



Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 18, 2022

God . . . wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth.

— 1 Timothy 2:4

PRIORITIES

Make a choice. God or money, material things, earthly pleasure. This is what Jesus asks us to do in today's Gospel. The Pharisees and scribes, and many people, want it both ways. God and wealth. But Jesus knows that "no servant can serve two masters." It is not that wealth is inherently bad, but the pursuit of it to the exclusion of what is good and righteous is. Our faith is meant to guide and shape the way we live. If we are followers of Jesus Christ, we will treat others, especially the poor and vulnerable, fairly and justly. We will live with devotion to God and let our lives speak the truth of God's love for all. We will put first things first, or more precisely, put God and God's ways first, assured that when we do, everything else will fall into place.

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PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbor, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question:

How do I show love for my neighbor?

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Prv 3:27-34; Ps 15:2-5; Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13; Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34,35, 44; Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13
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: Am 6:1a, 4-7; Ps 146:7-10; 1 Tm 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: St. Januarius
Tuesday: Ss. Andrew Kim Tae-gõn and Paul Chõng Ha-sang and Companions
Wednesday: St. Matthew
Thursday: *Autumn begins*
Friday: Padre Pio
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary



Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

For the month of **September** offerings: PLEASE put in Mass collection basket or 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. Please include your offering envelope # [if you have one].

9/11: 1st col: \$1516. 2nd col: \$410. 9/18: Capital Expenditures.



Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: TBA
Finance Council [FC]: TBA
Liturgy Committee [LC]: TBA
St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044
St. Philip Ladies Guild: Every 3rd Friday. Details 874-3812

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule 2022

9/17 Sat. 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith
9/18 Sun. 8am Mass for the Windler family
9/18 Sun. 9:30am Mass for the People
9/18 Sun. 11:15am Mass
9/23 Fri. 9am Mass for Sayra Hodges McHargue
9/24 Sat. 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith
9/25 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Martin Munson Andrews
9/25 Sun. 9:30am Mass
9/25 Sun. 11:15am Mass for the People

Prayer Requests: Please leave a message at 707-408-2650.

Gary S., Peter R., Gerry N., Diane K., River M.; Nikkie; Mr. C., Michelle, Christian A., Peter B., Samantha S., Gary E., Frederick K., John Geving, James Geving, Lawrence Steiner, Marla Perry, Sayra H.M.

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for September 2022

Tuesday, September 22 was designated Volunteer Appreciation Day at the Rural Food distribution where we welcomed 62 families. Clients selected fresh produce, milk, eggs, poultry, beef, fish or vegetarian items, commodities, snacks and bread. They were also invited to celebrate our wonderful volunteers with a slice of cake, donated by The Union Hotel, and a huge thank you card to leave their personal note of thanks.

We have opened the hall to in-person shopping for our clients. Many clients prefer to choose specific foods from our program for their families. It also allows volunteers and clients to re-connect post pandemic.

Many of our clients are helping to reduce our costs by bringing their own reusable shopping bags. Each month we typically use over 300 paper bags to package the food our clients receive. Your continued donation of handled paper bags and egg cartons is much appreciated.

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 and to answer your questions. 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 area: Saturday, October 8, 9:00-10:00 am repackaging; Monday, October 10, 9:00 – 11:00am set up; and Tuesday October 11, 7:30 – 11:00am to distribute food to clients.



1. *Kazakhstan interreligious congress adopts declaration calling religious pluralism 'God's will'*

By [Hannah Brockhaus](#)



Rome Newsroom, Sep 15, 2022 / 04:07 am

The interreligious congress in which Pope Francis participated this week in Kazakhstan adopted a declaration calling religious pluralism an expression “of the wisdom of God’s will in creation.”

The 35-point declaration was “adopted by the majority of the delegates” of the Seventh Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions Sept. 15 in the capital city of Nur-Sultan.

Pope Francis participated in the opening and closing ceremonies of the interreligious summit during his Sept. 13–15 visit to the Central Asian country.

Almost 100 delegates from around the world, representing the world’s major religions, participated in the three-day conference, including Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin and Cardinal Miguel Angel Ayuso Guixot, president of the Vatican’s Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

Point 10 of the declaration said: “We note that pluralism and differences in religion, skin color, gender, race, and language are expressions of the wisdom of God’s will in creation. Thus any incident of coercion to a particular religion and religious doctrine is unacceptable.”

The declaration also referenced the [Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together](#), signed by Pope Francis and Sheikh Ahmed Al Tayyeb, the grand imam of al-Azhar, in Abu Dhabi in February 2019.

“We recognize the importance and value of the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together between the Holy See and Al-Azhar Al-Sharif,” the Kazakhstan declaration said, adding that the document calls for “peace, dialogue, mutual understanding, and mutual respect among believers for the common good.”

The declaration also condemned terrorism, called for an end to conflict “in all corners of our world,” and encouraged greater participation of women in religion and society.

“We proceed from the immutable fact that the Almighty created all people equal, regardless of their racial, religious, ethnic or other affiliation or social status, therefore tolerance, respect, and mutual understanding underpin all religious teaching,” the declaration stated.

“We pay special attention to the importance of strengthening the institution of the family,” it said.

2. *Interreligious dialogue an urgent need, Pope Francis says at close of Kazakhstan congress*

By [Hannah Brockhaus](#)



Rome Newsroom, Sep 15, 2022 / 04:41 am

In his final remarks in Kazakhstan on Thursday, Pope Francis said interreligious dialogue is an urgently needed path to peace.



Pope Francis speaking at the interreligious congress in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, Sept. 15, 2022. Vatican Media / YouTube (screenshot)

“The path of interreligious dialogue is a shared path to peace and for peace; as such, it is necessary and irrevocable,” he said Sept. 15 at the closing ceremony of the Seventh Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in the capital city of Nur-Sultan.

“Interreligious dialogue is no longer merely something expedient,” he continued, “it is an urgently-needed and incomparable service to humanity, to the praise and glory of the Creator of all.”

Pope Francis spoke at the Palace of Independence following the announcement of the final document of the three-day interreligious summit, a declaration. The next congress will take place in Kazakhstan in 2025.

The pope said in his remarks that the world’s great religious traditions should give witness to the shared spiritual and moral patrimony of transcendence and fraternity.

“Transcendence, the Beyond, worship. It is impressive that each day millions and millions of men and women, of different ages, cultures, and social conditions join together in prayer in countless places of worship. This is the hidden force that makes our world move forward,” he said.

“And then fraternity, the other, proximity,” he added. “For one cannot profess genuine fidelity to the Creator without showing love for his creatures. This is the spirit that pervades the Declaration of our Congress.”

During his Sept. 13–15 visit to the Central Asian country, Francis met with political and civil leaders of Kazakhstan, [religious leaders](#), Jesuits of the province of Russia, and [Catholic priests, religious sisters, and missionaries](#) living in Kazakhstan. He [also celebrated Mass](#) for the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross on Sept. 14 for the country’s small Catholic community, which makes up less than 1% of the population.

Kazakhstan is a majority-Muslim country home to an ethnically diverse minority of Catholics — an estimated 125,000 out of the Central Asian country's population of 19 million.

On Sept. 15, Pope Francis also [blessed an icon](#) depicting Mary and the Child Jesus as native Kazakhs, entrusting the Church in Kazakhstan and all of Central Asia to Our Lady.

The triptych — or three-part artwork — depicting the Kazakh-faced Mother of God and Child is known as “The Mother of the Great Steppe.”

In his final speech of the trip on Thursday, Pope Francis said the good of humanity needs to come before other political, economic, and military objectives.

“Pope John Paul II, who visited Kazakhstan 21 years ago this very month, stated that ‘for the Church all ways lead to man’ and that man is ‘the way for the Church,’” Francis said, quoting paragraph 14 of “Redemptor Hominis.”



“Sunday School”

CCD Religious Education starts early this Fall.

Next Sign-up is on Sept. 25

at St. Philip Church from 9am to 11:15am.

For details on our progra, please visit

<http://www.stphilipstteresa.org/religious-education-ccd.html>

Our parish offers a vibrant religious education program for students from Kindergarten through Confirmation. Regular classes are held 2-3 times each month in the St. Philip's parish hall on Sunday mornings from 9:45 - 11:00 a.m., followed by 11:15 Mass throughout our CCD school year.

Besides First Communion preparation, we have started a 2-year Confirmation program for children as young as 10, so they can be prepared for their Confirmation by age 12 or 13.

The religious education program is run by volunteers, and parent involvement is greatly appreciated. Anyone wishing to aid in the classroom, provide snacks for the children, or help organize larger events (such as the Christmas play), please contact the office, or contact your child's teacher. **Note: Children from other parishes are welcome to join our program.**

What shall I do . . . ? I am not strong enough to dig and I am ashamed to beg . . . I know what I shall do . . .

One day way back in the 700's BC, i.e. twenty seven hundred years ago, a somewhat shaggy-looking man named Amos climbed the steps of the Temple of Bethel in Israel to confront its high priest. Amos claimed not to be a prophet, someone ordained to uphold the traditional creed of Moses; he was rather a concerned shepherd. His concern was that the royalty and clergy of that Mosaic tradition were living in contradiction of it — materialists like every other nation, compromising their sense of creation's worth,

disguising nature as an assembly of manipulable gods and thereby becoming themselves a manipulable people.

That the leaders of Israel were becoming materialists should not be surprising, considering that their ancestors settled long ago in what we still call the Fertile Crescent. It was that stretch of coastal land facing west which, by contrast with the vast Arabian desert to the east, was moistened and thus made fertile by Mediterranean breezes and linked to great rivers to its south and north. In other words it was a crossroads of commerce from every direction, configured around productive urban centers and as such they evolved into upper and lower classes, with slaves to handle the labor.

In other words (again) - unlike their ancestors who long ago lived as slaves in Egypt, many a new aristocrat and merchant of Amos's time could “flaunt it” — as Zero Mostel might say. Indeed they were restive, not wanting to let a day pass when they could increase their wealth. They found “days of rest” — holidays — intrusive: *when will the Sabbath end so we can display our wares.* [How many ads pop up all over the Internet every minute, every second of everyday?] Or they were savvy enough to lower the weight of something but maintain the full price or sell leftovers at the original price of fresh items or buy a foreclosed home at the lowest possible bid. Petty examples but writ large! [Have times really changed? Or simply magnified out of all proportion?]

Read the Book of Amos in the Bible to savor his warnings. About thirty years after Amos confronted Bethel's high priest the Kingdom of Israel was wiped out by a bigger and militaristic economic power, its inhabitants transported far and wide — to be referred to as the ten lost tribes of Israel.

The Amos of today's first reading is not just a distant voice addressing a past situation. His words have current application — it is to us that he can say in the name of all creation: *Take away from me your noisy songs; / the melodies of your harps, / I will not listen to them. / Rather let justice surge like waters, / and righteousness like an unfailing stream.*

Regarding today's Gospel parable, cheating (though condemned by Amos) gets a reluctant honorable mention from the employer whose steward ripped him off. Ultimately he commends the dismissed cheater for using his imagination to survive. The parable seconds that commendation, wishing that all true believers may become more creatively imaginative themselves when it comes to reverencing and saving our world. than biological.

--Geoff Wood, 9/18/2022