

St. Benedict Parish for the Deaf

Sunday, December 18 2022

Today, we gather on this last Sunday of Advent. Exactly seven days until Christmas. And we continue to wait. We continue to hope. We continue to get ready to welcome our Savior once again --- not simply someone who came a long time ago, but someone who continues to come to us every moment we open our hearts and minds and souls to him. His birth might have taken place in Bethlehem two thousand years ago, that much is true, but make no mistake about it ---he's anxious to be born again in this time and place, in each of us. And so those special words don't just tell a story from long ago. They are the start of a new story, a different story, a unique sequel to a story that still has the power to change the world --- our story --- the new chapter God wants to write in the history of the world. This is how the birth of Jesus came about . . . So come next Sunday, Christmas Day, how will that story continue? What's the next line, the next paragraph, the next chapter? Or will we get a kind of "spiritual writer's block", one in which the words no longer flow, the story no longer takes shape, the re-birth of Jesus never happens? Maybe it's because we struggle to believe it. And I get it. I struggle with it too. It's one thing to see God at work in the lives of the giants of faith from the past: Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and John among others --- and most of all, Mary --- the one who gave birth to God in the most complete way possible. We know their stories. We know the fruits of their labors. We know the difference each of them made. And maybe we think to ourselves, "God could never use me like he used them, could never count on me as he counted on them, could never achieve through me anything remotely close to what he achieved through them. I just don't have it in me." I just don't have it in me . . . Well, our faith tells us otherwise. Advent and Christmas tell us otherwise. The Resurrection, Ascension, and Descent of the Holy Spirit tell us otherwise. At the heart of Christianity lies the profound belief that our God is not "out there" somewhere --- distant and completely disinterested. No --- we believe our God came to us and dwelt among us --- and continues to dwell in every human heart open to his grace. We believe he was born long ago of Mary (the greatest of all disciples) --- yet somehow wants to be "re-born" in each of us, not once, but continually. And so, we share in the profound "yes" of Mary by striving to do the same, by inviting our loving God within and then finding ways to give birth to him in new ways, new situations --- caring for a world in desperate need of his presence, his mercy, his compassion, his love. Put simply, our faith assures us that we DO "have it in us" --- if we are open to the One who wants to make us his home. Will we take up the challenge? Will we let God in? Will we continue the story set in motion long ago? Or will the birth of Jesus be a thing of the past, a distant memory? This is how the birth of Jesus came about . . . May those words set in motion in each of our lives a story that continues to transform the world, continues to fill people with wonder, and continues to give every person a little more hope and peace and joy. Blessings! Fr. Paul

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St. Benedict Sunday Mass	
<u>December 11, 2022 Collection</u>	
Currency:	\$ 31.00
Envelopes:	\$ 315.00
TOTAL:	\$ 346.00

Thank you very much for supporting with your gifts

LIFE-GIVING WOUNDS

Healing Retreat

for Adult Children of Divorce

MARCH 17-19, 2023

Vallombrosa Retreat Center
250 Oak Grove Ave, Menlo Park, CA

Weekend retreat will include Holy Mass, opportunities for Confession and Adoration.

For more information / registration visit:
www.acdsf.info
 or contact Ed Hopfner: HopfnerE@SFArch.org



Sunday Mass Readers

All are welcome to volunteer

December 18
Nancy McCormick

December 24
Markensy Jacques

December 25
Aaron Cruz

January 01, 2023
Michael Callejas

January 08, 2023
Vanessa Baxter

January 15, 2023
Clarebyll Mabanta

CALENDAR 2022

Sunday, December 18
 Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Mass at 10:30AM
 President: Father Ghislain

Sunday, December 24
 Christmas Vigil
 Mass at 7:00PM
 President: Father Ghislain

Sunday, December 25
 Christmas Day
 Mass at 10:30AM
 President: Father Paul

Sunday, January 01
 New Year's Day
 Mass at 10:30AM
 President: Father Ghislain

Sunday, January 08
 The Epiphany of the Lord
 Mass at 10:30AM
 President: Father Paul

Sunday, January 15
 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Mass at 10:30AM
 President: Father Ghislain

MASS INTENTIONS

DECEASED

Gerry Riippa
 Joyce Carolan
 Victor Lampe
 Mako Rova
 Mariya Yasumura
 Elizabeth Heurtin
 Bill Mortensen
 Shanon Quinn Manini
 Francine Inami
 Atsuko Jurenes
 Marie Conroy—Salbi
 Barry Coen
 Sugako Berne
 Sumi Honami
 Jeanette Affolter
 James Travonich
 Donald Baer
 Maria Cristina Purdy
 Joseph Byrne
 Betty Blue
 Elizabeth Mallorca
 Rena Riippa
 Carmen A Molina
 Norman K Wong
 Dick Carlen Sr.
 Jean RNC Cowan
 Brigid Byrne
 Patricia Cavagnaro
 Frankie Zaldivar, Sr

LIVING

Aldo Didero
 Jennie Lee Jordan
 Henry K Wong
 Nancy K Wong
 Frank Wong
 Neal Fancroft
 Donald Glickman
 Lucille McNulty
 Maureen McBride
 Wilda Kelleher
 Maria Garcia
 Reena Angeli Alejar
 Jose Ordonez
 Jane Lampe
 Palmgra Morrell
 Micaela Pablo
 Aida Seballos
 Donovan Mulligan
 Edward Passos, Jr.
 Winnie Cuevas
 Isabella Harris
 Robert & Diana Zunino
 Jose Ruiz
 Modesta Orque
 Wilda Kelleher
 Maffy Gaya
 Sprouse Family
 Frankie Zaldivar, Jr
 Ernesto Ortega



St. Benedict Parish at St. Francis Xavier Church
 1801 Octavia Street
 San Francisco, CA 94109
 A Roman Catholic Ministry to the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Japanese Communities and people of God in San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin Counties.

“Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of age.” Matthew 28:20

Mass in American Sign Language at St. Benedict Parish at St. Francis Xavier Church.

Sunday at 10:30AM

Holy Days of Obligation

January 1: Mass at 10:30AM

August 15: Mass at 7:00PM

November 1: Mass at 7:00PM

December 25: Mass at 10:30AM

Sacrament of Baptism

One or two baptism classes are required. Contact the Pastor at least two months for appointment.

Religious Education & Youth Ministry

Ages 4 to High School on

Sundays at Saint Benedict after the Liturgy of the Word

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

By arrangement with the Pastoral Team for those who may be interested in becoming followers of Jesus Christ in the Roman Catholic Church. Programs are available for those who wish to be baptized, to receive First Holy Communion, to be confirmed and to learn more about the faith of the Roman Catholic Church.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Reconciliation service during Advent and Lent. Appointment with the Pastor every **First Saturday** of the month at 3:00PM whenever needed.

Sacrament of Marriage

Contact the Pastor at least 6 months in advance to make arrangements (Archdiocesan regulations).

Sacrament of Anointing the Sick

Please contact the Pastor immediately whenever needed.



PARISH STAFF

Fr. Paul Zirimenya, Pastor
 Fr. Ghislain Bazikila, **Parochial Vicar**
 Mary Ann Schmitz, **Office Manager**

Office Hours: 10AM - 2PM
[TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS]

TELEPHONE/ VP

415 - 567 - 9855 V/TTY

415-255-5837/5768 VP

Email: stbenz1801@gmail.com
 Website: www.sfdeafcatholics.org

Also, dial 711 For Relay Service or Sorenson Video Relay Service.

PARISH MINISTRY & PROGRAMS

Religious Education, Youth Ministry and Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

Parish Council Meetings:
Fourth Sundays of the month
by Announcement

St. Benedict Program
 Food Baskets are usually given out on **Palm Sunday** and Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Please remember
St. Benedict Parish in
your WILL and BEQUESTS

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

If you believe you are a victim of sexual abuse. Please call our SF Archdiocesan Clergy Abuse Hotline:

Abuse Hotline:
415-614-5506

RR Code: 2487