



## 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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*February 5, 2023*

*Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A  
Unity Mass*

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



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*

You are the light of the world”, Jesus tells his disciples in today’s Gospel, exhorting them to shine that light for everyone to see. Jesus himself is the light who shone through the darkness from the very moment he was born. Now he challenges his disciples to be that light—the light of Christ—for others. We are given that same challenge. May we be conscious of receiving the Lord today in the word and the Eucharist, so that we may go forth to shine the light of Christ, transforming the darkness around us.

**Readings for this weekend are found in the Word & Eucharist Catholic Mass Book beginning on Page 280.**

*Parish Giving  
January 29, 2023*

Offertory (includes School Support and Bus)	\$3923.00
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*“Thank You for Your Generosity”*

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

**God’s continued blessings on Tristan A. Garvin as he celebrates his 12<sup>th</sup> birthday.**  
\*The Garvin Family.

**Happy Birthday to Salathia (Lacy) Mangum (02/02).** \*Vivian Johnson & Family.

**Happy Birthday to Darryl Johnson (02/04).**  
\*Vivian Johnson & Family.

**Happy 25th Birthday to Akio Brown (02/07).**  
\*His Family.

**In loving memory of Patricia L. Hamilton on the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her passing (02/05).**  
\*The Garvin Family.

**In loving memory of Margie Byrd McNeal on the anniversary of her birthday (01/31).**  
\*Cornell McNeal & Family .

On behalf of the Annual Catholic Appeal Committee, thank you for supporting the 2022 Annual Catholic Appeal. Thanks to your generous support, St. Benedict the Moor Church family not only met its donation goal but exceeded it with a total received of \$36,616.00. We pray that you will be able to continue in our faith to support the upcoming 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal with the same dedication and succession.

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**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, Tamba Williams, Crystal Williams, Narvia Williams, Julie Porter-Winfrey.

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**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. \*Fr. Romanus.

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**MASS FOR ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA**

The Council of Catholic Women invites you to attend a Mass in memory of St. Josephine Bakhita on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church. There will be light refreshments afterwards. Come and celebrate this courageous woman of faith.

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**INFANT BAPTISM**

The next infant baptism will take place on Sunday, February 19, 2023 at the 11:30am Mass. Please contact Theresa Garvin (912) 507-7553 or Sharon Carson (912) 656-0286 for more information or to register your child. Thank you!

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**February Calendar**

5 Sun. World Day for Consecrated Life (observed)  
6 Mon. Memorial of St. Paul Miki and Companions  
8 Wed. Memorial of St. Jerome Emiliani; Memorial of St. Josephine Bakhita; International Day of Prayer & Awareness against Human Trafficking  
10 Fri. Memorial of St. Scholastica  
11 Sat. Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes; Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary; World Day of the Sick

**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.

**FIRST QUARTER CELEBRATION**

Immediately following today's Unity Mass, there will be a brief planning meeting in the parish hall for those celebrating birthdays and/or anniversaries in the months of January, February and March, in preparation for our March 5<sup>th</sup> gathering.

**GRIEF SUPPORT PROGRAM**

A nine-week program which assists participants to process the loss of a loved one and to find hope and strength. Limited to 12 participants. St. Peter the Apostle Church Youth Center. Every Thursday starting February 9, 6:30pm. To register or for more information contact Diane Farthing – [dfarthing@aol.com](mailto:dfarthing@aol.com) (770) 309-2019; Sheila Lowe – [miloga89@gmail.com](mailto:miloga89@gmail.com) (912) 656-9109.

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**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.

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**SOCIAL APOSTOLATE**

St. Benedict the Moor Parish is responsible to help the Social Apostolate with groceries during the month of February.

Suggested items are: Packaged or canned meat (tuna, chicken, beef stew), or hearty chunky soup. Canned pork & beans, canned vegetables & fruits, canned spaghetti with tomato or meat sauce. Breakfast cereal, granola bars, individually packaged oatmeal or grits, evaporated milk. Peanut butter & jelly, breakfast bars, and healthy snacks including nuts. The Social Apostolate is our Catholic outreach to the poor! Thank you so much! Please place all items in the container provided. Thank you for your participation and sharing in this ministry.



**National Black Catholic Congress  
Attendees**

The New Horizons of Women and Men would like to remind Congress attendees of the February 13th deadline for payment of Congress registration, transportation to Congress and the Reception at the National Museum. If you have not already done so, the hotel room deposit is due March 13th. There is no guarantee that your room will be held without your deposit. Please feel free to contact Dianne Williams or Virgie Williams should you have any questions. Thank you!

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**UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTION**

The next Special Collection is for *Aid to Central and Eastern Europe* and will be taken up on Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please be generous in giving to this fund.

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**THE SEASON OF LENT**

It seems like we just rang in the new year, but Lent is fast approaching and now is the time to start preparing for it. Ash Wednesday is **February 22, 2023**. Mass will be celebrated at **8:00am** and **6:00pm**. The Lenten season provides the opportunity for fasting, prayer, and reflection. People are seeking ways to connect with Jesus more deeply through encounter and learning more about God and our faith. With just a bit of planning ahead anyone can have a successful and fruitful Lent filled with many graces.

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**WEEKLY REFLECTIONS**

**Do Not Lose Your Saltiness:**

Jesus used ordinary images, such as salt and light, to convey extraordinary truths that transform our minds, hearts, and lives. What does salt and light have to teach us about God and the transforming power of his kingdom? Salt was a valuable commodity in the ancient world. People traded with it, like we trade with valuable goods, such as gold and stock. Salt also served a very useful purpose, especially in warmer climates before the invention of electricity and refrigeration. Salt not only gave rich flavor to food, it also preserved food from going bad and being spoiled. Jesus used the image of salt to describe the transforming effect of God's work in our lives - and how the Holy Spirit wants to work through us to bring the power and blessing of God's kingdom to others. As salt purifies, preserves, and produces rich flavor for our daily food, we, too, as disciples of Jesus, are "salt" for the world of human society. The Lord wants to

work in and through us to purify, preserve, and spread the rich flavor of God's kingdom everywhere - his "kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14:17).

What did Jesus mean by the expression "if salt has lost its taste... it is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot" (Matthew 5:13)? How can we lose our "saltiness"? We lose our taste when we allow the world and Satan to corrupt us. The Lord wants us to preserve our "saltiness" - through virtuous living and rejection of sin - not only for our own sake but also for the sake of others.

Jesus used the image of light and a lamp to further his illustration of God's transforming work in and through us. Lamps in the ancient world served a vital function, much like they do today. They enable people to see and work in the dark and to avoid stumbling. The Jews also understood "light" as symbol or expression of the inner beauty, truth, and goodness of God. *In his light we see light* (Psalm 36:9). *His word is a lamp that guides our steps* (Psalm 119:105). God's grace not only illumines the darkness in our lives, but it also fills us with spiritual light, joy, and peace. Jesus used the image of a lamp to describe how his disciples are to live in the light of his truth and love. Just as natural light illumines the darkness and enables one to see visually, so the light of Christ shines in the hearts of believers and enables us to see the heavenly reality of God's kingdom. Our mission is to be *light-bearers* of Jesus Christ so that others may see the truth of the gospel and be freed from the blindness of sin and deception.

*(Daily Scripture Readings and Meditations).*

**Your Pineapple for the Week:**

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).