

# *St. Philip the Apostle*

Roman Catholic Church

**Saturday, September 10, 2022**

-- Saturday of the Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time

**First Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:14-22**

My beloved ones, avoid idolatry. I am speaking as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I am saying. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the Blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the Body of Christ? Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one Body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

Look at Israel according to the flesh; are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? So what am I saying? That meat sacrificed to idols is anything? Or that an idol is anything? No, I mean that what they sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to become participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and also the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and of the table of demons. Or are we provoking the Lord to jealous anger? Are we stronger than him?

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 116:12-13, 17-18**

***To you, Lord, I will offer a sacrifice of praise.***

How shall I make a return to the Lord  
for all the good he has done for me?  
The cup of salvation I will take up,  
and I will call upon the name of the Lord. ***R/.***

To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
and I will call upon the name of the Lord.  
My vows to the Lord I will pay  
in the presence of all his people. ***R/.***

**Gospel: Luke 6:43-49**

Jesus said to his disciples: "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not pick figs from thornbushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' but not do what I command? I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, listens to my words, and acts on them. That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when the flood came, the river burst against that house but could not shake it because it had been well built. But the one who listens and does not



act is like a person who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, it collapsed at once and was completely destroyed.”

## **Reflection**

*Every tree is known by its own fruit. (Luke 6:44)*

In today’s Gospel, Jesus uses two images for discipleship: a fruitful tree and a house built upon rock. Just as trees bear fruit consistent with their kind, disciples bear fruit in deeds that reveal the state of their hearts. And disciples who put God’s word into practice will stand firm despite the storms of life, like a house built on rock. Their foundation makes them resilient, even under trial.

So how can we build on rock? How can we bear “good fruit”? Jesus puts it succinctly: come to me, listen to me, and act on what you hear (Luke 6:43).

Come to Jesus. You come to him at Mass. You come to him when you read Scripture. You come to him when you sit quietly in his presence — before the altar in church or on the couch at home. Whenever you actively seek to spend time with the Lord, you are coming to him. Even if it’s while you wash dishes or rake leaves, you’re still coming to him.

Then listen to him. The idea of “hearing from the Lord” can seem hard to grasp because it’s not like hearing a train thunder by, or even the cat meowing to be let in. Perhaps you’ll notice peace settling over you in prayer. Jesus could be saying, “It’s good to be with you.” Perhaps his “voice” will come in the form of a new idea regarding an issue you are dealing with. It might even be that you recall how he’s shown you his love in the past or feel a gentle nudge from something you read in Scripture.

And then act. Jesus is clear; we need to do what he tells us when we come to him and listen. As you do, fruit is born. Some things are large and general: love God, love your neighbor. Some things are small and specific: pray for your spouse, introduce yourself to someone you don’t know at church. The possibilities are endless! You may not always “get it right.” But the Lord can work with that too. He only wants hearts that are willing to bear fruit for him.

*Jesus, help me to bear good fruit for you today.*

## **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.