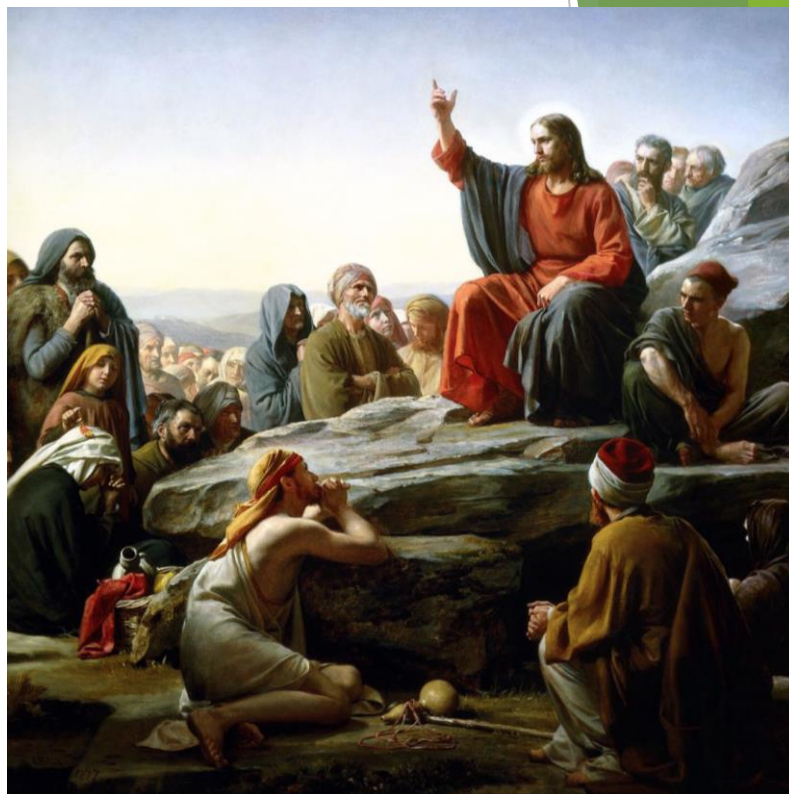


# ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCH

February 19, 2023

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary time



## PARISH INFORMATION

18211 S Henrici RD  
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**

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503-631-2882

mpattyn@archdpx.org

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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

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, Mass times: 8:00am & 7:00pm

## **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, last Sunday, the good news emphasized that God created man, placed him at liberty, so that man can freely choose to listen, obey, and follow the Lord's commandments or do otherwise. Freedom leads to a true and enviable life of holiness when used in the right direction to fulfill God's statutes. To that effect, we, as God's children, are persuaded to exercise and use the freedom God gave us in the right direction by making good choices: keeping and fulfilling God's commandments. Also, we are to remember that freedom is not a license to be bizarre and do whatever we want.**

**Today, the last Sunday before the season of lent, the liturgy of the word focuses on true holiness. In the first reading from the book of Leviticus, the Lord who spoke through Moses calls on humankind to imitate, live and follow God's way: "Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy." This mission is an enormous challenge; therefore, it should be confronted with every sincerity if we hope to live a life that is pleasing to God. In the passage, he describes what we should do and what we should not do. We should live a life devoid of hatred, resentment, and vengeance but full of virtues such as sincere love for all, irrespective of the vicissitudes of life. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord." God created man in his image and likeness; therefore, it is a significant departure from the truth when we claim to love God and hate our neighbor (God's image).**

**The psalmist calls us to praise God for his actions on our behalf. In the refrain, we claim God's kindness and mercy. God is full of mercy and compassion because he pardons all our iniquities and heals all our ills. As a loving God, among other things, he redeems our life from destruction and never deals with us according to our sins.**

**St. Paul reminds us in the second reading that the Spirit of God dwells in us because our body is the temple of God. Since the body is God's temple, we should not destroy God's precious temple. Any attempt to destroy or contaminate the temple attracts God's wrath: "If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for the temple of God which you are is holy." In a broader sense, Paul reminds the Corinthians that God dwells in their community as in the temple of Jerusalem. They are the temple, not as individuals, but as a community. Anyone who destroys the unity of the community is destroying God's very dwelling. So, he reminded the people that they belong not to him, Apollos, Cephas, or any other eloquent preacher but solely to God.**

**The gospel continues with the sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:38–48). Again, many of what we should do to keep the words of Christ and attain true holiness are contained in the ten verses of today's gospel. The passage begins with Jesus telling his disciples what, though they have heard, they shouldn't practice because that's from the voice of unholiness, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." Against this background, the voice of God, the voice of holiness, echoes: "But I say to you ... let love be your watchword, be just in your dealing with others, do not seek pleasure in revenge, be present to people, especially those who are broken and discouraged, never turn your back to a poor person, help in any way you can: "Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on the one who wants to borrow."**

**Furthermore, the voice of holiness continues, "But I say to you.... Do not love only your neighbor and hate your enemy but also love your enemies and pray for them that persecute you." Holiness does not consist of and cannot be found in loving those who love us and being friendly to those who are nice to us. It is more than that; therefore, we need to make the extra effort and go the extra mile to be on the Lord's team. We should work hard to eliminate things that are not required to gain our position in Jesus' team. The selected group of Christ's followers should have love as her motto, and her banner should bear love.**

**Undeniably, what the voice of holiness outlined in the Sermon on the Mount wants us to do are challenging tasks. No one can accomplish any of these things, if not by the grace of God. We need to have Christ in our lives to make the journey of faith; doing it alone is complex, dry, cumbersome, uninteresting, and inspiring. But walking with God and knowing he is with us is inspiring and fulfilling, pushing us to do more. Let us keep asking him for the grace we need to do all that is embedded in the "I say to you...." enshrined on the beautiful and evergreen Sermon on the Mount.**

**Holiness is not for only a select few; it is a gift to all who follow Christ in honesty and truth. A life of holiness, among others, is a commitment to living a righteous and just life. This means living in such a way that does not exploit nor harm others but seeks to love and serve them. It also means living in a way that is honest and fair, avoiding actions that would bring harm or discredit to the name of Christ. *Continued on page 7***

# This week at SPB and Upcoming Parish/Archdiocesan Events

## Sunday, 2/19/2023

8:00am Mass: +Ed Tyler (Janelle Wakefield)  
10:30am Mass: All Parishioners

## Monday, 2/20/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +Mary Belec Setera

## Tuesday, 2/21/2023

6:30pm Mass: +Marilyn & Bud Greeno  
(Becky & Larry Wooten)  
7:00pm: RCIA/Hall

## Wednesday, 2/22/2023 Ash Wednesday

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +Charlie & Rita Duffy  
(Pattyn Family)  
7:00pm Mass: +Jackie Smith  
(Larry & Nancy Carnahan)

## Thursday, 2/23/2023

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

7:00pm: Faith Sharing via Zoom

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



## Friday, 2/24/2023

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

## Saturday, 2/25/2023

4:00-5:00pm: Reconciliation/Church  
5:30pm Mass: +Ann Wuester  
(Jerry & Rosalee Welle)

## Sunday, 2/26/2023

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

**Travel with Fr. Paschal Ezurike, on our Pilgrimage to Ireland and England** 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 or [www.proximotravel.com](http://www.proximotravel.com).

### JPII Young Adult Crew Lenten Study

The JPII Young Adult Crew will be doing a book study and meet weekly to pray and reflect on our material for each week. Our meetings will be following 5:30pm Mass every Saturday night accompanied by a dinner starting Feb. 25th. See bulletin board.

**Fasting and Abstinence Regulations** - All Catholics 14 years of age and older **must abstain from meat** on the **Fridays of Lent, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday**. All Catholics **between the ages of 18 and 59, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday**. **To fast means to eat one full meal; the other two meals that day should be less than the normal amount unless they are already at a minimum for good health. Eating between meals is not permitted; however, liquids including coffee, milk and fruit juices are allowed.**



**FORTY CANS FOR LENT** begins on Ash Wednesday. Please donate one can of food or food item for every day of Lent.

Your generous donation of canned goods, cereal, pasta and other nonperishable food items will help fight hunger in our community. Please leave your food donations at the collection sites in church or the Parish Hall. You can also drop off donations of cash or checks (made payable to St. PHILIP BENIZI, note Helping Hands) in the collection basket or at the Parish Office. Thank You for your support.

**Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>:** No RE classes

**Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Ash Wednesday-Mass at 8am & 7pm. Collection for Central and Eastern Europe Church [www.usccb.org/ccee](http://www.usccb.org/ccee)

**Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>:** Soup Supper 6pm/Hall & Stations of the Cross 7pm. Hosted by DIMWITS

### Finance Corner

<u>Registered Household</u> 222	WEEK OF 2/12/2023 <u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<u>Donors</u> 58	\$4,162 (online: \$1,520)	\$5,225
<u>Fiscal Year</u>	\$157,024	\$157,999

### Next Weeks Assignments

#### Ushers

2/22~8:00am: Paul Lowry  
2/22~7:00pm: Pat Keavney  
2/25~5:30am: Tom Muldoon  
2/26~8:00am: Paul Lowry  
2/26~10:30am: Larry Carnahan

#### Lector/Commentator

Heather Hannam  
John Buxman  
Heather Hannam  
Kristine Bible  
Nancy Carnahan

#### Extraordinary

Marina Logue  
Kristine Bible  
Becky Wooten  
Claudia Evers  
Marina Logue

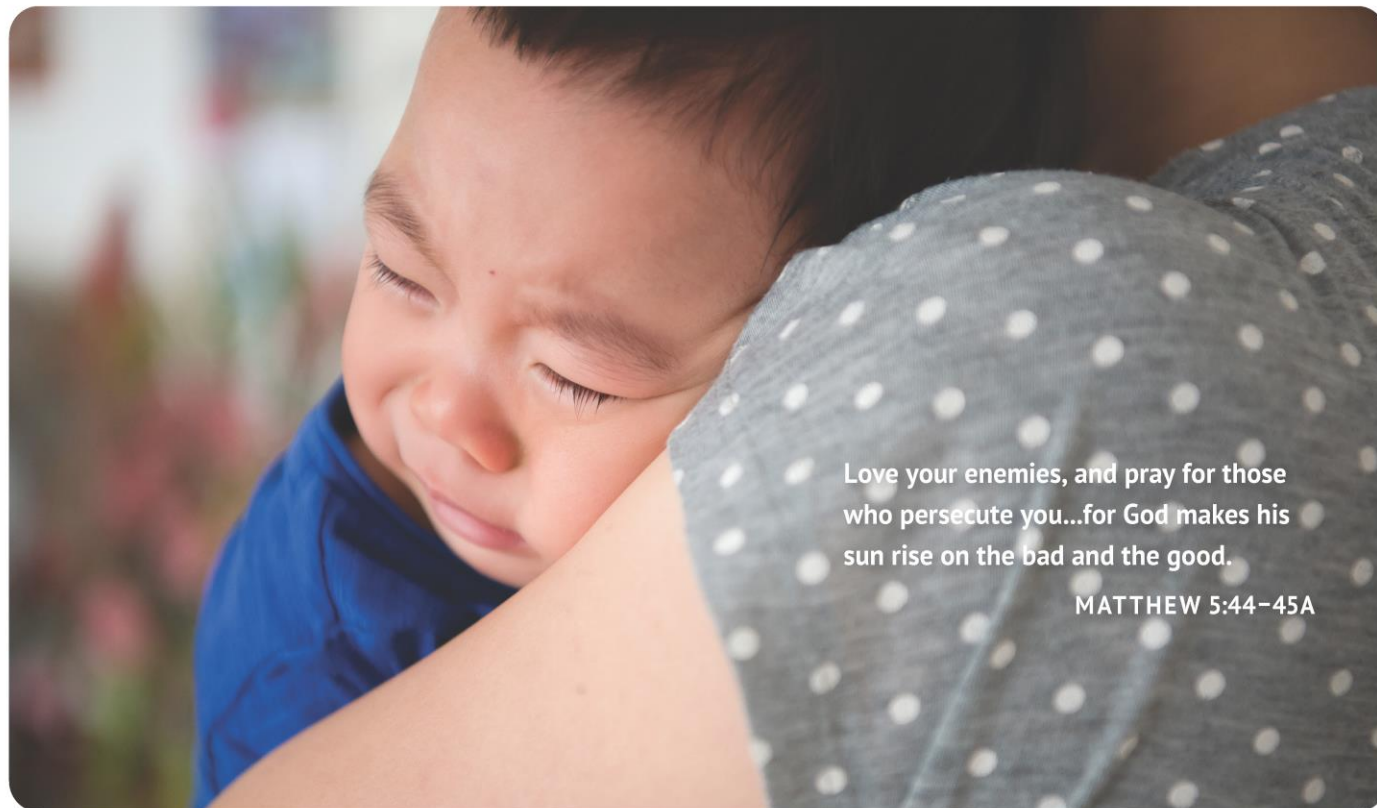
**February Church Cleaners:** Carolyn Brown (503-799- 4201)

**February Altar Linens:** Elaine Buxman (503-655-7208)



2/26 9:00am: Team ML  
11:30am:





Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you...for God makes his sun rise on the bad and the good.

MATTHEW 5:44-45A

## Like a Sponge

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**T**o turn the other cheek, to go the extra mile, to love one's enemy, all of that is to absorb and thus stop the evil that can saturate life. When we do that, then evil ends with us, lest it keep escalating like a tsunami that overwhelms life.

Is anyone really willing to absorb the evils of life? Many are. Parents do who walk the floor at night with a crying infant or care for a child sick with a cold and then find themselves suffering the same illness. They absorb the evil in order to bring some comfort and so ease the child's pain. Someone does as well who listens endlessly to a lonely person on the phone or over a cup of coffee. They absorb the loneliness even as it tests their own patience. Those who protest injustice by participating in nonviolent demonstrations and then find themselves mistreated or even dealt with violently, they absorb the hate of others.

"Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy" (Leviticus 19:2), says the Lord to Moses. Absorbing the evils of life is a different sort of holiness, different than saying more prayers or giving up enjoyments during Lent. Part of our tradition is to do penance during the season of Lent. Perhaps this year a penance might be to become conscious of each day's opportunities to simply absorb someone's suffering, another's pain, a bit of the evil that so often ricochets through our days, always doing so in the image of Jesus. ●

### Reflect

*When have you ever suffered as you absorbed someone else's pain?*

# Dear Padre,

*I am wondering why Ash Wednesday is sometimes in February and sometimes in March. Who decides when Lent begins, and why is it always different?*

The beginning of Lent is determined by the date of Easter, which is a movable feast, unlike Christmas, which is always on December 25. Easter falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon of spring. The first Sunday of Lent is six weeks before, and the Wednesday before the first Sunday of Lent is Ash Wednesday.

This subject has caused division in the Church since the second century, because the Eastern Church and the Western Church had different calendars. So, the calculations of the first full moon of spring differed and therefore the date of Easter and Ash Wednesday were different. Sometimes on a calendar you will see both Easter and Orthodox Easter listed on different Sundays. It is hard for most of us to appreciate why the differences between East and West are so important. Remember the prayer of Jesus, that we all may be one. We can honor our Lord's desire for unity and pray during this Lent for the unity of Christians everywhere. ●



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**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 20	February 21	February 22	February 23	February 24	February 25	February 26
Weekday	Weekday	Ash Wednesday	St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr	Friday after Ash Wednesday	Saturday after Ash Wednesday	First Sunday of Lent
Sir 1:1-10	Sir 2:1-11	Jl 2:12-18	Dt 30:15-20	Is 58:1-9a	Is 58:9b-14	Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7
Mk 9:14-29	Mk 9:30-37	2 Cor 5:20-6:2	Dt 30:15-20	Mt 9:14-15	Lk 5:27-32	Rom 5:12-19 or Rom 5:12, 17-19
		Mt 6:1-6, 16-18	Lk 9:22-25			Mt 4:1-11



RICCARDO DE LUCA - UPDATE / SHUTTERSTOCK

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*If we want to call ourselves Christians, this is the only way; there is no other. Having been loved by God, we are called to love in return; having been forgiven, we are called to forgive; having been touched by love, we are called to love without waiting for others to love first....*

HOMILY IN BARI (ITALY), FEBRUARY 23, 2020

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

3. The fundamental importance of Sunday has been recognized through two thousand years of history and was emphatically restated by the Second Vatican Council: "Every seven days, the Church celebrates the Easter mystery. This is a tradition going back to the Apostles, taking its origin from the actual day of Christ's Resurrection—a day thus appropriately designated 'the Lord's Day'." 5 Paul VI emphasized this importance once more when he approved the new General Roman Calendar and the Universal Norms which regulate the ordering of the Liturgical Year 6. The coming of the Third Millennium, which calls believers to reflect upon the course of history in the light of Christ, also invites them to rediscover with new intensity the meaning of Sunday: its "mystery", its celebration, its significance for Christian and human life.

I note with pleasure that in the years since the Council this important theme has prompted not only many interventions by you, dear Brother Bishops, as teachers of the faith, but also different pastoral strategies which—with the support of your clergy—you have developed either individually or jointly. On the threshold of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, it has been my wish to offer you this Apostolic Letter in order to support your pastoral efforts in this vital area. But at the same time I wish to turn to all of you, Christ's faithful, as though I were spiritually present in all the communities in which you gather with your Pastors each Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist and "the Lord's Day". Many of the insights and intuitions which prompt this Apostolic Letter have grown from my episcopal service in Krakow and, since the time when I assumed the ministry of Bishop of Rome and Successor of Peter, in the visits to the Roman parishes which I have made regularly on the Sundays of the different seasons of the Liturgical Year. I see this Letter as continuing the lively exchange which I am always happy to have with the faithful, as I reflect with you on the meaning of Sunday and underline the reasons for living Sunday as truly "the Lord's Day", also in the changing circumstances of our own times.

4. Until quite recently, it was easier in traditionally Christian countries to keep Sunday holy because it was an almost universal practice and because, even in the organization of civil society, Sunday rest was considered a fixed part of the work schedule. Today, however, even in those countries which give legal sanction to the festive character of Sunday, changes in socioeconomic conditions have often led to profound modifications of social behavior and hence of the character of Sunday. The custom of the "weekend" has become more widespread, a weekly period of respite, spent perhaps far from home and often involving participation in cultural, political or sporting activities which are usually held on free days. This social and cultural phenomenon is by no means without its positive aspects if, while respecting true values, it can contribute to people's development and to the advancement of the life of society as a whole. All of this responds not only to the need for rest, but also to the need for celebration which is inherent in our humanity. Unfortunately, when Sunday loses its fundamental meaning and becomes merely part of a "weekend", it can happen that people stay locked within a horizon so limited that they can no longer see "the heavens". 7 Hence, though ready to celebrate, they are really incapable of doing so.

The disciples of Christ, however, are asked to avoid any confusion between the celebration of Sunday, which should truly be a way of keeping the Lord's Day holy, and the "weekend", understood as a time of simple rest and relaxation. This will require a genuine spiritual maturity, which will enable Christians to "be what they are", in full accordance with the gift of faith, always ready to give an account of the hope which is in them (cf. 1 Pt 3:15). In this way, they will be led to a deeper understanding of Sunday, with the result that, even in difficult situations, they will be able to live it in complete docility to the Holy Spirit.

**(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).

### Jesus' temptations

The Gospels speak of a time of solitude for Jesus in the desert immediately after his baptism by John. Driven by the Spirit into the desert, Jesus remains there for forty days without eating; he lives among wild beasts, and angels minister to him. At the end of this time Satan tempts him three times, seeking to compromise his filial attitude toward God. Jesus rebuffs these attacks, which recapitulate the temptations of Adam in Paradise and of Israel in the desert, and the devil leaves him "until an opportune time". CCC 538

The evangelists indicate the salvific meaning of this mysterious event: Jesus is the new Adam who remained faithful just where the first Adam had given in to temptation. Jesus fulfils Israel's vocation perfectly: in contrast to those who had once provoked God during forty years in the desert, Christ reveals himself as God's Servant, totally obedient to the divine will. In this, Jesus is the devil's conqueror: he "binds the strong man" to take back his plunder. Jesus' victory over the tempter in the desert anticipates victory at the Passion, the supreme act of obedience of his filial love for the Father. CCC 539

Jesus' temptation reveals the way in which the Son of God is Messiah, contrary to the way Satan proposes to him and the way men wish to attribute to him. This is why Christ vanquished the Tempter for us: "For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sinning." By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert. CCC 540

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*Continued from Page 2*

At the end of the passage, Jesus tells us to be perfect, just as our heavenly Father is perfect. Here, he is not calling us to be without any defect as humans. It is impossible due to our human weakness and sin. But we are called to perfection in striving each day to be all God has called us to be – to love without limit, be generous beyond measure, and show mercy to those in need. Therefore, let us rededicate ourselves to a life of holiness. Let us strive to live in such a way that we reflect God's holiness and bring honor and glory to His name. Let us embrace the call to holiness that has been given to us, and let us work to become the holy people of God we were created to be.

May we continue to strive for true holiness by boldly having love as our motto. God loves us; let us reciprocate by loving him and our neighbor as we love ourselves. A life of holiness remains a mirage without Christian love. God's blessings and protection as you journey towards holiness. Amen.

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

***Blessings,***

***Your servant in Christ,***

***Fr. Paschal Ezurike***

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### REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

**"Amid life's challenges, the voice of holiness calls us to a life of charity and holiness; however, the pursuit of holiness remains a mirage and unattainable without Christian love."**

**---- Fr. Paschal Ezurike.**



Fall Sharathon: October 10-14, 2022

# PRAY FROM THE HEART

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