



## Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 7, 2025

Fill us at daybreak with your kindness, that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days.

-- Psalm 90:14



Daily Mass

Week of September 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

Monday: 8:00 Bernadette Pugh+  
 Tuesday: 8:00 Special Intentions  
 Wednesday: 8:00 Jane Meagher+  
 Thursday: 8:00 Special Intentions: Good Health  
 Friday: 8:00 Lenore McCracken+



Please remember the sick in our Parish, especially, Maria Corrales, Dan McDonald, Lorraine Heine-mann, Lisa Wemple, Sarah Wren, Marian Flandick, James Breen, Janet Laurent, Anil Siu, Peggy Del-son-Rini, Frank Rini and Cecilia Uyeda.

### Weekly Collections

August 31, 2025	\$7,122.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$1,120.00



Baptisms

The Parish Family of Corpus Christi has been increased and enriched through the recent baptism of:

**Kane Christopher Wilhelmy,**

son of Lisa Gates and Christopher Wilhelmy.

Congratulations to the proud parents from all of us!

### Priests Retirement Collection!

Currently, we have over forty retired priests in the Diocese of Oakland. With one hundred active priests over the age of 60 or older, the number of retired clergy will grow considerably over the next decade. In addition, thanks be to God, our retired clergy are living longer and continue to help at Masses. However, this increases the cost above projections that were made when the system was put in place a couple of decades ago. Also, priests who come to our Diocese from another one or religious orders to serve the people of Oakland do not bring their retirement benefits with them. They start with zero when they begin to minister here. After meeting with the Priests' Retirement Board in 2013, it was recommended to add this second collection which will be next weekend, September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support!

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, we joined Catholic communities around the world to celebrate St. Phoebe's Feast Day. After Vatican II, Pope Gregory the Great's Feast Day was moved to September 3<sup>rd</sup> and Phoebe's commemoration was sidelined. It's time to give this remarkable saint her due!

St. Paul introduces us to Phoebe in Romans 16:1-2:

*"I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae, so that you may receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and help her in whatever she may need from you; for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well."*

This short passage carries great weight. Paul names Phoebe *diakonos* (deacon) -- the only person named deacon in the entire Bible. She was so distinguished that Paul told the Romans to treat her as a saint, an extraordinary honor for a woman (and man). Female deacons weren't unusual in the early church, serving from the 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. They received the same ordination rite as male deacons.

Phoebe wasn't just given a title. Paul chose her as his apostolic emissary for a perilous mission: to carry his Letter to the Romans from Greece to Rome and be the first to interpret his complex theology. It was a grueling 700-mile journey and no small feat, as women were not allowed to travel alone. Yet, Phoebe's powerful passage is excluded from our Sunday Lectionary readings, leaving most Catholics unaware of her trailblazing and prominent role in the early Church.

By the end of 2025, a Vatican study group focused on women's roles -- including female deacons -- will deliver their recommendations to Pope Leo. Let's pray for greater recognition and participation for women at every level of our Church, including restoring the female diaconate that Phoebe boldly represents.

To get involved, please go to Discerning Deacons at: <https://discerningdeacons.org> and add your voice to this important, prayerful movement. Let's lift Phoebe from the margins!

Love, Fr. Leo and Anne Zehren

### Please Note!

Corpus Christi School is updating their Family, Friends and Alumni information. Please send your current contact information, including email address, to: development@corpuschristischool.com. Thank you.

### **Upcoming Grief Support Ministry Meeting!**

The Grief Support Ministry invites you to a gathering today, September 7<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Gibson Center, to provide support during times of sorrow, whether from a recent loss of any kind, or one that continues heartache. It will be an opportunity to share stories in a safe environment, offer comfort to one another and provide ways to cope. All parishioners and their friends are welcome!

### **Living Our Faith Meetings!**

The Living Our Faith Committee will resume monthly meetings on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Gibson Center. Please join us for faith-sharing and a discussion of how to best support our Corpus Christi Family and community. All are welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Midlin at: [midlin.nancy@gmail.com](mailto:midlin.nancy@gmail.com). Hope to see you there.



### **Attitude Change!**

Today's readings ask us to re-think our attitudes and ways. The passage from the book of Wisdom reminds us that, when it comes to understanding, even the wisest person barely scrapes the surface of things.

In Paul's provocative little letter to Philemon, the apostle praises Philemon for his understanding of the social order -- which included slavery -- and for his good treatment of Onesimus. Then Paul goes on to drop his bombshell. He tells Philemon that Onesimus is now a Christian and should be treated as such -- as a brother, an equal. What was Philemon to think?

Today's Gospel tells us that if we are to follow Jesus, we must do some serious planning. Then, once all our planning is complete, we have to be willing to accept the fact that our plans are never enough.



### **Today's Readings**

**First Reading** -- You sent your holy spirit from on high and thus were the paths of those on earth made straight (Wisdom 9:13-18b).

**Psalm** -- In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge (Psalm 90).

**Second Reading** -- Paul asks Philemon to accept back his slave Onesimus as a brother (Philemon 9-10, 12-17).

**Gospel** -- Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? (Luke 14:25-33).

### **Light and Shadow!**

In faith there is enough light for those who want to believe and enough shadow to blind those who don't.

-- Blaise Pascal

### **Readings For The Week September 8<sup>th</sup> -- 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Monday:** First Reading Micah 5:1-4a;  
Psalm 13;  
Gospel Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23

**Tuesday:** First Reading Colossians 2:6-15;  
Psalm 145;  
Gospel Luke 6:12-19

**Wednesday:** First Reading Colossians 3:1-11;  
Psalm 145;  
Gospel Luke 6:20-26

**Thursday:** First Reading Colossians 3:12-17;  
Psalm 150;  
Gospel Luke 6:27-38

**Friday:** First Reading 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14;  
Psalm 16;  
Gospel Luke 6:39-42

**Saturday:** First Reading 1 Timothy 1:15-17;  
Psalm 113;  
Gospel Luke 6:43-49

### **Treasures From Our Tradition!**

In recent years, there has been remarkable progress in drawing persons with disabilities into full celebration. Now it is generally accepted that worship places need accommodations such as ramps or elevators, large-print materials for those who are sight-impaired, and perhaps even an assisted hearing system or signing in American Sign Language. American Sign Language is not merely English translated into movement, but a distinct language with its own grammar, syntax (word order) and vocabulary. For this reason, the American Catholic bishops have approved American Sign Language (ASL) as an official language of the liturgy. Celebrating liturgy in our own language (the vernacular) means that liturgy must be accessible for all languages and cultures. The fact that Mass is celebrated this weekend in some places in total silence, but with the full participation of deaf people praising God in the movements of their hands, and sometimes even with a priest who is deaf, is nothing less than the Church being faithful to the image of Jesus, who made the deaf hear and the mute speak.

### **Meeting of Magnificat!**

Magnificat, a ministry for Catholic women, invites you to attend their upcoming Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at their new location at Christ the Light Cathedral, 2121 Harrison Street in Oakland. Fr. Erick will be saying Mass at 9:00 a.m. at the Cathedral. Their guest speaker will be Sister Magnificat Rose from her order, The Sisters of Life. Their mission is to help women with hope who would otherwise seek abortions. The price is \$35.00 online registration by September 9<sup>th</sup>. Go to: <https://magnificat-ministry.net/chapters/ca-walnut-creek>. Please contact Michelle Heckle at (925) 818-3111 for more information.