St. Benedict Parish for the Deaf Sunday, December 18 2022

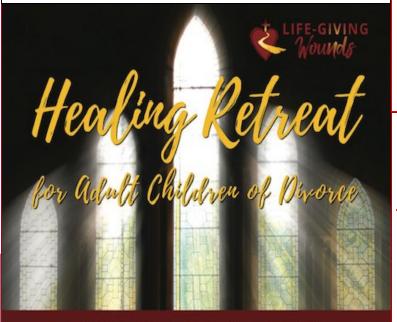
Today, we gather on this last Sunday of Advent. Exactly seven days until Christmas. And we continue to wait. We continue to hope. We continue to get ready to welcome our Savior once again --- not simply someone who came a long time ago, but someone who continues to come to us every moment we open our 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



St. Benedict Sunday Mass December 11, 2022 Collection

Currency: \$ 31.00 Envelopes: \$ 315.00 **T OTAL:** \$ **346.00**

Thank you very much for supporting with your gifts



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
Presider: Father Ghislain

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

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

Presider: Father Paul

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

Presider: Father Ghislain

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

Presider: Father Paul

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

MASS INTENTIONS

DECEASED LIVING

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

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 Gava **Sprouse Family** Frankie Zaldivar, Jr **Ernesto Ortega**



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.

St. Benedict

Parish at St.

"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.

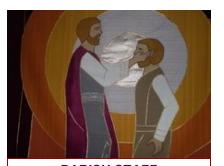
Sacrament of Reconciliation

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:

415-614-5506 RR Code: 2487