



# ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCH

May 22, 2022  
Sixth Sunday of Easter



## PARISH INFORMATION

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**Oregon City OR 97045**

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**Pastor:** Fr. Paschal Ezurike

Email: pezurike@archdppdx.org

**Parish Staff**

**Business Manager:** Mary Pattyn

503-631-2882

mpattyn@archdppdx.org

**Secretary:** Sherrie Havens

503-631-2882

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**RE Director:** Job open. Call the office to apply.

**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

"Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me." (John 14:23-24)

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

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

Dear friends in Christ, following a strong farewell demand from Jesus Christ on his disciples to love one another as he has loved us, we beamed the reflection searchlight on the vital act of discipleship. The Son of God precisely revealed this essential aspect of discipleship as the love of others. As he succinctly puts it, "This is how all will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another." (John 13:35). Digging deeper during the words of exhortation, we encouraged all to have a life shrouded in selfless love. Jesus demands that the love we profess should be caring and forgiving, love that is compassionate, empathic, and patient. Jesus requires that our love should know no bounds; ours should be the kind of love that when others see it, they would proudly and unreservedly vouch that we are Christians/disciples. Loving against Jesus' standards and requirements results in working in our selfish vineyards and not in the beautiful and rewarding vineyard of the Lord. In addition, we prayed that our love should sincerely be the love that meets the standard of Christ; so that we will be able to stand the final test at the judgement. Let us redirect our energy to fully embrace the demands on us so as not to be disqualified at last.

We assemble today, to continue celebrating these days of joy with heartfelt devotion in honor of the Risen Christ. We rejoice that our faith is not in vain, that Jesus' teachings are not fairytales and conspiracy theories; rather, his teachings are love and are filled with the message of everlasting life. We celebrate and rejoice that the Savior conquered death by His resurrection, and he lives not to die again. The power of Christ's resurrection eclipsed the apostles and empowered them to disseminate Jesus' message of salvation to the four ends of the earth. The apostles, Paul and Barnabas, have been appearing repeatedly in the first readings of the past three weeks recounting their success in bringing the Gentiles to the faith. They also shared the tribulations that emerged during their evangelization. There are significant opposing voices confronting those working in the Lord's vineyard.

In today's first reading, some who were not empowered and mandated embarked on a mission to circulate controversial teachings. They preached to the Gentiles that circumcision is vital for salvation. "Unless you are circumcised according to the Mosaic practice, you cannot be saved." (Acts 15: 1). In the bid to correct this erroneous doctrine, the premier believers convoked the first-ever Church council held in Jerusalem. At the end of the council's deliberation, Paul, Barnabas, and a few elders delivered the decisions to the Gentiles both by word of mouth and in writing. The precis of the council's decisions is to observe and carry the necessary burdens and avoid irrelevant regulations that have nothing to do with salvation. They urged them to abstain from meat sacrificed to idols, blood and meat of strangled animals, and unlawful marriage. According to the council's resolutions, "If you keep free of these, you will be doing what is right." (Acts 15:29). The decisions highlight the need for obedience to authentic teaching and to neglect the unnecessary impositions perpetrated by fake teachers that have no mandate to teach. Some people project themselves and their controversial/conspiracy theories to distort Christ's undisputable doctrines and disorient the minds of feeble believers. As we walk the path of life, it is necessary for believers to decipher the actual facts from spurious ones.

In the same trajectory, the gospel passage highlights that obedience to God's word attracts a plethora of the Father's love and blessings. Comforting his disciples during the last supper, Jesus said, "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him." (John 14:23). The heart of Jesus' word is keeping his word by those who love him. As a result, love, obedience, and willful submission are inseparable.

The benefits accruing from these essential acts are unsurpassable because not only will Jesus himself be with the one that keeps his word, but also the Father and the Holy Spirit. Sharing such intimacy makes the Trinity dwell permanently with those who love him.

Furthermore, as he was about to leave them, Jesus announces two parting gifts. First, his Father will send them the advocate who will reveal more things and remind everyone of what Christ told them. The advocate will teach the disciples everything, ultimately giving them a deeper understanding of what Jesus taught them throughout his ministry. Therefore, God's word is alive and endures forever. There is no escape or pretending that we are ignorant of it.

Secondly, Jesus bestows the gift of peace to his disciples. A peace that is possible when followers of Christ lend their ears to his word and keep them. The kind of peace that is contrary to the one the world offers; a peace that surpasses human understanding. The gift of peace that we possess when we do the essentials, and if we do the right things, there is no need to be afraid and troubled. As he encouraged us, "Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." (John 14: 1). When we have the peace Christ promised, we should not fear amid life's tribulations and darkness because God's word is the lamp that guides us. When we hold tight to his word, we should be satisfied that God is always with us (Emmanuel).

*Continued on Page 7*

## This week at SPB and Upcoming Parish/Archdiocesan Events

### Sunday, 5/22/2022

8:00am Mass: +Charles Dougherty  
(Dan & Sherrie Havens)  
10:30am Mass: +Bud George (Ero George)

### Monday, 5/23/2022

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +Jerry Staino (Patti Gosser)

### Tuesday, 5/24/2022

6:30pm Mass: +Michael Carnahan  
(Nancy & Larry Carnahan)  
7:00pm: RICA/Hall

### Wednesday, 5/25/2022

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +Carl Swanson Family  
(David & Rosalie Swanson)

### Thursday, 5/26/2022

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +Holly L. (Michelle Harrington)

8:30am-10:00pm  
Eucharistic Adoration



### Friday, 5/27/2022

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +Jeanette Thomas  
(Al & Joyce Wetzel)

### Saturday, 5/28/2022

4:00-5:00pm: Reconciliation/Church  
5:30pm Mass: +Bob & Kim Julian  
(Marc & Carol Jenquin)

### Sunday, 5/29/2022

8:00am Mass: +Helen Luxa (Joyce Curtin)  
10:30am Mass: All parishioners

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### Next Weeks Assignments

#### Ushers

5/28~5:30pm: Tom Muldoon  
5/29~8:00am: Jim Charriere  
5/29~10:30am: Kevin Horace

**June Church Cleaners:** Gail & Abby Williams (971-277-0954)  
**June Altar Linens:** Pam Erickson (503-459-8285)



5/29 9:00: Paul and Claudia  
11:30:



Our condolences go out to the family and friends of Joyce Murphy who passed into God's loving arms. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this most difficult time. Funeral will be at St. Rita Catholic Church in Northeast Portland on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Rosary at 9:30, Funeral Mass at 10:00. Reception to follow. For Questions call Terry 503-927-4401.



Congratulations to Cairo Kruz Castaneda and his family on his Baptism on May 15th. May he grow in faith and love of God.

Camp Howard, Oregon's Catholic Summer Camp Visit our open house, Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-5:00. No need to RSVP. Driving directions can be found on our website. Bring your family and tour Camp Howard. Learn about our summer programs, see inside our cabins, and enjoy refreshments in our dining hall. Talk with the staff and get your questions answered. And don't forget about the new parent volunteer program this summer that allows parents to volunteer for a week at camp and earn a \$500 camp scholarship. We are taking applications for summer staff, too. We're hiring ages 17 years and up. Learn more at [www.cyocampHoward.org](http://www.cyocampHoward.org).

Articles for the newsletter are due today. Please bring your items to the office or send to Bill Breshears ASAP. Thank you.



Thank you for your donations!

### Finance Corner

Registered Household 218	WEEK OF 5/15/2022 Actual	Budget
Donors 58	\$4,462 (online: \$1,020)	\$5,448
Fiscal Year	\$221,297	\$218,604

### Lector/Commentator

Heather Hannam  
Kristine Bible  
Jerry Siler



# Dear Padre,

**God gave humanity the skills for a child to be born to those suffering from infertility. So why does the Church oppose *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) after a couple has exhausted other options to conceive?**

While the Church views having, raising, and educating children as a primary purpose of marriage, it also teaches that the means to achieve that goal must be morally appropriate. The Church considers *in vitro* fertilization (Latin for fertilization “in glass” or a laboratory) to be a morally inappropriate means for attaining that goal for two main reasons:

First, in practice, the IVF process almost always results in the destruction

of living human embryos that do not get implanted in the woman, which the Church considers morally equivalent to abortion. Second, just as the Church teaches contraception is wrong because it entails the willful separation of the natural ends of the marital act, it also teaches that IVF is wrong because it replaces the dignity of the marital act with a technical procedure. In other words, IVF supersedes the act God willed to be the genesis of new life.

In addition, IVF demeans the dignity of the spouses and their parental role (and the dignity of a third-party sperm or egg donor, if one is involved).

All of this deprives the resulting child of a true filial relationship with his or her parents, turning the child into a technological commodity rather than a gift from God.

Couples must be careful not to become so obsessed with pregnancy that they lose perspective and fail to see other expressions of marital generativity, such as adoption, that expand marriage and provide a home to children who wouldn’t otherwise have one.

From *Sexuality and Morality: Answers for Modern Catholics* © 2014 Liguori Publications

JOEAH/ADSHUTTERSTOCK



## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

We are living in a time of experimentation with life. But it is harmful experimentation. Making children, rather than accepting them as a gift, as I said. Playing with life. Be careful, because this is a sin against the Creator: against God the Creator, who created things this way.

ADDRESS TO ITALIAN CATHOLIC PHYSICIANS, NOVEMBER 15, 2014

## Calendar

**Monday**

MAY 23

Easter Weekday

Acts 16:11–15

Jn 15:26—16:4a

**Tuesday**

MAY 24

Easter Weekday

Acts 16:22–34

Jn 16:5–11

**Wednesday**

MAY 25

Easter Weekday

Acts 17:15, 22—18:1

Jn 16:12–15

**Thursday**

MAY 26

St. Philip Neri, Priest

Acts 18:1–8

Jn 16:16–20

**Friday**

MAY 27

Easter Weekday

Acts 18:9–18

Jn 16:20–23

**Saturday**

MAY 28

Easter Weekday

Acts 18:23–28

Jn 16:23b–28

**Sunday**

MAY 29

The Ascension

of the Lord

Acts 1:1–11

Eph 1:17–23 or

Heb 9:24–28;

10:19–23

Lk 24:46–53

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

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



May 22, 2022

Sixth Sunday of Easter (C)

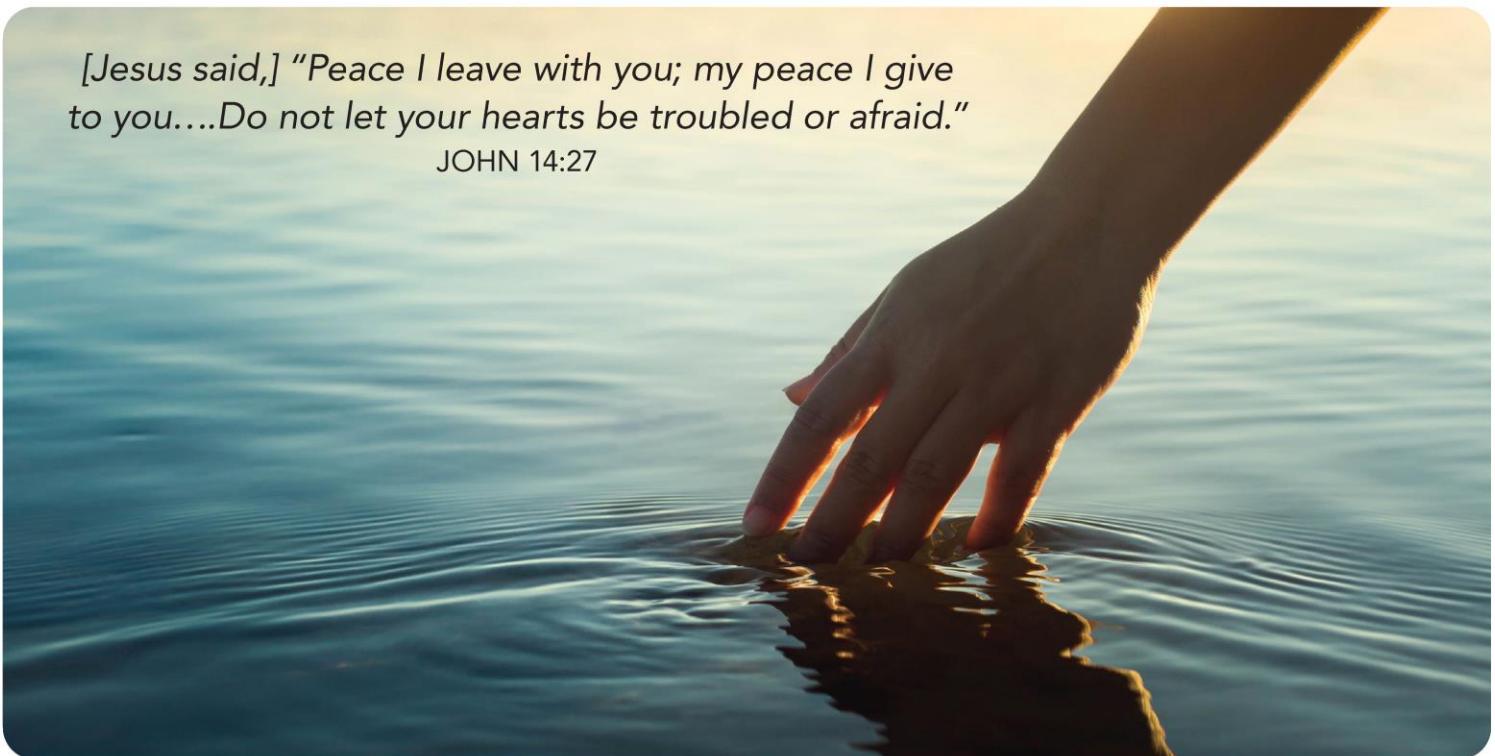
Acts 15:1–2, 22–29

Rev 21:10–14, 22–23

Jn 14:23–29

[Jesus said,] "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you....Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid."

JOHN 14:27



SHUTTERSTOCK

## Times Are a-Changin'

**T**oday's Gospel expands a theme mentioned on the fourth Sunday of Easter, namely, change in religious practice. Many good people find some Second Vatican Council changes difficult to accept. For example, they may not like the new Mass form or leniency in Church discipline. They prefer Latin chants and the organ rather than folk music with guitars. This dissatisfaction is not necessarily because they are stubborn or unbending. It could be they were taught that the truth of the Church is eternal and unchanging, and want to see that reflected in the liturgy.

Actually, such understanding of the unchanging Church is only partially correct. The fundamentals of our faith as expressed in the Creed have not changed. It is the ways we understand or practice our faith that have gradually developed. For instance, the Mass is still the Mass, with three essential parts. Yet, the wording of some prayers have changed, and at Mass we stand more and kneel less. Most are cultural changes, but

there are some changes in theological understandings too. We now recognize the religious value of other faith traditions; interfaith marriage is allowed with special permission; and we understand the teachings of the Bible in new ways.

Today's reading from Acts shows that, from its beginning, the Church changed. Paul and Barnabas did not require Gentile believers to conform to circumcision—a Jewish practice, not Christian. Dissent arose. But the Holy Spirit helped the leaders in Jerusalem move beyond long-standing past practices and into a new way of being faithful. We believe the Holy Spirit continues to work through believers to ensure that the gospel is always faithful, yet newly meaningful.

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### FOR Reflection

- ★ *In what ways have changes made your faith more meaningful to you?*
- ★ *As we move toward Pentecost, pray to be open to the working of the Spirit in your parish.*

## The Easter Alleluia

Our thoughts in this present life should turn on the praise of God, because it is in praising God that we shall rejoice forever in the life to come; and no one can be ready for the next life unless he trains himself for it now. So, we praise God during our earthly life, and at the same time we make our petitions to him. Our praise is expressed with joy, our petitions with yearning. We have been promised something we do not yet possess, and because the promise was made by one who keeps his word, we trust him and are glad; but insofar as possession is delayed, we can only long and yearn for it. It is good for us to persevere in longing until we receive what was promised, and yearning is over; then praise alone will remain.

Because there are these two periods of time — the one that now is, beset with the trials and troubles of this life, and the other yet to come, a life of everlasting serenity and joy — we are given two liturgical seasons, one before Easter and the other after. The season before Easter signifies the troubles in which we live here and now, while the time after Easter which we are celebrating at present signifies the happiness that will be ours in the future. What we commemorate before Easter is what we experience in this life; what we celebrate after Easter points to something we do not yet possess. This is why we keep the first season with fasting and prayer; but now the fast is over and we devote the present season to praise. Such is the meaning of the Alleluia we sing.

Both these periods are represented and demonstrated for us in Christ our head. The Lord's passion depicts for us our present life of trial—shows how we must suffer and be afflicted and finally die. The Lord's resurrection and glorification show us the life that will be given to us in the future.

Now therefore, brethren, we urge you to praise God. That is what we are all telling each other when we say Alleluia. You say to your neighbor, "Praise the Lord!" and he says the same to you. We are all urging one another to praise the Lord, and all thereby doing what each of us urges the other to do. But see that your praise comes from your whole being; in other words, see that you praise God not with your lips and voices alone, but with your minds, your lives and all your actions.

We are praising God now, assembled as we are here in church; but when we go on our various ways again, it seems as if we cease to praise God. But provided we do not cease to live a good life, we shall always be praising God. You cease to praise God only when you swerve from justice and from what is pleasing to God. If you never turn aside from the good life, your tongue may be silent, but your actions will cry aloud, and God will perceive your intentions; for as our ears hear each other's voices, so do God's ears hear our thoughts.

(From a discourse on the psalms by Saint Augustine, bishop)

## REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

**"Where there is no obedience there is no virtue, where there is no virtue there is no good, where there is no good there is no love, where there is no love, there is no God, and where there is no God there is no Paradise."** — St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

## 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).

### A hard battle...

The doctrine of original sin, closely connected with that of redemption by Christ, provides lucid discernment of man's situation and activity in the world. By our first parents' sin, the devil has acquired a certain domination over man, even though man remains free. Original sin entails "captivity under the power of him who thenceforth had the power of death, that is, the devil". Ignorance of the fact that man has a wounded nature inclined to evil gives rise to serious errors in the areas of education, politics, social action and morals. CCC 407

The consequences of original sin and of all men's personal sins put the world as a whole in the sinful condition aptly described in St. John's expression, "the sin of the world". This expression can also refer to the negative influence exerted on people by communal situations and social structures that are the fruit of men's sins.

CCC 408

This dramatic situation of "the whole world [which] is in the power of the evil one" makes man's life a battle:

The whole of man's history has been the story of dour combat with the powers of evil, stretching, so our Lord tells us, from the very dawn of history until the last day. Finding himself in the midst of the battlefield man has to struggle to do what is right, and it is at great cost to himself, and aided by God's grace, that he succeeds in achieving his own inner integrity. CCC 409

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Continued from page 2.

From today's gospel passage and other references in the Scriptures, it is undeniable that obedience to God's word yields a surfeit of blessings and inner peace because those who follow God lack no peace. Arguably, most disciples are not following and obeying God's word; they are doing their things and dancing to the tunes of the people who are not mandated to preach but who parade and sell themselves as authentic teachers. Those who put on this deceptive regalia and play in this sham league may look perfect externally and may have the wherewithal to attend to any monetary problem. Also, they may have millions of physical and social media friends who follow them and applaud their feats. However, they lack inner peace due to their life pattern, which is contrary to Christ's Gospel message. They are constantly at war internally, depressed, and frequently consumed in suicidal ideation. The burdens on them came because of their choice. They deliberately refused to listen and obey the Good Shepherd; instead, they followed the self-acclaimed shepherds who had no mandate to lead. These people are only interested in teachings and teachers that promise material prosperity while neglecting an intimate relationship with the Creator. They have disengaged from the words and source of eternal life and sold their conscience to the brazen enemy of humankind. Such sons and daughters of God abandoned the Prince of Peace and glued themselves to the archenemy of man who cannot give peace.

Regrettably, these people cannot decipher and penetrate the meanings of God's word because they think in a purely material way. They refused to yield to the aid of the Holy Spirit to understand the things of God.

Sadly, today's world is rife with what we could call a spirit of materialism. It looks to material things and values as the solution to everything. However, the more our material wealth and technological acquisition and capacity grow, the emptier we become on the inside. Undoubtedly, material things are necessary, but we should guide against sinking into the hole of materialism and consumerism while neglecting God's words. As Christ said, "Only the Spirit gives life." (John 6:63). There is an urgent need to devote time and energy to pursuing spiritual/supernatural things and making amends for the precious moments, wasted, while pursuing passing things. Jesus Christ categorically reminds us, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words shall not pass away." (Matthew 24:35). In addition, he said man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. (Matthew 4:4). Therefore, one could comfortably and emphatically say that nothing is worthy of obstructing our disposition and obedience to God's word because obedience to his words opens the floodgate of ineffable love and blessings. Remember, the closer we are to God, the better for us.

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



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