

St. Benedict Parish for the Deaf

Christmas Day: Sunday, December 25, 2022

Merry Christmas everyone! It brings me great joy to celebrate the day on which our loving God came to us in such a beautiful way, in such a perfect way, in such an incredibly humble way --- in the person of Jesus --- our Savior, our brother, our friend, our God. Who could have imagined that the One who would change absolutely everything would start his journey this way, with these parents, in this small town, in a shelter of little comfort, lying in a container used to feed the animals? Yet, this is how it happened --- how our God stepped into our world in a physical way, a tangible way, a profound way. What a God we have! Of course, what I've described is just that --- a "what". But that's not the biggest question, not the most important one. The essential question is . . . Why did God choose this way? Why enter our world as a baby, born of a woman? Why not miraculously appear and do whatever he needed to do? Of course, most of us probably look at other people all the time and wish we could trade our lives for theirs. We see someone who has way more friends than we do and think, "I wish I could be like her." Or we see someone who is smarter and has an easier time in school and we think, "I wish I could be like him." We see a couple who never has to worry about money and we think, "I wish I could be like them." Or we see someone who is way more attractive, or better at sports, or more musical, or more creative, or who has a great family, and we think, "I really wish I could be like them." And so it makes a certain kind of sense that we would want to be more like a whole bunch of different people, people whose lives look a lot better than ours. We'd like to trade places with them, step into their worlds, their lives, so that we could enjoy the things they enjoy. But why would God want to be like us? What's in it for him? Nothing. After all, that's what God needs --- nothing. Then, why? I guess one could argue that for God to save us in the manner he chose to save us, it was necessary that he become one of us. That's certainly a big part of it. But is that the whole picture? Is that all that first Christmas was for? In faith we believe it was in reality much more than that. The incredible truth seems to be that God wanted to be like us --- wanted to enter our world, walk our journey, assume our nature --- so that we could be more like him! He embraced what we are so that we could embrace what and who he is. And so, while there is really nothing in it for God (so-to-speak), there is certainly something in it for us -- something of incomparable value, more meaningful than we can ever imagine, tremendously hopeful. The truth is --- the created world was forever changed once our loving God chose to enter into it in such a profound way. Because of Jesus, we now are creatures who have the possibility of becoming more and more like our Creator. And that's all become possible through the Incarnation, through the gift the baby Jesus IS and the gift he came to BRING --- a new kind of life for each of us --- lives transformed into something more beautiful and more God-like than we could ever imagine. And so, we believe that . . . God drew close to us so that we could draw closer to him. God broke into our world so that we could break into his. God walked our journey so that we would have a path to follow. God experienced our pain so that we could experience his love. And in addition to all of that, this loving God of ours came not for a visit, but forever --- the living God who wants each of us to be his dwelling place. And so, that means that the manger is no longer in some cold, dark, lonely place as it was two thousand years ago. It is now within you and within me --- waiting to cradle Jesus --- if we have the courage to invite him in. Have a merry Christmas everyone. Jesus Christ is born! Blessings! Fr. Paul++++++



St. Benedict Sunday Mass	
December 18, 2022 Collection	
Currency:	\$ 9.00
Envelopes:	\$ 10,778.00
TOTAL:	\$ 10,787.00

Thank you very much for supporting with your gifts

Sunday Mass Readers
 All are welcome to volunteer
December 24
 Markensy Jacques
December 25
 Aaron Cruz
January 01, 2023
 Michael Callejas
January 08, 2023
 Vanessa Baxter
January 15, 2023
 Clarebyll Mabanta
January 22, 2023
 Nancy McCormick

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



CALENDAR 2022

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: Father Paul

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

Sunday, January 22
 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Mass at 10:30AM
Presider: Father Paul

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 Hear-
 ing 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:

415-614-5506

RR Code: 2487