



(Perfect Image Photography – Danny Doctor)

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**Historic St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church**

**Located @441 E. Broad St., Savannah, Ga 31401**

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**March 14, 2021**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year B**

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**Rev. Romanus Obiora Ezeugwu, MSP, Pastor**  
**Shirley West, Admin Secretary**  
**Bea Betworth, Accounts Secretary**  
**Sharon Carson, Supt. of Religious Education**  
**Dianne Williams, Parish Council Chairperson**  
**Carl Hayes, Finance Chairperson**  
**Jerome Grayson, Bldg/Maintenance**

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**Please remember to follow our Parish Covid-19 safety guidelines:**

- 1. Please read carefully the Covid-19 information provided at the entrance of the church.**
- 2. For your protection and for the safety of others, masks are highly recommended at Mass.**
- 3. Sanitizer is available for use at the entrance of the church. Please use it before coming into the church. There is also a sanitizer bottle in each pew.**
- 4. There is social distancing seating arrangement. Please it is critical that you follow the directions of the Ushers.**
- 5. Please observe social distancing also when leaving the church. Please do not socialize outside the church. Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people. Do not gather in groups.**

## **Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day**

Even during Lent we remain a joyful people, for we believe that God loves us despite our sinfulness, loves us so much that Jesus Christ sacrificed himself so that we may be redeemed and born into eternal life. Today on Laetare (**“Rejoice”**) Sunday, we anticipate the joy we will feel on Easter. Let us give thanks to God for the grace and mercy we have regularly received and trust we will continue to receive throughout our lives.

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### ***Mass Intentions***

**5:30pm: For the birthday celebration of Brenda Kennedy (03/14),**

**\*offered by the Kennedy family.**

**For the repose of the soul of Deacon Prince A. Jackson, Jr. on the anniversary of his birthday.**

**\*offered by Prince A. Jackson, III.**

**9:30am: For all MSP Priests as they continue their work in the Lord’s vineyard.**

**\*offered by the AMSP.**

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### **(Prelude, Intro, Hymn, Penitential Act)**

#### **Gloria**

Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you; we bless you; we adore you; we glorify you; we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; You are seated at the right hand of the father, have mercy on us. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, With the Holy Spirit, In the glory of God the Father, Amen.

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### **First Reading: A reading from the 2<sup>nd</sup> book of Chronicles: 36: 14-16, 19-23.**

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In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD’s temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem.

Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy. Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects. Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power. All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah:

“Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled”.

In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of mouth and in writing:

“Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia:

All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!”

### **The Word of the Lord.**

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#### **Responsorial Psalm:**

[Psalm 137:1-6]

**Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!**

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### **Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 2:4-10.**

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Brothers and sisters:

God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ — by grace you have been saved —, raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in

Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.

### The Word of the Lord.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ALL STAND

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so everyone who believes might have eternal life.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of endless glory.

#### GOSPEL:

✠ A reading from the gospel of St. John 3:14-21.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life”.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil.

For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed.

But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

### The Gospel of the Lord.

### PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe** in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, **of all things visible and invisible. I believe** in one Lord Jesus Christ, **the only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages**, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, **consubstantial with the Father**; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: **(At the words that follow, all bow) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. (end bow).** For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, **he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day, in accordance with the Scriptures.** He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. **I believe** in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. **who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets. I believe** in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. **I confess** one baptism for the forgiveness of sins, **and I look forward to** the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*Parish Giving*  
*March 7, 2021*

Offertory	\$ 7059.00
Deanery Schools	\$ 225.00
Parish Bus	\$ 159.00
Catholic Relief	\$ 20.00

*“Thank You for Your Generosity”*



### Please Pray for our Sick & Homebound

Michael Allen, Joe Battle, Henry Blount, M. Marie Blue, Carmen Broussard, William & Odessa Bryant, James Cain, Shawn Chaney, Anne Chappell, Josefa Citizen, Lillian Dilworth, Morris Elliott, Juanita Fields, Anthony Hall, Laura Harris, Jessica Jackson, Charlotte Jenkins, Clevon Johnson, Margaret Jones, Bobby Locke, Michelle Lovewine, Margie McNeal, Dawud Patterson, Adriene Perry, Sr., Adriene Perry, Jr., Janice Quinn, Marilee Short, Lucille Singleton, Inez Walthour, Frankie Washington, Jeanette Westley

Margaret Weston, Deveira Wiggins, Louise Wiggins, Nathaniel Wiggins, Arlene Wiley, Ellen Williams, Tandra Williams, Yvonne Williams, Crystal Williams, Narvia Williams, Julie Porter-Winfrey.

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### **2021 STATIONS of the CROSS**

Stations of the Cross will be held every  
**Friday at 6:00pm**

Make this service a part of your Lenten journey!

**March 19** – New Horizons and Traveling Moors

**March 26** – CCW and Friends of SBM

**April 2** – Legion of Mary and Choirs

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### **RECONCILIATION WEDNESDAYS**

The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist – 4:00-5:00 PM

Resurrection of Our Lord – 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Sacred Heart – 4:30 – 5:30 PM

St. Anne, Richmond Hill – 6:00-6:45 PM

St. Benedict the Moor – 5:00-6:00 PM

St. Boniface, Springfield – 5:30-6:30 PM

St. James – 6:00 – 7:00 PM

St. Michael's, Tybee Island – 4:30 – 5:30 PM

Blessed Sacrament 4:00-5:00 PM.

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### **AMSP MEETING**

Can you please place in the announcement about an AMSP meeting March 23rd, in the parish hall 5:30pm. Wearing of masks and practicing social distancing will be in place.

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### **PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS**

**"Whoever is not with me is against me":**

St. John shares with us in today's Gospel the conversation which Jesus had with Nicodemus, a leading Jew, a man of great wealth and position. Nicodemus was so much impressed by Jesus' preaching and miracles, but he was afraid of his fellow Jews of his own class. He knew that they would make mockery of him if they came to know that he was following Jesus and believing in His teaches. For this reason, he came to speak with Jesus at night when his colleagues would not see him. Jesus told Nicodemus that to enter the kingdom of God, one must believe in Christ and be baptized. Jesus also told him that it is the will of God, the Father that He, the Lord should be lifted up on the cross and die so that those who believe in Him may have eternal life.

It was obvious that Nicodemus loved Jesus and seemed to believe in Him. He tried to defend

Jesus later when the Pharisees wanted to condemn Jesus even without trial. He told them, "Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?" (John 7:51). He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. He also assisted Joseph of Arimathea in the burial of Jesus and provided expensive ointment for the embalmment of the body. "Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds" (John 19:39).

Jesus offered Nicodemus eternal life. All that he needed to do was to believe and be baptized. Nicodemus could not take this offer because he was one of the leading Pharisees, obviously was afraid of what his colleagues will think of him if they see him following Jesus. He feared not only what they will think, but what their reaction will be if they see him following Jesus. For this reason, Nicodemus decided to remain a secret following who would meet Jesus only at night. He preferred to please human beings rather than God – to fear men rather than God, and the expense of his eternal life which Jesus offered him.

We all might have the tendency to blame Nicodemus for his foolish decision, but sometimes we too are like Nicodemus. Sometimes we refuse to tell the truth or do the right thing because of what people will say or how they will see us. It was the same fear of how people would react that made Pilate to condemn Jesus. As Christians and followers of Jesus, we need courage to stand up to what we believe. To be a lukewarm Christian is a tragedy! Jesus warns the Church in Laodicea and all of us against being lukewarm Christians, "*I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth*" (Rev. 3:15-16).

**Your Pineapple for the week:**

"If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).