

# *St. Philip the Apostle*

Roman Catholic Church



**Tuesday, September 6, 2022**

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

**First Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:1-11**

Brothers and sisters: How can any one of you with a case against another dare to bring it to the unjust for judgment instead of to the holy ones? Do you not know that the holy ones will judge the world? If the world is to be judged by you, are you unqualified for the lowest law courts? Do you not know that we will judge angels? Then why not everyday matters? If, therefore, you have courts for everyday matters, do you seat as judges people of no standing in the Church? I say this to shame you. Can it be that there is not one among you wise enough to be able to settle a case between brothers? But rather brother goes to court against brother, and that before unbelievers?

Now indeed then it is, in any case, a failure on your part that you have lawsuits against one another. Why not rather put up with injustice? Why not rather let yourselves be cheated? Instead, you inflict injustice and cheat, and this to brothers. Do you not know that the unjust will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators nor idolaters nor adulterers nor boy prostitutes nor sodomites nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor robbers will inherit the Kingdom of God. That is what some of you used to be; but now you have had yourselves washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 9**

***The Lord takes delight in his people.***

Sing to the Lord a new song

of praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Let Israel be glad in their maker,

let the children of Zion rejoice in their king. *R/.*

Let them praise his name in the festive dance,

let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.

For the Lord loves his people,

and he adorns the lowly with victory. *R/.*

Let the faithful exult in glory;

let them sing for joy upon their couches;

Let the high praises of God be in their throats.

This is the glory of all his faithful. Alleluia. *R/.*

**Gospel: Luke 6:12-19**

Jesus departed to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God. When day came,

he called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose Twelve, whom he also named Apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called a Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

And he came down with them and stood on a stretch of level ground. A great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and even those who were tormented by unclean spirits were cured. Everyone in the crowd sought to touch him because power came forth from him and healed them all.

## **Reflection**

*It is . . . a failure on your part that you have lawsuits against one another. (1 Corinthians 6:7)*

We all know what it's like to be at odds with someone. We've experienced misunderstanding, conflict, even animosity with other people. And that means we're not so different from the Corinthian believers whom Paul admonishes in today's first reading. They just couldn't seem to resolve conflicts among themselves. They spent a lot of time suing one another, likely over petty differences. And Paul told them that needed to stop.

Paul wasn't condemning the legal system. He was encouraging the Corinthians not to give up on each other. He wanted them to make every effort to settle their own disagreements and live in peace with one another. And that's good advice for us too.

How good are you at resolving your differences with other people? So many of the conflicts we experience spring from our own selfishness or stubbornness, which can divide us from one another. And that's something we can change. How? Look back at Paul's words to the Corinthians and consider your role in a conflict you are involved in. Are there ways in which you are "inflicting injustice" in that situation (1 Corinthians 6:8)? If so, take responsibility for that, and seek the grace of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Of course, there are circumstances in which you really are not the one at fault, and other times when you need to seek the remedy of law. But for many of the conflicts we routinely face, the best way to find peace is to make sure our own lives are in order. Then we'll be better able to treat our brothers and sisters in Christ with the humility and the respect they deserve. We might even become more willing to put up with a little inconvenience. Patience, generosity, and understanding can do wonders in helping to resolve personal differences.

So let's take responsibility. Let's practice going out of our way to be generous and forgiving. Let's not give up on one another. You might be surprised how effective it is when we welcome Jesus' peace into our relationships.

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.*

## **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.