



*The St. Philip
Be-News-Li*

*“Mary remains ever the path
that leads to Christ.
Every encounter with her
can only result in an encounter
with Christ Himself.”
(~Pope Paul VI)*

MAY, THE MONTH OF MARY



*“True devotion to Our Lady is holy;
that is to say, it leads the soul to avoid sin and to
imitate the virtues of the Blessed Virgin, particularly
her profound humility, her lively faith,
her blind obedience, her continual prayer,
her universal mortification, her divine purity,
her ardent charity, her heroic patience,
her angelic sweetness and her divine wisdom.
These are the ten principal virtues of the most holy Virgin.”*

~ St. Louis De Montfort

Calendar of Events May 2021

5/1: ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

5/6: NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

5/7-8: EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

begins the First Friday of every month **in the church**, after the 8:30AM Mass and concludes with Benediction at 7:45AM Saturday morning.

5/7: PRAISE & WORSHIP ADORATION-7PM

This Service takes place during the monthly First Friday, 24-hour Adoration and includes Contemporary Music, Gospel Reading, a Homily, Period of Silence, Benediction, Sending Song, and Reposition. The Blessed Sacrament will be brought from the Chapel into the church during this period of adoration. ALL are welcome!

**5/8-9: 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER/
FIRST COMMUNION WEEKEND**

5/9: HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! ♥

5/15: ARMED FORCES DAY

5/16: THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

5/23: PENTECOST SUNDAY/

CONFIRMATION (Confirmation will take place during the 4PM Sunday Mass.)

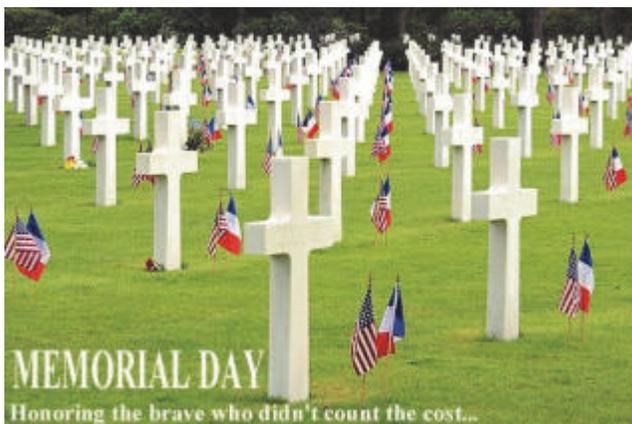
5/30: THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

5/31: MEMORIAL DAY – Mass at 10AM

Parish Offices Closed

THE CROWNING OF MARY

At the time of publication, the Crowning of Mary was not yet scheduled. Please check the Bulletin and other parish communications for date and time.



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/>.

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

Answers to the April 2021 Easter Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

4. Chocolate
6. Lilac
8. Sunday
10. Easter
11. Lily
14. Green
15. Flowers
16. Basket
17. Pastel
19. Find
21. Empty
22. Celebrate
23. Golgotha
24. World

DOWN

1. Bonnet
2. Holiday
3. Jelly Beans
5. Eggs
7. Yellow
9. Good Friday
12. Yesterday
13. Cross
17. Prayer
18. Risen
19. Family
20. Candy

Choices Matter!

By Deacon James Windon
(Luke 1: 26-38)

My sisters and my brothers:

Today, I want to explore the miracle of choice and the peace that comes with it.

Today, more than ever, the statement, “God does not call the qualified; God qualifies the called” is defined. The Apostle Luke relates to us the Annunciation of Mary and the miracle of choices. Our first choice to recognize is that God chose us to be His people...all of us. Throughout history, God affirms this choice by choosing unlikely people and using them to guide His people back to grace. Most of us know how the great men in the Old Testament, like Moses and David, were chosen by God when they were but lowly, shunned men. But God fulfills a promise made over a thousand years prior to this moment – He chooses Mary to be the Mother of Jesus, our eternal savior.

Who was Mary? It is believed that Mary was a 12-14 year-old girl, living in Nazareth. Mary is betrothed to Joseph, who is believed to be older than her. This, as was the custom, was probably a marriage arranged by the parents of Mary and Joseph. Mary is a young girl, living in Nazareth, with no status, no wealth, and no experience. This is whom God chose to be the Mother of God.

God sent His angel Gabriel to Mary to announce His choice. When the angel greeted her, the Gospel tells us that she was “troubled”. Troubled? Did this girl have nerves of steel?! An angel appeared to Mary and she is only troubled? Could this be that her deep faith and her state of grace allowed her to recognize this messenger of God? Probably... She then heard those wonderful words that always bring us comfort when coming from God: “Do not be afraid.”

The angel Gabriel told Mary that she is going to bear a son, whom God names Jesus – a son that will rule forever. Mary immediately reflected on the biggest problem to this announcement...the one she could directly understand. She asked how this could be since she has had no relations with a man. Mary questions, possibly because Mary feels unworthy and that this must be a mistake! Gabriel told her that the Holy Spirit would come upon her and the power of the Most High would overshadow her. Gabriel further offered a sign that she could also understand – that with God, nothing is impossible.

Gabriel then told Mary about Elizabeth’s pregnancy. Place yourself in this moment, if you can. Your life is planned out for you. You are an accepted member of the community. If you say yes...if you choose to do this...everything changes. You could become an immediate, social outcast. You could lose your husband, your security, and destroy the lives of your parents. Mary chooses God. Mary says “Yes”, and in that moment, the miracle of choice changes the fate of the world...before, then, now and for every tomorrow.

God’s understanding of humanity protects Mary beyond this moment. After this encounter, if any doubt should attack Mary, she can comfort herself in the fact that God

has left her a sign—proof—that this is real. She has but to follow the miraculous pregnancy of Elizabeth and the birth of her son to be continuously reminded that this is real.

What happens now? Well, she waits. She has nine months to prepare for the birth of Jesus. Mary must be filled with wonderment, excitement, and many hours of prayer during this preparation time. Because of this miraculous choice, Mary is transformed into the first disciple of Jesus Christ and a model of faith for all of us to follow. God chose, Mary chose...and these choices begin the greatest miracle for all of humanity. Choices matter.

Now, my sisters and my brothers, it is our turn to choose. God chose to create us with the ability to choose. God has chosen you and continues to choose you every day. From the moment of your conception until now, you are a benefactor of these miraculous choices. Have you made a choice? If you have, are you at peace with your choice, or are you struggling with that choice? If you haven’t, what are you waiting for?! God is calling you, but the evil in the world is competing with God, also constantly calling you...attempting to stop your choice.

Gods seeks servants, the world seeks slaves. Think about that. A servant has an element of freedom in choosing whom they work for, what they do, and are usually paid. A slave is owned, losing all rights, all choice, and all compensation. A servant can find peace, a slave is denied peace. We are weighed down by slavery if we remain beneath the yoke of sin, but can be set free by choosing the gift of salvation brought to us by Christ...yet another reason to choose God.

Let us look to Mary on how to make our choice, based on trust and faith. When we do, we will find that God has left us proof, just as He did with Mary. At every Mass, we are invited to witness the miracle of the Eucharist, right here, in our church, at this altar. This is what we need to bolster our faith in order to shield us from the doubts of the world.

My sisters and my brothers: let us spend time, constantly preparing the manger in our heart for the Baby Jesus. Let us accept God’s choices for us in our life, as Mary did, and let us choose God, as Mary did. Let us re-commit ourselves to this choice every day. That is how we can bring true peace to our lives. Choices matter.

May God bless each and every one of you.



*Mary said,
“Behold, I am the
handmaid
of the Lord.
May it be done to me
according to your
word.”
(Luke 1:38)*

Saint of the Month: St. Joseph, the Worker

Feast Day: May 1

For centuries, the Church has honored St. Joseph as the patron of fathers, workers, carpenters, families, social justice, of the Universal Church, and of a happy death (because Jesus and Mary are thought to have been present when he died, probably before Jesus' public ministry).

Two Feast Days are celebrated for St. Joseph: March 19th for *Joseph, the Husband of Mary*, and May 1st for *Joseph the Worker*.

Everything we know about St. Joseph, the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus, comes from Scripture.

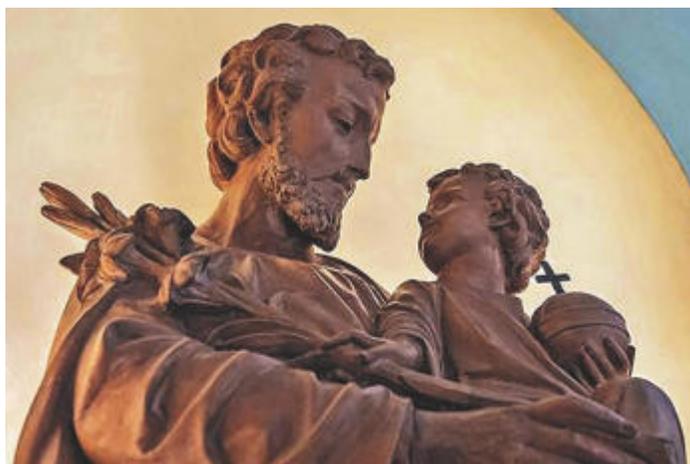
We know that he was a carpenter, a working man, for the skeptical Nazarenes ask about Jesus, "Is this not the carpenter's son?" (Matthew 13:55). He wasn't rich for when he took Jesus to the Temple to be circumcised and Mary to be purified, Joseph offered the sacrifice of two turtledoves or a pair of pigeons, allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb (Luke 2:24). Despite his humble work and means, Joseph came from a royal lineage. Luke and Matthew somewhat disagree about the details of Joseph's genealogy, but they both mark his descent from David, the greatest king of Israel (Matthew 1:1-16 and Luke 3:23-38). Indeed, the angel who first tells Joseph about Jesus greets him as "son of David", a royal title used also for Jesus.

We know that Joseph was a compassionate, caring man. When he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his, but was as yet unaware that she was carrying the Son of God. He planned to divorce Mary according to the law, but he was concerned for her suffering and safety. He knew that women accused of adultery could be stoned to death, so he decided to divorce her quietly and not expose her to shame or cruelty (Matthew 1:19-25).

We know that Joseph was a man of faith, obedient to whatever God asked of him, without knowing the outcome. When the angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him the truth about the child that Mary was carrying, Joseph immediately and without question or concern for gossip, took Mary as his wife. When the angel came again to tell him that his family was in danger, he immediately left everything he owned, all his family and friends, and fled to a strange country with his young wife and the baby. He waited in Egypt until the angel told him it was safe to go back (Matthew 2:13-23).

We know that Joseph loved Jesus. His one concern was for the safety of this child entrusted to him. Not only did he leave his home to protect Jesus, but upon his return, settled in the obscure town of Nazareth, out of fear for his life. When Jesus stayed in the Temple, we are told that Joseph (along with Mary) searched with great anxiety for three days for him (Luke 2:48). We also know that Joseph treated Jesus as his own son, for the people of Nazareth said of Jesus, "Is this not the son of Joseph?" (Luke 4:22)

We know that Joseph respected God. He followed God's commands in handling the situation with Mary and in going to Jerusalem to have Jesus circumcised and Mary purified after Jesus' birth. We are told that he took his family to Jerusalem every year for Passover, something that could not have been easy for a working man.



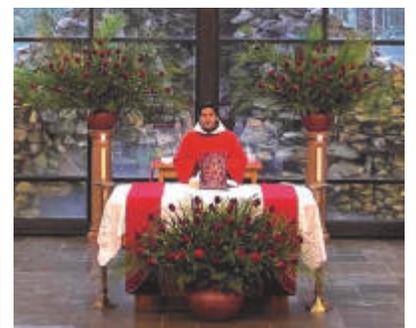
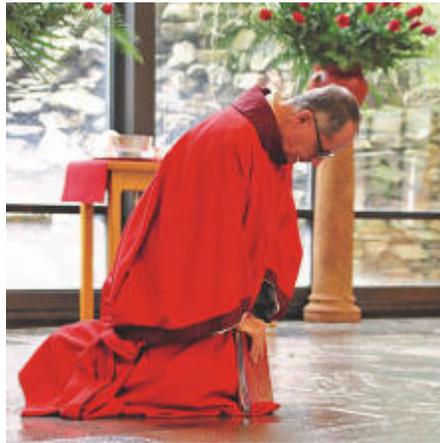
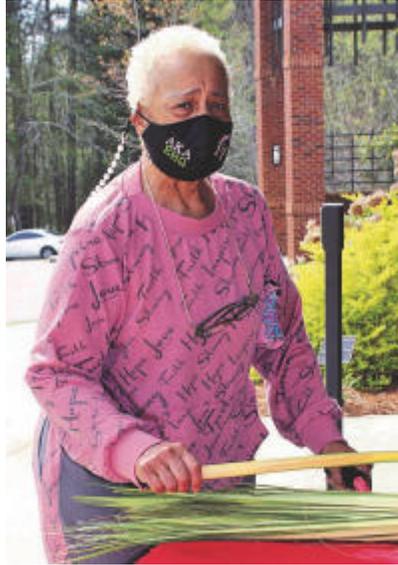
(Photo by Antoine Mekary)

There is much more we wish we could know about Joseph – where and when he was born; how he spent his days; when and how he died...but Scripture has left us with the most important information: who he was – "a righteous man". (Matthew 1:19)

https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=4

“He was chosen by the eternal Father as the trustworthy guardian and protector of his greatest treasures, namely, his divine Son and Mary, Joseph’s wife. He carried out this vocation with complete fidelity until at last, God called him, saying: ‘Good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord.’”
(St. Bernardine of Siena)

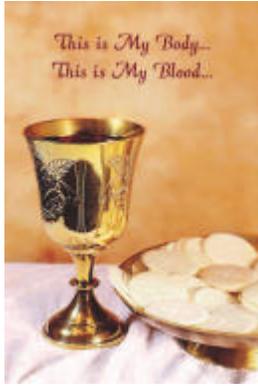
PALM SUNDAY—3/28/21 (A Pictorial Review)



Left: The parish cat joined us for Mass on Saturday evening, but didn't stay long and, surprisingly, was not a disruption!

(Photos by Yone Daly & Susan Douglas)

The Eucharist is Alive!



"The Eucharist is alive! If a stranger who knew nothing about the Eucharist were to watch the way we receive, would he know this? When you and I approach the Eucharist, does it look like we believe we are about to take into our bodies the living person, Jesus Christ, true God and true man? How many times, Lord, have I forgotten that the Eucharist is alive!

As I wait in line to receive you each day, am I thinking about how much you want to unite yourself with me? Am I seeing your hands filled with the graces you want to give me? Am I filled with awe and gratitude that you love me so much as to actually want to come to me in this incredibly intimate way?

Or am I distracted; busy with other thoughts, preoccupied with myself and my agendas for the day? How many times, Jesus, have I made you sad, mindlessly receiving you into my body, into my heart, with no love and no recognition of your love? How many times have I treated you as a dead object?

The Host that we receive is not a thing!
It's not a wafer! It's not bread!
It's a person – He's alive!"

~ Vinny Flynn (speaker & best-selling author)
(Excerpt from *7 Secrets of the Eucharist*, p. 8)



On April 1, 2021, we celebrated the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, also called Maundy Thursday. "Maundy" comes from the Latin word for "command" or "mandate" and refers to Jesus' commandment to His disciples to "Love one another as I have loved you." The Mass of the Lord's Supper commemorates Jesus' Last Supper with His twelve apostles, as well as the institution of the Eucharist as the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ; the institution of the Priesthood; and the Commandment of Love that Jesus gave His disciples after washing their feet (John 13:34).

These three gifts have vital significance to Catholics for they express the foundation of our faith: love, forgiveness, and service.

"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.'" (Mt 26: 26–28)
"Do this in memory of me." (Lk 22:19)

In his Holy Thursday homily on April 1st, Fr. Luis Palacios (one of St. Philip's Parochial Vicars) explained that *"Jesus loves us so much that He wants to stay with us forever, and He looked for a way to do it."*

So He gave us the Eucharist so that He could always be with us – in Body and Blood.
"For this reason, on Holy Thursday, Jesus, in His great love, gave us three gifts: the gift of His presence in the Eucharist; the gift of the Priesthood so that we never lack His 'Bread of Life'; and the gift of the Commandment of Love in the sign of the washing of the feet."

And Jesus tells us that:
"What He has done, we can also do. This is why it is very clear to us that every disciple must have a full attitude of service – service full of love, kindness, and mercy. That servant's service to our neighbor makes us truly disciples of the Lord. That is why, whoever is fed with the Eucharist, has to love...has to serve."

Fr. Luis emphasized that, to follow Jesus, we cannot be passive witnesses:
"In being a disciple, we have to be intimate with Jesus at His table, participate at His table, feed on Him, and then go out to meet our neighbors as good disciples. As servants, we have to make the needs of our neighbors our needs. And that is why, like a cycle, we kneel at their feet to wash them and then return, again and again, to the table of our Lord to be refreshed by His love and to feed ourselves with Jesus so that we will always be able to wash the feet of our brothers and sisters who need us."

"My dear brothers and sisters, whoever wants to follow the Lord must live in a permanent Eucharist – that is, to allow ourselves to be broken and distributed out of love, in a perpetual act of service to others. We have to love. I have to make an effort and demand of myself that I be 'alter-Christos' – 'another Christ'. I...we must be 'another Christ'."

"I invite all of you who are at home – our domestic churches – and all of you, here present – to wash the feet of each brother and sister. It is urgent that we love each other. For that reason, if you are at home, let us have that attitude of being "alter-Christos". Husbands: wash your wife's feet; wives: wash your husband's feet; parents: wash your children's feet: children, wash your parents' feet – and by doing so, we will all wash the feet of Jesus – the One who leaves us traces of His love and traces of His blessings. Amen."

Holy Thursday—4/1/21 (A Pictorial Review)



Many, many thanks go to all of our dedicated, liturgical ministers who not only served during Holy Week, but who have consistently volunteered throughout this past year, during the pandemic. It was wonderful to see some of our Altar Servers and Eucharistic Ministers serving again. Soon...our choirs??

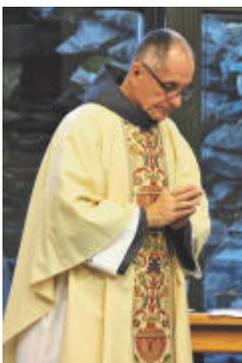


We were also very grateful to celebrate Holy Week in-person again and have so many participate! With masks and social distancing still required, our numbers are growing. May we soon "get back to normal" again!

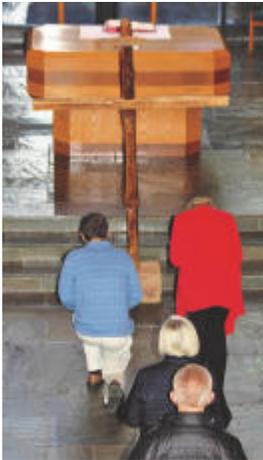
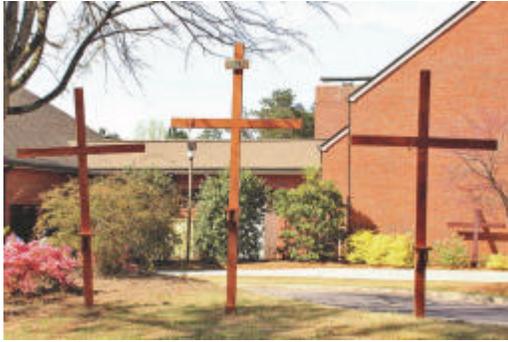
(Photos by Yone Daly)



Pictured at Right: (L-R) Deacon Tom, Fr. John (back), Fr. Luis (Presider), Fr. Vincent, and Fr. Santo.



Good Friday—4/2/21 (A Pictorial Review)



Veneration of the Cross: Due to COVID-19, parishioners were asked to kneel before the Cross, rather than kissing or touching it.



Although some of our Holy Week liturgies were bi-lingual, the Good Friday Services and Stations of the Cross were not. The Spanish community also presented Living Stations of the Cross in the church that evening.

(Photos by Yone Daly)

Easter Vigil—4/3/21 (A Pictorial Review)



(1): Ministers of Hospitality, Julia Batecan and Ligaya Zerkow are always ready to serve!

(2): DRE Lorraine Miller and Religious Ed Coordinator Darleine Arce worked hard to prepare our new Catholics for the sacraments.

(3): Sacristan Coordinators, Karen & Tim Standard served throughout Holy Week to assure that all went well. Many thanks go to Tim for preparing our Easter fire!

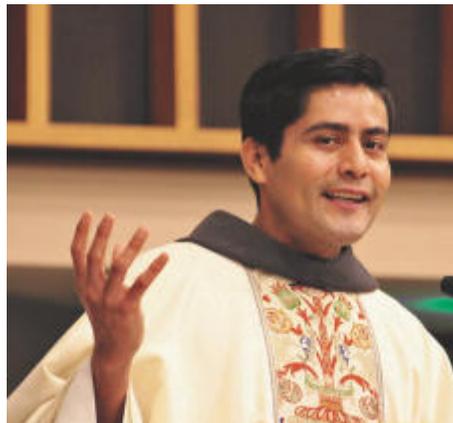
Below (L-R): Deacon Peter (Emcee); Altar Servers Joshua & Marija Dacosta; Fr. Luis, Fr. Santo; Altar Server Jeremiah Dacosta, Deacon Henry, Fr. John and Deacon Jim (not pictured) began the Mass outside the church.



Above: Fr. John inserted five “nails” into the Paschal candle, signifying the five wounds of Christ.

Below Center: After Fr. John’s homily, Fr. Luis delivered one in Spanish.

Inside a darkened church, the Mass continued with scripture readings and song. The church was then fully lit at the singing of the *Gloria*.



(Photos by Yone Daly)

Easter Vigil—4/3/21 (A Pictorial Review)



There are so many people to thank for making our Easter Vigil Mass and all of the Holy Week liturgies so beautiful, meaningful and inspiring: namely, our Friars, Deacons, staff, musicians, liturgical ministers, those who so beautifully decorated the church, and so many more! Special thanks go to our Faith Formation staff and catechists for helping to prepare our new Catholics throughout the formation process. Last, but certainly not least, "thank you" to the parents and sponsors who were a great source of support and encouragement as they walked this journey of faith with our new Catholics. We congratulate each and every one of them and pray that they may draw closer and closer to our Lord with each new day. *(Photos by Yone Daly)*

Easter Sunday—4/4/21 (A Pictorial Review)



Top Row: 6:30AM Garden Mass with Fr. John Koziol presiding...it was cold!

Remaining Photos: 7:00AM Mass with Fr. Vincent Gluc presiding; Deacons Tom and Greg assisted. Ricky Darby sanitized the church afterwards.

(Photos by Susan Douglas)





A Mother's Love

There's no love like a mother's,
Her heart is filled with care.
With Christ as her example,
Her Savior's love she'll share.

A mother's love is endless,
Not changing for all time.
When needed by her children,
A mother's love will shine.

God bless these special mothers,
God bless them every one.
For all their tears and heartaches,
And special work they've done.

When days on earth are over,
A mother's love lives on,
Through many generations,
God's blessings on each one.

Be thankful for our mothers,
Who love with higher love,
From power God has given,
And strength from up above.

(Author Unknown)



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

- † Maria Lourdes Fernandez, cousin of Yolanda Ravelo
- † Nicole Faben, sister of Eliane Lubin
- † Karen Sargee, wife of Jerry Sargee; mother of
Tabitha Treadwell & Jerry A. Sargee
- † Ngo Ndele, mother of parishioner Berthie Gonza
- † Art Carey, husband of +Alice Carey
- † Mary Alice McCaskill, former parishioner: wife of
+Major Mike McCaskill; mother of Chris McCaskill
- † William Castile, father of parishioner Justin Castile;
father-in-law of Christa Castile
- † Gilbert Lopez, nephew of Lourdes Lucier
- † Norvis Whitfield, sister of Victoria Storey
- † Bruce Skaug, former parishioner;
husband of +Judy Skaug
- † David Schink; † Larry Smith; † Joseph Dukes
- † Eugene McCarthy; and † Dewey Roscoe II
- † Jerl Bush, husband of † Mary Ruth Bush

May they rest in God's peace!

The Saint Philip *Be-News-Zi*

Monthly Newsletter of
St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church
591 Flint River Road
Jonesboro, GA 30238
(770) 478-0178

Fr. John A. Koziol, OFM Conv.
Pastor/Publisher

Yone Daly, Editor

Parish Website:
www.stphilipbenizi.org

Deadline: All articles submitted for publication in the *Be-News-Zi* must be received in writing (typed) or via e-mail, by the 5th of each month for publication in the following month's edition. Each article submitted for consideration will be published as approved by the Pastor and on a space-available basis.

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

benewszi@stphilipbenizi.org.