



Seek the LORD while He may be found;
Call to Him while He is near.

Isaiah 55:6

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 20, 2020

Turn to the LORD for mercy;
to our God, who is generous in forgiving.
— *Isaiah 55:7b*

DIRECTION

Isaiah tells us something that we already know, and yet seem to forget every now and then. He tells us, essentially, that God is God and we are not. When we're confused and troubled and can't figure everything out, it might be wise to recall Isaiah speaking on the Lord's behalf and explaining that God—who is on a much more, well, Godly wavelength than we are—moves in ways we can't even imagine.

Saint Paul, by comparison, has everything figured out. Kind of. At least he understands his calling in life—to magnify Christ in everything he does. That should give all of us the direction we need. Jesus gives us direction, too, explaining to us once again in the parable of the workers in the vineyard that the last will be first, and the first, last.

—J. S. Paluch Co.

SAINT PIUS OF PIETRELCINA (1887-1968) September 23

Did the World War II American flyer really see Padre Pio in midair, preventing the bombing of his village below? Did Pio actually "bilocate" in Italy, the Holy Land, even America, as countless witnesses testified? Or "read hearts" before penitents spoke? What of the *stigmata*, Christ's wounds imprinted on Padre Pio's hands, feet, and side? John Paul II, who as a young man visited Pio, never mentioned these extraordinary elements at the canonization. Instead, the pope spoke of "trials accepted with love," referring perhaps to sanctions restricting Pio's faculties for hearing confessions and celebrating public Mass, imposed because of criticism, later discredited, sent to the Vatican; of Pio's offering his sufferings in union with Jesus' passion for a suffering world; of his continual availability to sinners seeking direction and absolution; of Padre Pio's prayer that blossomed in charity, especially through his House for the Relief of Suffering, a healthcare facility that anticipated by decades today's holistic partnering of medical science and spirituality. Finally, how comforting for us ordinary Christians, this extraordinary saint's most frequent advice: "Pray, hope, and don't worry!"

—Peter Scagnelli, ©J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13
Tuesday: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13; Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44; Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday: Prv 30:5-9; Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163; Lk 9:1-6
Thursday: Eccl 1:2-11; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17bc; Lk 9:7-9
Friday: Eccl 3:1-11; Ps 144:1b, 2abc, 3-4; Lk 9:18-22
Saturday: Eccl 11:9 — 12:8; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17; Lk 9:43b-45
Sunday: Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-9; Phil 2:1-11 [1-5]; Mt 21:28-32

HUMILITY

No human being is too big to be humble, but
some human beings are too small —*Anonymous*

Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

For the month of **September** 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.*



Mid-Sept. 1st Collections: \$3630. Rural Food: \$410. Add Op: \$310.
9/20: *Capital Expenditures.* 9/27: *Rural Food.*

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 2021 calendar.

9/20 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Tina Bartolo

9/20 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Bob Tiller

9/27 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer

9/27 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, Pat P., Dennis M.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: St. Matthew

Tuesday: Autumn begins

Wednesday: St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

Saturday: Ss. Cosmas and Damian; Blessed Virgin Mary

"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.



AUTUMN

Listen! The wind is rising,
and the air is wild with leaves,
We have had our summer
evenings, now for October eves!

--Humbert Wolfe



Gregory the Great; Leo the Great; Nicholas the Great
Do you know why they are considered "great"?

Councils

We've all heard of the Second Vatican Council. You probably have heard of the Councils of Nicaea or Trent. *How many other Church Councils can you name?*

Jerusalem, Constantinople, Ephesus, Chalcedon, Lateran, Vatican I, and Vatican II

Do you know which of these councils takes place in the Acts of the Apostles?

The Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15)

Which Council defined the Doctrine of the Trinity and also gave us one of the Creeds?

The 1st Council of Nicaea

Which Council happened as a response to the Protestant Reformation?

The Council of Trent

[If you want to know more about Councils and Synods, watch my episode of ["Deacon-structuring Synods"](#).]

Deacon-structuring Catholic Basics: History

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

How are you doing with our summer review of Catholic basics? Personally I have been steeped in Scripture. Last week I suddenly got curious about the Book of Judith – I vaguely remembered it but didn't really know the story – so I read it! How about you? Have you learned anything new?

We started [three weeks ago with Scripture](#), and then [two weeks ago, we looked at Liturgy](#). [Last week, we looked at what I call "catechism"](#), which is, I guess, sort of a catch-all for all those things that don't fall into any other category. As I explained, I'm trying to answer the questions off the top of my head. That's the whole point. If I can do it, so can you! We don't have to be scripture scholars, liturgical experts or have memorized the Baltimore Catechism, but it's good to know the basics of our Faith [and thanks to our editor, Kristina, who makes sure that I don't mislead you with wrong information – off the top of my head].

Last week, we spoke about the Works of Mercy. I was able to remember most of the Corporal Works of Mercy but did not try to name the Spiritual Works of Mercy. Do you know them?

Here they are: instruct the ignorant; counsel the doubtful; admonish the sinners; bear patiently those who wrong us; forgive offenses; comfort the afflicted; and pray for the living and the dead.

I promise to memorize them. Will you?

This week, let's look at history. Some of you may be history buffs and know all about the Reformation or the Inquisition. But most of us are probably not. Here are some basics that I think are good know off the top of your head.

Popes

How many popes can you name? Can you at least name the last six popes?

Francis, Benedict XVI, John Paul II, John Paul I, Paul VI, John XXIII

Could you name the first four popes? This one is harder, but we hear the names of the three that followed St. Peter at Mass in Eucharistic Prayer I.

Peter, Linus, Cletus, Clement

(In Eucharistic Prayer I, we also hear the name of Sixtus, but he came two popes after Clement.)

For a bonus: *Do you know how many popes there have been?*

266

Are there other popes you can name? How about the three "great" ones?

Saints

I'm sure you have some favourite saints and that you know their stories.

Some saints founded religious orders. How many can you name?

St. Ignatius: The Society of Jesus (Jesuits)

St. Dominic: The Order of Preachers (Dominicans)

St. Benedict: The Benedictines

St. Francis: The Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans)

Some saints are considered our Church Fathers. Can you name some of them?

(In no particular order) St. Ignatius of Antioch, St. Augustine, St. Ambrose, St. Jerome, St. Cyprian, St. Tertullian, St. John Chrysostom, St. Irenaeus, St. Justin Martyr, St. Basil...

[Kristina, did I miss any important ones? Kristina's answer: I know St. Gregory of Nyssa, St. Gregory Nazianzen, and St. Gregory the Great because [I wrote about them](#) and also about [St. John Damascene](#). Interestingly, however, although Tertullian is a Church Father, he is not a saint.]

Some Saints are named Doctors of the Church. How many can you name?

(Other than the Church Fathers named above, who I also think are named "doctors"):

St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Bonaventure, St. Anselm, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, St. Alphonsus Liguori, St. Francis de Sales, St. Ephrem, St. John of the Cross, St. Robert Bellarmine...

There are also four women Doctors of the Church. I think everyone should know these:

St. Teresa of Avila, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Hildegard of Bingen

How many saints can you name that were martyred?

Here are a few off the top of my head:

St. Peter, St. Paul, (well, all the apostles except John), St. Perpetua, St. Felicity, St. Joan of Arc, St. Justin Martyr (obvious), St. Jean de Brebeuf (and all the North American Martyrs), St. Thomas More, St. Edmund Campion, St. Paul Miki (and all the Martyrs of Japan), St. Oscar Romero... [Note from the editor: And don't forget St. Stephen, the first martyr (sometimes called the Protomartyr, which is basically just

Greek for "first martyr"). And I know you like St. Lawrence, too, because he was a deacon!]

And of course no matter where you live, I bet you are familiar with the saints from your country or region. *For those of you in Canada, how many Canadian saints can you name?*

Marguerite Bourgeoys, André of Montreal, Kateri Tekakwitha, Marguerite D'Youville, Marie of the Incarnation, François de Laval....

Of these, who was the only one actually born in Canada?

Marguerite D'Youville, founder of the Grey Nuns. [Note from the editor: So was André Bessette.]

We also have a few Canadian Blesseds. These were all born in Canada:

Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher, founder of the Sisters of the Holy Name of Jesus and Mary

Blessed Marie-Léonie Paradis, founder of the Little Sisters of the Holy Family

Blessed Dina Bélanger

Blessed Marie-Anne (Esther) Blondin, founder of the Sisters of St. Anne

And, for what it's worth, here are a few Canadian Venerables whose names you may recognize:

Venerable Délia Tétreault, founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

Venerable Jeanne Mance, layperson, founder of the "Hôtel-Dieu" of Québec

For our readers across the border: *How many American saints (who worked and died in the U.S.) can you name?*

St. Marianne Cope, St. Damien de Veuster (of Molokai), St. Katharine Drexel, St. Rose Duchesne, St. John Neumann, St. Elizabeth Seton, St. Junipero Serra, St. Frances Cabrini, Bl. Solanus Casey, Bl. Stanley Rother, Ven. Michael McGivney (to be beatified Oct 31), Ven. Augustus Tolton, Ven. Peter Toussaint, Ven. Henriette DeLille, Ven. Fulton Sheen, Ven. Patrick Peyton...

A few years ago on our [Magazine](#), I created a quiz about 10 saints who died under the age of 25. *How many young saints can you name off the top of your head? Here are a few that died before they were 20 years old:*

Sts. Francisco (10) and Jacinta (9) Marto, St. Maria Goretti (11), Bl. Laura Vicuña (12), St. Agnes of Rome (13), St. Jose Luis Sanchez del Rio (14), St. Pedro Calungsod (17), St. Catherine of Alexandria (18), Bl. Chiara Badano (18), St. Joan of Arc (19), St. Teresa of the Andes (19)

I am always amazed at how many saints there are (over 10,000) and how there is always a new one I have not yet heard of. This week, why don't you look up a saint you hadn't heard of before?

I can't leave this history section without adding a question about Marian apparitions. There are hundreds that have allegedly taken place over the centuries, all over the world. *However there are only six that are officially approved by the Universal Church. Do you know which ones?*

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Our Lady of La Salette, and Our Lady of Knock

Can you name some other Marian apparitions that are approved by the local bishop?

Our Lady of Akita, Our Lady of Laus, Our Lady of Pontmain, Our Lady of Beauraing, Our Lady of Banneux, Our Lady of Kibeho...

Are there any other Marian apparition sites to which you are devoted?

I think it's good for us to have a sense of the history of the Church: when the Reformation happened and who the main players were, the main plot line of King Henry VIII's separation from Rome and the fallout of all that, some highlights of the Inquisition, the trial of Galileo, the Crusades, highlights from some of our more colourful popes... (Just be sure you are learning the real history and not the commonly spread misconceptions about what really happened). It's also good to know some of our more recent Church history, like what our last popes have written or said and the history of World Youth Days, for example. (This was the question I asked Susan Hookong-Taylor in Episode 15 of [In All Things](#). Out of twelve, she was able to name nine. That's pretty good! How many could you name?)

I hope that this has been fun. Did you know a lot of the answers? History may not be your thing and we don't have to be PhDs, but we should know the basics. More importantly, let's be sure that we are learning the truth about what really happened because there are a lot of false stories out there. If anyone has any good Church history book suggestions, please send them along. I am always looking for a good read. (Right now I am reading *The Autobiography of a Hunted Priest*, by John Gerard, SJ – excellent read! Highly recommended!)

Come back next week for a quick look at Doctrine. How much of Catholic Doctrine do you know? Do you know the basics? Come back next week and let's find out!



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](#)

Notes from the Office ...

1. Ella says: Due to the Corona virus restrictions we have no idea when we will be able to resume our CCD program. Some parishes, including St. Sebastian's in Sebastopol, are offering online programs. We don't. Families who don't want to wait until we are allowed to have in-person classes again, should enroll their kids in one of those programs. To learn more about St. Sebastian's program, read their online bulletin before 9/16: <http://stseb.org>

2. Fr. Bala says: Our parish is in need of a new Volunteer to be in-charge of the Department of Safe Environment for children and teenagers. Interested persons please come forward and contact Fr. Bala for further information, either in person or through his email: govindu77@gmail.com.

3. Fran says: If you have not been receiving the digital bulletin, please give the office your email address by sending an email to philip.teresa@yahoo.com. (Due to Covid concerns, paper bulletins are not being passed out at this time.)

4. Please keep sick friends and families in your prayers. Let the office know of any names to add to the prayer list by leaving a message at 707-408-2650.

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 in the Parish Hall **Saturday, October 10**, 9:00-10:00am to repackage
Monday, October 12, 10:00 – 12:00pm to set up
Tuesday, October 13, 8:30 – 11:00am to distribute food to clients



Protester draped in a flag of Belarus kneels in front of law enforcement officers in Minsk Sept. 13, 2020, during a protest against presidential election results.

Pope Francis: "Swat the fly of resentment; use the ointment of forgiveness"

By [Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service](#) 9/14/2020

VATICAN CITY -- If people took seriously the Gospel call to forgive one another, the world would be a much better place, Pope Francis said.

"How much suffering, how many wounds, how many wars could be avoided if forgiveness and mercy were the style of our life," he said Sept. 13 before reciting the Angelus prayer with visitors in St. Peter's Square.

The pope was commenting on the day's Gospel reading, Matthew 18:21-35, in which Jesus tells his disciples to forgive "not seven times but 77 times."

"In the symbolic language of the Bible," the pope explained, "this means that we are called to forgive always."

Jesus' admonition is especially important for family life, he said. "How many families are disunited, do not know how to forgive each other? How many brothers and sisters bear resentment within? It is necessary to apply merciful love to all human relationships: between spouses, between parents and children, within our communities, in the church and in society and politics as well."

In the day's Gospel passage, Jesus emphasizes his point with the parable of the merciful king who forgives the enormous debt of his servant and yet that servant refuses to forgive the small debt of another servant. When the king hears about it, he hands the man over "to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt."

"In the parable we find two different attitudes: God's -- represented by the king who forgives a lot, because God always forgives -- and the human person's," the pope said. "The divine attitude is justice pervaded with mercy, whereas the human attitude is limited to justice."

Pope Francis told the people in the square that while he was celebrating Mass that morning, "I paused, touched by a phrase in the first reading from the book of Sirach. The phrase (in the Italian Lectionary) says, 'Remember your end and stop hating.' A beautiful phrase."

"Just think," the pope said, "you will be in a coffin and will you take your hatred there with you? Think of your end and stop hating, stop resenting."

Pope Francis said that he knows it is not an easy command to follow because, even when a person thinks he or she has forgiven another, "resentment returns like a bothersome fly in the summer that keeps coming back."

True forgiveness, he said, "is not something we do in a moment; it is something continuous against that resentment, that hatred that keeps coming back."

When Christians pray the Lord's Prayer, they say, "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."

"These words contain a decisive truth," the pope said. "We cannot claim God's forgiveness for ourselves if we in turn do not grant forgiveness to our neighbor. It is a condition."

Pope Francis summarized his talk: "Think of your end, of God's forgiveness and stop hating. Reject resentment, that bothersome fly that keeps coming back. If we do not strive to forgive and to love, we will not be forgiven and loved either."