

ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCH

March 12, 2023
Third Sunday of Lent



PARISH INFORMATION

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Youth Minister: Katy Schnoor

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Pastoral Council President:

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

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

God is good! All the time! All the time, God is good.

Dear friends in Christ, in the liturgy of last Sunday, Abram, with trust in God, left his homeland and comfort zone to a foreign land because God directed him to do so. His openness to the voice of God transformed and elevated him to the position of the father and spiritual benefactor to all believers. The Gospel narrated the transfiguration of the Lord in the presence of his disciple (Peter, James, and John). The synopsis of last Sunday's reflection is, as God's children, we should work towards transforming our lives to a better version of what God wants for us. To achieve this desirable goal, we should intrepidly flee from actions and utterances that do not align with God's mandate. We should trust, listen and obey God's voice for us to get to our desired destination.

Today's readings show that the descendants of Abram continue the journey of faith that Abram began when he left the Ur of Chaldaeans. The People of Israel journeyed from the city of bondage to the abode of freedom. The Samaritan woman also moved from a sinful and unfulfilled life to encounter the Source of Living Water that completely changed her life. The journey of faith is enriching; however, it is costly. It is both trying and tiring. It is also full of challenges and uncertainties. Threats, deprivations, thirst, hunger, complaints, weariness, etc. mark the journey of faith.

The first reading from the book of Exodus narrates the challenges God's people encountered in the desert, their complaints, and how God, through Moses, came to their rescue. Tired and unsure of their future, they demanded that Moses fix their situation. Moses himself is tremendously frustrated and minced no words with God, "What shall I do with these people? A little more, and they will stone me." God answers the plea of his messenger with instructions to obtain water from the rock in Horeb. The people demanded water but wanted God to send them a sign of his presence. It is a fascinating human story because it reveals that it is easy to trust that God is in our midst when everything is working well for us. When struggle, deprivations, and loss occur, we start wondering if God is present. In those difficult times, like the Israelites of old, we thirst for the reassurance that God is with us.

The search for living water is the central theme that links Israel in the first reading and the Samaritan woman. The encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman is a prototype of God's encounter with every man in search of the truth about life. God has poured fresh supplies of his grace into the human heart: a supply meant to be preserved with a good life. The Samaritan woman, like most people today, wasted her life through a sinful lifestyle, and when her supply finished, her life became empty and meaningless, this is symbolized by the empty jar she carried to the well of Jacob.

Jews were not supposed to speak to Samaritans, much less share drinking vessels. It is a taboo for Jewish men to converse with a woman, let alone a Samaritan. But it is striking to note that cultural division and socially accepted discrimination did not stop Jesus from doing what is good and noble. In the same vein, nothing prevents Jesus from satisfying our thirst and hunger nor offering us a healing hand, but we must be brave to identify with him, carry our jar to the well and be prepared to encounter him, the Living Water.

In today's Gospel, Jesus initiates a conversation with a woman of Samaria sitting alone at the community's well (borehole) in the noonday heat. Jesus Christ always starts a conversation with us, but he needs us to remain open and converse with him. The woman is so dumbfounded by this that she forgets her societal status and blurts, "How can you ask me for a drink?" Thus, begins one of the most extended and fascinating conversations of the New Testament.

Jesus asks for a drink but then reveals he is the source of water that will quench the thirst for all eternity. The woman reverses the dialogue and says, "Give me this water." At this point, the conversation shifts, and the testimony of faith begins to unfold. Jesus, aware that she has been married five times, asked her to get her husband. In doing so, Jesus plays the video of her life that is impossible for anyone to know. She asks Jesus' "Are you the Messiah who will tell us everything?" And he said, "I am he, the one speaking to you."

Continued on page 7

This week at SPB and Upcoming Parish/Archdiocesan Events

Sunday, 3/12/2023

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

Monday, 3/13/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
8:00am Mass: +Vivian D'Esposito (Stasiewicz Family)

Tuesday, 3/14/2023

6:30pm Mass: +Steve Smith (Grace & Claire Pattyn)
7:00pm: RCIA/Hall

Wednesday, 3/15/2023

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

Thursday, 3/16/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
8:00am Mass: +Constance Salisbury
(Michelle Harrington)

7:00pm: Faith Sharing via Zoom

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



Friday, 3/17/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
8:00am Mass: +Ann Evers
(Paul Lowry & Claudia Evers)
6:00pm: Soup Supper/Hall
7:00pm: Stations of the Cross

Saturday, 3/18/2023

4:00-5:00pm: Reconciliation/Church
5:30pm Mass: +Rose Marie Kinney (Becky Wooten)

Sunday, 3/19/2023

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

March 17th: Soup Supper/Hall 6pm hosted by JPII Young Adult Group. Stations of the Cross/Church 7pm

March 18th: Women's Lenten Retreat/St. Henry's, Gresham

March 19th: Catholic Relief Services Collection



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 To register, please contact (855) 842-8001 or (508) 340-9370. You can also register online at www.proximotravel.com.

Lenten Confession Schedules

St. Philip Benizi: Tues. 7-8pm, Sat. 4-5pm
Our Lady of LaVang: Mon.-Sat. 7:30am-finished & 6-7:00pm
Christ the King: Sun. 7:45-8:45am, Tues. 5-5:45pm, Thurs. 5-5:45pm, Sat. 3pm-5pm
St. John the Baptist: Thurs. 6-7:30pm, Sat. 2:30-3:30
St. John the Apostle: Friday 5pm-finished, Sat. 3:30-4:30, Sun. 11:30-finished, 1:30-finished (Spanish)

FORMED is a great resource for Lent

Go to formed.org/signup; Sign up as a parishioner of St. Philip Benizi and start watching movies, podcasts, commentaries, book guides...So many resources for Lent.

Next week our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and reveal Christ's love to those most in need. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Is your Rosary in need of repair? Bring it to the Hall after the 10:30 Mass on any Sunday for repair.

Finance Corner

Registered Household 222	WEEK OF 3/5/2023 Actual	Budget
Donors 74	\$4,125 (online: \$2156)	\$4,542
Fiscal Year	\$174,093	\$172,956

Next Weeks Assignments

<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Lector/Commentator</u>	<u>Extraordinary</u>
3/18~5:30am: Matt Anderson	Heather Hannam	Jeanne Hubel
3/19~8:00am: Paul Lowry	Danielle Dryden	Claudia Evers
3/19~10:30am: Larry Carnahan	Nancy Carnahan	Janet Tankersly

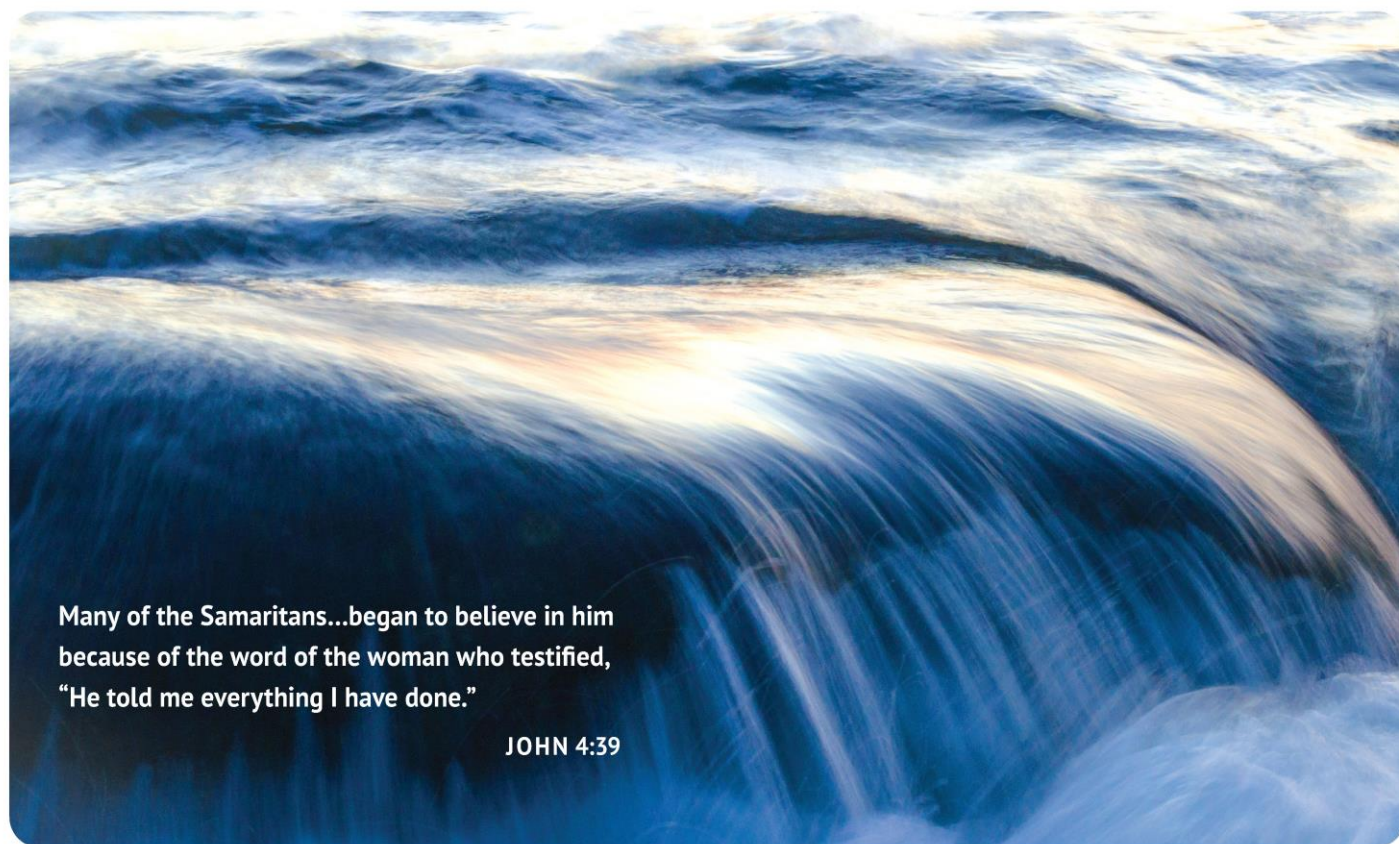
March Church Cleaners: Janet Tankersly (503-545-2229)

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



3/19 9:00am: John & Elaine
11:30am: Team Brown





Many of the Samaritans...began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me everything I have done."

JOHN 4:39

A Fountain of Life

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The lovelorn column in the local newspaper shared a letter from someone who felt adrift. She had everything she needed or wanted—a marriage, a job, a home. Yet she felt there had to be more to life, but she didn't know what it was or where to go. She wondered, *Could anyone help me?*

Like the woman from Samaria who happened upon Jesus when she came looking for water at the local well, she and the letter writer were both eager for "living water." The woman at the well would then no longer need to come each day for her household needs, and the letter writer would have her deeper thirsts quenched. Both wanted something more out of life, not unlike most people at one time or another.

Reflect

When and where have you found grace in an "unexpected place"?

Long before Jesus encountered the woman at the well, the people who were led by Moses through the desert grumbled to him about their thirst, which triggered Moses to grumble to God about the people. The result was finding water in the desert, the most unlikely of places. As a result, they realized that God was taking care of them, that God was ultimately their source of life.

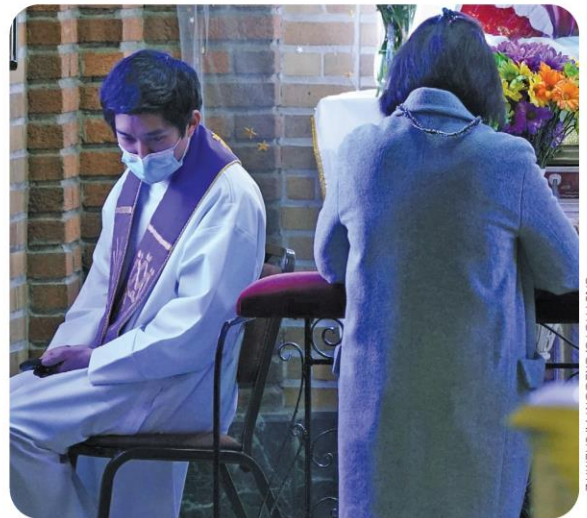
We may decide what will bring new life—a new relationship, a new job, a new home. Yet just as often the answer comes from totally unexpected sources: the deserts of our lives. Also just as often, we somehow miss the answer. When we do recognize it, however, we say, "Thanks be to God." ●

Dear Padre,

I have done some really terrible things in my life. When I did them, I didn't think anything about them, but now I feel very guilty. Can God really forgive me?

As we Redemptorists like to say, "With God there is plentiful redemption." God's mercy is everlasting and overflowing in its abundance. As we continue in Lent, let's remember that Easter is the sign that God forgave even the great sin of the crucifixion of his only Son. Time and time again throughout the Scriptures, Jesus demonstrates this bountiful mercy. He forgave Zacchaeus, the tax collector. He forgave the woman caught in adultery. He was tender with the Samaritan woman we hear about in today's Gospel. He spent his days living among and forgiving all manner of sinners. He even forgave Peter's great denial. The Church has named a multitude of saints, but note that in 2,000 years it has never declared anyone to be definitively condemned to eternal punishment. There is hope and mercy for all.

No matter how great the sin, God will forgive it. All you have to do is ask for mercy sincerely. All that takes is a repentant heart. From the tone of your message, you are truly sorry. Find a priest with whom you are comfortable and ask him to celebrate with you the sacrament of reconciliation. If you don't know how to go to confession, just ask. The priest will help you. Be at peace. ●



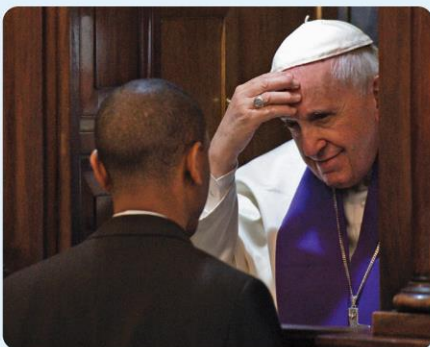
CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ

Fr. Rick Potts, CSSR / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 13	March 14	March 15	March 16	March 17	March 18	March 19
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>
2 Kgs 5:1-15ab	Dn 3:25, 34-43	Dt 4:1, 5-9	Jer 7:23-28	Hos 14:2-10	Hos 6:1-6	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Lk 4:24-30	Mt 18:21-35	Mt 5:17-19	Lk 11:14-23	Mk 12:28-34	Lk 18:9-14	Eph 5:8-14 Jn 9:1-41

Know Someone Overly Anxious about Sin?

Since 1964, the Redemptorists' *Scrupulous Anonymous* free monthly newsletter has ministered compassionately to those struggling with scrupulosity. To subscribe, visit ScrupulousAnonymous.org.



CNS PHOTO/VATICAN MEDIA

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

We all have the right to be forgiven. All of us....Forgiveness is a "right" in the sense that God, in the Paschal Mystery of Christ, has given it in a total and irreversible way to every person willing to accept it with a humble and repentant heart.

ADDRESS AT A COURSE ORGANIZED BY APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY, MARCH 25, 2022

ON KEEPING THE LORD'S DAY HOLY

“Through him all things were made” (Jn 1:3)

10. Coming as it does from the hand of God, the cosmos bears the imprint of his goodness. It is a beautiful world, rightly moving us to admiration and delight, but also calling for cultivation and development. At the “completion” of God’s work, the world is ready for human activity. “On the seventh day God finished his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done” (Gn 2:2). With this anthropomorphic image of God’s “work”, the Bible not only gives us a glimpse of the mysterious relationship between the Creator and the created world, but also casts light upon the task of human beings in relation to the cosmos. The “work” of God is in some ways an example for man, called not only to inhabit the cosmos, but also to “build” it and thus become God’s “co-worker”. As I wrote in my Encyclical *Laborem Exercens*, the first chapters of Genesis constitute in a sense the first “gospel of work”. 10 This is a truth which the Second Vatican Council also stressed: “Created in God’s image, man was commissioned to subdue the earth and all it contains, to rule the world in justice and holiness, and, recognizing God as the creator of all things, to refer himself and the totality of things to God so that with everything subject to God, the divine name would be glorified in all the earth”. 11

The exhilarating advance of science, technology and culture in their various forms—an ever more rapid and today even overwhelming development—is the historical consequence of the mission by which God entrusts to man and woman the task and responsibility of filling the earth and subduing it by means of their work, in the observance of God’s Law.

“Shabbat”: the Creator’s joyful rest

11. If the first page of the Book of Genesis presents God’s “work” as an example for man, the same is true of God’s “rest”: “On the seventh day God finished his work which he had done” (Gn 2:2). Here too we find an anthropomorphism charged with a wealth of meaning.

It would be banal to interpret God’s “rest” as a kind of divine “inactivity”. By its nature, the creative act which founds the world is unceasing and God is always at work, as Jesus himself declares in speaking of the Sabbath precept: “My Father is working still, and I am working” (Jn 5:17). The divine rest of the seventh day does not allude to an inactive God, but emphasizes the fullness of what has been accomplished. It speaks, as it were, of God’s lingering before the “very good” work (Gn 1:31) which his hand has wrought, in order to cast upon it a gaze full of joyous delight. This is a “contemplative” gaze which does not look to new accomplishments but enjoys the beauty of what has already been achieved. It is a gaze which God casts upon all things, but in a special way upon man, the crown of creation. It is a gaze which already discloses something of the nuptial shape of the relationship which God wants to establish with the creature made in his own image, by calling that creature to enter a pact of love. This is what God will gradually accomplish, in offering salvation to all humanity through the saving covenant made with Israel and fulfilled in Christ. It will be the Word Incarnate, through the eschatological gift of the Holy Spirit and the configuration of the Church as his Body and Bride, who will extend to all humanity the offer of mercy and the call of the Father’s love.

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

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 signs of the kingdom of God

Jesus accompanies his words with many "mighty works and wonders and signs", which manifest that the kingdom is present in him and attest that he was the promised Messiah. CCC 547

The signs worked by Jesus attest that the Father has sent him. They invite belief in him. To those who turn to him in faith, he grants what they ask. So miracles strengthen faith in the One who does his Father's works; they bear witness that he is the Son of God. But his miracles can also be occasions for "offence"; they are not intended to satisfy people's curiosity or desire for magic. Despite his evident miracles some people reject Jesus; he is even accused of acting by the power of demons. CCC 548

By freeing some individuals from the earthly evils of hunger, injustice, illness and death, Jesus performed messianic signs. Nevertheless he did not come to abolish all evils here below, but to free men from the gravest slavery, sin, which thwarts them in their vocation as God's sons and causes all forms of human bondage. CCC 549

The coming of God's kingdom means the defeat of Satan's: "If it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." Jesus' exorcisms free some individuals from the domination of demons. They anticipate Jesus' great victory over "the ruler of this world". The kingdom of God will be definitively established through Christ's cross: "God reigned from the wood." CCC 550

Continued from Page 2

With this fruitful encounter with Jesus at Jacob's well, she becomes a bearer of the word, running into the town in haste to proclaim the good news to others. The woman advanced from a great sinner to a great evangelist, worthy disciple, and true missionary. She moved from an unfulfilled and unloved position to a fulfilled life filled with true love, the love of Christ. Her encounter with the Master completely transformed her life because no one sincerely encounters Christ and remains the same.

Dear friends, on this third Sunday of Lent, we pray for the grace to stand firm and not allow challenges, setbacks, and deprivations in life to cripple our enthusiasm to encounter Christ and qualify for getting to the land flowing with milk and honey. Problems, trials, and challenges are inevitable in life. They are woven into the fabric of our day-to-day living, but God didn't create us to handle the troubles of this world on our own; that is why he tells us to cast our burdens on him and allow him to care for us. Therefore, every day in his presence, we are expected to cast our cares on Him. May this season be holy and unique in the lives of modern-day followers of Christ, and may we faithfully drink from the fountain of life. Amen.

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

Blessings,

Your servant in Christ,

Fr. Paschal Ezurike

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

“Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and, in this way, to know the fundamental truth: Who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life.” –Pope Benedict XVI



Fall Sharathon: October 10-14, 2022
PRAY FROM THE HEART

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