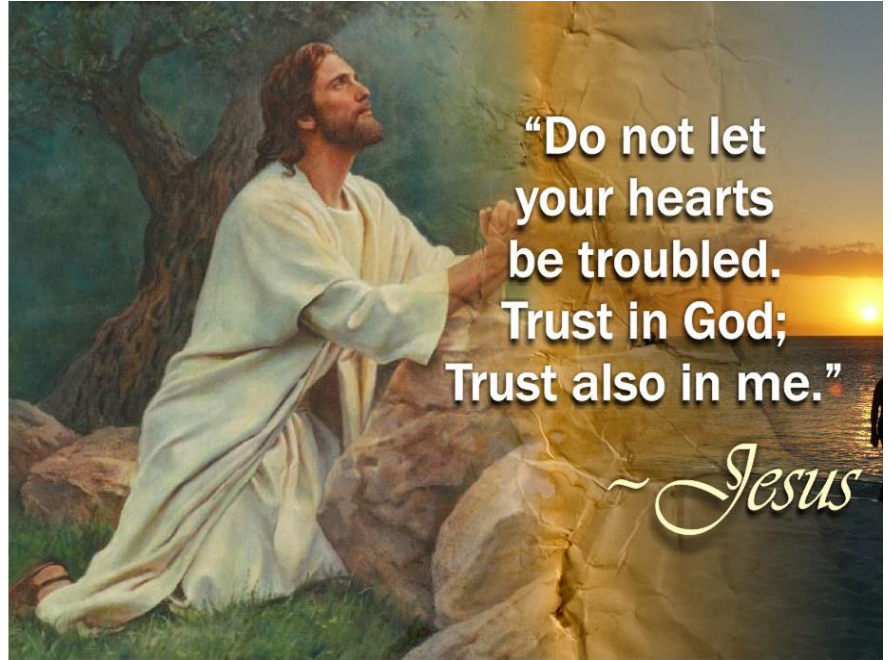


ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCH

May 7, 2023
Fifth Sunday of Easter



PARISH INFORMATION

18211 S Henrici RD
Oregon City OR 97045
PHONE: 503-631-2882
FAX: 503-631-7443

EMAIL: stphilipbenizi_redland@archdpx.org

Pastor: Fr. Paschal Ezurike

Email: pezurike@archdpx.org

Parish Staff

Business Manager: Mary Pattyn

50mpattyn@archdpx.org

Secretary: Sherrie Havens

503-631-2882

3-631-2882

shavens@archdpx.org

RE Director: Melissa Payne

503-631-2882

mbear@archdpx.org

Music Director: Debbie Schaffer

(C) 503-887-7701

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

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, we celebrated the Good Shepherd Sunday and the World Day of Prayer for vocations a week ago. The themes helped us to prayerfully reflect on Christ as our Good Shepherd and offer numerous prayers for an increase in the vocation to the priesthood and consecrated life. During the reflection, among other things, we were reminded of Jesus being the only gateway to the Father; therefore, to find a space in the heavenly palace, it is mandatory to follow Jesus Christ, the way, truth, and life. Any attempt to imbibe doctrine antithetical to Jesus' teaching is fictitious and preposterous.

As we enter the fifth week of the great feast of the Lord's Resurrection, we continue to witness how the events of Easter transformed the apostles' lives. We pray that we are changed in the same manner with this power as we continue to sing alleluia, the hymn of praise that he has risen. Today's first reading continues from the book of the Acts of Apostles, where St. Luke relates that certain widows are being neglected in daily food distribution. Following Jesus' word on feeding the hungry and caring for the marginalized: The apostles would care for the local widows with what they had available, goods often gathered from the generosity of the Christian community. Meanwhile, as the number of Christians continued to grow from strength to strength, the Apostles could no longer preach the word and at the same time distribute alms to Christian widows. To help solve this problem, the apostles created the diaconate order to extend their work to the poor. They chose Stephen, the first deacon, the first martyr, and six other men filled with the Holy Spirit and wisdom for this essential apostolate.

In the second reading, we hear a beautiful description of all of us who are baptized, the description that is used as a preface on one of the Sundays in ordinary time of the year, 'You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his own wonderful light.' As a people set apart, we have the vocation to spread the word of God, to serve the marginalized, and to continue to follow the steps of him, who is the way, the truth, and the life.

In today's gospel, Jesus reinforced his teachings last Sunday. He uses another "I AM" statement to reveal his identity and mission to the world. In response to Thomas' question, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the Father except through me." This statement of Jesus summarizes who he is to his disciples. The ones who heard the words and all those who would come after. Jesus is the source of life and truth. To accept Jesus as our way, truth, and life means to open ourselves for him to dwell in us. In the gospel of last Sunday, the risen Lord boldly described himself as the gate for the sheep. As the gate for the sheep, he is the sole entrance whose mission and goal is to protect and give abundant life and salvation to the sheep. No wonder Jesus did everything for his sheep, even accepting the infamous death on the cross to free us from sin and eternal damnation. And for the sheep to benefit from this invaluable and priceless life, the sheep must be patient, listen and follow the Good Shepherd because he is the ultimate way to eternal life. Jesus didn't say to Thomas, let me show you the way, the truth, and the life; instead, He said, I am the way, the truth, and the life. Therefore, we do not ordinarily follow a set of rules or believe in some doctrines; we follow the second person of the Blessed Trinity, Christ, who is fully God and fully man. In the words of Archbishop Fulton Sheen, Christ's doctrine was himself' (Life of Christ).

Dear friends, since Jesus is the way, the truth, and life, there is no need to worry about another Global Positioning System (GPS) to eternal life because to safely and soundly get to our destination, we need him, and we need to follow his directives and not ours. There is no other way because his ways are just, perfect, and trustworthy. As the Sole way to eternal life, he strongly admonishes his followers never to yield to fear and faithlessness but to persevere. Many rooms await his chosen people, his own whom he has called from darkness into his marvelous light. Using his words, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me." *Continued on page 7*

This week at SPB and Upcoming Parish/Archdiocesan Events

Sunday, 5/07/2023

8:00am Mass: All Parishioners
 10:30am Mass: +Maureen Gray
 (Sharron Brumbaugh)

Monday, 5/08/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
 8:00am Mass: +Robert Eldridge
 (Al & Jackie Davis)
 6:00pm: RCIA/Hall

Tuesday, 5/09/2023

6:30pm Mass: +Gwen Davis
 (Becky & Larry Wooten)

Wednesday, 5/10/2023

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

Thursday, 5/11/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
 8:00am Mass: +Marie Pattyn
 (Grace & Claire Pattyn)

7:00pm: Faith Sharing via Zoom

8:30am-10:00pm:

Eucharistic Adoration



Friday, 5/12/2023

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

Saturday, 5/13/2023

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

Sunday, 5/14/2023

8:00am Mass: All Parishioners
 10:30am Mass: +Ryan Finney
 (Janet Tankersley)

May 13th: JPII Young Adult Crew-5:30

Mass- dinner and videos/Hall

May 14th: Mother's Day Breakfast.

Happy Mother's Day

May 15th: Newsletter articles are due



Thank you to Janelle W. for leading the Adopt a Road ministry and to all who showed up to help with the road clean up on Saturday, Janet T., John B, Tom M., Micah, Heather H., Joanie L., Greg M., and Linda Z. It was a beautiful day. Your help was appreciated. Thank you to the restaurant patron who quietly paid for our lunch and drinks.



The Mother's Day Breakfast is Sunday, May 14th after 8am and 10:30am Masses. Come to the Hall after Mass for breakfast and to celebrate all mothers. Moms eat for free, Adults \$10, Kids \$5, Families \$20. Contact Ed Schneider if you can help, 503-631-3942.

Join the JPII Young Adult Crew next Saturday, May 13th for 5:30pm mass, followed by dinner and Fr. Mike Schmitz videos and discussion in the parish hall.

Do you have children attending Parochial School? Around 1990 a SPB parishioner donated money for an educational fund in honor of Rev. Willis Leo Whalen. The fund has been opened to the parish for the school year of 2023-24. Pick up an application from the office.

Thank you to all those who participated in the National Day of Prayer (75 people committed to pray). 147 post cards went out to prayer recipients. Don't stop praying. You are encouraged to pray all year.

If you have not returned your Lenten Rice Bowl please bring it back to the Church basket or the office. Thank you.

Join TODAY the growing number of donors with the heart of a servant who are making a monthly recurring gift to the Archbishop's Catholic Appeal. Please visit, JesusChangesEverything.church or call (503) 233-8336.



We are in the month of May – the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We are encouraged to pray the Rosary daily and seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

If you have articles for the Newsletter please bring them to the office or send them to Bill Breshears ASAP. Thank you.

Finance Corner

Registered Household 222	WEEK OF 4/30/2023	
	Actual	Budget
<u>Donors</u> 62	\$4,335 (online: \$1,605)	\$5,540
<u>Fiscal Year</u>	\$215,917	\$212,949

Next Weeks Assignments

Ushers

5/13~5:30pm: Tom Muldoon

5/14~8:00am: Butch Searls

5/14~10:30am: Kevin Horace

Lector/Commentator

Heather Hannam

John Buxman

Jerry Siler

Extraordinary

Becky Wooten

Jeannine Breshears

Janet Tankersley

May Church Cleaners: Michelle Harrington (971-409-5664)

May Altar Linens: Janet Tankersley (503-545-2229)



5/14 9:00am: Mother's Day Breakfast

11:30am: Mother's Day Breakfast





[Jesus said], “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.”

JOHN 14:1



Where the Heart Is

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Some would say that the purpose of life is to save one’s soul. And certainly we should try, with the grace of God, to live our lives in such a way that we avoid evil and do good in order to do our part in building God’s kingdom on earth. At the same time, we must remember that it is God who saves us. We don’t save ourselves. Eternal life and happiness are byproducts of loving others. If the focus of one’s life is to be happy, one never achieves it. If one seeks to serve others, however, happiness seems to find us. So also eternal life.

Robert Frost’s “The Death of a Hired Man” is a poem about Silas, an aging drifter farmhand, and Warren and Mary, a farming couple who give Silas a room whenever he comes around.

Silas comes when he is needed the least and leaves when his presence would be most helpful, all of which frustrates Warren. In the poem Silas has returned, and Mary thinks it will be his last time, that he is dying. She says to Warren that theirs is the only home Silas has. Warren simply shakes his head as if to gently mock the idea of home: “Home is the place where, when you have to go there, / They have to take you in.” Mary says it differently, “I should have called it / Something you somehow haven’t to deserve.”

Is that not also the promise of Jesus? “In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?” (John 14:2). Something we somehow haven’t to deserve. ●

Reflect

Where do you feel truly at home—and is Jesus invited?

Dear Padre,

I know a Catholic couple who wanted to celebrate their sacrament of matrimony at a Mass in a forest, but the bishop didn't allow it. Why not marry in God's creation?

A marriage between Catholics or between a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic is usually celebrated in a parish church. It can be celebrated in another church or oratory with the bishop or pastor's permission. A marriage between a Catholic and an unbaptized person can be celebrated in a church or another suitable place, although a Catholic church remains the preferred place for the celebration.

Why is the parish church the preferred site for the celebration? For Catholics, matrimony is a sacrament—one of the seven sacred signs through which God communicates love to us. When Catholics ask God to bind their union as a sacrament, the couple's love for each other is a sign of God's love for both, and their union is also a continuous sign of Christ's love for the Church. Thus, the church as a "house of God," which contains the presence of Christ, is revered as the most sacred place to make this most sacred commitment. Marriage, according to Pope Francis in a 2015 General Audience, "is not merely a ceremony in a church, with flowers, a dress, photographs....Christian marriage is a sacrament that takes place in the Church, and which also makes the Church, by giving rise to a new family community....[Saint] Paul says that the love between spouses is an image of the love between Christ and his Church. An unimaginable dignity!" ●



CNS PHOTO/KAREN CALLAWAY, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
May 8	May 9	May 10	May 11	May 12	May 13	May 14
<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>
Acts 14:5–18	Acts 14:19–28	Acts 15:1–6	Acts 15:17–21	Acts 15:22–31	Acts 16:1–10	Acts 8:5–8, 14–17
Jn 14:21–26	Jn 14:27–31a	Jn 15:1–8	Jn 15:9–11	Jn 15:12–17	Jn 15:18–21	1 Pt 3:15–18 Jn 14:15–21



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

[Jesus] knows that, in life, the worst anxiety, anguish, arises from the sensation of not being able to cope, of feeling alone and without points of reference when faced with events. We cannot overcome this anguish alone...and this is why Jesus asks us to have faith in him, that is, to lean not on ourselves but on him.

REGINA CAELI, ST. PETER'S SQUARE, MAY 10, 2020

CNS PHOTO/VATICAN MEDIA

The first day of the week

22. In those early Christian times, the weekly rhythm of days was generally not part of life in the regions where the Gospel spread, and the festive days of the Greek and Roman calendars did not coincide with the Christian Sunday. For Christians, therefore, it was very difficult to observe the Lord's Day on a set day each week. This explains why the faithful had to gather before sunrise. Yet fidelity to the weekly rhythm became the norm, since it was based upon the New Testament and was tied to Old Testament revelation. This is eagerly underscored by the Apologists and the Fathers of the Church in their writings and preaching where, in speaking of the Paschal Mystery, they use the same Scriptural texts which, according to the witness of Saint Luke (cf. 24:27, 44-47), the Risen Christ himself would have explained to the disciples. In the light of these texts, the celebration of the day of the Resurrection acquired a doctrinal and symbolic value capable of expressing the entire Christian mystery in all its newness.

Growing distinction from the Sabbath

23. It was this newness which the catechesis of the first centuries stressed as it sought to show the prominence of Sunday relative to the Jewish Sabbath. It was on the Sabbath that the Jewish people had to gather in the synagogue and to rest in the way prescribed by the Law. The Apostles, and in particular Saint Paul, continued initially to attend the synagogue so that there they might proclaim Jesus Christ, commenting upon "the words of the prophets which are read every Sabbath" (Acts 13:27). Some communities observed the Sabbath while also celebrating Sunday. Soon, however, the two days began to be distinguished ever more clearly, in reaction chiefly to the insistence of those Christians whose origins in Judaism made them inclined to maintain the obligation of the old Law. Saint Ignatius of Antioch writes: "If those who were living in the former state of things have come to a new hope, no longer observing the Sabbath but keeping the Lord's Day, the day on which our life has appeared through him and his death..., that mystery from which we have received our faith and in which we persevere in order to be judged disciples of Christ, our only Master, how could we then live without him, given that the prophets too, as his disciples in the Spirit, awaited him as master?". Saint Augustine notes in turn: "Therefore the Lord too has placed his seal on his day, which is the third after the Passion. In the weekly cycle, however, it is the eighth day after the seventh, that is after the Sabbath, and the first day of the week". The distinction of Sunday from the Jewish Sabbath grew ever stronger in the mind of the Church, even though there have been times in history when, because the obligation of Sunday rest was so emphasized, the Lord's Day tended to become more like the Sabbath. Moreover, there have always been groups within Christianity which observe both the Sabbath and Sunday as "two brother days".

(POPE ST. JOHN PAUL 11, Apostolic letter on *Dies Domini*, July 30, 1998).

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

"Pray, hope, and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer. Don't spend your energies on things that generate worry, anxiety, and anguish. Only one thing is necessary: Lift up your spirit, and love God." – Padre Pio

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).

JESUS AND THE LAW

The perfect fulfilment of the Law could be the work of none but the divine legislator, born subject to the Law in the person of the Son. In Jesus, the Law no longer appears engraved on tables of stone but "upon the heart" of the Servant who becomes "a covenant to the people", because he will "faithfully bring forth justice". Jesus fulfils the Law to the point of taking upon himself "the curse of the Law" incurred by those who do not "abide by the things written in the book of the Law, and do them", for his death took place to redeem them "from the transgressions under the first covenant". CCC 580

The Jewish people and their spiritual leaders viewed Jesus as a rabbi. He often argued within the framework of rabbinical interpretation of the Law. Yet Jesus could not help but offend the teachers of the Law, for he was not content to propose his interpretation alongside theirs but taught the people "as one who had authority, and not as their scribes". In Jesus, the same Word of God that had resounded on Mount Sinai to give the written Law to Moses, made itself heard anew on the Mount of the Beatitudes. Jesus did not abolish the Law but fulfilled it by giving its ultimate interpretation in a divine way: "You have heard that it was said to the men of old. . . But I say to you. . ." With this same divine authority, he disavowed certain human traditions of the Pharisees that were "making void the word of God". CCC 581

Going even further, Jesus perfects the dietary law, so important in Jewish daily life, by revealing its pedagogical meaning through a divine interpretation: "Whatever goes into a man from outside cannot defile him. . . (Thus he declared all foods clean.). . . What comes out of a man is what defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts. . ." In presenting with divine authority the definitive interpretation of the Law, Jesus found himself confronted by certain teachers of the Law who did not accept his interpretation of the Law, guaranteed though it was by the divine signs that accompanied it. This was the case especially with the sabbath laws, for he recalls, often with rabbinical arguments, that the sabbath rest is not violated by serving God and neighbour, which his own healings did. CCC 582

Continued from Page 2

Indeed, there is no better time to hear these encouraging and strengthening words of Christ than now. Amid this strange and challenging time when it seems that, peace is eluding our grip, anti-life and weird legislations are signed into law, when most people decide to be offspring of political parties instead of God's children. It is this time when most of us have resolved to challenge the truth and pitch our tents with theories that are ludicrous to a sane mind. Also, when unprecedented hardships and starvation are ravaging many people across the globe. During this unimaginable and scary period, Jesus is telling us to be calm, not to be troubled, not to be in despair, nor become despondent, but to have strong faith in him and hold him tight. Let us listen and take his words to heart. Everything must pass away except God's word.

Finally, as we take the words of Christ to heart and hope for the best, may we not allow the uncertainties of life to constitute setbacks on our life-saving journey.

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

Blessings,

Your servant in Christ,

Fr. Paschal Ezurike

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