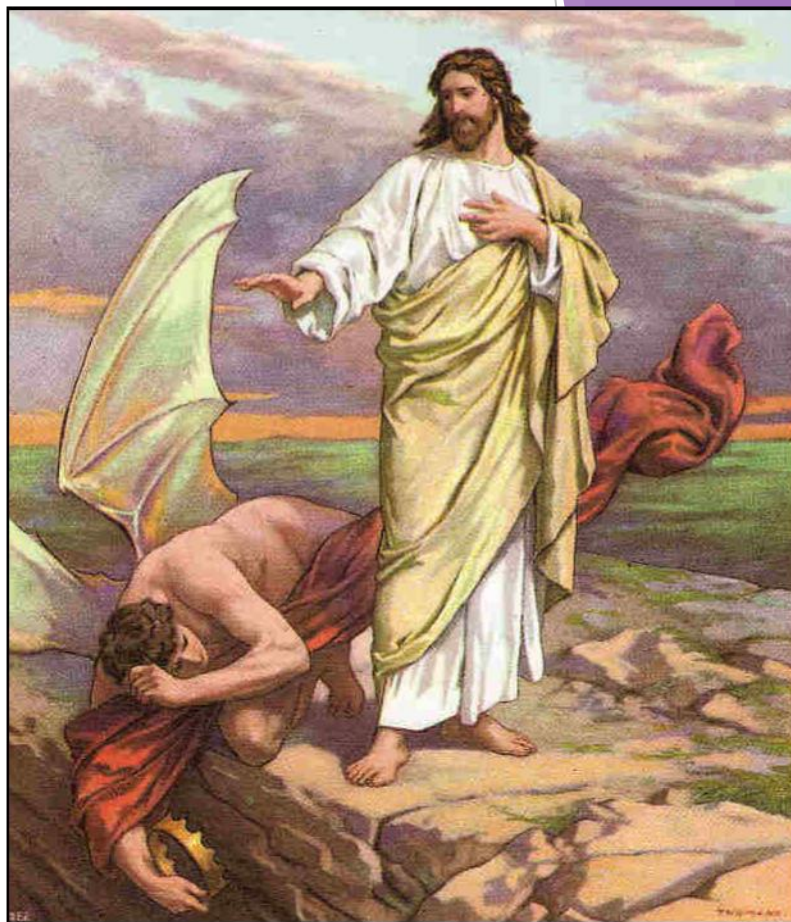


# ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCH

February 26, 2023  
First Sunday of Lent



## PARISH INFORMATION

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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

## **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, we thank God for the grace to witness and be part of another Lenten season. Indeed, not everyone who was part of this season of grace last year has the privilege of joining Christ again for forty days in the desert this season of renewal. The unique season of grace begins on Ash Wednesday, a day of universal fast and abstinence; ashes are blessed and imposed on us – reminding us that we are dust and to dust, we shall return. Also, it is a call to repentance, to believe in the gospel, and return to the Lord. Yes, it begins with fasting and abstinence, but we should know that fasting without love and repentance is meaningless as we await the bridegroom's return. In that direction, Prophet Isaiah, in his prophecy, condemns fasting that has no charity and does not lead to true repentance; instead, he lists what true fasting is and should be.**

**According to Isaiah, 'This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; Setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; Sharing your bread with the hungry, Sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed ...you shall call, and the Lord will hear....' (Isaiah 58: 6 – 9). The prophet calls us to practice the corporal works of mercy during this special season of grace. To join Christ fully in the desert, let us not ignore or in any way overlook this noble humanitarian assignment.**

**As we join Christ in the desert for true conversion, repentance, and purification, we must strive not to yield to temptation just as he did, as recorded in the gospel of Matthew (4:1-11). He did not give way to temptation; he did not go into discussions with the tempter like Adam and Eve. Instead, he was quick in rebuking the devil. During this season of grace, we might be tempted, maybe not as Christ's, but in keeping our Lenten resolutions and becoming more willing to follow God's lead. So, let us not allow worldly pleasures and selfish ambitions to be stumbling blocks to having a better encounter with the Lord. And when we eventually, out of human frailty, succumb to temptation, we should never hesitate to confess our sins and pray for forgiveness. When we rebel and wander away, he patiently awaits our return; by that patient expectation, he shows us his readiness to forgive us.**

**Again, as we join him in the desert for forty days of conversion, repentance, and purification, let us strive and resolve to be part of the activities that make this period a unique season. Join your parish community every Friday evening for the Stations of The Cross. The Stations of the Cross/Via Crucis refers to several images depicting Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion. The Via Crucis is a Lenten devotion that witnesses Jesus' Passion and death. At each station, we use our senses and imagination to prayerfully reflect on the sufferings of Jesus, his death, and his resurrection. We experience the visual images to reflect on Christ's undying love for us.**

*Continued on page 7*

# This week at SPB and Upcoming Parish/Archdiocesan Events

## Sunday, 2/26/2023

8:00am Mass: All Parishioners  
 10:30am Mass: +Edelmira Ayala  
 (Karla Vazques)

## Monday, 2/27/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
 8:00am Mass: +Richard Bendit  
 (Anna & Jacek Wiktorowicz)

## Tuesday, 2/28/2023

6:30pm Mass: +John (Jack) Smith  
 (Larry & Nancy Carnahan)  
 7:00pm: RCIA/Hall

## Wednesday, 3/01/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
 8:00am Mass: +Randy O'Tolle (Paul Gwozdz)

## Thursday, 3/02/2023

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

7:00pm: Faith Sharing via Zoom

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



## Friday, 3/03/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
 8:00am Mass: +Joe Planton Family  
 (David & Rosalie Swanson)  
 6:00pm: Soup Supper/Hall  
 7:00pm: Stations of the Cross

## Saturday, 3/04/2023

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

## Sunday, 3/05/2023

8:00am Mass: +Claire Banasky  
 (Claire & Grace Pattyn)  
 10:30am Mass: +Edelmira Ayala (Karla Vazques)

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Soup Supper/Hall 6pm Hosted by the Faith Sharing Group. Stations of the Cross/Church 7pm.

**March 5<sup>th</sup>:** Blood Pressure Readings 9:15/Hall



## 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 Airfare and ALL-Included, except lunches and travel insurance.  
 To register, please contact (855) 842-8001 or (508) 340-9370. You can also register online at [www.proximotravel.com](http://www.proximotravel.com).

## FORMED is a great resource for Lent

1. Go to [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup); Sign up as a parishioner
  2. Select your parish: Enter parish zip code **97045** and select **St. Philip Benizi** from the dropdown menu
  3. Register with your name and email address
  4. Check that email inbox for a link to start watching.
- If you need help registering call the office.  
 Check out the movies, videos, talks, books... so much available.

The Mardi Gras party was a great success again this year. 52 people turned out for the event. Thank you to Thuc Alexander for organizing this event and for all your time setting up, purchasing food & prizes, & cleaning up. Thank you to her helpers, Mary Ann Mitchael and Karen Henry for setting up, making prizes and cleaning up. And for all those who stepped up and helped with the clean up. Your time was very much appreciated.  
 And a big THANK YOU to our favorite DJ's Daniel and Alex Czyzewicz for the great music and dances and such a fun time.

The Youth Group is having a plant sale again this year. The order forms are at the doors of the Church. All orders are due April 14th. Delivery date is May 5<sup>th</sup>.



40 Days for Life February 22<sup>nd</sup> - April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 See bulletin board for more information.

## Finance Corner

Registered Household 222	WEEK OF 2/19/2023 Actual	Budget
Donors 62	\$5,234 (online: \$1,845)	\$5,878
Fiscal Year	\$162,258	\$163,225

## Next Weeks Assignments

### Ushers

3/4~5:30am: Tom Muldoon  
 3/5~8:00am: Pat Keavney  
 3/5~10:30am: Larry Carnahan

### Lector/Commentator

Heather Hannam  
 Danielle Dryden  
 Jerry Siler

### Extraordinary

Jeanne Hubel  
 Jeannine Breshears  
 Janeene Siler


**March Church Cleaners:** Janet Tankersly (503-545-2229)

**March Altar Linens:** Michelle Harrington (971-409-5664)



3/5 9:00am: Paul & Claudia  
 11:30am:





Jesus said in reply, “It is written,  
‘The Lord, your God, shall you worship  
and him alone shall you serve.’”

MATTHEW 4:10

## The Gift of Boredom

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**B**oredom is not a bad thing. It’s a good thing. In fact, boredom is a gift. Lost in boredom, we begin to explore new interests and develop unrealized talents. We daydream and begin to form new hopes for our future. For these reasons, periods of boredom are especially good for children and why computers and mobile phones become distinct drawbacks for children and adults alike. It is also in the reverie of boredom that we find ourselves recognizing our limitations, faults, and weaknesses as human beings—the beginning steps to growth and wholeness.

Being bored can be like living in a desert, and that’s not a bad thing to do once in a while. Deserts and their absence of anything to distract us become places where we come to know ourselves. It’s what took place in Jesus on his journey into the desert. There, he was confronted by his humanity in the temptations he experienced.

There, he came to realize his calling and the beginnings of where it would take him. There, in the desert, he came to know himself.

The season of Lent, then, becomes an opportunity for us to create a desert for ourselves. Putting limits on our television and computer time can create a desert. Snacking between meals can become a mindless distraction; thus, fasting can become another desert. Setting aside time for quiet and prayerful reflection becomes one more such desert experience. A grace of this Lent would then become a fuller and more honest knowledge of ourselves—a kind of resurrection. ●

### Reflect

*Do you deal with boredom in a healthy way?*

# Dear Padre,

***In the Scripture passages about Jesus in the desert, it says he was alone. How do we know about things that happened to Jesus when he was alone?***

In today's Gospel, we hear one passage about the temptation of Jesus in the desert. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all refer to this incident, but none indicates that anyone was with Jesus.

There were witnesses to many incidents in the life of Jesus. But sometimes the disciples of Jesus depended on his instruction. The first Christians heard about Jesus' instruction and life from the apostles. This preaching of the apostles occurred before Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John wrote anything down.

Over time, the evangelists gathered this preaching together and put it in written form. Gradually these writings became accepted as the gospel, inspired by the Holy Spirit. The apostles were witnesses to what Jesus said and did, so Jesus did tell them things that others did not hear about until later.

Whatever Jesus experiences, he redeems. That means that while temptations are part of our life, they do not have to lead us away from God. Jesus shows us the way to meet them and overcome them. ●

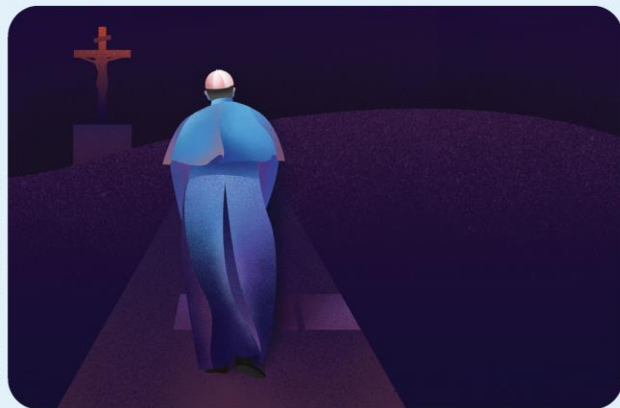
**The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org**



## 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*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
February 27	February 28	March 1	March 2	March 3	March 4	March 5
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	St. Katharine	Lenten Weekday	Second Sunday of Lent
Lv 19:1-2, 11-18	Is 55:10-11 Mt 6:7-15	Jon 3:1-10 Lk 11:29-32	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 Mt 7:7-12	Drexel, Virgin Ez 18:21-28 Mt 5:20-26	Dt 26:16-19 Mt 5:43-48	Gn 12:1-4 2 Tim 1:8-10 Mt 17:1-9



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

***May this time of Lent also be a time of the desert for us. Let us take time for silence and prayer— just a little, it will do us good—in these spaces let us stop and look at what is stirring in our hearts....placing ourselves before the Word of God in prayer.***

ANGELUS, ST. PETER'S SQUARE, MARCH 6, 2022

**ON KEEPING THE LORD'S DAY HOLY**

5. From this perspective, the situation appears somewhat mixed. On the one hand, there is the example of some young Churches, which show how fervently Sunday can be celebrated, whether in urban areas or in widely scattered villages. By contrast, in other parts of the world, because of the sociological pressures already noted, and perhaps because the motivation of faith is weak, the percentage of those attending the Sunday liturgy is strikingly low. In the minds of many of the faithful, not only the sense of the centrality of the Eucharist but even the sense of the duty to give thanks to the Lord and to pray to him with others in the community of the Church, seems to be diminishing. It is also true that both in mission countries and in countries evangelized long ago the lack of priests is such that the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist cannot always be guaranteed in every community.

6. Given this array of new situations and the questions which they prompt, it seems more necessary than ever to recover the deep doctrinal foundations underlying the Church's precept, so that the abiding value of Sunday in the Christian life will be clear to all the faithful. In doing this, we follow in the footsteps of the age-old tradition of the Church, powerfully restated by the Second Vatican Council in its teaching that on Sunday "Christian believers should come together, in order to commemorate the suffering, Resurrection and glory of the Lord Jesus, by hearing God's Word and sharing the Eucharist, and to give thanks to God who has given them new birth to a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (cf. 1 Pt 1:3)."

7. The duty to keep Sunday holy, especially by sharing in the Eucharist and by relaxing in a spirit of Christian joy and fraternity, is easily understood if we consider the many different aspects of this day upon which the present Letter will focus our attention. Sunday is a day which is at the very heart of the Christian life. From the beginning of my Pontificate, I have not ceased to repeat: "Do not be afraid! Open, open wide the doors to Christ!".<sup>9</sup> In the same way, today I would strongly urge everyone to rediscover Sunday: Do not be afraid to give your time to Christ! Yes, let us open our time to Christ, that he may cast light upon it and give it direction. He is the One who knows the secret of time and the secret of eternity, and he gives us "his day" as an ever new gift of his love. The rediscovery of this day is a grace which we must implore, not only so that we may live the demands of faith to the full, but also so that we may respond concretely to the deepest human yearnings. Time given to Christ is never time lost, but is rather time gained, so that our relationships and indeed our whole life may become more profoundly human.

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

**REFLECTION OF THE WEEK**

**"Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves...What is it that stands between us and God? Between us and our brothers and sisters? Between us and life, the life of the Spirit? Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out, without a moment's hesitation."**

**– Catherine Doherty**

**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).

**"The kingdom of God is at hand"**

"Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying: 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent, and believe in the gospel.'" "To carry out the will of the Father Christ inaugurated the kingdom of heaven on earth." Now the Father's will is "to raise up men to share in his own divine life". He does this by gathering men around his Son Jesus Christ. This gathering is the Church, "on earth the seed and beginning of that kingdom". CCC 541

Christ stands at the heart of this gathering of men into the "family of God". By his word, through signs that manifest the reign of God, and by sending out his disciples, Jesus calls all people to come together around him. But above all in the great Paschal mystery - his death on the cross and his Resurrection - he would accomplish the coming of his kingdom. "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." Into this union with Christ all men are called. CCC 542

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*Continued from Page 2*

**Furthermore, in joining Christ in the desert, let us constantly bear in mind part of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's gospel, on the right attitudes to manifest as we embrace the three pillars of lent – ALMSGIVING, PRAYER, and FASTING. The three pillars of lent are not for external show or any other selfish motive. Lent is not a 40-day weight loss program; instead, it is the season that invites us to summon the courage to search the wilderness of our souls and confront the causes of rebellious attitudes. It is a beautiful season that gives us the courage and opportunity to fight the unholy trinity of me, myself, and I. Our Lenten undertakings aim to draw us closer and help us enter into a deeper relationship with God. Therefore, we should daringly wear the three Lenten garments of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These actions/undertakings are performed not to gain public ovation but in secret so that your heavenly Father, who sees in secret, will repay you.**

**Finally, as we join him in the desert, let us know that this is a good season for renewing our encounter with God for conversion, repentance, and purification. The Lord, who overcame the obstacles and deceptions of the tempter during the forty days in the desert, will definitely show us the ways to follow. May the Blessed Trinity lead us on a journey of true conversion, repentance, and purification, and may the Mother of God, Help of Christians, Comforter of the afflicted, Refugee of sinners, continue to intercede for us. May our Lenten journey yield fruitful and positive results.**

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

***Blessings,***

***Your servant in Christ,***

***Fr. Paschal Ezurike***



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