

BENIZI NOOZ



A Letter From Fr. Peter

ADVENT IS WAITING IN PRAYER

Dear friends, as we begin this period of Advent, we are beginning a time of waiting, a time of longing, a time of hoping, a time of watching, a time of yearning and expecting ... seems like life is all about that. Life is Advent. Advent means coming and simply put, Advent is the season when we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Advent is the time when we get our hearts ready for the greatest Christmas gift – namely Jesus Christ. We believe that Christ comes in three ways. Yes, He has come already at Bethlehem on that first Christmas. This is the first coming of our Lord, the one we are most familiar with and celebrate every Christmas.

He also comes to us now, every day, in such mysterious ways, as in prayer, grace, word, and sacraments. These are other ways that Our Lord comes to us. The word for the celebration of the Lord's birth, "Christmas" – literally, "Christ's Mass" – hints at that coming as well.

Then there is yet another coming of Jesus. Christ will come at the end of time, as judge of the living and dead. So, there are three comings of Jesus Christ. Christ did come in the past, Christ does come right now, and Christ will come in the future. If you don't mind me saying it in a poetic way, our Lord comes to us in history, Our Lord comes to us in mystery and our Lord comes to us in majesty. He comes in history as the Holy Infant of Bethlehem. He comes to us now in mystery – in words, sacrament, grace, and mercy. He will come in majesty at the end of the world as judge of the living and dead.

This is the threefold coming of Christ that we contemplate during this blessed season of Advent. May we have a grace filled season of Advent, prepare well our hearts to receive our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

FR. PETER, AJ.

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Peter Okola, AJ
Office Manager: Karen Henry
Secretary: Aishad Friedman
Youth Minister: Katy Schnoor
Music Director: Debbie Schaffer
Director of Religious Education: *vacant*

PASTORAL COUNCIL

President: Katy Schnoor
Past President: Matt Anderson
Secretary: Karen Henry
Communications: Abby Williams
Evangelization: Ed Schneider
Helping Hands: Bill & Jeannine Breshears
Liturgy: Fr. Peter Okola, AJ
Parish & Family Life: *vacant*
Youth Ministry: Katy Schnoor
Religious Education: *vacant*
Social Justice: Danielle Dryden

Pastoral Council meets every other month on the 3rd Thursday at 7pm in the Parish Hall.

ADVENT MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Mass: 5:00pm

Christmas Day Mass: 9:00am



ADVENT PENANCE SCHEDULE

Saturdays at SPB: 4:00pm-5:00pm

Tuesdays at SPB: 9:00am-10:00am

Thursdays at SPB: 8:00pm-8:45pm
(followed by praying the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Benediction)

Wednesday, December 18th: Vicariate Penance Service at Christ the King: 6:00pm-8:00pm



IMPORTANT DATES

Nov 28: Thanksgiving Day - Mass at 9am

Dec 12: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Dec 1: 1st Sunday of Advent

Dec 15: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Dec 6: Feast of St. Nicholas

Dec 18: Vicariate Penance Service at CTK

Dec 8: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Dec 22: 4th Sunday of Advent

Dec 9: The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary

Dec 24: Christmas Eve - Mass at 5pm

Dec 25: Christmas Day - Mass at 9am

History of the Advent Wreath

The origin of the Advent wreath has been traced back to Germany, though the exact dates are unknown.

Historians have suggested that pre-Christian Germanic peoples would light candles around wreaths in the dark winter months in anticipation of the warmer, lighter months in springtime. This tradition likely evolved into an “Advent wreath” at some point during the Middle Ages,

transforming the pagan tradition into a Christian one. Rev. William Saunders explained that “By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath.” Ultimately, the Advent wreath tradition spread beyond Germany and into other areas of the world, namely throughout the western Church.



Advent Wreath Meaning

The circular shape of the Advent wreath symbolizes God’s infinite love for us – it is never-ending, just like the true Light of the World, Jesus, who leads us into eternal life with Him. The materials of the Advent wreath similarly lead us to reflect on the everlasting nature of God; traditionally, Advent wreaths have been made of evergreen leaves, such as pine or fir, which maintain their green color beyond the season in which they are collected. Nowadays, there are many modern interpretations of Advent wreaths that still help us celebrate the traditional meaning of the wreath: preparing the way for the Light of the World, Jesus. Battery-operated/LED wreaths are a good example of this as they simulate the four candles but don’t require lighting each week.

Advent week 1 – Hope: Prophecy Candle (purple)

Advent week 2 – Peace: Bethlehem Candle (purple)

Advent week 3 – Joy: Shepherd’s Candle (pink)

Advent week 4 – Love: Angel’s Candle (purple)

YOUTH GROUP:

As the leaves change and the weather cools, our youth group has been buzzing with activity this Fall! We are excited to share some of the highlights and plans for the coming year, filled with fun, friendship, and prayer. In our RE class we are watching the TV show “The Chosen”. If you and your family hasn’t seen it yet, we recommend it.

September: Bauman Farms Fall Festival

We kicked off the new school year with our annual Bauman Farms Fall Festival. It was a wonderful day filled with laughter, games, and a chance for our youth to reconnect and welcome new members to our group. The smiles and joy shared during this event truly set a positive tone for the year ahead!



October: Steubenville Conference Plans

In October, we took a big step by signing up for the Steubenville Conference at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, scheduled for the summer of 2025. This has been a goal since last year, and we are thrilled to have been accepted! Attending this conference will be an enriching experience, but we recognize the need for significant fundraising since traveling to Ohio is more costly than our usual trips to Spokane.

We estimate needing at least \$7,500 for five attendees, a figure that may change based on interest. Our dedicated students and parents are brainstorming various fundraising ideas, including:

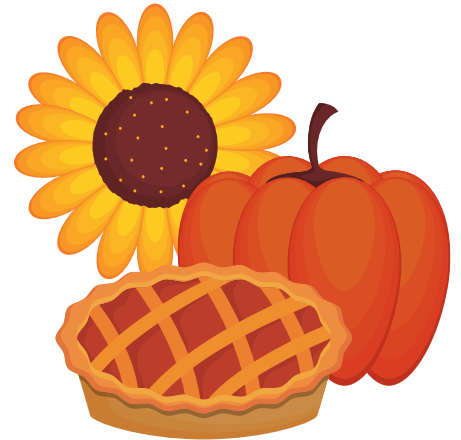
- Bunko Game Night with Babysitting Services
- Dinner and Silent Auction
- Sponsorship Letters to Local Businesses
- Spring Landscaping Services

Stay tuned for more details in the bulletin and on our website!

FALL 2024 UPDATE

November: Friendsgiving Celebration

In November, we are excited to host a “Friendsgiving” event for all the 6th graders through High School students! Each youth group member is encouraged to bring a charcuterie board and a friend or two. We’ll share a meal together and enjoy some fun games. It’s a great opportunity to strengthen friendships and build community!



December: Christmas Caroling

December will bring our annual Christmas gathering, where we’ll come together to sing carols in a neighborhood in Oregon City. This beloved tradition allows us to spread joy and cheer while enjoying a drama-free evening together.

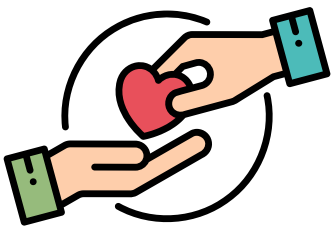
Winter Plans: Sledding at Mt. Hood

Looking ahead to winter, we are planning a sledding outing to Mt. Hood, depending on snow conditions. It promises to be a day of excitement and fun in the great outdoors!



Thank you for being part of our youth group community. We are looking forward to a fantastic year filled with growth, friendship, and faith. If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to reach out.

Blessings,
Katy Schnoor
503-314-8907
Katyschnoor1@gmail.com



HELPING HANDS

Christmas is a time for giving and this is your opportunity to spread some Christmas cheer to the less fortunate in our local community. The Helping Hands ministry at St. Philip Benizi is asking for donations to our food closet. In case you are unfamiliar with this program, Helping Hands provides Christmas and Easter food donations to underserved families within the Oregon City school district.

Food Donations



Helping Hands maintains a small food closet in our Parish Hall. In addition to Christmas and Easter food baskets provided to families received from the Oregon City school district counselors, we can respond to individual needs of food to those identified or referred families. We will serve the hungry regardless of documentation and standard eligibility requirements. Helping Hands relies on food, personal hygiene and monetary donations from our parish members to keep a sufficient food supply in our pantry. Needs not covered by donations are funded through the church's Helping Hands ministry commission budget.

Last Christmas season, our program provided food baskets to 40 families and stockings with \$50 gift cards for 135 children. We will be assisting a similar number of families again this year. Families will pick up their food and gifts on Saturday, December 21st.

Christmas basket items needed include: flour, sugar, stuffing mix, dry beans, chili, soups, canned meats, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup, jelly, vegetable oil, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste, laundry soap, dish soap, and toilet paper. Drop off food donations near the doors of the church or bring to the hall.

The deadline to return donated items is Sunday, December 15th.

Christmas Baskets

Giving Tree

The Giving Trees will be up in the Narthex and at the side door of the church from November 23-December 15. We are asking for **\$25** or **\$50 gift cards** from either **Fred Meyer, Target, Walmart** or **VISA**. Each child will receive \$50 in gift cards to purchase their desired gift. Please take a tag off the Giving Tree for donating a \$25 or \$50 gift card, Turkey or Ham. Return the gift cards to the labeled box under the tree in the Narthex or drop off at the office. If easier, you can give money donations to Helping Hands in the collection basket or with your ConnectNow online giving. **Deadline to return items is Sunday, December 15th.** Thank you for providing food and gifts to our local families in need!



Volunteer Work Parties

All are welcome to join the Helping Hands work parties to prepare and assemble the food baskets and stocking gifts on Thursday, December 19 and Friday, December 20 starting at 6pm. Volunteer assistance distributing food to the families is Saturday, December 21 from 9am-12 noon.

Questions regarding Helping Hands, contact Bill or Jeannine Breshears, 503-709-7488.



Media Section

New Catholic Resources

This Advent, join Fr. Mike Schmitz in a journey through the daily readings as he confronts our doubts and reveals God's love with app-exclusive daily video reflections and scripture passages. Discover who God is, who we are, and how we are made worthy to stand in his presence.



***Live Advent differently this year.
Prepare to meet God, face to face.***



Download the Ascension App Today



Rosary in a Year Podcast

In Ascension's Rosary in a Year podcast, Fr. Mark-Mary Ames, CFR, guides listeners in a step-by-step journey that will change the way you pray – no matter where you are in your spiritual life.

By starting small and adding on over time, listeners will find themselves falling more in love with this powerful Marian devotion, becoming a source of grace for the whole world.

Starts January 1, 2025 on all podcast platforms

PARTED VEIL

I feel the first tingle.

My body's kinesthetics shifting, waking as the veil thins, and I am weightlessly transported,
floating in the balm of Spirit and grace.

This is a sacred travel; I am allowed this personal pilgrimage on rare occasion.

I am stretched through my heart: chest arched forward, arms dangling back,
tears stream in the exquisite mix of grief and pain, of missing and yearning,
of life, of death.

My friend has passed. I am tender.

Father begins the sacred words of bread and wine into Body and Blood as I am held in the
Holy energy of substance changing.

Charging particles quicken, molecular speed slows, as I am a oneness with Christ and Dave
together, stitched by Holy Spirit,
the folds of an inner plane no longer holding form or boundary, but rather a moment of
expansion and unstructured, unscaffolded breadth.

It is a painfully beautiful time for me:

only after a death... reaffirming me of Life beyond.

My awe and pain marry, consecrated by Holy Communion.

I am then gently released to gravity,
the veil closing once again.

Heather Hannam, 6/26/24



HOW TO BE MORE LOVE

Touch your simplest of places:

the deepest part that always remains in connection with me

Start there

The spark and fire of my love rests here

forever nurtured

forever kindled

forever stoked.

The warmth and heat of love is here

I WILL that you allow my heat to pass through you

Then ask, and not assume

Ask, and deep listen

Ask, and "love" for the response

Do not fear knowing or hearing the pain – it is all around personal pain, being out of relationship with me

Be the relationship in that present moment between the ask and the response

Be the energy and deep silence of that pause

Be in the presence of "unknowing" so that connection can unfurl into a bud of relationship

Do my work in that space of silence

the space between the heartbeats

the space between the breaths

I am sustaining you there

Love from there

Heather Hannam 4/2015



St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church

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Website: www.philipbenizi.com

Office Hours

Monday: Closed

Tuesday - Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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 and 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)

Mass Times

Mon / Wed / Thurs / Fri: 8:00am

Tuesday: 6:00pm

First Saturday (Anointing of the Sick): 8:00am

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm

Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am

Adoration

Every Thursday: 9:00am-9:00pm
(ends with Benediction)

Confession

Saturday: 4:00-5:00pm
or by appointment

Meditation on The Still Small Voice

I love when you come to me and lay your head over my heart.

You bring me peace and I give it back.

I love the check-in that it gives us – two hearts on life's path, an intimacy that deepens our love for each other.

Your weight is a feather, of no concern.

Your folding your body into mine: a tender, full body connection of parent and child.

It is effortless and joy filled.

A sacred communion time for both heart and soul – same path spoken between us, a moment of will-coherence to rest into.

I love the present moment beingness that spreads out from our shared space into the Field.

How could I ever feel separate from you?

Heather Hannam 11/26/16