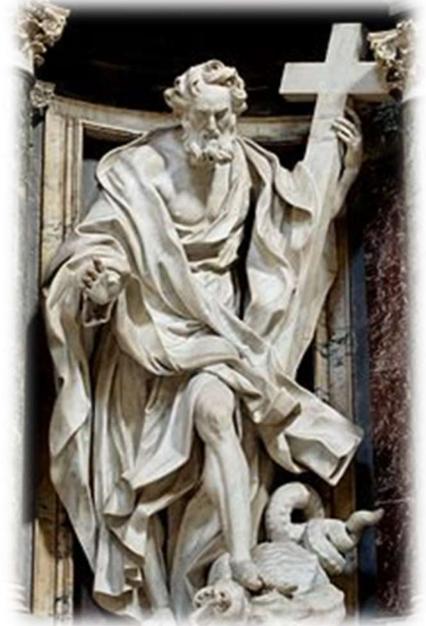


# *St. Philip the Apostle*

Roman Catholic Church



**Wednesday, September 7, 2022**

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

**First Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:25-31**

Brothers and sisters: In regard to virgins, I have no commandment from the Lord, but I give my opinion as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. So this is what I think best because of the present distress: that it is a good thing for a person to remain as he is. Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek a separation. Are you free of a wife? Then do not look for a wife. If you marry, however, you do not sin, nor does an unmarried woman sin if she marries; but such people will experience affliction in their earthly life, and I would like to spare you that.

I tell you, brothers, the time is running out. From now on, let those having wives act as not having them, those weeping as not weeping, those rejoicing as not rejoicing, those buying as not owning, those using the world as not using it fully. For the world in its present form is passing away.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17**

***Listen to me, daughter; see and bend your ear.***

Hear, O daughter, and see; turn your ear,  
forget your people and your father's house.  
So shall the king desire your beauty;  
for he is your lord, and you must worship him. *R/.*

All glorious is the king's daughter as she enters;  
her raiment is threaded with spun gold.  
In embroidered apparel she is borne in to the king;  
behind her the virgins of her train are brought to you. *R/.*

They are borne in with gladness and joy;  
they enter the palace of the king.  
The place of your fathers your sons shall have;  
you shall make them princes through all the land. *R/.*

**Gospel: Luke 6:20-26**

Raising his eyes toward his disciples Jesus said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for the Kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven. For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. But woe to

you who are filled now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will grieve and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way.”

## **Reflection**

*Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! (Luke 6:23)*

When was the last time you threw a party? Perhaps it was when your child graduated from high school, at the birth of a new baby, or when a favorite cousin came to town. Those are all fine, positive reasons to celebrate.

When Jesus tells his disciples to celebrate being persecuted, however, he is inviting them — and us — to gain a new perspective on the negative as well as the positive things that happen to us. He is giving us a strategy to deal with not only persecution but all kinds of suffering or hardship. Because when we rejoice, it changes our perspective and gives us hope. It makes it possible for us to look at things in a new way.

How? Let's consider what happened to six-year-old Timmy. The young boy was crestfallen when he went to the garage to get out his brand-new bicycle, only to realize it had been stolen. Furious, he went inside to share the bad news. His mother helped him acknowledge his feelings to God, but she also read today's Gospel to him. She encouraged him to follow Jesus' advice to rejoice. So they decided to throw a party. They got out Timmy's favorite snack, and they thanked God for always being in charge. They prayed that God would bless whoever took that bike, whether or not that meant Timmy would get the bike back.

Finally, they asked God to let them see one good thing he would bring about as a result of Timmy's stolen bicycle. Sure enough, because Timmy had to walk to school the following day, he wound up making a new friend — someone he never would have met if he had been riding his new bike.

Now, our challenges are usually more significant than a six-year-old losing a bike. Regardless, when we find the strength to praise the Lord when things are difficult, it changes our perspective. Lifting our hearts to him can make us open to opportunities that would have gone unnoticed otherwise. So let's get into the habit of praising God even when our circumstances don't make us want to throw a party, and see what just might come of it.

*Jesus, help me to rejoice in you even when I suffer hardship or persecution.*

## **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.