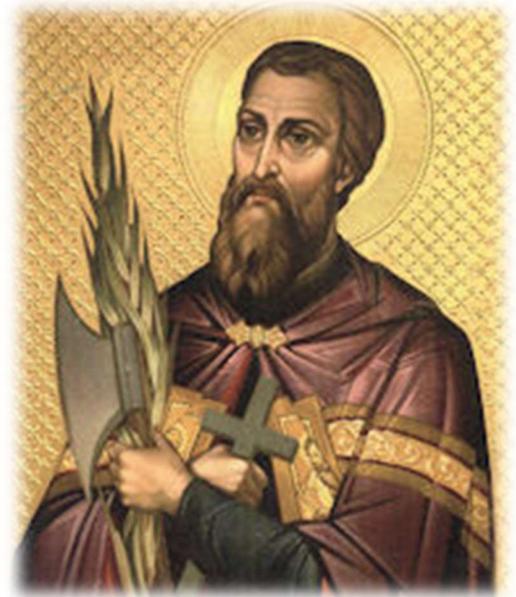


*St. Philip the Apostle*  
Roman Catholic Church

**Thursday, November 12, 2020**

- Thursday of the Thirty-Second Week in Ordinary Time
- Memorial of St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr
- Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: **Anne Accardi**



**First Reading: Philemon 7-20**

Beloved: I have experienced much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the holy ones have been refreshed by you, brother. Therefore, although I have the full right in Christ to order you to do what is proper, I rather urge you out of love, being as I am, Paul, an old man, and now also a prisoner for Christ Jesus. I urge you on behalf of my child Onesimus, whose father I have become in my imprisonment, who was once useless to you but is now useful to both you and me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I should have liked to retain him for myself, so that he might serve me on your behalf in my imprisonment for the Gospel, but I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that the good you do might not be forced but voluntary. Perhaps this is why he was away from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a brother, beloved especially to me, but even more so to you, as a man and in the Lord. So if you regard me as a partner, welcome him as you would me. And if he has done you any injustice or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, write this in my own hand: I will pay. May I not tell you that you owe me your very self. Yes, brother, may I profit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 146:7, 8-9, 9-10**

***Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob.***

The Lord secures justice for the oppressed,  
gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets captives free. ***R/.***

The Lord gives sight to the blind.

The Lord raises up those who were bowed down;  
the Lord loves the just.

The Lord protects strangers. ***R/.***

The fatherless and the widow he sustains,

but the way of the wicked he thwarts.  
The Lord shall reign forever;  
your God, O Zion, through all generations. Alleluia. *R/*

### **Gospel: Luke 17:20-25**

Asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God would come, Jesus said in reply, “The coming of the Kingdom of God cannot be observed, and no one will announce, ‘Look, here it is,’ or, ‘There it is.’ For behold, the Kingdom of God is among you.”

Then he said to his disciples, “The days will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. There will be those who will say to you, ‘Look, there he is,’ or ‘Look, here he is.’ Do not go off, do not run in pursuit. For just as lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. But first he must suffer greatly and be rejected by this generation.”

### **Reflection**

*Stand up and go.* (Luke 17:19)

In the Gospels, we often see a theme of rest — sitting at Jesus’ feet, soaking in his teaching, finding peace in him. But not today. There is a lot of “going” and not a lot of “resting” in this story of healing. Jesus is going to Jerusalem; ten lepers go to the priests; one grateful healed leper goes back to Jesus; and Jesus responds with a command to go. All of this movement can help us see how our Christian life involves going to Jesus and then going out on mission:

- Jesus was on a mission from his Father when he met ten lepers: he was heading for Jerusalem, where he would begin his passion. By stopping to heal them, he revealed the Father’s compassion. The “big story” of salvation is not so big that our struggles become insignificant. God is always interested in our lives.

- The lepers set off for the priests. It’s likely that they had already tried every possible remedy; now they obeyed Jesus and went to present themselves to the priests. Once they realized they were healed, nine of them continued on. They were doing what Jesus said — getting their certificate of health and starting their lives as soon as possible. Our first steps need to be steps of obedience to do what Jesus tells us to do.

- But there was deeper movement in the one fellow who returned to Jesus. Filled with gratitude for his healing, he decided to go back; he saw his healing as an invitation to draw closer to Jesus. Every time Jesus works in our lives, he is inviting us to come to him, to bow before him in love and gratitude. With the Holy Spirit’s help, we can learn to hear that summons.

- Finally, Jesus gave the man a mission: he didn’t just say, “Your faith has saved you” but also “Stand up and go” (Luke 17:19). Once we have gone to Jesus with our needs and received his healing or mercy, he tells us to go out and share what we have received.

Imagine yourself in this pattern of “going.” How do you need to go to Jesus? Where might he be sending you today?

*Lord, let me journey with you. I believe you are present in the going.*

### **An Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus,  
I believe that You

are present in the Most Holy Sacrament  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.

### **Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel**

St. Michael the Archangel,  
defend us in battle.  
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.  
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,  
and do thou,  
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,  
by the power of God,  
thrust into hell Satan,  
and all the evil spirits,  
who prowl about the world  
seeking the ruin of souls.  
Amen.