

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 26, 2021

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul; the decree of the LORD is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.

— Psalm 19:8

PROCLAIM THE WONDER OF GOD

The gift of the Spirit is given freely, not according to human expectations, but according to the generosity of God. Joshua wants Moses to stop Eldad and Medad from prophesying in the camp, when they were not with the others as the spirit was bestowed on them. Moses, so close to God's mind in the matter, wishes everyone could possess the spirit of God and proclaim it to the nations.

Psalm 19 celebrates the perfection of God's law, and how it brings joy and delight. It is better than the finest gold or the sweetest honey. Moreover, God gives the wisdom of the prophets to everyone, especially the simple and lowly ones, even to children. It is the "little ones" who proclaim the wonder of God to all.. -J. S. Paluch Co.

FEAST OF FAITH

The Lord's Prayer

The Eucharistic Prayer ends with the great "Amen," the acclamation of assent by the assembly. Then the Communion rite begins with the Lord's Prayer. We pray this prayer in many contexts, both inside and outside the Church's liturgy. Here, in the context of the Mass, the Lord's Prayer is profoundly eucharistic. When we ask for our "daily bread," we are asking for the gift of the Eucharist. When we ask God to forgive us as we forgive others, we are seeking forgiveness and purity of heart before we approach the altar to receive the sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood—"so that what is holy may, in fact, be given to those who are holy" (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 81).

At Mass, a prayer for peace is inserted between the prayer and the doxology. In this prayer, called the embolism, the Church asks God for freedom—freedom from sin and all anxiety and distress. We are living in an in-between time; even as we rejoice in Christ's presence, we await his coming in joyful hope.

-Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Zec 8:1-8; Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23; Lk 9:46-50
- Tuesday: Zec 8:20-23; Ps 87:1b-7; Lk 9:51-56
- Wednesday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Ps 138:1-5; Jn 1:47-51
- Thursday: Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Ps 19:8-11; Lk 10:1-12
- Friday: Bar 1:15-22; Ps 79:1b-5, 8-9; Lk 10:13-16
- Saturday: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29; Ps 69:33-37; Mt 18:1-5, 10
- Sunday: Gn 2:18-24; Ps 128:1-6; Heb 2:9-11; Mk 10:2-16 [2-12]

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Mon: St. Vincent de Paul
- Tues: St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions; St. Wenceslaus
- Wed: [Ss. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael](#)
- Thurs: St. Jerome
- Fri: St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus; First Friday
- Sat: The Holy Guardian Angels; First Saturday



Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

For the month of **September** 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 via Paypal or card. Please include your offering envelope # [if you have one] with your donation. Bless you!



9/19: 1st collection: \$1458. Capital Expenditures: \$481.

9/26: Rural Food. 10/3: Operating Expenses & Mission Co-op.

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

- Parish Council [PC]:** TBA
- Finance Council [FC]:** TBA
- 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

- 9/25 Sat. 5pm Mass ✠ John Jackson
- 9/26 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer
- 9/26 Sun. 9:30am Mass for the People
- 9/26 Sun. 11:15 am Mass ✠ Philip, Steven, Anthony Luongo

- 10/02 Sat. 5pm Mass for the People
- 10/03 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Denis & Josephine Poynter
- 10/03 Sun. 9:30am Mass
- 10/03 Sun. 11:15 am Mass

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, Lorri 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 Santa Barbara (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.
- (NOTE: on 9/12/21, the St. Philip Sunday 11:15am Mass resumed)

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for September 2021

On Tuesday, September 14, 42 families, 105 individuals received nutritional support during our distribution at the St Philips Parking lot and parish hall. The bounty of beautiful produce, from community gardens as well as from Redwood Empire Food Bank, was a highlight of our distribution this month.

Volunteers enjoyed a selection of pastries and cake and received gift certificates to celebrate their dedication to the Rural Food Program during the past 18 months.

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.

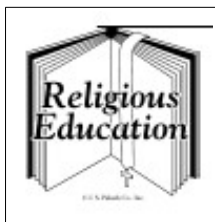
This program is funded through monthly Rural Food Collection, private donations and the dedicated, awesome volunteers. **Thank you for your generous donations as we strive to meet the nutritional needs of all attendees at our food distributions.**

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES in the Parish Hall and parking area:

Saturday, October 9, 9:00-- 10:00am repackaging;

Monday, October 11, 9:00 – 11:00am set up; and

Tuesday, October 12, 7:30– 11:00am to distribute food to clients.



Parish Religious Education Program

We are happy to announce the return of our Religious Education [CCD] K-12 program this September at the 11:15am Sunday Mass. There is still time to enroll the children. You can get more information for your family and friends, as well as register, by going online to

www.stphilipsteresa.org or by contacting Religious Education Director Jolene Corcoran at jolene@lunardielectric.com. See you soon!



[Whittier youtube link](#)

Children & the Kingdom of Heaven

Taking a child . . . he said . . . "Whoever receives one child such as this . . . receives me . . ." Mark 9:37

Elsewhere in Mark's Gospel we meet a similar expression: *Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.* And then there is Matthew's Gospel's version of the same statement: *Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.* What can Christ mean by those words The Kingdom of God or The Kingdom of Heaven? Where lies this Kingdom of Heaven into which only a child can enter? Well think back to your childhood because if a child can enter the Kingdom of Heaven and, of course, you were once a child, you must at times have stumbled into it back then.

Old age, increasingly bewildered by the disarray of current times, tends to recall those earlier stages of one's life. And so I remember when – as the Great Depression came to a close – my parents chose to leave the inner city with all its brick, mortar and asphalt (we had two trees on our street of sixty face to face houses) and overnight I found myself in a suburb of some development but where still there were woodlands, abandoned farms with fields gone fallow and fruit trees growing wild; there were rose arbors, creeks, swimming holes – a region reached only by Toonerville trolleys. It was a new world where I could wander wide, discover snakes and jump at the sudden flight of a pheasant . . . a Garden of Eden [on the verge of urbanization]. The Kingdom of Heaven!

Children do have this knack – un-introduced as yet to the lethal silliness of adults – to see things fresh. Maybe it's because it's their imaginations more than that enlarged walnut in our craniums that directs their vision. I have mentioned in the past Kenneth Grahame's stories describing the way a family of British children – appalled at the way adults had to live – found an illustrated story book whose pages in their eyes became three dimensional – where they saw meadows set with flowers, blue and red, like gems and a white road looping up a steep hill crowned with towers, and belfries – and knights riding two by two . . . a ship in port with an odd sort of crow's-nest at the top . . . *a world wherein a story lay hidden.* Grahame titled that story "The Walls Were Made of Jasper" – like those of St. John's heavenly Jerusalem in the Book of Revelation descending upon our earth.

May not the Kingdom of Heaven be this very world into which we are born – which can be turned into a hell on earth by adults who have eyes to see but do not see – or are conditioned to see only production lines that transform nature into stuff – useful stuff – but no more pheasants? Old John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892) – a poet whom I have quoted before – envied any child who still inhabited that Kingdom of Heaven:

Blessings on thee, little man, / Barefoot boy, with cheek of tan! / . . . With thy red lip, redder still / Kissed by strawberries on the hill; / With the sunshine on thy face, / . . . From my heart I give thee joy, — / I was once a barefoot boy! // Prince thou art, — the grown-up man / Only is republican. / Let the million-dollared ride! / Barefoot, trudging at his side, / Thou hast more than he can buy / In the reach of ear and eye, — / Outward sunshine, inward joy: / Blessings on thee, barefoot boy!

--Geoff Wood, 9/19/2021



The Apple Tree Project

Dear Parishioners and Friends,
Many thanks for the generosity of our parishioners. We provided new backpacks and needed school supplies to 32 children and 18 families from our Rural Food Program. We appreciate your caring support in getting our kids off to a good start for this challenging academic year. In appreciation, Diane Schwab, Colette Raya, and Peg Duffy

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. This October we will **not** have blessing of pets and animals at either church on or before Oct. 4, feast of St. Francis of Assisi.
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 with singing a Recessional Hymn with masks on. Before we start singing the Recessional Hymn, there will be time given for those (perhaps two or three people) to leave the church silently if they have health or other good reason for safety.

Summer Appeal Reminder: *An anonymous donor has pledged \$35,000 in funds that will match whatever gifts our generous parishioners make available before the match challenge ends in three weeks, on October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. **Whatever you donate to the Summer Appeal between now and October 4th will be doubled!** Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity by sending in your gift via check or PayPal, earmarked for the "Summer Appeal."*



Photo by [Priscilla Du Preez](#) on [Unsplash](#)

We sow the Word of God, without ceasing!

by [Andres Castillo](#)

In the biblical readings that are proposed to us in the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, God reveals the path of the *Missionary Disciple*. It is a beautiful adventure that is full of joy and blessing, but at the same time a difficult and complex challenge.

In the book of Ezekiel we can find the call, that missionary sending that God proposes to all of us as a path of discipleship. But as we see, it places us within a framework: "I am sending you to that rebellious people" (Ezekiel 2:3). And this framework is far

from being a task of correction, but rather, it is a framework of full love, of merciful aching for a people who have not known a true God and therefore miss a great blessing that is yet to come.

The great challenge is that not all those who receive the Word of God can transform their lives. Many continue with their hard hearts and do not want to see the presence of a God who embraces and blesses. Isn't this the carpenter...? (Mark 6:3) But, although this is a concrete reality, God still commands us to take his Word to the most difficult places, trusting that He is the true doer of the work in every heart.

I think of all the people who for a long time have tried, through word, testimony, and prayer, to transform the heart of one of their loved ones – some member of your family, your friend, your co-worker – and they see the days go by and nothing changes. I think of the pain that this generates in our hearts, to see these people far from the embrace of the Father. And at this point we need to ask for the grace of strength, of trust placed in the Will of God for each person, and to know that the Lord of Creation never abandons the work of His hands.

And when we talk about Strength, the Apostle Paul gives us an interesting look at what it means. He presents us with a strength that shows weaknesses, that shows pain and sadness. But in that weakness, in that suffering, God becomes great, He becomes Lord of the situation.

May your pain and your fragility be the presence of God and the beginning of conversion in those for whom you are praying and who do not want to accept the Word in their lives. "My grace is enough for you, since strength is revealed in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). May the Grace of God be the strength you need to continue praying and proclaiming the Word of God to many! Don't stop because God is counting on you!

And finally, I want you to know that no prayer and no evangelizing action is lost. The mission is a response to God's universal call for humanity. This is not exclusive to Paul or Ezekiel; it is for you and me. For all. In this task we discover a Church which goes forth, a Church that goes out to meet the fallen, the wounded, the one who needs the action of the Father in their lives, even when they do not know it consciously. All nature seeks its creator and all human beings seek to return to the arms of their Father. Convinced of this truth, it is our task to pray and to take the Word to every corner.

Today we must be agents of hope in a world that suffers insecurities, fears, and sadness. Today we are light in the middle of the darkness. Today we are an option in a world that only offers individualism and personal ambition. Today we are, like Ezekiel, bearers of the voice of God in the midst of a rebellious people who need the Father to transform their stony hearts into hearts of flesh. Today the sending of the prophet is renewed in our present and hopes that we will be able to say "Yes" to the Will of God.

May Jesus bless your life and give you the strength not to lose heart and be a missionary disciple in a time in history that needs people who can be witnesses of God's Love.

(translated from the original Spanish by Deacon Pedro Guevara-Mann)



Andrés Castillo is a communicator, writer, and missionary. After studying publicity and advertising, he dedicated himself to film production and working in the media. He is co-founder of the global network of lay Missionaries Renova+. He is the author of several books about leadership and inspiration, and has proclaimed the Word of God throughout his native Argentina as well as in more than 50 cities and 17 countries around the world. He lives in Buenos Aires with his wife Ludmila and their children, Simón, Benjamín, and Gina. Learn more at www.renovamas.org.

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