



ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCH

October 16, 2022

Twenty-nineth Sunday in Ordinary Time



"Pray always without becoming weary." -Luke 18:1

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

EUCARISTIC 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, the liturgy of the word of the prevenient Sunday highlighted and reawakened in us the significance of being thankful, appreciative, and grateful to God and to people for every favor received. The stories of Naaman, the leper, and the ten lepers' encounter with Christ were the benchmark of our reflection. Naaman humbled himself and obeyed Prophet Elisha's directives: to plunge himself seven times into the Jordan river. Sequel to his healing, he returned, acknowledged the God of Israel, and offered gifts to Elisha in thanksgiving. However, Elisha refused the gifts.

Regarding the ten lepers who received healing from Jesus, the unique healer of all infirmities and diseases, only a foreigner returned to render thanks to him. Consequently, Jesus interrogated, "Ten were cleansed...where are the other nine"? Jesus' question indicates that he expected all of them to return in appreciation to the source of their healing. Regrettably, most of us are like the ungrateful nine. We see any favor done to us by God and people as our entitlement. We lack the slightest courtesy to show appreciation; instead, we exhibit our expertise in pointing out things we lack and squeal in complaints when things are not going our way.

As Christ's body, we assemble in his presence to receive the nourishment of body and soul. Also, we gather to receive physical and spiritual healing from Jesus, whose word heals and whose body fulfills and satisfies. Once there was a shoemaker who set great value on daily prayer. His clients were poor people who owned only one pair of shoes. The shoemaker would take delivery of the shoes in the late evening, and work on them all night and part of the morning, to have them ready so that their owners could go to work wearing them the next day. That left him with a problem: When should he say his morning prayers? Should he quickly pray and return to work first thing in the morning? Or should he let the appointed hour of prayer pass? Occasionally, raising his hammer from the shoes, he utters a sigh: 'Woe unto me, I haven't prayed yet.' Today, most of us face the dilemma of this cobbler, but the Church reminds us on this 29th Sunday of the need to pray always without getting weary. (Lk 18:1)

The three readings today recall the need to persevere in our prayers to the Lord who gives us help. They also, highlight the advantages of reading and meditating on the inspired word of God. In today's first reading, God demonstrates to the old Israelites and to us, the new Israelites, that he oversees our lives, and our help comes from him. The psalmist agrees as he lauds in today's responsorial psalm, "Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." (Ps. 121:1). The passage from the book of Exodus tells of the first battle fought by the Israelites after their deliverance from Egypt. Their victory came not from their efforts, but from the power of God, mediated through their great leader and intercessor, Moses. The reading reports, "As long as Moses kept his hands raised up, Israel had the better of the fight, but when he let his hands rest, Amalek had the better of the fight." Aaron and Hur supported Moses' hands to remain steady till sunset to ensure their victory. Joshua and the Israelites mowed Amalek and his people with the sword's edge. Through his action and intercession, Moses gave credence to the famous saying: "Prayer is the master key to success."

Today's gospel narrative stresses the necessity to always pray and never give up. Offering more elucidations on the perseverance of prayer, Jesus narrates the story of the unjust judge. Jesus Christ encourages his disciples to pray continually without becoming weary. The widow, representing the weak ones of the world, approached the unfair judge. In the gospel story, one would think that she should have the judgment on her side, but the judge is not interested in the rights of a poor/weak one. However, the judge finally relented and granted her pressing need because of her persistence.

The above vital message is for God's children who face challenges, sufferings, and persecutions not to lose heart in offering their petitions even when there is no green light. If an unjust and indifferent judge succumbed to a widow's persistent cries and pleas, how much more will God see justice done for his faithful people who cry out to him without growing weary? The only but fundamental question is: are we capable of persevering in prayer? Or are we ready to quickly throw in the towel and abandon the faith because we do not receive immediate answers to our prayers? Prayer makes a big difference. It sustains us, but we shouldn't forget that God answers at his pace, not ours. We are encouraged and challenged to pray without ceasing because it is our fastest and easiest communication with the Triune God. When we turn our thoughts to God, we feel a new strength in our soul, in our entire being. It is hard to feel God's presence without prayers and, at the same time, challenging to feel his support in life's voyage.

Continued on Page 7

This week at SPB and Upcoming Parish/Archdiocesan Events

Sunday, 10/16/2022

8:00am Mass: +Henry Planton Family
(David & Rosalie Swanson)
10:30am Mass: All Parishioners

Monday, 10/17/2022 Memorial of St. Ignatius of Antioch

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
8:00am Mass: +Sophia Schutt (Veronica Kholer)

Tuesday, 10/18/2022 Feast of St. Luke

6:30pm Mass: Priesthood (Johanna LaChapelle)
7:00pm: RCIA/Hall

Wednesday, 10/19/2022 Memorial of Sts. John DeBrébeuf and Isaac Jogues

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
8:00am Mass: +Sr. Lucinda Shellenbarger
(Fred & Carolyn DeLange)

Thursday, 10/20/2022

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
8:00am Mass: +Sebastiana Castro
(Diane, Jake & Elizabeth Castro)
7:00pm: Faith Sharing via Zoom

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



Friday, 10/21/2022

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
8:00am Mass: +Billie & Ray Horace

Saturday, 10/22/2022

4:00-5:00pm: Reconciliation/Church
5:30pm Mass: +Jose Castro (Castro Family)

Sunday, 10/23/2022

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

October 16th: No Religious Education classes

October 23: World Mission Sunday

-JPII Young Adult Crew- Join for Mass at 10:30 followed by a trip to Bauman Farms

October 30th: All Saints Party (for the whole parish) after the 10:30 Mass in the Hall.

-Youth group Halloween Party/Hall 5:30-8:30pm

Next Weeks Assignments

Ushers

10/22~5:30pm: Tom Muldoon

10/23~8:00am: Paul Lowry

10/23~10:30am: Larry Carnahan

October Church Cleaners: Larry Sullivan (503-701-8752)

October Altar Linens: Elaine Buxman (503-655-7208)



10/23 9:00: Patti Gosser, Bill & Barbara

11:30:

All Saints Party for the whole parish

Come celebrate All Saints Day with our parish family. Enjoy saint themed games and fun for the whole family after the 10:30 Mass on October 30th. Please bring a potluck dish.

The Youth Group (grades 6-12) will be meeting in the Hall on October 30th from 5:30-8:30pm for a Halloween Party. Please let Katy know if your student will be attending by October 23rd to make sure we have enough pumpkins to carve.

The Youth Group would love to have 10 carvable pumpkins donated for our Halloween Party. Please deliver pumpkins to the Hall by October 23rd. Thank you!



Tuesday, November 1, 2022

ALL SAINTS DAY RETREAT –An invitation for you!

Our Lady of Peace Retreat –3600 SW 170th Avenue Beaverton
Retreat Master: Fr. Peter Vecellio, OCD, from the Carmelite House of Studies in Mt. Angel

Theme: “Saint for our Pandemic Times: Living St. Elizabeth of the Trinity.” Retreat from 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Doors open at 8:15 a.m.
\$40 per person; includes lunch

Register online at www.olpretreat.org; phone the retreat house at 503-649-7127 or email sisters@olpretreat.org

NEXT WEEKEND we will celebrate **World Mission Sunday**. Pope Francis invites the entire Church to support mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe, where priests, religious and lay leaders serve the world's most vulnerable communities. Please keep the Pope's missions in your prayers and be generous in next week's collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Theology Tuesdays

Theology Tuesdays Talks at Christ the King 11709 SE Fuller Rd. Milwaukie. One hour presentations in the parish center at 6:45pm. For more information call 503.659.1475

October 29th: “The Church”

See bulletin board for the full schedule.

Finance Corner

Registered Household 218	WEEK OF 10/9/2022 Actual	Budget
Donors 68	\$6,843 (online: \$2,636)	\$5,025
Fiscal Year	\$67,866	\$68,516



Lector/Commentator

Heather Hannam

Danielle Dryden

Dan Sweeney

October 16, 2022

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Ex 17:8-13

2 Tm 3:14-4:2

Lk 18:1-8

Keep at It

We ask something of God because we recognize that we are needy and unable to meet the need for which we plead. This itself is a good prayer because it acknowledges our human limitation, an acknowledgement that might be very difficult for us to voice. Such prayer is also an admission of our dependence on God and our trust in God's loving care. A prayer of petition can be profound. However, what is one to do when the request is not realized? Do you ask again? And if so, how many times? If it is never realized, do you stop asking? This is precisely the issue in today's readings.

Moses held his hands up in prayer, and he grew tired. His prayer addressed a community need—victory over the Amalekites—and so two leaders of the community assisted him so that the plea for help could continue until victory was won. The Gospel passage tells a story about a woman whose need of justice made her bold. As a widow in a patriarchal society, she had no husband to speak on her behalf. She had to plead her own case again and again until a just decision was delivered. The moral of these stories is clear: Keep at it!

What happens when our prayer does not seem to be answered? It is still a good prayer, acknowledging our fundamental need and God's loving care of us. The moral of our story is the same: Trust and keep at it!

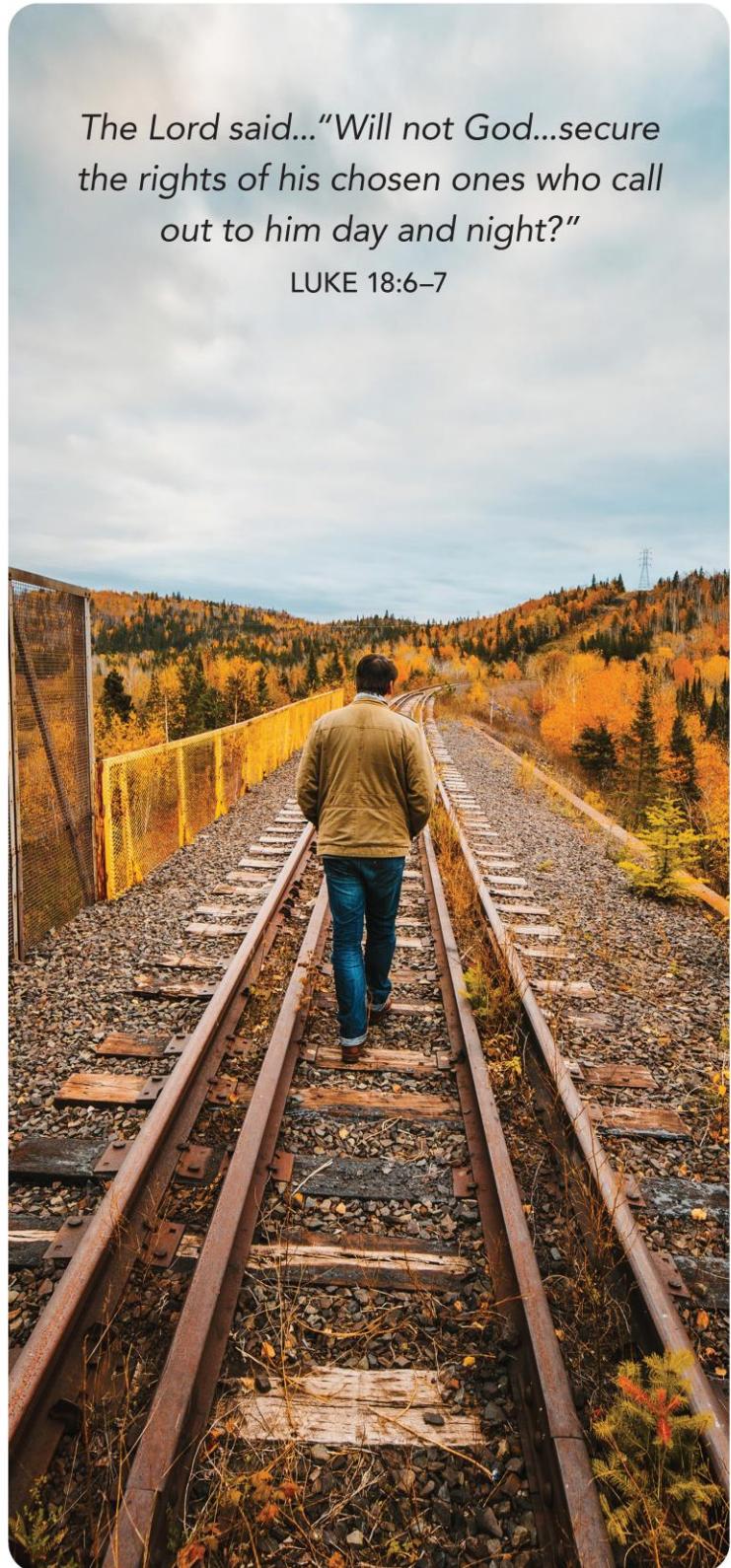
Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- * **Make your needs known to God and trust that God will provide what you really need. You might be surprised.**
- * **Be patient. God knows what you need.**

The Lord said..."Will not God...secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night?"

LUKE 18:6-7



Dear Padre,

I'm a recovering heroin addict. Do I need to confess my addiction? Addiction is a disease, not a sin, right?

Right, but addiction and using drugs are two different things. As you know, recovering addicts who don't use drugs are still addicts, and that in itself isn't a sin. But it's against the law to use heroin in the United States, so even if you never committed a secondary crime to get it, the "getting it" was a crime.

More important, though, the body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, and it's a sin to abuse ourselves in any way. Even if it weren't against the law, your use of heroin is certainly an abuse of your body.

The sacrament of reconciliation is more than just receiving absolution for sins. It also helps us look more deeply at our lives. Before you go, examine your conscience: Ask yourself how your addiction has affected your body, your life, your relationship with God, and the welfare of others.

If you bring honest answers to those questions as well as an open heart and an open mind, your conversation with your priest at reconciliation will help you heal your relationship with God and others.

You will also receive the grace to improve your life and do things like overcome addiction so you can be a better person.

*Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org*

Even if it weren't
against the law, your
use of heroin is certainly
an abuse of your body.



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

I encourage all of you...to pursue your commitment to increasing awareness and offering support to those who have emerged from the tunnel of drug addiction....They need our help and accompaniment so that they in turn will be able to ease the pain of so many of our brothers and sisters in difficulty.

ADDRESS TO CONFERENCE ON DRUG ADDICTION,
DECEMBER 1, 2018

Calendar

Monday

OCTOBER 17

St. Ignatius
of Antioch,
Bishop and Martyr

Eph 2:1-10

Lk 12:13-21

Tuesday

OCTOBER 18

St. Luke,
Evangelist

2 Tm 4:10-17b

Lk 10:1-9

Wednesday

OCTOBER 19

Sts. John de
Brébeuf and Isaac
Jogues, Priests, and
Companions, Martyrs

Eph 3:2-12

Lk 12:39-48

Thursday

OCTOBER 20

Weekday

Eph 3:14-21

Lk 12:49-53

Friday

OCTOBER 21

Weekday

Eph 4:1-6

Lk 12:54-59

Saturday

OCTOBER 22

Weekday

Eph 4:7-16

Lk 13:1-9

Sunday

OCTOBER 23

Thirtieth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Sir 35:12-14, 16-18

2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18

Lk 18:9-14

Prayer is the light of the spirit

Prayer and converse with God is a supreme good: it is a partnership and union with God. As the eyes of the body are enlightened when they see light, so our spirit, when it is intent on God, is illumined by his infinite light. I do not mean the prayer of outward observance but prayer from the heart, not confined to fixed times or periods but continuous throughout the day and night.

Our spirit should be quick to reach out toward God, not only when it is engaged in meditation; at other times also, when it is carrying out its duties, caring for the needy, performing works of charity, giving generously in the service of others, our spirit should long for God and call him to mind, so that these works may be seasoned with the salt of God's love, and so make a palatable offering to the Lord of the universe. Throughout the whole of our lives, we may enjoy the benefit that comes from prayer if we devote a great deal of time to it.

Prayer is the light of the spirit, true knowledge of God, mediating between God and man. The spirit, raised up to heaven by prayer, clings to God with the utmost tenderness; like a child crying tearfully for its mother, it craves the milk that God provides. It seeks the satisfaction of its own desires and receives gifts outweighing the whole world of nature.

Prayer stands before God as an honored ambassador. It gives joy to the spirit, peace to the heart. I speak of prayer, not words. It is the longing for God, love too deep for words, a gift not given by man but by God's grace. The apostle Paul says: *We do not know how we are to pray but the Spirit himself pleads for us with inexpressible longings.*

When the Lord gives this kind of prayer to a man, he gives him riches that cannot be taken away, heavenly food that satisfies the spirit. One who tastes this food is set on fire with an eternal longing for the Lord: his spirit burns as in a fire of utmost intensity.

Practice prayer from the beginning. Paint your house with the colors of modesty and humility. Make it radiant with the light of justice. Decorate it with the finest gold leaf of good deeds. Adorn it with the walls and stones of faith and generosity. Crown it with the pinnacle of prayer. In this way you will make it a perfect dwelling place for the Lord. You will be able to receive him as in a splendid palace, and through his grace you will already possess him, his image enthroned in the temple of your spirit.

(From a homily by Saint John Chrysostom, bishop)

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

“Pray always without becoming weary.” – Luke 18:1

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).

BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY

What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illuminates in turn its faith in Christ. CCC 487

Mary's predestination

"God sent forth his Son", but to prepare a body for him, he wanted the free co-operation of a creature. For this, from all eternity God chose for the mother of his Son a daughter of Israel, a young Jewish woman of Nazareth in Galilee, "a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary":

The Father of mercies willed that the Incarnation should be preceded by assent on the part of the predestined mother, so that just as a woman had a share in the coming of death, so also should a woman contribute to the coming of life. CCC 488

Throughout the Old Covenant the mission of many holy women prepared for that of Mary. At the very beginning there was Eve; despite her disobedience, she receives the promise of a posterity that will be victorious over the evil one, as well as the promise that she will be the mother of all the living. By virtue of this promise, Sarah conceives a son in spite of her old age. Against all human expectation God chooses those who were considered powerless and weak to show forth his faithfulness to his promises: Hannah, the mother of Samuel; Deborah; Ruth; Judith and Esther; and many other women. Mary "stands out among the poor and humble of the Lord, who confidently hope for and receive salvation from him. After a long period of waiting the times are fulfilled in her, the exalted Daughter of Sion, and the new plan of salvation is established." CCC 489

Continued from page 2.

The one who prays incessantly becomes a stumbling block to the plans of the evil one. Heaven is open before the man of prayer. During the persecution of the early Church, prayer is the most potent tool Christians used to face opposition and persecution. It is still powerful in our world today to combat the forces of the evil one, be closer to God and have peace of mind. Prayer helps us to excel, and when we abandon prayer, we crumble. In the words of Abraham Lincoln, "Without divine assistance, I cannot succeed; with it, I cannot fail." Moses realized that without God's assistance, the Amalekites would crush Israel in battle. As a result, he sacrificed comfort and bore the burden of lifting his hands in prayer even when it became challenging. Also, the widow knew that her help came from the Lord; as a result, therefore, persistence is the key. Prayer is so crucial that if we are weak in prayer, we are weak everywhere.

In today's second reading, Paul reminds us of the importance of the Scriptures in our faith journey as Christians. As inspired Word of God, the Scriptures must be the guiding principles of our daily life and actions, and of course, our prayer life. Hence, if we remain faithful to God in continuous prayer, we must also learn to meditate on his word. In summary, St. Paul defines what the bible is and its relevance; at the same time, he encourages us to be persistent in reading the inspired word even when it is inconvenient: "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work... proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching." (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 4: 2). Therefore, it is of utmost importance that we find time in our busy daily activities to pray, read and meditate on the inspired word of God. The pilgrimage to the promised land is challenging; however, God has given us the necessary tools. When we use them effectively, we are fortified and ready to spiritually confront any obstacle on our journey. Remember, the closer we are to God, the better for us.

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



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