



## 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)

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



*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, as we honor all those whose labor enhances our lives and the lives of others, we recognize the holiness of the work we do. Whether we labor for an employer, for our own families, or both, we set aside our own desires to expend our time and effort to do something for others. In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that they must deny themselves and take up their crosses. We all have crosses that we are called to bear and some of them can be found in the work we must do for others. Let us strive to make the work we do more closely unite us with Christ.

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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 5, 2023*

Offertory (includes School Support and Bus)	\$5921.00
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*“Thank You for Your Generosity”*

**“We Are One Family, United in Faith”  
Program**

Thank you to all parishioners who have completed and submitted your Commitment Card to the church. For those parishioners who have not yet had the opportunity to submit their card, please do so at your earliest convenience. Each of you is a vital member of our parish community and we want to hear from you! This is an opportunity to **reflect upon and renew** your sacrificial commitment to support the mission of St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church. For those who are able – there is an opportunity to make a one-time gift to the parish. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. For those of you who would prefer to fill out your Commitment Card online, please scan the QR code below.



**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, Clevon 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, Tambra Williams, Narvia Williams, 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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**PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

<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. 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. 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 3, 2023 Unity Mass**  
**10:00am** Torrance Garvin Monesha Gallishaw

**September 9/10, 2023**  
**5:30pm** Adriene Perry Dominique Jackson  
**9:00am** Dianne Williams Georgene Jones  
**11:30am** Donald Perry Adrian Broxton

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

**September 3, 2023 Unity Mass**  
**10:00am** Torrance Garvin

**September 9/10, 2023**  
**5:30pm** Edna Mason  
**9:00am** Ruth Simmons  
**11:30am** Emily Williams

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST SCHEDULE**

**September 3, 2023 Unity Mass**  
**10:00am** Gloria Stephens

**September 9/10**  
**5:30pm** Sharon Carson  
**9:00am** Jabria Wesley  
**11:30am** Juliete Tolbert

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**FAITH FORMATION NEWS:**

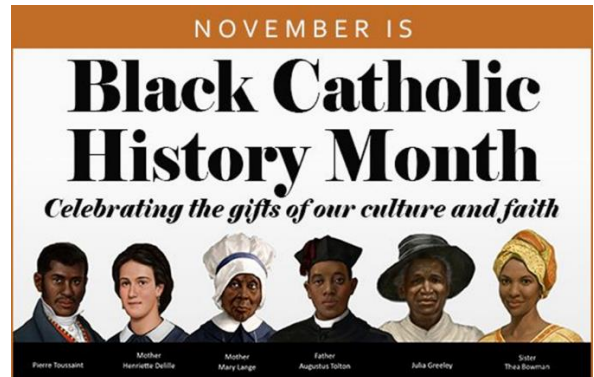
Faith Formation classes will begin September 10, 2023. Register your children beginning this weekend after each Mass. Let us help your children grow to know, love, and serve our God. This year, registration cost is \$10 per family. Contact Theresa Garvin (912) 507-7553 or Sharon Carson (912) 656-0286 for more information. Thank you.

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**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.



**SAVE THE DATE**

**Diocese of Savannah Office of Black Catholic Ministry**

**CELEBRATING MASS AT**

**Place: Saint James Catholic Church  
Savannah, Georgia**

**Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023**

**Time: 11am**

**For further information, please contact  
Father Robert Chaney at 912-232-5258**

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**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.

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**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR UNITY MASS RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TODAY'S MASS.**

## WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

### **Losing all to gain all with Jesus Christ:**

What is the way to glory and victory in the kingdom of God? Jesus told his disciples that he must first suffer rejection, be crucified, and then rise again on the third day. In so many words he explained that there could be no victory and no glory without the cross. Jesus' prediction of his suffering and death on the cross caused his disciples great dismay and disbelief. Peter, who was often the first to react to whatever Jesus had to say, wanted to protect Jesus from any threat or harm. That is why he rebuked the very thought of Jesus having to face rejection, condemnation, and crucifixion.

Why did Jesus use the word "Satan" when he addressed Peter? When Jesus went out into the wilderness to prepare for his public ministry, Satan came to tempt him to follow a different path than the one chosen by the Father in heaven. Now Jesus recognizes in Peter's response another temptation to seek a different and less costly path for accomplishing his mission than the way of the cross. The word "Satan" literally means "adversary" - one who stands in opposition. Jesus reminds Peter that his role is not to be an adversary but a disciple - one who gets behind his Master to follow with trust and obedience.

Jesus knew that the cross was the only way he could ransom us from slavery to sin with the price of his blood which was shed for our freedom. Through his sacrificial death on the cross, Jesus defeated Satan who held us in bondage to sin and condemnation. And Jesus defeated the power of death and overcame the grave through his resurrection. Through his obedience to his heavenly Father's will, Jesus reversed the curse of Adam's disobedience. His death on the cross won pardon for the guilty, freedom for the oppressed, healing for the afflicted, and new life for those condemned to

death. His death makes possible our freedom to live as the adopted sons and daughters of the merciful Father in heaven.

Jesus told his disciples that they, too, must be willing to lay down their lives in order to gain new everlasting life with the Father in his kingdom. There's a certain paradox in God's economy. We lose what we gain, and we gain what we lose. When we try to run our life our own way, we end up losing it to futility. Only God can free us from our ignorant and sinful ways. When we surrender our lives to God, he gives us new life in his Spirit and the pledge of eternal life. God wants us to be spiritually fit and ready to do his will at all times. When the human body is very weak or ill, we make every effort to nurse it back to health. How much more effort and attention should we give to the spiritual health of our hearts and minds!

A true disciple gladly gives up all that he or she has in exchange for an unending life of joy and happiness with God. God gives without measure. The joy he offers no sadness or loss can diminish. The cross of Jesus Christ leads to victory and freedom from sin and death. What is the cross which Jesus Christ commands me to take up each day? When my will crosses with his will, then his will must be done. Are you ready to lose all for Jesus Christ in order to gain all with Jesus Christ? (*Daily Scripture Reading and Meditations*).

### **Your Pineapple for the Week:**

"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24).

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**We welcome Bishop Kevin Boland as he celebrates the Unity Mass with us today!**

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