

**Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 27, 2020**

Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus.
— *Philippians 2:5*

FAMILIAR INSIGHTS

Spiritual teachers tend to repeat themselves, and to repeat other teachers. Maybe there really aren't that many different truths to tell. Just a lot of slow, sleepy human beings—like us—who need to hear the basics over and over. Consider today's readings.

People complain God isn't "fair," and Ezekiel answers that God is more than fair. People choose their own fates, and people can change. Even evildoers can turn, do right, and live. "Actions speak louder than words." A fresh new insight? Hardly.

Paul tells the Philippians that he would truly be encouraged if those who claimed to be believers would, in fact, look to others' interests and not their own. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating." A novel idea? I don't think so.

In Jesus' story of the farmer and his sons, everyone knows that the one who said he wouldn't work—but did—is way ahead of the one who said he would work—but didn't. "Talk is cheap." Heard that before?
—J. S. Paluch Co.

**SAINT THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS (1873-1897)
October 1**

"The cornerstone's dated 1872, but the stained glass is much later," explained the pastor, astonished when his visitor accurately dated it to just before the Great Depression, explaining, "The window for the Little Flower"—Thérèse's nickname—"gives it away." From her canonization in 1925, her statues and windows adorn most churches where European immigrants worshiped. Entering Carmel at fifteen, victim of tuberculosis at twenty-four, Thérèse proposed her "Little Way" to sanctity: doing ordinary tasks with extraordinary love. Thus ordinary Catholics, many of whom had lost loved ones to tuberculosis, embraced her. Though she never left her cloister, this Carmelite's spiritual communion and devoted correspondence with missionaries earned her the title Patroness of Missions. Her autobiography, *Story of a Soul*, continuously in print since her death, chronicles her prayerful perseverance through doubt and caused her to be the youngest person ever named a Doctor of the Church. Countless physical healings and spiritual conversions testify to her fulfillment of her deathbed promise: "After my death, I will let fall a shower of roses. I will spend my heaven doing good upon earth!"

—Peter Scagnelli, ©J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Jb 1:6-22; Ps 17:1bcd-3, 6-7; Lk 9:46-50
Tues: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Ps 138:1-5; Jn 1:47-51
Wed: Jb 9:1-12, 14-16; Ps 88:10bc-15; Lk 9:57-62
Thurs: Jb 19:21-27; Ps 27:7-9abc, 13-14; Lk 10:1-12
Fri: Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5; Ps 139:1-3, 7-10, 13-14ab; Mt 18:1-5
Sat: Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130; Lk 10:17-24
Sun: Is 5:1-7; Ps 80:9, 12-16, 19-20; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43

IMPOSSIBLE

Start by doing what is necessary, then do what is possible; suddenly you are doing the impossible.

—*St. Francis of Assisi*

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.
9/27: Rural Food. 10/4: Operating Expenses.

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.

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

9/27 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Marcella & Joseph Kiefer

10/4 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Tina Bartolo

10/4 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: St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions; St. Wenceslaus
Tuesday: Ss. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels
Wednesday: St. Jerome
Thursday: St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus
Friday: The Holy Guardian Angels; First Friday
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary; First Saturday

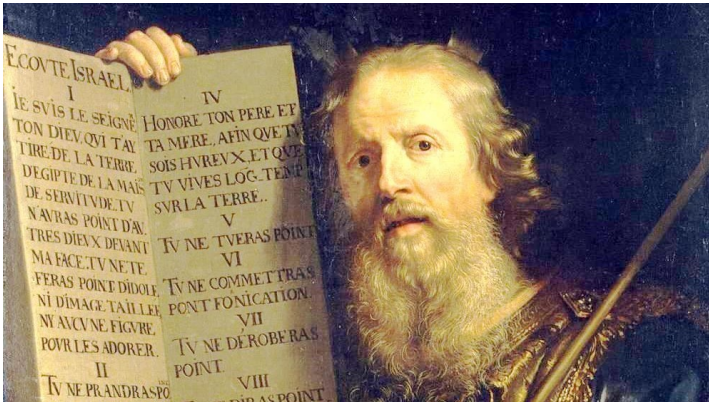
"Reflections on the Liturgy" Each week, parishioner Patrick Griffith writes one or more reflections on Scripture, including the Liturgy for the coming Sunday. The objectives are to tie Scripture into our daily lives and address spiritual and moral issues of the world around us. The reflections can be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

GUARDIANS FOR VALUABLE SOULS

So valuable to heaven is the dignity of the human soul that every member of the human race has a guardian angel from the moment the person begins to be.

—*St. Jerome*





Deacon-structing Catholic Basics: Doctrine

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

A month ago I explained that since working on Catholic trivia for our new summer series, *In All Things*, has been so much fun, I decided to continue the fun on our blog.

The idea is that I will share with you – off the top of my head, without looking it up – what I know. The point is that if I can know it, so can you. So far we've looked at [Scripture](#), [Liturgy](#), [Catechism](#), and [History](#). I hope that there was a lot in there you already knew and that you were inspired to learn more. Did you learn about a saint you didn't know about before? I did: St. Mariam Baouardy. Look her up!

Today we are going to end this little series with something a little harder: Doctrine. For the purpose of this blog post, by "doctrine" I mean official Church teaching, and that includes dogma. Remember that doctrine is Church teaching dealing with matters of faith and morals which has not been divinely revealed. Dogma is any teaching that is divinely revealed or that has some connection to divine revelation. Remember that all doctrine is infallible (not in error) and unchangeable. All dogma is non-negotiable. (For a really good, in-depth look at doctrine and dogma, look at my series, [Deacon-structing Doctrine](#).)

As I wrote in "Deacon-structing Doctrine", it would be very handy if there were a list of all the teachings of the Catholic Church that are infallible, unchangeable, and non-negotiable. But there isn't.

Still, it's not hard to figure out some of the basics.

Let's start with this question that could have been part of our section on Scripture, but I include it here because it's the basis of divinely revealed doctrine on morals.

Can you name the 10 Commandments? (Off the top of your head)

1. I am the Lord your God, you shall not have any other gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain.
3. You shall keep holy the Sabbath Day.
4. Honour your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not steal.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
9. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbour's goods.

I got 10. I hope they are correct and that I got them in the right order. Did you? *[Note from the editor: Almost! You just got 6 & 7 in the wrong order.]*

You may not know that the Church teaches that there are Five Foundational Truths. These are five doctrines that are the basis, or foundation, of everything else. You may not have learned them in Catechism (I didn't), but do you think you can name what they are? (Don't feel bad if you can't. I just learned this two years ago when writing my "Deacon-structing Doctrine" blog posts).

The Five Foundational Truths are:

1. The Blessed Trinity: God is an eternal loving communion of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
2. The Person of Jesus: A divine person who took on human nature in the Incarnation
3. The Paschal Mystery: the suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ
4. The Dignity of the Human Person: made in the image and likeness of God
5. The Church: the Body of Christ brought to life in the Holy Spirit

These are truths that are non-negotiable. They are divinely revealed and non-changing, and all Catholics must believe them. Many other Catholic teachings develop from these. For example, the Theology of the Body depends on the Mystery of the Trinity and the Dignity of the Human Person. Teachings about Mary depend on the teaching on the Person of Jesus. The teaching about Adoration of Jesus' Presence in the Eucharist depends on the teachings on the Person of Jesus and the Paschal Mystery, and so forth.

Dogmas are divinely revealed truths. Examples of these are the articles of the Creed and all Christological dogmas. Sometimes when there is confusion, dogmas have to be defined. Usually this happens in the context of a Church Council. We looked at some of the Church Councils last week. *Can you name the Council where the dogmas of the Dual Nature of Christ and the Holy Trinity were defined?*

The 1st Council of Nicaea.

Two dogmas were proclaimed by popes "ex-cathedra" (from the chair). This means that they did so without consulting with a Council. *Do you know which ones they are?*

The Dogma of the Immaculate Conception (Pius IX in 1854)

The Dogma of the Assumption of Mary (Pius XII in 1950)

Even though the popes proclaimed these beliefs as dogmas, it doesn't mean that they did so on a whim. These beliefs had already been professed by the faithful for centuries before.

The popes just declared them official.

Could you explain these two dogmas?

Immaculate Conception: refers to the fact that Mary was conceived without original sin.

Assumption: refers to the fact that Mary, at the end of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into Heaven.

Part of Church doctrine is what we call Catholic social teaching. I am not going to ask you to name all the articles of Catholic social teaching because everywhere I look it's a slightly different list, but, off the top of my head, here are some of them *[and maybe Kristina can help us fill in the blanks. Kristina's answer: Actually, I'm a bit vague on the specifics here. I guess I should read some more!]*.

The principle of Respect for the Dignity of the Human Person
The principles of Solidarity and Subsidiarity

The principle of Preferential Option for the Poor

The principle of Respect for Human Life

The principle of Stewardship...

Those are the ones I can think of off the top of my head. But I know that they may be organized differently depending on what your source is. Can you think of others?

Perhaps the most important thing when it comes to doctrine is that we are able to explain what the Church teaches to those who are curious about it. Just recently, a young person who is not Catholic asked me if I believed in extra-terrestrial life. It was a wonderful opportunity to tell her what we believe about being created in the image and likeness of God.

Can you explain what the Church teaches on the following?

- *The Real Presence/Transubstantiation* [If you want to know more, watch [Deacon-structuring Transubstantiation.](#)]
- *The Sacraments* [Read my whole series on the [Sacraments.](#)]
- *Indulgences* [Read more in [Deacon-structuring Indulgences.](#)]
- *Operating and Cooperating Grace* [Read more in [Deacon-structuring Grace](#) and [Deacon-structuring Sacraments.](#)]
- *Original Sin* [Read more in [Deacon-structuring Baptism.](#)]
- *The Incarnation*
- *The Last Things: Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory* [Note from the editor: Usually, though, when we speak of "The Four Last Things", we mean Death, Judgement, Heaven, and Hell.]

While some of these are divinely revealed, some are developed from divine revelation, and others could change (although while they exist they are authoritative). I think these are concepts that all Catholics should know the basics of.

Also, do you know what the Church teaches about:

Religious Liberty?

Ecumenism and Inter-religious Dialogue?

Cremation? [Read more in [Deacon-structuring Doctrine: Changing Doctrine.](#)]

Capital Punishment? [Read more in [Deacon-structuring Doctrine: Capital Punishment.](#)]

Lastly, there is what we call "disciplines". Many of the things we looked at in our discussion of liturgy are what we would call disciplines.

Do you know what the Church teaches about (to name a few):

Holy Days of Obligation?

The Celibate Priesthood?

Fasting?

I left doctrine for last because, undoubtedly, it is the most difficult category, although I bet that there is a lot here that you already know. Some of them are hard to understand and therefore explain (which is why I write this weekly column), but they are the basics of our Faith.

Our mission as Christians is to go and make disciples (see Matthew 28:18-20). We do this first by introducing others to Jesus Christ. The best way to do this is by how we live our lives. But when people come to us with questions ([as happened to me in Italy last year](#)), we must be ready to explain what we believe. We don't have to be theologians, but we should know the basics.

Let me know your thoughts on all of this. How did you do with all these questions? Were you inspired to learn more? Maybe

you have some questions you want to ask or topics you'd like me to deacon-struct? [Write to me.](#) I love getting your messages and especially love your questions, as they help me understand our Faith better.

I hope *Deacon-structuring* helps you understand our Faith better too!



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 deacon-structuring: 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.)

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, 10:00am-12:00pm to set up
Tuesday, October 13, 8:30-11:00am to distribute food to clients