



ST. PHILIP NERI
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Portland, Oregon



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First & Second
Sunday of Lent



February 18 &
February 25, 2024

Our Logo is the Cross

In 1925, Pope Pius XI instituted the feast of Christ the King. The feast has often been misunderstood, with folks conjuring up images of earthly kings. Pictures and statues have Christ wearing, of all things, an elaborate gold crown. But Christ is a king who wears no crown like that. *People* put this kind of crown on him—he didn't. The only crown he ever wore was a crown of thorns.

The life of Jesus is the story of the great reversal. This is a king who washes feet, who is at table as one who serves, who calls everyone sisters and brothers, who says the first are last and the last first, and who leaves no one out. This is a king who mingles with lepers, the blind, the deaf, the crippled, sinners.



The life of Jesus is the story of kingship turned upside down. Tribute, in his kingdom, is given to the poor, the meek, the sorrowful,

the hungry, the merciful, the peacemakers.

Like the disciples, I can have a hard time letting Jesus be who he is. I'd rather make him something he isn't. Of course, I have a vested interest because whatever he is, that will be my way, my truth, my life.

Our logo is the cross, not the crown. At baptism, the Church didn't crown me. It drowned me. At confirmation, the Church didn't put a royal sword in my hand. It put holy oil on my head. At the Eucharist, I don't stand back and adore an enthroned king. I travel the way he got there, which is what I do from the preparation of the gifts to the great Amen. I put myself on the altar and book passage with the Lord on the way of the cross. I climb aboard a moving train on a track that runs to glory through dying.

Let's put this royal crown back in the bag. **Let's live, not under the sign of the jeweled crown and all the values associated with it, but always under the sign of the cross.**

The Little Black Book, Feb. 2021
from the Diocese of Saganaw, MI

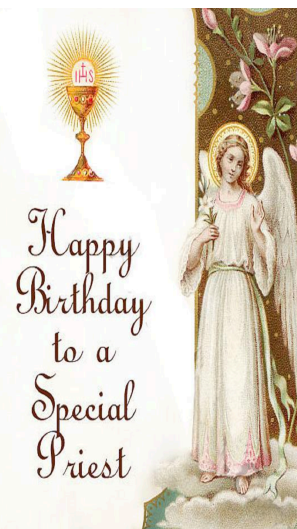
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT: JESUS IS TEMPTED IN THE DESERT

One commentator on the Scripture suggests that this experience of Jesus being tempted would not have been included in the accounts of his life and ministry unless Jesus revealed this to some of his close followers. He is portrayed as vulnerable to the deceits of Satan. Why would Jesus go into the desert for a forty-day retreat after his baptism? It is the same reason why people go on retreat: to refocus on who they are, where they are going and how to get there. One's perspective about life gets blurred by all the noise and hyperactivity of life. Jesus needed time to understand the revelation of his identity given by the voices of his Father at his baptism: "You are my beloved Son, my favor rests on you."



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT: THE TRANSFIGURATION

Mount Tabor is 1800 feet above sea level and it is the place that most ancient scholars agree is the site of the Transfiguration. In the Synoptic Gospels the transfiguration follows Jesus questioning his disciples: "Who do you say that I am?" When he saw they were starting to get it, he revealed a deeper understanding of himself. He was going to suffer and die and after three days rise from the dead. So the condition for following him was they must be willing to lose their lives for his sake and the sake of the Gospel. Then six days after this hard teaching, Jesus takes his trusted threesome, Peter, James and John, to Mount Tabor and was transfigured before them. Having the Gospel of the Transfiguration so close to the beginning of Lent, points to the conclusion of the Lenten Journey — the celebration death and resurrection of Jesus. We do not have to pretend that Easter has not happened, but we are invited to grow in our faith understanding of this the most radical and fundamental of our Christian beliefs.



Birthday Blessings
to you
Father
Andrew
on
March 13!

The Grace of God shines in you, though you, and all around you. **Thank you** for all that you do for this parish.

Please take a moment to send a card and wish Fr. Andrew a blessed Birthday.

CSR Rice Bowls

This upcoming Lenten season, our parish is once again participating in the **CRS Rice Bowl** collection. We are called to love our neighbor. But, like the scholar in the scripture passage, we may find ourselves wondering, "Who is my neighbor?" This Lent, CRS Rice Bowl—Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program, will help us answer that question. Visit www.csricebowl.org for more information. Empty Rice Bowls are available in the foyer.

During the season of Lent we will have **Adoration every Friday**, starting February 16th until March 22nd. It will take place before the 12:10 p.m. Mass.

After the 12:10 p.m. Mass we will have stations of the cross. These events will only take place when there is a Friday Mass. Thank you for your understanding.



100 YEARS

Happy Birthday!



To Longtime Parishioner
ANDREA DEL ROSARIO
 Congratulations!

Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, not even if your whole world seems upset. If you find that you have wandered away from the shelter of God, lead your heart back to Him quietly and simply.



—St. Francis de Sales



The workshop date has changed and will now take place after Lent starts. We will be offering an adult education class called "Growing Old with God" this **February 17th, 24th and March 2nd**. The class begins at 2:45 p.m. prior to the 4:00 p.m. Saturday Mass. Find us in the music room off the hallway behind the Altar / Sanctuary.

All are welcome! Barbara Harrison and Mary Kavanaugh will team as the presenters. Please join them.

Just click on the **GIVE ONLINE** button and take a look around. It's designed to be easy. It can be found on the upper right of our home page on our new website.

www.stphilipneripdx.org
 Thank you!

Church Cleaners Schedule

Feb 20 – Feb 23
 Tina & Linda

Feb 27 – Mar 1
 Karen & Swedi



MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. Feb 17:	4:00 p.m.	† George Spada – Rossetto Sisters
Sun. Feb 18:	9:30 a.m.	† Joe Graziano – Shannon Alfonson
Wed. Feb 21:	9:00 a.m.	† Antonette Amato – Altar Society
Thur. Feb 22:	9:00 a.m.	Bill Dietzler – Dorene & Eleanore
Fri. Feb 23:	12:10 p.m.	† Christopher Calcagno
Sat. Feb 24:	4:00 p.m.	† George Spada – Ilona Cherry
Sun. Feb 25:	9:30 a.m.	† Fred Spada – Marietta Spada
Wed. Feb 28:	9:00 a.m.	No Mass
Thu. Feb 29:	9:00 a.m.	No Mass
Fri. Mar 1:	12:10 p.m.	No Mass
Sat. Mar 2:	4:00 p.m.	Sabin Family – Jarvis Family
Sun. Mar 3:	9:30 a.m.	† Ambrose Calcagno Jr.



Andrea Del Rosario ♥ Family of Antonette Amato ♥ Mary Schleich ♥ LeeAnn Mills ♥ Tessa Parise Murdock ♥ Bill Dietzler ♥ Fr. Fred Nkwasiwe, AJ

Please contact the office if you, or someone you know needs our prayers!



February 18 – February 24
 Mary Schleich

February 25 – March 2
 † Fred Spada

"We the welcoming community of St. Philip Neri Parish, empowered by the compassion of Jesus and supported by the Eucharist and the Word, dedicate ourselves to engage with and enrich the lives of those we touch."

Reconciliation Times
 Saturday
 by appointment only

Pastor – #101
 Fr. Andrew Thomas
athomas@stphilipneripdx.org



Administrative Assistant - #100
 Debra Guthrie
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