

ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCH

April 24, 2022
Sunday of Divine Mercy



PARISH INFORMATION

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503-631-2882

mpattyn@archdpx.org

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503-631-2882

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RE Director: Job open. Call the office to apply.

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

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

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

Dear friends in Christ, last week, we celebrated the major feast in the entire Christendom, the solemnity of the Lord's resurrection; we explored the story of the empty tomb as witnessed by Mary of Magdala, Peter, and John. The unexpected sight of the empty tomb exacerbated their fears and considerably shook their faith. They were apprehensive about what happened to Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom they followed, leaving everything behind.

On the other hand, the sight of the empty tomb brought back memories of Christ's teaching. According to John, "the other disciples also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead." (John 20:9). Consequent to the discovery of the empty tomb, Jesus repeatedly appeared to his disciples, assuring them that he is alive, and at the same time, empowered and fortified them for the mission of spreading the glad tidings. The power of the resurrection overshadowed them, and they courageously preached the gospel. We pray for the grace to follow the steps of the premier disciples: not being afraid to oppose everything sinful, evil, and all that is contrary to love.

Continuing the fifty-day Easter celebrations with a deluge of the resurrection's power and activities, we come together on this Divine Mercy Sunday to be part of the highest prayer, the holy mass. We joyfully assemble to celebrate that God is kind and loving and his mercy endures forever. In his book: *Stories of life and laughter*, Ben San Luis shared this story, "Once there was a preacher who didn't know when to stop preaching. A man came up to him after the service and said, your sermon this morning sounded to me like the peace and mercy of God. Pleased to hear this, the preacher made the mistake of asking the man what he meant exactly: Well, the man said, it was like the peace of God because it was beyond understanding, and it was like the mercy of God because I thought it would endure forever."

The Solemnity of Divine Mercy instituted by Pope John Paul 11 is an amazing feast in the church that emphasizes the importance of God's mercy on us. The theme of God's mercy is not new; however, humankind is inundated with doubts about God's love and compassion. And to reassure humanity of God's undeniable mercy, Pope John Paul 11 brought to the limelight the disciple of Divine mercy, St. Faustina, and her work for the world. Jesus understands our doubts; therefore, in one of his apparitions, he told St. Faustina, "Fight for the salvation of souls, exhorting them to trust in My mercy, as that is your task in this life and in the life to come." (Diary,1452). Jesus understands that to have trust in him is a veritable ingredient for our prayers to be answered. He instructs St. Faustina, "Most dear to me is the soul that strongly believes in my goodness and has complete trust in me. I heap my confidence upon it and give all it asks." (Diary, 453).

Today's liturgy of the word directly or indirectly highlights the mercy of God. In the Apostles' exploits that served as the first reading, Luke describes the many wonders done by God through the hands of the apostles. Peter's shadow healed those lying on cots and mats, and many, even those with unclean spirits, were all cured. These miracles happened because of God's mercy, also because his disciples have placed their trust in the risen messiah.

The psalmist leads us in the joyful chant of "giving thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting." The Almighty is constantly doing countless things not visible to our mortal eyes and daily creating us anew. Therefore, we are encouraged to look at our being, nature, blessings, and even our difficulties and laud that God's mercy endures forever/ his love is everlasting.

The gospel passage, among other things, dwells on the empowerment of the apostles to be agents and dispensers of God's mercy through the healing sacrament of reconciliation. Breathing on his disciples, Jesus said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." (John 20:23). Jesus instituted the sacrament of reconciliation with the above words. Then he commissions the apostles with the delicate and challenging work of reconciliation. Forgiveness recreates the world according to God's design. And this vital authority and power to forgive sins are transferred to the priestly ministry through apostolic succession.

Generally, God calls all his sons and daughters to be dispensers of pardon and reconciliation in our families, communities, and the entire world. Failure to be instruments of peace and pardon means denying the grace we received in baptism, which perpetuates our doubts about God's kindness and mercy.

Dear friends, the core of the Divine Mercy message is about God's love for us. The love that appreciates us the way we are. As God's children willing to be part of God's mercy, three things are duly expected from us. Firstly, we need to ask for God's mercy constantly. Confessing our sins and asking for mercy is a duty that sons and daughters of God must fulfill. Asking for forgiveness and seeking mercy demands humility. The virtue of humility is vital for all God's children to cultivate and nurture. Pride plays a negative role; therefore, we should not create room for useless excuses and haughty arguments but, like a sinner, ask for mercy and not stubbornly hauling and wallowing in overweening pride of sin.

Continued on Page 7

This week at SPB and Upcoming Parish/Archdiocesan Events

Sunday, 4/24/2022 Sunday of Divine Mercy

8:00am Mass: +Dorsey Posedel (Patty Gosser)

10:30am Mass: All Parishioners

Monday, 4/25/2022 Feast of St. Mark

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church

8:00am Mass: +William & Helen Carnahan
(Nancy & Larry Carnahan)

Tuesday, 4/26/2022

6:30pm Mass: +David Lowry
(Claudia Evers & Paul Lowry)

7:00pm: RICA/Hall

Wednesday, 4/27/2022

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church

8:00am Mass: +Wally & Cecelia Blais
(David & Rosalie Swanson)

Thursday, 4/28/2022

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church

8:00am Mass: +Luella Winders (Lois Celorie)

8:30am-10:00pm

Eucharistic Adoration



Friday, 4/29/2022 Memorial of St. Catherine of Siena

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church

8:00am Mass: +Tom Lauinger (Royce Jones)

Saturday, 4/30/2022

4:00-5:00pm: Reconciliation/Church

5:30pm Mass: All Parishioners

Sunday, 5/01/2022

8:00am Mass: +Leo & Jennie Schnack
(David & Rosalie Swanson)

10:30am Mass: +Gary Dorfler (Nancy & Larry Carnahan)

April 24th: Adoration/dinner discussion 6:00pm

Second collection for Home Missions Appeal

April 30th: Adopt a Road clean up 9:00am

May 5th: National Day of Prayer

"Break - Fast" Potluck 6:15pm/Hall

May 6th: Pick up orders from the Youth Group plant sale after 12:00pm or before/after Masses 5/8/22.

May 8th: Mother's Day Brunch after 10:30 Mass.

Come to the Church at **6:00pm Divine Mercy Sunday, April 24th**, for our first Adoration and dinner event. We will spend 1 hour in adoration and then go to the Hall for dinner and discussion.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER - Thursday, May 5, 2022

Ways to Participate:

1. Pray for specific government leader
2. Be 15 minute "link" in a 24 hour prayer chain
3. Voluntarily fast on **Thursday, May 5th**.
4. Join others across the United States as we simultaneously recite a prayer at noon, Washington D.C. time (9 AM SPB Time).
5. Join us for Prayer and Soup/Bread "Break-Fast" Potluck at **6:15 PM in the Parish Center**



Sign-ups in the Narthex after 5:30 Mass, and Parish Center after all Masses Sunday Questions? Contact Heather Hannam 503-631-7354 hahannam@juno.com

Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today! Nearly 40% of dioceses in the US and its territories are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund the essential pastoral activities needed in their communities. Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States. Please be generous. More info found at www.usccb.org/home-missions.

Adopt a Road will be held on **Saturday April 30th at 9:00 AM**. We will meet in front of the hall. Please wear comfortable shoes and bring garden type gloves. No children allowed (must be at least 16 years old). Pickers, garbage bags, and reflector vest will be provided.

Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibit

The exhibit, developed by Blessed Carlo Acutis, shows 41 Eucharistic Miracles in English and 21 in Spanish, and will be at **St. John the Apostle, May 13 - 15**. There will also be video on the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis, books available on Eucharistic miracles for children and adults, and Adoration in the church. For more information see the SJA website: sja-catholicchurch.com or contact Kathy @ 503-349-4181.

Archbishop's Catholic Appeal (ACA)

Thank you to those who have pledged your contribution. We are at 68% of our Goal.

Finance Corner

<u>Registered Household</u> 218	<u>WEEK OF 4/17/2022</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<u>Donors</u> 74	\$5,869 (online: \$985)	\$6,351
<u>Fiscal Year</u>	\$202,214	\$200,694

Next Weeks Assignments

Ushers

4/30-5:30pm: Tom Muldoon

5/01-8:00am: Paul Lowry

5/01-10:30am: Larry Carnahan

May Church Cleaners: Claudia Evers & Paul Lowry (503-518-7112)

May Altar Linens: Janet Tankersly (503-545-2229)



5/01 9:00:

11:30: Brown Family

Lector/Commentator

Heather Hannam

Kristine Bible

Nancy Carnahan



Dear Padre,

My friend is doing a Bible study, and part of the program is something called *lectio divina*. Is that a Catholic practice?

This method of listening to Scripture has the Church's approval. In fact, Catholic bishops have recommended *lectio divina* as an easy way for Catholics to become more familiar with the Bible. The practice of *lectio divina* is quite simple:

First, ask the Holy Spirit to help you listen. Then slowly read a short Scripture passage aloud. Listen for a word or phrase that strikes you. Next, think about why this word or phrase is so striking at this moment. Does the word or phrase touch your life right now? Then, ask God's help in making an important choice, or ask what the word or phrase that struck you in the first step means in your life. Finally, close your eyes, let go of all thoughts, and remain silent before God.

These parts have a logical progression, but it's not a hard-and-fast method. People who have been doing *lectio divina* for a long time sometimes move back and forth between parts. If you practice *lectio divina* regularly, over time your understanding of God's word will deepen.

Fr. Rick Potts, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

[*Lectio divina*] is first of all a matter of reading the biblical passage attentively—even more, I would say with “obedience” to the text, to understand what it means in and of itself. One then enters into dialogue with Scripture, so that those words become a cause for meditation and prayer.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, JANUARY 27, 2021

Calendar

Monday

APRIL 25

St. Mark,
Evangelist

1 Pt 5:5b–14

Mk 16:15–20

Tuesday

APRIL 26

Easter Weekday

Acts 4:32–37

Jn 3:7b–15

Wednesday

APRIL 27

Easter Weekday

Acts 5:17–26

Jn 3:16–21

Thursday

APRIL 28

Easter Weekday

Acts 5:27–33

Jn 3:31–36

Friday

APRIL 29

St. Catherine of Siena,
Virgin and Doctor
of the Church

Acts 5:34–42

Jn 6:1–15

Saturday

APRIL 30

Easter Weekday

Acts 6:1–7

Jn 6:16–21

Sunday

MAY 1

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27–32, 40b–41

Rv 5:11–14

Jn 21:1–19 or 21:1–14



Our Parish COMMUNITY

April 24, 2022

Second Sunday of Easter
(Sunday of Divine Mercy) (C)

Acts 5:12–16

Rev 1:9–11a, 12–13, 17–19

Jn 20:19–31

Take My Word for It

This is easier said than done. Growing up, we insisted on doing things ourselves, learning from our own experience, developing a sense of our own ability. We soon came to know that there are times when we should—in fact, we must—take someone else’s word for something. If we refused to do this, we might be called a “doubting Thomas.” Is that fair to us? Is it fair to Thomas?

As today’s Gospel passage reports, gathered in a room, several disciples of Jesus experienced him truly among them. Thomas was absent. When the others told him what had occurred, he refused to take their word for it. To believe, he also would have to experience Jesus. It is unfair to credit them with faith and label him a doubter. After all, their experience probably convinced them, an event Thomas did not enjoy with the other disciples.

The point of this story is not Thomas’ eventual visit by Jesus or his subsequent profession of faith. Rather, it is the source of such a confession. Thomas was unwilling or unable to accept the truth of the resurrection unless he saw Jesus and touched him. Jesus told him: “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed” (John 20:29). Blessed are you and me, who have come to know Jesus and the truth of his resurrection on the word of others—our parents and teachers, pastoral ministers and friends, those who have come to know him and who witness to this in their lives.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ *If you lack faith, as seems to be the case with Thomas, pray for it.*
- ★ *What do you do to learn more about the faith?*



The Lord descends into hell

Something strange is happening—there is a great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness. The whole earth keeps silence because the King is asleep. The earth trembled and is still because God has fallen asleep in the flesh and he has raised up all who have slept ever since the world began. God has died in the flesh and hell trembles with fear.

He has gone to search for our first parent, as for a lost sheep. Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, he has gone to free from sorrow the captives Adam and Eve, he who is both God and the son of Eve. The Lord approached them bearing the cross, the weapon that had won him the victory. At the sight of him Adam, the first man he had created, struck his breast in terror and cried out to everyone: “My Lord be with you all.” Christ answered him: “And with your spirit.” He took him by the hand and raised him up, saying: “Awake, O sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”

I am your God, who for your sake have become your son. Out of love for you and for your descendants I now by my own authority command all who are held in bondage to come forth, all who are in darkness to be enlightened, all who are sleeping to arise. I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be held a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead. Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image. Rise, let us leave this place, for you are in me and I am in you; together we form only one person and we cannot be separated.

For your sake I, your God, became your son; I, the Lord, took the form of a slave; I, whose home is above the heavens, descended to the earth and beneath the earth. For your sake, for the sake of man, I became like a man without help, free among the dead. For the sake of you, who left a garden, I was betrayed to the Jews in a garden, and I was crucified in a garden.

See on my face the spittle I received in order to restore to you the life I once breathed into you. See there the marks of the blows I received in order to refashion your warped nature in my image. On my back see the marks of the scourging I endured to remove the burden of sin that weighs upon your back. See my hands, nailed firmly to a tree, for you who once wickedly stretched out your hand to a tree.

I slept on the cross and a sword pierced my side for you who slept in paradise and brought forth Eve from your side. My side has healed the pain in yours. My sleep will rouse you from your sleep in hell. The sword that pierced me has sheathed the sword that was turned against you.

Rise, let us leave this place. The enemy led you out of the earthly paradise. I will not restore you to that paradise, but I will enthrone you in heaven. I forbade you the tree that was only a symbol of life, but see, I who am life itself am now one with you. I appointed cherubim to guard you as slaves are guarded, but now I make them worship you as God. The throne formed by cherubim awaits you, its bearers swift and eager. The bridal chamber is adorned, the banquet is ready, the eternal dwelling places are prepared, the treasure houses of all good things lie open. The kingdom of heaven has been prepared for you from all eternity.

(From an ancient homily on Holy Saturday)

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

“I am offering a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: “Jesus, I trust in You” (Diary 327). The graces of My mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is -trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive (Diary 1578).

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).

III. ORIGINAL SIN

Freedom put to the test

God created man in his image and established him in his friendship. A spiritual creature, man can live this friendship only in free submission to God. The prohibition against eating "of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" spells this out: "for in the day that you eat of it, you shall die." The "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" symbolically evokes the insurmountable limits that man, being a creature, must freely recognize and respect with trust. Man is dependent on his Creator, and subject to the laws of creation and to the moral norms that govern the use of freedom. CCC 396

Man's first sin

Man, tempted by the devil, let his trust in his Creator die in his heart and, abusing his freedom, disobeyed God's command. This is what man's first sin consisted of. All subsequent sin would be disobedience toward God and lack of trust in his goodness. CCC 397

In that sin man preferred himself to God and by that very act scorned him. He chose himself over and against God, against the requirements of his creaturely status and therefore against his own good. Created in a state of holiness, man was destined to be fully "divinized" by God in glory. Seduced by the devil, he wanted to "be like God", but "without God, before God, and not in accordance with God". CCC 398

Continued from page 2. Another critical aspect of the message of God's mercy is that God's children should be merciful to others. Jesus instructed, "Be merciful as your father is merciful, and the measure you give will at the same time be measured out to you." (Luke 6:36-38). He also said, "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy." (Mathew 5:7). As baptized children of God, our mandate is to be authentic agents of mercy. In St. Peter Chrysologus' words, "If you hope for mercy, show mercy. If you look for kindness, show kindness. If you ask for yourself what you deny to others, your asking is a mockery." Therefore, as we are blessed with God's mercy, so are we expected to be merciful in our actions and words. Finding practical elucidation after teaching the Lord's prayer, Jesus reminds all, "If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you." (Matthew 6:14). The Son of God wants us to extend love, mercy, and forgiveness to others just as he does to us. Jesus' word to St. Faustina is, "If a soul does not exercise mercy somehow or other, it will not obtain My mercy on the day of judgment." (Diary, 1317).

In addition, complete trust in God is a sine qua non in the message of God's mercy. Jesus told the disciple of mercy, "Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy." (Diary, 300). As already mentioned, God understands the doubts of humankind; however, humanity should not be comfortable with doubting what God can do in his creatures and his world. God, who created us, has the best intention for us; therefore, we need to build and anchor our trust in him. Trust in Jesus is the very essence of the Divine Mercy message. JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU is boldly inscribed at the foot of the image of Divine mercy. The Scripture affirms that 'happy is the man who trusts in the Lord, God of hosts'. In the words of Pope Francis, "Only trust in God can transform doubts into certainty, evil into good, night into radiant dawn." Trust entails surrendering to God's will and deeds, offering your lives, and entering into an authentic love with the one who loves you unconditionally. Accepting God's will and deeds doesn't imply that yours is all evil but, it means doing what God expects from you at the right moment.

Finally, on this Divine Mercy Sunday, we offer petitions to help re-ignite our interest in the sacrament of reconciliation, the sacrament of mercy. The sacrament assures us that God forgives our sins and that God's love, kindness, and compassion are beyond us and endure perpetually. The sacrament that heals and purifies us. In his abundant patience and mercy, God is waiting for our return to the tribunal of mercy. Also, it is good to bear in mind that it is not enough to receive God's mercy. Jesus calls us today and always to be channels of mercy. God shows us mercy without fear or favor, and so should we do to others. And may the God of everlasting mercy, who in these paschal festivities kindle the faith of all believers, increase in us we pray the grace you have bestowed on us that we may genuinely grasp all your teachings and know by whose blood that we have been redeemed. Amen. Remember, the closer we are to God, the better for us.

*Blessings, Your servant in Christ,
Fr. Paschal Ezurike.*



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