



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

Email: stbenedict@bellsouth.net



February 19, 2023

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time,

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



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

Called by the Holy Spirit, we gather together today in praise and thanksgiving to worship the Lord. We sing "Alleluia" as an acclamation of joy to greet our Lord as he speaks to us in the Gospel. But in just a few days we will pause this joyous exclamation. On Wednesday, Lent will begin and we will take our annual opportunity to focus on our sinfulness, our need for forgiveness, and the sacrificial suffering and death of our Lord. May the joy of our faith in the risen Lord sustain us during the coming penitential season.

Readings for this weekend are found in the Word & Eucharist Catholic Mass Book beginning on Page 286.

*Parish Giving
February 12, 2023*

Offertory (includes School Support and Bus)	\$4608.00
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"Thank You for Your Generosity"

MASS INTENTIONS:

All Masses: For the peaceful repose of the soul of Marilyn Jackson on the anniversary of her passing.
*Prince A. Jackson, III

9:00am & 11:30am: For the peaceful repose of the soul of Willie Mae Michelle Lovewine on the first anniversary of her passing. *Micahia Smith and the Manning family

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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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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PARISH SYMPATHY

Parish condolences to Mrs. Nadine Jones and Mrs. G. Ann Bell on the loss of their sister, Mrs. Bernadine Johnson, who passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, February 12, 2023 in Philadelphia, PA. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

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February Calendar

- 20 Mon. Presidents' Day; World Day of Social Justice
- 21 Tue. Optional Memorial of St. Peter Damian; Shrove Tuesday; Mardi Gras
- 22 Wed. Ash Wednesday (Day of obligatory fast and abstinence); Washington's Birthday
- 23 Thu. Optional Memorial of St. Polycarp*

LECTORS' SCHEDULE (*ANNOUNCER ALSO)

February 18/19, 2023

5:30pm	Rachel Hooper	Dominique Jackson*
9:00am	Torrance Garvin*	Melanie White
11:30am	Faith Formation	Faith Formation

February 22, 2023 Ash Wednesday

8:00am	Sharon Carson	Yvonne Williams
6:00pm	Georgene Jones	Teresa Udowana

February 25/26, 2023

5:30pm	Taylor Walden	Shirley West
9:00am	Barbara McGhee	Teresa Udowana
11:30am	Donald Perry	Monesha Gallishaw*

ANNOUNCERS' SCHEDULE (*LECTOR ALSO)

February 18/19, 2023

5:30pm	Dominique Jackson*
9:00am	Torrance Garvin*
11:30am	Faith Formation

February 25/26, 2023

5:30pm	Edna Mason
9:00am	Ruth Simmons
11:30am	Monesha Gallishaw*

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.

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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UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTION

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

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UNITY MASS CHOIR

Rehearsal for the upcoming Unity Mass will take place on Tuesday, February 28th at 6pm in the church. All members are asked to attend. Thank you. *Areatha Scott

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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.

UNITY MASS PLANNING MEETING

There will be a quick first quarter celebration planning meeting on Wednesday, February 22nd at 5:00pm in the parish hall. For questions or donations, contact monthly representatives: January – Wilma Brown (912) 659-8941 or Gigi Jones (912) 604-7394; February – Rosetta Brown (912) 232-8921 or Jacqueline Bailey Patterson (912) 660-3952; March – Edna Mason (912) 247-1671 or Brenda Kennedy – (912) 660-3464. Thank you.

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WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

Law of grace and love:

If someone insults you or tries to take advantage of you, how do you respond? Do you repay in kind? Jesus approached the question of just retribution with a surprising revelation of God's intention for how we should treat others, especially those who mistreat us. When Jesus spoke about God's law, he did something no one had done before. He gave a new standard based not just on the requirements of justice - giving each their due - but based on the law of grace, love, and freedom.

Jesus does something quite remarkable and unheard of. He transforms the law of mercy with grace, forbearance, and loving-kindness. Jesus also makes clear that there is no room for retaliation. We must not only avoid returning evil for evil, but we must seek the good of those who wish us ill. Do you accept insults, as Jesus did, with no resentment or malice? When you are compelled by others to do more than you think you deserve, do you insist on your rights, or do you respond with grace and cheerfulness?

What makes a disciple of Jesus Christ different from everyone else? What makes Christianity distinct from any other religion? It is grace - treating others, not as they deserve, but as God wishes them to be treated - with loving-kindness and mercy. Only the cross of Jesus Christ can free us from the tyranny of malice, hatred, revenge, and resentment and gives us the courage to return evil with good. Such love and grace has power to heal and to save from destruction. The Lord Jesus suffered insult, abuse, injustice, and death on a cross for our sake. Scripture tells us that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin and guilt (Matthew 26:28; Ephesians 1:7, I John 1:7, Revelation 1:5). Since God has been merciful towards us through the offering of his Son, Jesus Christ, we in turn are called to be merciful towards our neighbor, even those who cause us grief and harm.

How can we possibly love those who cause us harm or ill-will? With God all things are possible. He gives power and grace to those who believe and accept the gift of the Holy Spirit. His love conquers all, even our hurts, fears, prejudices and griefs. Only the cross of Jesus Christ can free us from the tyranny of

malice, hatred, revenge, and resentment and gives us the courage to return evil with good. Such love and grace has power to heal and to save from destruction. Do you know the power and freedom of Christ's redeeming love and mercy?

Was Jesus exaggerating when he said we must be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect (Matthew 5:48)? Jesus' command seems to parallel two passages from the Old Testament Scriptures. The first is where God instructed Abraham to "be perfect/blameless" before God (Genesis 17:1). The original meaning of "perfect" in Hebrew and the Aramaic dialect which Jesus spoke is "completeness" or "wholeness" - "not lacking in what is essential."

The second passage that seems to parallel Jesus' expression - "be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect" - is the command that God gave to Moses and the people of Israel to "be holy, for I am holy" (Leviticus 11:44,45; 19:2). God created each one of us in his own image and likeness (Genesis 1:26,27). That is why he calls us to grow in maturity and wholeness so we can truly be like him - a people who loves as he loves and who chooses to do what is good and to reject what is evil (Ephesians 4:13-16). (*Daily Scripture Readings and Meditations*).

Your "Pineapple" for the Week:

"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48).

2023 STATIONS of the CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held every
Friday at 6:00pm beginning February 24th
(Rosary begins at 5:30pm)
Make this service a part of your Lenten journey!

February 24 – Knights of Columbus
and Ladies Auxiliary

March 3 – Parish Council and Finance Council

March 10 – Extraordinary Ministers
of the Holy Eucharist and
CCD teachers

March 17 – AMSP, Lectors

March 24 – New Horizons and Traveling Moors

March 31 – CCW and Friends of SBM

April 7 (Rosary at 2:30pm; Stations at 3:00pm) –
Legion of Mary, Choirs, and Youth

Here's When Lent Is This Year, Plus What You Need to Know About the Catholic Holiday



Each year, many Christians from varying denominations welcome the new buds of spring with the celebration of Lent. The celebration of Lent is a six-week-long event in the Christian calendar when Christians are meant to be "encouraged to find [their] own method of confronting [their] sinfulness, remembering [their] mortality, and giving thanks for the gift of salvation [they] receive through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ."

The word *Lent* derives from the Middle English word *lenten*, meaning springtime – the time of lengthening days. There is biblical support for doing penance, in both the Old and New Testaments. The season of Lent builds on this biblical support, but like all Catholic liturgical seasons, it developed over time. In its early three-week form, Lent was the period of intense spiritual and liturgical preparation for catechumens before they were baptized at Easter. Many members of the community imitated this time of preparation with the catechumens.

By the fourth century (when Christianity was legalized in the Roman Empire) Lent had developed into its current length of forty days. Forty days is significant for Christians because it is the length of the fast and temptation of Jesus in the desert (cf. Luke 4:1-13). Recently, research has suggested that the development of Lent was also influenced by the forty-day span of fasting practiced by many in the early Church (especially monks). This fast, beginning right after Epiphany (January 6th) stressed [prayer](#) and penance.

Here's a look at the holy time that will occur from Wednesday, February 22, to Sunday, April 9, 2023:



Ashes taken on the forehead on Ash Wednesday remain for Catholics and many other Christians a powerful sign of their identity; we are all repentant and forgiven sinners. Ash Wednesday is a profoundly hopeful day – in our culture in which someone can go for weeks or months without so much as mentioning God overtly, so many still want to claim this symbol (ashes) as their own on this special day. Even the seemingly indifferent want some faith-based symbolism in their lives. They are thinking more about God in their lives than they ever let on! Let us pray for them and for ourselves – that we too may be “curious” enough for them to take another look at God, Church, prayer and worship.

Please note the times for ashes will be Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 8:00am and 6:00pm in the Church.

Stations of the Cross:
Every Friday at 6:00pm
(*With the Rosary at 5:30pm)

Wednesday, March 22nd - Penance Service: 6:00pm

Sunday, April 2nd – Palm Sunday

**Tuesday, April 4th – Chrism Mass
7pm-The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist**

Thursday, April 6th - Holy Thursday
5:30pm – Passover Meal (Parish Hall) / 7:00pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper
*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 12 mid-night

Friday, April 7th - Good Friday
3:00pm (Stations of the Cross)
Good Friday Ceremonies @ 6:00pm

Saturday, April 8th - (Holy Saturday)
8:30pm (Easter Vigil Mass)

Sunday, April 9th - (Easter Sunday)
10:00am Mass- Note: There is ONLY ONE Mass on Easter Sunday

Children's Easter Program is immediately following the Mass

***Please save this schedule of dates & times**

