

ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCH

April 30, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Easter



PARISH INFORMATION

18211 S Henrici RD
Oregon City OR 97045
PHONE: 503-631-2882
FAX: 503-631-7443

EMAIL: stphilipbenizi_redland@archdpdx.org

Pastor: Fr. Paschal Ezurike

Email: pezurike@archdpdx.org

Parish Staff

Business Manager: Mary Pattyn

503-631-2882

mpattyn@archdpdx.org

Secretary: Sherrie Havens

503-631-2882

shavens@archdpdx.org

RE Director: Melissa Payne

503-631-2882

mbear@archdpdx.org

Music Director: Debbie Schaffer

(C) 503-887-7701

Youth Minister: Katy Schnoor

(C) 503-314-8907

Pastoral Council President:

Matt Anderson

Administrative Council Chair:

Dan Sweeney

Adoration: Janet Tankersley

(C) 503-545-2229

Minister Volunteer Coordinators

Altar Servers: Don Payne

(H) 503-632-4370

Prayer Requests: Peggy St Andre

503-631-3531

Email Prayer Chain: Heather Hannam

hahannam@juno.com

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm Mass

Sunday - 8:00am & 10:30am Mass

Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri - 8am Mass

Tuesday - 6:30pm Mass

RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays – 4:00-5:00pm or by Appointment

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Thursdays – 8:30am-10pm (*ends with Benediction*)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

If you or someone you know is homebound, wants to receive Communion or the Sacrament of Anointing, please call the parish office, 503-631-2882.

Baptisms: Call the Parish Office.

Funerals: Call the Parish Office.

Weddings: Call Fr. Paschal at least 6 months in advance of the planned date.

St. Philip Benizi Website: www.philipbenizi.com

God is good! All the time! All the time, God is good.

Dear friends in Christ, the mind-boggling story of the encounter between Jesus and the two disciples on the way to Emmaus dominated last Sunday's reflection. Out of frustration and inability to understand and follow the breaking news of the Resurrection story, Christ's followers dispersed to different locations. On their way to Emmaus to embrace their former business, the two encountered the Lord but could not recognize him. The scales that blindfolded them fell off at the table of the Eucharist when he broke the bread. At the end of the reflection, we prayed that we always feel Jesus' presence in our lives and continue to recognize him in the Holy Sacrifice of the mass.

Today is the Good Shepherd (Bonus Pastor) Sunday. Each year on this Sunday, the gospel reading invites us to reflect on the image of Jesus Christ as the Good Shepherd who devotedly cares for his flock. It is also an opportunity for us to assess our openness and desire to listen and follow the Shepherd who shed his blood for us. Also, the Church calls us this day to designate today as the World Day of Prayer for vocations, to pray faithfully for an increase in the vocation to the priesthood and consecrated life.

Today's first reading continues with Peter's daring Pentecost homily, which we heard last Sunday. In this segment, Peter explains to 'the whole house of Israel' (Acts 2:36) that Jesus is the promised Messiah. Peter's wise and daring homily heavily touched their hearts to the extent that they responded not with excuses but with genuine remorse and repentance. They asked Peter and the other apostles, "What are we to do, my brothers?" (Acts 2:37) Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

Peter says this is the fulfillment of the promises made to Israel and to whomever the Lord will call" (Acts 2: 39). We join them in that crucial question: What are we to do? The answer is clear and straightforward: we are called to ongoing repentance and renewal, to listen, follow, and hold tight to Jesus Christ, the gate for the sheep. In life's challenges, our faith and endurance are tested, and we are reminded that the gift of eternal life is only for the faithful follower.

In the gospel reading of this Sunday, which is about the Good Shepherd, it is customary to expect to hear Jesus say, "I am the Good Shepherd." Surprisingly, that is different from how Jesus identifies himself at the beginning of John 10. He tells a parable about entering the sheepfold, insisting that only a shepherd can come through the gate to the sheepfold. Those who enter by another means are there to cause harm and destroy the sheep. Later, Jesus used one of the I AM statements to describe himself. There are many I AM statements in the gospel of St. John. Jesus boldly said of himself: I am the bread of life (Jn 6: 35), I am the light of the world (Jn 8:12), before Abraham was I AM (Jn 8:58); I am the good Shepherd (Jn 10:11), I am the resurrection and the life (Jn 11: 25); I am the way, the truth and the life (Jn 14:6), I am the true vine (Jn 15:1). Where a parable uses an image, like the mustard seed, to teach about the kingdom of God, these I AM statements reveal to us Jesus' best identity by echoing back to the time when God first revealed himself to Moses at the burning bush as a relational God.

Jesus said, "I am the gate for the sheep" (Jn 10:9). Having restored the blind man to total spiritual and physical health in the previous chapter, Jesus teaches the crowd, including the Pharisees, about the true meaning of faith, and compares the true Shepherd with the counterfeit one. Unlike the true Shepherd, whose voice the sheep recognize and follow, the fake Shepherd, who is not better than the thief, remains a stranger to them, for he lacks genuine concern for their well-being.

Subsequently, Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd, but before the preceding passage (John 10:11), he is content to describe himself two times as the gate into the sheepfold. What does that mean? As the only gate, Jesus proclaims himself as the only means of salvation for the world: Whoever enters through me will be saved. St Peter reminds us that "there is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved." (Acts 4:12). Jesus Christ is the name. Unlike the false Shepherd who brings destruction and death, Jesus is the primary way to salvation and the giver of abundant life. 'I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly' (John 10:10). Jesus' mission as the gate is to give us life in abundance. Let us remember that life here is not merely earthly existence but life in its entire meaning: human, emotional, relational, and spiritual. *Continued on page 7*

This week at SPB and Upcoming Parish/Archdiocesan Events

Sunday, 4/30/2023

8:00am Mass: +Pat Reeves (Dryden Family)
 10:30am Mass: +Donald Perman
 (Larry & Nancy Carnahan)

Monday, 5/01/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
 8:00am Mass: +All Souls (Alexander Family)
 6:00pm: RCIA/Hall

Tuesday, 5/02/2023 Memorial of St.


Athanasius
 6:30pm Mass: +Earl & Lucille Zak
 (Todd & Heather Zak)

Wednesday, 5/03/2023 Feast of Sts. Philip and James

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
 8:00am Mass: +Bernice Hobbs (Lois Celorie)

Thursday, 5/04/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
 8:00am Mass: +Al Crivellone (Jan Alderman)
 7:00pm: Faith Sharing via Zoom

8:30am-10:00pm:  Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, 5/05/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
 8:00am Mass: +Bogdan Siwec
 (Anna & Jacek Wiktorowicz)

Saturday, 5/06/2023

4:00-5:00pm: Reconciliation/Church
 5:30pm Mass: +Dorothy Muller (Becky Wooten)

Sunday, 5/07/2023

8:00am Mass: All Parishioners
 10:30am Mass: +Maureen Gray
 (Sharron Brumbaugh)

Return Rice Bowls to the baskets by the doors of the Church. Thank you.

May 4th: National Day of Prayer
May 7th: 2nd collection for Catholic Charities
May 14th: Mother's Day Breakfast

Thank you to the Youth Group for hosting the Adoration/Dinner night last Sunday. It was a wonderful evening with adoration, dinner and the movie. Donations from the dinner came to \$1049 for the Youth Group. Thank you!

Do you have children attending Parochial School?

Around 1990 a SPB parishioner donated money for an educational fund at our parish in honor of Rev. Willis Leo Whalen. The fund has been opened to the parish for the school year of 2023-24. Pick up an application form from the office.

Mother's Day Breakfast May 14th after 8am and 10:30am Masses. Watch for more details to come.

Catholic Charities 2023 Annual Appeal

Founded during the Great Depression, we are your official domestic relief agency. The need continues today, and parishioners are part of the solution. Your gift to our 2023 annual appeal enables us to continue to offer lifesaving services such as financial coaching, affordable and transitional housing, permanent housing with supportive services, immigration legal help, refugee aid, family support and counseling, case management, food for our unhoused neighbors, and more. Give online at <https://give.catholiccharitiesoregon.org/give/471404#!donation/checkout>

"It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Your generous sacrifice will affirm your desire to make Jesus Christ known to others. Please visit, JesusChangesEverything.church or call (503) 233-8336 and give to the Archbishop's Catholic Appeal. Go to the SPB website to see the video from Archbishop Sample. ACA envelopes are in the pews and at the doors of the Church.

Your prayers make a difference: Join America on this Thursday, May 4th. Commit to pray for **15 minutes** to help complete a **24 hour** parish prayer chain. Fast all or part of May 4th and "**break the fast**" at a **6:15 PM Prayer and Soup/Bread Potluck** in the Parish Center Classroom. Pray for a specific national, state or local leader who will be notified of your commitment by postcard. We are called to **PRAY!** Please join us in the **72nd National Day of Prayer! Sign ups in the Narthex TODAY after each Mass.** Contact Heather Hannam 503-631-7354 hahannam@juno.com

Finance Corner

| Registered Household 222 | WEEK OF 4/23/2023 Actual | Budget |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| Donors 58 | \$4,800 (online: \$1,513) | \$6,331 |
| Fiscal Year | \$211,582 | \$208,532 |

Next Weeks Assignments

Ushers

5/06~5:30pm:
 5/07~8:00am: Paul Lowry
 5/07~10:30am: Larry Carnahan


Lector/Commentator

Heather Hannam
 Kristine Bible
 Nancy Carnahan

Extraordinary

Jeanne Hubel
 Claudia Evers
 Marina Logue

May Church Cleaners: Michelle Harrington (971-409-5664)
May Altar Linens: Janet Tankersly (503-545-2229)

 **5/07 9:00am:** Czyzewicz & Dahle
11:30am:





Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps.

1 PETER 2:21



Saved by Love, Not by Suffering

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

I'm not sure there is any value in suffering in and of itself. Nor do I think God wants us to suffer. That would make him sadistic. Nor is it, then, Jesus' suffering and death that saves us, but rather his love even to the point of suffering and death that saves us. It is his love that reveals the greatness of God's love for us that is so unbelievable. The basis of our faith is Jesus' trust in God, who would bring about life even through death. We also hear the wisdom of St. Peter today: "...If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God" (1 Peter 2:20). Such is the shepherd's voice that teaches us and leads us.

Reflect

**When are you patient in suffering for the sake of doing good?
Who has done the same for you?**

Does anyone ever choose to suffer for doing what is good? Yes. Every day. Spouses become caregivers for husbands or wives robbed of their memories. Each day people go to jobs that are pure drudgery, and they do so because they love their families. Some choose to live simply, to be countercultural in a consumer society. Others help their community by living in neighborhoods many avoid. Some parents willingly postpone a career in order to be present to their growing family. Teachers often go beyond expectations for students who need extra help. It is never the suffering of these people that captures and reflects the image of Jesus, but the love even to the point of suffering. ●

Dear Padre,

In the Apostles' Creed, we profess that Jesus "descended into hell." Is there any biblical reference to this? Do we know what he did when he was there?

Jesus Christ—who experienced death completely—descended to the realm of death. By his resurrection from the dead on the third day, he conquered death and the devil, “who has the power of death” (Hebrews 2:14). Other scriptural references include Acts 3:15, Romans 8:11, 1 Corinthians 15:20, and Hebrews 13:20. An ancient homily for Holy Saturday also attests to this belief: “God has fallen asleep in the flesh and he has raised up all who have slept ever since the world began....Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, he has gone to free from sorrow Adam in his bonds and Eve, captive with him....I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead.”

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, “Jesus did not descend into hell to deliver the damned, nor to destroy the hell of damnation, but to free the just who had gone before him” (CCC 633). His descent was to proclaim the Good News to the spirits imprisoned there, bringing “the Gospel message of salvation to complete fulfillment” to all people of all times and all places (CCC 634). Thus, “the gospel was preached even to the dead” (1 Peter 4:6). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org



VIUK KOSTIC / SHUTTERSTOCK



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

It is not always easy to discern the Good Shepherd's voice. Be careful. There is always the risk of being distracted by the din of so many other voices. Today we are invited not to let ourselves be distracted by the false wisdom of this world, but to follow Jesus...the one sure guide....

REGINA CAELI, ST. PETER'S SQUARE, MAY 7, 2017

MONDAY

May 1
Easter Weekday
Acts 11:1–18
Jn 10:11–18

TUESDAY

May 2
St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Acts 11:19–26
Jn 10:22–30

WEDNESDAY

May 3
Sts. Philip and James, Apostles
1 Cor 15:1–8
Jn 14:6–14

THURSDAY

May 4
Easter Weekday
Acts 13:13–25
Jn 13:16–20

FRIDAY

May 5
Easter Weekday
Acts 13:26–33
Jn 14:1–6

SATURDAY

May 6
Weekday
Acts 13:44–52
Jn 14:7–14

SUNDAY

May 7
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 6:1–7
1 Pt 2:4–9
Jn 14:1–12

Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective
Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

The weekly Easter

20. According to the common witness of the Gospels, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead took place on “the first day after the Sabbath” (Mk 16:2,9; Lk 24:1; Jn 20:1). On the same day, the Risen Lord appeared to the two disciples of Emmaus (cf. Lk 24:13-35) and to the eleven Apostles gathered together (cf. Lk 24:36; Jn 20:19). A week later—as the Gospel of John recounts (cf. 20:26)—the disciples were gathered together once again, when Jesus appeared to them and made himself known to Thomas by showing him the signs of his Passion. The day of Pentecost—the first day of the eighth week after the Jewish Passover (cf. Acts 2:1), when the promise made by Jesus to the Apostles after the Resurrection was fulfilled by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (cf. Lk 24:49; Acts 1:4-5)—also fell on a Sunday. This was the day of the first proclamation and the first baptisms: Peter announced to the assembled crowd that Christ was risen and “those who received his word were baptized” (Acts 2:41). This was the epiphany of the Church, revealed as the people into which are gathered in unity, beyond all their differences, the scattered children of God.

The first day of the week

21. It was for this reason that, from Apostolic times, “the first day after the Sabbath”, the first day of the week, began to shape the rhythm of life for Christ’s disciples (cf. 1 Cor 16:2). “The first day after the Sabbath” was also the day upon which the faithful of Troas were gathered “for the breaking of bread”, when Paul bade them farewell and miraculously restored the young Eutychus to life (cf. Acts 20:7-12). The Book of Revelation gives evidence of the practice of calling the first day of the week “the Lord’s Day” (1:10). This would now be a characteristic distinguishing Christians from the world around them. As early as the beginning of the second century, it was noted by Pliny the Younger, governor of Bithynia, in his report on the Christian practice “of gathering together on a set day before sunrise and singing among themselves a hymn to Christ as to a god”.¹⁹ And when Christians spoke of the “Lord’s Day”, they did so giving to this term the full sense of the Easter proclamation: “Jesus Christ is Lord” (Phil 2:11; cf. Acts 2:36; 1 Cor 12:3). Thus Christ was given the same title which the Septuagint used to translate what in the revelation of the Old Testament was the unutterable name of God: YHWH.

(POPE ST. JOHN PAUL 11, Apostolic letter on Dies Domini, July 30, 1998).

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

“The thief comes only to steal, and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. I am the good Shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” – John 10:10-11.

St. Philip Benizi Mission Statement

St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church being part of the universal church shares in its mission: to proclaim Jesus Christ who came to the world to fulfill His father’s will; by proclaiming the kingdom of God, building up the parish community as a witness to God’s love and care for the world, helping one another to become what God has called us to be. We are therefore encouraged 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).

JESUS AND THE LAW

At the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus issued a solemn warning in which he presented God's law, given on Sinai during the first covenant, in light of the grace of the New Covenant:

Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets: I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law, until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. CCC 577

Jesus, Israel's Messiah and therefore the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, was to fulfil the Law by keeping it in its all embracing detail - according to his own words, down to "the least of these commandments". He is in fact the only one who could keep it perfectly. On their own admission the Jews were never able to observe the Law in its entirety without violating the least of its precepts. This is why every year on the Day of Atonement the children of Israel ask God's forgiveness for their transgressions of the Law. the Law indeed makes up one inseparable whole, and St. James recalls, "Whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it." CCC 578

This principle of integral observance of the Law not only in letter but in spirit was dear to the Pharisees. By giving Israel this principle they had led many Jews of Jesus' time to an extreme religious zeal. This zeal, were it not to lapse into "hypocritical" casuistry, could only prepare the People for the unprecedented intervention of God through the perfect fulfilment of the Law by the only Righteous One in place of all sinners. CCC 579

Continued from Page 2

Indeed, the good Shepherd is calling us, for he knows us very well, but the voice of Christ can quickly be interrupted by many other fictitious and erroneous voices. How easily could we be enticed and distracted by the must-have shouts of the world, the constant ring of cell phones, and the strong beckoning by social media? Also, the negative voices of our peers or the many inner voices that call us to various addictions and self-serving life decisions. This Easter, let us re-commit and challenge ourselves to listen and follow Jesus Christ more closely and to see in him the only gate to real and abundant life. May we not take the lead, but like obedient sheep, let us allow him to take the driver's steering wheel while we follow in his way. The virtue of patience is needed for this to happen. Therefore, we are to be patient with the Good Shepherd to do whatever he wants and to take the pace he wants. So that we will be where He wants us to be and enjoy green pastures: eternal life.

Dear friends, let us conclude with today's beautiful collect (opening prayer): Almighty, ever-living God, lead us to share in the joys of heaven so that the humble flock (all of us) may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Finally, let us remind ourselves that the month of May is the month dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. For this is the month during which Christians, in their churches and their homes, offer to the Virgin Mother more fervent and loving acts of homage and veneration, and it is the month in which a greater abundance of God's merciful gifts come down to us from our Mother's throne. Remember, NO MARY, NO JESUS. Jesus and Mary are inseparable. So, take Mary always to your home. God loves you.

Remember, the closer we are to God, the better for us.

Blessings,

Your servant in Christ,

Fr. Paschal Ezurike

Spring Nursery Stock Sale!

New Arrivals - Vegetable Starts & Hanging Baskets!

Open Hours:

Thursday & Friday: 12 pm - 7 pm

Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm

Visit us at:

22280 S Beaver Creek Rd.
Beaver Creek, OR 97004



For more information: Larry & Nancy Carnahan (503) 804-6029

Featured Listing!



Damascus - Stunning 11 acre property with 3,540 sf home + shop & horse barn. Offered at \$998,500!

Serving the St. Philip Benizi Community for over 31 years!

Larry & Nancy Carnahan
Principal Brokers | Licensed in Oregon

Call or email us today with all of your real estate needs:

(503) 804-6029

Nancy@VenturesRealtyGroup.com



DR. RAINI SPITZE, D.D.S.

18221 S. Redland Rd. 503-631-2353
Oregon City, OR 97045 www.redlandfamilydental.com

REDLAND LEARNING CENTER

Excellence in early childhood education

Daily Preschool
Ages 3-5



503-956-1745

DENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATES

Family Dentistry

Marc F. Bianco, DMD

1133 SE 122nd Ave. • Portland, OR 97233
(503) 252-1722 • www.biancodentistry.com

REDLAND-CONSTRUCTION.com

Local Contractor

Outbuildings
Home Remodels
Decks and more...



CCB# 225341

Local References
(503) 908-3267



Clear Creek
Communications

YOUR LOCAL CHOICE
FOR QUALITY
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
SERVICES

voice • video • internet • security



(503) 631-2101

www.ccmtc.com

18238 S. Fishers Mill Road, Oregon City, OR 97045-9696

FORMED

www.philipbenizi.formed.org

Space Available
Advertise here!
Call 503-631-2882



Council 2325

Knights of Columbus
Dr. John McLoughlin Council 2325,
Oregon City
Catholic Men Serving Our Church and
Communities. For More information
about us, please contact: David Beaty
(503) 632-3941 or Joel Bender (503)
310-3367 or go to: kofc.org/joinus

Space Available
Advertise here!
Call 503-631-2882

Mater Dei
RADIO

88.3 FM