

165 BETHANY ROAD
HOLMDEL, NEW JERSEY 07733

732-264-4712 PARISH
732-264-5578 SCHOOL

DECEMBER 13 2020

**Third Sunday
of Advent**

**Readings/Observances for the
week of December 13, 2020**

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/
Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54/
1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/
Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/
Mt 21:23-27

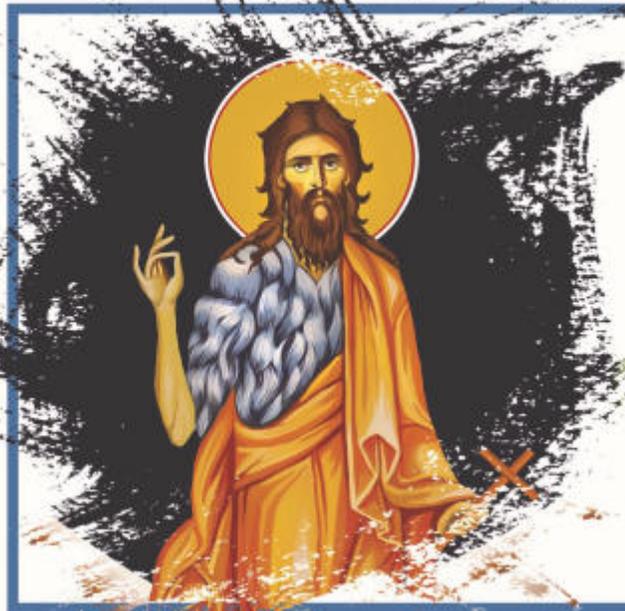
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/
Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/
Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-
25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/
Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/
Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

Friday: Jer 23:5-8/
Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/
Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25



**A MAN NAMED JOHN
WAS SENT FROM
GOD. HE CAME FOR
TESTIMONY, TO
TESTIFY TO THE
LIGHT, SO THAT ALL
MIGHT BELIEVE
THROUGH HIM.
— JN 1:6-7**

3RD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI



BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON
MOST REVEREND DAVID M. O'CONNELL, C.M.

PASTOR

Rev. Garry Koch

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. John Michael Patilla

DEACONS

John L. Clymore
Richard L. Morris
Raymond R. Pelkowski
Stephen G. Scott
Paul A. Remick-Deacon Intern

TEMPORARY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m.

RECONCILIATION

Monday, Wednesday, Friday:
following the 9:00 a.m. Mass
and by appointment

PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours: Monday to Friday
9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Voice: 732/264-4712
Fax: 732/264-9080
Email: parishoffice@stbenedictnj.org

Mr. Bob Cognat,
Facilities Manager

email: cognat@stbenedictnj.org

Mrs. Francine DeMuria,
Director of Temporal Administration
email: finance@stbenedictnj.org

Mrs. Margaret Roddy,
Pastoral Minister for
Church Management
and Sacrament Coordination
email: roddy@stbenedictnj.org

Mrs. Lori Ulrich,
Director of Marketing and
Event Management
email: ulrich@stbenedictnj.org

ST. BENEDICT SCHOOL

Mr. Kevin Donahue, Principal
email: kdonahue@stbenedictnj.org

EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2020

YOUTUBE LIVE STREAMING OF
ST. BENEDICT CHURCH MASSES
MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM
SUNDAY 9:30AM

www.youtube.com

Channel: St. Benedict Holmdel



Saint of the Month



**ST. THOMAS
BECKET**
December 29th



**OUR LADY OF VICTORY
ADORATION CHAPEL**

Please consider joining us
as an Adorer.
Contact Kathy 732/739-3381 for
more information.

PARISH REGISTRATION

Registration forms are available in the parish office and on
our website at stbenedictholmdel.org



Like us on Facebook @
St. Benedict Church and School
Follow us on Twitter @stbensholmdel





FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Fellow Parishioners of St. Benedict:

This week two important liturgical events occur. One is deeply ingrained in the Liturgical cycle and goes unnoticed by most of us each year. The other is the beginning of the *Simbang Gabi* celebration, the unique Filipino pre-Christmas novena of Masses that we are pleased and happy to host this year.

The first is the movement to the deep part of Advent. Each year beginning on December 17th the focus of the prayers at Mass becomes more expectant and urgent. We also change the Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer. Beginning Thursday, and concluding on Christmas Eve morning, we pray: “For all the oracles of the prophets foretold him, the Virgin Mother longed for him with love beyond all telling, John the Baptist sang of his coming and proclaimed his presence when he came.

“It is by his gift that already we rejoice at the mystery of his Nativity, so that he may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in his praise.”

It is our hope here that indeed, even in the trials of the present that we are “watchful in prayer and exultant in his praise” as we approach the great feasts yet to come. While Christmas will look different on some levels, the great liturgical feasts will not be hindered.

In order to accommodate those who desire to celebrate Christmas with us we will celebrate the simultaneous Masses – the church and the gym. We are fortunate to have enough help to be able to do so. We are not planning on requiring tickets or reservations as it is difficult sometimes to know well-enough in advance what you want to do. Likewise, we do not want to turn away those who would make the last minute decision that coming to Christmas Mass is viable option for them.

We ask that in all things we remain safe and diligent. While the pandemic might dampen our spirits it cannot dampen the Spirit!

The *Simbang Gabi* celebrations begin on Tuesday evening. All of those Masses will be live-streamed. Although in the Philippines it is a dawn celebration, here in the US it has become an evening celebration. While this year we are unable to host the great feast of food that follows each Mass, we get to celebrate what is most important – prayer in preparation for the coming of the Lord.

Besides Father JM and myself, the celebrants for the Masses are: Fathers Alex Rodriguez (St. Monica, Jackson); Daison Arepparampil (St. James, Red Bank); Sheldon Amasa (Our Lady of Hope, West Long Branch/Deal); Mark Nillo (St. Michael, West End); Vicente Magdaraog (St. James, Red Bank); Angelito Anarcon (St. Catherine of Siena, Farmingdale); and Richard Vila (St. Anne, Keansburg).

Allow me to extend a special thanks to Father JM and the parish committee headed by Mrs. Lang Holtz. Hosting these celebrations, even without the feasts, requires a lot of work and planning.

This weekend we are celebrating Confession after all of the Masses. We know that this will be time-consuming and we ask for your patience – certainly an Advent virtue!

Remember to watch our *Series of Hope* video series. This week Father JM reflects on the Birth of Jesus. Likewise, remember to spend some time in prayerful reflection along the Lights of Hope Stations here on the property.

A blessed Advent to all!

Fr. Garry

The Sacrament of Baptism

Due to current Covid restrictions we have adjusted our regular baptism schedule. Please contact Margaret Roddy at 732/264-4712 ext. 17 or rodny@stbenedictnj.org to make arrangements for your child’s baptism.

The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

Catholics have the duty to receive the Sacrament of Matrimony in a church. Please make contact with the parish office at least one year prior to your intended marriage date to begin the preparation process. This includes attendance at a Pre-Cana Conference and several sessions with our Marriage Minister.

If you are presently in a civil marriage and desire to receive the Sacrament and enter into a valid Catholic marriage, please make contact with the parish office. We offer direction and assistance on receiving an annulment for those who are divorced and re-married. Please do not hesitate to call – the process is generally less difficult or cumbersome than imagined. Please call Lori McCahill, Director of Marriage Ministry at 732/264-4712 ext. 27 or mccahill@stbenedictnj.org

Ministry to the Sick and Homebound

Parishioners who are ill or unable to get about are often the most neglected and in need. Please make contact with the parish office for any of the following ministries or services:

Anointing of the Sick – the priests will visit the persistently homebound at least twice per year but are available to come to your home anytime that there is a health crisis or a deteriorating condition. Please do not wait until the person is in the final stages of life – except for an emergency – to call for a priest.

Reception of Holy Communion – if a homebound parishioner would like to receive Holy Communion, please make contact with the parish office.

Hospital Nursing Homes – please call the office if a parishioner or a loved one is at Bayshore Community Hospital or has been moved into a local nursing home so that we can tend to the pastoral needs. For family members hospitalized outside of the area the in-house chaplaincy services can tend to the immediate needs. One of the priests will pay a visit as requested.

Community Outreach

Help for People with Medicare (SHIP) - SHIP is a State Health Insurance Program that provides FREE, objective, confidential help to Medicare beneficiaries who have problems or questions with Medicare, Medigap, Medicare Advantage Plans, Part D and Long-Term Care. Please call Lorrie McGee, Pastoral Minister for Community Outreach at 732/264-4712 ext. 37 or mccgee@stbenedictnj.org.

FIVE THINGS to REMEMBER
about In-Church Masses ...

- 1 Dispensation from Sunday Mass obligation** remains in effect for all Catholics of the Diocese.
- 2 Diocesan Directives** posted to dioceseoftristone.org/communications remain in effect.
- 3 Masks** (properly worn) are required.
- 4 Social distancing** must be observed.
- 5 Occupancy limits** will be enforced.

Information published by the Diocese of Trenton

**Saturday, December 12th***Our Lady of Guadalupe*5:00 p.m. **Gloria Petro** req. The Remick Family**Sunday, December 13th***Third Sunday of Advent*8:00 a.m. **Pro Populo**¹9:30 a.m. **Jonathan Tagorda** req. Melissa Pino11:00 a.m. **Salvatore Lombardi** req. Lorrie McGee**Monday, December 14th***Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church*9:00 a.m. **Carmela Marzigliano** req. The Wintjen Family**Theresa Esposito** req. The Wintjen Family**Jim Manning** req. Kathy O'Melia**Dominic, Rose and Carmela** req. The Limeri Family**President Donald Trump*** req. The Limeri Family* *Living Intention***Tuesday, December 15th**9:00 a.m. **Daniel Figurelli** req. The Simeone Family**Wednesday, December 16th**9:00 a.m. **Daniel, Charlotte and Dylan Vassallo**

req. The Vassallo Family

Dianne Cavallaro req. The Vassallo Family**Frank Capogrosso**

req. Clergy, Staff and Parishioners of St. Benedict

Pat McAleavy* req. McAleavy Family* *Living Intention***Thursday, December 17th**9:00 a.m. **Anne Glanzman** req. Rob and Lynn Altobelli**Friday, December 18th**9:00 a.m. **Tony Silva** req. Rob and Lynn Altobelli**Saturday, December 19th**5:00 p.m. **Margaret Schmidt** req. The Peters Family**Sunday, December 20th***Fourth Sunday of Advent*8:00 a.m. **Pro Populo**9:30 a.m. **Catherine and Jim Manning** req. Marion Manning11:00 a.m. **Giovanni Mannino** req. The Raczynski Family

Please remember in your prayers all those whose names are listed in our Prayer Intention Book.

1. For the People of St. Benedict



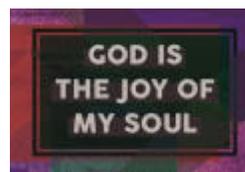
**SIMBANG GABI
IN MONMOUTH COUNTY;
BEGINS DECEMBER 15th**

Simbang Gabi is the Filipino custom of offering a nightly Mass each day for nine nights prior to Christmas Day to help the faithful prepare themselves for the festive, yet solemn, celebration of the birth of our Lord. The novena of Masses signifies the nine months our Lord was in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of God and our mother, too. This special novena is recognized by the universal Church as an authentic devotion to our Blessed Mother and has been prayed every year in the Philippines since the 1600s. In the Diocese of Trenton which covers four counties, every county has formed an organizing committee to ensure that all the faithful throughout the Diocese are given an opportunity to pray this novena.

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, Simbang Gabi in Monmouth County is ***not*** cancelled but will be very different this year from the way it had been celebrated in the previous years. All nine Masses are open to the public and will be celebrated in one host parish—St. Benedict Catholic Church in Holmdel—which can seat up to 170 people, following social distancing guidelines. No seat reservations are required. Those who choose to stay home can watch the livestreamed Simbang Gabi Mass on St. Benedict's YouTube channel.

All Masses will be in English and will start at 7:00 p.m. from December 15th to December 23rd, except Saturday, December 19th, to allow some time for the sanitizing of the space inside St. Benedict's church building after their usual 5 o'clock Saturday evening Mass. The Simbang Gabi Mass on Saturday, December 19th, will start at 7:30 p.m.

Prior to every Mass, the Rosary will be recited in the church and, if weather permits, the Sacrament of Confession will be celebrated outside the Adoration Chapel. ***No fellowship meal will take place after the Mass.***



The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses. They never satisfy us, sustain us or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of my soul. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal Otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow.

St. Benedict Church Bulletin
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Father Garry is pleased to announce that St. Benedict has received over \$93,043 in pledges for the Annual Catholic Appeal. Our goal is \$95,000. Once the goal has been reached 50% of subsequent donations will be returned to St. Benedict in a parish rebate. **If you have yet to make your gift, pledge forms are available at the doors of the Church.**

THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL – IN ACTION!

Clergy and Religious Administration

Consecrated Life

In the Diocese of Trenton, those in consecrated life represent membership in a variety of male and female religious institutes. These men and women have dedicated their lives to proclaim the Word of the God and serve His people. Currently we have 51 Brothers, 37 priests and 230 women religious ministering in the diocese. While not easily recognizable, nevertheless, they witness the face of God as they celebrate our liturgies and carry out the spiritual and corporal works of mercy in fields of education, health care and social services throughout the diocese. Your gift promotes those called to serve.



St. Benedict Catholic Church
Memorial Mass Society

For a suggested donation of \$20 those who are enrolled in the Memorial Mass Society will benefit from Masses to be celebrated on Twelve First Saturday's. A book with the names of all those enrolled will be placed near the altar for the Memorial Mass. The names of first time enrollees will be read at the first Mass in which they are remembered. When requesting enrollment in the Memorial Mass Society a blue padded Mass Card will be provided for presentation to the family of the deceased.

Memorial Opportunities

If you would like to memorialize the Altar Bread and Wine, Altar Flowers or Sanctuary candle in honor/memory of a loved one for one week, please contact the parish office. If you would like to memorialize one or all of the candles in our Lady of Victory Adoration Chapel in honor/memory of a loved one for one week, please contact the parish office. All intentions will be listed in the bulletin.



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS-CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Three meetings are held weekly: Monday 8:00 p.m., Tuesday 6:30 p.m. and Friday 5:45 p.m. Meetings are held in the Choir room.

MERCIFUL SAVIOR PRAYER GROUP-CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

The St. Benedict Merciful Savior Prayer Group meets every Monday (except when a holiday falls on a Monday) at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. For further information, please call Sal and Janice Alagona at 732/264-5744 or Geri Ventura at 732/566-6642.

MUSIC MINISTRY

The Contemporary Choir sings every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Mass. The Youth Choir sings at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on the second and fourth Sundays. The Teen Choir sings at the 5:00 p.m. Mass on the third Saturday. For information about the Contemporary Choir, please contact Tom O'Brien, Choir Director at thomasobrienjr1@gmail.com
For information about the Youth Choir or Teen Choir, please contact Ellen Remick, Choir Director at remick@stbenedictnj.org

PRAYER INTENTION GROUP-CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

The Prayer Intention Group meet on the second Tuesday of each month after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the Chapel to pray for one another's special intentions.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on alternate Tuesday mornings to knit or crochet shawls for those who are ill or have lost a loved one. If you would like a shawl for someone or would like to join us on Tuesdays, please call Caroline Cattani at 732/241-5150.



St. Benedict has a gift for you, that gift is a subscription to FORMED, a wonderful website that has been called a "Catholic Netflix." Discover the best Catholic content in one place.

Entertaining movies, enlightening programs, inspiring talks and audio dramas and a great selection of popular e-books - all just a click away! Go to FORMED.org and register with our parish code **HHNG3M**.

Check <https://leaders.formed.org/> for inspirational resources for Faith Formation in **December 2020**



Catholic Brain for Children
Catholic Brain St. Benedict code: **STB19535**

PARISH COUNSELING SERVICES

A joint effort of the Diocese of Trenton and Catholic Charities provides licensed professionals for short term counseling (up to 6 sessions) to parishioners dealing with difficult issues, for example, job-stress, family concerns and bereavement. Contact your pastor or parish priest for additional information and referral. The fee is \$90 per session, but, if needed, financial assistance is available through the Diocese of Trenton Parish Counseling Services.

Our Promise to Protect

The Diocese of Trenton is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan Abuse Hotline: 1/888-296-2965 or abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org.



Mr. Kevin Donahue, *Principal*
email: kdonahue@stbenedictnj.org

Mrs. Christine Keeling, *Vice Principal*
email: keeling@stbenedictnj.org

Mrs. Monica Hurni, *Administrative Assistant*
email: hurni@stbenedictnj.org

Mrs. Pat Tobino, *Administrative Assistant*
email: tobino@stbenedictnj.org

LAST CALL!
"CHRISTMAS IS COMING!"
MONTHLY CALENDAR RAFFLE
FINAL RAFFLE DRAWING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020
Enter the raffle drawing to win **\$1,000!**
RAFFLE BOOKLETS OF THREE (3) TICKETS ARE ON SALE FOR \$50 EACH!
All proceeds will go towards the St. Benedict School fund.
ID #: 217-1-37046 RL #: 20-14

SCRIP

Store/Gift cards

The SCRIP Program provides an opportunity for school families to earn a tuition credit by purchasing gift cards for supermarkets, retailers, restaurants, travel destinations, hotels, service providers and more. The list of cards we carry is on the Counter Sales Form. Any other cards available through SCRIP can be ordered using the SCRIP Order Form. Both forms can be printed from the SBS website under the SCRIP tab or the Forms tab. Payment for these cards are made with check or cash at time of purchase or order. For additional information please contact Lorrie McGee at mcgee@stbenedictnj.org or by phone 732-264-4712 ext. 37.



Lord Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father and Mary Immaculate, give to our young people the generosity necessary to follow your call, and the courage required to overcome all obstacles to their vocation.

Give to parents that faith, love, and spirit of sacrifice which will inspire them to offer their children to God's service, and to rejoice whenever one of their children is called to the priesthood or religious life. May your example and that of your Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph, encourage both young people and parents to let your grace sustain them.

Amen.

Living

- Fr. Daniel Kirk
- Fr. Garry Koch
- Msgr. Peter Kochery
- Fr. Marian Kokorzycki
- Fr. Mark Kreder

Seminarian
Kenneth Falls

Discerning
Kolbe

Deceased

- Fr. Edward R. Sullivan
- Msgr. Armand A. Pedata
- Fr. James H. Farrington
- Fr. John J. West
- Fr. James P. O'Sullivan
- Fr. Nicholas C. Murphy
- Fr. Brian O'Reilly
- Fr. Joseph Milander
- Fr. William J. Nolan

Pray for Vocations



God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated persons.

Send your Holy Spirit to help others to respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth and young adults.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



Watch on YouTube:

[Fr. Toups: A Vocation Story](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1rRkdq_U7I&t=2s)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1rRkdq_U7I&t=2s



Wondering who to talk to? Did you know Father Garry and Father JM serve on our Diocesan Vocation team? Call or make an appointment and they would be happy to answer any questions.

Email: Father Garry Koch frgarry@stbenedictnj.org
Father JM Patilla frjohn@stbenedictnj.org



The Knights of Columbus is the world's foremost Catholic Fraternal Benefit Society. It also maintains a highly rated insurance company with attractive rates for its members and their families. If you are interested in joining you may pick up a prospect card at the church entrance, fill it out and drop it in the collection box. Or send an email to lindgerry39@gmail.com to have the prospect card sent to you. Complete information about the Knights of Columbus and insurance programs is available at KofC.org.

Family Rosary



The Knights of Columbus will recite the next Family Rosary in church on Saturday, December 26th at 4:30 p.m. and will continue every last Saturday of each month. Parishioners attending the Vigil Mass are encouraged to arrive early to participate.

BREAKFAST With Santa



December 13th
After 8:00am
and 9:30am
Masses

St. Benedict Church
166 Bethany Rd.
Holmdel, NJ

\$6 adults
\$5 children
\$18 family



Dear Santa,
I can explain...



Masks & Social Distancing mandatory

Presented by Knights of Columbus
Council 11349



A social ministry, SVDP provides spiritual, food distribution, emergency financial and other services to those in need. For assistance, please call 732-264-4712 ext. 33 and leave a message.

Your call will be returned.

Please do not leave a message for financial assistance on the Emergency line.

For questions or to volunteer please contact Bill Casey-billy.casey@hotmail.com.

Food Pantry

The St. Benedict Food Pantry is open on Wednesdays ONLY from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. until further notice.

Please wear a mask.

Food Pantry Items Needed:

Below is a suggested list of items needed for our Food Pantry, however all donations are welcome.

- Diapers (all sizes)
- Baby Wipes,
- Coffee/Tea
- Soup
- Shampoo
- Laundry Detergent
- Toilet Tissue
- Baby Food (stages 2/3)
- Children's cereal
- Juice
- Soap
- Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
- Dish Detergent

When donating please check expiration dates as we cannot accept expired items.



SCRIP PROGRAM

The St. Vincent DePaul Society is once again providing assistance for the less fortunate this Christmas Season. Parishioners are asked to use the SCRIP envelopes, available in the parish office and make a donation toward the purchase of a supermarket gift card. SCRIP envelopes can be placed in the collection basket at the entrance of the Church or at the Parish Office.

We are grateful to all who kindly make donations throughout the year. Your kindness puts food on tables!

Catholic Charities News



Community Services is Catholic Charities' link to parishes in the Trenton diocese. Serving families in crises, we provide food, mortgage, rent and utilities assistance, temporary housing, counseling, and immigration services. To learn more about Catholic Charities Community

Services visit our You Tube presentation.

Click on: <https://youtu.be/-r8YRyPCIY4>

Anyone needing assistance, please contact Catholic Charities at 800-360-7711

November 9, (Right to Life UK) - The United Kingdom Health Secretary has said people are legally allowed to travel overseas for an assisted suicide during lockdown. Conservative MP Andrew Mitchell was fearful the national lockdown in England, which was brought in to save lives, "could deter" people from ending their lives. But, Matt Hancock told MPs today: "The new coronavirus regulations, which come into force today, place restrictions on leaving the home without a reasonable excuse; travelling abroad for the purpose of assisted dying is a reasonable excuse, so anyone doing so would not be breaking the law." Pro-life MP Fiona Bruce quickly rebutted his comments by stating that increasing access to any form of suicide at this time would be completely inappropriate and insensitive. Addressing the Health Minister, she said: "At this time, when the whole country is making huge sacrifices to protect life, at a time of exceptionally high levels of physical and mental stress, and when many people may feel very vulnerable, does the Minister understand and accept the views of many, including in this House, that it would be completely inappropriate—indeed, insensitive—of this Parliament to go anywhere near considering making access to any form of suicide easier?" A large number of MPs seemed to agree with Fiona Bruce MP and called for the Government to ensure people in the UK are receiving the best palliative care possible.

Healing the Wounds of Abortion

Rachel's Vineyard is a weekend retreat that offers wounded parents an opportunity to walk with Christ through the complex circumstances that led to abortion, as well as the devastating aftermath. Rachel's Vineyard also provides a blessed opportunity for parents to begin processing their grief, and to memorialize their children. There is no judgment. There is just an atmosphere of fellowship, compassion, and healing. If an abortion is impacting you, remember that God loves you, just as much as He loves your child. If you would like to experience a weekend of God's love and mercy for yourself, please contact Judy Warenkiewicz at 732-536-6871.

All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Healing After Abortion

Do you know someone who is carrying the grief of a past abortion? There is always hope. The pain and sorrow of abortion does not need to endure for a lifetime. A "Day of Prayer and Healing" offers the opportunity to experience the love and mercy of God and to respond to His invitation to begin the journey of healing the wound of abortion. For upcoming dates, locations, and confidential registration, or just to talk to a Sister, please call the Sisters of Life at (866)-575-0075 (toll free) or reach us by email at hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org.



We welcome into our Parish Family through the Sacrament of Baptism
Capri Bella Calabrese



Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas 2020-2021

<https://parish.stbenedictholmdel.org/reflections>



Christmas Eve-December 24th
2, 4, 6, and 8:00 p.m.

Midnight Mass

Christmas Day-December 25th
9 and 11:00 a.m.



Saint of the Month
St. Thomas Becket
Man of God who stood up for the fair treatment of the Church and its people

Feast Day: December 29th
Canonized: February 21, 1173

A strong man who wavered for a moment, but then learned one cannot come to terms with evil, and so became a strong churchman, a martyr, and a saint—that was Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, murdered in his cathedral on December 29, 1170.

His career had been a stormy one. While archdeacon of Canterbury, he was made chancellor of England at the age of 36 by his friend King Henry II. When Henry felt it advantageous to make his chancellor the archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas gave him fair warning: he might not accept all of Henry's intrusions into Church affairs. Nevertheless, in 1162 he was made archbishop, resigned his chancellorship, and reformed his whole way of life!

Troubles began. Henry insisted upon usurping Church rights. At one time, supposing some conciliatory action possible, Thomas came close to compromise. He momentarily approved the Constitutions of Clarendon, which would have denied the clergy the right of trial by a Church court and prevented them from making direct appeal to Rome. But Thomas rejected the Constitutions, fled to France for safety, and remained in exile for seven years. When he returned to England he suspected it would mean certain death. Because Thomas refused to remit censures he had placed upon bishops favored by the king, Henry cried out in a rage, "Will no one rid me of this troublesome priest!" Four knights, taking his words as his wish, slew Thomas in the Canterbury cathedral.

Thomas Becket remains a hero-saint down to our own times.

JOIN US FOR

LIGHTS OF HOPE

STARTING NOVEMBER 29TH
ST. BENEDICT CHURCH
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REAR PARKING LOT

An Outdoor Representation of the Gospel Stories:

- Annunciation
- Joseph's Dream
- The Birth of Jesus
- The Visit of the Magi
- The Flight to Egypt

Available starting on Sunday, November 29th.

All are invited to walk or drive around and reflect more deeply into these Stories of Hope this Advent and Christmas Seasons. Gospel Narrations and Reflections will be available on the website.

Everyone is welcome to attend and experience these Lights of Hope.

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FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation at St. Benedict is committed to offering programs that will help enhance our participation and deepen our understanding of the Catholic faith. We offer programs for parishioners of all ages to deepen their spiritual lives and grow closer to God.

Mrs. Melissa Dayton,
Director of Faith Formation
732-264-4712 ext. 26
email: mdayton@stbenedictnj.org

Mr. Ciro Saverino
Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry
732-264-4712 ext.12
email: saverino@stbenedictnj.org

Mrs. Carol Cesario,
Administrative Assistant
732/264-4712 ext. 24
email: cesario@stbenedictnj.org



Virtual Prayer, video's, Apps and Conferences for Stay at Home/ Covid-19 can be found under the **adult programs tab** on the St. Benedict website.

<https://parish.stbenedictholmdel.org/adult-programs>



Faith + Family Collective Blog

https://www.faihandfamilycollective.com/blog-1?utm_campaign=0a400abe-4ede-4709-b677-fc3aa0ad1ed9&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&cid=ee7ccaef-ea4d-41c2-8944-a11293d21948

Parenting Blog: Carrots for Michaelmas

<https://www.carrotsformichaelmas.com/>

Family Faith Formation ideas:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/family/>

December Faith Family Calendar -

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/178jrtWeCLDS6IebjBF8S4eVrUoebgvau/view?usp=sharing>



Every Sacred Sunday:

Mass Journal begins the first weekend of Advent

<https://everysacredsunday.com/>

The mission at Every Sacred Sunday is to invite each person into deeper relationship with Christ by creating spiritual resources inspired by the beauty of the Catholic Church.

10 Meaningful Advent Traditions for Catholic Families with Little to No Prep Work!

<https://www.catholicicing.com/10-meaningful-advent-traditions-for-catholic-families-with-little-to-no-prep-work/>

100 SIMPLE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR FAMILY'S BEST ADVENT EVER

<https://notsoformulaic.com/100-simple-activities-familys-best-advent-ever>



Journey through Advent with Art:

Pieter Brueghel the Younger,
"St. John the Baptist Preaching," 1601

Pieter Brueghel the Younger's St. John the Baptist Preaching captures this moment as he presents a wooded wilderness embracing a colorful crowd. Left of center is John the Baptist, clad in camelhair, though we have to search the scene to find him. Instead of standing as a dominating figure, John is one of the crowd, one of the people who serves his peers with prophetic passion.**Arts & Faith: Week 3 of Advent**

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/arts-and-faith-advent/cycle-b/first-week-of-advent-cycle-b-video/>

Some reading suggestions for Advent

Rejoice! Advent Meditations with the Holy Family

<https://ascensionpress.com/collections/rejoice-advent-meditations-with-the-holy-family>

The Spider Who Saved Christmas

https://www.amazon.com/Spider-Who-Saved-Christmas/dp/1644132117/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=catholic+Childrens+books+christmas&qid=1605193661&sr=8-3

'Twas the Evening of Christmas

https://www.amazon.com/Twas-Evening-Christmas-Glenys-Nellist/dp/0310745535/ref=sr_1_6?dchild=1&keywords=catholic+Childrens+books+christmas&qid=1605193710&sr=8-6

A Nest for the Savior: An Interactive Christmas Tradition

https://www.amazon.com/Nest-Savior-Interactive-Christmas-Tradition/dp/1732582602/ref=sr_1_9?dchild=1&keywords=catholic+Childrens+books+christmas&qid=1605193710&sr=8-9

Room for a Little One: A Christmas Tale

<https://www.amazon.com/>

Christmas Crafts

Christmas Creche Crafts for Families

<https://thekennedyadventures.com/catholic-christmas-crafts-to-make/>

Christmas crafts, prayers and activities

<https://catholicblogger1.blogspot.com/2011/11/christmas.html>

FAITH FORMATION



We are looking for virtual volunteers Share your faith with our young people!

Anyone interested in volunteering please contact:
Melissa Dayton mdayton@stbenedictnj.org or
732-264-4712 ext. 26

Grade 1-6 Traditional Program

Volunteers are needed to help as teachers, substitutes, If you are tech savvy and would like to help moderate our online program please let us know. Students will complete 3 lessons virtually each month. The estimated time for volunteering is approximately 2 hours total answering emails and checking lessons for each lesson- 6 hours a month.

High School students welcome- service hours will be given. An online teacher training will be provided.

Facilitator Volunteers

If you are interested in sharing your faith with the younger generations, this is your chance. The Confirmation program is for 7th and 8th grade students. Tech savvy mentor volunteers needed.



Join Youth Group!

Attention rising 9th-12th graders: We have a high school youth group here at St. Benedict Parish. Live your faith in action through service and spend time in prayer and fellowship with like minded friends. All are welcome to join us.

Inquiries can be directed to saverino@stbenedictnj.org for more information



Make sure you're following us on Instagram for updates/announcements and other good content during the week! [@stbensyouthgroup](https://www.instagram.com/stbensyouthgroup)

High School Service Opportunities

Virtual Sunday Night Mentor

The Sunday night 7th and 8th grade parish confirmation program is still looking for additional virtual assistant facilitators to help the main facilitators. This program meets twice a month virtually on Sunday nights from 6-8:00 p. m. from now until April. Community service hours can be earned for this volunteer position. Students must apply. Please contact **Ciro Saverino** saverino@stbenedictnj.org for additional information.



Mrs. Lori McCahill
Director of Marriage Ministry
732-264-4712 ext.27
email: mccahill@stbenedictnj.org

Engagement and Anniversary Announcements

The Marriage Ministry would like to celebrate all engagements and anniversaries for members of our parish. For newly engaged couples receiving the Sacrament of Matrimony at St. Benedict please send in an engagement photo and we will announce your wedding date in the bulletin. For couples celebrating a special anniversary please send in your wedding photo and we will announce your special anniversary in our bulletin. Please email all photos emailed directly to bulletin@stbenedictnj.org in a **jpeg format**. Please provide the date of your upcoming wedding or anniversary.



Faith QUESTIONS?

RCIA might just be for you! RCIA is for someone who:

- Is interested in becoming Catholic
- Was never baptized
- Was baptized in another Christian denomination
- Is married to a Catholic and is interested in sharing their spouses faith.

RCIA is time of exploration. We gather to discuss the truths, teachings, and practices of the Catholic Faith in an open forum, with sound presentations and lively discussions. This process involves time not only for instruction, but also growth in the practice of the faith through discussion and prayer. We meet on Sunday mornings over a cup of coffee! Perhaps, you are baptized Catholic but have not received the Sacrament of Eucharist and Confirmation? This is the place for you to grow in faith. Remember, it is never too late to receive the sacraments. There are various members of the community on the RCIA team to assist you. Please call **Melissa Dayton at 732-264-4712 ext. 26** if you have any questions.

Never Completed your Sacraments?

Confirmation class for Adults

Are you a baptized Roman Catholic, made your First Communion and are over the age of 18 and have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation? Please consider joining us on Sundays after the 9:30 a.m. Mass. We welcome you and look forward to sharing this journey with you. The process is easy; this formation program is for you. Contact **Melissa Dayton** at **732-264-4712 ext. 26** for more information.

The Third Sunday of Advent



What is special about the Third Sunday of Advent?

For much of the Church's history, this Sunday had a special name: "Gaudete" Sunday. The traditions surrounding this Sunday go back as far as the fourth or fifth century, as does the season of Advent itself. Advent, our preparation for Christmas, was originally a forty-day penitential season like Lent. In fact, since it used to begin on November 12 (just after the Memorial of St. Martin of Tours), it was called "St. Martin's Lent." "Gaudete Sunday" was the Advent counterpart to "Laetare Sunday," which marks the midpoint in Lent.

On Gaudete Sunday, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, "The Lord is near." This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation. Liturgically, the colors lighten as well. The priest usually wears rose-colored vestments, a hue seen only on Gaudete Sunday and Laetare Sunday. On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose-colored, or if you prefer, pink.

The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice." In times when the focus of our anticipation is often on the negative and fearful, this celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy.

Today's Second Collection

Elderly religious have offered a lifetime of service. Now they need your help. Please consider donating to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection this weekend. Learn more at retiredreligious.org.



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

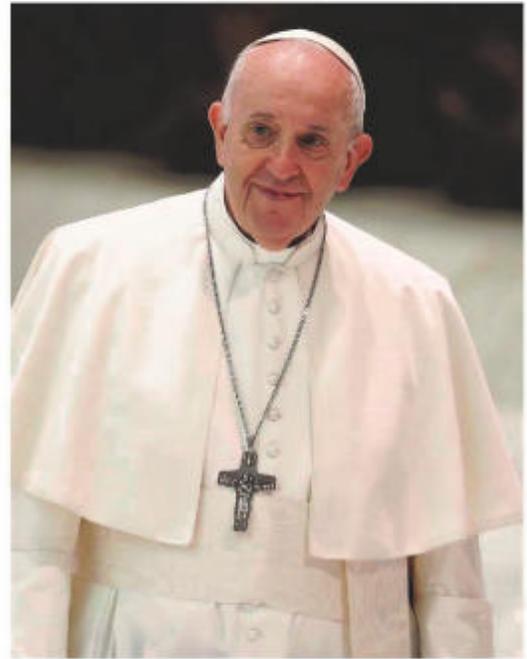


Walking With Moms in Need

During Advent, we remember Mary's journey to motherhood. Today, many women are in need of support. Take the pledge to pray and serve women facing challenging or unexpected pregnancies and learn more about how you can help. Visit <https://www.walkingwithmoms.com>

Pope Francis's Birthday

On Thursday, December 17, Pope Francis celebrates his 84th birthday!



CNS Photo



The “O Antiphons” of Advent

The Roman Church has been singing the “O Antiphons” since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative “Come!” embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.



In the last days of Advent, you may wish to add these “O Antiphons” to your evening prayer, your prayer at table, or your bedtime prayer.

December 17

O Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18

O Leader of the House of Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19

O Root of Jesse’s stem,
sign of God’s love for all his people:
come to save us without delay!

December 20

O Key of David,
opening the gates of God’s eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21

O Radiant Dawn,
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:
come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

December 23

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!



Introductory paragraph originally published on USCCB.org.
Prayers taken from the *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers, Revised Edition* (Washington, DC: USCCB, 2007), 76-77.
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At the end of every seven years thou shalt make a release. Every creditor that lendeth ought unto his neighbour shall release it. (Deut. 15.1)



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