

ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCH

January 16, 2022

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



PARISH INFORMATION

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Matt Anderson

Administrative Council Chair:

Dan Sweeney

Adoration: Janet Tankersley

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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

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.

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, with the feast of the baptism of Jesus Christ, we graciously ended the Christmas tide. During the words of exhortation, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we reiterated the importance of living our baptismal promises. To live the baptismal promises, we are required to be ourselves and, to genuinely fulfill the task of our vocations. Living and fulfilling these promises is continuing the ministry and mission of Christ, whose baptism calls to mind our baptism. Also, it is noted that the Father revealed another of Christ's identities during his baptism. After being baptized, as he was praying, heaven opened, the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice from heaven said, "You are my Beloved Son, with you, I am well pleased." (Luke 3:21-22). In the end, we joined our hearts in prayer that as God's adopted children, reborn of water and of the Holy Spirit, we should constantly be consumed in the activities that are pleasing to God.

With the end of the Christmas season last Sunday, we returned to the ordinary time of the year. On this second Sunday, we assemble to solicit for strength from the Holy Trinity to enable us to continue to thrive in the way of perfection. Today's readings are packed with words of encouragement, meant to strengthen, and fortify us for the journey to the promised land. In the prophecy of Isaiah, God's people are assured that God shall not forsake them nor allow their land to be desolate. Instead, they shall be called "my delight and your land espoused." They will find favor in God's eyes as a virgin finds favor in her new husband. "And as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you." (Isaiah 62: 5). God has a great love for his people; he is constantly with us and shielding us as a hen gathers her brood under her wings from predators; therefore, we should not wander away from God's amazing love. Let us resolve to love him back and be committed to this saving relationship because God does not disappoint. God endowed us with freedom and will never coerce us to love him. Loving him is our choice to make. The psalmist asks us to proclaim the Lord's goodness to all nations for his contributions. It is a veritable assignment from the psalmist to shout the marvelous deeds of the Lord; however, it is those who stayed with God and have experienced his love that will honestly proclaim his goodness to others. You declare what you have witnessed. Therefore, we should affirm the Lord's marvelous deeds from his goodness to us.

Paul in his letter to the Corinthians, wants all Christians to know that God showers everyone with a unique gift because of his ineffable love for us. He pointed that the essence of each one's gift is to draw us to a closer and deeper relationship with God. The gift(s) should never be channeled to selfish motives but should be altruistic. Each of us has a special gift from the creator; so, we need to open our eyes of faith, notice what it is, or they are, and use them for the glory of God and, for the welfare of humanity, as Paul clearly stated. We need to develop our talent(s) and not be jealous of what others have accomplished with theirs. Love motivates and propels service. If there is no love, there is no authentic service. Service, devoid of love, produces no good fruit. It is a waste of energy, time, and resources. Mary's love for the new couple made her intercede on their behalf.

Today's gospel is one of my favorite passages in the four Synoptics. It is amongst the stories not duplicated by the other gospel writers. Only John, the beloved disciple, captured this episode, placing it in the early chapters of his gospel. One can look at the second chapter of John's gospel from different perspectives. Personally, it is about the power of Mary's intercession on our behalf. John began by giving us the setting. "There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and Jesus' mother, Jesus, and his disciples were invited. (John 2:1). In the middle of the wedding celebration, something embarrassing happened. The bride and bridegroom ran out of wine. The newly married couple could not do much as they were drowning in utter shame and embarrassment. One would guess that this embarrassment was because of either poor planning or financial constraints. However, John did not elaborate on why it happened. Instead, he recorded, they ran out of wine. As soon as the mother of Jesus noticed the embarrassing and unwanted situation, she turned to Jesus and said to him, "They have no wine." Jesus' reaction indicates that he was not prepared to do anything. He replied, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." Jesus' reaction does not affect Mary and does not change her position. Here is a beautiful example to all mothers to always stand firm when parenting, whether your actions favor your offspring or not, as long as it is not harmful or detrimental to their upbringing. Do not easily compromise to their desires. Never allow them to manipulate you to have their ways.

Consequently, she immediately mandated the servers to "Do whatever he tells you." The Mother of Jesus knew that her son would attend to her request; therefore, she ordered them to respect and carry out his commands. She knew her son's capabilities and was the first to tap into them. With her open orders to the servants, Jesus had no option but to obey his mother. The changing of water into wine became the first miracle of Jesus. It is fascinating and revealing that the first miracle of Jesus Christ came at the behest of his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. This passage, which was recorded, only by John the beloved disciple, speaks volumes about the roles/influence of Queen of heaven and earth on her son, Jesus Christ. With a simple but powerful and abiding command- "they have no wine" and "do whatever he tells you." She walked away from the scene. *Continued on Page 7*

This week at SPB and Upcoming Parish/Archdiocesan Events (continued on pg. 7)

Sunday, 1/16/2022

8:00am Mass: +William & Marie Pattyn
(Josh & Mary Pattyn)
10:30am Mass: All Parishioners

Monday, 1/17/2022 Memorial of St. Anthony

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
8:00am Mass: +Paul Petruzzelli (Jan Alderman)

Tuesday, 1/18/2022

6:30pm Mass: +Carl & Viv Bell (Royce Jones)
7:00pm: RICA/Hall

Wednesday, 1/19/2022

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
8:00am Mass: +Christine Bolger (Becky Wooten)

Thursday, 1/20/2022

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
8:00am Mass: +Mieczyslaw Ignasik
(Anna & Jacek Wiktorowicz)
7:00pm: Faith Sharing via Zoom

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



Friday, 1/21/2022 Memorial of St. Agnes

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
8:00am Mass: +Sylvia Posedel (Patti Gosser)

Saturday, 1/22/2022

4:00-5:00pm: Reconciliation/Church
5:30pm Mass: +Frannie Adams
(Fred & Carolyn DeLange)

Sunday, 1/23/2022

8:00am Mass: All Parishioners
10:30am Mass: +Bernice Hobbs (Lois Celorie)

Anyone considering participating in a ministry, please consider Caring Cards. I let you know when to send a card to a parishioner who is on the prayer chain. There are only 4 people for the whole parish! We really need more people. Please take a leap of faith. It really is very rewarding. Contact me at forestrespit@ccgmail.net or 503-544-5119. Thank you, Carol Jenquin



*Congratulations to
Melissa Payne and Jacob Bear
on their marriage
January 1, 2022. May you be blessed
with many happy years together.*

Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual Respect Life novena, *9 Days for Life*, Wednesday, January 19 - Thursday, January 27. Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more. Sign up at 9daysforlife.com!

Each year on January 22, all dioceses in the United States are called to observe a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.

Today we take up the collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). Your support helps CCC engage and build Catholic communities in the United States and around the world using the internet, television, radio and print media. Half the funds we collect remain here in the diocese of Portland to support local efforts. Be a part of this campaign to spread the Gospel message. Support the collection today! For more info, visit www.usccb.org/cc.

Statewide Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration 1/29/22.



*Thank you for your donations!
Your support is very much appreciated.*

Finance Corner

Registered Household 218	WEEK OF 1/09/2022 Actual	Budget
Donors 79	\$7,208 (online: \$3,035)	\$6,611
Fiscal Year	\$136,918	\$130,445

Below, on the right, is the QR code for Parish Soft. Point your phone camera at the picture and it will take you to the link for donations.

Ushers

1/22~5:30pm: Tom Muldoon
1/23~8:00am: Dave Beaty
1/23~10:30am: Larry Carnahan

Next Weeks Assignments

January Church Cleaners: Karen Henry (971-409-0679)
January Altar Linens: Vicky McGaughey (503-730-3077)



1/23 9:00: Pat & Elaine
11:30: Brown Family

Lector/Commentator

Heather Hannam
John Buxman
Nancy Carnahan



Dear Padre,

I work hard all week and look forward to sleeping in on Sundays. Why should I get out of bed and go to Mass?

I imagine that your parish provides suitable Mass times, even for late sleepers. But there are overpowering reasons for attending Mass. First, I'll discuss how the Mass is our present-day connection with the Last Supper, the Passover meal Jesus celebrated with his apostles. As observant Jews, they commemorated their ancestors' escape from slavery in Egypt. Jesus used his



final Passover meal to teach us how to escape a bondage crueler than the Jews experienced in Egypt—the enslavement of sin.

The next day, Good Friday, Jesus would die on the cross. Think of it: Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, became human to teach us about God's love for

us. The people's reaction to this goodness was to kill Jesus in an inhuman way.

In response, God would have been justified in destroying the world, as he did in reaction to the people's depravities during Noah's time. Instead, God gave us further evidence of his patience and forgiveness. There is nothing our Father would not forgive, including the sin of killing Jesus. At the Last Supper, Jesus said: "This is my blood..., which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:28).

Jesus' death, which we remember during the Mass, liberates us from sin. It also liberates us from death itself. Because Jesus in his mortal body was willing to die, he shows us the plan God the Father has for each of us—a resurrection like Jesus'. The Eucharist is our thanksgiving for these gifts from God.

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Calendar

Monday

JANUARY 17

St. Anthony,
Abbot

1 Sm 15:16–23

Mk 2:18–22

Tuesday

JANUARY 18

Weekday

1 Sm 16:1–13

Mk 2:23–28

Wednesday

JANUARY 19

Weekday

1 Sm 17:32–33,

37, 40–51

Mk 3:1–6

Thursday

JANUARY 20

Weekday

1 Sm 18:6–9; 19:1–7

Mk 3:7–12

Friday

JANUARY 21

St. Agnes,
Virgin and Martyr

1 Sm 24:3–21

Mk 3:13–19

Saturday

JANUARY 22

Day of Prayer for
the Legal Protection
of Unborn Children

2 Sm 1:1–4, 11–12,

19, 23–27

Mk 3:20–21

Mk 3:20–21

Mk 3:20–21

Sunday

JANUARY 23

Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Neh 8:2–4a, 5–6, 8–10

1 Cor 12:12–30

or 12:12–14, 27

Lk 1:1–4; 4:14–21



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

We go to Mass because we are sinners and we want to receive God's pardon, to participate in the redemption of Jesus, in his forgiveness. The confession which we make at the beginning is not pro forma. It is a real act of repentance! I am a sinner and I confess it—this is how the Mass begins!

GENERAL AUDIENCE, FEBRUARY 12, 2014

Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 16, 2022

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Is 62:1-5

1 Cor 12:4-11

Jn 2:1-11



Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now.

JOHN 2:10

BOGDAN SONJACHNYI / SHUTTERSTOCK

What's New?

Few parties are more enjoyable than a wedding celebration. While the elegance of the flowers and the extravagance of the food and beverages captivate our senses, the real excitement is the love and promise of newness. New relationships are forged, a new family is created, and there's the possibility of new life. No wonder the relationship between God and the people is often described in marriage imagery, as we see in today's first reading.

This Old Testament passage is post-exilic. The alienation from God is over; the people and God are now reconciled. Much of the language suggests relationship: no longer *forsaken* or *desolate*, but now a *delight* and *espoused* (see Isaiah 62:4). Despite having been betrayed, God's mercy has transformed the nation back to its virginal state: "As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you" (62:5). This newness is something to celebrate.

The messianic character of the Cana story has long been recognized. All the newness I mentioned earlier is there, but newness now pertains to the entire community of believers and not simply to the marriage couple, who have no idea what is happening. An important detail of this story is the nature of the wine. What was originally water for ceremonial cleansing was transformed into wine, the quality of which was outstanding. This imagery tells us that there is a messianic banquet awaiting us, one that celebrates our intimate union with God. The joy we experience then will be intoxicating.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ **How might you describe your relationship with God?**
- ★ **Do you feel alienated from God? Remember, God's mercy can change that.**

The Word took our nature from Mary

The Apostle tells us: *The Word took to himself the sons of Abraham, and so had to be like his brothers in all things.* He had then to take a body like ours. This explains the fact of Mary's presence: she is to provide him with a body of his own, to be offered for our sake. Scripture records her giving birth, and says: *She wrapped him in swaddling clothes.* Her breasts, which fed him, were called blessed. Sacrifice was offered because the child was her firstborn. Gabriel used careful and prudent language when he announced his birth. He did not speak of "what will be born *in you*" to avoid the impression that a body would be introduced into her womb from outside; he spoke of "what will be born *from you*" so that we might know by faith that her child originated within her and from her.

By taking our nature and offering it in sacrifice, the Word was to destroy it completely and then invest it with his own nature, and so prompt the Apostle to say: *This corruptible body must put on incorruption; this mortal body must put on immortality.* This was not done in outward show only, as some have imagined. This is not so. Our Savior truly became man, and from this has followed the salvation of man as a whole. Our salvation is in no way fictitious, nor does it apply only to the body. The salvation of the whole man, that is, of soul and body, has really been achieved in the Word himself.

What was born of Mary was therefore human by nature, in accordance with the inspired Scriptures, and the body of the Lord was a true body: It was a true body because it was the same as ours. Mary, you see, is our sister, for we are all born from Adam.

The words of Saint John: *the Word was made flesh,* bear the same meaning, as we may see from a similar turn of phrase in Saint Paul: *Christ was made a curse for our sake.* Man's body has acquired something great through its communion and union with the Word. From being mortal, it has been made immortal; though it was a living body it has become a spiritual one; though it was made from the earth it has passed through the gates of heaven.

Even when the Word takes a body from Mary, the Trinity remains a Trinity, with neither increase nor decrease. It is forever perfect. In the Trinity we acknowledge one Godhead, and thus one God, the Father of the Word, is proclaimed in the Church.

(From a letter by Saint Athanasius, bishop)

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

“Your mind is a powerful thing. When you fill it with positive thoughts, your life will start to change.” – Anonymous.

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).

A LISTENING CHURCH

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has invited the Catholic Church to embark on a journey together. Through listening and discernment rooted in the Holy Spirit, the entire people of God will be called to contribute to a process by which the Church deepens in understanding of Her mission and looks toward the future.

A Synod, which is the process by which the Church will begin this important work is not just a convening of Bishops reflecting on a particular topic and advising the Pope. A Synod is a journey of discernment, in which the people of God are called to pray and reflect upon the Holy Spirit's will for the Church. Through our listening and our sharing, we will seek to understand what the Holy Spirit's will is for the topic being discussed - and thus, for the Church.

For the 2023 Ordinary Synod of Bishops, that topic is synodality. Simply put, synodality is discerning how the Spirit is moving through and with the Body of Christ, so that we may continue to fulfill our mission to evangelize in the world.

It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the "third millennium."

-Pope Francis

Continued from page 2.

The wedding at Cana is very significant for modern-day followers of Christ. Jesus, his mother, and the disciples attended the marriage ceremony of a man and a woman to showcase the structure of what marriage should be. Also, it shows the dignity and importance of marriage in the society. In addition, at the Cana celebration, the power of her intercession came to limelight. Those powerful orders became her last recorded words in the bible, even during Jesus' painful torture on the way to the cross and his crucifixion. It calls for a deep reflection that 'do whatever he tells you.' was her last words recorded in the bible. She never pointed to herself; instead, she pointed to her son. It should be all about Christ and not us.

The powerful message embedded in this passage is simple: we should not look down on the effective intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary. However, it is regrettable that some Christians disparage and look down on the mother of the Savior by using derogatory and abusive words, and at the same time, refusing to give honor to whom honor is due. At the same time, they claim to love, respect, and adore Jesus. They are ready to scream Jesus' name from morning till night like the prophets of Baal calling their pseudo-god but have no admiration and respect for his mother. Such attitudes are wildly incompatible and ludicrous. If Jesus Christ listened and obeyed his mother even when his hour had not come, what do you think he will do now that his hour has been established? And how do you believe that Jesus will look at those Christians/people that use derogatory and abusive words on Mary? It is time for those in this category to open their eyes of faith and understand that the Church gives honor to Mary and not worship her. Therefore, they should pocket their pride, free themselves from whatever erroneous teachings against Mary and join the bandwagon of those giving honor to whom recognition is due.

Another crucial lesson from the marriage at Cana is that we need to be compassionate to those in need of any kind. And we must desist from making fun of people amid their trials and difficulties/tribulations. Mary's concern for the newly married couple saved the situation. As our mother, she also feels our pains beyond our imagination and presents those life's vicissitudes to the best problem solver. Finally, may we continue to learn from the life of our blessed mother, Mary, an open library that is accessible at any time. And may we continue to love, respect, and honor her and mostly bank on her crucial intercession. Mary, the mother of Jesus, pray for us. Amen.

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

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



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