



# ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCH

February 13, 2022  
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



## PARISH INFORMATION

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### Parish Staff

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503-631-2882

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**Music Director:** Debbie Schaffer

(C) 503-887-7701

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(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

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**Prayer Requests:** Peggy St Andre

503-631-3531

**Email Prayer Chain:** Heather Hannam

hahannam@juno.com

“Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is Yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied....” -Luke 6:20-26

## 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.

**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, our reflection this past Sunday emphasized on obedience to God's command and its ineffable advantages. Isaiah, Paul, Simon, James, and John were prominent characters in last Sunday's readings. These reputable figures responded to the burdens of obedience by freely accepting God's command and embarking on God's mission. After Isaiah's purifications, he submitted to God's assignment by saying, "Here I am, send me." (Isaiah 6:8). Paul described himself as "the least of the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. But by the grace of God, I am what I am." (1 Cor. 15:9). His transformation motivated him to become a potent agent of Christ's gospel message. Simon reluctantly accepted the command of Christ to lower the net in the gospel passage. That singular act perpetually changed his vocation from catching fish to catching men for God. Applying the readings to ourselves, we challenged all, that, no matter how complicated God directives are, the advantages of obedience to them are colossal and transformative.

Brethren, as we gather to worship and adore God this Sunday, the sixth in the ordinary time of the year, the inspired authors who the church presents to us draw our attention to ponder reflectively on what gives us joy and where we anchor our trust. The three readings stressed that we could only receive true happiness and contentment from God. Fleeting things that we blindly pursue after and presume to offer us deep satisfaction are mirages; therefore, such frivolities do not give fulfillment and happiness. Prophet Jeremiah unlocks today's readings by serving a note of warning to all that are created in God's image and likeness. He warns that anyone who does not trust God but pitches his hope in human beings is cursed; also cursed is the one who seeks strength and satisfaction in flesh and whose heart quickly turns away from the Lord. According to the Prophet, senseless people trust in passing things. On the other hand, the wise ones trust and anchor everything in the Lord. Proper security consists of placing oneself in God's hand and not in temporal things. Heaven and earth will pass away but my word will not pass away, the Messiah tells us in Matthew 24:35.

Jeremiah uses a poignant image to describe the person who trusts in transitory things, "He is like a barren bush in the desert that enjoys no change of season." On the contrary, the prophet beautifully said that the one who trusts in God "is like a tree planted beside the waters...it fears not the heat when it comes." (Jeremiah 17:8). Even in a year of drought, it bears fruit.

The Psalmist and St. Paul are not left out in this call to put one's trust in God. Today's responsorial Psalm is the premier chapter of the book of Psalm. The theme of this reflection is the response to the Psalm, "Blessed are they who hope in the Lord." The psalmist goes on to laud those who reject the wicked one's advice and refuse to follow the way of sinners nor sit with the insolent. Also, it appreciates those that find favor in the law of the Lord and regularly meditate on his direction. The psalmist uses the same image as Jeremiah to describe and respect the person that follows the Lord and trusts in his ways "He is like a tree planted near running water that yields its fruit in due season, and whose leaves never fade. Whatever he does prospers." (Psalm 1: 3).

Paul emphasizes on the fact that the Resurrection of Christ is the center of our hope, without which we are lost. Therefore, Paul concludes that we are the most tragic if we deny Christ's Resurrection and hesitate to put our trust on anything that has no saving value. However, if we believe in Jesus Christ, whose resurrection is the pledge of our hope, we are also bearing a healthy fruit of eternal life.

Coming down from the mountain with the twelve, Jesus stands on the level ground (Sermon on the plain) addresses the vast number of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and Tyre and Sidon's coastal region on the beatitudes. In his teaching, Jesus explicitly mentions the blessed and, at the same time, drops the bombshells on those that need to revisit their way of life and mode of operation. Jesus Christ, according to the gospel narrative, pronounces four blessings and four woes in this version compared to Matthew's Sermon on the mount. The beatitudes give us an accurate picture of the true disciple of God; therefore, they are what we should do, for they strengthen us in virtue and in excellence. *Continued on Page 7*

# This week at SPB and Upcoming Parish/Archdiocesan Events

## Sunday, 2/13/2022

8:00am Mass: +Anne Doran (Denise Shea)  
10:30am Mass: All Parishioners

## Monday, 2/14/2022 Memorial of Sts. Cyril & Methodius

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +Les Van Dyke (Jan Alderman)

## Tuesday, 2/15/2022

6:30pm Mass: +Nicole Payne (Don & Loretta Payne)  
7:00pm: RICA/Hall

## Wednesday, 2/16/2022

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

## Thursday, 2/17/2022

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: The Priesthood (Johanna LaChapelle)  
7:00pm: Faith Sharing via Zoom

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



## Friday, 2/18/2022

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church  
8:00am Mass: +Wetzel Family (Fred & Joyce Wetzel)

## Saturday, 2/19/2022

4:00-5:00pm: Reconciliation/Church  
5:30pm Mass: +Char Kile (Fred & Carolyn DeLange)

## Sunday, 2/20/2022

8:00am Mass: All Parishioners  
10:30am Mass: +Bill Celorie (Lois Celorie)

**February 14<sup>th</sup>:** Happy Valentine's Day  
**February 20<sup>th</sup>:** Obria envelopes due back  
Madi Gras Party/Hall 5-8:00pm  
**February 27<sup>th</sup>:** Archbishop's Catholic Appeal  
Discernment Session/Church & Hall 5:00-7:30pm



## Good news!

The covered area is done and can now be used. Thank you for all your input. The money used to complete the project came from the Parish Long Term Trust. Thanks so much, Dan Sweeney and Philip Kazmierowicz for working tirelessly to see to the successful completion of the project. And to all of you, worthy members of the SPB administrative council for priceless directives, guidance and support. Your services are deeply appreciated and not taken for granted.

## Join your fellow parishioners this Lent

Sundays from 9:15-10:15 beginning March 6<sup>th</sup> we will read and discuss the book, "7 Secrets of Divine Mercy". Call the office if you are interested or have questions.

Bring back your Obria envelopes next weekend. Thank you for supporting the pregnancy center.

## Archbishop's Catholic Appeal

The Appeal provides funds to support essential parish-based ministries that would find it difficult, if not impossible, to operate solely on parish funds. This year our goal is \$19,764.32. Your support and prayers for the Catholic Church in western Oregon and all the people we serve are greatly appreciated.



**The Madi Gras Party** is next Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:00pm -8:00pm. Come to the Hall for great music, dancing, pizza and prizes. Fun for the whole family.

## Finance Corner

Registered Household 218	WEEK OF 2/6/2022 Actual	Budget
Donors 78	\$5,117 (online: \$1,176)	\$4,898
Fiscal Year	\$153,283	\$151,628

Below, on the right, is the QR code for Parish Soft. Point your phone camera at the picture and it will take you to the link for donations.

## Next Weeks Assignments

### Ushers

2/19~5:30pm: Tom Muldoon  
2/20~8:00am: Paul Lowry  
2/20~10:30am: Kevin Horace

### Lector/Commentator

Heather Hannam  
Kristine Bible  
Jerry Siler

**February Church Cleaners:** Carolyn Brown (503-799-4201)  
**February Altar Linens:** Elaine Buxman (503-655-7208)



2/20 9:00: Janice, Butch & Tom  
11:30:





# Dear Padre,

**It seems one news story after another has reported a priest, bishop, or other person associated with the Church abusing a child. Why should I remain in the Catholic Church?**

**U**nderstandably, many Catholics have fallen into anger and despair, thinking their leaders were reprehensible hypocrites. But it's not unprecedented that some bishops, priests, and even popes have done bad things. Recall that Peter denied Jesus, and yet he became the first pope. We also recall that, except for John, all the apostles abandoned Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Scripture describes the Church as “the bride of Christ.” Paul said the Church is the bride for whom Christ sacrificed himself and “handed himself over for her” (Ephesians 5:25). Revelation describes the Church at the end of time “prepared as a bride adorned for her husband” (Revelation 21:2). Like a groom or bride loves a spouse—faults and all—Christ loves his bride, the Church.

Matrimony is a sacrament designed by Christ, placing a man and woman amid society, committed exclusively to each other. As an example, it shows the world how Christ also loves his Church—even with its imperfections. Clearly, multiple groups claiming to be the church Jesus founded cannot be that true Church. That would make Jesus a bigamist! Only our Church traces its succession of leaders back to the original apostles.

That some leaders have been unfaithful doesn't mean the Church as a whole is unfaithful. Like a bride and groom pledging fidelity to each other on their wedding day, we should remain faithful to Christ and his Church.

*Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSSR*  
*Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org*



CNS PHOTO/CINDY SCHULTZ VIA THE EVANGELIST

## Calendar

### Monday

FEBRUARY 14  
Sts. Cyril, Monk, and  
Methodius, Bishop

Jas 1:1–11  
Mk 8:11–13

### Tuesday

FEBRUARY 15  
Weekday

Jas 1:12–18  
Mk 8:14–21

### Wednesday

FEBRUARY 16  
Weekday

Jas 1:19–27  
Mk 8:22–26

### Thursday

FEBRUARY 17  
Weekday

Jas 2:1–9  
Mk 8:27–33

### Friday

FEBRUARY 18  
Weekday

Jas 2:14–24, 26  
Mk 8:34–9:1

### Saturday

FEBRUARY 19  
Weekday

Jas 3:1–10  
Mk 9:2–13

### Sunday

FEBRUARY 20  
Seventh Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

1 Sm 26:2, 7–9,  
12–13, 22–23  
1 Cor 15:45–49  
Lk 6:27–38

**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.



## A WORD FROM Pope Francis

*Missionary discipleship is a call from God for today's busy and complicated world, a constant setting out with Jesus... Only a Church which is bride, mother, and servant—one that has renounced the claim to control what is not her own work but God's—can remain with Jesus.*

JOURNEY TO COLOMBIA, SEPTEMBER 7, 2017



## What Is Your Choice?

**S**o much of who we are is beyond our choice: our parents, our ethnic identity, our time in history, even some of our personality traits. We may not have chosen many of these basic building blocks, but we do have lots to say about what we fashion them into. We certainly are influenced by social groups such as family and neighborhood, church community and civic organizations, political party and national citizenship. However, we still retain the power of choice in many of them. It is on these kinds of choices that today's readings focus.

Jeremiah places two sources of guidance before the people—namely, human ingenuity and divine law. Today's first reading is a classic example of wisdom teaching. With all the possibilities available to us, to whom do we listen? Whose direction will we follow? Both Jeremiah and the psalm response answer these questions by describing the good fortune of a particular choice: Blessed is the one who “delights in the law of the LORD.” The outcome of choosing this way is a meaningful and fruitful life. The consequence of the opposite decision is emptiness and barrenness. What is your choice?

At the heart of Jesus' ministry was an invitation to join and spread the reign of God. Acceptance of this invitation could at times exact a dear price. Using metaphoric language, he sketched the blessings and the woes that would follow acceptance or rejection of that invitation. Again, the decision is ours. What is your choice?

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### FOR Reflection

- ★ *What influences the decisions you make? Television? Social pressure? Religious tradition?*
- ★ *How often do you go along with the crowd? Why?*

*[Jesus said,] “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.”*

LUKE 6:24



## The hope of seeing God

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God. God's promise is so great that it passes the furthest limits of happiness. Given such a blessing, who could desire more, having already received all things by the fact of seeing God? Remember that in Scriptural usage 'seeing' means 'having.' May you see the good things of Jerusalem means 'may you find them.' Let the ungodly be taken away and not see the glory of the Lord means, in the prophet's words, 'not share in the glory of the Lord.'

So, whoever 'sees God' receives, in this act of seeing, possession of everything that is good: incorruptible life without end, blessedness that cannot fail, a kingdom without end, happiness without limit, true light, the true voice of the Spirit, glory never before reached, perpetual rejoicing, and all else that is good.

The promise of this Beatitude gives us the right to hope for these great things. All this sight of God is conditional on having a pure heart – and thinking of this, my mind is once more teetering on a dizzy peak. What if purity of heart is one of those unattainable things that are simply beyond our human nature? If, on the one hand, it is by purity of heart that God can be seen, and if, on the other hand, Moses and Paul did not see God and said that he could never be seen, it follows logically that purity of heart must be impossible, so that in pronouncing this Beatitude, the Word is putting forward something that simply cannot be.

How can we benefit from knowing the means by which God can be seen, if that means is impossible for us?

Suppose, for instance, that someone told us it was good to find oneself in heaven because there one would see things that cannot be seen in this world. Now if he also told us how a journey to heaven might be undertaken, there might be some use in telling us about its delights. But as long as the journey is impossible, what use is it to think about the happiness that might lie at the end of it? We would simply suffer and be sad at the thought of the things that await us somewhere where we cannot go.

Does the Lord really encourage us to do something that is beyond our nature and our powers to accomplish? Surely not. Look at the birds: God has not created them without wings. Look at sea creatures: God has not designed them as land animals. Wherever we look, the law of each creature's being does not demand that it should do something that it is beyond its own nature to do.

Let us reflect on this and realize that we should not despair of the purity of heart that the Beatitude speaks of. John, Paul, and Moses did not, in the end, lack the sublime blessing of seeing God. Paul said There is laid up for me a crown of justice, which the Lord, the just judge, will render to me; John lay on Jesus' breast; and Moses heard God say to him, I have known you above all. It is certain that those who said that the contemplation of God was beyond human power were themselves blessed. But blessedness comes from the contemplation of God, and seeing God is something that comes to those who are pure of heart. It follows logically that purity of heart cannot be an unattainable thing.

So, if some, with Paul, truly say that the contemplation of God is beyond human power, yet the Lord himself contradicts them by promising the sight of God to those who are pure of heart.

**(A homily on the Beatitudes by St Gregory of Nyssa).**

### REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

**“If you are looking for the way by which you should go, then take Christ, because He Himself is the way.” – St. Thomas Aquinas.**

### 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).



**Synod Discernment Session February 27<sup>th</sup> 5:00-7:30pm**

The Synod on Synodality is an assembling of the entire Church over the next two years, at the invitation of our Holy Father, to encounter Christ, journey together and listen to the Holy Spirit. In the local phase, which runs through June 2022, we of the Archdiocese of Portland will be engaged in a process of prayer and discernment in each parish to collectively discern where and how God is inviting us to extend the Church's mission in today's new apostolic age.

Come, lend your heart and mind in that service, February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Watch for the 3 questions for discussion in the bulletin next week.

Continued from page 2.

Both the Sermon on the plain and the mount begin with, "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours." The poor in spirit put their trust in God, those who are not greedy but believe that God has the power to take care of them. The poor in spirit does not find fulfillment in the things of this world. They are detached from earthly things and are attached to the things of heaven. Those who are hungry for things of God will duly be satisfied by the word of God and the things of God. Those who are now weeping for their sins, mistakes, and bad choices will laugh. And those who are despised for living the gospel will rejoice and be deeply rewarded in heaven. These are the virtues that make us holy and pure before God; because where virtue/goodness abounds, rewards abound too.

In his clear and straightforward explanation of the beatitudes, St. Ambrose of Milan said, "One who is poor in spirit is not greedy. One who weeps is not proud but is submissive and tranquil. One who mourns is humble. One who does not deny what he knows is given jointly to all for us. One who bestows his goods does not seek another's, nor does he contrive a trap for his neighbor."

After proclaiming blessings on the poor, hungry, those who weep, and those hated for the gospel and attachment to God, the Son of God pronounces woes to those rich in earthly things but are wretched in Godly things. Those filled with junk appear satisfied in the eyes of the world but not before God. The same applies to those who laugh and glory in evil things. And those who compromised the truth to please people. According to the Psalmist, such people boast in their wicked deeds and disregard the Lord. Their mouths are full of cursing, guile, oppression, mischief, and deceit under their tongues. They lie in wait among the reeds and murder the innocent in secret. (Psalm 10). They displease God to please human beings; therefore, gullible fellows and those like them lavishly applaud and speak well of them for compromising the truth. As Jesus concludes, "their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way." (Luke 6:26)

In today's scriptural passages, it is evident that true happiness is only possible when we follow God's way and put our trust in him. Hence, it is only in God that we can find true happiness, and we should vigorously thrive to pitch our tent with the God who satisfies. The Almighty God teaches us that he abides in the true hearts; we pray that we may constantly be fashioned by God's grace to be a dwelling place, pleasing to God through Christ our Lord. Amen. Remember, the closer we are to God, the better for us.

***Blessings,***

***Your servant in Christ,***

***Fr. Paschal Ezurika.***



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