



ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCH

May 29, 2022

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord



PARISH INFORMATION

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(C) 503-887-7701

Youth Minister: Katy Schnoor

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Matt Anderson

Administrative Council Chair:

Dan Sweeney

Adoration: Janet Tankersley

(C) 503-545-2229

Minister Volunteer Coordinators

Altar Servers: Don Payne

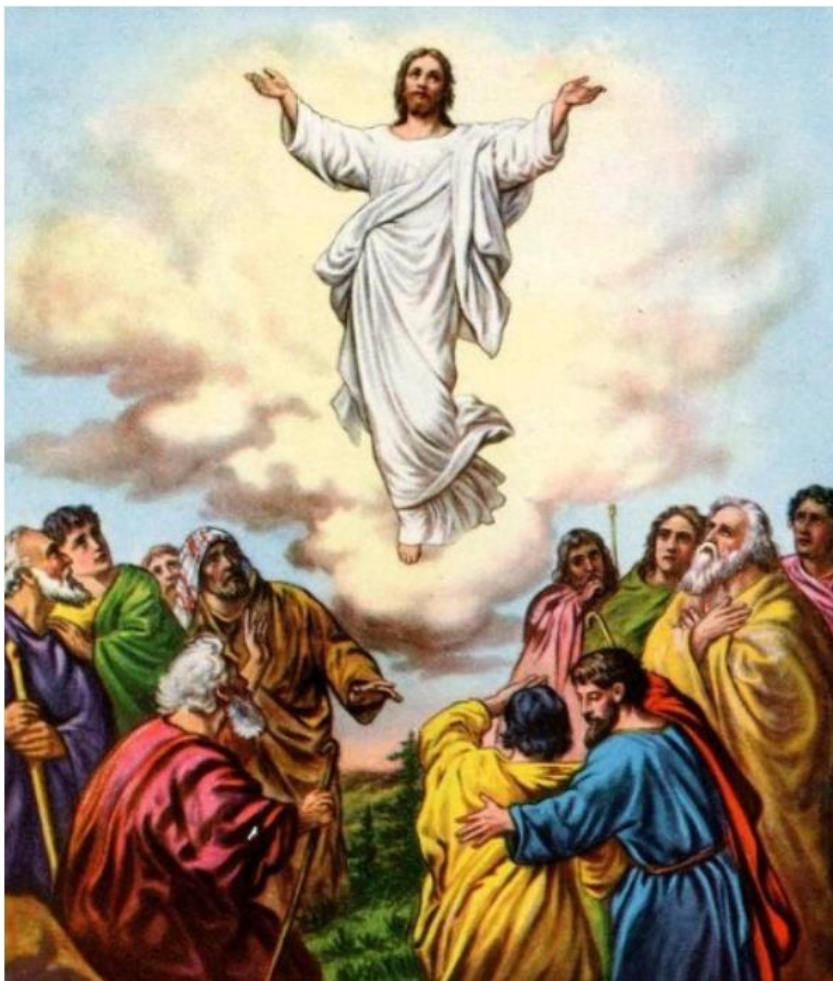
(H) 503-632-4370

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, on the sixth Sunday of this joyful resurrection season, we reflected on the unequivocal truth that obedience to God's instructions unlocks the iron bars that ushers in unimaginable blessings. The words of encouragement also advocated that we should decipher teachers and teachings contrary to the Gospel of Christ with the eyes of faith. This urgent call is necessary because some are putting on the garment of self-mandated teachers, but, in the real sense, they have no mandate from constituted authority to disseminate the glad tidings. Their goal is to circumvent the authentic message, to sell their misleading ideas.

The original message should prepare us to develop and deepen a genuine relationship with Christ Jesus, accept the inevitable cross as we walk the path of life, and not dwell only on the gospel of prosperity and shun the cross. As much as no one craves the cross, it is imperative to know that there will be no Easter Sunday without Good Friday.

The holy mother Church teaches that, forty days after his resurrection, the risen Begotten Son of God ascended into heaven as the disciples watched and he is now seated at the Father's right hand. To offer more elucidation, the preface of the Lord's ascension gives reasons why he ascended. "He ascended, not to distant himself from our lowly state but that we, his members, might be confident of following where he, our Head and Founder, has gone before." We strive and aspire to be where the beloved son of God is. The Son of God's ascension ends his physical appearance to his disciples. As the Church's catechism puts it, Jesus' final apparition ends with the irreversible entry of his humanity into divine glory, symbolized by the cloud and by heaven, where he is seated from that time forward at God's right hand. (CCC, 535). Therefore, it is with joy that we assemble to commemorate this significant event in Jesus's life and the life of the Church when God, according to the psalmist, "mounts his throne to shouts of joy; a blare of trumpets for the Lord." (Psalm 47:6)

Today's first and the gospel readings by Luke paint an excellent, practical, and easy picture to help one understand the basic activities that preceded Jesus's ascension. In the first reading's account before his unimaginable final departure, Jesus urged them not to depart from Jerusalem but to be in prayer, waiting for the promise of the Father: the descent of the Holy Spirit. He reassured them that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon them. The power of the Holy Spirit will enable them to bear witness to his name in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit, whose power had filled Jesus throughout his earthly ministry, would also empower, sustain, and direct the mission of the twelve apostles and all Christ's followers. The Spirit would impel the disciples beyond fear and lack of understanding to become Jesus' faithful protagonists and torchbearers. As ardent exponents of the gospel, they will testify to Jesus by daringly disseminating his glad tidings and healing in his name. Also, those witnessing in the name of Christ should be faithful to God in the face of persecutions.

In the gospel passage, Luke narrates in the first segment, part of Jesus' discussion with his disciples in the upper room before he ascended. In this final discussion, Jesus reiterated the necessity of his suffering and resurrection. And that they would preach the message of repentance and forgiveness of sins to all the nations beginning from Jerusalem. The dissemination of the gospel needs faithful followers. To that effect, Jesus said to those in the upper room, "You are witnesses of these things." (Luke 24: 48). Additionally, he promised them that a crucial power and energizer would descend on them to hasten this mission. But they need to stay in the city and soak themselves in prayer, waiting for the power from above.

In line with Luke's narrative, Jesus parted from his disciples after the instructions in the upper room and the promise to send them the Holy Spirit. "Then he led them out as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them. As he blessed them, he parted from them and was taken up to heaven." (Luke 24: 52). Jesus' ascension, like other vital incidents which he foretold, took the disciples unawares and was hard for them to understand. The question of the two men in white to the disciples said it all. "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? (Acts 1:11). Most of his teachings, like his crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection, did not make sense to them until they came to pass. Their lack of understanding, notwithstanding, the critical thing to hold on to, is that Jesus adequately prepared his followers to carry on his mandate. He guided them and schooled them on the prerogatives that would yield to incommunicable and transcendental success. To the best of their ability, the premier apostles with the empowerment of Divine grace proved themselves worthy defenders and promoters of Jesus' message entrusted to them. *Continued on Page 7*

This week at SPB and Upcoming Parish/Archdiocesan Events

Sunday, 5/29/2022 Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

8:00am Mass: +Helen Luxa (Joyce Curtin)
10:30am Mass: All parishioners

Monday, 5/30/2022

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
8:00am Mass: +Dorothea & William Nelson
(Jean Nelson)

Tuesday, 5/31/2022 Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:30pm Mass: +Marie Hong Tran (Joseph Tran)
7:00pm: RICA/Hall

Wednesday, 6/01/2022 Memorial of St. Justin

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

Thursday, 6/02/2022

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

8:30am-10:00pm
Eucharistic Adoration



Friday, 6/03/2022 Memorial of St. Charles Lwanga and Companions

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
8:00am Mass: +Jason (Michelle Harrington)

Saturday, 6/04/2022

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

Sunday, 6/05/2022 Solemnity of Pentecost

8:00am Mass: +Dorothea & William Nelson
(Jean Nelson)
10:30am Mass: All parishioners

Memorial Day

A day to honor those killed in or as a result of participating in battle. May we reflect on the courage and sacrifices of those who died while serving in the US Military.

87th Annual Archbishop Seminary Tea

Wednesday, June 1, 2022, 3:00-6:00pm at Portland Golf Club. Archbishop Alexander Sample, Archbishop John Vlazny and Bishop Peter Smith are expected to attend. Help support the formation of future priests.

Archdiocese Catholic Appeal update

of donors = 53
Total donations given = \$16,673
Parish Goal = \$19,764.32
We are at 84.36% of our goal. We are short of our goal by \$3,091.32. Please send in your donations.

May 30th: Memorial Day

June 5th: Blood pressure readings after the 8am Mass

June 19th: Father's Day. Father's Day Brunch after the 8 and 10:30 Masses.

Columbia Sportswear Employee Store Pass

Valid 5/20-6/12. Up to 50% off. Pass at side door.



Thank you for your donations!

Finance Corner

<u>Registered Household</u> 218	<u>WEEK OF 5/22/2022</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<u>Donors</u> 51	\$3,628 (online: \$1,485)	\$5,448
<u>Fiscal Year</u>	\$224,925	\$223,371

Next Weeks Assignments

Ushers

6/04~5:30pm: Tom Muldoon
6/05~8:00am: Paul Lowry
6/05~10:30am: Kevin Horace

June Church Cleaners: Gail & Abby Williams (971-277-0954)

June Altar Linens: Pam Erickson (503-459-8285)



6/05 9:00: Paul and Claudia
11:30:

Lector/Commentator

Heather Hannam
John Buxman
Dan Sweeney



How Far Is Up?

It depends upon your understanding of **cosmology**, the religious explanation of the nature and structure of the universe. If Jesus ascended into heaven, how far up did he go? This also depends upon your understanding of cosmology. These are not foolish questions. We might not be experts in the field of cosmology, but many of us know a bit about galaxies, spacetime, and black holes, if only from *Star Trek*. So with this minimal cosmological knowledge, how should we understand Acts 1:9 when “a cloud took [Jesus] from their sight”? Did he just keep going up?

In the Letter to the Ephesians, Paul refers to Jesus’ ascension, but he does not describe a mystifying event, as the Gospel reading does. Instead, he speaks of Jesus’ exaltation at God’s right hand. Perhaps it was fitting that Jesus ascended into the sky a little way, emphasizing that what occurred was more than mere physical exaltation. Rather, it is a way of stating that Jesus has now achieved honor and glory far beyond anything that is human, earthly, or created. He now enjoys divine glorification.

Still, even Paul uses metaphorical language when he says that Jesus sits at God’s right hand in heaven. We know that heaven is more than a place but is also a state of total fulfillment. We also know that to be seated at the host’s right hand means to be awarded the place of honor at the banquet. So, Paul is saying that Jesus enjoys total fulfillment in the place of honor next to his Father, where he is now praised as the beginning and end of all that is. This is reason to rejoice.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven.

They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

LUKE 24:51–52

FOR Reflection

- ✦ *Pray the responsorial psalm today.*
- ✦ *At his ascension, Jesus said his followers would be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. Are you one?*

Dear Padre,

Why should I believe Jesus is God, the Messiah?

Jesus was a historical figure whose miracles and wise teachings were witnessed by other reliable historical figures—the apostles and other disciples. He demonstrated miraculous powers through physical healings, dislodging demons, and command over nature, such as walking on water and instantly calming a storm. Most importantly, reliable witnesses saw the risen Jesus in a glorified body after his death on the cross. Rather than deny the truth of what they saw and learned, they submitted to gruesome martyrdoms.

Our world needs a Messiah. Despite the philosophies humans have adopted throughout history, we find we are our own worst enemy. Our egoism and pride have led to conflict and inequalities, negligence and hurt. We try following worldly leaders who promise us more, but they can't rid us of the inner defect of our selfishness. Neither economic success nor military conquest bring lasting happiness. We long for more. We long to know the purpose of life, to live without dying. We long to know God.

Jesus is the Messiah we need. His teaching centers on God's love for us and the love among people as the binding force for human hearts. Jesus taught that God loves his creations so much that he forgives people even for the ultimate sin: crucifying Jesus. His plans for eternity are that we, too, shall have a resurrection in a perfected body.

The truths Jesus exemplified and taught resonate perfectly with the deepest desires of the human heart.

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

What is the secret of a happy life? Recognizing Jesus, but Jesus as the living God, not as a statue. Because it is not important to know that Jesus was great in history....what matters is the place I give him in my life, the place I give to Jesus in my heart.

ANGELUS, JUNE 29, 2020

Calendar

Monday

MAY 30

Easter Weekday

Acts 19:1–8

Jn 16:29–33

Tuesday

MAY 31

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Zep 3:14–18a or

Rom 12:9–16

Lk 1:39–56

Wednesday

JUNE 1

St. Justin, Martyr

Acts 20:28–38

Jn 17:11b–19

Thursday

JUNE 2

Easter Weekday

Acts 22:30; 23:6–11

Jn 17:20–26

Friday

JUNE 3

St. Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs

Acts 25:13b–21

Jn 21:15–19

Saturday

JUNE 4

Easter Weekday

Acts 28:16–20,

30–31

Jn 21:20–25

Sunday

JUNE 5

Pentecost

Acts 2:1–11

1 Cor 12:3b–7, 12–13

or Rom 8:8–17

Jn 20:19–23 or

Jn 14:15–16, 23b–26

The days between the resurrection and ascension of our Lord

Beloved, the days which passed between the Lord's resurrection and his ascension were by no means uneventful; during them great sacramental mysteries were confirmed, great truths revealed. In those days the fear of death with all its horrors were taken away, and the immortality of both body and soul affirmed. It was then that the Lord breathed on all his apostles and filled them with the Holy Spirit; and after giving the keys of the kingdom to blessed Peter, whom he had chosen and set above all the others, he entrusted him with the care of his flock.

During these days the Lord joined two of his disciples as their companion on the road, and by chiding them for their timidity and hesitant fears he swept away all the clouds of our uncertainty. Their lukewarm hearts were fired by the light of faith and began to burn within them as the Lord opened up the Scriptures. And as they shared their meal with him, their eyes were opened in the breaking of bread, opened far more happily to the sight of their own glorified humanity than were the eyes of our first parents to the shame of their sin.

Throughout the whole period between the resurrection and ascension, God's providence was at work to instill this one lesson into the hearts of the disciples, to set this one truth before their eyes, that our Lord Jesus Christ, who was truly born, truly suffered and truly died, should be recognized as truly risen from the dead. The blessed apostles together with all the others had been intimidated by the catastrophe of the cross, and their faith in the resurrection had been uncertain; but now they were so strengthened by the evident truth that when their Lord ascended into heaven, far from feeling any sadness, they were filled with great joy.

Indeed, that blessed company had a great and inexpressible cause for joy when it was man's nature rising above the dignity of the whole heavenly creation, above the ranks of angels, above the exalted status of archangels. Nor would there be any limit to its upward course until humanity was admitted to a seat at the right hand of the eternal Father, to be enthroned at last in the glory of him to whose nature it was wedded in the person of the Son.

(From a sermon by Saint Leo the Great, pope)

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

"He ascended, not to distant himself from our lowly state but that we, his members, might be confident of following where he, our Head and Founder, has gone before."

– Preface of Ascension.

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).

"YOU DID NOT ABANDON HIM TO THE POWER OF DEATH"

After his fall, man was not abandoned by God. On the contrary, God calls him and in a mysterious way heralds the coming victory over evil and his restoration from his fall. This passage in Genesis is called the Protoevangelium ("first gospel"): the first announcement of the Messiah and Redeemer, of a battle between the serpent and the Woman, and of the final victory of a descendant of hers. CCC 410

The Christian tradition sees in this passage an announcement of the "New Adam" who, because he "became obedient unto death, even death on a cross", makes amends superabundantly for the disobedience, of Adam. Furthermore many Fathers and Doctors of the Church have seen the woman announced in the "Proto-evangelium" as Mary, the mother of Christ, the "new Eve". Mary benefited first of all and uniquely from Christ's victory over sin: she was preserved from all stain of original sin and by a special grace of God committed no sin of any kind during her whole earthly life. CCC 411

But why did God not prevent the first man from sinning? St. Leo the Great responds, "Christ's inexpressible grace gave us blessings better than those the demon's envy had taken away." And St. Thomas Aquinas wrote, "There is nothing to prevent human nature's being raised up to something greater, even after sin; God permits evil in order to draw forth some greater good. Thus St. Paul says, 'Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more'; and the Exultet sings, 'O happy fault,. . . which gained for us so great a Redeemer!'" CCC 412

Continued from page 2.

The Divine mandate to keep the Church, the body of Christ alive, has been transferred to us, modern-day disciples from the first apostles. As witnesses, the apostles carried the torch conceitedly and firmly despite the encumbrances. They have happily passed the baton to us. In the same manner, we should not allow the mission of Christ to drown in the ocean in our time. We should not be quick to throw Christ and the gospel under the bus when confronted with challenging decisions and choices. Like our forefathers in the faith, we should be indefatigable in witnessing to the gospel till Jesus returns in the same way as he ascended. We should prove ourselves witnesses who are commissioned and empowered by Christ through the sacraments. As modern-day witnesses, we should be emboldened to flee from the lackadaisical attitudes towards spiritual things, which are prominent amongst us. It is our mandate to bear witness to the master's message and not our message or how it appeals to us.

Ideally, to score high, we must follow the instruction of the perfect master, Jesus Christ, and not be confused and disconcerted in trying to follow our paths. We should accentuate the gospel of Christ and strive to reflect the message in and with our lives. Those who handed the baton to us are enjoying the fruits of their labor because they didn't disappoint the owner of the mission; therefore, as we follow their footsteps, let us willingly, proudly, and religiously stay strong in carrying the torch and banner of the gospel till the end. And, as we join the universal Church in prayer today, we ask God to gladden us with holy joys and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving because the solemnity of the ascension of Christ is our noble exaltation. Since we desire to be where Jesus Christ has gone to in glory, may we focus on the things that are above and prove ourselves worthy witnesses of Jesus' message.

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

Blessings,

Your servant in Christ,

Fr. Paschal Ezurike.



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