

**Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 10, 2017**

“If two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father.”

— Matthew 18:19

GOD’S WATCHERS

In the ancient world watchmen were extremely important people. They kept communities safe, and were there to alert them to any impending danger or attack. Before locks, alarms, and security systems, watchmen were the protectors, the safety measure. So when the Lord charges Ezekiel as a watchman today, it is a weighty charge. So weighty, we learn, that if Ezekiel fails to sound the alarm for those around him and they perish in a state of wickedness, Ezekiel will be held responsible! This profound connection between God’s will on earth and in heaven is repeated in today’s Gospel, where Jesus instructs us that we are to be the security force, the watchers placed on alert that nowhere in the Body of Christ, the church, will there be any two members of the one Body who are not reconciled. Scripture tells us that Jesus reconciled all things in heaven and on earth through the blood of his cross. But we are given the mission to continue that reconciliation on earth as in heaven through our ceaseless efforts to be, as Paul would write, ambassadors of reconciliation. Let us not get too comfortable thinking that we are responsible only for keeping our own lives from the path of wickedness and disagreement. We are also held accountable for the lives of the members of Christ’s body around us.

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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

On Good Friday, at the heart of the Triduum, the commemoration of the Lord’s Passion is colored by sobriety and decorum, but this Thursday the mystery comes in a luminous celebration of Christ’s victory. In its deepest origins, the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is the feast of a dedication of a church, since in the year 335 the Church of the Holy Sepulchre was dedicated on September 13, and on the following day the “true cross” discovered by St. Helena was brought outside to the faithful for veneration. It is a great feast of the Eastern Church, which often marks it by having the whole assembly prostrate themselves on the floor honoring the life-giving cross.

At the core of the tradition is the quest of Helena, mother of the Emperor Constantine, to acquire the cross and the nails of the Crucifixion from the ruins of Jerusalem. When she was satisfied that she had found them, thanks to the healing of a sick man whose body was placed on the cross, she had her son fund the building of the great basilica. The history of the relic is complicated, especially because it was carried off by invading Persians in the year 614 and “went missing” for fifteen years. Thursday’s feast does not celebrate the relic, but rather the life-giving cross from which salvation flows. It’s a good day to look around your house or office: Don’t those walls look bare without a cross? What better day to remedy that?

--Rev. James Field, © J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Col 1:24 — 2:3; Ps 62:6-7, 9; Lk 6:6-11
- Tuesday: Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1b-2, 8-11; Lk 6:12-19
- Wednesday: Col 3:1-11; Ps 145:2-3, 10-13ab; Lk 6:20-26
- Thursday: Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
- Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; Jn 19:25-27
- Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17; Ps 113:1b-7; Lk 6:43-49
- Sunday: Sir 27:30- 28:9; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

HATE NOT

I will permit no one to narrow and degrade my soul by making me hate them.

—Booker T. Washington

Finance Corner:

Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

Weekly Offering



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For the month of **September** offerings:

9/3: 1st collection: \$2822. Operating Expenses: \$1555.
9/10: Hurricane Harvey Relief. 9/17: Capital Expenditures.

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council: Thurs., 10/12/17, at 10:00AM in Hall

Finance Council: TBA

St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044

St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Susan, 829-1189

Every Friday, Centering Prayer: 9:30 AM at St Philip

Coffee & Goodies: Following 8 AM Sunday Mass and Monday/Wednesday after 9 AM Mass, at St Philip Hall



Mondays & Wednesdays-Seniors Lunch at 12noon:

All seniors welcome! (No lunch Monday before 2nd Tuesday of month)

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

- Sat., September 9, 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith
- Sun., September 10, 8am Mass
- Sun., September 10, 9:30am Mass for the People
- Sun., September 10, 11:15am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer
- Mon., September 11, 9am Mass for the Poor Souls
- Tues., September 12, 9am Mass Jacque Windler
- Wed., September 13, 9am Mass ✠ Tina Bartolo
- Thurs., September 14, 9am Mass Mary O'Donnell
- Fri., September 15, 9am Mass Lynn Young
- Sat., September 16, 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith
- Sun., September 17, 8am Mass for the People
- Sun., September 17, 9:30am Mass Scott Zeller
- Sun., September 17, 11:15am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Tuesday: The Most Holy Name of Mary
- Wednesday: St. John Chrysostom
- Thursday: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- Friday: Our Lady of Sorrows
- Saturday: Ss. Cornelius and Cyprian

PATIENCE

If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow.

—Chinese proverb

Prayer Requests: Call 874-3812 to add or remove names.

Sergio, Gary, Teresa Kooi, Pat Kampmann, Nino S., Pete, Thomas Tolar, Susan Brown, Felicia Gonzalez, Holly White, Kathleen, Jamie Silva, Lorri McCamen, Sarah, Clifford James, Terri Andrews, Marilyn Vitali, Fred Pisani, Theresa Spiteri, Sara, Fr. Sergott, Mary Anne Parque, Dorothy Komarek Denton, Steve, Sr. Marjorie Krusky, Barbara, Kathy Higgins, Dave Creeth, Sheila & Art Hansen, Jim Pearson, Lorrin Kroska, Annie Tobin, Darren and Michael

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for AUGUST 2017

On August 8th we welcomed 108 families representing 149 adults, 58 children, and 35 seniors for a total of 242 people receiving nutritional support. 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.


Even in an area known for its incredibly rich agricultural resources, 36% of households in Sonoma County still go hungry each day. The Sonoma County Hunger Index reported that, even with numerous agencies providing food and support for hungry residents, the meal gap has remained steady for several years. The St. Philip/St. Teresa Rural Food Program has been responding to those in need for over thirty years thanks to the generosity of our volunteers and donors.

Please continue to collect paper grocery bags, especially with handles, and egg cartons. We are looking into biodegradable produce bags and recyclable grocery bags for our clients. Please consider one of the volunteer opportunities listed below. Over 180 St Philip/St Teresa volunteer hours are needed each month to provide this program for our Rural Food families.

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Saturday, Sept. 9,** from 9-10:00am repackaging -- Parish Hall
- Monday, Sept. 11,** from 12:30 – 2:30pm to set up the Parish Hall
- Tuesday, Sept. 12,** from 8:30 – 11:00am to distribute food and assist clients.

Flowers for the Altar during the Year



Flowers for the altar are a spiritual investment for a loved one, to celebrate any occasion, or just to express gratitude for your blessings. Flowers are also a gift to all of us as we enter and see the glorious display around the altar and experience the liturgy framed by such exquisite beauty. We appreciate your donations! To order & contribute toward St. Philip Church flowers, please call Dolores at 874-6072.

Our Parish Picnic is this weekend!
Sunday, September 10
12:30-3:30 pm
Respini Ranch at 11333 Occidental Rd.
Games &, Fellowship!
BBQ, Iced Tea & Fruit Punch provided!

CCD - Parish Religious Education Program

Religious Education classes, K-12, start this week on September 10th but there's still time to enroll the children. You can register by going online to www.stphilipstteresa.org or by calling Director Ella Rozett at 707-874-3397. Children from other parishes are welcome to join our program.

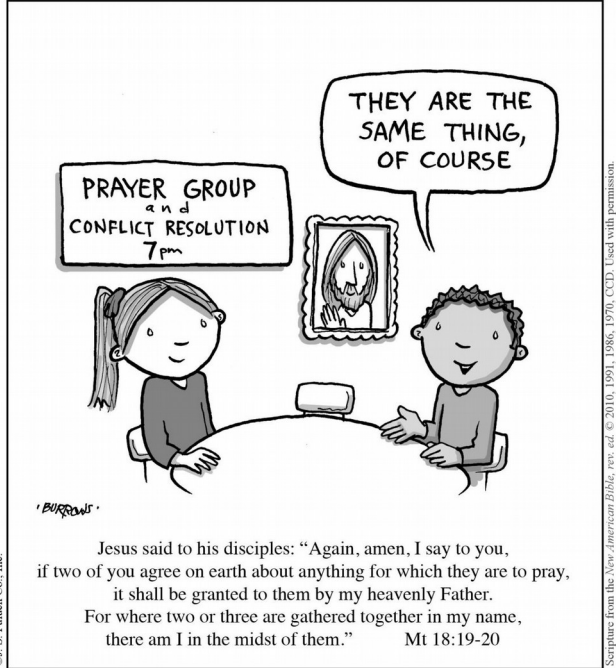
A Mass intention is a beautiful way to remember a beloved friend or family member, whether in death, for healing, in celebration of a special day, or simply for prayer and guidance. Call or come by the office to arrange this. A customary donation of \$10 is appreciated, but not required.

Pope Francis Tweet

“Jesus is present in so many of our brothers and sisters who suffer today like He did.”

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



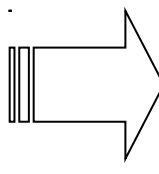
PRAYER GROUP and CONFLICT RESOLUTION 7pm

THEY ARE THE SAME THING, OF COURSE

Jesus said to his disciples: "Again, amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Mt 18:19-20

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Featured Parish Bulletin Advertiser:



Annadel Medical Group
 Office: 707.623.7616
Dr. Greg Rosa & Dr. Stephen Crane
 652 Petaluma Ave., Suite B, Sebastopol
 Hours: **MTWTHF 8AM-7PM**

NOTICE REGARDING ADA IMPROVEMENTS TO OCCIDENTAL & BOHEMIAN HWY.
 From Fall through Spring, Occidental will experience a county construction project that will impact traffic, parking, and pedestrians in areas where work is occurring, including temporary loss of parking plus detours for traffic and pedestrians during weekday business hours.

Exclusive Limited Print of Ansel Adams' original photograph of St. Teresa Church from 1953: All proceeds will support needed restoration of St. Teresa of Avila Mission. Only 500 prints have been printed from Ansel's original negative. Each reprint is individually numbered. Prints are available for a tax deductible donation of \$175. Please contact restoration committee members for your limited print: Peg at 707-867-6073 or Bob at 707-875-9148.

Marriage for Life: Catholic Marriage Preparation
 The next marriage prep date is October 14, 2017. It will take place at St. Mary's Cathedral at Gough & Geary Streets in San Francisco. It is an authorized one-day format and the cost is \$225 per couple. Engaged couples can register online at www.marriageforlifeSF.com. The website has complete information, or just call Connie and Joe at 415-664-8108.

REMINDER: Please do not remove items from the hall without first contacting us for permission, availability, and the necessary sign-out process: 874-3304 or 874-3812.