

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

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 @stbenedictholmdel

JANUARY 3, 2021

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Readings for the week of January 3, 2021

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-4, 7-8/ Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/ Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/ Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30



The next Holy Hour will be held on Thursday, January 7th at 7:00 p.m. in Church.

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



Year of St. Joseph



OUR LADY OF VICTORY ADORATION CHAPEL

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



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Fellow Parishioners of St. Benedict:

Hopefully, we all had a safe, healthy, and reasonably enjoyable Holy/holiday season. It was surreal in many ways, for sure. I am sure it's not a stretch to say that I hope and pray that 2021 will be a much better year for all of us. With the hope and promise of a vaccine being available for most of us by this spring, the end seems around the corner. I hope that the letter in the bulletin a few weeks ago outlining the moral implications of the vaccine will have allayed any fears or doubts about receiving the vaccine. I am sure by the time that I am eligible to get it I will be in line. I cannot say that I don't get a bit concerned each time that either Father JM or I have to go to the hospital, a long-term health care facility, or even a parishioner's home.

This week the school is virtual, though there will be students here to attend class virtually just as we did the week after Thanksgiving. Considering Christmas and New Year's celebrations, this makes a great deal of sense.

There are many ways in which *thank you* needs to be expressed as we come to an end of the season. Of course, I wish to thank everyone for your cooperation, patience, and thoughtfulness given all of the restrictions we are under during these days. Everything we were able to do worked as well as it did because of your thoughtfulness and understanding.

Thank you for your generosity to the parish – the church and the school – this Christmas Season. I also want to express our deepest gratitude for the many gifts sent to the parish staff, the teachers and staff in the school, and to the deacons, Father JM, and myself. We deeply appreciate your generosity, and concern, and your inclusion of us in the priorities of your holiday greetings and gifts.

I also want to thank Bob Cognat and his staff for the hard work that they do in keeping the parish facilities in as good a shape as they are. The need for disinfecting the church and facilities throughout the Christmas weekend celebrations were demanding. The Knights of Columbus have done a wonderful job in serving as ushers throughout this entire time since our re-opening in June, and certainly through the Christmas season. I am also grateful to the Holmdel Police Department for their assistance and presence on Christmas Eve and Day again this year.

The hard work that was put in by Ellen Remick and Tom O'Brien with all of the Masses over Christmas is a blessing for all of us.

Thank you also for your response to our Advent offerings – the *Series of Hope* and the *Lights of Hope*. I was struck by how many cars I observed driving through the outdoor stations. I am especially grateful to Father JM for his work in organizing and producing the videos and the recordings for those series. We have all seen just how talented he is, and certainly look forward to when we can gather in the FAL to see what other offerings he has in mind!

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany – the reminder to us that God is indeed manifest in our presence. As we begin this new year, with all of the hopes and expectations that it brings, even in the midst of uncertainty, I hope that in making a commitment to grow deeper in faith, and in our exercise of charity, and the spiritual and corporal works of mercy; we can find the hope, strength, and graces necessary to face the challenges ahead. Let us all make the most of it.

Blessings and peace,
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.

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 www.stbenedictnj.org 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, January 2nd***Memorial Mass Society*

- 5:00 p.m. **Jack Lietz** req. The McEnery Family
Amanda Cokelet Ahlert req. The Cokelet Family

Sunday, January 3rd*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

- 8:00 a.m. **Pro Populo**
9:30 a.m. **Carmen Juri** req. The Farnicola Family
11:00 a.m. **James and Eileen Lynch** req. Family

Monday, January 4th*Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious*

- 9:00 a.m. **George Rebeiz** req. The Farnicola Family

Tuesday, January 5th*Saint John Neumann, Bishop*

- 9:00 a.m. **Doris McGlynn** req. Tom and Betty Scarano
Jack Lietz req. Deacon Rich and Norys Morris
Mike Robinson req. Deacon Rich and Norys Morris
Susan Dunn req. Al and Anne Valentino
George Polito req. The Tornabene Family
Anna Mae Eisenbeis* req. Dr. Kathleen Leo
** Living Intention*

Wednesday, January 6th

- 9:00 a.m. **Daniel, Charlotte and Dylan Vassallo**
req. The Vassallo Family
Dianne Cavallaro req. The Vassallo Family
Adam Quinones req. Mom and Dad
Amanda Fernandez req. Linda Baig
Jack Lietz req. Marion Manning
Al Bennett req. Maria and Mark Wintjen
Noel MacDermott req. Family

Thursday, January 7th

- 9:00 a.m. **Theresa Watkins** req. Diane and Bob Laskowski

Friday, January 8th

- 9:00 a.m. **Rusty Dalton, Jr.** req. Elizabeth Dalton

Saturday, January 9th

- 5:00 p.m. **James P. Benson** req. His Wife Jeanette Benson
Marie Testa
req. Clergy, Staff and Parishioners of St. Benedict

Sunday, January 10th

- Baptism of the Lord*
8:00 a.m. **Pro Populo**
9:30 a.m. **Antonio Saliba** req. St. Benedict Ushers
11:00 a.m. **Frank Capogrosso** req. James and Jenny Pietrofesa

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



*Loretta Evancho
Eileen Conway
Dolores Hartt
Gerry Carney
Elizabeth Bonnett
Marie Amato*

Memorial Intention**Sanctuary Candle**

In loving memory of **James P. Benson**
req. his wife Jeanette



January 3, 2021
The Epiphany of the Lord

“Where is that thing?” mumbled Bob as he searched frantically on his dimly lit desk for the current electric bill. “I know I put it right on top of these papers this morning!” Growing in frustration and bordering on anger, he flies stuff around, moves books and opines why simple tasks need to be so hard. Enter his wife, who calmly says, “Maybe it would help if you put the light on, dear.” The desk light goes on and lo and behold, there is the electric bill right where Bob left it earlier. All it took was a little light!

We stubbornly refuse to turn on the lights! Either we are distracted, determined, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Or perhaps, we fail to do the obvious. We would rather live our lives with the dimmest of lights or even in total darkness. Why are we afraid to do something so that we can actually see? It might help us to find quicker and better answers to problems, the meaning of life, relationships, happiness, and what is ultimate truth. Yet, we stumble along, moving things from one side to the other, getting angry, feeling cheated, being unsettled, resigning ourselves to the agony of defeat once again.

“And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.” The light has come into the world in the person of Jesus Christ! We no longer have to fumble in the darkness. We have been gifted with the illumination we need to see our way through things and find what we really are looking for. All these years later, however, so many are still reluctant to accept him. Perhaps they are unconvinced, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Everyone has their own reason for not wanting to turn on the switch.

But there are so many answers to so many of our problems in this humble Child of Nazareth. A simple birth teaches us about God’s tender wedded relationship with humanity. It speaks to the expanse of God’s salvation across the globe, and the incarnate Divine wonders and blessings that are a part of our life moment to moment. It calls us to understand the design of world order God intended as found in the Beatitudes, the sacredness of every human life and all of creation and the meaning of things we struggle with most, like suffering and death. We have a lot of Good News to share, not just with a privileged few but with all the world. All races and creeds can receive God’s healing word. God continues to manifest himself even now! Use the light to find what you are really looking for!

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 \$98,615 in pledges for the Annual Catholic Appeal. Our goal is \$95,000. Since our Parish 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!

Catholic Education Administration

Catholic schools in Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth and Ocean counties welcome over 16,000 Catholic and non-Catholic students from many different cultural backgrounds. Parents, as the primary educators of their children, work in partnership with teachers to develop their children's potential in becoming life-long learners. Donations to the ACA help to ensure that curriculum and performance standards and development of educators continue at high levels within our 29 Catholic elementary schools and 6 high schools. Last year your gift helped with reaching out to more than 78,000 alumni who have been given the opportunity to give back so that other students can succeed in our schools.

"An outstretched hand, then, can always be enriched by the smile of those who quietly and unassumingly offer to help, inspired only by the joy of living as one of Christ's disciples."

—Pope Francis, World Day of the Poor 2020



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

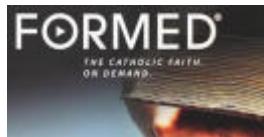
The Contemporary Choir sings every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Mass. The Youth Choir sings at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on the second and fourth Sundays. The Teen Choir sings at the 5:00 p.m. Mass on the third Saturday. For information about the Contemporary Choir, please contact Tom O'Brien, Choir Director at thomasobrienjr1@gmail.com 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 January 2021.



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 abuse@dioceseoftrenton.org.

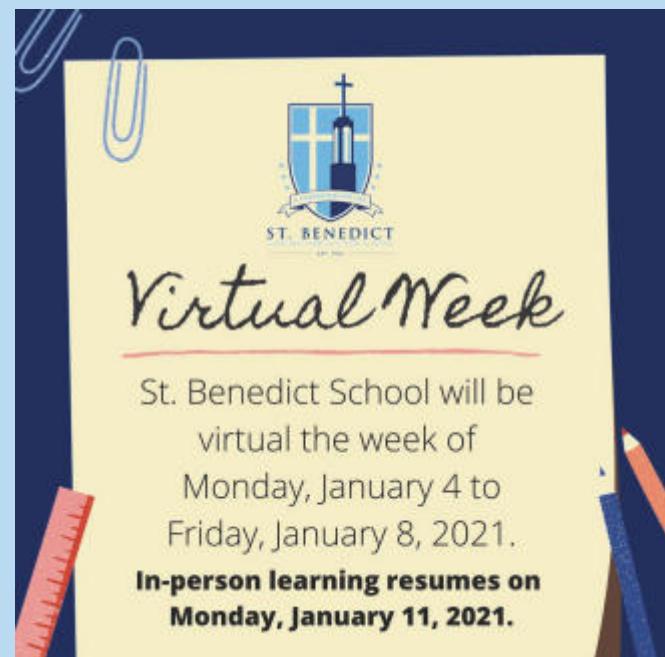


Mr. Kevin Donahue, *Principal*
email: kdonahue@stbenedictnj.org

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



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 are made with a 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. John Large
Msgr. Richard LaVerghetta
Fr. Jeffrey Lee
Fr. Fernando Lopez

Seminarian-Rev. Mr. Reginald Joy Ballacillo

Discerning-Thomas

Deceased

Fr. Rocco Como
Fr. John H. Sheedy
Bp. William A. Griffin
Fr. Michael J. Basco
Msgr. Patrick F. Connolly
Msgr. Bernard J. Mulligan
Fr. Francis V. McCusker
R. Frederick Kimball
Msgr. John R. Muthig



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.

Member Knights

The next Knights of Columbus business meeting will be a return to an in-person meeting on Thursday, January 7th at 8:00 p.m. in the gym. Please enter door 8-B located at the rear of the church. There will also 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.

Family Rosary

The Knights of Columbus will recite the next Family Rosary in church on Saturday, January 30th 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.

Knight's Prayer

Our Lady, Queen of the Knights, bless all the activities of our Order. Keep us true to our pledge, to extend the kingship of thy divine son on earth. Through Thine intercession, win for us the grace, ever to exemplify in our public and private lives, the virtues that should characterize those especially dedicated to the service of the heavenly court. Make us always aware that as your Knights, we are constantly observed, our faith judged, and our Order appreciated.

Accept, O Mary, this renewed pledge of fealty and devotion, of Thy Servants, the Knights of Columbus.



Respect Life News

November 23, (Breakpoint Colson Center) -

A recent report shows that during Belgium's initial wave of COVID-19; of the 11,500 people who died from COVID-19 in Belgium during that first wave, 6,500 were residents of nursing and rest homes. The residents of these homes were, according to the report, "abandoned" by government authorities as the epidemic raged. Out of fear of overwhelming Belgian hospitals, only about half of COVID patients in nursing homes that needed to be hospitalized, were. That it happened in Belgium is not surprising. Though Belgium wasn't the first country to legalize euthanasia, it has "the world's most liberal law on physician-assisted suicide." A practice originally sold as a way to ease the pain and suffering of terminally ill older people quickly expanded. In less than a year's time, legalized euthanasia was expanded to include children. Then it was extended to those chronically ill, but not necessarily terminally ill. Then it was psychological suffering, not only physical suffering. For Belgians, euthanasia is quickly becoming a normal way of dying. Social workers and nurses who specialize in palliative care are quitting their jobs. In many instances, their work has been reduced to "preparing patients and their families for lethal injections." While this recent history in no way makes abandoning the elderly during a pandemic any less outrageous, it does make it easier to understand. Once a certain group of people is considered expendable, something Belgium concluded a long time ago, this supposed fact necessarily becomes part of all kinds of equations, especially when this kind of stress is added to the system. It is then impossible to have conversations about medical rationing, or resource efficiency, or financial prudence, or even, "flattening the curve" without factoring in what has already been decided: that some lives are not worth the cost. Once a society steps onto this slipperiest of slopes—which has already happened in Belgium and the Netherlands and, to a lesser degree for now, in Canada and even Oregon—it becomes impossible not to re-evaluate human dignity and value based on some extrinsic criteria, such as convenience or financial costs. The so-called "right to die" is sold on promises of personal freedom and autonomy. But once the so-called "safeguards" such as "informed consent" are justified, something that has proven incredibly easy to do, it's a short, inevitable step from "right to die" to "expected to die."



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

The St. Vincent DePaul Society provides assistance for the less fortunate. 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 YouTube presentation. Click on: <https://youtu.be/-r8YRyPCIY4> Anyone needing assistance, please contact Catholic Charities at 800-360-7711



We welcome into our Parish Family
through the Sacrament of Baptism

Leila Ray Wittmer



On January 22, 2021, our nation will mark the 48th anniversary of the Roe v Wade Supreme Court decision, which legalized abortion in the United States. In all Dioceses of the U.S., this anniversary is observed as a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

Many groups from our Diocese arrange bus trips each year to attend the annual March for Life in Washington D.C. where hundreds of thousands from all walks of life join together in prayerful, peaceful witness in opposition to legalized abortion. This year, the March for Life is scheduled for Friday, January 29, 2021.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and precautions, many aspects of the March for Life will be very different this year. Archbishop Naumann, Chair of the US Bishop's Committee on Pro-Life Activities recently sent out a letter detailing some of the events that will be virtual only, live-streamed or have very limited in-person participation. He noted that strict social distancing requirements and general discouragement of interstate travel will only make in person participation more complex. After much consideration and thoughtful research, Bishop O'Connell is recommending that we do not encourage or plan diocesan, parish or school group travel to Washington D.C.



Year of St Joseph

Pope Francis proclaims "Year of St Joseph" with the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.

Joseph is a clear example of obedience of faith, freely committed himself entirely to God. Without question he immediately did as the Lord commanded when the angel told him not to fear and to take Mary as his wife. It was within the unity of marriage and the holiness of the first domestic church that Jesus grew in wisdom. Joseph, with Mary, shared in the intimacy of having him live under his roof and it was into Joseph's custody that 'God entrusted his most precious treasures.'

Join us this year as we focus each month on the titles of St. Joseph. We will be reflecting on all the beautiful ways St. Joseph is husband, father, protector, worker and servant of God.

Prayer: This week, prayerfully reflect on John Paul II's statement about St Joseph: 'into whose custody God entrusted his most precious treasures'.

Action: This week take the time to intentionally listen to those in your family. Instead of quickly sharing your thoughts, listen with your heart and respond with love.

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 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

Miss Rachel DenHartog,
Assistant Coordinator of Religious Education
732-264-4712 ext. 12
email: denhartog@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.faithandfamilycollective.com/blog-1?
utm_campaign=0a400abe-4ede-4709-b677-](https://www.faithandfamilycollective.com/blog-1?utm_campaign=0a400abe-4ede-4709-b677-fc3aa0ad1ed9&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&cid=ee7ccaeaf-ea4d-41c2-8944-a11293d21948)

[fc3aa0ad1ed9&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&cid=ee7ccaeaf-ea4d-41c2-8944-a11293d21948">https://www.carrotsformichaelmas.com/
ee7ccaeaf-ea4d-41c2-8944-a11293d21948](https://www.carrotsformichaelmas.com/)

Parenting Blog: Carrots for Michaelmas

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

Cultivating the Catholic Family through literature, liturgical living and urban homesteading.

Family Faith Formation ideas:

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

January- Faith Family Calendar

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RyhnLiInjmPZqwN-Ukvr9kq_hD5f1urX/view?usp=sharing

Every Sacred Sunday

<https://evrysacredsunday.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.

Catholic Activity: Epiphany Home Blessing Ceremony

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/activities/view.cfm?id=522>

Epiphany is a wonderful feast for children, because the story has so much for the imagination. This day we honor the Christ Child as King. Access the website above for a home ceremony (without a priest), with other ideas on decorations, crowns, gifts and special foods for the day.

The feast of manifestation, or Epiphany, is traditionally celebrated the 12th day after Christmas, January 6th. In the dioceses of the United States this feast has been moved to the Sunday between January 2nd and January 8th.

EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING:

Instructions for Blessing the Home:

Using the blessed chalk, write above the door or front porch steps

20+C+M+B+21

and say: *The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and fifteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.*

Then offer this following prayer:

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

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

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](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.



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 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 Epiphany of the Lord

JANUARY 3, 2021



CNS Photo

"As we begin the New Year, may we discover anew that faith demands worship. If we can fall on our knees before Jesus, we will overcome the temptation to set off on our own path." (Pope Francis, Jan. 6, 2020)

On this Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, we remember that God came to earth for everyone, every nation, every people.

January is Poverty Awareness Month!

Poverty does not strike all demographics equally. For example, in 2018, 10.6% of men, and 12.9% of women lived in Poverty USA. Along the same lines, the poverty rate for married couples in 2018 was only 4.7% - but the poverty rate for single-parent families with no wife present was 12.7%, and for single-parent families with no husband present was 24.9%.

In 2018, the poverty rate for people living with a disability was 25.7%. That's nearly 4 million people living with a disability—in poverty.

Visit [PovertyUSA](#) for education on economic justice, resources for prayer, and key conduits for action.





FACT OF FAITH

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

BY FR. LARRY RICE

On Sunday, January 3, 2016, the Church celebrates the feast of Epiphany. In popular tradition, this day commemorates the arrival of the three kings at the stable in Bethlehem where Christ was born. The gospel reading for the day—Matthew 2:1-12—tells the story.

Over the years, a lot of tradition has grown around this story. Many people will tell you that the magi were three kings, named Caspar, Balthazar, and Melchior, and they may note that Caspar is traditionally depicted with darker skin. But if you read those twelve short verses from Matthew's Gospel, it becomes clear that we really know very little about the magi.

We don't know their names. We don't know where they came from—Matthew only says "from the east." We don't even know that they were kings. The word

"All of creation is changed by the appearance of Christ."

used by Matthew is "magi," meaning someone learned in esoteric knowledge. Some translations call them "astrologers," but the only basis for that is the statement that they were following a star.

And even the star itself is a mystery. Astronomers can chart the movement of the stars back in time, but they can't seem to agree about the existence of an astronomical event that would explain the reference. And even the most casual observer would have a hard time explaining what

it would mean for a star to move through the sky and then stop over a particular place.

Regardless of who the magi were and how the star showed them the way, the most significant part of this event is the identity of the one who is made known—Jesus, the newborn king, who is worthy of homage by all men and women. The meaning of the epiphany that occurs in this gospel passage is that the "the newborn king of the Jews" is revealed to and recognized by people from far and distant lands. The appearance of mystical signs in the sky makes the point that all of creation is changed by the appearance of Christ. Because God has chosen to become human, all creation and all the people of the earth can experience the redemption he has come to bring.

Fr. Rice is Vocations Director for the Paulist Fathers.

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that lendeth ought unto his neighbour
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