



MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 5:30 pm
 SUNDAY 9 am & 11:30 am

Weekday Mass @ 8:00 am
 Wednesday-Friday in the Church

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

UNITY MASS @ 10AM

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament
@ 6:00pm

Christian Initiation:

Sacraments of Baptism,

Confirmation and Holy Communion

Preparation of each Sacrament is required. Baptisms are celebrated quarterly usually at 11:30 am Mass.

Adults seeking to receive the sacraments for the first time should contact the Pastor for further information.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Registration and participation prior to your wedding date is required. Arrangements should be made with the Priest before the wedding date is set; Instructions to begin at least four months before the wedding.



The *VIRTUS* Protecting God's Children training is required for all volunteers and employees in the Diocese of Savannah and must be completed before they begin their ministry.

Seating is limited, and pre-registration is required online. Registration instructions can be found at <https://diosav.org/how-do-i/register-for-virtus-training>. A LAPTOP or DESKTOP is recommended for registration.

Welcome to St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church

Our hope is that your presence here in the celebration of the Mass with us will remind you of the wonder that is God's sustaining grace; that it encourages you in your walk and will motivate you to pass on His amazing grace to others!

HISTORIC

ST BENEDICT THE MOOR CATHOLIC CHURCH—*Since 1874*

441 E. Broad St – Savannah, GA 31401-5106

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Phone: 912-232-7147 Fax: 912-238-0184

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December 11, 2022

*Third Sunday of Advent
Year A*

Rev. Romanus Obiora Ezeugwu, MSP, Pastor
 Sharon Carson, Supt. of Religious Education
 Audrey Moultrie, Interim Parish Council Chairperson
 Sharon Carson, Administrative Secretary
 Bea Betworth, Accounts Secretary
 Jerome Grayson, Bldg/Maintenance

Finance Council Members:

Carl Hayes Chairman	912-655-7153
Melanie White Secretary	912-439-1488
Clarence Davis Member	912-308-4677
Frank Williams Member	912-233-2817



www.stbenedictmcc.org

Visit our website to sign up and to begin contributing automatically to your parish. Sign up for Online Giving by visiting our parish website at www.stbenedictmcc.org and selecting the **Online Giving** link to get started!

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

Halfway through this season of preparation, we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, this Sunday of joy and gladness. With eager anticipation we prepare our hearts for Christ as we prepare our homes for Christmas. Recalling that Mary and Joseph could not find a proper place for Mary to give birth to our Savior, we commit to preparing a proper place to receive our Lord anew into our lives. In him, the blind see and the deaf hear, the poor are fed and the dead are raised. May we ready ourselves to see the wonders the Lord can do in our midst.

Today's Readings are found in the Word & Eucharist Catholic Mass Book – Page 176

Parish Giving December 4, 2022

Offertory	\$6014.00
Second Collection - Religious Retirement	\$ 30.00
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	\$ 77.00

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL AS OF 12/1/22

Goal: \$32,796.00

Received to Date: \$31,522.25

"Thank You for Your Generosity"

MASS INTENTIONS:

9:00am: For Fr. Romanus and all MSP priests as they continue their work in the Lord's vineyard.

*Offered by the AMSP

PARISH THANK YOU

Thank you to Mrs. Edna Mason who very generously sponsored the 2023 Josephite calendars for the parish. Your parish appreciates you so much.

OUR PARISH BIBLE STUDY/KNOW YOUR FAITH

Our Parish Bible Study is held on Wednesdays at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall. The teaching of our Catholic doctrines is blended into our bible study to enable us to have a better understanding of the faith that we profess. Please come, let us enrich ourselves

with the Word of God at this Advent Season and thereafter. *Fr. Romanus

THE DEFINITION OF "ACTIVE CATHOLIC"

Baptisms, Marriages, Catholic School attendance, etc., requires that a person must be registered, attend Mass regularly and involved in Time, Talent & Treasure (Stewardship.) Participation through parish offertory envelopes is one means of verification. To be considered an active, participating member of the parish, St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church takes into account a family's or individual's Mass attendance and ministry involvement. Attendance at Mass is the most meaningful way we model and live our Catholic faith. We will then be aware of your continued participation and you will not be moved to inactive status.

Please Pray for our Sick & Homebound:

Willie Allen, Jr., Mariah Bailey, Joe Battle, Henry Blount, Odessa Bryant, Alethea Chaney, Lillie Charlton, Josefa Citizen, Lillian Dilworth, Morris Elliott, Juanita Fields, Jessica Jackson, Vera Jennings, Clewon Johnson, Bobby Locke, Mackenzie Jenkins, Dawud Patterson, Evelyn Porter, Ellen Roberts, Delores Robinson, Elizabeth Robinson, Janice Quinn, Cornelius St. Mark, Inez Walthour, Frankie Washington, Margaret Weston, Nathaniel Wiggins, Arlene Wiley, Ellen Williams, Tandra Williams, Crystal Williams, Narvia Williams, Willetta Williams, Julie Porter-Winfrey.

LECTORS' SCHEDULE *ANNOUNCER ALSO

December 10/11

5:30pm	Rachel Hooper	Sharon Carson*
9:00am	Melanie White	Barbara McGhee
11:30am	Matthew Jenkins	Donald Perry

December 17/18

5:30pm	Adriene Perry	Shirley West
9:00am	Dianne Williams	Georgene Jones
11:30am	Faith Formation	Faith Formation

ANNOUNCERS' SCHEDULE *LECTOR ALSO

December 10/11

5:30pm	Sharon Carson*
9:00am	Emily Williams
11:30am	Atzmayah Bailey

December 17/18

5:30pm	Edna Mason
9:00am	
11:30am	Faith Formation

December Calendar

11 Sun. Gaudete Sunday
12 Mon. Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
13 Tue. Memorial of St. Lucy
14 Wed. Memorial of St. John of the Cross

PARISH SYMPATHY

Parish condolences to Ms. Jennifer Short on the loss of her mother, Mrs. Marilee Short, who passed away on Wednesday, December 7, 2022. Marilee Short was a long-time parishioner here at St. Benedict the Moor and active in several ministries. Funeral arrangements were incomplete at the time of bulletin printing. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

WINTER COAT DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus Council #10274 is holding a winter coat drive beginning this Sunday through the first week of January 2023. Coats and jackets of all sizes and in good condition are needed. Please place your donation in the bin at the front entrance of the church. Thank you for your generosity.

PARISH CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mr. Torrance Garvin who has taken the next step in his diaconate program by being installed as a diocesan lector. The ceremony took place on Saturday, December 10th at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Dublin, GA. We are so proud of the work Mr. Garvin is doing.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Today's special collection is for Religious Retirement. Please give generously to this fund. The next special collection will be on December 25th for the Diocese of Savannah Catholic Schools.

PARISH EVENTS REMINDER

December 14th: Giving Tree gifts due – please take to parish office or contact Sharon Carson (912) 656-0286.

December 14th: Advent Penance Service, 6pm

December 17th: Adult Christmas Party, 7pm – 10pm

YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSALS

Choir rehearsals for the youth will take place on Saturday, December 17th at 12:00 noon and Thursday, December 22nd at 6:00pm. All members are asked to be present. Thank you – Kathy Stewart

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O God, hear our prayer
And let our cry come unto You.
Bless our Diocese of Savannah
With many vocations to the Priesthood,
Diaconate, and Religious Life.
Give the men and women You call
The light to understand Your gift
And the love to follow always
In the footsteps of Your Priestly Son.
Amen.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father 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, up to and including and became man, bow your head.]

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.

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.

WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

The greatness of John's life and witness of the Messiah:

Why did Jesus praise John the Baptist as the greatest person born of a woman and then in the same breath say that those who enter God's kingdom will be greater than John (Matthew 11:11)? John is the last and greatest of the prophets of the old covenant. He fulfilled the essential task of all the prophets - to be fingers pointing to Jesus Christ, God's Anointed Son and Messiah. John prepared the way for the Messiah and he pointed others to Jesus the Messiah at the River Jordan when he exclaimed, Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29)

John saw from a distant what Jesus would accomplish through his death on the cross - our redemption from bondage to sin and death and our adoption as sons and daughters of God and citizens of the kingdom of heaven. When King Herod tried to silence John by throwing him into prison, John sent his disciples to Jesus after John had heard the reports about Jesus performing signs and wonders and speaking to people about the coming of God's kingdom. John wanted his disciples to hear and see firsthand what Jesus was doing to bring the kingdom of God to those who were receptive and ready to receive his message.

Jesus confirmed for John that the miracles and healings which he performed were in direct fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies announced by Isaiah some 700 years previously. Isaiah had prophesied that when the Messiah would come to save his people he would "open the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf, the lame would leap, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy" (Isaiah 35:5). Jesus' miracles are a demonstration of the power of God's kingdom at work in the midst of his people. When God acts to save his people; he turns their sorrow and weeping into joy and singing, and their fear and weakness into strength and hope.

Jesus knew that what the Father in heaven had sent him to accomplish for our sake would supersede all that the prophets had done and foreseen in the past. Jesus' atoning death on the cross cancels the debt of our sins and sets us free to live as citizens of his kingdom. He gives us pardon, healing, and abundant life through his Holy Spirit, and the promise of unending joy with him in his everlasting kingdom.

John the Baptist paid the ultimate sacrifice of his life for speaking God's word and preparing the way for Jesus the Lord and Savior of the world. The Lord Jesus offers us the same assurance of faith and the strength to stand against every force that would try to rob us of our conviction and courage to live and proclaim the good news (the Gospel) of God's kingdom. Do you know the joy, strength, and power which Jesus gives to everyone who puts their trust in him and the power of the Holy Spirit? Ask the Lord Jesus to increase your faith and hope in his promises for you.

(Daily Scripture Readings and Meditations)

Your Pineapple for the Week:

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts". (Isaiah 55:8-9)

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas party for our parish youth will take place from 5pm – 8pm on Sunday, December 18th. Come out for games, food, fun, prizes, music by DJ Romeo and perhaps a visit by a special guest. All youth of the parish are invited. See you there!!

UNITY MASS CHOIR REHEARSALS

Rehearsals in preparation for the Christmas Midnight Mass will take place on Tuesday, December 13th and Tuesday, December 20th at 6:00pm. All choir members are asked to attend. Thank you – Areatha Scott