



Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time October 25, 2020

"You shall love the Lord, your God,
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
and with all your mind."

— Matthew 22:37

LIVING JUSTLY

"You give that back right now!" How many of us have heard that line, probably more than once, as we were growing up? We come home with the trophy of what we thought was a really sweet deal, only to have our parents undo our profits by making us return the spoils. They had a different idea of what constituted a "fair trade agreement." Justice in our dealings with others continues to be an important measure of our character, and like a good parent, God cares very much about how we treat each other and about how others treat us. God hears the cry of the poor, and answers the call of the oppressed. God's beloved children are not to behave like bullies.

—J. S. Paluch Co.

SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES October 28

Saint Jude, apostle and . . . Hollywood success story? Indeed! Beyond Simon's being a "Zealot" for Israel's liberation and Jude's question about Jesus revealing himself (John 14:22), no historic facts are known about either saint. But Saint Jude's well-known patronage of lost causes and hopeless cases is largely due to a desperate vow made just before World War II by a struggling entertainer, the son of Arab-American immigrants, Danny Thomas. Unemployed, his wife about to give birth, Danny, attending Mass, impulsively donated his last seven dollars to the collection, promising: "Saint Jude, if you help me find my way in life, I will build a shrine in your honor!" Older Americans remember well Danny's long, successful movie and television career. Grateful parents worldwide know the miracles that have taken place for fifty years at his Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital, where needy children are cared for regardless of race, religion, or financial resources, and monumental advances continue in healing and preventing pediatric cancers and catastrophic childhood diseases. A living, life-giving partnership is this "Communion of Saints": Simon, Jude, Danny Thomas—us!

—Peter Scagnelli, ©J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Eph 4:32 — 5:8; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 13:10-17
 Tuesday: Eph 5:21-33; Ps 128:1-5; Lk 13:18-21
 Wednesday: Eph 2:19-22; Ps 19:2-5; Lk 6:12-16
 Thursday: Eph 6:10-20; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Lk 13:31-35
 Friday: Phil 1:1-11; Ps 111:1-6; Lk 14:1-6
 Saturday: Phil 1:18b-26; Ps 42:2, 3, 5cdef; Lk 14:1, 7-11
 Sunday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; Ps 24:1-6; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12

BORN TO LOVE

We were born to love, we live to love,
and we will die to love still more.

— Joseph Cafasso

CHARACTER

Character is much easier kept than recovered.

— Thomas Paine

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.*

[by Mid-Oct.] 1st collection: \$2902. Rural Food: \$1636. Cap. Exp.: \$1112.

10/25: Rural Food. 11/1: Capital Expenditures.

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 the calendar.

10/25 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Rev. David Shaw

10/25 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Pat Pettibone

11/01 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Dina DeMartini

11/01 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Marcella & Joseph Kiefer

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, Dennis M., Art, Lynn

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wednesday: Ss. Simon and Jude

Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary; Halloween

Daylight Savings ends on Halloween! Turn back clocks Sat. night

PARISH MEMO:

1. On November 2 at 9:30am, an outdoor Mass will be celebrated at Calvary Cemetery in Bodega, in honor of All Souls' Day. Please join us in this annual tradition.

2. Outdoor Services Update: On November 8, the outdoor Mass in Bodega will move to the front steps of St. Teresa's Church. In case of rain or severe weather, outdoor services at both St. Philip's and St. Teresa's will automatically be cancelled.

3. Star Child Program: Although we will not be having Star Child trees this year, you can continue to support this program with cash donations. Starting on October 25, there will be separate collection baskets at the Masses. These will be available until November 29. If you are not able to attend the Masses, you can mail donations designated for Star Child directly to the Parish Office. Thank you for your ongoing support for our Rural Food Program families during these difficult times.

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for October 2020

On Tuesday, 10/13 Rural Food volunteers distributed food to fifty-nine families totaling 110 people including 27 seniors and 23 children. We continue to be very thankful for the use of the Union Hotel facilities to store our dairy products before distribution each month. Fresh eggs donated by Coastal Hill Farm are always a welcome addition to our menu.

We are preparing to distribute more than 120 blankets to our Rural Food families starting in November as the weather turns cooler. Thank you to all who so generously donated to make this goal a reality.

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 in Parish Hall
Saturday, November 7, 9-10:00am repackaging; Monday, November 9, 10:00am – 12:00pm set up; Tuesday, November 10, 8:30 – 11:00am to distribute food to clients.

PASTOR SPEAKS...

All Souls Day Mass & Memorial Masses and Prayer Offerings for the Departed Souls in November 2020

Monday, November 2: 9:30 am All Souls Day Mass at the Calvary Cemetery & Blessing of the graves with Holy Water. That occasion could also be a Traditional Visit to the Cemetery to pray for our own and for all the departed.

“During November, we are called to a special way to remember our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection” (Eucharistic Prayer II). Due to COVID instructions in Sonoma County, we are still restricted to hold Masses and other religious services only outside our churches or hall. So, our Community Masses are held at present on Sundays and some Special Days only. Some of you have been asking me to do Memorial Masses on certain days. Though I am more than happy to do such Masses, I can only do them on any weekday, except Monday, near but not inside our churches. If you cannot be present but still want me to offer prayers or Masses privately for your intentions, especially for the departed souls and throughout the month of November, I will oblige and inform you of the day and time of the Mass so that you can be united with me in spirit and prayer. If you choose to give a monetary offering for such prayer or Mass, you may give it not to me but only as a support to our parish. You may either mail your intentions and Offerings in an envelope to the parish office during the week or drop the envelope into the Collection Box at any of the Sunday Masses.

A Book may be made available on the Sunday table [where] you are checked in[,] so that all those who wish could inscribe the names of their beloved dead who would be remembered in prayer during the month of November.

Father Bala.



Deacon-structuring Angels: Fallen Angels
by [Deacon Pedro](#) from [saltandlighttv.org](#)

[Three weeks ago](#), we started by looking at why the belief in angels is a doctrine of the Catholic Faith. [Two weeks ago](#), we learned about archangels and also about the belief in personal guardian angels...

Which leads us to say a few things about the fallen angels. Our Catholic Tradition also teaches that some angels rebelled against God. Satan, the devil is one of them. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says:

The Church teaches that Satan was at first a good angel, made by God: "The devil and the other demons were indeed created naturally good by God, but they became evil by their own doing." (CCC #391, quoting the Lateran Council IV (1215): DS 800.)

This teaching points to the fact that angels have free will.** However, once their choice to reject God is made, that choice is irrevocable. Quoting St. John Damascene, the Catechism says:

It is the *irrevocable* character of their choice, and not a defect in the infinite divine mercy, that makes the angels' sin unforgivable. "There is no repentance for the angels after their fall, just as there is no repentance for men after death." (CCC#393)

St. Paul writes that there are angels who will be judged (1 Corinthians 6:3) and both 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 1:6 refer to angels who have sinned and await punishment.

So, indeed, Satan, the devil, also known as Lucifer, was created as an angel. Our tradition holds that he was one of the cherubim (see Ezekiel 28: 13-16) but rebelled and took a third of all the angels with him (Revelation 12:4). It is in the Book of Enoch (that I mentioned last week) where the idea of fallen angels is first found, and the belief also exists in both Judaism and Islam. In Christianity, we base the idea on a few passages in Scripture.

In Luke 10:18, Jesus mentions to the disciples that he saw "*Satan falling from heaven*". And in Matthew 25:41, in talking about separating the sheep and the goats, he says that some will be thrown into the eternal fires that are prepared for the devil and his angels.

In the Book of Revelation (as we saw last week), Satan is defeated by Michael and his angels:

Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient

serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. (Revelation 12:7-9)

Both Origen and Tertullian, our Church Fathers, in the 2nd century made the connection between the fallen morning star of Isaiah 14:12 and Satan. Isaiah writes concerning Babylon, but this passage is traditionally understood to be referring to the fall of Satan:

All your pomp has been brought down to the grave, along with the noise of your harps; maggots are spread out beneath you and worms cover you. How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit. (Isaiah 14:11-15)

According to Ezekiel, Satan was created blameless but because of his wickedness and pride, he was thrown down to the earth:

You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. (Ezekiel 28:15-17)

Satan was a guardian cherub who was beautiful, splendid, and wise. But his heart became proud. He desired to make his throne higher than the throne of God and to make himself like God. He was filled with violence and sinned. And so he was driven in disgrace from the mount of God. St. Jerome, in working on the Latin version of the Bible, translated Isaiah's "morning star" as "Lucifer" (*Quomodo cecidisti de caelo, Lucifer, qui mane oriebaris?*) and gave us this name for the leader of the fallen angels.

You can read more about the devil by checking out [Deconstructing the Devil](#).

St. Thomas Aquinas writes that demons are also arranged in a hierarchy similar to angels. But we do not know what that hierarchy is: "There are two cities, that is, two societies, one of the good angels and men, the other of the wicked" (*Summa Theologiae*, First Part, Question 108). In the next question (109), he merely concludes that even if these angels fell from one of the angelic spheres, one cannot conclude that as demons they have the same hierarchy, and since "disorder belongs to evil", therefore "in the bad angels there are no orders".

Demons, just as angels, are real. Just as angels are mentioned in Scripture, so are the devil and demons. In the Lord's Prayer, we ask to be delivered from evil. The Catechism makes clear that, "*In this petition, evil is not an abstraction, but refers to a person, Satan, the Evil One, the angel who opposes God. The devil (diabolos) is the one who 'throws himself across' God's plan and his work of salvation accomplished in Christ*" (CCC#2851). There is a battle for our souls. The devil wants to disrupt God's plan for us.

Spiritual warfare is not something that is taking place up in the Heavens between angels and demons; it is happening right here, right now, for your soul.

St. Paul refers to this when writing to the Ephesians:

Put on the full armour of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armour of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness. (Ephesians 6:11-15)

Perhaps the image of Fred Flintstone with an angel whispering into his right ear, while a demon is whispering into his left ear, is an appropriate one. Demons can lead us astray; angels can light our way. Demons wish us harm; angels wish to protect and defend us. Demons seek to confuse us; angels seek to guide us and steer us towards God's will.

St. Bernard, in a homily for the Feast of Guardian Angels, says:

Even though we are children and have a long, a very long and dangerous way to go, with such protectors what have we to fear? They who keep us in all our ways cannot be overpowered or led astray, much less lead us astray. They are loyal, prudent, powerful. Why then are we afraid? We have only to follow them, stay close to them, and we shall dwell under the protection of God's heaven. (From a sermon on Psalm 91 by St. Bernard of Clairvaux. It appears in the Office of Readings for October 2, the memorial of the Guardian Angels.)

Let's be thankful to God for the gift of angels, his messengers, who surround us and have been given charge over us to guard us in all of our ways (see Psalm 91:11).

[Write to me](#) to tell me about your thoughts and experiences with angels and maybe we can dedicate another post to your angelic stories.

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**The question as to whether angels have free will is addressed by Aquinas. Last week I mentioned that Aquinas concludes that angels have no free will since they exist only "to do the will of God". However, when he contemplates on the reality of demons or fallen angels, he has to consider that, at least once, these angels had free will in order to choose to reject God. One possibility is that at the moment of creation, angels have the ability to choose, but once that choice is made, it is irrevocable. Another possibility is that angels do have free will, but even if their will is free, once they have chosen God and live in His presence, why would they change their minds?



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](#)



October 25, 2020 -
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A reflection by [Fr. Thomas Hoisington](#).

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”

We all know from catechism class that God gave Moses ten commandments. But in the centuries after Moses, Israel became dissatisfied with just these ten. Like children who argue against their parents, the people of Israel nit-picked the Ten Commandments in order to justify themselves and their actions. So the leaders of Israel added smaller and more particular commandments in order to prop up the Ten. By the time of Jesus, the common teaching of the Law of Israel involved 613 commandments.

From the Commandments that deal with “loving our neighbor”, the Jewish scholars of the law produced 14 particular commandments about business practices, 19 about employees, servants and slaves, 36 about courts and judicial procedure, eleven about property rights, seven about criminal law, and 24 about punishment and restitution. Yet that doesn’t exhaust the commands to “love our neighbor”! When you turn to “loving God”, the lists of commandments are even longer, including 33 about the Temple and sacred objects, 46 about idolatry, and 102 about sacrifices and offerings! With 613 commandments, it was easy for the average Jew to lose focus. Jesus wanted to bring a focus to God’s command to love Him first and foremost: *“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment.”*

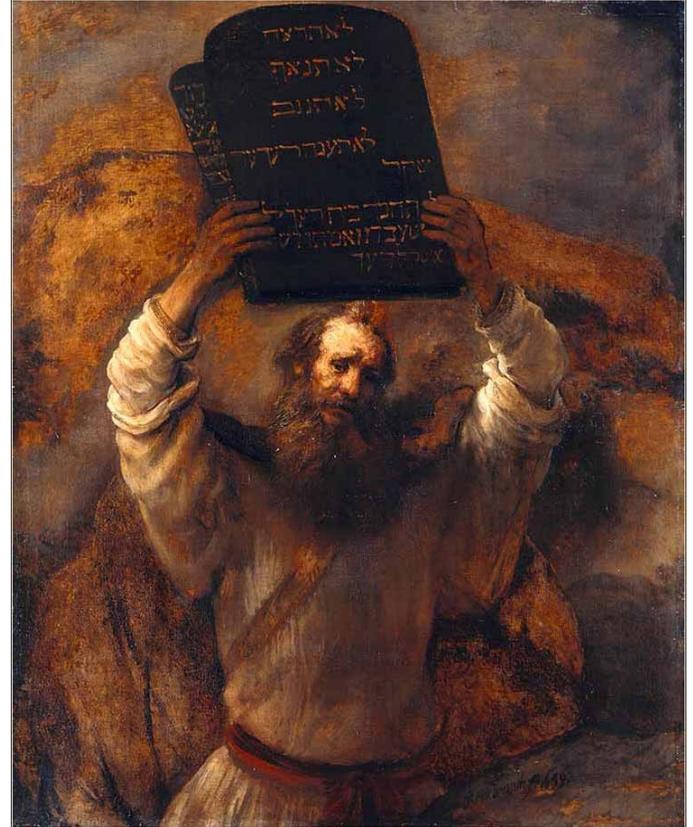
But it’s interesting what happens next. The scholar of the law didn’t ask Jesus which commandment in the law is the second greatest. Yet Jesus tells Him anyway. Maybe you know people who answer your questions like this: you ask them one question, but their answer is the answer to a different question. God is like this in our prayer at times. God always answers our prayers, but He doesn’t always answer in the way we hope. Sometimes His answer doesn’t seem to correspond at all to what we were talking to Him (or maybe at Him) about. However, when God changes the subject of the conversation, maybe it’s better to turn the conversation over to Him and spend more time listening.

In today’s Gospel Reading, when Jesus gives the answer to a question that the scholar didn’t ask, He makes clear that the second-greatest commandment is very important. Reflect for a moment on the Ten Commandments: out of the ten, the first three are about loving your God, and the latter seven are about loving your neighbor. Why are there more than twice as many commands about “loving your neighbor” than there are about “loving your God”? It’s not because loving your neighbor is twice as important as loving your God. More likely, it because loving your neighbor is twice as difficult as loving your God. The English writer G. K. Chesterton once observed that “The Bible tells us to love our neighbours, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people!”

Why is Chesterton right? Why, so often, are our neighbors also our enemies? In this second-greatest commandment, when Jesus commands you to love your neighbor as yourself, He’s not using the word “neighbor” as we might be tempted to do. We, in our fallen human nature, want to shrink the meaning of “neighbor”

to as few people as possible. That’s why Jesus told the Parable of the Good Samaritan: so that His followers would see every human being as their neighbor.

So the second-greatest command is to love every human being as yourself. That’s very daunting. It’s impossible to carry out without divine grace. To love is to follow the Spirit of the law. To love is to fulfill the letter of the law, instead of circumventing its intent. To love is even to go beyond the law, because the law is only a guide pointing in the direction that love will take us. The law isn’t meant to tell us where to stop.



In other Catholic news:

- Oct 19, 2020 by [John Gehring](#)
[As election nears, Black and Latinx Catholics work for political inclusion](#)
- Oct 20, 2020 by [Jennibeth Sabay](#)
[Mission challenges us to accompany the poor in their struggles](#)
- Oct 21, 2020 by [Christopher White](#)
[Pope's latest affirmation of same-sex civil unions hailed as progress by LGBT community](#)