke 1:8-20) and to Mary that

she will be the mother of the Messiah (Luke 1:26-38). Did you know that he also appears in Daniel (8:16 and 9:21)? The other two archangels mentioned by name in Scripture are Michael, "One who is like God" (Daniel 10:13, 10:21, and 12:1, Jude 1:9, Revelation 12), and Raphael, "God has healed", who appears in a very prominent role in the Book of Tobit.

Angels appear in the Old Testament many times. Some more notable ones are:

- Protecting the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:24)
- Comforting Hagar (Genesis 16:7-10)
- Appearing to Lot (Genesis 19)
- Going up and down a ladder in Jacob's dream (Genesis 28:10-12)
- Bringing Elijah food (1 Kings 19)
- In Isaiah's vision (Isaiah 6:1-7)
- In Ezekiel's vision (Ezekiel 1 and 10)
- With the three men in the furnace (Daniel 3:25-28)
- With Daniel in the lion's den (Daniel 6:19-22)

They are also mentioned many times in the Old Testament: See Exodus 23:20-22, 2 Samuel 14:17, Wisdom 16:20, Daniel 3:58, Job 38:7, and Job 4:15-18, as well as Psalm 34:8, Psalm 78:25, Psalm 78:49, Psalm 91:11, Psalm 103:20, Psalm 138:1, and Psalm 148:2.

They also have prominent roles in the New Testament:

- Appearing to Joseph in dreams (Matthew 1:20-21, 2:13, and 2:19)
- Announcing the birth of the Messiah to the shepherds (Luke 2:14)
- Ministering to Christ in the desert (Matthew 4:11, Mark 1:13) and in the garden (Luke 22:43)
- Announcing the Resurrection (Matthew 28: 2-7, Mark 16:5-7, John 20:12, Luke 24:4-8 and 23)
- After the Ascension (Acts 1:10-11)
- Freeing Peter from jail (Acts 12:7-11)
- In John's vision (Revelation 4:8, 5:11-12, 7:1-11, 8:1-13, 9:14-15, 12:7-9, 14:10, 15:1-8, 16:1, 17:1, 21:9-12)

Jesus himself mentions angels many times in casual conversation:

- Matthew 13:39-49, 16:27, 18:10, 22:30, 24:31-36, 25:31, 26:53
- Mark 8:38, 12:25, 13:27-32
- Luke 9:26, 12:8-9, 15:10, 16:22, 20:36
- John 1:51.

They are also mentioned quite casually by Stephen (Acts 7:53), and Paul uses the belief in angels very cleverly in arguing the resurrection (Acts 23:8). St. Paul also mentions angels many other times: See Romans 8:38, 1 Corinthians 4:9, 1 Corinthians 6:3, Galatians 3:19, Colossians 2:18, 2 Thessalonians 1:7, 1 Timothy 3:16, and 1 Timothy 5:21. The author of Hebrews mentions angels at least four times (Hebrews 1:4-13, 2:2-16, 12:22, and 13:1-2), as does Peter in his letters (1 Peter 1:12 and 3:22, and 2 Peter 2:4 and 2:11) and Jude as well (Jude 1:6).

It's safe to say that the Bible presents a worldview where angels are very much a reality.

St. Paul writes to the Colossians that in Christ “*all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him*” (Colossians 1:16).

This reality is also expressed in the Nicene Creed where we profess that we believe that God is the “*maker of heaven and earth,*

of all things visible and invisible” (see CCC # 325-327).

Indeed we believe that angels are real. They are mostly unseen invisible creatures, created by God, through Christ and for Christ.

The Catechism says, “*The angels surround Christ their Lord. They serve him especially in the accomplishment of his saving mission to men*” (CCC #351) and “*The Church venerates the angels who help her on her earthly pilgrimage and protect every human being*” (CCC# 352).

Come back [next week](#) and let's look more specifically at the work of angels.



Every week, Deacon Pedro takes a particular topic apart, not so much to explore or explain the subject to its fullness, but rather to provide insights that will deepen our understanding of the subject. And don't worry, at the end of the day he always puts

the pieces back together. There are no limits to deconstructing: Write to him and ask any questions about the faith or Church teaching: pedro@saltandlighttv.org. Follow him on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2020

Many thanks for the very generous donations from friends and parishioners to support our blanket drive this year. We will be distributing blankets to our Rural Food clients as the weather gets colder.

On Tuesday, Sept 8, under very smoky skies Rural Food volunteers distributed food to fifty one families. Less than our usual number of attendees, we think of those who are impacted by poor air quality and fire evacuation orders while trying to follow COVID guidelines.

We continue to be very thankful for the use of the Union Hotel facilities to store our dairy products each month. We would not be able to provide fresh milk, cheese, yogurt and butter if we did not have the refrigeration space donated by the Gonnella Family.

This program is funded through the Rural Food Collection each month, private donations and 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: Parish Hall

Saturday, October 10, 9:00-10:00am to repackage

Monday, October 12, [10:00am-12:00pm](#) to set up

Tuesday, October 13, 8:30-11:00am to distribute food to clients

Towards the end he sailed into an extraordinary mildness / And anchored in his home and reached his wife / And rode within the harbor of her hand, . . . // Goodness existed: that was the new knowledge. / His terror had to blow itself quite out / To let him see . . .

// He stood upon the narrow balcony and listened: / And all the stars above him sang as in his childhood / “All is vanity,” but it was not the same; / For now the words descended like the calm of mountains - . . . / Reborn, he cried in exultation and surrender / “The Godhead is broken like bread. We are the pieces.” // And sat down at his desk and wrote a story. (From the poem “Herman Melville” by W.H. Auden)

When we think of time we think of clock time: calendars, years, months, days, birthdays, “how many seconds left in the game before time’s up”. We divide the progress of daylight into numbers from 1 to 12 - and twice over as it passes into night.

We speak of miles per hour, countdowns from initial digits until we reach “one” - then blast off! We boil the spaghetti no more than twelve minutes; scan a dashboard full of “meters”. We are so caught up with our wristwatches that they have become like handcuffs, controlling us instead of us them.

And of course with the advance of science, clock time has been traced way beyond the 6000 years still reckoned by biblical fundamentalists as the age of the earth. Modern science tracks clock time all the way back beyond the dinosaurs to the earth’s origin 4,600,000,000 years ago.

And what about the galaxies, the farthest of which we measure at 9 billion light years away - a light year being the distance light travels at a speed of 186,000 miles per *second*. And we think living to be a hundred is a long time.

All these measurements called “time” are interesting - except, like that mysterious White Whale *Moby Dick* in Herman Melville’s novel, this vast and silent universe can diminish our sense of human importance until, like Captain Ahab, we grapple with it, only to be swallowed up by our frustrations, as by wild fires and viruses. But there is always some one like Ishmael who survives to tell a *story*.

And therein lies our unique humanity: aside from all cold, scientific measurement, as *human* beings we also measure our universe *with our imagination*. We tell stories, write poems, perform plays to make sense of things. Indeed, that’s why things like the Bible exist - whereby we may ponder and articulate the *meaning* of time’s passage, *the meaning* (and not just the *facts*) of life, the accumulation of our past, present and future as *heading somewhere human, personal*.

Like: don’t tell me what time it is; rather tell me what’s been happening to me and where I’m going as someone mysteriously driven by hope, by love, by art, by music - which are after all also *facts* of life.

--Geoff Wood, 10/4/2020