



## 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

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

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

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*September 10, 2023*

*Twenty-third 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](http://www.stbenedictmcc.org) and selecting the **Online Giving** link to get started!

*Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day*

Today we hear Jesus assure his disciples that wherever two or three are gathered in his name, he is there with them. Our confidence in his promise assures us that Jesus is here with us now as we celebrate the Eucharist together. Aware that God is with us in our midst, let us raise our voices and lift our hearts unto the Lord.

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**Readings for this weekend are found in the Word & Eucharist Catholic Mass Book beginning on Page 323.**

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*Parish Giving  
September 3, 2023*

Offertory (includes School Support and Bus)	\$6058.00
Mission Cooperative Appeal	\$ 20.00

*"Thank You for Your Generosity"*

**Our monthly lunch for the sick and shut-ins will take place on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are welcomed to assist with preparations the day before (September 12<sup>th</sup>) and with the cooking and deliveries on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the parish office if you have questions. Thank you – Gloria Stephens, Coordinator**

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**YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSAL**

The Youth Choir will have its rehearsal on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 12pm. Parents – please bring your children. Thank you – Kathy Stewart

**FAITH FORMATION NEWS:**

Faith Formation classes begin September 10, 2023 at 10:15am. Register your children in the parish education building. Let us help your children grow to know, love, and serve our God. This year, registration cost is \$10 per family. Contact Theresa Garvin (912) 507-7553 or Sharon Carson (912) 656-0286 for more information. Thank you.

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**Please Pray for our Sick & Homebound:**

Louise Allen, Willie Allen, Jr., Mariah Bailey, Joe Battle, Henry Blount, Odessa Bryant, Alethea Chaney, Otis & Lillie Charlton, Josefa Citizen, Lillian Dilworth, Morris Elliott, Juanita Fields, Jessica Jackson, Christine James, Mackenzie Jenkins, Vera Jennings, Clewon Johnson, Joyce Jones, Robert Locke, Lillie Middleton, Dawud Patterson, Evelyn Porter, Ellen Roberts, Delores Robinson, Elizabeth Robinson, Janice Quinn, Cornelius St. Mark, Inez Walthour, Margaret Weston, Nathaniel Wiggins, Arlene Wiley, Crystal Williams, Ellen Williams, Tandra Williams, Narvia Williams, Leroy Wilson, Julie Porter-Winfrey (out-of-town).

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**PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

<p>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.</p>
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<p><b>PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI</b></p> <p>Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.</p> <p>O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.</p> <p>For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.</p>
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**LECTORS' SCHEDULE (\*ANNOUNCER ALSO)**

**September 9/10, 2023**

**5:30pm** Adriene Perry      Dominique Jackson  
**9:00am** Dianne Williams      Georgene Jones  
**11:30am** Donald Perry      Adrian Broxton

**September 16/17, 2023**

**5:30pm** Edna Mason      Shirley West  
**9:00am** Torrance Garvin      Georgene Jones  
**11:30am** Faith Formation      Faith Formation

**ANNOUNCERS' SCHEDULE (\*LECTOR ALSO)**

**September 9/10, 2023**

**5:30pm** Edna Mason  
**9:00am** Ruth Simmons  
**11:30am** Emily Williams

**September 16/17, 2023**

**5:30pm** Dominique Jackson  
**9:00am** Gregory Milton  
**11:30am** Faith Formation

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE HOLY  
EUCCHARIST SCHEDULE**

**September 9/10**

**5:30pm** Sharon Carson  
**9:00am** Jabria Wesley  
**11:30am** Juliete Tolbert

**September 16/17, 2023**

**5:30pm** Shirley West  
**9:00am** Torrance Garvin  
**11:30am** William Wright

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**TRAVELING MOORS NEWS:**

Are you ready to do your Christmas shopping? The Traveling Moors are planning a holiday shopping trip on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> to Orlando, FL. Cost is \$125 (only \$25 to hold your seat). Further information to follow or contact any member of the Traveling Moors. Come join us for a day of fun and shopping!!

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**PARISH BIBLE STUDY**

Think you know your Bible?

“... lean not on your own understanding ..” (Proverbs 3:5). You can never stop learning or growing in 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.

**BUS MINISTRY**

Anyone wishing for transportation to the 9:00am or 10:00am Unity Mass should call either Dr. Earl Berksteiner at (912) 713-0414 or Mr. James Warren at (912) 655-8717 on or before Friday to schedule pickup. Thank you.

**50/50 Fundraiser News**

Congratulations to Ruth Simmons who is the winner of this quarter's 50/50 drawing. She takes home her winnings of \$130.00. When asked what her formula for winning is, Ruth responded “all you have to do is play”. For \$20, you too can be a winner! Remember that half of the funds go toward the parish restoration to help maintain our buildings. Envelopes are available in the pews and the entrance of the church. The next drawing will be at the December Unity Reception. You can't win if you don't play!

**PARISH CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Michaela Chaney on her election as president of the Student Lighthouse team at Blessed Sacrament School for the 2023 – 2024 school year. She is the daughter of Michael Chaney, is an active member of the youth ministry, attends Faith Formation and lends her beautiful singing voice to our choirs. Your St. Benedict the Moor family is very proud of you Michaela!

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## WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

*Don't brood over an offense - Speak directly and privately:*

What's the best way to repair a damaged relationship? Jesus offers his disciples spiritual freedom and power for restoring broken or injured relationships. What can we learn from Jesus' instructions about how to mend a damaged relationship (Matthew 18:15-20)? If you feel you have been wronged by someone, Jesus says the first step is to speak directly but privately to the individual who has done the harm. One of the worst things we can do is brood over our grievance. This can poison our mind and heart and make it more difficult to go directly to the person who caused the damage.

If we truly want to settle a difference with someone, we need to do it face to face. If this fails in its purpose, then the second step is to bring another person or persons, someone who is wise and gracious rather than someone who is hot-tempered or judgmental. The goal is not so much to put the offender on trial, but to persuade the offender to see the wrong and to be reconciled. And if this fails, then we must still not give up, but seek the help of the Christian community. Note the emphasis here is on restoring a broken relationship by seeking the help of other Christians who hopefully will pray and seek a solution for reconciliation based on Christian love and wisdom, rather than relying on coercive force or threat of legal action, such as a lawsuit.

Lastly, if even the Christian community fails to bring about reconciliation, what must we do? Jesus seems to say that we have the right to abandon stubborn and obdurate offenders and treat them like social outcasts. The tax-collectors and Gentiles were regarded as "unclean" by the religious-minded Jews and they resorted to shunning them. However we know from the Gospel accounts that Jesus often had fellowship with tax-collectors (as well as other public sinners), ate with them, and even praised them at times! Jesus refuses no one who is open to receive pardon, healing, and restoration. (*Daily Scripture Readings and Meditations*).

Your Pineapple for the week:

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone" (Matthew 18:15)

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### **"We Are One Family, United in Faith" Program**

Thank you to all parishioners who have completed and submitted your Commitment Card. For those parishioners who have not yet had the opportunity to submit their card, a final letter will be mailed to you with a personalized Commitment Card. We invite all faithful parishioners to complete a card as our parish goal is 100% participation! You may return your card by:

- Mailing it to the church using the pre-addressed envelope included with the letter.
- Or bringing it to Mass next Sunday.
- Or scanning the QR below and completing an electronic Commitment Card.

**All cards need to be returned to the parish by Sunday, October 1.**

As a friendly reminder, electronic giving is an **easy, safe and secure** way to support St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church. To set up a recurring weekly or monthly gift or to make a one-time donation directly from your bank account or credit card, please visit our website and follow the instructions. **We are grateful for your support!**



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### **SPECIAL COLLECTION**

The next special collection will be for the Mission Cooperative Appeal on September 24, 2023. Please be generous in giving to this fund.