



BENIZI NOOZ

Summer 2021

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St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church

18211 S Henrici Rd., Oregon City, OR 97045

THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH: REFLECTIONS/LESSONS ON A DEVOUT MAN

INTRODUCTION:

On December 8, 1870, Pope Pius the IX honored St. Joseph by proclaiming him the Patron of the Universal Church. Also, he raised St. Joseph's feast of March 19 to the rank of double of the first-class, meaning that it is permitted and celebrated when the feast occurs during Lent. Typically, March 19 always falls during the Lenten season. In the decree 'Quemadmodum Deus,' Pope Pius IX wrote, "As Almighty God appointed Joseph, Son of the patriarch Jacob, over the land of Egypt to save grain for the people. So, when the time came, he was about to send to earth His only begotten Son, the Savior of the World. He chose another Joseph, of whom the first had been the type, and He made him the lord and chief of his household and possessions, the guardian of His choicest treasures."

Further, "Because of this sublime dignity which God conferred on his most faithful servant, the Church has always most highly honored and praised blessed Joseph next to his spouse, the Virgin Mother of God, and has besought his intercession in time of trouble. Accordingly, it has now pleased the Holy Father, Pope Pius IX, to entrust himself and all the faithful to the Patriarch St. Joseph's most powerful patronage and has solemnly declared him Patron of the Universal Church." Remarkably, the Universal Church celebrates this year (December 8, 2020 – December 8, 2021) as St. Joseph's year. Pope Francis declared this year as the year of St. Joseph. The year Covid-19 pandemic significantly plagued the globe, a year that will be hard to delete in our minds and the annals of history. The deadly pandemic brought untold hardships to the world, halted global activities, and, above all, took millions of precious lives, thereby causing severe pain and sorrow on God's children. It is against this backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic that Pope Francis wrote the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart"). In the Apostolic letter, he says, the pandemic has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation." As we journey through the Year of the Patron of the Universal Church, I wish to reflect briefly on St. Joseph's life and his didactic teachings. To enable sons and daughters of God to seek necessary avenues to learn from him and apply them to our lives as we continue the journey of faith and life.

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A FAITHFUL MAN OF ACTIONS:

To celebrate the 150 years of proclaiming St. Joseph, the Patron of the Universal Church, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, announced December 8, 2020 – December 8, 2021, as the Year of St. Joseph. By that declaration, the Holy Father offered the universal Church an enviable opportunity to explore and reflect on the life of St Joseph, the famous offspring of David. In addition to exploring his life, we should devoutly and faithfully ask for his needed intercession in our world today. We should ask and seek the protection of St. Joseph, from the Terror of demons, as he graciously protected the Blessed Virgin Mary and the infant Jesus from Herod, the evil king, and his cohorts. The holy man, Joseph, taught humanity a lot with his life. The evangelists did not record what Joseph said in the Scriptures but what he did, which is summarized in his total submission to God's will. Also, nothing was recorded by the authors about the circumstances of his death and burial. Joseph's entire life was about Mary and Jesus, his life pointed to Jesus. Therefore, his life is a solid reminder to humanity that it is not all about us but, about him: Jesus, the Savior of the world. Our part is to obey the command of the Father. Joseph planted a genuine seed for humanity by humbly and obediently submitting to the will of God. His obedient submission to the instructions of God: The Father, portrays him as a man of action. The Scriptures describe him as a righteous/just/devout man (Matthew 1: 19). The entrance antiphon of the mass of the Solemnity of St. Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on March 19 says, "Behold, a faithful and prudent steward, whom the Lord set over his household." (Luke 12:42). God the Father entrusted the holy family into his loving protective care, to care for the second person of the blessed Trinity and the mother of God, queen of heaven and earth, thereby caring for and protecting the Universal Church. God made him the head of the Holy Family, the pillar of families, the diligent protector of Christ, and the most chaste spouse. What a special and a great privilege.

A HUMBLE MAN, WHO DID GOD'S WILL:

St. Joseph was betrothed to Mary, in order words, not yet married, but he was committed to marrying Mary. During this commitment and making necessary preparations for their wedding, Joseph discovered that his beautiful young wife was pregnant. One could imagine the shock and confusion that surrounded St. Joseph. But being a righteous man as the Scriptures describe him, and because of his love for Mary, he decided to divorce her quietly. Making it public will result in Mary's disgrace and possibly stoning her to death. As he contemplated on what to do, there suddenly, was a change of plan for Joseph by God. One might guess that God whispered to Joseph's ear, "It is true, my chaste and devout Joseph, I know that you are not responsible for Mary's pregnancy. From henceforth, I will be changing your human plans with a divine masterpiece; therefore, "Do not be afraid to take Mary home." (Matthew 1:20)

This kind of change is not a piece of cake to be washed down with a cup of coffee. Indeed, a lot of questions were going on in Joseph's mind. One thing stands out, though; Joseph accepted the change of plan from God. Joseph listened to God and wholeheartedly accepted the Father's will to care for Mary and her pregnancy and, finally, baby Jesus. With his silent actions, Joseph schooled humanity on the need to, not just listening to the voice of God, but totally submitting to his will. God's will for us is not to do what we want, but to do what God wills for us no matter how challenging and uncomfortable it might be or how it might disrupt our already mapped out plans. No matter what the assignment is, God knows that we can accomplish it if we faithfully and entirely commit to him. When circumstances seem impossible, may we learn to have recourse to God; consult the one who can turn our mountains to level ground and our sorrows into joy. May we learn to constantly, turn to God first, because he is the Alpha and Omega. When God mandates, he empowers.

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A HOLY MAN OF PRAYER:

In addition to the above lesson, St. Joseph taught us that we need to be calm, pray and ask for God's directives when confronted with challenges and uncertainties in our lives, before confiding in human beings, the devout man Joseph quietly communed with God on the next thing to do. God responded and told him what to do. How often do we tell God the challenges facing us before faithlessly complaining to people who at times are of no help to us? When we are confronted with obstacles on our journey, especially when they are crashing on our desired and cherished plan(s), let us learn to first and foremost turn to God for directions like faithful St. Joseph. As we earlier pointed out, he did not talk or say much. However, we remember him by his conspicuous deeds emanating from his obedience to God. Let our good works speak for us. Do not spend your valuable time announcing and showing people your achievements; allow them to see what you have done and talk about them.

Furthermore, those who think that being wise and mature is by commenting on everything that is trending should learn from St. Joseph to speak when necessary. Most people are in trouble today, and worth nothing because they open their mouths so wide and talk about frivolous and unnecessary things.

ST. JOSEPH- A PROTECTOR /GUARDIAN:

Another vital lesson from St. Joseph is protecting and guarding whoever and whatever God has placed in our care. God instructed Joseph, "Do not be afraid to take Mary into your home." The implication of that command is to protect and guard Mary against every assault. God the Father empowered Joseph to protect Mary from all negative comments and actions of her relatives. Again, when wicked Herod wanted to perpetuate himself in power as a demigod, he took a horrible and unholy decision and spilled innocent babies' blood, just because he wanted to kill Jesus. Joseph was warned in a dream to flee to Egypt with Mary and the infant Jesus. To protect and save the infant Jesus under his custody, Joseph made that treacherous and dangerous journey to Egypt. In this year of St. Joseph, we ask for God's guidance to teach and instill in us the importance of protecting what God has blessed us with and has created, especially human beings created in the image and likeness of God. God created us all in his image and likeness; therefore, any plan or attempt to destroy any life is an orchestrated plan to destroy the image of God. The voice from heaven in Acts 9: 4 asked, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me." Note that he did not say, why are you persecuting the Church, but "why are you persecuting me". Let us be authentic lovers of life (pro-life) from the womb to the tomb. As we carry placards to advocate for the unborn child, let us in the same way, proudly support, protect, and work for the welfare of those already born irrespective of race and status in life.

Immigrants need to be protected and accommodated by those who enjoy the peace, warmth, and comfort of their native lands. No one takes pleasure in endangering his/her life searching for greener pastures if not for the necessities of life or when fleeing for protection. In line with this, the Holy Father in *Patris corde* said that "St. Joseph is the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution, and poverty." Like Papa Joseph, the solace of the wretched, we should undertake the challenge to protect life no matter the circumstances; we must learn to love the poor and the vulnerable as St. Joseph did. Joseph did not abandon Mary and Jesus because he is not his biological Son; instead, he accomplished his mission because he saved a life.

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LOVER OF THE CHURCH AND THE POOR:

The devout and righteous Joseph, courageously in the precarious circumstances, guarded and shielded Jesus and Mary at the expense of his life. By defending the Savior's mother and the Savior, invariably, he protected the mother of the Church and the head of the Church. In his Apostolic letter, Pope Francis said of Joseph, "As the guardian of Jesus and Mary, Joseph cannot be other than the guardian of the Church." Consequently, the Church is the home of the poor, needy, suffering, and abandoned; similarly, the Church accommodates people from all strata of life. Also, the Church is a perfect home for saints, sinners, healthy and the dying, robust and the weak, black and white, brown and yellow, military and civilian. St. Joseph as the guardian of the Church also loves the Church and all its members. His silent but bold actions taught us to love the Church and its members and put our best to protect the Church's interest and not silently persecute the Church from within and from outside. As a man of faith, undaunted Joseph, with God's help, confronted the difficulties of life and did not look for shortcuts. In this year of St. Joseph and always, we should imitate Joseph, the most prudent to confront our challenges in life.

COURAGEOUS JOSEPH TOOK MARY INTO HIS HOME:

"Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home." (Matthew 1:20). Joseph took Mary home in his faith and trust, and their home became a sanctuary of holiness and love. Joseph was given the great privilege of sheltering and embracing the Mother of Jesus when he received her into his home.

As Joseph took her, unreservedly and without fear, into his home, so are we asked to take her wholeheartedly into our hearts and homes. Also, it is pertinent to recall that John, the beloved disciple took Mary home at the request of Jesus. Jesus said to the disciple, "Behold, your Mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home." (John 19: 25 – 27). Mary betrothed to Joseph, is the most powerful intercessor and source of God's favor. Her example is a mirror into which we can find our holiness, humility, prayer, love, and faith. Let her presence be felt in our hearts and homes so that we can honor her and invoke her powerful intercession. We should follow the footprints of Joseph and proudly take Mary to our spiritual and physical homes. Mary should be occupying a prominent place in our homes. Let us be proud of and faithful to the prayer: 'Hail Mary, full of grace! The Lord is with you' (Luke 1:28). According to St. Louis Grignion de Monfort, "The salvation of the whole world began with the 'Hail Mary'. Hence the salvation of each person is also attached to this prayer."

CONCLUSION/A PERFECT TEACHER:

As already mentioned, Joseph is a perfect teacher who taught through his life. Without using words, he taught humanity obedience to God's will, humility, selfless love, projecting God and not-self, happiness in the good of others. Joseph, through his actions, taught the entire human race the need to protect and care for the vulnerable and not trying to eradicate them from the face of the earth as the weak ones of the society. The head of the Holy family silently schooled humanity that there is dignity in labor, therefore, to be proud of our handiwork/profession.

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He taught the young Jesus carpentry work and skills. The most chaste husband of Mary taught us that we should use our talents and be productive than wasting the talents on the altar of laziness and complaints or using them negatively, for instance, by inciting violence and polluting the minds of the others, especially the young. Heroic St. Joseph is a preeminent witness to the truth and obedience to the commandments of God. In addition, he taught us to allow our good works to speak for us than announcing what we have achieved. May our hearts be open to learn from revered St. Joseph, the Head of the Holy Family, Mirror of patience, Patron of the dying, Model of artisans, and the Glory of home life. May we endeavor to ask for St. Joseph's intercession faithfully and reverently.

At the end of the Holy Father's Apostolic letter, he encouraged all to pray to St. Joseph:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you, God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you, Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, and Terror of demons, Pray for us.

Blessings
Your servant in Christ
Fr. Paschal Ezurike.



Parish Staff

Pastor: Father Paschal Ezurike
Business Manager: Mary Pattyn
Secretary: Sherrie Havens
Music Director: Debbie Schaffer
RE Director: Gail Williams
Youth Director: Katy Schnoor

Pastoral Council 2020-2021

President: Matthew Anderson
Vice President:
Past President: Bill Crowley
Secretary: Sherrie Havens
Communications: Bill Breshears
Evangelization: Ed Schneider
Helping Hands: Bill Breshears
Jeannine Breshears
Liturgy: Fr. Paschal Ezurike
Parish/Family Life: Thuc Alexander
Social Justice: **Volunteer Needed**
Religious Education
Youth: Gail Williams
Youth Minister: Katy Schnoor

Baptisms (June 20th)

Jacob Elliot Dahle
Mile Casimir Czyzewicz

Deaths

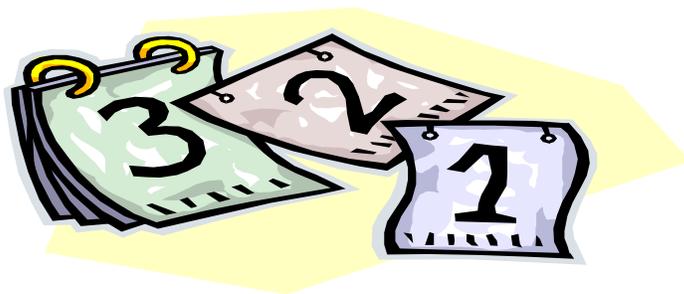
Charlene Miller, Denise Shields,
Gregory Gosser, Mary Esther Thurber,
John Kosinski, Claire Glenn, Mary Knaak,
Mary-Jo Miller Lombardi

First Communion

Nora Mitchael, Violet Mitchael,
Oakley Williams, Maple Williams,
Claire Pattyn

Confirmation

Brook Brown, Rebecca Weigel, Lebbie Watts,
Alice Person, Crista Baurer



Special Dates for Summer

June

30 Youth group leaves for Steubenville

July

4 Youth group returns from Steubenville
4 Independence Day

August

13 Father Paschal's Birthday
15 Feast of the Assumption of Mary - Holy Day of Obligation - Mass at 8:00am and 7:00pm Covid-19 permitting
22 Parish Picnic following the 10:30 mass
23 St. Philip Benizi Feast Day
25 Father Paschal's Ordination Anniversary 26th year



LOVE'S WHISPERINGS

I love you. I am here.
You leave me, I am here.
You walk away, I am here.
You forget me, I am here.
You turn away, I am here.
You forget even a simple "thank you", I am here.
You feel dry, I am here.
You feel alone, I am here.
You wander, I am here.
I love you. I am here.

HOLY

Holy One
Holy and total Truth
Holy and only One
The One
Holy and self anointing
Holy Ground of Being
Holy Space that sustains us All
Holy Creative Force, willing us here and forward
Holy and Perfect Order
Holy Energy from which we draw our life force
Holy One who sent me here
Holy One, help me find me in your Holiness.

HOW TO BE MORE LOVE

Touch your simplest of places:
the deepest part that always remains in connection with me
Start there
The spark and fire of my love rests here
forever nurtured
forever kindled
forever stoked
The warmth and heat of Love is here
I WILL that you allow my heat to pass through you
Then ask, and not assume
Ask, and deep listen
Ask, and "love" for the response
Do not fear knowing or hearing the pain - it is all around personal pain, being out of relationship with me
Be the relationship in that present moment between the ask and the response
Be the energy and deep silence of that pause
Be in the presence of "unknowing" so that connection can unfurl into a bud of relationship
Do my work in that space of silence
the space between the heart beats
the space between the breaths
I am sustaining you there
Love from there

Heather Hannam

COMING IN AUGUST

St. Philip Benizi

Parish Picnic

**Honoring our patron,
St. Philip Benizi.**

WHEN: Sunday, August 22

WHERE: St. Philip Benizi

TIME: Following 10:30 Mass

*Mark your calendars and check the bulletin each week starting
at the end of July for more details about this super fun event.*

*If you would like to volunteer to help call
the Parish Office at (503) 631-2882.*



It's time for VBS! Knights of North Castle

Venture into a frozen land in search of the King's mighty armor

When: August 2-6th

Where: St. Philip Benizi Hall

Time: 9-noon

Cost: \$20 per child

North Castle is hidden in a frozen land. The King's valiant Knights are on a quest in search of the King's Armor. But the armor isn't what they think it is.

Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor, **invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power by exploring how we put on the armor of God.** Kids will take on the role of brave Knights and begin their quest each session by opening the King's Book.

They'll explore Old and New Testament stories and discover different pieces of protective armor – **the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Justice, the Shoes of Peace, the Shield of Faith and the Helmet of Salvation** – at work in the lives of familiar Bible characters, and explore how that armor works in their own lives as they flow and serve God.

Contact Gail Williams for more information (gail.williams@wcssoft.com or 503-936-5060).

Congratulations!



Thank you Gail Williams for 20 years of amazing work as the Religious Education Director here at St Philip Benizi!

We hope you fondly remember your years here and all the hundreds of children you taught through the years!!

May you enjoy your retirement and new adventures!

You will be greatly missed!!

My Goodbye...

On this, my last year as the Religious Education Director here at St. Philip Benizi, I would like to thank God, Fr. Paschal and all of you for the privilege of being able to serve the families of this parish for the past twenty years. I have come to know so many wonderful people and have grown so much in my faith. I am grateful to you for your kindness and generosity, which you have shown me in so many ways.

As Director of Religious Education, I have watched many of your children grow from grade school children to married parents. I have had the privilege to witness children be baptized, receive their First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. I have worked with many wonderful volunteers, staff members and committees and had the joy of teaching your children either in the classroom or through faith activities. These moments I will cherish forever.

One of the hardest parts of anyone's life can be when God closes the door on something that you love. I have known for a while that I was not meeting the needs of our parish community. It is time for someone new to step into my shoes with new ideas and energy. With the recent health issues regarding my parents, my focus needs to be on family. My biggest regret is that my timing for leaving is happening while we are still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic showed me in order to connect to people you need to be more innovative and current in technology, which is why I believe it is time for someone new to step into my role.

I am so thankful for the relationships I have built here at St. Philip Benizi. I am always amazed at how generous and caring our parish can be. Please know that I am grateful for all these years of serving the families of St. Philip Benizi. The impact you have had on my life is something that I will remember and cherish the rest of my life.

In closing, remember that we are made in the image and likeness of God. Because of that, our choices matter. Every choice we make reveals who we are. God reveals to us who He is – Love. We were made out of love and to love. My prayer as I leave my position in the church is that we all continue to show love and patience to one another.

“May the Lord bless you, and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace.”

The Peace of Christ to you all and God bless you,

Gail Williams

First Communion May 15th



From left to right bottom row Violet Mitchael, Maple Williams, Oakley Williams, Nora Mitchael, and Claire Pattyn Top Row, Gail Williams and Father Paschal

Confirmation

June 16, 2021



Bishop Peter Smith & Fr. Paschal in back Left to right: Brooke Brown, Rebecca Weigel, Libbie Watts, Alice Person, Crista Baurer

Graduating Seniors



Avery Dryden: Estacada High School

Awards, recognitions, scholarships: Merit Scholarship & Finley Academic Scholarship

What are your summer plans: To have a lot of fun!

Future plans: Attend Oregon State University to study Agricultural Business.

Youth Group:

Our Youth Group Just Keeps On Going

As we all navigate through the second year of Covid restrictions, our amazing youth group has been keeping busy by attending school online, figuring out how to keep in touch with friends and working on community service projects in order to fundraise for our trip to a Steubenville Conference in July. We will be attending the conference this year in Denver, CO and are blessed to go see the amazing speakers talk about the theme of the conference: **Restored.**

"Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved." -Psalm 80:3 RSV

Can you remember a time when you weren't anxious about something? The chaos of our lives can overwhelm us and make it difficult to see anything other than confusion and brokenness. And somewhere along the way, we've forgotten who we are – and, more importantly, who God is.

We have a good, loving Father in heaven who created us to share in His glory, to see everything and everyone with His eyes. His greatest desire is to raise us up out of our fear and anxiety and restore us to the hope and abundant life that only He can give.

This summer, over 50,000 Catholic teens across North America, including 8 parishioners from St Philip Benizi Church, will attend one of 25 Steubenville Youth Conferences to encounter the God who calls us out of darkness and into his marvelous light. Lift your eyes to the glory of God. Be restored.

Thanks to all who participated in our fundraising events ; the plant sale (over \$800 raised), the Pampered Chef Party (earning over \$430), and the donation match challenge (over \$3400 raised).

This is not a group of kids who just want to sit around and play games...these kids are hard workers! We were asked to help with some yard work this last year. We worked hard digging dirt, moving soil and rocks, weeding, trimming plants, raking and picking up yard debris for people in Redland and Beaver creek who wanted to make a donation for our help. We even had time to help Mr Buxman with the wood ministry and to clean up the church grounds after the ice storm.

We could not have planned this trip without YOU! Thank you to the Parishioners that helped make this happen. We will come back from this conference with a "restored" love of God, and share all the amazing adventures with you at coffee hour.

Please pray for us; Paul, Cobie, William, Katy, Alice, Crista, Brooke and Carolyn, that our hearts may be opened to the word of God.

From Alice Person;

Despite the crazy year we have had, our amazing youth group leader Katy Schnoor was able to get us together to give back to the community. This year the youth group has done lots of service work for the community and the church. In total, we completed 18 and a half hours of work. Some of the work we did was weeding for a parishioner, cleaning up branches from the ice storm at the church and moving wood rounds for another parishioner. We also did work for a lovely couple, Judy and Roger who are not parishioners, but have come to our sales in the past. We emptied and filled their garden boxes and moved gravel in their beautiful garden. This took us 3 days of work and they generously donated to the youth group to help us reach our goal to attend the Steubenville youth conference in Denver, Colorado. We had two fundraisers to help us raise money for Steubenville. The first fundraiser was a flower sale. We made more than we expected, which we were very pleased with. The second one was a Pampered Chef party put on by Carolyn Brown. The parents of youth group members were superstars, they came to every event and worked alongside with us. The youth group is also very thankful for the parish and community's support!



St. Philip Benizi - Redland

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Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 Tue - Thurs, 8:30-12 Fri.

Phone: 503-631-2882

Fax: 503-631-7443

Email: stphilipbenizi_redland@archdpdx.org
Website: www.philipbenizi.org

Mass Schedule

Mon., Wed. - Fri.	8:00am
Tuesday	6:30pm
Saturday	5:30pm Vigil
Sunday	8:00 & 10:30am

Mass times anywhere: 800-627-7846
www.masstimes.org

Reconciliation

Saturday 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday 9:00am to 10:00pm

St Philip Benizi Mission Statement

The Primary and only purpose of the Church is that of Jesus Christ who came into the world to fulfill the will of His Father. Thereby this becomes the mission of St. Philip Benizi parish, to proclaim the kingdom of God, to build up the parish community as a witness of God's love and care for the world, to be the invitation to become what God has called us to be.

This mission is best accomplished through individuals working with others who accept the same purpose. This forms a parish community and the work achieved with the guidance of the Spirit is called ministry. In this way we are directed to work toward God's purpose of "wanting all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth."
(1 Tim 2:4)

Since the inception of St Philip Benizi, volunteers have been a mainstay of the smooth functioning of the parish as we strive to fulfill the St. Philip Benizi Mission Statement.

You are the hands that bring the body of Christ to those who hunger for the Bread of Life. You are the catechists who I introduce the great truths of our faith to our youth and others. You are the voices that proclaim God's Word.

