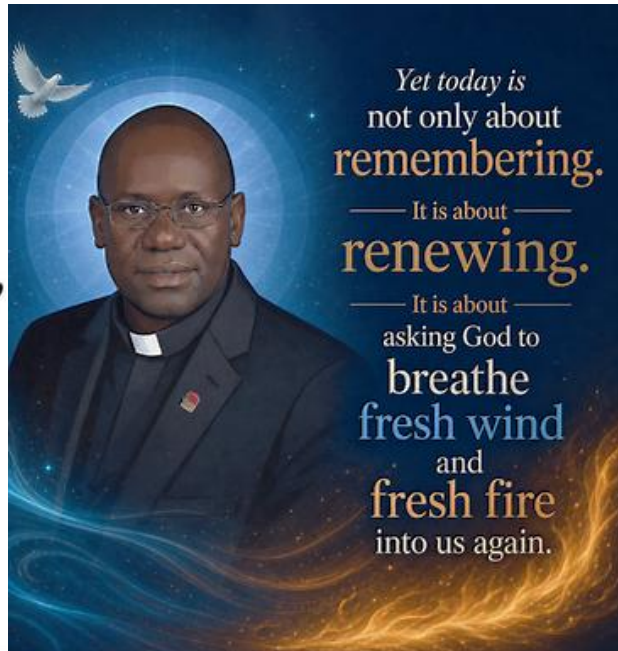


## ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCH

1966-2026

60<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary



**My** dear beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, honored guests, and cherished family of faith—today we stand on a holy ground, here at St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church, in the archdiocese of Portland in western Oregon. For sixty years, God has kept this church, guided this church, and used this church as a lighthouse in a world that desperately needs His hope. We are not just celebrating an anniversary; we are celebrating God's love and faithfulness.

Sixty years ago, a small group of believers dared to trust God. They offered bold prayers, sang with humble hearts, and planted a seed that has grown into the ministry we see today. They did not know what the future would hold, but they knew Who held the future. And because of their obedience, we are here—stronger, wiser, and still standing on the promises of God.

As we look back, we honor the pastors who preached the Word with conviction, the mothers of the church who prayed us through storms, the fathers who built with their hands and their hearts, and the young people who carried the fire of worship into new generations. We honor every volunteer, every teacher, every servants who gave their time, their talents, their gifts, and their love. This church was built by faith - but sustained by prayer and sacrifice.



*“Yet today is not only about remembering. It is about renewing. It is about asking God to breathe fresh wind and fresh fire into us again. If He carried us for sixty years, He would carry us for sixty more and beyond.”*

The world around us is changing, but the mission of the church remains the same: To preach the Gospel. To love people. To shine the light of Christ in dark places. To be a refuge for the broken and a home for the lost. To stand firm on truth and walk boldly in grace.

As we celebrate this milestone, let us recommit ourselves to unity, to prayer, to holiness, and to service. Let us be a church that does not just gather—but goes. A church that does not just remember—but reaches. A church that doesn’t just celebrate—but transforms. Let us realize our mission statement in our lives, **“wanting all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:4)**. And let us declare with confidence: The same God who brought us this far will lead us forward. His hand is still upon us. His Spirit is still within us. His purpose is still before us.

So today, we lift our hands in gratitude. We lift our voices in praise. We lift our hearts in expectation. Because the story of St. Philip Benizi is not finished. The best chapters are still being written.

To every member, thank you for being part of this journey. To all our departed brothers and sisters, may God reward you with eternal joy in heaven. May God bless, strengthen and prosper us to eternal glory. **“KEEP THE FAITH”**.

**St. Philip Benizi, Pray for Us.**

**Fr. Peter O. Okola, AJ**