



# ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCH

July 31, 2022

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions.  
Luke 12:15

## PARISH INFORMATION

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

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

Dear friends in Christ, the readings of the seventeenth Sunday offered us ample opportunities to reflect on a reoccurring theme that regularly challenges God's children: Prayer and the need to persevere without losing hope. This goes a long way in showing us the significance of faithfully sticking to prayer even when we do not see the immediate result. Prayer is the best communication tool to connect with the Triune God. However, this potent weapon is underutilized due to humanity's evanescent pursuit. The words of exhortation took their bearing from the story of Abraham's petitions for Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18) and the illustration Christ gave to his disciples. (Luke 11) Both, show that, God's children need to be persistent and never give up on their petitions to God. Also, God is never angry with our perseverance in prayer. Our diligence increases our desire and strengthens our faith. Therefore, God's children should be firm and steadfast in prayer even when their prayers do not receive favorable attention in their judgment.

In continuation of our journey to the promised land, we assemble for spiritual nourishment to remain focused and avoid distraction as we face and battle with foes of progress. The quest for material things is a significant enemy that stands in our way. Most of us are brazenly or clandestinely pursuing this trend that has taken away man's power of positive reasoning by making poor choices. Its disadvantages are enormous that today's readings help us focus on the things that matter to God. Our concern should not be what matters to us or suits our vanity, our pride, but what matters in the eyes of the Lord. The answer to what matters to God comes from praying, reading the scripture, repenting of our sins, listening to the voice of the Lord, and opening ourselves to him. God will unimaginably reshape our desires when we detach from material things and give ourselves to him. If today is the first time of hearing his voice, do not procrastinate; act immediately. And what is your priority?

'Vanity of vanities' are the opening words of today's first reading. Vanity is at the heart of Qoheleth's (Preacher) teaching; he uses vanity almost forty times in this short book, with a repeated refrain. "All is vanity." His integral word 'vanity' signifies that material things and our labor are transitory and fleeting, and they evaporate. Even if one works with wisdom, knowledge, and skill, his days will end with death. He asks, "What profit comes to man from all the toil and anxiety of heart with which he has labored?" Qoheleth offers several answers as he continues the theme of "all is vanity."

The preacher admits that joy in the fruit of one's labor is a gift from God (Ecclesiastes 2:24; 3:13). Further, to live as happily as possible in the present, each person should fear the Lord. From the preacher's answer, one's relationship with the Lord matters. Therefore, our priority as we make our choices and as we progress in our faith journey should be God. If we forget God and invest all we have in pursuing material things, all becomes vanity. "I know it shall be well with those who fear God, for their reverence toward him." (Eccl. 8:12). The psalmist reminds us of the need to be open, accept God's saving word, and make it our priority and not treat it as vanity. Other things are vanity except for our relationship with God, that is, to "fear God and keep his commandments." (Eccl. 12:13).

In the second reading, Paul asks us to focus on the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. What should occupy us is not fleeting earthly things; our priority should be to live in light of the Church's faith. Attachment to Christ helps one live a Christ-like life which is a great advantage to appear in glory with Christ. Paul instructs his audience on how they are to live. He urged them to flee from immorality, worshipping earthly things (idolatry), lying, etc., because such things belong to the old self and are discarded through baptism. The new self with new garments is in a continuous process of being renewed in the very image of God. Again, it is good to re-echo the psalmist's words, "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."

In the Gospel, a man deeply occupied with earthly things approached Jesus to be an arbitrator between him and his brother. In answering, Jesus warns the man and his listeners (all of us), "Take care to guard against all greed." (Luke 12:15). This is a solid warning because greed is the fast gateway to many negative things. John Grant wrote that "fraud is the daughter of greed" in the corporate world. Greed leads to obsession, callousness, and arrogance. It also dominates, divides, and it is selfish. He further states that no matter how affluent one is in life or how greedy, unjust, and domineering you are, one's life does not consist of material possessions. St. Augustine of Hippo, commenting on Jesus' words in the Gospel passage, said, "Greed wants to divide, just as love desires to gather. What is the significance of 'guard against all greed,' unless it is 'fill yourselves with love? We, possessing love for our portion, inconvenience the Lord because of our brother just as that man did against his brother, but we do not use the same plea. He said, Master, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me. We, Master, tell my brother that he may have my inheritance." (Sermon 265.9) *Continued on Page 7*

# This week at SPB and Upcoming Parish/Archdiocesan Events

## Sunday, 7/31/2022

8:00am Mass: Rita Duffy (Josh & Mary Pattyn)  
10:30am Mass: All Parishioners

## Monday, 8/01/2022 Memorial of St. Alphonsus Liguori

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: Stephanie Glenn (Josh & Mary Pattyn)

## Tuesday, 8/02/2022

6:30pm Mass: +Ralph & Marilyn Greeno (Becky Wooten)

## Wednesday, 8/03/2022

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +Mr. Bob Wayt (Erin & Logan Miller)

## Thursday, 8/04/2022 Memorial of St. John Vianney

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +Dorothy Schwab (Clay Rosenau)  
7:00pm: Faith Sharing via Zoom

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



## Friday, 8/05/2022

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +All Souls (Alexander Family)

## Saturday, 8/06/2022 Feast of the transfiguration of the Lord.

4:00-5:00pm: Reconciliation/Church  
5:30pm Mass: All Parishioners

## Sunday, 8/07/2022

8:00am Mass: Catherine Swansberg  
(Joel & Darby Bender)  
10:30am Mass: +Jeanne McIntee  
(Jerry & Janeene Siler)

August 6<sup>th</sup>: Seminary Burse Luncheon 11am (see bulletin board)

August 7<sup>th</sup>: Blood Pressure readings 9:00/Hall

August 21<sup>st</sup>: Parish Picnic after 10:30 Mass (No 8am Mass that day)

August 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>: Vacation Bible School 9-12:00

Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>

### Is our next Adoration/Dinner night

Come to the Church at 6:00pm for an hour of adoration followed by sandwiches and salads, popcorn and movie. We will be showing the movie "FATHER STU" (appropriate for mature audiences).

Do you homeschool your children?

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Homeschool Ministry is having an open house August 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. See the bulletin board for more information.

### "Monumental

### Celebrating God's Greatness"

is the theme for this years Vacation Bible School August 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>

Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome. Cost: \$20 per child (Scholarships available). Register online at the link on the website. Or pick up a registration form at the side door and bring it to the office.

Adults (kids are welcome), come to the Hall August 7<sup>th</sup> after all Masses for snacks and to help Melissa make decorations for VBS.

### Parish Picnic

Mark your calendars for August 21<sup>st</sup>! Buster's BBQ will provide the meat. Take a food tag from the basket and bring the item to the picnic (salads, desserts...). There will be games for the kids, bingo and fun for the whole family.



### Start Right help wanted

To count, sort, shuffle and pack school supplies for kids in need. August 10th-12th and 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. Prince of Life Lutheran Church, 13896 S. Meyers Road, Oregon City. See bulletin board for info.

### Finance Corner

| Registered Household<br>218 | WEEK OF 7/24/2022            |          |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------|
|                             | Actual                       | Budget   |
| Donors<br>53                | \$4,385<br>(online: \$1,495) | \$4,197  |
| Fiscal Year                 | \$15,879                     | \$15,366 |

### Ushers

8/06~5:30pm: Tom Muldoon  
8/07~8:00am: Dave Beaty  
8/07~10:30am: Larry Carnahan

August Church Cleaners: Janet Tankersly (503-545-2229)

August Altar Linens: Alice Bechtold (971-219-0011)



8/07 9:00: Melissa Payne

11:30: Melissa Payne

### Next Weeks Assignments

### Lector/Commentator

Heather Hannam  
Danielle Dryden  
Dan Sweeney





# Our Parish COMMUNITY

July 31, 2022

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Ecc 1:2; 2:21-23

Col 3:1-5, 9-11

Lk 12:13-21

## Was It Worth It?

**W**e hear many stories about women and men who value things or status over the people in their lives or over genuine fulfillment. Then something happens that throws them back on their heels and they are forced to face the question: Was it worth it? No, say the writers of today's readings. It is not worth losing yourself or the people you love. In fact, it is not worth risking your own integrity.

The Hebrew word for *vanity* can be translated as "worthless" or "foolish." The characters in the first reading and the Gospel passage were considered foolish because the labors and possessions that wore them down were ultimately worthless.

This idea of vanity or foolishness is a prominent theme in the Wisdom tradition. We all know that actions have consequences. It's these consequences that reveal what is good for us and what is not, what is

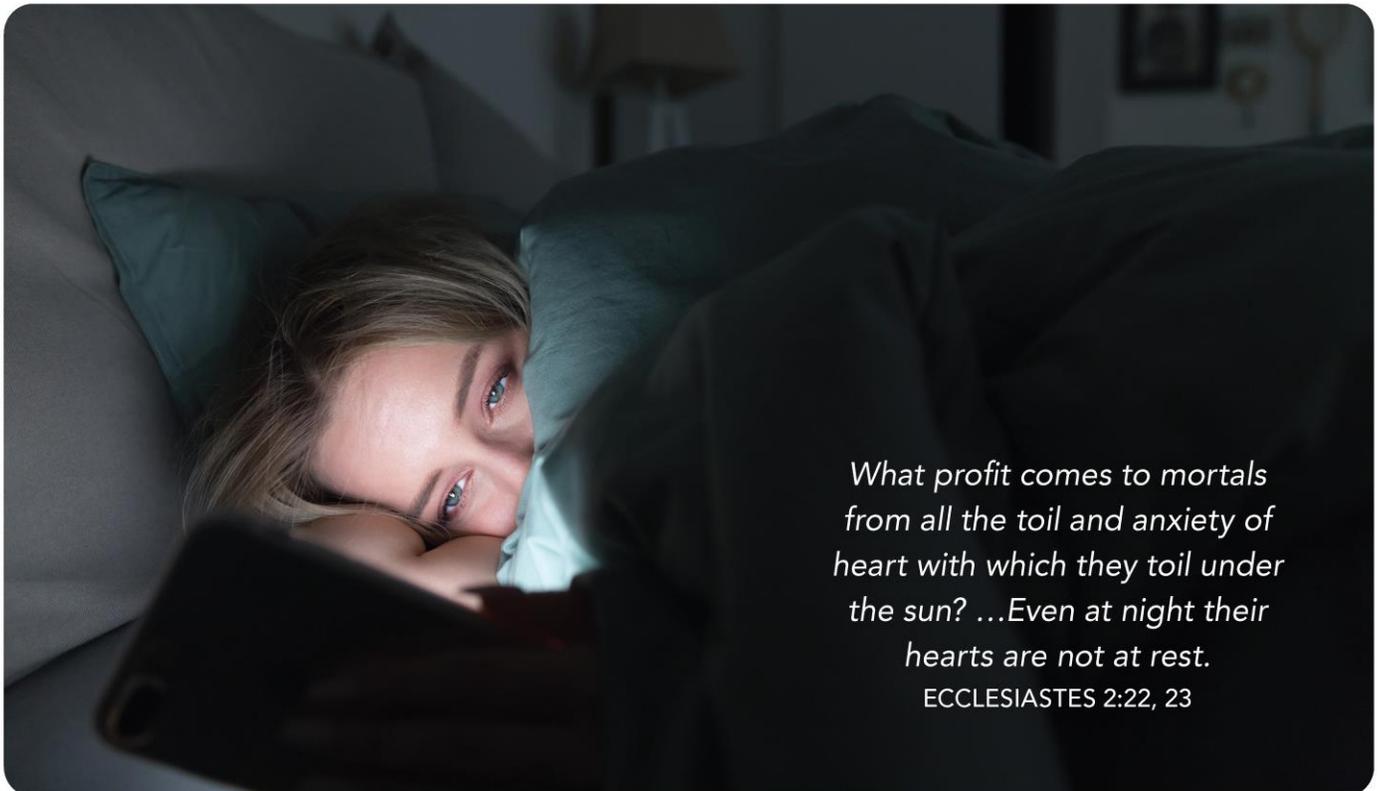
worth pursuing and what we should avoid. Those who learn from life experiences in this way are considered wise; those who don't are deemed foolish. We all know this; we have learned the truth of it from our own experience.

There is one more aspect that must be considered in making wise decisions. Which consequences are worth the effort we put into achieving them? Are we looking for short-term enjoyment or do we seek long-term satisfaction? The profit attained by the people in these readings did not last. They couldn't take it with them, so one might ask: Was it worth it?

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### FOR Reflection

- ★ *Think about the effort you put into achieving something. Was it worth it?*
- ★ *If not, what can you do to change this?*



*What profit comes to mortals from all the toil and anxiety of heart with which they toil under the sun? ...Even at night their hearts are not at rest.*

*ECCLESIASTES 2:22, 23*

# Dear Padre,

**The new priest assigned to our parish seldom shakes hands at the sign of peace during Mass. Isn't he supposed to?**

**Y**ou may be surprised to know that the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (154) calls for the priest to remain in the sanctuary at the sign of peace to avoid disrupting the assembly's exchange. He has the option of exchanging a sign of peace with the ministers—it's optional because to do so repeats the first greeting of peace he just extended to everyone in the assembly.

In the United States, an exception is made for special occasions such as weddings, funerals, or when community leaders are present. In those cases, the *GIRM* allows the priest to offer the sign of peace to people sitting near the sanctuary.

Ironically, many parishioners view the presider's participation less as a distortion of the rite than as a positive indicator of their priest's social skills, as in "Father is such a people person!"

Offering—and being offered—an actual sign of Christ's peace during Mass is intended to be poignant, prayerful, and powerful, with a different kind of fanfare than when greeters welcome worshipers before Mass or when the presider shakes hands and socializes immediately after Mass.

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



Liguori Publications is celebrating 75 years of ministry throughout 2022.

Follow progress toward our October 23 anniversary date in *Liguorian* magazine and at [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).



ONS/EDGARD GARIBO, REUTERS

## Calendar

### Monday

AUGUST 1

St. Alphonsus Liguori,  
Bishop and Doctor  
of the Church

Jer 28:1–17

Mt 14:13–21

### Tuesday

AUGUST 2

Weekday

Jer 30:1–2,

12–15, 18–22

Mt 14:22–36

or Mt 15:1–2, 10–14

### Wednesday

AUGUST 3

Weekday

Jer 31:1–7

Mt 15:21–28

### Thursday

AUGUST 4

St. John Vianney, Priest

Jer 31:31–34

Mt 16:13–23

### Friday

AUGUST 5

Weekday

Na 2:1, 3; 3:1–3, 6–7

Mt 16:24–28

### Saturday

AUGUST 6

The Transfiguration  
of the Lord

Dn 7:9–10, 13–14

2 Pt 1:16–19

Lk 9:28b–36

### Sunday

AUGUST 7

Nineteenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Wis 18:6–9

Heb 11:1–2, 8–19

or 11:1–2, 8–12

Lk 12:32–48

or 12:35–40



## A WORD FROM Pope Francis

*The quest for personal prestige can become a spiritual malady masquerading itself even behind good intentions: for example, when behind the good that we do and preach, we are only seeking ourselves and our own affirmation—that is, getting ahead and climbing up.*

ANGELUS, OCTOBER 17, 2021

## Seek the good of all, not personal advantage

The command has been written: *Cling to the saints, for those who cling to them will be sanctified.* There is a passage in Scripture as well which states: *With the innocent man you will be innocent, and with the chosen one you will be chosen also; likewise with the perverse you will deal perversely.* Devote yourselves, then, to the innocent and the just; they are God's chosen ones. Why are there strife and passion, schisms and even war among you? Do we not possess the same Spirit of grace which was given to us and the same calling in Christ? Why do we tear apart and divide the body of Christ? Why do we revolt against our own body? Why do we reach such a degree of insanity that we forget that we are members of one another? Do not forget the words of Jesus our Lord: *Woe to that man; it would be better for him if he had not been born rather than scandalize one of my chosen ones. Indeed, it would be better for him to have a great millstone round his neck and to be drowned in the sea than that he lead astray one of my chosen ones.* Your division has led many astray, has made many doubt, has made many despair, and has brought grief upon us all. And still your rebellion continues.

Pick up the letter of blessed Paul the apostle. What did he write to you at the beginning of his ministry? Even then you had developed factions. So, Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote to you concerning himself and Cephas and Apollos. But that division involved you in less sin because you were supporting apostles of high reputation and a person approved by them.

We should put an end to this division immediately. Let us fall down before our master and implore his mercy with our tears. Then he will be reconciled to us and restore us to the practice of brotherly love that befits us. For this is the gate of justice that leads to life, as it is written: *Open to me the gates of justice. When I have entered there, I shall praise the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the just shall enter through it.* There are many gates which stand open, but the gate of justice is the gateway of Christ. All who enter through this gate are blessed, pursuing their way in holiness and justice, performing all their tasks without discord. A person may be faithful; he may have the power to utter hidden mysteries; he may be discriminating in the evaluation of what is said and pure in his actions. But the greater he seems to be, the more humbly he ought to act, and the more zealous he should be for the common good rather than his own interest.

**(From a letter to the Corinthians by Saint Clement, pope)**

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## REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

**“The barn that overflows with earthly grains is not a true source of security; instead, it leaves us impoverished and insecure in God’s sight. However, authentic security emanates from the good deeds stored in God’s presence (heavenly barn).” ----- 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).

#### IV. Lord

In the Greek translation of the Old Testament, the ineffable Hebrew name YHWH, by which God revealed himself to Moses, is rendered as Kyrios, "Lord". From then on, "Lord" becomes the more usual name by which to indicate the divinity of Israel's God. The New Testament uses this full sense of the title "Lord" both for the Father and - what is new - for Jesus, who is thereby recognized as God Himself. CCC 446

Jesus ascribes this title to himself in a veiled way when he disputes with the Pharisees about the meaning of Psalm 110, but also in an explicit way when he addresses his apostles. Throughout his public life, he demonstrated his divine sovereignty by works of power over nature, illnesses, demons, death and sin. CCC 447

Very often in the Gospels people address Jesus as "Lord". This title testifies to the respect and trust of those who approach him for help and healing. At the prompting of the Holy Spirit, "Lord" expresses the recognition of the divine mystery of Jesus. In the encounter with the risen Jesus, this title becomes adoration: "My Lord and my God!" It thus takes on a connotation of love and affection that remains proper to the Christian tradition: "It is the Lord!" CCC 448

By attributing to Jesus the divine title "Lord", the first confessions of the Church's faith affirm from the beginning that the power, honour and glory due to God the Father are due also to Jesus, because "he was in the form of God", and the Father manifested the sovereignty of Jesus by raising him from the dead and exalting him into his glory. CCC 449

From the beginning of Christian history, the assertion of Christ's lordship over the world and over history has implicitly recognized that man should not submit his personal freedom in an absolute manner to any earthly power, but only to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Caesar is not "the Lord". "The Church. . . believes that the key, the centre and the purpose of the whole of man's history is to be found in its Lord and Master." CCC 450

Christian prayer is characterized by the title "Lord", whether in the invitation to prayer ("The Lord be with you"), its conclusion ("through Christ our Lord") or the exclamation full of trust and hope: Maranatha ("Our Lord, come!") or Maranatha ("Come, Lord!") - "Amen Come Lord Jesus!" CCC 451

Continued from page 2

Sequel to Jesus' warning to all via the man that was grossly occupied with fleeting things, the Savior told a parable exposing the life of greedy people and those occupied with the things of the earth. The man in the parable is only concerned about himself. He is an ardent protagonist of the unholy trinity of me, myself, and I. Instead of sharing his grain with others, especially the poor ones in his community, he plans to replace the old barn to accommodate his excess grain for a tomorrow that he is not sure of seeing. He lived in a fool's paradise, forgetting that life belongs to God and that man is only in transit to eternity. He thinks a new barn filled with grains will give him many years of security; instead, he showed himself to be a fool. The treasure he builds for himself leaves him impoverished on what matters to God. He focused on vanity, on earthly things, forgetting Christ, who sits at the right hand of God. He forgot God's commandment but swiftly embraced his selfish and greedy precepts, which circle on self and ephemeral things. As we hear the audible voice of God today, let us do the essential things that will incessantly motivate us to accept his saving word and not harden our hearts.

As we meticulously reflect on these warnings, "Take care to guard against greed; and one's life does not consist of possessions.", let us also take cognizance of his command, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal." (Matthew 6:19). Therefore, in line with the above, we should not let our passing possessions possess and fool us; instead, we should only focus on storing indelible treasure for ourselves in heaven because where one's treasure is, there is one's heart.

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

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



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