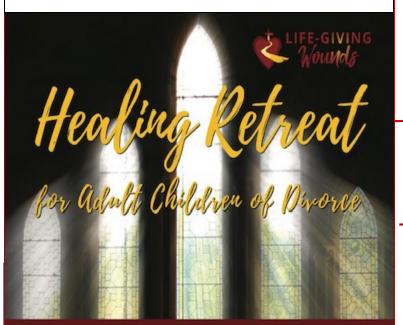
St. Benedict Parish for the Deaf Sunday, January 01, 2023

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 guestion, 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 2 | 5, 2022 | Collection | |
| Currency: | \$ | 276.00 | |
| Envelopes: | \$ | 1230.00 | |
| T OTAL: | \$ | 1506.00 | |
| Thank you very much | for sur | norting with vo | 1 |

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 January 01 Michael Callejas January 08 Vanessa Baxter January 15 Clarebyll Mabanta January 22 Nancy McCormick January 29 Markensy Jacques February 05 Aaron Cruz

CALENDAR 2023

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

Sunday, January 29 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mass at 10:30AM Presider: Father Ghislain

Sunday, February 05 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mass at 10:30AM Presider: Father Ghislain

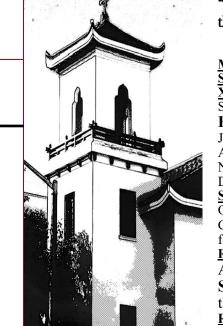
MASS INTENTIONS

DECEASED

Gerry Riippa Joyce Carolan Victor Lampe Mako Rova Mariva Yasumura **Elizabeth Heurtin Bill Mortensen Shanon Ouinn 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 Gava **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

Sacrament of Anointing the Sick Please contact the Pastor immediately whenever needed.

regulations).



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:<u>www.sfdeafcatholics.org</u> 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