

"Father, now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.... As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world."
John 17: 13; 18

Dear people of St. Philip's,

Jesus spoke words of love and joy with his disciples in a profound prayer to God our Father during his final meal the night before he died. John's gospel tells of Jesus' abundant love for all of us, including Judas the betrayer, and encourages all who follow in the way of Jesus to remember this love. In ourselves and for all, Jesus has planted a seed of "belovedness". All we have to do is accept this love, nurture it with gratitude and blessing. It is a free gift, for us to receive and for us to give.

Each week we gather at our holy table where we remember this special meal and these holy words of God's love and blessing. Sharing in this sacrament is how we remain in the living presence of Christ's love. Those of us who come into the sanctuary to share Christ's love this way are also called to go from this place out into the world "as God sent Jesus into the world, so he sends us into the world." The question becomes: "When we go into the world, HOW do we share God's love?"

Frankly, HOW we share God's love is not specified. It's that simple. Yes, Jesus said: "**you shall love your neighbor as yourself.**" (Mark 12:31) but HOW we do this loving is not specified. What is clear is that we ARE SENT OUT INTO THE WORLD to love as God loves.

For me, being SENT OUT INTO THE WORLD to love, is in fact, a way of BEING in the world—in the world that you interact with in your neighborhood, at your work place, on the freeway, at your children's schools, at the grocery store, when you mail a letter at the post office, when you greet people at our weekly Food Pantry, when you provide a meal to our Rotating Homeless Shelter guests, when you visit your granny or others who may not be able to get out into the world, when you interact with your coach on the playing field, when you provide a meal to someone who had surgery, when you weed a garden, or volunteer in the classroom, when you fly in an airplane and help someone get their carry-on luggage settled—whatever it is that you are doing IN THE WORLD, there you are, as a beloved child of God sharing the love of God through Jesus Christ with whomever is in your presence. It is THAT simple. Really!

Some of you have balked at the idea that St. Philip's will be creating an evangelism plan in 2016. Some have already told me, effectively, "over my dead body", or nicely, "that's grand for you to do Mary, but you won't see me out doing evangelism." Some who have said this are actually people who I observe doing some remarkably powerful ministry of witnessing to the power of God's



love They do it in simple acts of LISTENING to others who are suffering, lonely, or ill. Others offer that gift of hospitality within their homes, inviting others—including strangers—into fellowship and fun in the name of the community of St. Philip's. The difference is that these people who wouldn't be caught dead doing evangelism are hearing language that is sometimes threatening--implying that to evangelize is to shove a particular understanding of Christ's good news down people's throats! The word "evangelism," comes from the Greek word *euagelion*—*most literally translated it means "good news"*. *The fact is, scripture offers us MANY ways to share that good news, most of which are NOT preachy, teachy or threatening. Most of the ways Jesus himself shared good news was in loving people into wholeness, not in preaching at them!*

Many of us already are sharing the good news. What I am calling for is a little bit of intentionality regarding sharing the love of God by going out of St. Philip's Church building, and in your own voice, telling stories that reveal to others actual experiences which point to God's love. As an example, would you be able to tell someone who may not have the blessing of a faith community, of a time when your faith community showed God's love through a simple act of prayer, or by bringing you flowers when you were ill, or offering you a time of fellowship, or whatever small or big moment of sharing of themselves? What might be different is acknowledging that this kindness comes from God's abundant love.

You would be doing this to INVITE another into having their own relationship of love with God, not to have them have the same experience of God as you have. Too often we act as if we are trying to limit God's Holy Spirit, and God is much bigger than any box (e.g. church, temple, building...) we could ever create.

Of course, Jesus did send his disciples out two-by-two, so you may want to invite a friend along.

Prayers of peace to you as you seek your place as a beloved child of God,

Pastor Mary & Jim Blessing

Easter Choir Rehearsals

Sunday, 11:30; Tuesday, 6:30

Sue Morris (Int. Music Coordinator)

831-325-9330, [morrir5@sky.com](mailto:morrisr5@sky.com)



Last Call For March Dinner Groups!!

St Philip's will be starting up small potluck dinner groups very soon! We will be meeting in the homes of various members of our congregation for food, fellowship, and fun. This is a great way to renew old friendships and form brand new ones. We already have about 20 families/individuals who have signed up and there is still time to be included for March. If you would like to be a part of this new adventure, please email Nancy Connor ASAP at nancy@toadski.com.

This Week: Feb. 28 - Mar 5

Wed, 10:30, **Theology Book Group**, Sanctuary

Weds., Noon **Communion**

Wed., 5:30, **Lenten Soup Supper**,
Parish Hall

Wed, 5:30, **H.S. Youth: God Talk**, Youth
Room

Thu, 5pm, **Food Pantry**, Foyer

Sat., 5 pm, **Overnight Guests**, PH

**Theology Book Group, Invites you to
a deeper friendship with Jesus**

The book we're reading, The Seven
Last Words, by Jesuit Fr. James Martin,
offers that very invitation!

PLEASE JOIN US!

Wednesdays, 10:30-12, Sanctuary

Soup

Suppers

Wednesdays

5:30-7:30pm

Please join us for

**Food /Fellowship/Faith Sign
up in foyer to bring soup**



Hey, High Schoolers -

Wednesdays, Feb. 17-Mar.16

5:30 pm, sharing Soup Supper

6:30 to 8:00 pm, Group meeting

**Feel free to bring your homework!
Invite your friends!**

Help Needed For Servers for Sunday Worship: We are in need of servers for our Sunday Worship. Once a month, you can volunteer to serve. Lectors, ushers, and servers are all needed, at both the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. service. We ALWAYS need back-ups, so sign up even if someone else is listed when you are available. Training is available. Or **are you feel called** to coordinate this important ministry? See stphilip-sv.net/WorshipServiceSchedule. Questions?

✝
**KEEP
CALM
AND BECOME
ALTAR
SERVER!**

Winter Retreat Planning for Next Year: We had so much fun on retreat a few weeks ago on the shores of beautiful Lake Tahoe that we want to plan for next year. We have to get our reservation in NOW for next year. Possibly February 3 - 5, 2017. We are gathering a group that is interested in helping plan and coordinate our retreat for next year. The first thing we need to do is confirm this date. If you want to help, (and why wouldn't you, who doesn't love fun trip!) please send me an email at lori@kintz.net. We are going to have a quick (half an hour at most) get started meeting during coffee hour on Sunday, March 6th. - Lori Kintz



Flower Pot Needed

Does anyone have a flower pot, @ 12", they could donate? It's for a new poinsettia in the upstairs bathroom. *Elizabeth*

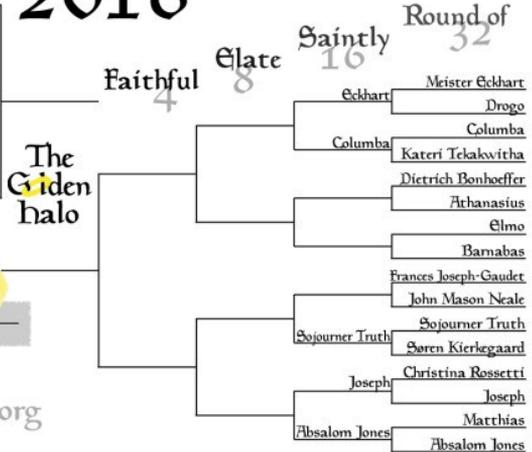
Did you lose an earring?

Check with Julie O'Brien if you did, as she found one.



Helena
 Monnica
 Constance
 Dominic
 Clare
 Denis
 Vida Dutton Scudder
 F. D. Maurice
 Cyril
 Methodius
 Lawrence
 Albert Schweitzer
 Roch
 Gertrude
 Julian of Norwich
 William Wilberforce

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Lentmadness.org
2016



An offering of
Forward Movement.org



Join us for
 The Great Chili Cookoff
 6-9 p.m.. Friday, March 18,
 Resurrection Catholic 7600 Soquel Dr
 See brownpapertickets.com/event/2497767.

Clean Egg Cartons Needed!

The Food Pantry ever & always needs egg cartons. We get the eggs in bulk from Second Harvest and put them in 6- or 12- egg cartons for the pantry customers. Clean ones only, please.

