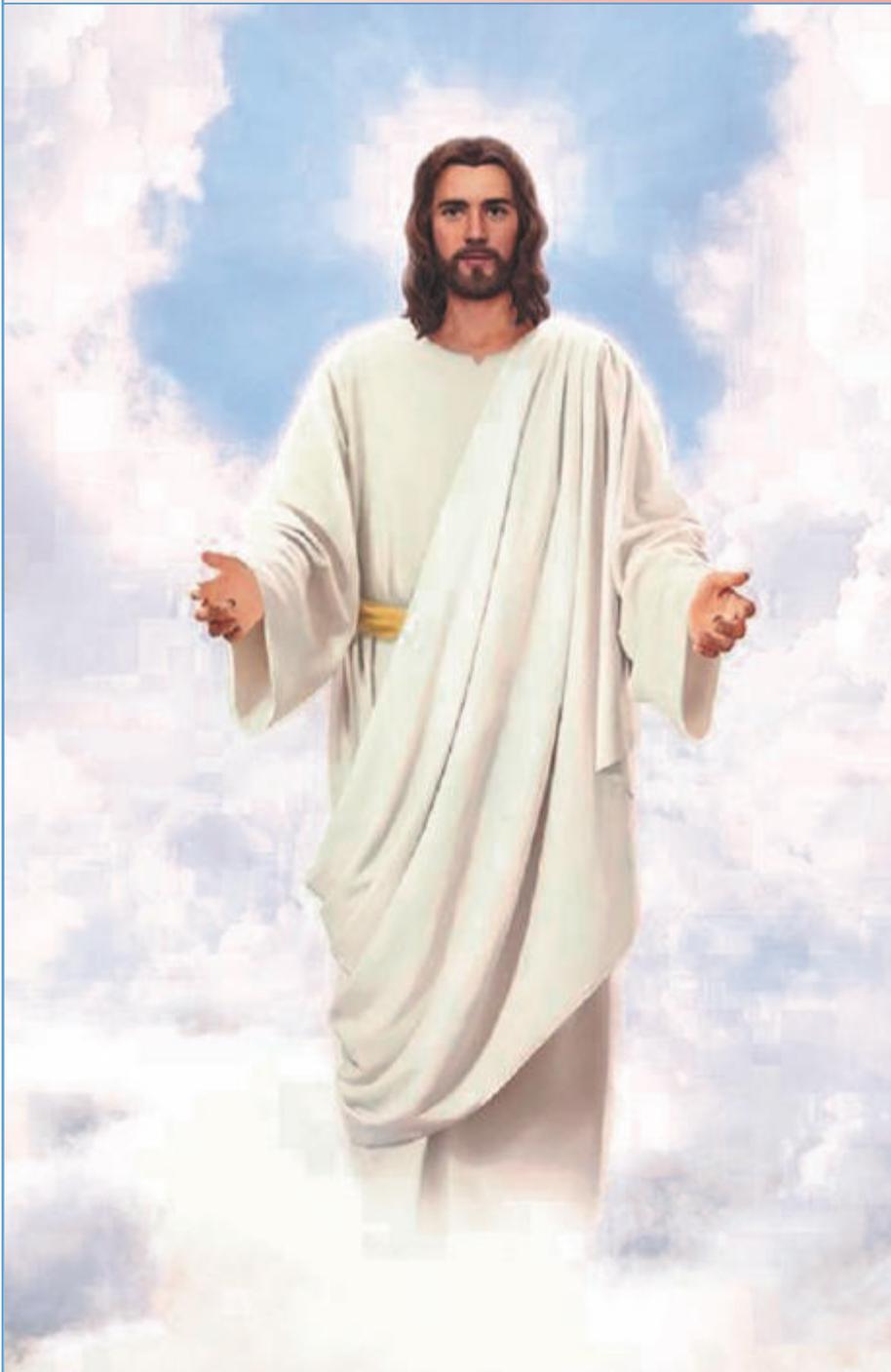




*The St. Philip
Be-News-Li*

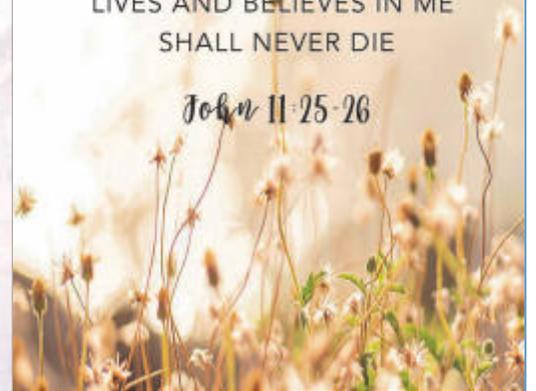
*Go out to all
the world
and spread the
Good News—
Jesus lives!*



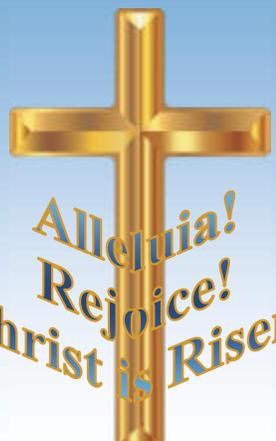
I AM THE
Resurrection
AND THE *Life.*

HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME,
THOUGH HE MAY DIE,
SHALL LIVE. AND WHOEVER
LIVES AND BELIEVES IN ME
SHALL NEVER DIE

John 11:25-26



**Alleluia!
Rejoice!
Christ is Risen!**

A golden cross is positioned behind the text, with the text appearing to be written on or around it.

Calendar of Events

April 2021

3/28: PALM SUNDAY

Regular weekend Mass Schedule used during the pandemic (see times/ bottom right);
ALL Masses begin in the church;
Palms will be distributed before each Mass

****NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION OR PRAISE & WORSHIP THIS MONTH****

4/1: HOLY THURSDAY

No 8:30AM Mass/ 9:00AM Morning Prayer
7:00PM Bi-lingual Mass of the Lord's Supper
NO Adoration after Mass

4/2: GOOD FRIDAY

No 8:30AM Mass/ 9:00AM Morning Prayer
12:00 Noon: Stations of the Cross (English)
3:00PM: Service of the Lord's Passion (English)
5:00PM: *Stations of the Cross (Spanish/church)*
7:30PM: Service of the Lord's Passion
(Spanish/church)

4/3: HOLY SATURDAY/EASTER VIGIL MASS

No 8:30AM Mass/ 9:00AM Morning Prayer
No Blessing of Easter Food
8:00PM: Bi-lingual Easter Vigil Mass
(Begins in the church/ No Easter Fire/
No congregational candles)

4/4: EASTER SUNDAY

6:30AM: Mass in the Garden (English), Weather permitting; (In case of inclement weather, this Mass will be cancelled);

NO registration required, but COVID-19 protocols are **mandatory** (masks, social distancing);
Please bring your own chairs/blankets
(None will be provided)

7:00AM Mass (English/church) – Registration required
9:00AM Mass (English/church) – Registration required
11:00AM Mass (English/church)–Registration required
1:00PM Mass (Spanish/church) – Registration required
3:00PM Mass (Spanish/Garden) –
NO registration required, but COVID-19 protocols are **mandatory** (masks, social distancing);
Please bring your own chairs/blankets
(None will be provided)

7:00PM Mass (Spanish/church) – Registration required

4/5: EASTER MONDAY

Morning Mass begins at 10AM; NO 8:30AM Mass

4/11: 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER/ DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

4/18: 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER

4/21: ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS' DAY

4/25: 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER/ WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

All Masses will be live-streamed via Facebook and our parish website.

Please check upcoming Bulletins and Flocknote e-mails for changes or additions to this calendar.



St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church

continues to celebrate public Masses throughout the week (Sunday through Saturday).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, strict protocols are still in place. Please read the document, **“Protocols and Procedures for Attending Mass”**, posted on our parish website:

www.stphilipbenizi.org). This document is also included in SPB's weekly *Flocknote*, which is sent to parishioners by e-mail.

Our (temporary) Mass Schedule is as follows:

4:00PM Saturday Vigil Mass (English)
7:30AM Sunday Mass (English)
10:00AM Sunday Mass (English)
1:00PM Sunday Mass (Spanish)
4:00PM Sunday Mass (English)
7:00PM Sunday Mass (Spanish)

Weekday Masses

Mon – Sat: 8:30AM/ Wed: 7:00PM (English)
Tuesday & Thursday: 7:30PM (Spanish)

Our parish will continue to live-stream Masses:
<https://www.facebook.com/stphilipbenizi.org/>,
or: <https://www.stphilipbenizi.org/>.

April 2021

Dear Parishioners,

In March, as we approached the one-year anniversary of the Coronavirus pandemic, I reread the letters that I wrote to you in real time as we experienced one of the worst crises of our lifetimes. I recall writing these letters with a desire to stay connected to you, especially during the months' long lockdown. The letters were also a way for me to express my own emotions, fears, anxieties, and stress caused by all that we were going through at the time. Here are a few excerpts:

"Our present circumstances certainly remind us of how very precious life is, as well as how fragile human beings really are. Many of us are experiencing anxiety and stress as we realize that we have little control over the effects of the virus. The fear of infection, the need for social distancing, and sheltering at home have made us all feel insecure. We wonder how this could be happening and what will be next."

"During times of crisis, like the one we are experiencing presently, we should expect that our emotions will run high, especially the negative ones. One of the emotions that most of us are feeling right now is that of loss. Loss of security; loss of freedom of movement; loss of a job; loss of health; loss of the opportunity to worship together; loss of Holy Communion for Catholics; and the worst — loss of those who have succumbed to Covid-19."

"I know that these last few weeks have been extremely challenging, stressful, and even frightening. Our anxiety and fears are normal and we should expect them at a time like this. They are not signs of a lack of faith or trust in God. They are part and parcel of being human. I think we need to be gentle with ourselves. Befriend our worries and fears, but don't give in to them. We are people of faith and hope. God will get us through this."

"This is an opportunity to contemplate the special people in our lives: our spouses and children, our siblings and friends, our co-workers and neighbors. Nothing gives us life more than the loving relationships we have with special people. Let those whom you value most know how much you love them. Say to them the three most important words that we can say: I LOVE YOU!"

"As a priest, celebrating Mass without the community of faith present is a cross to bear. I suppose that the fact that this is happening during the season of Lent reminds us that we are called to follow Christ in carrying the Cross. But, as you well know, every Good Friday is followed by Easter Sunday! Let us look forward longingly to that day when we will all gather together again in our beautiful church to celebrate with joy the Eucharist which is both a source of our unity and the visible sign that we are Christ's Mystical Body here on Earth."

In a letter before Easter 2020, I recommended that parishioners place a plain, wooden cross on their front lawns that was draped with a white cloth; a public witness to our belief in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and as a sign of our faith in Him during this time of darkness.

"Since we will not be celebrating the Sacred Triduum and Easter Sunday together in church, I invite you to consider witnessing to your faith in your neighborhood by placing a wooden cross on your front lawn with a white cloth, symbolizing resurrection. You could also venerate that cross as a family on Good Friday as we do during the Good Friday Service. If you choose to do this, please share a photo with us."

Many parishioners sent us photographs of their crosses which we posted on our Facebook page and included some of them in the May 2020 Be-News-Zi. Many people commented on how powerful and meaningful the experience was for them. I encourage you to do the same this year and as you do so, pray for all those who have died from the virus. Please send us your photos again so that we can put them on our Facebook page.

During the past year, over 520,000 Americans have died as a result of Covid-19. This number exceeds the deaths that resulted from WW I, WW II, Vietnam, and the attacks of 9/11 combined. We mourn their deaths and pray that they are safely home in God's loving embrace. I would like to gather the names of all those who have died from the coronavirus so that we can honor their memory in some way. You may recall that last year we honored our heroes – the men and women who worked on the front lines of fighting the pandemic: doctors, nurses, hospital personnel, EMTs, and other healthcare workers. I'd like to do something similar for those we know who have died from Covid-19. Please send us the names of your family members, loved ones, and friends who died from the virus. I will work with our staff to plan an event where we can display their names, pray for them, and celebrate their lives. You can send the names to our Communications Director, Melissa Langlois at: mlanglois@stphilipbenizi.org.

As excited as we will be to see "the light at the end of the tunnel", the pandemic is not yet over. Despite the positive signs that give us hope for returning to some level of normalcy, we need to be vigilant. When the vaccine is available to you, please get vaccinated. Continue to wash your hands often, use hand sanitizer, and wear masks.

Happy Easter! May the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead fill you with hope, love, and joy!

Love and prayers,
Fr. John



“WITH A FATHER’S HEART:

that is how Joseph loved Jesus, whom all four Gospels refer to as ‘*the son of Joseph*’.

Matthew and Luke, the two Evangelists who speak most of Joseph, tell us very little, yet enough for us to appreciate what sort of father he was, and the mission entrusted to him by God’s providence.

We know that Joseph was a lowly carpenter, betrothed to Mary. He was a ‘just man’, ever ready to carry out God’s will as revealed to him in the Law and through four dreams. After a long and tiring journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, he beheld the birth of the Messiah in a stable, since ‘there was no place for them’ elsewhere. He witnessed the adoration of the shepherds and the Magi, who represented respectively the people of Israel and the pagan peoples.

Joseph had the courage to become the legal father of Jesus, to whom he gave the name revealed by the angel: “You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins”. As we know, for ancient peoples, to give a name to a person or to a thing, as Adam did in the account in the Book of Genesis, was to establish a relationship.

In the Temple, forty days after Jesus’ birth, Joseph and Mary offered their child to the Lord and listened with amazement to Simeon’s prophecy concerning Jesus and his Mother. To protect Jesus from Herod, Joseph dwelt as a foreigner in Egypt. After returning to his own country, he led a hidden life in the tiny and obscure village of Nazareth in Galilee, far from Bethlehem, his ancestral town, and from Jerusalem and the Temple. Of Nazareth it was said, ‘No prophet is to rise’ and indeed, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ When, during a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, Joseph and Mary lost track of the twelve-year-old Jesus, they anxiously sought him out and they found him in the Temple, in discussion with the doctors of the Law.

After Mary, the Mother of God, no saint is mentioned more frequently in the papal magisterium than Joseph,

her spouse. My Predecessors reflected on the message contained in the limited information handed down by the Gospels in order to appreciate more fully his central role in the history of salvation. Blessed Pius IX declared him “Patron of the Catholic Church”, Venerable Pius XII proposed him as “Patron of Workers”, and Saint John Paul II as “Guardian of the Redeemer”. Saint Joseph is universally invoked as the “patron of a happy death”.

Now, one hundred and fifty years after his proclamation as *Patron of the Catholic Church* by Blessed Pius IX (8 December 1870), I would like to share some personal reflections on this extraordinary figure, so close to our own human experience. For, as Jesus says, ‘out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks’ (*Mt 12:34*).

My desire to do so increased during these months of pandemic, when we experienced, amid the crisis, how ‘our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, or on the latest television show; yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history. Doctors, nurses, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caregivers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests, men and women religious, and so very many others. They understood that no one is saved alone....

How many people daily exercise patience and offer hope, taking care to spread not panic, but shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday ways, how to accept and deal with a crisis by adjusting their routines, looking ahead and encouraging the practice of prayer? How many are praying, making sacrifices and interceding for the good of all?’ Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all.”

(Excerpt: *Patris Corde* – Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis on the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church; December 8, 2020)

(Read the full text of Pope Francis’ Apostolic Letter at: http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html)

Consecration to St. Joseph

O dearest St. Joseph, I consecrate myself to thy honor and give myself to thee, that thou may always be my father, my protector, and my guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me a great purity of heart and a fervent love of the interior life. After thine example, may I do all my actions for the greater glory of God, in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary! And do thou, O Blessed St. Joseph, pray for me that I may share in the peace and joy of thy holy death. Amen.

*Answering God's Call:
A Reflection*



Cardinal John Henry Newman, a 19th century clergyman, spent his entire life searching for the meaning of his calling from God. He summed up this search in the following reflection:

“God has created me
To do Him some definite service;
He has committed some work to me
Which He has not committed to another.

I have my mission—
I may never know it in this life,
But I shall be told it in the next.

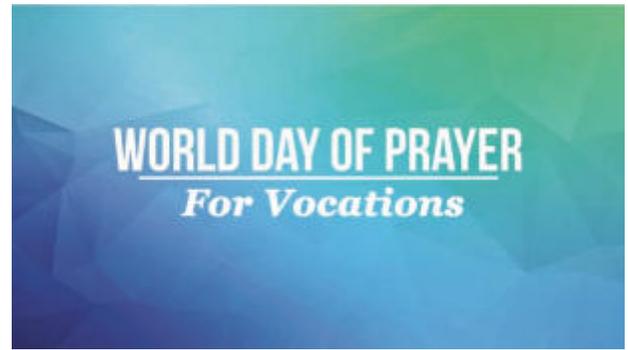
Somehow I am necessary for His purposes;
As necessary in my place
As an Archangel in his.

I have a part in this great work;
I am a link in a chain,
A bond of connection between persons.

He has not created me for nothing.

I shall do good; I shall do His work;
I shall be an angel of peace,
A preacher of truth in my own place.

Deign to fulfill your high purposes in me.
I am here to serve you—to be yours—
To be your instrument.”



Loving and generous God,
you call each one of us by name
and ask us to follow you.
Help us to grow
in the love and service
of your Church.

Give us the energy
and courage of Your Spirit
to shape its future.
Grant us faith-filled leaders
who will embrace
Christ's Mission of love and justice.

Bless your Church by raising up
dedicated and generous leaders
from our families and friends
who will serve your people
as Priests, Brothers, Sisters,
Deacons, and Lay Ministers.

Inspire us as we grow to know you better,
and open our hearts to hear your call.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.



World's Best Youth Minister, Susan Baker, Honored with Award!



On behalf of the Friars and Staff of St. Philip Benizi Parish and the hundreds of teens and their parents she has served over the past 14 years (and not limited to our parish), I want to congratulate Susan Baker, our Youth Minister. On March 15, 2021, Susan was awarded the *Companions on the Journey Award* from the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM).

This award, presented by Elaine Philips, Associate Director of Youth Ministry in the Atlanta Archdiocese, is the highest recognition from the NFCYM for a diocese to confer. The award recognizes commitment to young people and outstanding local leadership, longevity in ministry, and commitment to ongoing education and formation.

Susan's commitment to teens is evidenced in many ways: from the way she makes herself available to youth through approved social media platforms, to joining them for lunch at their school or football games, and even welcoming them into her office. Her office is warm and inviting, filled with hundreds of Pez candy holders and trinkets she has been gifted by her teens over the years that she has been a Youth Minister. She beams, "I love how the teens can make me laugh. I keep everything they make me (you've seen my office)...all the cards, art, videos, sticky notes...whatever it is!"

The teens come in and out all day on Sundays to share their lives, ask advice, or seek help with schoolwork. They know that they have a trusted listener and advocate by their side. You can only imagine how busy this keeps Susan who normally has over 100 teens in the Youth Group and Middle School. She certainly has way more than a 9-5 job!

For Susan, Youth Ministry is more than teaching knowledge about the faith. It is very important to her to help teens build a relationship with Christ. She shares, "I love to see them grow to know Him and see and feel Him in their lives. To me, that is the best part of my ministry. I'm also big on doing what I say. I'm open and honest with them about my own journey. On the back of my business cards, it says, '*Walking with teens to Christ*' because I want them to know I don't have all the answers, and I struggle too; but we are all walking together, side by side, to Him."

To know Susan is to know how much she likes to laugh and the depth of her love, and this is one of her greatest gifts because she can appreciate and accept the teens for who they are. Imagine her laughing as she recalls, "I love that the seniors have a tradition of pranking me on the Spring Retreat as a way of saying 'thank you!'"

Youth Ministry is not all fun and games. Susan also has a gift of seeing and building the leadership qualities of our youth. She says, "I feel very strongly about peer ministry and teens having a say in the program and ministering to each other, with adults there to support them." Susan has developed an application process for a teen leadership group. Her teen leaders exhibit the best qualities of leadership. They plan and lead three retreats every year with adult guidance. These retreats are so successful, with over 60 teens attending each year. One of the gifts of the retreats is the bonding that occurs among the teens. When disaster struck one teen and his family, the rest of the teens showed their solidarity by attending Mass and wearing their retreat T-shirts. The teens also demand that they have Adoration with Praise & Worship music at their retreats. Susan explains, "The fact that they expect to have this amazing time in the presence of Christ proves that they want a relationship with Him."

Susan is also committed to her own ongoing education and formation and leadership. In 2015, she got a Certificate in Youth Ministry from the University of Dayton. She attends Youth Conferences, meets regularly with other archdiocesan youth leaders, and participates in special events offered by the archdiocese. You can find her acting as a leader for Middle School Fest and other youth events, speaking at archdiocesan conferences, and serving as chaperone for fellow youth ministers.

For the award ceremony, several parents, teens, and staff recorded messages of congratulations to Susan in appreciation for what she has meant to them. Benedict Esposito of the archdiocese strung these videos together; they are funny and moving testaments of Susan's own humor and love.

Thank you, Susan, for being who you are, for using your gifts to reach hundreds of teens over the years, and for making a difference in their lives for Christ. We are blessed by your dedication and devotion, and I am very



pleased that you have been acknowledged with this award. I think, maybe when you were a baby, you were dropped in a box of glitter, because you have been shining ever since!

Congratulations!

Lorraine Miller,
St. Philip Benizi
DRE



Before the egg became closely entwined with the Christian Easter, it was honored during many rite-of-Spring festivals. The Romans, Gauls, Chinese, Egyptians and Persians all cherished the egg as a symbol of the universe, of the earth's rebirth at springtime. With the advent of Christianity, the symbolism of the egg changed to represent, not nature's rebirth, but the rebirth of man.

Christians saw in the egg a symbol of the tomb from which Christ rose to bring rebirth to the human race. Saint Augustine first described Christ's Resurrection from the dead as a chick bursting from an egg.

According to tradition, Saint Mary Magdalene gained an audience with the Roman emperor after the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ. She denounced Pilate for his handling of Jesus' trial and then began to talk with Caesar about Jesus' Resurrection. She picked up a hen's egg from the dinner table to illustrate her point about resurrection. Caesar was unmoved and replied that there was as much chance of a human being returning to life as there was for the egg to turn red. Immediately, the egg miraculously turned red in her hand! It is because of this tradition that Orthodox Christians exchange red eggs at Easter.

OTHER CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS

Eastern Christian legends blended folklore and Christian beliefs and firmly attached the egg to the Easter celebration. There is a Polish legend that holds that when Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus, she had with her a basket of eggs to serve as a repast. When she arrived at the tomb and uncovered the eggs, the pure white shells had miraculously taken on a rainbow of colors.

Another legend concerns the Virgin Mary. It tells of the time the Blessed Virgin gave eggs to the soldiers at the cross. She entreated them to be less cruel and she wept. Her tears fell upon the eggs, spotting them with dots of brilliant color.

Decorating and coloring eggs for Easter was the custom in England during the Middle Ages. The household accounts of Edward I, for the year 1290, recorded an expenditure of eighteen pence for four hundred and fifty eggs to be gold-leafed and colored for Easter gifts.

FABERGE EGGS

The most famous decorated Easter eggs were those made by the well-known goldsmith, Peter Carl Faberge. In 1883 the Russian Czar, Alexander, commissioned Faberge to make a special Easter gift for his wife, the Empress Marie. This special Faberge egg so delighted the Czarina that the Czar promptly ordered the Faberge firm to design further eggs to be delivered every Easter. In later years Nicholas II, Alexander's son, continued the custom. Fifty-seven eggs were made in all.

In many countries, Easter eggs are blessed by the priest, along with other food items to be used for the Easter breakfast.

<https://www.monasteryicons.com/product/story-of-the-first-easter-egg/did-you-know>



Although we did not have a *Lenten Penance Service* this year, all are invited and encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Friars' Saturday hours (see below) **OR** schedule an appointment with one of the Friars for Confession.

ENGLISH CONFESSIONS

Saturdays from 10:30 – 11:30AM
(in Founders' Hall/ through April 10)
(outside San Damiano House/ after April 10)

SPANISH CONFESSIONS

Saturdays from 10:30 – 11:30AM
(outside the Hartmayer Building)

OR

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

Fr. John: frjkoziol@stphilipbenizi.org
Fr. Vincent: frvgluc@stphilipbenizi.org
Fr. Luis (*Spanish Only*):
frlpalacios@stphilipbenizi.org
Fr. Santo: frscricchio@stphilipbenizi.org

Our Journey to Lent and Beyond

By Yone Daly

Last year, on March 11, 2020, in the middle of Lent, the World Health Organization declared that the world was in the midst of a pandemic. Lockdowns began, churches and businesses, restaurants and schools closed, and nearly all (who were not considered essential, frontline workers) were basically confined to their homes for nearly 2½ months. It's likely that no one in this country has ever experienced anything like the devastation, illness, loss and events of this past year. Thankful for Zoom meetings, livestream and many other means of communication, people were (and still are) able to stay connected, continue their education (academic and religious), participate in the celebration of Mass, and enjoy some sort of "normalcy".

One year later, we have come a long way from the daily accounts of thousands of lives lost from COVID-19, serious illness, and darkness ahead. With three vaccines developed, approved and distributed to millions of people each day, the spread of COVID-19 is diminished and hopefully, in the near future, the virus will be eradicated. Although we're still somewhat restricted, socially distanced, and wearing masks, we do see "light at the end of the tunnel". Have you seen it this past year? Did you experience it during this Lenten season?

Since Memorial Day 2020, the churches in our archdiocese re-opened and those returning to the celebration of Mass "in person" are slowly growing in number. Religious Education continues and our Pre-school at St. Philip's welcomes children every day for in-person learning and fun! In a majority of Georgia counties, schools re-opened in the fall of 2020 to in-person learning (with the option of virtual learning) and the students are thriving. Many businesses and restaurants have also re-opened to serve the needs of their customers.

Our St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry re-opened in June of 2020 and has been serving the needy ever since. Other outreach programs continued to the Mobile Home Parks that St. Philip Benizi Parish supports.

Many children in our parish received the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation in 2020, with many more receiving First Communion this May. New Catholics (the Elect) will be baptized at the Easter Vigil Mass on April 3, 2021, as well as receiving First Communion and Confirmation. This year, Holy Week will have special meaning as parishioners are invited to register and attend Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday Masses in the church.

Throughout the pandemic, prayer has been and must continue to be an essential part of our daily lives...and it has been at St. Philip Benizi Parish. First Friday Eucharistic Adoration, followed by Praise & Worship returned to the monthly schedule. On Ash Wednesday, February 17th, Lent began as we were sprinkled with ashes, signifying repentance and our own, impending death. Although there was no Lenten Penance Service this year, Confession was and is always available to those who want to experience God's mercy and forgiveness

through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

During Lent, parishioners had the opportunity to pray the Stations of the Cross three times per week, remembering Christ's Passion and Death. In the Gospels, we heard the accounts of Jesus' ministry and encounters with people of His day that would eventually lead Him to the Cross. On the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent, we encouraged and prayed with the Elect during the Scrutinies as they discerned their call to the Catholic faith.

Thankful for the completion of our new parish kitchen and addition, the Knights of Columbus sponsored the *Friday Night Fish Fry* each week during Lent and served delicious, meatless meals which were greatly appreciated.

On Saturday, February 6, 2021, our parish was blessed with the Ordination of Deacon Henry Ohaya, who is now serving at St. Philip's. His Masses of Thanksgiving, celebrated the following day, confirmed that he will be a wonderful addition to the group of clergy—our friars and deacons—that already serve our parish. They have done so much during this pandemic to meet the needs of our parish family. We are so blessed to have them with us!

We have these reasons and so many more for which to be thankful this past year! Surely, you have your own, personal list that you can add.

Yes, we mourn the loss of loved ones, businesses, jobs, security and freedoms that we experienced during this pandemic (some more so than others), but we also applaud the bravery, resilience, ingenuity, outreach and faith of the American people and medical personnel that are helping us get through these trying times. We may not understand why God has allowed our lives and our world to be turned upside down by the pandemic, but we must trust that "God has a plan and His plan is always perfect." May He guide us, protect us, heal us, and grant us His peace. May He lead us into this Easter season as we walk with confidence, trusting in His mercy and tremendous love for us. Jesus will turn our sorrows into joy...our fears into courage...and our darkness into light.

*"You must be strong, dear brothers and sisters.
You must be strong with the strength that comes from faith.
...I ask that you never despair, never grow weary,
never become discouraged;
that the roots from which we grow are never severed;
that you keep your faith despite your weaknesses;
that you always seek strength in Him;
that you never lose that freedom of spirit for which He
has liberated man; that you never spurn that love...
expressed by the cross, without which human life
has no roots and no meaning."
"I ask this of you."*

~St. John Paul II
(May 18, 1920 – April 2, 2005)

***"We are an Easter People
and Alleluia is our song!"***

~St. John Paul II

Our Experiences of Lent

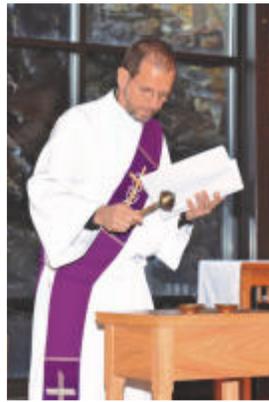
Ash Wednesday *(Photos by Susan Douglas)*



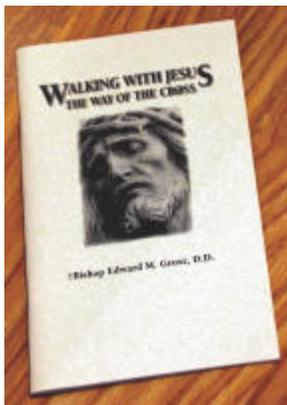
Left: During the pandemic, Buddy Teague and others have been providing music for our Masses, without our wonderful choirs.



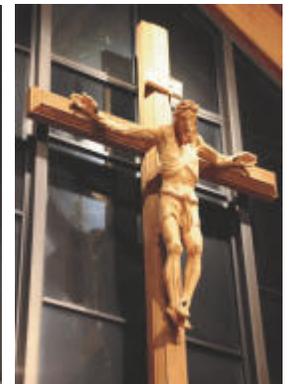
Right: Deacon Tom Nemchik delivered the homily during the 7:15AM Service and is pictured below, blessing the ashes and sprinkling them on people's heads.



The Stations of the Cross *(Photos by Yone Daby)*



During Lent, there were many opportunities to pray the Stations of the Cross. Sue Nemchik is pictured here, leading the Stations on a Wednesday Morning. Parishioners were asked to remain at their seats due to COVID-19 restrictions.



Our Experiences of Lent

The Lenten Scrutinies *(Photos by Yone Daly & Susan Douglas)*



Eight children and two adults participated in the three Scrutinies during Lent. These Elect will be welcomed into the Catholic faith during the Easter Vigil Mass on April 3rd.

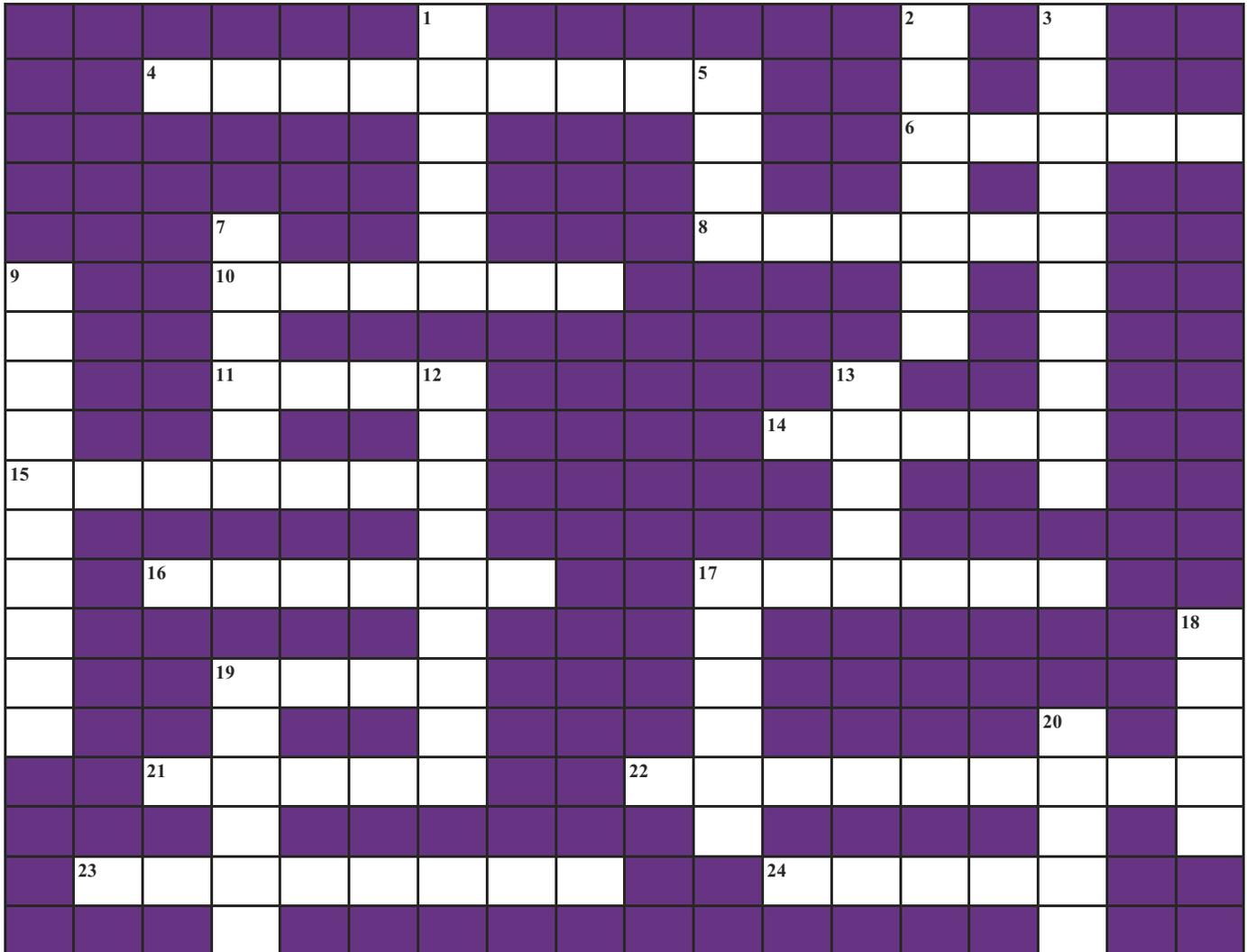
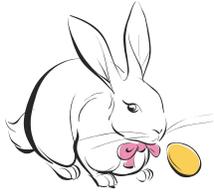
Below: A peek at our new parish kitchen... *beautiful!* The K of C were the first to use it during Lent for the weekly Friday Fish Fry.

The K of C Lenten Fish Fry *(Photos by Susan Douglas)*



Well, *somebody's* gotta do the dishes... thanks Charlie! Thank you Knights!!

Easter Blessings to You!



ACROSS

4. This Bunny is really sweet!
6. A bush with purple flowers
8. The day Jesus rose from the dead
10. This holiday is usually in April
11. An Easter flower
14. The color of grass
15. Roses are these
16. Something to carry your Easter eggs
17. A shade of colors
19. How many Easter eggs can you _____?
21. Jesus' tomb was _____.
22. To rejoice and have fun!
23. The place where Jesus was crucified
24. Jesus is the Light of the _____.



DOWN

1. An Easter hat
2. A special occasion
3. Sweet, chewy Easter treats
5. Chickens lay these
7. The color of most sunflowers
9. Jesus died on _____
12. The day before today
13. A religious symbol
17. A means of talking to God
18. Alleluia! He is _____!
19. Jesus is part of the Holy _____
20. Rhymes with Sandy

(Puzzle Adapted & Designed by Yone Daly)

THE CHAPLET OF THE DIVINE MERCY

Jesus revealed a powerful prayer that He wanted everyone to say – *The Chaplet of Divine Mercy*. There are extraordinary graces promised to those who recite it. It is prayed on ordinary rosary beads.

Begin with:
**Our Father..., Hail Mary...,
The Apostles' Creed.**

Then, on the OUR FATHER BEADS, you will say the following words:

**“Eternal Father,
I offer You the Body and Blood,
Soul and Divinity of Your
dearly beloved Son,
Our Lord Jesus Christ,
in atonement for our sins
and those of the whole world.”**

On the HAIL MARY BEADS, you will say the following words:

**“For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,
have mercy on us and on the whole world.”**

In conclusion, THREE TIMES you will recite these words:

**“Holy God, Holy Mighty One,
Holy Immortal One,
have mercy on us and on the whole world.”**
(From the *Diary of St. Maria Faustina*, 476)



Our prayers and heartfelt sympathy go out to the family of:

- † Alfonso Olivieri, nephew of Ramona DeLeon
- † Jose Garcia Hernandez, brother of Maria Zavala
- † Elizabeth Wolfla, mother of Brother Nick Wolfla, formerly in residence at St. Philip Benizi Parish
- † Bob Polkinghorne, husband of Norma Polkinghorne
- † Jim Martino, husband of Prudy Martino
- † Darren and Michelle Horton
- † Nicole Faben

*“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.”*

*Wishing you a blessed
and joyful Easter!*



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Any questions, comments, suggestions, or articles concerning the newsletter may be addressed to the Editor through the Parish Office, or by e-mail:

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