

# ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCH

April 16, 2023  
Sunday of Divine Mercy



## PARISH INFORMATION

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[mpattyn@archdpdx.org](mailto:mpattyn@archdpdx.org)

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503-631-2882

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(C) 503-887-7701

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(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](mailto: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, today is Divine Mercy Sunday and today ends the Octave of Easter. Pope St. John Paul 11 officially designated the Sunday following Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. As the Church celebrates and thanks God for his mercy and love to sinful humanity, we also sing joyfully, in exultation. Singing with the psalmist the hymn of thanksgiving, a psalm at a thanksgiving liturgy accompanying a victory procession: "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his mercy/love is everlasting." The Lord is indeed good and merciful to sinners. In her diary: the apostle of Divine Mercy, St. Faustina, reported what Christ said, "I am love and mercy itself. No misery could be a match for my mercy, and neither will misery exhaust it, because as it is being granted, it increases. The soul that trusts in my mercy is most fortunate because I myself take care of it." (1273). Essentially, God's mercy, as the mystical experience of St. Faustina shows, helps us to understand, precisely and reveals this truth: good triumphs over evil, life is stronger than death, and God's love is more powerful than sin. All this is manifested in Christ's paschal mystery, in which God appears to us as a tender-hearted Father who does not give up in the face of his children's ingratitude and is always ready to forgive. Today is the Sunday of thanksgiving for the goodness God has shown man in the whole Easter mystery.**

**In today's gospel passage, we read that Jesus appeared to the Apostles in the Upper Room. Amid the apparition, the resurrected Lord empowered them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (Jn 20:22- 23). With these words, the risen Christ calls the Apostles to be messengers and ministers of his merciful love, peace, healing, and even the forgiveness of sins. From that day, this proclamation of hope has resounded in the heart of the Church for every believer. Just as God breathed on Adam to give him life, Jesus gives new spiritual life to his disciples when he breathes on them. The new life will be a catalyst for carrying his mercy to all the nooks and crannies of the earth; therefore, blessed are those who open their hearts to the message of Divine mercy. The Lord's merciful love precedes and accompanies every act of evangelization and enriches it with extraordinary fruits of conversion and spiritual renewal.**

**Jesus Christ, the merciful King, knowing that we are sinners and in need of his mercy, calls us in our misery to approach the mercy seat of God. Therefore, the importance of the sacrament of reconciliation is enormous and fruitful. It is like an ocean that never runs dry. We are encouraged to swim in the ocean of his mercy by frequenting the healing and grace-filled sacrament of reconciliation. When we receive mercy from God, we should strive to show mercy to others. It is pertinent to point out that we must personally experience this mercy, and for it to happen, we must learn to forgive! "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."**

**Again, in today's gospel, after Thomas' doubts and his profession of faith: 'My Lord and my God.' Jesus tells him, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Dear friends, amid our faith journey, we tend to be very skeptical, doubtful, and faithless. Sometimes, we lack faith because 'unless we see, touch, feel, taste, smell or hear audible sounds, we cannot believe. Many find it hard to trust in anything, even to trust that God loves them and has forgiven them their iniquities. This lack of trust manifests itself in many unidentifiable but crucial ways. It plays out in the type of questions we ask privately and publicly and in our doubts about the reality of religious experiences like healing, miracles, revelations, sacraments, and the authority of the priest to forgive sins in the name of God, as is directed by Jesus in the gospel. Also, we question God's existence, the reality of Divine Mercy, and the gruesomeness of sin. It is good to point out that many Christians in our age do not believe that there is sin, judgment, heaven, or hell.**

*Continued on page 7*

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

### Sunday, 4/16/2023 Sunday of Divine Mercy

8:00am Mass: All Parishioners  
10:30am Mass: +Janina Skuza (Margaret Golic)

### Monday, 4/17/2023

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

### Tuesday, 4/18/2023

6:30pm Mass: +Dorothy Muller (Linda Zacher)


### Wednesday, 4/19/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +Pat Swanson (Linda Zacher)

### Thursday, 4/20/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +Ted & Nellie Van Dyke  
(Jan Alderman)

7:00pm: Faith Sharing via Zoom

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

### Friday, 4/21/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +Denise Shields  
(Marc & Carol Jenquin)

### Saturday, 4/22/2023

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

### Sunday, 4/23/2023

8:00am Mass: All Parishioners  
10:30am Mass: +Nicole Payne  
(Don & Loretta Payne)

Return your Rice Bowls to the baskets at the doors of the Church. Thank you for participating in the Lenten Rice Bowl Collection.

**April 16th:** Knights of Columbus Breakfast after all Sunday Masses.

**April 17-21:** Mater Dei Spring Sharathon

**April 23rd:** Adoration, Dinner & Movie: 500pm

Help grow HOPE, EDUCATION, and FAITH through a donation to the Archbishop's Catholic Appeal. More than 22 life-changing ministries answering the needs of our neighbors, friends, and family are supported through YOUR generosity. To make an immediate impact for your faith community, visit [JesusChangesEverything.church](http://JesusChangesEverything.church), or call (503) 233-8336.

There is a link to the ACA message from Archbishop Sample on the SPB website.

### **Another Adoration Night is planned for Sunday, April 23rd.**

The youth group will be hosting the movie "The Shack". We will be offering a spaghetti dinner at an "At Will" Offering (Proceeds will go to the Youth Group). Adoration begins at 5pm in the Church. Dinner will start at 6:00 in the Hall and the movie will start between 6:15-6:30. Please join your parish family for this event.

Adopt a road Saturday April 29th 9:00 AM.

Meet in the parking lot of St. Philip Benizi Church. Please bring gloves and wear comfortable shoes. Pickers, vest, and garbage bags will be provided. Help is needed and appreciated.



**Question?** Could you commit to pray for 15 minutes to help complete a 24 hour parish prayer chain? Could you fast all or part of May 4th as a personal devotion? Could you pray for a specific national, state or local leader who will be notified of your commitment by postcard? Please join St. Philip Benizi's involvement in the **72nd National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 4th. We are called to Pray!**

**Sign ups after Masses on April 22-23 and April 29-30.**

Please submit names of law enforcement officers, fire fighters and military personnel in our parish family to Heather Hannam 503-631-7354 [hahannam@juno.com](mailto:hahannam@juno.com)  
For information or to help contact Heather

### Finance Corner

Registered Household 222	WEEK OF 4/09/2023 Actual	Budget
Donors 94	\$8,532 (online: \$3,151)	\$6,331
Fiscal Year	\$203,784	\$195,689

### Next Weeks Assignments

#### Ushers

4/22~5:30pm: Tom Muldoon  
4/23~8:00am: Jim Charriere  
4/23~10:30am: Kevin Horace

#### Lector/Commentator

Heather Hannam  
Danielle Dryden  
Dan Sweeney

#### Extraordinary

Jeanne Hubel  
Kristine Bible  
Janet Tankersley

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

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



4/23 9:00am: James & Li  
11:30am:





## The Gift of Doubts

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**W**hen people tell me they have doubts about their faith, I usually tell them that doubts can be a good thing. “Reflect on your doubts,” I say. So very often the doubts bring someone to deeper faith and understanding. When people say they’re not sure they believe in God anymore, often what they mean is that they don’t believe in a particular idea of God, like the bearded old man in the sky or a God who “allows” children to die of cancer and “permits” wars that slaughter people.

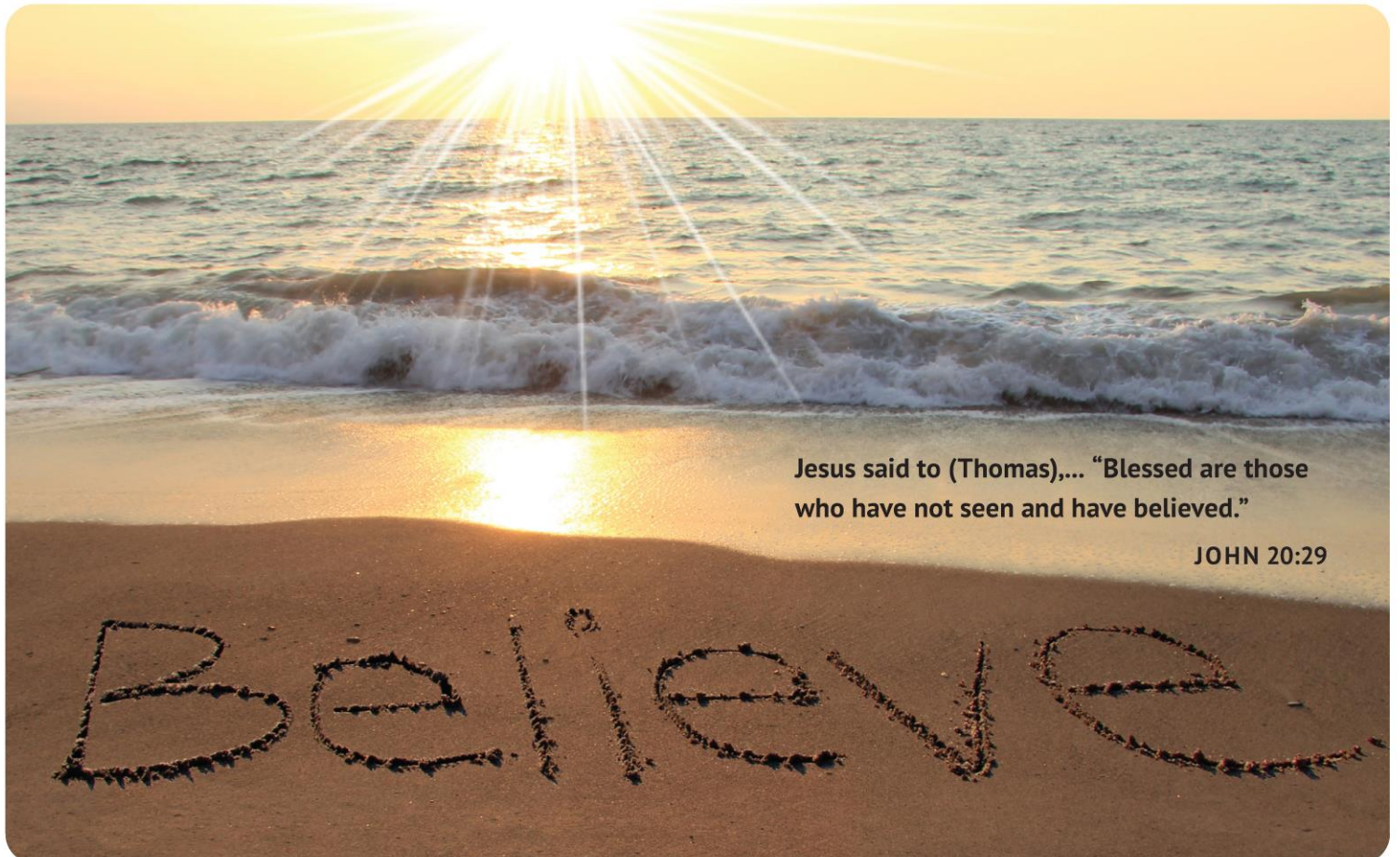
What such doubts ask us to do is to rethink our understanding of who God is. Tossing out our old idea of God does not mean there is no God. It simply means we had a faulty or immature notion of God. It may take some time to rethink who God is, but if we stay with it, do some reading, ask some questions, and pray over it, we

may come to a deeper and richer understanding of God. In short, because I don’t understand how something can be does not mean that that something—or someone—is not true or real.

In this week’s Gospel, Thomas, who was not with the community when Jesus appeared, later could not believe that the Jesus he had known was alive. He doubted. Yet when he was with the community the following week, he discovered that the risen Lord was indeed real but in an entirely new reality. It takes a community of faith to become a believer. ●

### Reflect

***How has your understanding of God changed over the years?***



Jesus said to (Thomas),... “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

JOHN 20:29

# Dear Padre,

***I am very curious why, after his resurrection, Jesus told Mary Magdalene not to touch him, but in the upper room, Thomas was encouraged to touch him.***

Saint John tells us of this incident between Mary and the risen Jesus. There are scholars who say that immediately after Jesus spoke to Mary he ascended to heaven. His encounter with Thomas, then, would be after the ascension, and the feast of the Ascension we celebrate forty days after Easter is simply a termination of Jesus' earthly appearances.

There is another explanation to consider, offered by other Scripture scholars. The word Jesus uses to tell Mary Magdalene not to touch him is more like "cling" to him. She cannot *cling* to her old relationship with Jesus. Since his resurrection, a new relationship is necessary. Mary was looking for the Jesus she knew before the passion, not the Jesus of the resurrection. She must now come to know the risen Jesus.

Mary could not cling to Jesus because she had to see him in a new way. For Thomas, the situation is different. Jesus invites Thomas to place his hand on the wounds to prove that he is "real"—that he is really a new kind of being, a resurrected being. Thomas, in his way, also wants to cling to what he thought he knew about Jesus. Both he and Mary Magdalene were close to Jesus, but even so, there were things they still did not understand. Jesus always has the ability to surprise us. ●



ANDRUDJ / SHUTTERSTOCK

***The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org***

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

Go to [DearPadre.org](https://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>
April 17	April 18	April 19	April 20	April 21	April 22	April 23
<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>
Acts 4:23–31 Jn 3:1–8	Acts 4:32–37 Jn 3:7b–15	Acts 5:17–26 Jn 3:16–21	Acts 5:27–33 Jn 3:31–36	Acts 5:34–42 Jn 6:1–15	Acts 6:1–7 Jn 6:16–21	Acts 2:14, 22–28 1 Pt 1:17–21 Lk 24:13–35



## **A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS**

***Don't be afraid of doubts, because they are not a sign of the lack of faith....On the contrary, doubts are "vitamins of faith": they help strengthen faith and make it more robust. They enable faith to grow, to become more conscious, free and mature. They make it more eager to set out, to persevere with humility, day after day.***

**MEETING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, ATHENS, DECEMBER 6, 2021**

## To “keep holy” by “remembering”

16. The commandment of the Decalogue by which God decrees the Sabbath observance is formulated in the Book of Exodus in a distinctive way: “Remember the Sabbath day in order to keep it holy” (20:8). And the inspired text goes on to give the reason for this, recalling as it does the work of God: “For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy” (v. 11). Before decreeing that something be done, the commandment urges that something be remembered. It is a call to awaken remembrance of the grand and fundamental work of God which is creation, a remembrance which must inspire the entire religious life of man and then fill the day on which man is called to rest. Rest therefore acquires a sacred value: the faithful are called to rest not only as God rested, but to rest in the Lord, bringing the entire creation to him, in praise and thanksgiving, intimate as a child and friendly as a spouse.

17. The connection between Sabbath rest and the theme of “remembering” God’s wonders is found also in the Book of Deuteronomy (5:12-15), where the precept is grounded less in the work of creation than in the work of liberation accomplished by God in the Exodus: “You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with mighty hand and outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day” (Dt 5:15). This formulation complements the one we have already seen; and taken together, the two reveal the meaning of “the Lord’s Day” within a single theological vision which fuses creation and salvation. Therefore, the main point of the precept is not just any kind of interruption of work, but the celebration of the marvels which God has wrought.

Insofar as this “remembrance” is alive, full of thanksgiving and of the praise of God, human rest on the Lord’s Day takes on its full meaning. It is then that man enters the depths of God’s “rest” and can experience a tremor of the Creator’s joy when, after the creation, he saw that all he had made “was very good” (Gn 1:31).

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

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## REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

**“Mercy” “There is nothing more man needs than Divine Mercy - that love which is benevolent, which is compassionate, which raises man above his weakness to the infinite heights to the holiness of God.”**

**“Where, if not in the Divine Mercy, can the world find refuge and the light of hope?”**

**– St. John Paul 11**

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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).

**"JESUS CHRIST SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE, WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED AND WAS BURIED"**

The Paschal mystery of Christ's cross and Resurrection stands at the centre of the Good News that the apostles, and the Church following them, are to proclaim to the world. God's saving plan was accomplished "once for all" by the redemptive death of his Son Jesus Christ. CCC 571

The Church remains faithful to the interpretation of "all the Scriptures" that Jesus gave both before and after his Passover: "Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Jesus' sufferings took their historical, concrete form from the fact that he was "rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes", who handed "him to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified". CCC 572

Faith can therefore try to examine the circumstances of Jesus' death, faithfully handed on by the Gospels and illuminated by other historical sources, the better to understand the meaning of the Redemption. CCC 573

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*Continued from Page 2*

All these are stereotypes of Thomas' doubt. It is not a problem to doubt, especially when our doubt is a doubt of a soul seeking understanding. It is part and parcel of the spiritual journey, sometimes called the dark experience. What is a problem is when we subject religious and spiritual realities to a laboratory of scientific inquiries. There is only one way to overcome doubt, and that is through faith. In spiritual matters, no one can give you faith except God. Others can lead you there, show you how to nurture your faith, and point you in the right direction, but for you to get faith, it has to be through your belief in God's grace and your own free will. It would be best if you made that conscious leap from doubt to faith.

St. Pope Paul 11 wrote in one of his Encyclicals, *Fides et ratio* {Faith and Reason} that it is faith seeking understanding. Be open to the gift of faith first; then, you will begin to understand better what you believe. God calls us first to have faith. He knows how to satisfy our curiosity about what we do not know. Some of our curiosities will be satisfied here on earth, others when we see Him in heaven. The person of faith sees the Lord Jesus, feels, touches, embraces him, and exclaims like Thomas: My Lord and my God. Pray: May we always say, Lord Jesus, increase my faith.

With faith in the fact that God loves us beyond our comprehension, that God heals and forgives our iniquities, we conclude with the refrain of today's psalm, which is a hymn of thanksgiving, "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his mercy/love is everlasting." God loves us. Remember, the closer we are to God, the better for us.

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



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