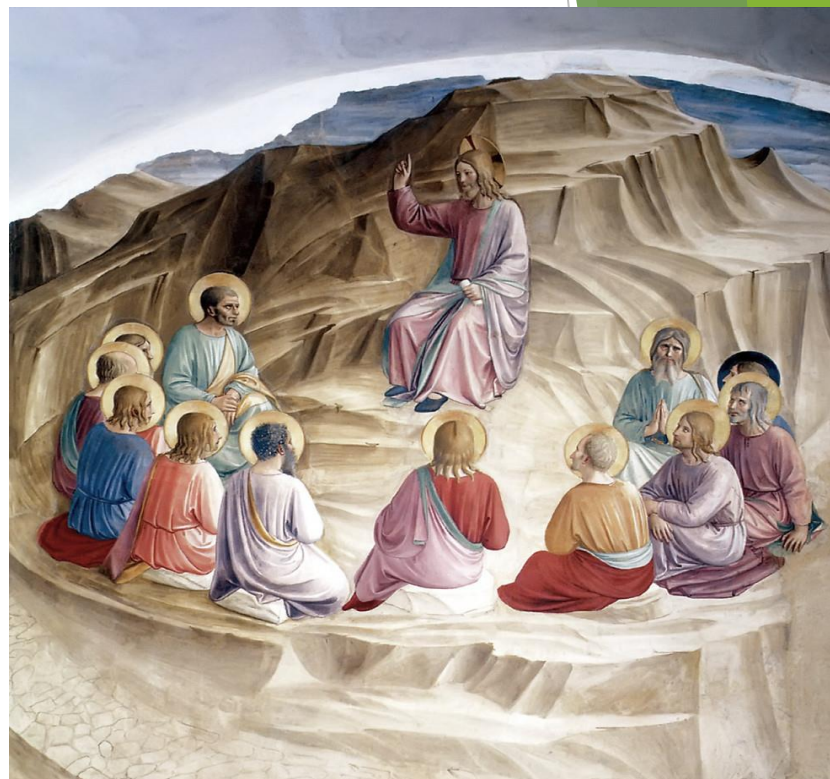


ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCH

February 12, 2023
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary time



PARISH INFORMATION

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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

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, Mass times: 8:00am & 7:00pm

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, last Sunday we reflected on what Christ called us to be: the salt of the earth and the light of the world, we were all encouraged to strive and use everything God has blessed us with, to live up to his expectations. As God's children, we are to radiate brightly, be delightfully nourishing, and continue to showcase our virtues and stand tall like a city upon a mountain. When we have no good works to show as Christians, the name Christian becomes a misnomer. The Sermon on the Mount challenges us, Christians, to live a good life for others to see and emulate because, as Christ's followers, we are a city set on a mountain that cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, giving light to all in the house.

Assembling as one family on this sixth Sunday, the church calls to mind that the choices we make in life significantly determine and shape our life; therefore, we are encouraged to make good choices by following the ways of the Lord and by fulfilling and keeping God's commandments. At creation, God gave us the gift of freedom. Man has the freedom to choose to do good or bad. God is good, and because he is good, all his treasures and goodness to us are good; therefore, the gift of freedom should be for good. There should be no room to use our freedom to subvert God's commandments. According to Jesus Ben Sirach, the author of today's first reading, "No one does he command to act unjustly, to none does he give license to sin." (Sirach 15:20). The Psalmist in the fifth chapter affirms what Sirach said, "You are no God who loves evil; no sinner is your guest...You hate all who do evil; you destroy all who lie." (Psalm 5: 5 -6)

God freely calls on man to accept this great gift and live accordingly, "If you wish, you can keep the commandments, they will save you; if you trust in God, you shall live." He created man free but gave man the responsibility to be free, to choose good or bad because he has set before you fire and water, life and death, good and evil stretch forth your hand, for whichever you choose shall be given to you. It is worth noting that whatever God commands is good; the command of sin is the work of evil. In his meditation, the Psalmist supported the first reading by showering accolades on those who love, follow, and keep the law of the Lord. The refrain of today's psalm says, "Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord." The four stanzas of today's psalm richly portray the beauty of the law of God, the blessings in listening, following, and observing the statutes of God, which is what all should aspire to do.

The second reading continues to stress the need to make good choices and how much we should rely on the wisdom of God to help us do so. Wisdom is not the wisdom of this age but a determination to have our eyes set on heaven. For the wisdom of God, the desire for a deeper relationship with him inspires us to choose to keep the commandments and to trust in him: because whichever we choose will be given to us.

In today's gospel, Jesus continues his famous Sermon on the Mount, which covers three chapters (chapters 5, 6 & 7) of St. Matthew's gospel. In this section, Jesus expresses profound respect for his Jewish tradition, which he interprets and fulfills. Today, Jesus makes it abundantly clear that he has come to fulfill the last letter of the law: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill". This does not suggest or mean that Jesus followed the law without considering his people's welfare and with the sole aim of indicting people. No, the master once again is trying to protect his lost, wounded, and wandering lambs from harming themselves or one another; and he firmly believes that tremendous respect for the laws of God will lead us to show greater love for God and the people. Undoubtedly, one would argue that in the mind and heart of Jesus, fulfilling the law to the smallest part of the letter entails two things: going further than the law requires and obeying and applying God's law with love for God and all people we encounter.

Continued on page 7

This week at SPB and Upcoming Parish/Archdiocesan Events

Sunday, 2/12/2023

8:00am Mass: All Parishioners
 10:30am Mass: +Edelmira Ayala
 (Karla Vazques)

Monday, 2/13/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
 8:00am Mass: +Mr. & Mrs. Paul Welle

Tuesday, 2/14/2023 Memorial of Sts. Cyril & Methodius

6:30pm Mass: +Janina Skuza (Margaret Golec)
 7:00pm: RCIA/Hall

Wednesday, 2/15/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
 8:00am Mass: +Nicole Payne
 (Don & Loretta Payne)

Thursday, 2/16/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
 8:00am Mass: +John & Margaret Smith
 (Larry & Nancy Carnahan)
 7:00pm: Faith Sharing via Zoom

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



Friday, 2/17/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
 8:00am Mass: +Charles Evers
 (Paul Lowry & Claudia Evers)

Saturday, 2/18/2023

4:00-5:00pm: Reconciliation/Church
 5:30pm Mass: +Ann Wuester (Mary Ann Mitchael)

Sunday, 2/19/2023

8:00am Mass: +Ed Tyler (Janelle Wakefield)
 10:30am Mass: All Parishioners

Soup Supper is back!
 Starting Friday, February 24th at 6:00pm in
 the Hall followed by Stations of the Cross
 in the Church at 7pm.

Travel with Fr. Paschal Ezurike, on our Pilgrimage to Ireland and England August 11-August 21, 2023 Cost: \$4,999.00
 Airfare and ALL-Included, except lunches and travel insurance.
 To register, please contact (855) 842-8001 or (508) 340-9370 or
www.proximotravel.com.

Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today!

Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund essential pastoral activities needed in their communities. Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States. Please be generous. More info. can be found at www.usccb.org/home-missions.

St. John the Apostle is having a parish mission on March 10th & 11th. See the bulletin board in the Narthex of the Church and in the Hall.

Fasting and Abstinence Regulations - All Catholics 14 years of age and older **must abstain from meat** on the **Fridays of Lent, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday**. All Catholics **between the ages of 18 and 59, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday**. **To fast means to eat one full meal; the other two meals that day should be less than the normal amount unless they are already at a minimum for good health. Eating between meals is not permitted; however, liquids including coffee, milk and fruit juices are allowed.**



TIME CHANGE The Mardi Gras party is Saturday, Feb. 18th **6:30pm-9:00pm**. Pizza will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert. See you there!!



Please bring back your old palms

- Feb. 12th:** 2nd collection for Catholic Home Missions
- Feb. 14th:** Happy Valentine's Day
- Feb. 18th:** Madi Grass party-Saturday 6:30pm-9pm
- Feb. 19th:** No RE classes
- Feb. 22nd:** Ash Wednesday-Mass at 8am & 7pm
- Feb. 24th:** Soup Supper 6pm/Hall & Stations of the Cross 7pm



Finance Corner

Registered Household 222	WEEK OF 2/5/2023 Actual	Budget
Donors 62	\$6,393 (online: \$1,916)	\$3,919
Fiscal Year	\$152,812	\$154,733

Next Weeks Assignments

<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Lector/Commentator</u>	<u>Extraordinary Minister</u>
2/18~5:30pm: Tom Muldoon	Heather Hannam	Jeanne Hubel
2/19~8:00am: Butch Searls	John Buxman	Kristine Bible
2/19~10:30am: Larry Carnahan	Dan Sweeney	Janet Tankersley

February Church Cleaners: Carolyn Brown (503-799- 4201)

February Altar Linens: Elaine Buxman (503-655-7208)



2/19 9:00am: Paul & Claudia
 11:30am: Loretta Payne





What's in Your Heart?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

In the past fifty years, there seems to have been a quiet but noticeable shift in the lived faith of Catholics in the pews. None of it has been officially or formally decreed, though it might very well be the natural unfolding of what the Second Vatican Council was about. It seems to have simply happened, perhaps by the workings of the Holy Spirit. I would highlight four common shifts.

People's faith seems to have moved from a primary concern with doctrine or what we believe, to spirituality or how we live out what we believe as people of faith and where God is in our lives.

What's in our hearts has been a focus. It suggests that while actions are important, where the actions originate and what they say about who we are is also important in trying to understand why we do what we do.

People pray differently. While the rosary and devotional prayer is nurturing to the faith of many, there has also been a discovery of other forms of meditation, quiet reflection, and praying with sacred scripture.

Confession no longer seems to be about only reporting kinds and numbers of sins but also about what is in one's heart and how people find themselves relating to others. People confess both attitudes and actions that are destructive rather than moral lists.

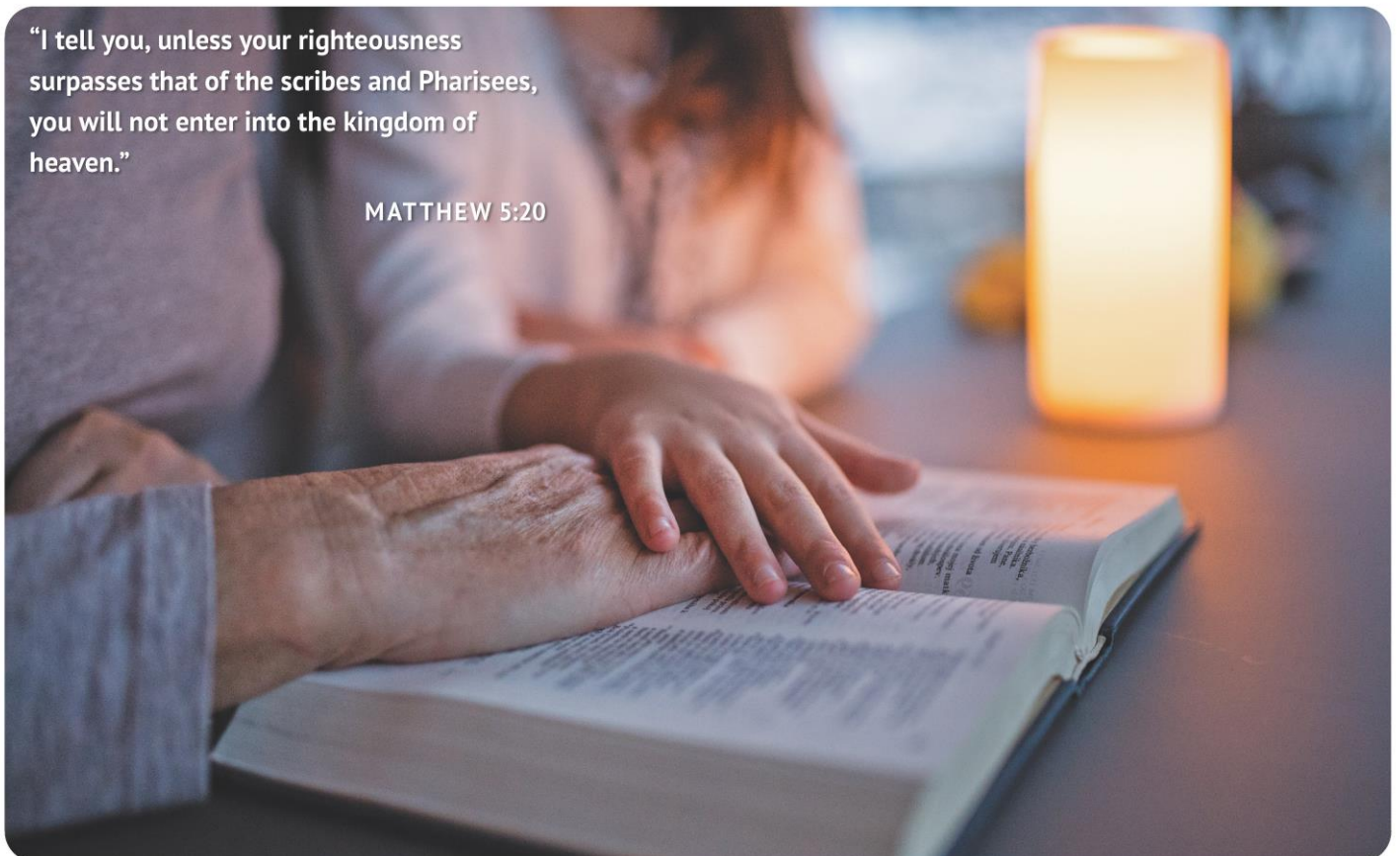
It would seem that all of this echoes this week's Gospel, which focuses on divisive anger, lustful lifestyles, and faking the truth, that is, what is in our hearts. ●

Reflect

How is your faith different today than it was ten or twenty years ago?

"I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

MATTHEW 5:20



Dear Padre,

My wife and I are in our mid-fifties; we have a comfortable life, go to church regularly, pray, and generally consider ourselves good Christians. So what's wrong? We feel empty, hollow, and strangely unfulfilled. What can we do?

Barring any other unnamed problem, you and your wife seem to be at a spiritual crossroads. You've come to the disturbing but provocative realization that St. Augustine voiced, saying, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in thee, O Lord." Feelings of emptiness are a gift, a message that God is calling you to something more. It's time for careful discernment.

At stake here is: What is life really about? Up to this point, like many people, it sounds like you have enjoyed a comfortable and productive life filled with many of the good things the world has to offer. But when these prove unable to give lasting happiness, you are finding that true meaning must be sought elsewhere: in a more profound relationship with God. It is no longer a matter of knowing about God but of connecting with God in a close, personal, intimate relationship.

Lent begins in less than two weeks. Perhaps you and your wife can decide how to spend this Lent seeking a deeper relationship with God and God's people. You could join a prayer group or work at a soup kitchen. You could learn about meditation practices or help your parish in projects for the poor. You could spend one hour a week before the Blessed Sacrament. Whatever you decide, welcome this new stage in life to which God is calling you. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



LIGHTFIELD STUDIOS / SHUTTERSTOCK

MONDAY

February 13
Weekday
Gn 4:1–15, 25
Mk 8:11–13

TUESDAY

February 14
St. Cyril, Monk and
St. Methodius,
Bishop
Gn 6:5–8; 7:1–5, 10
Mk 8:14–21

WEDNESDAY

February 15
Weekday
Gn 8:6–13, 20–22
Mk 8:22–26

THURSDAY

February 16
Weekday
Gn 9:1–13
Mk 8:27–33

FRIDAY

February 17
Weekday
Gn 11:1–9
Mk 8:34–9:1

SATURDAY

February 18
Weekday
Heb 11:1–7
Mk 9:2–13

SUNDAY

February 19
Seventh Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Lv 19:1–2, 17–18
1 Cor 3:16–23
Mt 5:38–48



CNS PHOTO / PAUL HARING

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Time dedicated to being with God revives faith, which helps us in the practicalities of living, and faith, in turn, nurtures prayer, without interruption. In this circularity between faith, life, and prayer, one keeps alight that flame of Christian love that God expects of us.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, SAN DAMASO COURTYARD,
JUNE 9, 2021

Daybreaks inspires during our Church's holiest seasons.

Leading Catholic voices inspire the faithful with daily reflections & prayers for Advent and Lent. Including: Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Dr. Mary Katharine Deeley, Sr. Dianne Bergant, Fr. Paul Turner, and more at Liguori.org.

ON KEEPING THE LORD'S DAY HOLY

The Lord's Day—as Sunday was called from Apostolic times¹—has always been accorded special attention in the history of the Church because of its close connection with the very core of the Christian mystery. In fact, in the weekly reckoning of time Sunday recalls the day of Christ's Resurrection. It is Easter which returns week by week, celebrating Christ's victory over sin and death, the fulfilment in him of the first creation and the dawn of “the new creation” (cf. 2 Cor 5:17). It is the day which recalls in grateful adoration the world's first day and looks forward in active hope to “the last day”, when Christ will come in glory (cf. Acts 1:11; 1 Th 4:13-17) and all things will be made new (cf. Rev 21:5).

Rightly, then, the Psalmist's cry is applied to Sunday: “This is the day which the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it” (Ps 118:24). This invitation to joy, which the Easter liturgy makes its own, reflects the astonishment which came over the women who, having seen the crucifixion of Christ, found the tomb empty when they went there “very early on the first day after the Sabbath” (Mk 16:2). It is an invitation to relive in some way the experience of the two disciples of Emmaus, who felt their hearts “burn within them” as the Risen One walked with them on the road, explaining the Scriptures and revealing himself in “the breaking of the bread” (cf. Lk 24:32,35). And it echoes the joy—at first uncertain and then overwhelming—which the Apostles experienced on the evening of that same day, when they were visited by the Risen Jesus and received the gift of his peace and of his Spirit (cf. Jn 20:19-23).

The Resurrection of Jesus is the fundamental event upon which Christian faith rests (cf. 1 Cor 15:14). It is an astonishing reality, fully grasped in the light of faith, yet historically attested to by those who were privileged to see the Risen Lord. It is a wondrous event which is not only absolutely unique in human history, but which lies at the very heart of the mystery of time. In fact, “all time belongs to [Christ] and all the ages”, as the evocative liturgy of the Easter Vigil recalls in preparing the Paschal Candle. Therefore, in commemorating the day of Christ's Resurrection not just once a year but every Sunday, the Church seeks to indicate to every generation the true fulcrum of history, to which the mystery of the world's origin and its final destiny leads.

It is right, therefore, to claim, in the words of a fourth century homily, that “the Lord's Day” is “the lord of days”. Those who have received the grace of faith in the Risen Lord cannot fail to grasp the significance of this day of the week with the same deep emotion which led Saint Jerome to say: “Sunday is the day of the Resurrection, it is the day of Christians, it is our day”. For Christians, Sunday is “the fundamental feastday”, established not only to mark the succession of time but to reveal time's deeper meaning.

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

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

“Before everyone are life and death, good and evil, whichever one chooses shall be given him.”

----- **Sirach 15: 17.**

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).

THE MYSTERIES OF JESUS' PUBLIC LIFE

The baptism of Jesus

Jesus' public life begins with his baptism by John in the Jordan. John preaches "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins". A crowd of sinners - tax collectors and soldiers, Pharisees and Sadducees, and prostitutes - come to be baptized by him. "Then Jesus appears." the Baptist hesitates, but Jesus insists and receives baptism. Then the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, comes upon Jesus and a voice from heaven proclaims, "This is my beloved Son." This is the manifestation ("Epiphany") of Jesus as Messiah of Israel and Son of God. CCC 535

The baptism of Jesus is on his part the acceptance and inauguration of his mission as God's suffering Servant. He allows himself to be numbered among sinners; he is already "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world". Already he is anticipating the "baptism" of his bloody death. Already he is coming to "fulfil all righteousness", that is, he is submitting himself entirely to his Father's will: out of love he consents to this baptism of death for the remission of our sins. The Father's voice responds to the Son's acceptance, proclaiming his entire delight in his Son. The Spirit whom Jesus possessed in fullness from his conception comes to "rest on him". Jesus will be the source of the Spirit for all mankind. At his baptism "the heavens were opened" - the heavens that Adam's sin had closed - and the waters were sanctified by the descent of Jesus and the Spirit, a prelude to the new creation. CCC 536

Through Baptism the Christian is sacramentally assimilated to Jesus, who in his own baptism anticipates his death and resurrection. The Christian must enter into this mystery of humble self-abasement and repentance, go down into the water with Jesus in order to rise with him, be reborn of water and the Spirit so as to become the Father's beloved son in the Son and "walk in newness of life":

Let us be buried with Christ by Baptism to rise with him; let us go down with him to be raised with him; and let us rise with him to be glorified with him.

Everything that happened to Christ lets us know that, after the bath of water, the Holy Spirit swoops down upon us from high heaven and that, adopted by the Father's voice, we become sons of God. CCC 537

Continued from Page 2

In line with this, Jesus chooses some of the Ten Commandments to show us that not killing someone nor cheating on our spouse would never be enough, rather, in addition, we should live the commandments summarized in the Sermon on the Mount. We must embrace the idea that faith in God and his Son our Savior is meant not only to change how we view and respond to God, but more importantly, it should change how we treat and relate to others – especially the weakest and most vulnerable. We can no longer say one thing and do another. Instead, let our yes mean yes and not no because anything else is from the devil, the infamous enemy, who prowls around looking for someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8).

Let us continue to exercise and use the freedom God gave us in the right direction by making good choices and by keeping and fulfilling God's commandments. Also, let us remember that freedom is not the license to be stupid or do whatever we want; in Cardinal Sarah's words, "Freedom is essentially a tending toward what is good and true. The truth is meant to be known and freely embraced. A freedom that is not itself oriented and guided by truth is nonsensical. Error has no rights." God loves us so much and gave us freedom; may we use the freedom to worship him in faith and truth.

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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