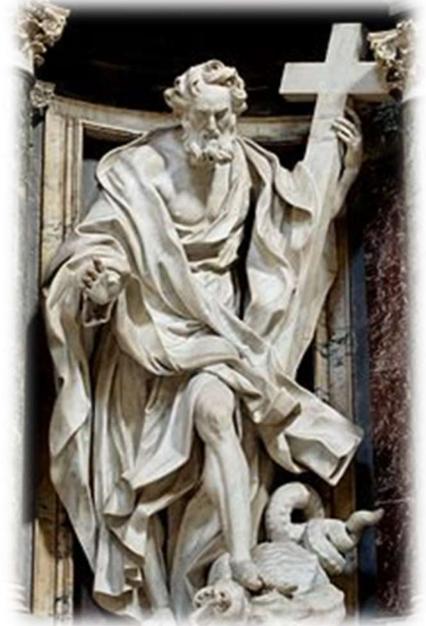


# *St. Philip the Apostle*

Roman Catholic Church



## **Friday, September 2, 2022**

-- Friday of the Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time

-- Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: ***Lisa Stipe***

### **First Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5**

Brothers and sisters: Thus should one regard us: as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Now it is of course required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. It does not concern me in the least that I be judged by you or any human tribunal; I do not even pass judgment on myself; I am not conscious of anything against me, but I do not thereby stand acquitted; the one who judges me is the Lord. Therefore, do not make any judgment before the appointed time, until the Lord comes, for he will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will manifest the motives of our hearts, and then everyone will receive praise from God.

### **Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40**

***The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.***

Trust in the Lord and do good,  
that you may dwell in the land and be fed in security.  
Take delight in the Lord,  
and he will grant you your heart's requests. ***R/.***

Commit to the Lord your way;  
trust in him, and he will act.  
He will make justice dawn for you like the light;  
bright as the noonday shall be your vindication. ***R/.***

Turn from evil and do good,  
that you may abide forever;  
For the Lord loves what is right,  
and forsakes not his faithful ones.  
Criminals are destroyed  
and the posterity of the wicked is cut off. ***R/.***

The salvation of the just is from the Lord;  
he is their refuge in time of distress.  
And the Lord helps them and delivers them;  
he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,  
because they take refuge in him. ***R/.***

### **Gospel: Luke 5:33-39**

The scribes and Pharisees said to Jesus, "The disciples of John the Baptist fast often and offer

prayers, and the disciples of the Pharisees do the same; but yours eat and drink.” Jesus answered them, “Can you make the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, and when the bridegroom is taken away from them, then they will fast in those days.” And he also told them a parable. “No one tears a piece from a new cloak to patch an old one. Otherwise, he will tear the new and the piece from it will not match the old cloak. Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins, and it will be spilled, and the skins will be ruined. Rather, new wine must be poured into fresh wineskins. And no one who has been drinking old wine desires new, for he says, ‘The old is good.’”

## **Reflection**

*Everyone will receive praise from God. (1 Corinthians 4:5)*

Does this sentence strike you as a little odd? Up to this point, St. Paul has been talking about the Lord coming on the day of judgment to “bring to light what is hidden in darkness” (1 Corinthians 4:5). That idea probably conjures up images of us standing shamefaced before God, hearing him list off every hidden sin we have ever committed. So why does Paul end by saying that “everyone will receive praise from God” (4:5)?

Well, imagine God looking into your heart. What do you think he would see? Jealousy? Anger? Selfishness? Probably, but also love, faith, and dedication. After all, he sees everything. So it’s quite possible that what is “hidden” is not only what is wrong with us, but also what is right. And that’s what God will praise us for.

We often focus more on our faults than our good qualities, especially when we think of God’s judgment. But God sees the whole picture of who we are. That means, of course, that he knows about the darkness in you. But he also knows about the light — even when it’s not obvious to you. For instance, where you might see only the grudge you hold against a family member, God also sees your struggle as you try to forgive.

That doesn’t mean God excuses your sins or wants you to focus only on your good side. But it does mean that he wants you to keep a balanced perspective about who you are, about the gifts he’s given you, and about the virtues he has already developed in you.

It’s like the relationship between a parent and a child. A good father doesn’t constantly criticize a child to get her to change her behavior. He sees her potential. He encourages her and tells her what she is doing right. He praises her when she makes progress, even as he corrects her when she goes astray.

Does the thought of coming under God’s judgment make you uneasy? Remember this passage. Remember that God is your heavenly Father. Then let him shine his light on both the good and the not so good in you. Ask him to show you the love and compassion that fill him as he looks on you.

*Come, Lord, and search my heart!*

## **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.