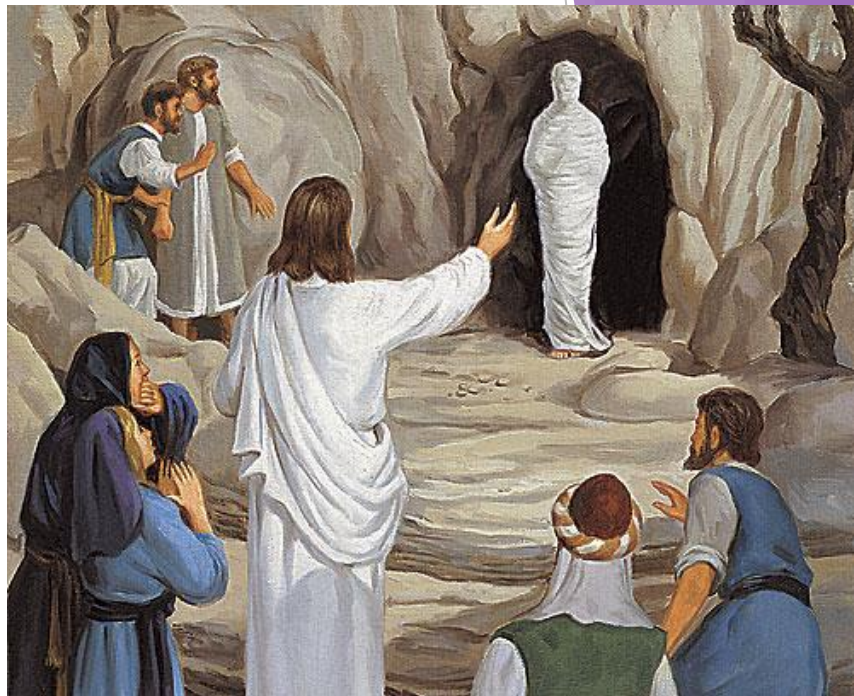


# ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCH

March 26, 2023  
Fifth Sunday of Lent



## 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

503-631-2882

mpattyn@archdpx.org

**Secretary:** Sherrie Havens

503-631-2882

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

4/6 Holy Thursday – 7:00pm Mass, Adoration 8pm-12:00

4/7 Good Friday – Stations of the Cross: 3:00pm

Passion of the Lord: 7:00pm

4/8 Easter Vigil – 8:30pm Mass

4/9 Easter Sunday – Masses at 8:00am & 10:30am

## 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](http://www.philipbenizi.com)

**God is good! All the time! All the time, God is good.**

**Dear friends in Christ, last weekend, the 4th Sunday of lent, shortly before he restored the eyes of the blind man, Jesus reminded us that he is the perpetual light of the world, "While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." The light of the world gave light and sight to the man that was born blind. So, to see the things we need to know, one must accept that Jesus is the light of the world and also stay with trust within Jesus' perimeter like the blind man. One's life changes when one is with the perpetual light of the world.**

**On this Sunday that precedes Palm Sunday, the liturgy of the word reminds us that Jesus is our resurrection and life, and because he has given us the Spirit, we are no longer dead because of sin. Again, we are assured that Jesus is also the fullness of redemption.**

**In the first reading, the Lord asks Ezekiel to prophesy over dried bones and say to them: "Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!... I will bring spirit into you, that you may come to life" (Ezekiel 37:4 -5) Even though the people live in exile like dead bones on the plain, God has not forgotten them. He promises that he will raise them from the graves of hopelessness and bring them back to the land of Israel (Ezekiel 37:12). He will breathe his Spirit into them and give them new life. The first reading is God's message of faithfulness to the people of Israel. Though bound in exile, they must know that God will set them free. This same message comes to us: the new Israelites that the Lord forgives and sets us free from sins.**

**In the gospel, Jesus weeps when he learns of the death of his good friend Lazarus, whom he loved like a brother. The tears of Jesus serve as a lasting reminder that Jesus is fully human and divine. Though he has the power to walk on water and raise the dead, he is also capable of feeling loss, but his grief cannot in any way compare with the devastation experienced by Martha and Mary, the sisters of Lazarus.**

**Undoubtedly, their sadness was escalated by their inability to comprehend Jesus' behavior during their brother's illness. They sent word to Jesus that Lazarus was sick. Our Lord was only two miles away. Days passed, Lazarus' health kept deteriorating and slipping away, and Jesus did not come to their aid. They do not know that Jesus has a miracle in store for them. The likes of which they could not even begin to imagine.**

**Jesus is nowhere in the vicinity as Lazarus' life slips away. He makes no effort to be there either to heal Lazarus as he has done to others or at least to comfort the sisters during their brother's last hours, neither for his funeral nor the days that follow. Indeed, by the time Jesus makes the short two mile's journey from Jerusalem to Bethany, Lazarus had been in the tomb for nearly five days. I am sure they must have questioned what kind of friend Jesus was, for as the saying goes, a friend in need is indeed a friend.**

**Martha and Mary confront Jesus about his lack of consideration with this statement: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died," both sisters cried out. Martha is not just speaking from her grief. She also makes a profession of faith: I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give it to you. As upset as Martha may be about her brother's death and Jesus' absence, she believes there is still reason to hope. Jesus is not a 'doctor,' but Martha knows that he is more than a doctor and can shine a light into her darkness.**

**When Jesus finally arrives, to the amazement of all, he boldly states: I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live. Jesus then asks Martha; do you believe this? The answer to this question defines the life and faith of every believer. The same question goes for each of us when we confront our mortality or the death of someone we love. Soon to face his passion, Jesus has come to Bethany to show Martha and Mary that life does not end in death.**

**With authority from God, Jesus orders: Lazarus, come out! Lazarus emerges from the tomb. Once freed from the wrappings that bound him, it is clear that he has overcome death and the illness that caused his death. Similarly, Christ is calling all believers this Lenten season to come out from the tombs that hide us and from the graves that cover us: tombs of doubts surrounding Christ's teaching, sin, greed, fear, hate, unforgiveness, anger, revenge, and oppression. Also, to emerge from the graves of self-satisfaction, isolation, indifference, and fatigue, from the tombs and crypts that plague our human existence, to the life of total liberation, service, freedom, and love. In short, Jesus is calling us out from the tombs of anything that is hindering us from enjoying our whole life in Christ.**

*Continued on page 7*



# This week at SPB and Upcoming Parish/Archdiocesan Events

## Sunday, 3/26/2023

8:00am Mass: +William Pattyn (Claire & Grace Pattyn)  
10:30am Mass: All Parishioners

## Monday, 3/27/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +Robert Eldridge (Al & Jackie Dans)

## Tuesday, 3/28/2023

6:30pm Mass: +John Glenn (Josh & Mary Pattyn)  
7:00pm: RCIA/Hall

## Wednesday, 3/29/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +Wes Loveall

## Thursday, 3/30/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +Gloria Rodrigues (Mary Lou Silvander)

7:00pm: Faith Sharing via Zoom

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



## Friday, 3/31/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +Bill Du Plessis (Toni Nova)  
6:00pm: Soup Supper/Hall  
7:00pm: Stations of the Cross

## Saturday, 4/01/2023

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

## Sunday, 4/02/2023 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

8:00am Mass: +David Lowry (Paul Lowry & Claudia Evers)  
10:30am Mass: All Parishioners

**March 26<sup>th</sup>:** No Religious Education classes

**March 31<sup>st</sup>:** Soup Supper at 6pm hosted by RCIA followed by Stations of the Cross at 7pm

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Blood pressure readings taken after the 8am Mass



**March 8<sup>th</sup>:** Easter Egg Hunt. Arrive at 9:45am



## Travel with Fr. Paschal Ezurike, on our Pilgrimage to Ireland and England

Where: Galway, Our Lady of Knock, Cliffs of Moher, Killarney, Dingle Peninsula, Dublin, Downpatrick, City of Belfast  
Trip Dates: August 11-August 21, 2023 Cost: \$4,999.00 To register, please contact (855) 842-8001 or (508) 340-9370. You can also register online at [www.proximotravel.com](http://www.proximotravel.com).

## Mass schedule for Holy Week

Holy Thursday: 7:00pm Mass. 12 people needed for washing of the feet. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex  
Good Friday: 3:00pm Stations of the Cross.  
Passion of the Lord, 7:00pm  
Divine Mercy Novena begins  
Easter Vigil, Holy Saturday: 8:30pm Mass  
Easter Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am Masses

**Helping Hands Easter Basket** work party is Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> from 3-5:30pm (prior to the Soup Supper) to assemble food bags and Easter basket gifts. In addition, Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> from 9-11am to distribute food to the families. Volunteers are invited to attend the work parties if you are available.

## Lenten Confession Schedules

St. Philip Benizi: Tues. 7-8pm, Sat. 4-5pm  
Our Lady of LaVang: Mon.-Sat. 7:30am-finishd & 6-7:00pm  
Christ the King: Sun. 7:45-8:45am, Tues. 5-5:45pm, Thurs. 5-5:45pm, Sat. 3pm-5pm  
St. John the Baptist: Thurs. 6-7:30pm, Sat. 2:30-3:30  
St. John the Apostle: Friday 5pm-finished, Sat. 3:30-4:30, Sun. 11:30-finished, 1:30-finished (Spanish)

## Finance Corner

Registered Household	WEEK OF 3/19/2023	Budget
222	<u>Actual</u>	
<u>Donors</u>	\$3,599	\$5,165
71	(online: \$1,745)	
<u>Fiscal Year</u>	\$182,987	\$180,705

## Next Weeks Assignments

### Ushers

### Lector/Commentator

### Extraordinary

4/01~5:30am: Tom Muldoon

Heather Hannam

Jeanne Hubel

4/02~8:00am: Butch Searls

Tom Muldoon

Jeannine Breshears

4/02~10:30am: Larry Carnahan

Kristine Bible

John Buxman

Helen Sweeney

Nancy Carnahan

Jerry Siler

**April Church Cleaners:** Elaine Keavney (503-939-5620)

**April Altar Linens:** Vicky McGaughey (503-730-3077)



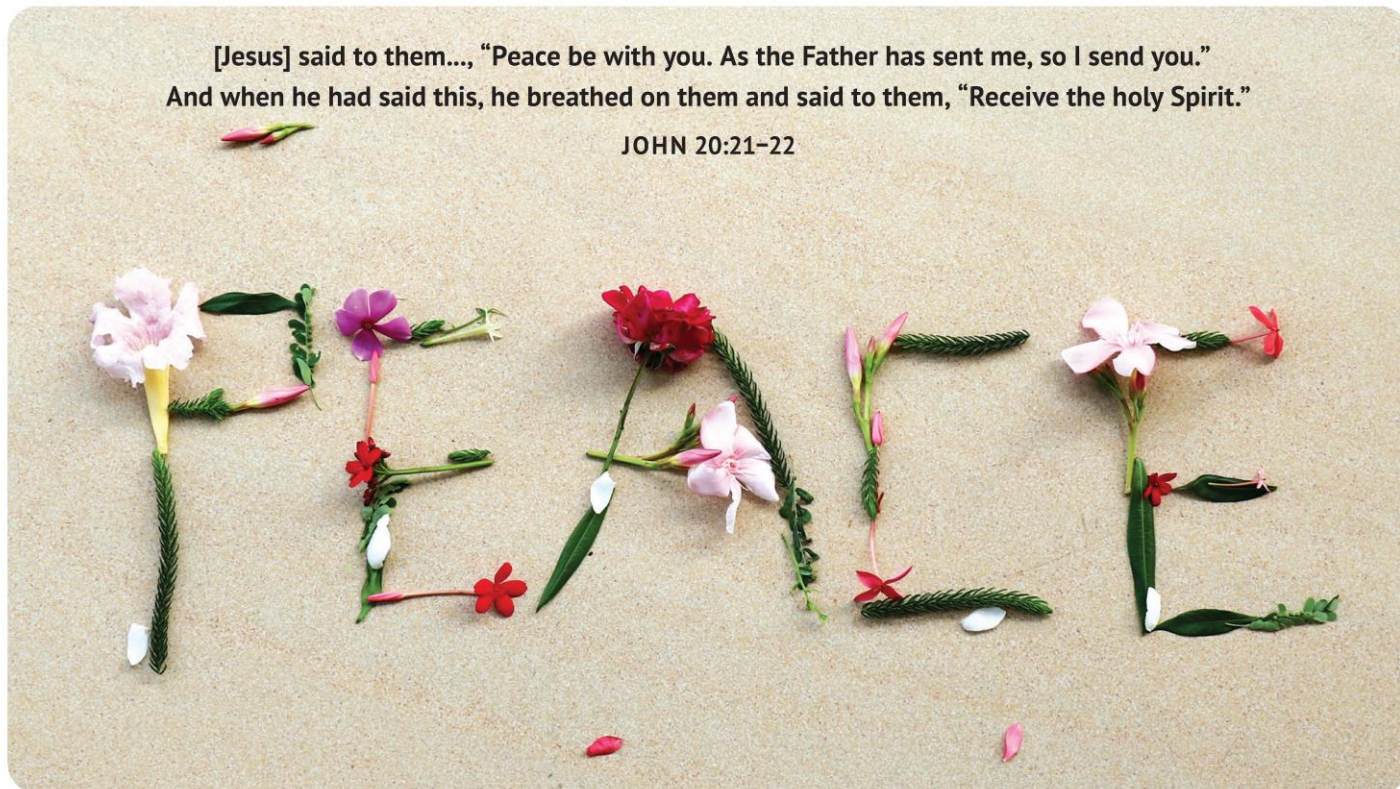
4/02 9:00am: Paul & Claudia  
11:30am:





[Jesus] said to them..., "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."  
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit."

JOHN 20:21-22



## Freed by the Spirit

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**F**ear can be a most powerful imprisoning force. Like the apostles who locked themselves behind closed doors after the resurrection for fear of the local leaders, there are times when our own fears lock us out of the future and into our past.

We find ourselves choosing not to be generous for fear that if we are, we will find ourselves empty-handed with no one to care for us because all of our resources have been used up. And so, because of our fear, we lock ourselves into our own selfishness. At other times, we hesitate to be kind for fear that our care will be misconstrued or, worse, will be taken advantage of and abused. And so, for fear of continual demands upon our kindness, we lock ourselves into indifference. At other times, we find ourselves too cautious to speak out in the face of injustice because of a misguided respect

for "someone else's business" or because we are afraid anger or rejection will come down upon us. So, we lock ourselves into silence.

It is always the Spirit, however, that enables us to unlock those doors once locked by our fear. While that new power enables us to venture into a sometimes-shattering world, it does not promise we won't be shattered in the process. All that Jesus promised is that the Spirit would bring us peace. Such peace happens to us whenever we choose not to succumb to our fears. It is indeed a new creation taking place in us, even now.

### Reflect

***Has fear ever paralyzed you,  
keeping you from doing good?***



# Dear Padre,

***I am a practicing Catholic and I don't remember being confirmed. Is it too late for me to be confirmed?***

The sacrament of confirmation usually happens when a person is older, and therefore you would likely remember the occasion. It could be that you were not confirmed. You can check with the parish you lived in during your school years to be sure. They keep records of confirmations done in the parish.

Confirmation is the final sacrament of initiation. Baptism ushers us into our life with God by giving us new life. Confirmation seals us with the spirit so we can follow Jesus and live out our particular vocation. And the Eucharist gives us strength for the journey and keeps us in union with God.

If you discover you have not been confirmed or if you can't find out for certain, talk with your pastor. You would not be the first adult seeking confirmation. Your pastor can tell you how your diocese handles confirmation for adults. There might be a program of adult instruction for confirmation to ensure you understand the sacrament and the teachings of the Church.

Today is Pentecost, the day when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit into the lives of the apostles. The Spirit gave them strength for what they had to do. The Spirit can do the same for you.



CNS PHOTO/GUIGLIEMO MANGIAPANE, REUTERS

**The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org**

## **Do you have a question for the Padre?**

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
May 29	May 30	May 31	June 1	June 2	June 3	June 4
<i>Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	<i>St. Justin, Martyr</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs</i>	<i>Most Holy Trinity</i>
Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14 Jn 19:25-34	Sir 35:1-12 Mk 10:28-31	Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16 Lk 1:39-56	Sir 42:15-25 Mk 10:46-52	Sir 44:1, 9-13 Mk 11:11-26	Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs Sir 51:12cd-20 Mk 11:27-33	Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9 2 Cor 13:11-13 Jn 3:16-18



## **A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS**

***On the day of Pentecost, Jesus' disciples were still disoriented and fearful. They did not yet have the courage to go out in the open. We too, at times, prefer to remain within the protective walls of our surroundings. But the Lord...sends upon us the Holy Spirit who envelops us and overpowers all our hesitations.***

**REGINA CAELI, ST. PETER'S SQUARE, MAY 23, 2021**

A VIGIL LED BY POPE FRANCIS AHEAD OF PENTECOST SUNDAY AT THE VATICAN IN JUNE 2019.  
CNS PHOTO/REMO CASILLI, REUTERS

## ON KEEPING THE LORD'S DAY HOLY

### “God blessed the seventh day and made it holy” (Gen 2:3)

14. In the first place, therefore, Sunday is the day of rest because it is the day “blessed” by God and “made holy” by him, set apart from the other days to be, among all of them, “the Lord’s Day”.

In order to grasp fully what the first of the biblical creation accounts means by keeping the Sabbath “holy”, we need to consider the whole story, which shows clearly how every reality, without exception, must be referred back to God. Time and space belong to him. He is not the God of one day alone, but the God of all the days of humanity.

Therefore, if God “sanctifies” the seventh day with a special blessing and makes it “his day” par excellence, this must be understood within the deep dynamic of the dialogue of the Covenant, indeed the dialogue of “marriage”. This is the dialogue of love which knows no interruption, yet is never monotonous. In fact, it employs the different registers of love, from the ordinary and indirect to those more intense, which the words of Scripture and the witness of so many mystics do not hesitate to describe in imagery drawn from the experience of married love.

15. All human life, and therefore all human time, must become praise of the Creator and thanksgiving to him. But man’s relationship with God also demands times of explicit prayer, in which the relationship becomes an intense dialogue, involving every dimension of the person. “The Lord’s Day” is the day of this relationship par excellence when men and women raise their song to God and become the voice of all creation.

This is precisely why it is also the day of rest. Speaking vividly as it does of “renewal” and “detachment”, the interruption of the often oppressive rhythm of work expresses the dependence of man and the cosmos upon God. Everything belongs to God! The Lord’s Day returns again and again to declare this principle within the weekly reckoning of time. The “Sabbath” has therefore been interpreted evocatively as a determining element in the kind of “sacred architecture” of time which marks biblical revelation. It recalls that the universe and history belong to God; and without a constant awareness of that truth, man cannot serve in the world as co-worker of the Creator.

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

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### REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

**"As Jesus called his good friend, Lazarus, to emerge from the tomb, the Savior strongly calls all believers this Lenten season to come out from the tombs that hide us and from the graves that cover us: tombs of doubts surrounding Christ's teaching, sin, greed, fear, hate, unforgiveness, anger, revenge, and oppression. Also, to emerge from the graves of self-satisfaction, isolation, indifference, and fatigue, from the tombs and crypts that plague our human existence to the life of total liberation, service, freedom, and love. In short, Jesus is calling us out from the tombs of anything hindering us from enjoying our whole life in Christ."**

**– Fr. Paschal Ezurike.**

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### 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).

Dear Parishioners,

Recently during a conversation with Bishop Steiner, he shared with me an article from the Southern Nebraska Register, a Catholic newspaper from the Diocese of Lincoln, NE which highlighted the Catholic Church in Nigeria. According to the article, 94% of Catholic population in Nigeria actively participate and attend Mass weekly. Sadly, the Catholic faithful and clergy are targets for extremists.

In 2022, 39 priests have been killed and 30 priests were kidnapped. And who can forget last Pentecost 2022 during the liturgical celebration of the Solemnity of Pentecost, an attack during Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church in Owo in Ondo State which killed 38 and injured 80 Catholics. Catholics in Nigeria are constantly under persecution.

Despite living in the most dangerous place in the world, Nigerian Catholics do not waver in their conviction and understanding that to be a disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ, there are risks or for some, opportunities to witness to the faith even if that means offering one's own life.

As I was pondering and reflecting upon the tremendous courage and perseverance that a Catholic in Nigeria faces on a daily basis for living the faith, I could not help to appreciate their daily sacrifices. In fact, that places my own self-sacrifices and even Lenten penances into proper perspective.

For most of us living here in the United States, giving up chocolates, filling up a Rice Bowl with loose change, or attending the Stations of the Cross on Friday are the Lenten practices that we chalk up to be self-sacrificing. But there are Catholics in the world, in places like Nigeria and even other parts of Africa as well as the Middle East, self-sacrifice to them is understood as life or death

With that said, our parochial Vicar, Fr. Augustus Duriheakor, who is assigned to assist these three faith communities in North Plains, Roy, and Verboort, I am sure has family, friends, and priest peers who live in a reality that attending Mass their very lives are at risk. In solidarity for all of them in their suffering and persecution, may these our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, penance and almsgiving be focused upon their daily conditions where religious liberty is not guaranteed.

Lent is an opportunity for spiritual growth and renewal. Lent is a time for radical change. Lent is a time for us to unite more closely to the Body of Christ, even parts of the body that is suffering such as the Catholic Church of Nigeria. Let us focus the quantity and quality of our prayer life, our almsgiving, and our give ups for those in parts of the world that face persecution for just being Catholic.

Blessings,

~Fr. Michael Vuky.

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*Continued from Page 2*

**At Bethany, Jesus fulfils Ezekiel's prophecy from today's first reading "...O my people; I will open your graves, and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel." In his letter to the Romans, Paul gives us the hope that we can experience the same gift of new life given to Lazarus: the one who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies. Once we understand that faith is stronger than death, we have nothing to fear. May we hear the voice of Christ and respond to his saving call. God loves you. Remember, the closer we are to God, the better for us.**

***Blessings,***

***Your servant in Christ,***

***Fr. Paschal Ezurike***



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