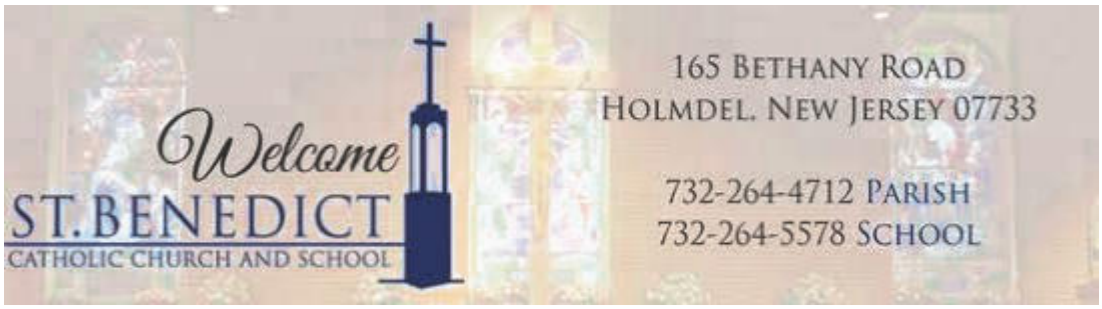
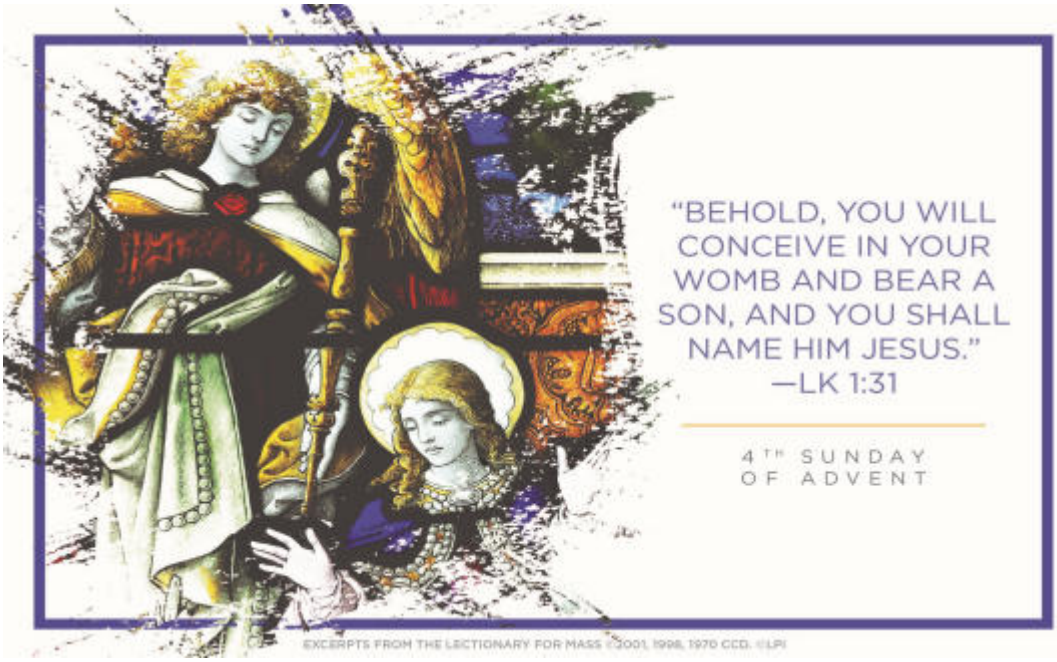


DECEMBER 20, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



SUNDAY'S READINGS
December 20, 2020

First Reading:
"When your times comes and you rest with your ancestors,
I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will establish his kingdom firm."
2 Samuel 12

Psalm 89:
For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading:
According to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God.
Romans 16:25b-26a

Gospel:
"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.
He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High."
Luke 1:31-32a

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.
Sunday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 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,
Office 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

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2020
2, 4, 6, 8 p.m. Mass
Midnight Mass
in Church and Gym

Christmas Day
December 25, 2020
9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Mass
in Church and Gym

OUR LADY OF VICTORY ADORATION CHAPEL

Please consider joining us as an Adorer.

Contact Kathy 732/739-3381
for more information about available hours.

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:
Advent seems to have flown by – I guess it always does. As we prepare for the celebration of Christmas this week (Friday, as if anyone needs reminding) there are a few important reminders and appeals from our end.

Christmas Masses – we are on target for simultaneous Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. If you are coming as a single or a couple, or perhaps you aren't quite comfortable with a "crowd" then the Mass in the school Gym is your best bet. We can maintain clear social distancing there and will be able to move people in and out quickly. Masses will be celebrated on Christmas Eve at 2, 4, 6, and 8:00 p.m.; Mass at Midnight; Christmas Day at 9 and 11:00 a.m. We will also be live-streaming the Masses from the church. We want to provide opportunities for you to attend, and we hope that you do. Even if you haven't been here since March – or even last Christmas – we want you to feel comfortable coming to Mass for Christmas. At the same time, if you are at risk, or uncomfortable, or not feeling well, please join us through the on-line Masses.

The turn around time is going to be quick – we need time for the cleaning of the church and to set up for the next Mass. It is the cleaning of the church that will be the most important for us as we all need to feel safe in church.

To that end, and I didn't intend to do this now, but opportunities present when they do – I am looking into the purchase of Air Purification Systems that has proven to neutralize all viruses – including the SARS-CoV-2 novel coronavirus on surfaces. The units (40 in total) would be installed throughout the church and the school. This will reduce the cleaning time and requirements – and on-going costs – significantly. The beauty of such a system is that it goes beyond the current pandemic and will protect our students, faculty, staff, as well as daily and weekend Mass attendees from the flu, colds, and other viruses into the future. Once the current pandemic ends and cleaning protocols go back to normal, then the same old problems will recur. With an air purification system, the protection will continue into the future. The cost, about $45,000. If you can help or would be interested in getting involved, please let me know. I know it's a rough time of the year to ask, and we will likely not be able to accomplish this immediately, I want to be prepared. I am sure that going forward all of us will be more diligent about cleaning and being conscious about bacterial and viral exposure.

We are happy to have made it this far with the parish and school still functioning "normally." We have had our challenges, but it is going well.

Father JM and I have been perhaps more vigilant than some others. We have not brought back altar servers, Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, or even the choirs. Several parishes in our diocese have experienced outbreaks of the virus spreading through those very ministers, especially through Holy Communion. Although we all wait for the day when the veil can be lifted and these ministries return, we are in no rush here to make this happen. While I wish it could be sooner, when I speak with other priests who brought things back too quickly, I am happy that we didn't.

The Fourth Week of Advent is always exciting. I don't know what kind of plans you have to celebrate Christmas Eve and Christmas Day – I am sure that many of those plans are fluid, as are mine. If you are traveling – be safe and be careful.

Let us all enjoy this Holy Day and Holiday Season, making the most of the opportunities we have been given, as we celebrate the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Blessings,
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 roddy@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 mcgee@stbenedictnj.org.

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[1]***
9:30 a.m. **Catherine and Jim Manning** req. Marion Manning
11:00 a.m. **Giovanni Mannino** req. The Raczynski Family

Monday, ***December 21st***
St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
9:00 a.m. **Taylor Richelsen** req. Melissa Pino

Tuesday, ***December 22nd***
9:00 a.m. **Suzanne Kranjac McIntosh** req. The Cucich Family

Wednesday, ***December 23rd***
Saint John of Kanty, Priest
9:00 a.m. **Daniel, Charlotte and Dylan Vassallo** req. The Vassallo Family
Dianne Cavallaro req. The Vassallo Family
Patrick Diggins req. Clergy, Staff and Parishioners of St. Benedict
Charles Allocco req. The Neihart Family
Fernando Avila* req. Danielle de Palma
Living Intention

Thursday, ***December 24th***
9:00 a.m. **John Stefanski** req. Fran Banks

Christmas Eve Mass Schedule
Masses in Church
2:00 p.m. ***Christmas Intentions***
4:00 p.m. ***Christmas Intentions***
6:00 p.m. ***Christmas Intentions***
8:00 p.m. ***Christmas Intentions***

Friday, ***December 25th***
The Nativity of the Lord
Midnight Mass ***Christmas Intentions***
9:00 a.m. ***Christmas Intentions***
11:00 a.m. ***Christmas Intentions***

Saturday, ***December 26th***
St. Stephen, First Martyr
5:00 p.m. **Robert Wyman** req. The Lauricella Family

Sunday, ***December 27th***
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
8:00 a.m. ***Pro Populo***
9:30 a.m. **Alton Bennett** req. The Roddy Family
11:00 a.m. **Peter Esposito** req. The Niro Family

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

Alton Bennett
John Lietz
Edward O'Hara
Beverly Kiely

1. *For the People of St. Benedict*

December 20, 2020
4th Sunday of Advent

In Blaise Pascal's work, Pensees, he says: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself."

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come.

St. Benedict Church Bulletin
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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.

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.

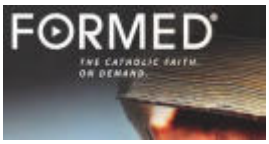
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS-CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
Three meetings are held weekly: Monday 8:00 p.m., Tuesday 6:30 p.m. and Friday 5:45 p.m. Meetings are held in the Choir room.

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 will 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 a great selection of popular e-books-all just a click away! Go to **FORMED.org** and register with our parish code **HHNG3M**. Share it with your friends!

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**.

Welcome to ST. BENEDICT SCHOOL

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

Tuesday, December 22nd
Early dismissal-Christmas Break

Friday, December 25th
Merry Christmas!

Wednesday, December 23rd– Friday, January 1st
Christmas Break

SCRIP

Store/Gift cards

The SCRIP Program provides an opportunity for school families to earn 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 is made with a check or cash at the 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. Anthony Krisak
Fr. Stanley Krzyston
Fr. Thomas Kwoka
Fr. Jacek Labinski

Seminarian-Julian Young

Discerning-Clyde

Deceased
Fr. James A. Walsh
Fr. Joseph G. Fox
Fr. Daniel J. Ryan
Fr. John H. Fox
Fr. Cornelius O'Reilly
Fr. Richard A. Crean
Fr. Simon B. Walsh

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 on Saturday, December 26th beginning at 4:30 p.m. and will continue every last Saturday of each month.
All are welcome.

Member Knights
The next business meeting will be a return to an in-person meeting held on Thursday, January 7th at 8:00 p.m. in the Gym. There will be a link via Zoom for those members who prefer to stay virtual.

Eyes for the Needy
The Knights of Columbus seek your help to help those in need to see what the good lord has provided all of us. Eyes for the Needy is a global organization founded by Julia Lawrence Terry in 1932. Eyes recycle donated prescription, reading, sunglasses, and jewelry. Please drop your unwanted eye glasses and jewelry (which are sold to raise funds for the purchasing of new glasses) in the collection basket on the table in the Gathering Space.

Moscow, Russia, November 16, (LifeSiteNews.com) -
Out of the many news headlines that have dominated the year 2020 so far, there is one somber event that is in danger of being forgotten: November 18, 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the first-ever legalization of abortion. Researchers estimate that legal abortion has resulted in about one billion abortions worldwide in the past 100 years, making it what they call the "greatest genocide in history." On this date 100 years ago, Soviet Russia announced the legalization of abortion in order, according to the state explanation, to combat the growing numbers of women who were having adverse health effects as a result of illegal abortions. In doing so, the country became the first in the world to legalize the killing of preborn children. Russia's new ruling predated any other legalization of abortion in the world by more than a decade, for it was not until 1931 that Mexico legalized abortion in case of rape.

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.

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

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/-r8YRyPClY4
Anyone needing assistance, please contact Catholic Charities at 800-360-7711

A message from Bishop O'Connell: Pope Francis announces 'The Year of St. Joseph'

On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, His Holiness Pope Francis has used the feast day to declare the year ahead, beginning on December 8th, the "Year of St. Joseph," her blessed spouse and the foster-father of the Lord Jesus.

In an apostolic letter released today entitled "**Patris corde**" ("With a Father's Heart"), marking the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as "Patron of the Universal Church" by Blessed Pope Pius IX, Pope Francis indicated that the "aim of this apostolic letter is to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtue and his zeal."

The Holy Father noted that "after Mary, the Mother of God, no saint is mentioned more frequently in the papal magisterium than Joseph, her spouse. My predecessors reflected on the message contained in the limited information handed down by the Gospels in order to appreciate his central role in the history of salvation."

Commenting on the apostolic letter, the Vatican News Office explained that "The Holy Father wrote "**Patris corde**" against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

Throughout the document, the Holy Father describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father, a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

In a separate decree, Vatican Apostolic Penitentiary has announced that a plenary indulgence is attached to the faithful who commemorate St. Joseph throughout his special year "with prayer and good works."

The plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the Pope's intentions) to Christians who, with a spirit detached from any sin, participate in the Year of St. Joseph on these occasions and manners indicated by the Apostolic Penitentiary:

- The plenary indulgence is granted to those who will meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord's Prayer, or take part in a Spiritual Retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph. "St. Joseph, an authentic man of faith, invites us", the decree reads, "to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God's will."

- The indulgence can also be obtained by those who, following St. Joseph's example, will perform a spiritual or corporal work of mercy. St. Joseph "encourages us to rediscover the value of silence, prudence and loyalty in carrying out our duties," the decree notes.

- The recitation of the Holy Rosary in families and among engaged couples is another way of obtaining indulgences, in order that "all Christian families may be stimulated to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love and prayer that was in the Holy Family."

- Everyone who entrusts their daily activity to the protection of St. Joseph, and every faithful who invokes the intercession of St. Joseph so that those seeking work can find dignifying work can also obtain the plenary indulgence. On 1 May 1955, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph "with the intent that the dignity of work be recognized by all, and that it inspires social life and laws, based on the fair distribution of rights and duties."

- The plenary indulgence is also granted to the faithful who will recite the Litany to St. Joseph (for the Latin tradition), or the Akathistos to St. Joseph (for the Byzantine tradition), or any other prayer to St. Joseph proper to the other liturgical traditions, for the persecuted Church ad intra and ad extra, and for the relief of all Christians suffering all forms of persecution. Because, the decree notes, "the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt shows us that God is there where man is in danger, where man suffers, where he runs away, where he experiences rejection and abandonment."

In addition to these, the Apostolic Penitentiary grants a plenary indulgence to the faithful who will recite any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, for example, "To you, O blessed Joseph" especially on "19 March, on 1 May, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, on St. Joseph's Sunday (according to the Byzantine tradition) on the 19th of each month and every Wednesday, a day dedicated to the memory of the saint according to the Latin tradition."

Amid the ongoing Covid-19 health crisis, the gift of the plenary indulgence is also extended to the sick, the elderly, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave their homes.

They, too, can obtain the plenary indulgences if they are detached from any sin and have the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions and recite an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, offering to God the pains and hardships of their lives.

The Diocese of Trenton will begin planning special opportunities to celebrate the universal patronage of St. Joseph throughout 2021.

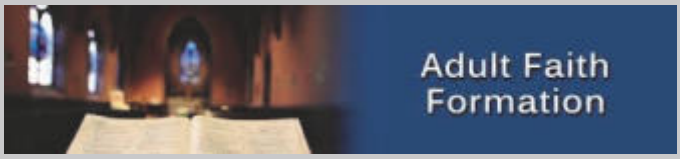
Faith Formation

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

Faith + Family Collective Blog
https://www.faithandfamilycollective.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:

John Collier, "The Annunciation," 2000
John Collier's contemporary depiction of the Annunciation brings the story of Mary's encounter with the angel Gabriel into our present reality. Collier's *The Annunciation stands on the shoulders of Tradition, depicting the encounter in such a way that includes the standard symbols of the past. We see Mary and the angel face-to-face, Mary holding a book as a symbol of her piety. We see the lily as a symbol of her purity, the painted window as a symbol of her virginity, and the dove perching in the background as the symbol of the Holy Spirit.*

Read more and see the video here:
Arts & Faith: Week 4 of Advent
https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/arts-and-faith-advent/cycle-b/fourth-week-of-advent-cycle-b-video/

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

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
Tech savvy volunteers are needed to help moderate our online program. Students will complete lessons virtually each month. The estimated time for volunteering is approximately 2 hours total answering emails and checking lessons for each lesson.

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

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

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.

L.O.V.E. Marriage Ministry
LIVING OUR VOWS EVERYDAY

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

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 a 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.

GOT 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.

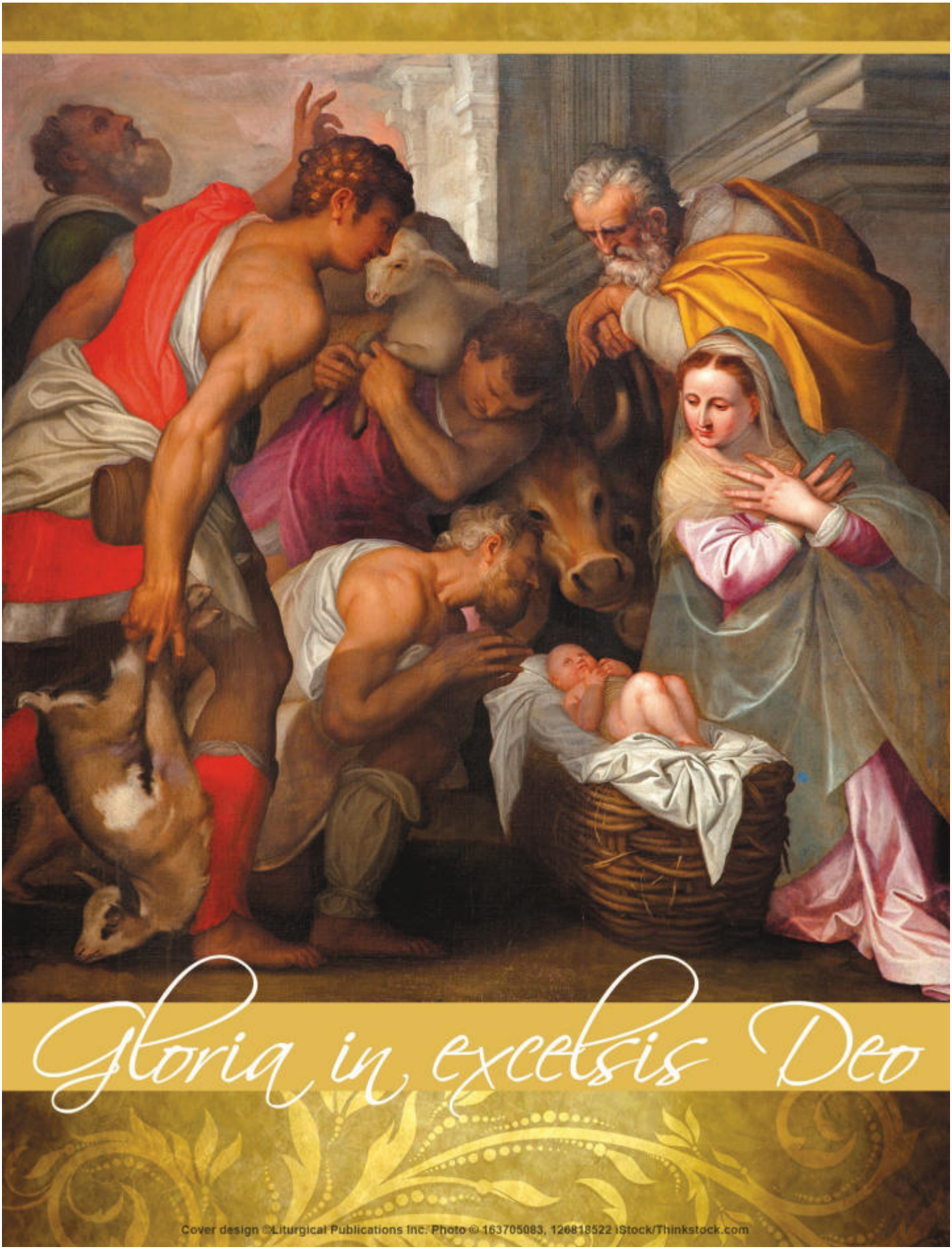
RCIA is time of exploration. We gather to discuss the truths, teachings, and practices of the Catholic Faith in an open forum, with sound presentations and lively discussions. This process involves time not only for instruction, but also growth in the practice of the faith through discussion and prayer. 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

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.



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From the Pastor

Dear Fellow Parishioners of St. Benedict:

¡Feliz Navidad! Joyeux Noël! Frohe Weihnachten! Buon Natale! Wesołych Świąt! Veselé Vánoce! Maligayang Pasko! Jwaye Nwèl! Nollaig Shona! … no matter how you say it with your family and friends … Merry Christmas!

The pop singer Andy Williams introduced a new Christmas song on his first Christmas Album (1963) called *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year* and, in spite of everything … indeed it is.

While some of the charm of Christmas is the sheer joy of children as they see the sights, hear the sound and smell the aromas associated with the season, and especially as they await the arrival of Santa Claus, we of course know that all of that – though important – serves as the periphery to what really brings us here and binds us together as disciples of Jesus Christ. As we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord we are renewed in hope and brought steadfast in faith. While to many, maybe even most, this celebration has been reduced to the quaint and nostalgic, indeed the sign of the presence of God among us – God with us – lies at the very core of our humanity.

There is no denying, however, the reality that this time of the year is flooded with emotion. Many of us long to be with family and those dear to us but time, distance, and the travel and gathering restrictions now in place prevent that. Others among us have experienced significant loss of loved ones, whether this year or just in years past, and we are reminded now of their absence in our lives. Likewise, health issues, economic struggles during the pandemic, the uncertainty of the future, and the general malaise of the present can interfere with our ability to bask in the moment and to recognize the loving presence of God in our lives.

This is *a most wonderful time of the year* as we allow our thoughts to turn towards the bountiful graces that the Lord has bestowed upon us throughout our lives. This is *a most wonderful time of the year* as we renew within us the commitment to living our faith, and to setting the desire to make a difference in the lives of others. One of the beauties of this season is that it causes us to stretch beyond ourselves and to think of others – even the cheesiest of gifts is borne of the desire to express love and gratitude. Unfortunately, we can often become selfish at the same time and envious of the gifts and attention given to others making us feel slighted, overlooked, or unloved.

This is *a most wonderful time of the year* as we take the time to allow it to be. The problems of today will still be here tomorrow. We change nothing by fretting, being miserable, angry, vengeful, or selfish. We change everything through joy, hope, peace, and consideration of the needs, desires, feelings, and affection of others.

As we celebrate this Christmas may each of us be open to the love of God pouring into our hearts and his desire to be among us – born as a humble child in the harsh circumstances of the manger – and to bring to us the *Good News* of salvation.

Soon we will assemble here again to celebrate his passion and death. A reminder of what hatred, evil, sin, despair, and anger can achieve in this world.

Let us be men and women infused with hope – enlivened with the spirit – and constant in faith knowing that Emmanuel has come – God is truly with us!

Merry Christmas!
Father Garry & Father JM

We welcome into our Parish Family through the Sacrament of Baptism

Anthony Joseph Napoli
Ethan Louis Tucci

The Parish Office will be closed Thursday December 24th and Friday, December 25

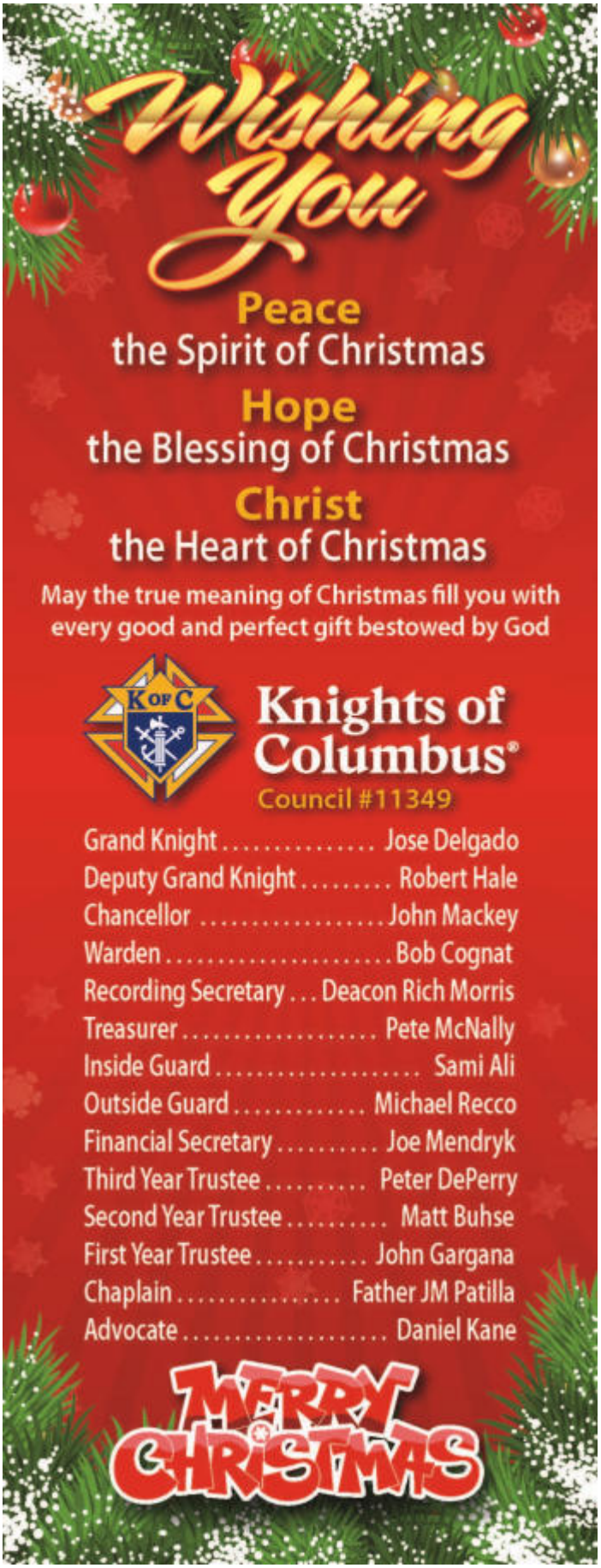
The office will reopen on Monday, December 28th

Geertgen tot Sint Jans, "The Birth of Christ," circa 1490

In his painting The Birth of Christ, Geertgen tot Sint Jans tells the story of the Nativity through faces surrounded by the play of light and dark. The artist unites the narrative of Jesus' birth and the deep theological reflection on the Incarnation from the first chapter of the Gospel of John. Geertgen tot Sint Jans layers John's symbolic language onto the Nativity story through his use of light in the image. The infant Christ is a heavenly body, radiating his light onto those who surround the manger, a true light of the human race whose radiance scatters the darkness. His radiance brightens the face of Mary his mother and the angels paying him homage. Further in the background, his light is present through the Word, the message of glad tidings that the angel brings to the barely visible shepherds gathered in the field. This angel floats directly above the manger—replacing the star we see in other Nativity images and reflecting the light of Christ, just as a star reflects the light of the sun.

Arts & Faith: Christmas

https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/arts-and-faith-advent/cycle-b/christmas-reflection-for-advent-cycle-b/



St. Benedict Parish gratefully acknowledges the gifts that accompanied the following prayer intentions for the beautiful Christmas Altar Flowers. These following intentions will be remembered at all Masses throughout the Christmas Season.

Maria Rubbo req. The Penley Family

William Rishchynski req. The Penley Family

Christopher Rubbo req. The Penley Family

Fred, Jamileh and Freda Salamy
req. Linda and Matthew Szabo

Carmine and Josephine Demma req. The Tornabene Family

Frank R. and Joan Tornabene req. The Tornabene Family

George Kahora req. The Csimbok Family

Ana Kahora req. The Csimbok Family

Thereza Popp req. The Csimbok Family

Luke Roy req. The Csimbok Family

Elmer Csimbok req. The Csimbok Family

Mary Such req. The Csimbok Family

Edythe, Louis and Michael DiMauro req. Joanne Bunzel

Alphonse and Concetta Nobile req. Loving Daughter Jo

Pucciariello Family req. Loving Niece Jo Nobile

Richard Ricigliano req. Lisa Roser

Frances Draude and Robert Draude
req. The Gianfrancesco Family

Charles Silver req. The Silver and Wojtunik Families

Adam, Wanda and Urszula Wojtunik
req. The Wojtunik Family

Deceased members of Fenick and Cordero Families
req. Mr. and Mrs. Gary Cordero

Jacob Vaina req. Joseph and Kerry Vaina

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Kocsis req. Mary Ann and Bill Hopler

Mr. and Mrs. William Hopler Sr.
req. MaryAnn and Bill Hopler

Martin Flanagan Sr. req. Flanagan Family

Patrick and Anne Hogan req. Al and Anne Valentino

Richard T. Hartt req. The Gaudenzi Family

Corey Hahn req. The Langan Family

Carmella Marzigliano req. The Wintjen Family,

Janice Vitale req. The Wintjen Family

Louis Vitale req. The Wintjen Family

Donald Wintjen req. The Wintjen Family

Wayne Monzo req. The Wintjen Family

Margherita Berardi req. Juliana and John Bowen

Arlene Bowen req. Juliana and John Bowen

Harold Bowen req. Juliana and John Bowen

Elvira and Gino Coletta req. Umberto and Sue Coletta

Rose and Sam Costanzo req. Umberto and Sue Coletta

Maria and Joseph Gambone req. Umberto and Sue Coletta

Carolina and Amaddio Lucchesi req. Umberto and Sue Coletta

Anna and John Kolp req. Umberto and Sue Coletta

Edwin Earl Thomas req. Umberto and Sue Coletta

John Thomas Visconti req. Umberto and Sue Coletta

Joseph P. Reardon req. Mary Reardon and Family

James and Eileen Lynch req. The Cannarozzo Family

Mary Ann Cannarozzo req. The Cannarozzo Family

Deceased members of the McGlynn Family
req. The Cannarozzo Family

Deceased members of the Lynch Family
req. The Cannarozzo Family

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Poko req. Marian Mendryk

David Moyer req. Angela Moyer

Alfred and Isabell Moyer req. Angela Moyer

Vincent and Elizabeth Loccisano req. Angela Moyer

Jerry and Mollie Allocco req Maria Allocco

James Allocco req. Rose Allocco

Geraldine and John Kozak
req. Tim and Rosemary Walsh and Family

Joanne Fromm req. Tom and Sue Chodakiewicz

Catherine and Frank Townsend
req. Tom and Sue Chodakiewicz

Vera and Jack Fromm req. Tom and Sue Chodakiewicz

Marjorie and Bill Johnston req. Tom and Sue Chodakiewicz

St. Benedict Parish gratefully acknowledges the gifts that accompanied the following prayer intentions for the beautiful Christmas Altar Flowers. These following intentions will be remembered at all Masses throughout the Christmas Season.

George Craigmyle and Rita Davis req. Kathy Craigmyle
Joanne O'Neill req. Thomas and Alyce Sutherland
Mullins Family req. Anthony and Carol Taglieri
Taglieri Family req. Anthony and Carol Taglieri
Andrew and Margaret Casazza req. Anthony and Carol Taglieri
Verdicchio Family req. Anthony and Carol Taglieri
Ralph and Anna Anzano req. Ann Walling
Vernon and Irene Walling req. Ann Walling
Kenneth Walling req. Ann Walling
Joseph and Mary Yelpo req. Ann Walling
Ralph and Tenah Anzano req. Ann Walling
Dee Romano req. Ann Walling
Steven Fecher req. Ann Walling
DeRosa and Yelpo Families req. Ann Walling
My grandchild req. Ann Walling
Albert Douglass req. The Heite Family
Rev. Vincent Douglas CSSR req. The Heite Family
Anna Abbate req. The Heite Family
Stanley and Joan Heite req. The Heite Family
Antonio and Concetta Crudele req. The Heite Family
Philip and Josephine Romano req. The Heite Family
Emanuel and Marie Vizzotti req. Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Asfour
Elias and Agnes Asfour req. Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Asfour
Genito Family req. The Healey Family
Daniel and Marguerite Healey req. The Healey Family
Adam and Mary Podgurski req. The Healey Family
Dorothy and Patsy Carrano req. The Healey Family
MaryAnn and Tony Coniglario req. The Healey Family
Joseph E. Healy req. The Healey Family
Henry Podgurski req. The Healey Family
Elizabeth A. Donovan req. Andrea Healy
Anna and Daniel Murphy req. The Liptzen Family
Charles Carroll req. Dougherty and Carroll Families
Eugene Kurowski req. John Kurowski and Family
Shaun Walsh req. The Walsh Family
Rosario Macaluso req. Ann Cioffi and Family
Maria Macaluso req. Ann Cioffi and Family
Ralph Cioffi req. Ann Cioffi and Family
Raymond Crowe req. The Crowe Family
Vincent Daniels req. The Crowe Family

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. It is the feast of the incarnation, the feast of God becoming flesh (the Latin "in carne" means "enfleshment"). It is a uniquely Christian teaching, the Divine choosing to become one of us. Because of this belief,God is not only Transcendent, but also wholly Immanent, Emmanuel (God-with-us). While remaining Transcendent (meaning we must rise above our present condition to reach Him), He is at the same time Immanent (meaning He is with us as we rise toward Him). Every Eucharist is like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into His flesh, His Body and Blood, and, in a sense, He is born anew on the altar.

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him…including the fact that he was born to die for us.

FAITH AT HOME

Making Faith Come Alive for Your Family During the Christmas Season

Make the faith come alive during Christmas by celebrating all season.

- Pray an Our Father each day.
- Bishop O'Connell Christmas message.
- How to return to Mass safely.
- Make a spiritual communion if you cannot attend Mass.
- Watch Christmas is a Season – Ascension Press.
- Listen to Silent Night and sing along with your family.
- Pope Francis announces *The Year of St. Joseph*.

Share God's word with your family –
We are giving away 50 FREE daily scripture prayer boxes. Sign up here to receive yours today!

****

Send us a picture of your family with your nativity/manger scene.

Christmas

"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord." Luke 2: 11

Discuss: When does Christmas begin and end? How did your ancestors celebrate during the Christmas season? What are some things you could do to continue the Christmas celebration throughout the entire season? Learn about each part of this beautiful season in the *Tips to Celebrate*.

The readings of the day can be found on the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops Website

Tips to Celebrate

The Liturgical Christmas Season begins with the vigil Mass on Christmas Eve and concludes with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Jan. 10th. Christmas is celebrated for more than one day, in order to celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts. Along with His birth is the gift of salvation-- Jesus was born to die for us.

The Christmas tree and the Nativity scene are traditions in many homes. See below how you and your family can expand on these traditions throughout the Christmas Season. (Click on the name of the feast to obtain the scripture readings).

CHRISTMAS: Watch Fr. Chris Printable Nativity Scene and Prayer Read: *Are there still Angels today?*

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY: Watch Fr. Chris Gifts from God Activity Read: *The Holy Family radiates example of True Love.*

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD: Watch Mary In 2 minutes-Busted Halo Coloring Sheet Read: *Why do we call Mary, the Mother of God?*

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD: Watch Fr. Chris Epiphany House Blessing with Chalk, 5 ways to mark Three Kings Day Read: *Let us not shine with our own light* by Pope Francis.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD: Watch Fr. Chris, Remembering your Baptism Day Read more here.

The Diocese of Trenton is here to support you and your family.
Resources for families can be found on our webpage: dioceseoftrenton.org/faith-at-home.org

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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