



## 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

Mailing Address: 556 E. Gordon St - Savannah, GA 31401

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

Website: [www.stbenedictmcc.org](http://www.stbenedictmcc.org)

Email: [stbenedict@bellsouth.net](mailto:stbenedict@bellsouth.net)



December 24/25, 2022

## Nativity of the Lord: Christmas 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](http://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](http://www.stbenedictmcc.org) and selecting the **Online Giving** link to get started!

*Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day*

With great longing, we have been preparing our hearts and our homes for this day on which we celebrate the birth of our Messiah and Savior. We recall that glorious night when the Blessed Mother bore Jesus into an expectant world, realizing that Jesus is also born in our hearts and in our world here and now, made present through one another and in the Eucharist we celebrate. May this “good news of great joy that will be for all the people” continue to be incarnated in our lives and our world.

**Readings for this weekend are found in the Word & Eucharist Catholic Mass Book beginning on Page 180:**

**Vigil:** Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

**Midnight:** Isaiah 9:1-6; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

**Day:** Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

*Parish Giving*  
**December 18, 2022**

<b>Offertory</b>	<b>\$4,054.00</b>
<b>Second Collection – Diocesan Schools</b>	<b>\$ 40.00</b>
<b>Solemnity of Mary</b>	<b>\$ 10.00</b>

**ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL AS OF 12/15/22**

**Goal:** \$32,796.00

**Received to Date:** \$33,988.50

*“Thank You for Your Generosity”*

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

**10:00pm:** For the peaceful repose of the soul of Mrs. Venzula P. Walker on the anniversary of her birthday. \*Sharon Carson and family

**PARISH SYMPATHY**

Parish condolences to the family of Mrs. Willetta Williams who passed away on Tuesday, December 20, 2022. Mrs. Williams was a long-time parishioner of St. Benedict the Moor who sang in the Gospel Choir for many years. Funeral arrangements are incomplete as of the printing of this bulletin and will be announced later. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

**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 24/25**

<b>6:00pm</b>	Faith Formation	Faith Formation
<b>10:00pm</b>	Sharon Carson*	Teresa Udowana
<b>10:00am</b>	Joe Carter	Alicia Carter

**January 1, 2023 Unity Mass**

<b>10:00am</b>	Edna Mason*	Georgene Jones
----------------	-------------	----------------

**January 8, 2023**

<b>5:30pm</b>	Taylor Walden	Dominique Jackson*
<b>9:00am</b>	Melanie White	Barbara McGhee
<b>11:30am</b>	Juliette Tolbert	Donald Perry

**ANNOUNCERS’ SCHEDULE \*LECTOR ALSO**

**December 24/25**

<b>6:00pm</b>	Faith Formation
<b>10:00pm</b>	Sharon Carson*
<b>10:00am</b>	Joyce Jones

**January 1, 2023 Unity Mass**

<b>10:00am</b>	Edna Mason*
----------------	-------------

**January 8, 2023**

<b>5:30pm</b>	Dominique Jackson*
<b>9:00am</b>	Emily Williams
<b>11:30am</b>	Theresa Garvin

### **December Calendar**

26 Mon. Feast of St. Stephen; Christmas Day (Federal observation); Hanukkah ends; Kwanzaa begins; Boxing Day (Canada)  
27 Tue. Feast of St. John  
28 Wed. Feast of the Holy Innocents  
29 Thu. Fifth Day within the Octave of Christmas; Optional Memorial of St. Thomas Becket\*  
30 Fri. Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
31 Sat. Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas; Optional Memorial of St. Sylvester I; New Year's Eve

### **WINTER COAT DRIVE**

The Knights of Columbus Council #10274 is holding a winter coat drive 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.

### **SPECIAL COLLECTION**

The special collection for this weekend is for the Diocese of Savannah Catholic Schools. Please give generously to this fund.

### **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 Christmas Season and thereafter. Please note that there will be no Bible Study on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Sessions will resume on January 4<sup>th</sup>. \*Fr. Romanus

*"O Come Let Us Adore Him"*



### **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 Word of God Became Flesh and Dwells Among Us:

Why was it necessary for the Word of God to become flesh? We needed a savior who could reconcile us with God. Throughout the ages Christians have professed the ancient Nicene Creed: "He became man for our sake and for the sake of our salvation." The eternal Word became flesh for us so he could offer his life as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world through the shedding of his blood on the cross. The Word became flesh to show us the infinite love and tender mercy of God for us sinners.

In the feast of Christmas we celebrate present realities - Jesus Christ our redeemer who reigns in heaven and who also lives and reigns in our hearts through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit. And we commemorate past events - the birth of the newborn Messiah King and his manifestation to Israel and to the gentile nations. We thank and bless God for the way in which he has saved us from the power of sin and the curse of death and destruction by sending his son to ransom us and give us pardon and abundant life through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit. Today we celebrate the birthday of our King and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

God wants to fill our hearts anew with joy and gratitude for the greatest gift he could possibly give us - his beloved Son Jesus. What can we give thanks for in this great feast of the Incarnation? We can praise and thank God our Father for the fact that the Son of God freely and joyfully assumed a human nature in order to accomplish our salvation in it. Jesus came to release the captives from slavery to sin and to open the gates of paradise once again. This day the Holy Spirit invites us to make haste - as the shepherds of Bethlehem did - to adore Jesus our King and Messiah. The Lord Jesus Christ is our

eternal good shepherd who guides and cares for us unceasingly and who gives us abundant everlasting life and union with the triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

This day the whole community of heaven joins with all believers of good will on earth in a jubilant song of praise for the good news proclaimed by the angels on Christmas eve: *Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people, for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:10-11).*

The joy of Christmas is not for a day or a season. It is an eternal joy, a joy that no one can take from us because it is the joy of Jesus Christ himself made present in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who dwells within us (see Romans 5:2-5). The Lord gives us a supernatural joy which no pain nor sorrow can diminish, and which neither life nor death can take away. Do you know the joy of your salvation in Jesus Christ?

*(Daily Scripture Readings and Meditations).*

### Your Pineapple for the Week:

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.



The **PARISH OFFICE** will be **CLOSED** on Monday, December 26 and Tuesday, December 27. Messages will still be retrieved from the voice mail. Wishing you a very Blessed & Merry Christmas.