

# December 15, 2024

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



### St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church

18211 S Henrici RD, Oregon

City, OR, 97045

PHONE: 503-631-2882

WEBSITE: [www.philipbenizi.com](http://www.philipbenizi.com)

#### Parish Staff

Administrator: Fr. Peter O. Okola, AJ  
(503)631-2882  
[pokola@archdpdx.org](mailto:pokola@archdpdx.org)

Business Manager: Karen Henry  
(503)631-2882  
[khenry@archdpdx.org](mailto:khenry@archdpdx.org)

Secretary: Aishad Friedman  
[afriedman@archdpdx.org](mailto:afriedman@archdpdx.org)

Music Director Debbie Schaffer

DRE: **Vacant**

Youth Minister: Katy Schnoor  
(503)314-8907

#### Office Hours

Tuesday-Thursday 9 am - 4 pm, Friday 9am - 12

#### Ministries

Adoration: Janet Tankersley  
(503)545-2229

Altar Servers: Ed Schneider  
(971)563-3893

Lectors: Nancy Carnahan  
(503)804-6029

Ushers: Larry Carnahan  
(503)804-6418

Email Prayer Chain: Heather Hannam  
[hahannam@juno.com](mailto:hahannam@juno.com)

#### Mass Schedule

##### Sunday Mass:

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm

Sunday: 8:00am

10:30am

##### Daily Mass:

Monday: 8:00am

Tuesday: 6:00pm

Wed-Fri: 8:00am

##### First Saturday of the Month:

Anointing of the Sick Mass: 8:00am

##### Holy Days:

Mass: 8:00am

Mass: 6:00pm



##### Eucharistic Adoration

Thursdays: 9:00am-9:00pm

##### Reconciliation

Saturday: 4:00-5:00pm

or any day by appointment

##### Anointing of the Sick and Communion to the Homebound

If you or someone you know is homebound and would like to receive Communion or the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, please call the parish office.

##### Baptisms, Funerals, and Weddings

Call the parish office. (For weddings, please contact the parish office at least 6 months in advance of a potential date.)

#### 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).

## NEXT WEEK'S ASSIGNMENTS

Date	Ushers	Lectors	EMHCs	Altar Servers
12/21 5:30 pm	Clay Rosenau	Tom Muldoon	Heather Hannam	Ed Schneider Oli Friedman Judy Bible
12/22 8:00 am	Scott Bible Butch Searls	John Buxman	Kristine Bible	Clay Dryden Achillis Daly Ed Schneider
12/22 10:30 am	Kevin Horace	Jerry Siler	Janeene Siler	Jeff Mitchael Ed Schneider Oli Friedman

Dec. Church Cleaners	Dec. Altar Linens	Coffee Hour Servers 12/22
Elaine Keavney	Pam Erickson	9:00 John & Elaine 11:30 Volunteer

### Saint of the Week: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist Feast day: 12/27



St. John the Apostle, the son of Zebedee and Salome, was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus. John was called to be an Apostle by our Lord in the first year of His public ministry. He is considered the same person as John the Evangelist, John of Patmos and the Beloved Disciple. John's older brother was St. James the Great, another one of Jesus' Twelve Apostles. Jesus referred to the brothers as "Boanerges," meaning "sons of thunder." John is believed to be the longest living apostle and the only not to die a martyr's death. John and Peter were the only two apostles sent by Jesus to make preparations for the final Passover meal, the Last Supper. During the meal, St. John sat next to Jesus, leaning on him rather than lying along the couches. John was the only one of the Twelve Apostles who did not forsake the Savior in the hour of His Passion. He stood faithfully at the cross when the Savior made him the guardian of His Mother. After the Assumption of Mary, John went to Ephesus, according to Church tradition. He later became banished by the Roman authorities to the Greek Island of Patmos; this is where he allegedly wrote the Book of Revelation. It is said John was banished in the late 1st century, during the reign of the Emperor Domitian, after being plunged into boiling oil in Rome and suffering no injuries. It is also said that all those who witnessed the miracle in the Colosseum were converted to Christianity. Emperor Domitian was known for his persecution of Christians.

St. John is called the Apostle of Charity, a virtue he had learned from his Divine Master, and which he constantly inculcated by word and example. The "beloved disciple" died in Ephesus after AD 98, where a stately church was erected over his tomb. It was afterwards converted into a Mohammedan mosque. St. John is the patron saint of love, loyalty, friendships, and authors. He is often depicted in art as the author of the Gospel with an eagle, symbolizing "the height he rose to in his gospel." In other icons, he is shown looking up into heaven and dictating his Gospel to his disciple.

## Liturgical Events This Week

Sunday 12/15/2024 (Third Sunday of Advent)	
8:00am	Mass: + Mike Bible <i>(Judy Bible)</i>
10:30am	Mass: All Parishioners
Monday 12/16/2024	
7:40am	Morning Prayer & Rosary
8:00am	Mass: Robert Sweeney <i>(Dan &amp; Helen Sweeney)</i>
Tuesday 12/17/2024	
6:00pm	Mass: Emma Sweeney <i>(Dan &amp; Helen Sweeney)</i>
7:00pm	RCIA
Wednesday 12/18/24	
7:40am	Morning Prayer & Rosary
8:00am	Mass: John Gefreh <i>(Dan &amp; Helen Sweeney)</i>
Thursday 12/19/24	
7:40am	Morning Prayer & Rosary
8:00am	Mass: Sally Gefreh <i>(Dan &amp; Helen Sweeney)</i>
9:00am-9:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration Reconciliation 8-8:45pm
6:00pm	Faith Sharing Group
Friday 12/20/24	
7:40am	Morning Prayer & Rosary
8:00am	Mass: + Kathryn Bernert <i>(Mike &amp; Karen Henry)</i>
Saturday 12/21/24	
4-5:00pm	Reconciliation/Church
5:30pm	Sun. Vigil Mass: All Parishioners
Sunday 12/22/24 (Forth Sunday of Advent)	
8:00am	Mass: Charles & Ann Evers <i>(Claudia Evers)</i>
10:00am	Rosary
10:30am	Mass: + Anna Drnjevic <i>(Tim &amp; Jan Alderman)</i>

## Religious Education

No RE Class: Dec. 22, Dec.29

Confirmation Class resumes : Jan. 12

**RCIA/OCIA Classes meet each Tuesday at 7pm in the Parish Hall.**

### HELPING HANDS GIVING TREE

Please leave gift cards in the box at the base of the tree in the Narthex, drop into the offertory basket or bring to the office. **DEADLINE TO RETURN ITEMS SUNDAY, DEC. 15th**



### HELPING HANDS 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 21st from 9am-12 noon. Questions regarding volunteering for Helping Hands, contact Bill or Jeannine Breshears, 503-709-7488.

**Please don't forget to come to Choir Rehearsal for our Christmas Eve Mass! Today**

**Dec.15th, after 10:30 am Mass.**



### Finance Corner

12/8/24	Actual	Budget
<b>This Week, General Fund</b>	\$5,345 Online \$1831	\$5,167
<b>Fiscal Year (YTD)</b>	\$99,997	\$116,434

**Thank you for your generosity in supporting the parish! May God's continued blessings be upon you and your loved ones.**

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### ST. JOSEPH – FR. PETER

On this third Sunday of Advent, I would like to focus on a man, a man who is often forgotten during the season of Advent. A man who should be one of the principal characters of Advent, a man I am afraid we neglect. That man is Joseph.

To tell you the truth, Joseph is a man who does not want any attention for himself. He does not want us to pay that much attention to him during Advent. Although Joseph is often forgotten, he can teach us all three very viable lessons. One, Joseph teaches us, **THE TREASURE OF SILENCE**. Secondly, Joseph teaches us that **ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS** and third, Joseph teaches us that **GOD'S GRACE OVERPOWERS EVERY PRESSURE**.

Let us look at each of these lessons: First, **THE TREASURE OF SILENCE**: Today, we live in a world with too much clutter, noise, and distraction. Rarely do we listen to each other. St. Joseph teaches us the power of silence. Now let

me ask you this: how many recorded words of St. Joseph do we have in the Gospel? Do you know how many? Zero.

We have absolutely no record of St. Joseph ever saying a thing. And yet this is the man closest to Jesus. This is the man without whom the drama of our redemption could not have unfolded in the blessed way that it did. This is a man of intense silence.

Silence is often a lot more powerful than talking. Someone once asked St. Padre Pio, what language does God speak? St. Padre Pio replied, "God speaks the language of silence."

The Bible teaches, be still and know that I am God.

Secondly, St. Joseph shows us that **ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS**. In the first chapters of St. Matthew's Gospel, we are told Joseph had a dream. This dream of his involved an angel who instructs him on how he is to act. The angel says, Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit, she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save the people from their sins. What does Joseph do after having this dream? The Gospel says that he woke up and then, in these amazing simple words, **Joseph did as the Lord commanded him**. Do you realize how profound that statement is? For

Joseph there was no debate, no second guessing, no consultations with close friends and relatives, no hedging, and no time to think about it. Joseph hears God's will, in a dream, he knows what it is, and he is going to do it. He is going to do it because for Joseph actions speak louder than words.

Finally, St. Joseph shows us the value of **GRACE UNDER PRESSURE**. Think of all the emergencies Joseph found himself in during the brief period of his life, as the scriptures reveal to us. Imagine the following crises: Joseph's young to-be-wife is found to be pregnant before they finalize the marriage. She is advanced in her pregnancy when they must travel to faraway Bethlehem.

When it is time for the baby's birth, there is no warm room or bed for the child. Then, they must flee as refugees to Egypt because some tyrannical king wants to kill the baby. And later, Joseph experiences the loss of their child for three days, until finally they find him in the Temple. Joseph went through a lot of pressure, crises, and emergencies, but guess what? God's grace is always sufficient. St. Bernard commented that God never gives us a challenge, or a call, or a duty, without the sufficient grace to accomplish it. And this is ever evident in the life of St. Joseph. A simple carpenter directed by God to undertake a complicated task, for the unfolding of the greatest drama in all human history; and God lavishing upon Joseph the grace necessary to do it.

As we approach Christmas, I know there are some of us whose lives are endless progressions of one crisis to another, one pressure or crisis to another. You wonder if you can get through another day. Think often of St. Joseph. Think how he relied on God's grace to handle the present difficulties with trust and faith in God. Ask him to intercede for you, to give you the same trust and faith, to handle all the pressures that life can sometimes present to us.

**Please look on the back of the bulletin for more information!**



## Final Weekend of the Season!



New Vendor Products  
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Last Day to Shop is December 14th!

Hours:  
Thursday - Saturday  
10 am - 5 pm



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For more information: Larry & Nancy Carnahan (503) 592-4805

## Featured Listing!



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## Not willing to let go of your marriage?

*There is hope.*

**Stress in Your Marriage?** - Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel stressed, bored, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness and simply shut down. Others experience conflict and arguments in their relationship and don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouses about it. Retrouvaille is for any couple who would like to rediscover their marriage and improve communication.

Visit [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org) for emotional testimonials and program information. For confidential information or to register for the January 31-February 2, 2025 Oregon weekend at Canby Grove Retreat Center in Canby, Oregon, call 503-225-9191.

**Additional Confession Times for Advent!**  
Father has added Confession times for  
Thursdays at 8pm-8:45pm during Advent.

## New Year's Eve Ball

Join us for a magical evening at the New Year's Eve Ball, open to everyone ages 14 and up!

•**When:** Tuesday, December 31st, 7-10 PM

•**Where:** Carmody Hall, Saint Stephen Catholic Church

•**Admission:** \$20 per person

•**Dress Code:** Formal attire

Celebrate the arrival of 2024 with dancing, music, and fellowship!

### Location:

Saint Stephen Catholic Church

Carmody Hall

1112 SE 41st Ave., Portland, OR 97214



Join EWTN Programs on December 24, 1:30 pm (ET) Solemn Mass of Christmas in Rome: Midnight Mass. Check your local listing for channel.

EWTN has some special programs that are worth checking out this holiday season!