

# ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 11, 2022  
Third Sunday of Advent



## PARISH INFORMATION

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**Minister Volunteer Coordinators**

**Altar Servers:** Don Payne

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**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

December 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Vigil Mass: 5:00pm

December 25<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Day Mass: 9:00am

## **RECONCILIATION:**

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

**During Advent:** Saturdays 4:00-5:15pm

Tuesdays 7:00-8:00pm

## **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](http://www.philipbenizi.com)

***God is good, all the time! All the time, God is good!***

Dear friends in Christ, on the Second Sunday of Advent, the liturgy of the word induced us to ponder, among other things, that John's voice heard in the desert before Christ's coming is still echoing loud and clear in our world today. The desert voice urges us to make adequate preparations to welcome the Lord by acknowledging and confessing our sins. The reflection reiterated that nothing is worthy of impeding any practice, no matter how little, because God is superior to all; therefore, it should garner our ultimate attention. In addition, the words of enlightenment deposited that we should, be prayerful and at the same time prepare ourselves to do what God wants us to do so that justice and peace would reign. God bestowed humankind with needed tools that will promote justice when appropriately used. Undoubtedly, there is no peace when there is no justice (Justice is giving everyone what is due). Peace is unachievable without justice.

As the visible body of Christ, we assemble on the third Sunday of Advent, the middle of the season. The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means ('Rejoice'), taken from Paul's letter to the Philippians 4:4-5, which is the first word of today's entrance antiphon. The entrance antiphon of this Sunday says, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice." Generally, there are tons of reasons for rejoicing in the Lord. Here, we have a general cause for being ecstatic in the Lord; we are halfway in the season of advent, also because of the joyful expectation that the nativity of the Lord is near indeed. A new light will shine upon the earth; his coming will renew the face of the earth. We are rejoicing because, with his coming, justice, peace, and joy will flourish and reach the ends of the world. On a personal level, there are numerous data to necessitate the euphoria. We must sit still and download God's magnificent deeds in us as a son or daughter. We have the authority and permission to count our blessings authentically. And such untold benefits trigger incessant happy moments in the appreciative soul. We should rejoice even when we feel disappointed in prayers/favors not answered. God is wisdom par excellence; he knows what is best for each of us; therefore, he inundates us with what is appropriate.

In the first reading, Prophet Isaiah speaks and gives significant reasons to rejoice; the Lord is near, coming with many positive things that will uplift the hearts of God's people. The prophet's words encouraged those who heard them because they heard of the transformation of things: parched lands bloom, weakened hands and knees are strengthened, the lame walk, and the mute sing. The people were encouraged to be strong and faithful because the Messiah was bringing changes in their lives. "Be strong, fear not! Here is your God; he comes with vindication; with divine recompense, he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared, the lame leap like a stag and the tongue of the mute will sing". (Isaiah 35:4-6) When God intervenes, the lives of his people are transformed. The prophet's voice sounded clear that the Lord came to save and rescue his people. Through Isaiah's words, God tells those who were ransomed that they will return to safety and enter Zion singing with joy and gladness because sorrow and mourning will flee. "A highway will be there, called the holy way; No one unclean may pass over it, nor fools go astray on it. No lion will be there, nor any beast of prey approach, nor be found. It is for those with a journey to make; on it, the redeemed will walk". (35: 8-9). Because of these favors, those on cloud nine delightfully sing God's praise with joy.

The Psalmist re-echoes and reinforces what Prophet Isaiah said: The Lord comes, to save and rescue, to give sight to the blind, justice, life, and protection to his people. The mighty God comes to protect and care for the weak ones of the world: the captives, the oppressed, the hungry, the blind, the widow, and all who need his protection and compassion. The Lord comes with glad tidings for the poor and those on the margins. The Lord's voice is heard daily across the face of the earth, asking us to do what he did: to take care of the weak ones in our midst, promote justice, and spread glad tidings around us by being the good news/gospel others see and read. In this period of advent, we are called to let God's word echo, resound in our hearts, change our lives, and make us swim in gladness forever.

In the second reading, St. James calls us to be patient as the farmer always is when waiting for the early and late rains. Patience is a virtue and needs to be cultivated and nurtured by all. Patience helps us await the Lord's coming because we do not know the exact date and time. Being patient is what many people struggle with during life's pilgrimage. It is necessary to point out that we are most often so impatient, which leads to, not being patient with God, with ourselves, with others, and even with inanimate objects. It is evident that James noticed this struggle in the lives of the people when he wrote this epistle that he firmly said: "You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another that you may not be judged." (James 5: 10). St. James crucial advice is directed to us too. So, let us pray for the virtue of patience, learn to be patient, and not complain about one another because the just judge is standing at the gates. Indeed, his coming is on the horizon. The virtue of patience instills unimaginable joy in the life of the patient person. *Continued on Page 7*

# This week at SPB and Upcoming Parish/Archdiocesan Events

## Sunday, 12/11/2022

8:00am Mass: All Parishioners  
10:30am Mass: +Leta Tlusty (Don & Loretta Payne)

## Monday, 12/12/2022 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +Tony Setera (Mary Lou Silvander)

## Tuesday, 12/13/2022 Memorial of St. Lucy

6:30pm Mass: +Tim Smith (Michelle Harrington)  
7:00-8:00pm: Reconciliation/Church  
7:00pm: RCIA/Hall

## Wednesday, 12/14/2022 Memorial of St. John of the Cross

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +Les Van Dyke (Jan Alderman)

## Thursday, 12/15/2022

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: The Priesthood (Johanna La Chapelle)  
7:00pm: Faith Sharing via Zoom

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



## Friday, 12/16/2022

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +Louis Planton Family  
(David & Rosalie Swanson)

## Saturday, 12/17/2022

4:00-5:15pm: Reconciliation/Church  
5:30pm Mass: +Mary Jo Miller-Lombardi  
(Don & Loretta Payne)

## Sunday, 12/18/2022

8:00am: +Charles Duffy (Deb Glinski)  
10:30am Mass: All Parishioners

**December 10 & 11:** Time Talent & Treasure

**December 11th:** Helping Hands gift cards due back.

**December 15,16,17th:** Helping Hands work party

**December 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>:** Second collection for the Retirement fund for the religious.

### **Christmas Mass Schedule**

December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Vigil Mass: 500pm  
December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day Mass: 9:00am

## Advent Vicariate Reconciliation Schedule

### St. John the Apostle

Confessions: 3:00-4:30 on Saturdays; Sundays after 10:30 Mass and before 1:30 Mass

### St. John the Baptist

Confessions: Thursdays 6-7:30pm; Saturdays more confessors at normal time 2:30-3:30pm

### St. Philip Benizi

Confessions: Saturdays 4:00-5:15; Tuesdays 7-8pm

### Our Lady of Lavang

Confessions Dec. 10 Sat 10:30am-noon

### Christ the King

Confessions: Sundays 7:50-8:20am; Mondays 7:50-8:20am; Tuesdays 5-5:45pm; Thursdays 5:15-5:45pm; Saturdays 3:00-5:00pm

## Helping Hands work party. All are welcome to come and help!

**Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00-8:30pm** - Empty the food pantry and disperse the food to all the family tables, and fill the kids stockings.

**Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** - We will be bagging all the food and assembling the fruit bags.

**Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12noon** - The families will be picking up their food from the Hall, as well as we will be delivering items to those families who don't have transportation. Help is needed to load the vehicles, distribute perishable food from the kitchen, and make deliveries.



Our condolences go out to Dave Hubel and family on the loss of Dave's sister, Darlene, who passed into God's loving arms. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this most difficult time.

Next week the second collection will be for the retirement fund for the religious.

Thousands of elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests spent years working in ministries—such as Catholic schools, parishes, and hospitals—often for little or no pay. Today, many religious communities do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your donation helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously.

## Finance Corner

Registered Household 222	WEEK OF 12/04/2022 Actual	Budget
<u>Donors</u> 77	\$4,883 (online: \$1,485)	\$6,471
<u>Fiscal Year</u>	\$103,684	\$105,085

## Next Weeks Assignments

### Ushers

12/17~5:30pm: Larry Carnahan  
12/18~8:00am: Jim Charriere  
12/18~10:30am: Volunteer Needed

### Lector/Commentator

Nancy Carnahan  
John Buxman  
Dan Sweeney

### Extraordinary Ministers

Becky Wooten  
Kristine Bible  
Jerry Siler

**December Church Cleaners:** Thuc & Gail Alexander (503-740-8312)

**December Altar Linens:** Debbie Fassel (503-515-7567)



12/18 9:00: Pat & Elaine  
11:30:





Strengthen hands that are feeble, make firm knees that are weak, say to the fearful of heart: Be strong, do not fear!

ISAIAH 35:3–4

## Joy: A Sign of God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**O**nce, as I was teaching a theology course to college students in their twenties, I made an offhand comment that the purpose of life is not to be happy. They were shocked. “What’s wrong with being happy?” they protested. “Nothing,” I said, “it’s simply not the purpose of life.” “But God wants us to be happy,” they insisted. Of course, God wants us to be happy, but that’s simply not what life is about.

Happiness is something that comes in the back door while we wait at the front door. If we go looking for happiness, we never find it, but if we forget about ourselves and seek to bring joy into the lives of others, then happiness seems to find us. It comes in the back doors of life. Curiously, that seems to be the dynamic of these Advent/Christmas days. We send cards, give gifts, think of making others happy, and overlook faults. In the process, there is a sense of joy that overtakes us without our realizing it.

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed that it is God who would crown them with everlasting joy; that they would meet with joy and gladness and sorrow and mourning would flee away (Isaiah 35:10). Joy is God’s doing, not ours.

Leon Bloy, a French novelist in the nineteenth century, observed, “Joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God.” God is love, and God is also joy. Joy is so much more than happiness. Rather it is an inner quality—peaceful, serene, and nurturing—even when life may be unsettled. ●

### Reflect

**What brings you joy?  
Do something to bring joy  
to someone this week.**

# Dear Padre,

***I struggle with depression, and sometimes it gets really bad during the holidays. When is it morally acceptable to use antidepressant medication?***

You are not alone. People who struggle with depression often find the holidays especially difficult. To answer your question, it is morally acceptable to use antidepressant medications when a medical professional judges them to be the best response to the condition of the patient. As we learn more about the causes of depression and other disorders that challenge the sense of equilibrium in people, we hope that the most reliable responses may be found and employed to restore a sense of peace to those suffering from these ailments.

Evaluation and treatment of depression must be done within the context of a person's whole life. Depression often involves a chemical imbalance in the brain, and some people respond quite well to antidepressants. For others, the best treatment might be counseling or psychotherapy. Or both medicine and therapy. As each experience of suffering is unique, so, too, must be the response.

Frequently people will be embarrassed to admit to suffering with depression or consider it a sign of weakness or inability to deal with matters in life. Such thinking is of little help in resolving the issue. People who experience depression need the love and support of family and friends to accompany them in the suffering and to assist in their healing. ●



SHUTTERSTOCK

*From Life, Death, and Catholic Medical Choices: 50 Questions from the Pews, © 2011 Liguori Publications*

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
December 12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> Zec 2:14–17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab Lk 1:26–38 or Lk 1:39–47	December 13 <i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i> Zep 3:1–2, 9–13 Mt 21:28–32	December 14 <i>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i> Is 45:6c–8, 18, 21c–25 Lk 7:18b–23	December 15 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 54:1–10 Lk 7:24–30	December 16 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 56:1–3a, 6–8 Jn 5:33–36	December 17 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Gn 49:2, 8–10 Mt 1:1–17	December 18 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> Is 7:10–14 Rom 1:1–7 Mt 1:18–24



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

***Every yes to God gives rise to stories of salvation for us and for others. Like Mary with her own yes. In this Advent journey, God wishes to visit us and awaits our yes. Let's think: Today, what yes must I say to God?***

**ANGELUS, DECEMBER 8, 2016**

## The voice is John, the Word is Christ

John is the voice, but the Lord *is the Word who was in the beginning*. John is the voice that lasts for a time; from the beginning Christ is the Word who lives forever.

Take away the word, the meaning, and what is the voice? Where there is no understanding, there is only a meaningless sound. The voice without the word strikes the ear but does not build up the heart.

However, let us observe what happens when we first seek to build up our hearts. When I think about what I am going to say, the word or message is already in my heart. When I want to speak to you, I look for a way to share with your heart what is already in mine.

In my search for a way to let this message reach you, so that the word already in my heart may find place also in yours, I use my voice to speak to you. The sound of my voice brings the meaning of the word to you and then passes away. The word which the sound has brought to you is now in your heart, and yet it is still also in mine.

When the word has been conveyed to you, does not the sound seem to say: *The word ought to grow, and I should diminish?* The sound of the voice has made itself heard in the service of the word, and has gone away, as though it were saying: *My joy is complete*. Let us hold on to the word; we must not lose the word conceived inwardly in our hearts.

Do you need proof that the voice passes away but the divine Word remains? Where is John's baptism today? It served its purpose, and it went away. Now it is Christ's baptism that we celebrate. It is in Christ that we all believe; we hope for salvation in him. This is the message the voice cried out.

Because it is hard to distinguish word from voice, even John himself was thought to be the Christ. The voice was thought to be the word. But the voice acknowledged what it was, anxious not to give offense to the word. *I am not the Christ*, he said, *nor Elijah, nor the prophet*. And the question came: *Who are you, then?* He replied: *I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord*.

*The voice of one crying in the wilderness* is the voice of one breaking the silence. *Prepare the way for the Lord*, he says, as though he were saying: "I speak out in order to lead him into your hearts, but he does not choose to come where I lead him unless you prepare the way for him."

*To prepare the way* means to pray well; it means thinking humbly of oneself. We should take our lesson from John the Baptist. He is thought to be the Christ; he declares he is not what they think. He does not take advantage of their mistake to further his own glory.

If he had said, "I am the Christ," you can imagine how readily he would have been believed, since they believed he was the Christ even before he spoke. But he did not say it; he acknowledged what he was. He pointed out clearly who he was; he humbled himself.

He saw where his salvation lay. He understood that he was a lamp, and his fear was that it might be blown out by the wind of pride.

(From a sermon by Saint Augustine, bishop)

## REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

**“Advent is nothing other than annual meditation on the work of salvation and sanctification. The work of grace and love which the Lord began and continually begins in every man and in every generation down to the last coming of Christ.” --- Saint John Paul 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).

### Mary's virginal motherhood in God's plan

By his virginal conception, Jesus, the New Adam, ushers in the new birth of children adopted in the Holy Spirit through faith. "How can this be?" Participation in the divine life arises "not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God". The acceptance of this life is virginal because it is entirely the Spirit's gift to man. The spousal character of the human vocation in relation to God is fulfilled perfectly in Mary's virginal motherhood. CCC 505

Mary is a virgin because her virginity is the sign of her faith "unadulterated by any doubt", and of her undivided gift of herself to God's will. It is her faith that enables her to become the mother of the Savior: "Mary is more blessed because she embraces faith in Christ than because she conceives the flesh of Christ." CCC 506

At once virgin and mother, Mary is the symbol and the most perfect realization of the Church: "the Church indeed. . . by receiving the word of God in faith becomes herself a mother. By preaching and Baptism she brings forth sons, who are conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of God, to a new and immortal life. She herself is a virgin, who keeps in its entirety and purity the faith she pledged to her spouse." CCC 507

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Continued from page 2.

Today's Gospel, in a way, is divided into two parts. The first part shows that John the Baptist, serving time in prison, was eager to know whether Jesus was the one he foretold of and not another false prophet claiming to be sent by God. He sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" In response, Jesus used the images of Isaiah and sent them back to John to tell him that "the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. In summary, Jesus is the one who fulfills the messianic prophecies, whose works speak volumes, and they indicate that he is the Messiah. Jesus' answer might not have been what John was expecting.

In the second part, Jesus spoke extensively and highly of John. He said that John the Baptist was more important than the prophets: "Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet... Amen, I say to you, among those born of women, there has been none greater than John the Baptist." John was a thundering and forceful presence who preached repentance and forgiveness of sins. His preaching was so powerful that it drew crowds from Jerusalem, Judea, and the Jordan district. The powerful witnessing of John's life moved the whole region. John didn't preach about himself; instead, he preached the Messiah and pointed to Jesus Christ with his famous saying, "Behold the lamb of God." Therefore, as we prepare internally and externally to welcome the Messiah wholeheartedly, we need John the Baptist's faith, zeal, conviction, enthusiasm, repentance, and asceticism to radiate the Gospel everywhere we go. And as we faithfully await the solemn feast of the Lord's incarnation, may we be enabled to attain the joys of so great a salvation and delightfully celebrate God's doings eternally. May we continue to make adequate preparations because the Lord's coming is on the horizon.

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

***Blessings,  
Your servant in Christ,  
Fr. Paschal Ezurike.***



Fall Sharathon: October 10-14, 2022  
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