



**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**World Mission Sunday**  
**October 24, 2021**

The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad indeed.

— *Psalm 126:3*

**RECOGNIZING JESUS**

The star of today's Gospel is a panhandler. Bartimaeus is blind, yes, but he is probably also homeless and filthy, a real nuisance to respectable citizens. Even so, it is Bartimaeus who recognizes Jesus as the Messiah, places all his faith in him, throws aside everything he has (his cloak), begs him for mercy, receives new vision, and follows Jesus on the way to suffering and death in Jerusalem. How desperate will we have to get before we can do the same?  
*-J. S. Paluch Co.*

**FEAST OF FAITH**

**The Sound of Communion**

The priest receives Holy Communion, and then there is movement, a bustle of activity, as we prepare to join the Communion procession. This holy meal does not happen in silence! Instead, we sing together even as we rise and move forward in procession to the altar. We must change and move to receive the Eucharist, and fittingly so, since the Eucharist is transformative—it demands action of us, internal as well as external. We do not receive the sacrament in silence, but with a dialogue that is also a profession of faith: "The Body of Christ." "Amen." "The Blood of Christ." "Amen." We acknowledge the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist with our "Amen" of faith, but more, our "Amen" is also a prayer that we may become what we receive, the Body of Christ, living and active in the world. We receive him not that he may become a part of us, but that we may become a part of him—part, too, of all the others who receive him, the whole communion of believers.  
*-Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.*

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

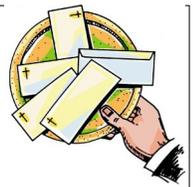
Monday: Rom 8:12-17; Ps 68:2, 4, 6-7ab, 20-21; Lk 13:10-17  
 Tuesday: Rom 8:18-25; Ps 126:1b-6; Lk 13:18-21  
 Wednesday: Rom 8:26-30; Ps 13:4-6; Lk 13:22-30  
 Thursday: Eph 2:19-22; Ps 19:2-5; Lk 6:12-16  
 Friday: Rom 9:1-5; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 14:1-6  
 Saturday: Rom 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29; Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 17-18; Lk 14:1, 7-11  
 Sunday: Dt 6:2-6; Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51; Heb 7:23-28; Mk 12:28b-34

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Sunday: World Mission Sunday  
 Thursday: Ss. Simon and Jude  
 Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

**PARISH MEMO:** On Tuesday, 11/02, All Souls Day, though it is not a Holy Day of Obligation, let us have Mass at 9 am not in Bodega church but at the Calvary Cemetery. After the Mass, while people continue praying, I will bless the cemetery.  
 --Fr. Bala

**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](http://www.stphilipstteresa.org) via Paypal or card. Please include your offering envelope # [if you have one] with your donation. Bless you!



**10/10: 1<sup>st</sup> collection: \$1228. 2<sup>nd</sup> collection: \$325. 10/17: \$1426.**  
*10/24: World Mission Sunday. 10/31: Rural Food.*

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

**Parish Council [PC]:** TBA  
**Finance Council [FC]:** Thurs., 11/11/21, at 3pm on Zoom  
**Liturgy Committee [LC]:** Fri., 11/5/21, at 9:45am in Hall  
**St. Teresa Ladies Guild:** Contact Diane, 823-6044  
**St. Philip Ladies Guild:** Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

**✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule**

10/23 Sat. 5pm Mass ✠ Richard McMahon  
 10/24 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer  
 10/24 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ John Moore  
 10/24 Sun. 11:15 am Mass for the People

10/30 Sat. 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith  
 10/31 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Dina DeMartini  
 10/31 Sun. 9:30am Mass for the People  
 10/31 Sun. 11:15 am Mass

**11/02 Tues. 9am All Souls Day Mass at Bodega Cemetery**

**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., Papke family., Gail F., Marie N., Christine, James G., Gary S., Peter R., Gerry N., Diane K., Janet K., River M.; Nikkie; Mr. C., Michelle, Christian A., Samantha S., Gary E., and for repose of the soul of Claudia Munoz's mother.

**Mission San Miguel Arcangel (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.

## RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for October 2021

Perhaps the Sonoma County Gazette's recent article featuring our Rural Food Program provided information to new families about our program. On Tuesday, October 12, 65 families (140 individuals) received nutritional support during our distribution at the St Philips Parking lot and parish hall. This is a significant increase in attendance.

The brisk and windy weather reminds us that winter will soon be here. We are planning to provide warm socks to all of our families as well as an additional selection of protein in November. In December, we will continue our tradition of providing each family with enough blankets, scarves or hats for each member of the family. We will also participate in the Star Child program.

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 are:** Saturday, November 6, 9-10:00 am repackaging; Monday, November 8, 9:00 – 11:00am set up; and Tuesday, November 9, 7:30a – 11:00am to distribute food to clients.



### Waiting for Godot

[<info link](#)

*Estragon:* Let's go. / *Vladimir:* We can't. / *Estragon:* Why not? / *Vladimir:* We're waiting for

Godot. . . / *Estragon:* And if he doesn't come? / *Vladimir:* We'll come back to-morrow. / *Estragon:* And then the day after to-morrow? / *Vladimir:* Possibly.

Estragon and Vladimir are middle-aged men who in Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* seem to have spent their lives by a rural roadside waiting for this character Godot to arrive. Now we human beings have ever tried to make sense of who we are and what this world is all about. To that end we have produced stories, philosophical systems, scientific theories to explain it all. For many, such explanations may satisfy, but not Beckett. Beckett wonders whether all our myths and theories are games we play to deceive ourselves. From Beckett's point of view - we don't know where we came from nor what value a life can have that must end in death. And yet we still keep waiting for Godot; we retain within us this perpetual expectation for some meaningful answer - which expectation compels even Beckett to keep writing despite his skepticism

Throughout the play Vladimir and Estragon waver between hope and despair and otherwise behave the way we all do during this interval between birth and death. They eat, argue, get involved in long discussions about discrepancies in the Bible.

When a passing blind man collapses in front of them, they discuss endlessly what they should do about it (the way Congress endlessly discusses whether people should be guaranteed health care). Vladimir concludes by saying, *Let us do something, while we have the chance. It is not every day that we are needed . . .* Mutual compassion and assistance are at least a wholesome way to pass the time!

But then there is this boy who twice arrives from off stage to keep their hopes alive. He always comes with a message from Godot, never very elaborate but simply: *Mr. Godot told me to tell you he won't come this evening but surely tomorrow.* And so as the sun sets for the billionth time, they and the human race wait. They may want really to go, to leave this planetary stage they're on, to say to hell with this crazy waiting game called life. Indeed, the play's dialogue ends with Vladimir saying, *Well? Shall we go?* to which Estragon says, *Yes, let's go.* But as the final curtain falls, the stage directions say: *They do not move.* Expectation remains a perpetual human characteristic.

To paraphrase the late George Steiner we live out a Saturday that follows a Good Friday which has taught us about *injustice, of the interminable suffering, of the waste . . . of history and the everyday fabric of our personal lives. We know . . . of the pain, the failure of love, of the solitude which are our history and private fate.* We also know about Sunday . . . *an intimation . . . of resurrection, of a justice and a love that have conquered death . . . We look to resolutions, be they therapeutic or political, social or messianic. The lineaments of that Sunday carry the name of hope . . . But ours is a long day's journey of Saturday. Between suffering, aloneness, unutterable waste on the one hand and the dream of liberation on the other.* During which Saturday Godot does sacramentally arrive by way of every liturgy we attend and every insight we acquire. And so we do move after all.

--Geoff Wood, 10/17/2021

**Parish Notes: 1. There is still need of Volunteers** for various ministries, like Ushers for weekend Masses, Lectors for 11:15am Sunday Mass, and weekend Altar Servers (especially from past groups of children who received First Communion and Confirmation).

**2. Our parish is immensely grateful to Valerie, the bookkeeper, for her committed and free services.** As she expressed her desire to retire completely from her service to our community by the end of December 2021, we are looking for a new bookkeeper to take her position from January 2022... Those who like to volunteer or those who want to be hired for this work may email Fr. Bala: govindu77@gmail.com

**3. Masks are still mandated for use indoors at churches, halls, and other public buildings.** Thank you for your cooperation. At Mass, we will continue singing with masks on.

### **MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR WORLD MISSION DAY 2021**

***"We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard"***

**(Acts 4:20)**

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

Once we experience the power of God's love, and recognize his fatherly presence in our personal and community life, we cannot help but proclaim and share *what we have seen and heard.* Jesus' relationship with his

disciples and his humanity, as revealed to us in the mystery of his Incarnation, Gospel and Paschal Mystery, shows us the extent to which God loves our humanity and makes his own our joys and sufferings, our hopes and our concerns (cf. [Gaudium et Spes](#), 22). Everything about Christ reminds us that he knows well our world and its need for redemption, and calls us to become actively engaged in this mission: "Go therefore to the highways and byways, and invite everyone you find" (*Mt 22:9*). No one is excluded, no one need feel distant or removed from this compassionate love.

*The experience of the Apostles:* The history of evangelization began with the Lord's own passionate desire to call and enter into friendly dialogue with everyone, just as they are (cf. *Jn 15:12-17*). The Apostles are the first to tell us this; they remembered even the day and the hour when they first met him: "It was about four o'clock in the afternoon" (*Jn 1:39*). Experiencing the Lord's friendship, watching him cure the sick, dine with sinners, feed the hungry, draw near to the outcast, touch the unclean, identify with the needy, propose the Beatitudes and teach in a new and authoritative way, left an indelible mark on them, awakening amazement, expansive joy and a profound sense of gratitude. The prophet Jeremiah describes this experience as one of a consuming awareness of the Lord's active presence in our heart, impelling us to mission, regardless of the sacrifices and misunderstandings it may entail (cf. *20:7-9*). Love is always on the move, and inspires us to share a wonderful and hope-filled message: "We have found the Messiah" (*Jn 1:41*).

With Jesus, we too have seen, heard and experienced that things can be different. Even now, he has inaugurated future times, reminding us of an often forgotten dimension of our humanity, namely, that "we were created for a fulfilment that can only be found in love" ([Fratelli Tutti](#), 68). A future that awakens a faith capable of inspiring new initiatives and shaping communities of men and women who, by learning to accept their own frailty and that of others, promote fraternity and social friendship (cf. [ibid.](#), 67). The ecclesial community reveals its splendour whenever it recalls with gratitude that the Lord loved us first (cf. *1 Jn 4:19*). "The loving predilection of the Lord surprises us, and surprise by its very nature cannot be owned or imposed by us... Only in this way can the miracle of gratuitousness, the gratuitous gift of self, blossom. Nor can missionary fervour ever be obtained as a result of reasoning or calculation. To be 'in a state of mission' is a reflection of gratitude" ([Message to the Pontifical Mission Societies](#), 21 May 2020).

Even so, things were not always easy. The first Christians began the life of faith amid hostility and hardship. Experiences of marginalization and imprisonment combined with internal and external struggles that seemed to contradict and even negate what they had seen and heard. Yet, rather than a difficulty or an obstacle leading them to step back or close in on themselves, those experiences impelled them to turn problems, conflicts and difficulties into opportunities for mission. Limitations and obstacles became a privileged occasion for anointing everything and everyone with the Spirit of the Lord. Nothing and no one was to be excluded from the message of liberation.

We have a vivid testimony to all this in the Acts of the Apostles, a book which missionary disciples always have within easy reach. There we read how the fragrance of the Gospel spread as it was preached, awakening the joy that the Spirit alone can bestow. The Book of Acts teaches us to endure hardship by clinging firmly to Christ, in order to grow in the "conviction that God is able to act in any circumstance, even amid apparent setbacks" and in the certainty that "all those who entrust themselves to God will bear good fruit" ([Evangelii Gaudium](#), 279).

The same holds true for us: our own times are not easy. The pandemic has brought to the fore and amplified the pain, the solitude, the poverty and the injustices experienced by so many people. It has unmasked our false sense of security and revealed the brokenness and polarization quietly growing in our midst. Those who are most frail and vulnerable have come to feel even more so. We have experienced discouragement, disillusionment and fatigue; nor have we been immune from a growing negativity that stifles hope. For our part, however, "we do not proclaim ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake" (*2 Cor 4:5*). As a result, in our communities and in our families, we can hear the powerful message of life that echoes in our hearts and proclaims: "He is not here, but has risen (*Lk 24:6*)! This message of hope shatters every form of determinism and, to those who let themselves be touched by it, bestows the freedom and boldness needed to rise up and seek with creativity every possible way to show compassion, the "sacramental" of God's closeness to us, a closeness that abandons no one along the side of the road.

In these days of pandemic, when there is a temptation to disguise and justify indifference and apathy in the name of healthy social distancing, there is urgent need for *the mission of compassion*, which can make that necessary distancing an opportunity for encounter, care and promotion. "What we have seen and heard" (*Acts 4:20*), the mercy we have experienced, can thus become a point of reference and a source of credibility, enabling us to recover a shared passion for building "a community of belonging and solidarity worthy of our time, our energy and our resources" ([Fratelli Tutti](#), 36). The Lord's word daily rescues and saves us from the excuses that can plunge us into the worst kind of skepticism: "Nothing changes, everything stays the same". To those who wonder why they should give up their security, comforts and pleasures if they can see no important result, our answer will always remain the same: "Jesus Christ has triumphed over sin and death and is now almighty. Jesus Christ is truly alive" ([Evangelii Gaudium](#), 275) and wants us to be alive, fraternal, and capable of cherishing and sharing this message of hope. In our present circumstances, there is an urgent need for missionaries of hope who, anointed by the Lord, can provide a prophetic reminder that no one is saved by himself.

Like the Apostles and the first Christians, we too can say with complete conviction: "We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard" (*Acts 4:20*). Everything we have received from the Lord is meant to be put to good use and freely shared with others. Just as the Apostles saw, heard and touched the saving power of Jesus (cf. *1 Jn 1:1-4*), we too can daily touch the sorrowful and glorious flesh of Christ. There we can find the courage to share with everyone we meet a destiny of hope, the sure knowledge that the Lord is ever at our side. As Christians, we cannot keep the Lord to ourselves: the Church's evangelizing mission finds outward fulfilment in the transformation of our world and in the care of creation.

*An invitation to each of us:* The theme of this year's World Mission Day – "We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard" (*Acts 4:20*), is a summons to each of us to "own" and to bring to others what we bear in our hearts. This mission has always been the hallmark of the Church, for "she exists to evangelize" (SAINT PAUL VI, [Evangelii Nuntiandi](#), 14). Our life of faith grows weak, loses its prophetic power and its ability to awaken amazement and gratitude when we become isolated and withdraw into little groups. By its very nature, the life of faith calls for a growing openness to embracing everyone, everywhere. The first Christians, far from yielding to the temptation to become an elite group, were inspired by the Lord and his offer of new life to go out among the nations and to bear witness to what they had seen and heard: the good news that the Kingdom of God is at hand. They did so with the generosity, gratitude and nobility typical of those who sow seeds in the knowledge that others will enjoy the fruit of

their efforts and sacrifice. I like to think that “even those who are most frail, limited and troubled can be missionaries in their own way, for goodness can always be shared, even if it exists alongside many limitations” ([Christus Vivit](#), 239).

On World Mission Day, which we celebrate each year on the penultimate Sunday of October, we recall with gratitude all those men and women who by their testimony of life help us to renew our baptismal commitment to be generous and joyful apostles of the Gospel. Let us remember especially all those who resolutely set out, leaving home and family behind, to bring the Gospel to all those places and people athirst for its saving message.

Contemplating their missionary witness, we are inspired to be courageous ourselves and to beg “the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest” (*Lk* 10:2). We know that the call to mission is not a thing of the past, or a romantic leftover from earlier times. Today too Jesus needs hearts capable of experiencing vocation as a true love story that urges them to go forth to the peripheries of our world as messengers and agents of compassion. He addresses this call to everyone, and in different ways. We can think of the peripheries all around us, in the heart of our cities or our own families. Universal openness to love has a dimension that is not geographical but existential. Always, but especially in these times of pandemic, it is important to grow in our daily ability to widen our circle, to reach out to others who, albeit physically close to us, are not immediately part of our “circle of interests” (cf. [Fratelli Tutti](#), 97). To be on mission is to be willing to think as Christ does, to believe with him that those around us are also my brothers and sisters. May his compassionate love touch our hearts and make us all true missionary disciples.

May Mary, the first missionary disciple, increase in all the baptized the desire to be salt and light in our lands (cf. *Mt* 5:13-14). -- **Franciscus**

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### Deacon-structing World Mission Sunday by [Deacon Pedro](#)

On the second last Sunday of October, the universal Church celebrates World Mission

Sunday. Perhaps some of you are familiar with this day as it is common to have a homily that mentions missions, there may be special intentions prayed for missions and missionaries, and maybe, in some of your parishes, there is also a special collection taken for missions and missionaries.

But perhaps you have never heard of the *Pontifical Mission Societies* and why World Mission Sunday was instituted. I have written many times about missions and have worked on several projects related to missions and specifically with the Pontifical Mission Societies, and so, if you wish to find out more, I encourage you to check out the links at the end of my post today. In brief, Pontifical Mission Societies are official papal associations that exist around the world. In Canada, we have two offices: for [French](#) Canada in Montreal and for [English](#) Canada in Toronto. The societies were instituted in 1922 as “pontifical”, meaning that they are the official missionary arm of the Church that is responsible for the work of evangelization and charitable works. Of course, the societies are also responsible for raising awareness of missions and for raising funds for the poorest mission churches around the world.

There are four [Pontifical Mission Societies](#):

**Propagation of the Faith (SPF):** This is likely the one you’ve heard of the most. It was founded by Venerable Pauline Marie Jaricot, whose beatification will take place in Lyon, France, on May 22, 2022, exactly 200 years from when the society was recognized. It was founded by a group of women who very simply

came together to pray for and send funds to the missions. The aim continues today to help all missions that proclaim the Gospel, through prayer and fundraising to support and continue the work of missionaries in the poorest dioceses of the world.

**St. Peter the Apostle (SPA):** Founded by Jeanne Bigard, its focus is to support the formation of future priests and women and men religious in poor mission countries. Its activity began in 1886 with the goal of encouraging local priestly vocations in mission countries, without which any missionary action would be incomplete. Mainly, its work involves distributing financial aid to support seminaries and novitiates.

**Holy Childhood Association (HCA):** Some of you outside of English Canada will likely have heard of this society. I grew up with “*Infancia Misionera*” in most parishes and some Catholic schools in Latin America. It was formed in 1843 by the Bishop of Nancy in France to help children in other countries who were dying without baptism. After speaking with Pauline Jaricot, the idea of engaging local French children to pray for and donate funds to children in other countries came up. The society’s original motto was “children helping children”. Today, Holy Childhood is present in more than 120 countries, where it supports children’s projects: aid for the education of underprivileged children, the construction of wells or homes for street children, access for children to health care, food, safety, and education.

**Pontifical Missionary Union (PMU):** Founded in 1916 by Blessed Paolo Manna, PIME, a missionary in Burma, its goal at the time and its mission today is to ensure the animation and formation of all the baptized so that they can take part in the mission. This is the society that is responsible for making sure that you and I are formed and educated with a missionary outlook, which, after all, is what it means to be Church.

World Mission Sunday was created in 1926 by Pope Pius XI as a day of prayer for missions and to collect funds for missionaries around the world through the work of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Every year, the Holy Father sends a message for this Sunday. This year’s theme is taken from Acts 4:20: “*We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard.*” In the pope’s message, he reminds us that this is the starting point for the mission. We have to share with others the Good News that we have heard. I am reminded of a wonderful analogy shared with me by a missionary priest in Latin America. He said that any time he hears that someone is travelling to his home country, he is always excited to tell them which restaurant they should go visit. And not only which restaurant, but what to order. This is the essence of the mission that we can all relate to: We discovered this great little restaurant and had an excellent dish and we want everyone to know about it! You can read the Holy Father’s message [here](#).

It is possible that this Sunday, October 24, there will be no mention of missions or missionaries in your parish. That happens. If so, please make a point of saying a small prayer for all those courageous men and women who have taken seriously Christ’s commission to go to all the nations proclaiming his message. If you are able, visit [the website of the Pontifical Mission Societies](#) and make a donation. Your contribution will go a long way to support the missions worldwide.

But more importantly, don’t forget that we are all called to mission: at home, in our schools and workplaces, in our communities – in everything you do, don’t be afraid to speak about what you have seen and heard.