

ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCH

January 1, 2023

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God



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

Business Manager: Mary Pattyn

503-631-2882

mpattyn@archdpx.org

Secretary: Sherrie Havens

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

January 1st: New Year's Day Mass: 8am & 10:30am

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

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

Dear friends in Christ, in unison with Christians across the globe, we joyfully celebrated the Savior's Nativity in the manger last Sunday. The Messiah came to us as a babe so that no one would be intimidated by his presence. He allowed himself to be born in the most unthinkable place befitting of human birth to let all have access to adore and worship him. Providentially, the bread of life that satisfies and gives eternal nourishment was born in the House of Bread (Bethlehem). The Savior's birth changed the face of the earth with eternal truth and the light of the gospel. With Christ's Nativity, Christians worldwide celebrated the birthday of joy, love, happiness, and, more significantly, peace. In the spirit of this admirable solemnity, last week's reflection reiterated the reason for the global celebration and admonished us to ensure that love, justice, and peace are paramount in our actions and to follow and live the teachings of the Savior.

We gratefully assemble on this first day and Sunday of the new year to continue the celebration of the Lord's nativity. Also, to celebrate and honor Mary, the Holy Mother of God. What an enviable title today's solemnity evokes, Mary, the Holy Mother of God. At first sight, says St. John Neumann, calling Mary the "Mother of God" seems impossible. But its meaning is clarified when we consider the identity of her Son. St. Paul proclaims the profound mystery of Jesus' identity as the divine Son of God and the fully human Son of Mary.

Undeniably, Mary's title as the Holy Mother of God is the greatest of her titles. For one to understand and appreciate in its magnitude, the greatness to which Mary was exalted, one needs to comprehend the sublimity and greatness of God. Arnold of Chartres pointed out that "God, by becoming the Son of the Blessed Virgin, established her in the rank far above that of the saints and angels." In his saintly view, St. Anselm says, "When we say of Mary that she is the Mother of God, this alone transcends every greatness that can be named or imagined after that of God.

Consequently, since Mary is the Holy Mother of God, it is not a misnomer for all God's children to patently and unequivocally call the Mother of God our mother too. At the same time, it is not by accident that Holy Mother Church celebrates this maternal feast on the first day of the year. The Church, in her wisdom, celebrates Mary at the beginning of the year because she has all it takes to lead us to her only Begotten Son. There are other avenues to God; however, God has given us his Mother in a particular way to help us. Mary always points us to Christ; she has never placed herself above her Son, the Savior; instead, she leads us to him.

At the marriage feast at Cana, the Holy Mother of God approached him and interceded on behalf of the helpless newly married couple drowning in shame because they under planned for their guests. With simple but powerful information, "they have no wine" (John 2:3), God's Mother sent a significant signal that its accomplishment would be her Son's first miracle. At this teachable ceremony, Christ's Mother taught us to focus on him, listen and obey whatever he commands. With her last recorded words in the scriptures, "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5), she beamed the searchlight on Christ and directed every attention to him.

On this first day of the year, we assemble to begin the year under the patronage of the Holy Mother of God; we offer prayers to God in honor of the Blessed Mary, who with joy gave to us the fruit of her womb, Jesus, the author of life and the prince of peace. Authentic happiness and fulfillment in life sprout when we accept Mary as our Mother and listen to her Son, the prince of peace and Lord of Lords. Therefore, as we prepare to make our resolutions in the wake of this brand-new year, may it be among our resolutions to give the Holy Mother of God and Jesus, the author of life and prince of peace, sufficient time in our daily activities.

Additionally, on this World Day of Peace, it is necessary to call to mind that following the teachings of Jesus is a perfect and uncomplicated way of achieving peace. It boils down to the instruction of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, 'do whatever he tells you.' John Paul 11 opined that "Striving for peace presupposes the welcoming of a fundamental moral demand, well expressed in the words of St. Paul: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Rom 12:21). Overcoming evil with weapons of love becomes how each person can contribute to the peace of all.

Continued on page 7

This week at SPB and Upcoming Parish/Archdiocesan Events

Sunday, 1/01/2023 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

8:00am Mass: All Parishioners
10:30am Mass: +Garcia Family (Marina Logue)

Monday, 1/02/2023 Memorial of Sts. Basil The Great and Gregory Nazianzen

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

Tuesday, 1/03/2023

6:30pm Mass: +Robert Cramer (Lois Celorie)

Wednesday, 1/04/2023 Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
8:00am Mass: +Frank & Geraldine Dulwick
(The Castro Family)

Thursday, 1/05/2023 Memorial of St. John Neumann

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
8:00am Mass: +Char Kile
(Fred & Carolyn DeLange)
7:00pm: Faith Sharing via Zoom

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



Friday, 1/06/2023

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
8:00am Mass: +Denise Shields (Jenquin Family)

Saturday, 1/07/2023

4:00-5:00pm: Reconciliation/Church
5:30pm Mass: +Ann Wuester (Becky Wooten)

Sunday, 1/08/2023 Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

8:00am Mass: +Ann Wuester (John & Elaine Buxman)
10:30am Mass: All Parishioners



Happy New Year
Wishing you a wonderful 2023



Travel with Fr. Paschal Ezurike, on our Pilgrimage to Ireland and England

Where: Galway, Our Lady of Knock, Cliffs of Moher, Killarney, Dingle Peninsula, Dublin, Downpatrick, City of Belfast
Trip Dates: 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. You can also register online at www.proximotravel.com.

January 8: Blood Pressure readings after the 8am Mass/Hall



January 15: 2nd collection for Catholic Communication Campaign

The special collection for the **Catholic Communication Campaign is January 15th**. This campaign engages and builds Catholic communities in the United States and developing countries using the internet, television, radio and print media. Half of the money collected remains here in the Diocese of Portland to fund local communications efforts. Your support helps spread the gospel message! To learn more, visit www.usccb.org/cc.

Thank you to all who have turned in a Time, Talent and Treasure form. We have only received 35. If you have not turned in a form please do so. We are looking for a form from everyone. Thank you.

Finance Corner

| Registered Household 222 | WEEK OF 12/25/2022 Actual | Budget |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| Donors | \$4,016 (online: \$?) | \$6049 |
| Fiscal Year | \$121,436 | \$121,721 |

Next Weeks Assignments

Ushers

1/07~5:30pm: Tom Muldoon
1/08~8:00am: Pat Keavney
1/08~10:30am: Larry Carnahan

Lector/Commentator

Heather Hannam
Kristine Bible
Nancy Carnahan

Extraordinary Minister

Jeanne Hubel
Jeannine Breshears
Marina Logue

January Church Cleaners: Karen Henry (971-409-0679)
January Altar Linens: Jeanne Hubel (503-544-5054)



1/08 9:00: Team Mary Lou
11:30:





[The shepherds] made known the message that had been told them about this child.... And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.

LUKE 2:17, 19

What Do You Hold in Your Heart?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

On **New Year's Eve**, some of my friends try to recall a significant event from each year, beginning with the most recent, and work their way back. They tell me that memories from the first couple of years, the most recent, are fairly easy to call to mind, but after that, memories get reduced to births and deaths, marriages and moves to new homes, vacations, and ultimately to not remembering anything significant for some years. It's an interesting conclusion—not remembering anything significant—given the human emotions and energies we pour into trivial disagreements, unresolved conflicts, and family issues.

The Gospel recounts how Mary reflected upon the events of her Son's birth and how she kept them all in her heart. I suspect that many of the events we might recount from that New Year's Eve exercise would end up being some of the moments we hold in our hearts. Most would likely revolve around family, all those people we keep in our hearts. Others might be about job promotions or successes, or memorable recognitions. We justifiably keep these as treasures to remember.

As Mary did, we might learn something about ourselves by pondering significant personal faith events. I doubt most of us will recall one for each year, which may say something about how seriously we take our faith lives. Yet those we do recall could be treasures of the past that will bless us in the present. ●

Reflect

**What do the events
you carry in your heart
say about who you are?**

Dear Padre,

I understand that all Catholics, not just priests and religious, are called to holiness. How can laypeople become holy?

The five elements of holiness are the same for all the baptized, always in the context of their vocational calling.

Prayer: In the liturgy, we join our sisters and brothers to offer communal worship where we are nourished and formed by word and sacrament. In private prayer, we maintain, clarify, and nourish our relationship with God.

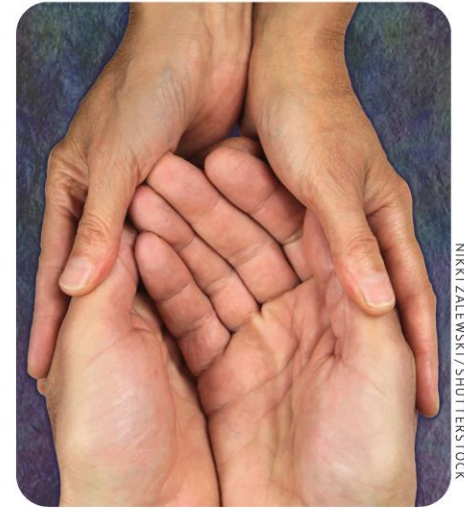
Love of neighbor: We are called to treat others with the acceptance and respect that God has for each person. Every person is our neighbor, especially people in need (Matthew 25:40).

Living one's vocational commitment: Being faithful to a spouse in marriage, working for family harmony, staying true to dedicated singleness in the world or in the religious community setting—all are avenues of holiness.

Penance and self-discipline: The Christian life demands self-denial, control, and sacrifice. Christians must deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow Jesus (Luke 9:23).

Reaching out in discipleship: Holiness also comes from and finds its noblest expression in a life of service and ministry. Baptism initiates us into the fullness of Christian reality, which ultimately means discipleship—sharing our faith and serving others, especially the most needy.

For laypeople, the main arena of holiness is where they live, work, play, and struggle every day. It is there that they must proclaim “the kingdom of God is in our midst,” and answer their call to holiness. ●



NIKKI ZALEWSKI/SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

***As we begin this new year, let us ask ourselves....
Do I know how to look at people with the heart?
Do I take to heart the people with whom I live?....
Let us ask for the grace to live this year with
the desire to take others to heart and to care for
them.***

HOMILY, VATICAN, JANUARY 1, 2020

MONDAY

January 2
Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
1 Jn 2:22–28
Jn 1:19–28

TUESDAY

January 3
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:29–3:6
Jn 1:29–34

WEDNESDAY

January 4
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
1 Jn 3:7–10
Jn 1:35–42

THURSDAY

January 5
St. John Neumann, Bishop
1 Jn 3:11–21
Jn 1:43–51

FRIDAY

January 6
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:5–13
Mk 1:7–11

SATURDAY

January 7
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:14–21
Jn 2:1–12

SUNDAY

January 8
Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60:1–6
Eph 3:2–3, 5–6
Mt 2:1–12

Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective

Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

The Word took our nature from Mary

The Apostle tells us: *The Word took to himself the sons of Abraham, and so had to be like his brothers in all things.* He had then to take a body like ours. This explains the fact of Mary's presence: she is to provide him with a body of his own, to be offered for our sake. Scripture records her giving birth, and says: *She wrapped him in swaddling clothes.* Her breasts, which fed him, were called blessed. Sacrifice was offered because the child was her firstborn. Gabriel used careful and prudent language when he announced his birth. He did not speak of "what will be born *in you*" to avoid the impression that a body would be introduced into her womb from outside; he spoke of "what will be born *from you*" so that we might know by faith that her child originated within her and from her.

By taking our nature and offering it in sacrifice, the Word was to destroy it completely and then invest it with his own nature, and so prompt the Apostle to say: *This corruptible body must put on incorruption; this mortal body must put on immortality.* This was not done in outward show only, as some have imagined. This is not so. Our Savior truly became man, and from this has followed the salvation of man as a whole. Our salvation is in no way fictitious, nor does it apply only to the body. The salvation of the whole man, that is, of soul and body, has really been achieved in the Word himself.

What was born of Mary was therefore human by nature, in accordance with the inspired Scriptures, and the body of the Lord was a true body: It was a true body because it was the same as ours. Mary, you see, is our sister, for we are all born from Adam.

The words of Saint John: *the Word was made flesh*, bear the same meaning, as we may see from a similar turn of phrase in Saint Paul: *Christ was made a curse for our sake.* Man's body has acquired something great through its communion and union with the Word. From being mortal it has been made immortal; though it was a living body it has become a spiritual one; though it was made from the earth it has passed through the gates of heaven.

Even when the Word takes a body from Mary, the Trinity remains a Trinity, with neither increase nor decrease. It is forever perfect. In the Trinity we acknowledge one Godhead, and thus one God, the Father of the Word, is proclaimed in the Church.

(From a letter by Saint Athanasius, bishop)

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

“O Holy Mary! My Mother; into thy blessed trust and special custody, and into the bosom of thy mercy, I this day, and every day, and in the hour of my death, commend my soul and body. To thee I commit all my anxieties and sorrows, my life, and the end of life, that by thy most holy intercession, and by thy merits, all my actions may be directed and governed by thy will and that of thy Son.” -----

St. Aloysius Gonzaga.

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).

Characteristics common to Jesus' mysteries

Christ's whole earthly life - his words and deeds, his silences and sufferings, indeed his manner of being and speaking - is Revelation of the Father. Jesus can say: "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father", and the Father can say: "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" Because our Lord became man in order to do his Father's will, even the least characteristics of his mysteries manifest "God's love. . . among us". CCC 516

Christ's whole life is a mystery of redemption. Redemption comes to us above all through the blood of his cross, but this mystery is at work throughout Christ's entire life: -already in his Incarnation through which by becoming poor he enriches us with his poverty; - in his hidden life which by his submission atones for our disobedience; - in his word which purifies its hearers; in his healings and exorcisms by which "he took our infirmities and bore our diseases"; - and in his Resurrection by which he justifies us. CCC 517

Christ's whole life is a mystery of recapitulation. All Jesus did, said and suffered had for its aim restoring fallen man to his original vocation:

When Christ became incarnate and was made man, he recapitulated in himself the long history of mankind and procured for us a "short cut" to salvation, so that what we had lost in Adam, that is, being in the image and likeness of God, we might recover in Christ Jesus. For this reason Christ experienced all the stages of life, thereby giving communion with God to all men. CCC 518

Continued from Page 2

In today's Gospel passage, Luke narrates the account of the Shepherds finding the infant Jesus in Bethlehem, along with Mary and Joseph. On this unique maternal feast, we focus on Mary to learn from her intriguing and desirable qualities. Mary's life is brimful with humility, obedience to God's word, and total submission to his will. Also, Mary treasured God's message in her life, continuously pondering on them and savoring its sweetness. In the words of the gospel, "Mary kept all these things reflecting on them in her heart." (Luke 2:19). Like Mary, the Holy Mother of God and our Mother, accepting and placing value on God's word and finding time for personal meditation on the inspired word should be a necessity on our part to grow in grace and holiness.

Besides Mary's obedience to God's commands, she adhered to and obeyed the laws and customs of her people. Hence, eight days after Christ's Nativity, Mary and Joseph complied with the rules regarding circumcision. And in compliance with the angel's message, they named the child Jesus "God saves," his name pointing to his mission of being a Savior. "When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus." (Luke 2:21). Paul reminds us that at the fullness of time, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law to ransom (save) us and make us his children. (Galatians 4:4). As we begin the new year, may we strive to imitate Mary's virtues of obedience and humility; for we can never be true children of Mary if we are not humble, St Alphonsus warns. Finally, as we gallantly roll up our sleeves in anticipation of the unforeseen goodies that the year brings, may we resolve to fly to the patronage of God's mother for unquantifiable maternal love and coverage.

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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



Fall Sharathon: October 10-14, 2022

PRAY FROM THE HEART

Give now through the Hail Mary Media app, at MaterDeiRadio.com, or call 1-888-823-5286



May you enjoy all the happiness the season can bring, and may His eternal love bring you peace throughout the coming year.

God bless you, and may you have a wonderful Christmas!

Larry & Nancy Carnahan
Principal Brokers | Licensed in Oregon

Call or email us today with all of your real estate needs:
(503) 804-6029

Nancy@VenturesRealtyGroup.com



DR. RAINI SPITZE, D.D.S.

18221 S. Redland Rd. 503-631-2353
Oregon City, OR 97045 www.redlandfamilydental.com

REDLAND LEARNING CENTER

Excellence in early childhood education

Daily Preschool
Ages 3-5



503-956-1745

DENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATES

Family Dentistry

Marc F. Bianco, DMD

1133 SE 122nd Ave. • Portland, OR 97233
(503) 252-1722 • www.biancodentistry.com

REDLAND-CONSTRUCTION.com

Local Contractor

Outbuildings
Home Remodels
Decks and more...



CCB# 225341

Local References
(503) 908-3267



Clear Creek Communications

YOUR LOCAL CHOICE FOR QUALITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

voice • video • internet • security



(503) 631-2101
www.ccmtec.com

18238 S. Fischers Mill Road, Oregon City, OR 97045-9696



Council 2325

Knights of Columbus
Dr. John McLoughlin Council 2325,
Oregon City
Catholic Men Serving Our Church and Communities. For More information about us, please contact: David Beaty (503) 632-3941 or Joel Bender (503) 310-3367 or go to: kofc.org/joinus



88.3 FM

Space Available
Advertise here!
Call 503-631-2882

Space Available
Advertise here!
Call 503-631-2882

FORMED

www.philipbenizi.formed.org