

EASTER SUNDAY

# MARY OF MAGDALA CAME TO THE TOMB EARLY IN THE **MORNING.**

— JOHN 20:1 —

## ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC CHURCH

165 BETHANY RD, HOLMDEL NJ | 732.264.4712 | PARISHOFFICE@STBENEDICTNJ.ORG

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2025

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### FROM THE PASTOR



*Dear Fellow Parishioners of St. Benedict:*

ALLELUIA! It has been a while since we have been able to chant that glorious Hebrew word meaning "Praise God!" and so here we are, Easter Sunday.

We have come through Lent -- one that has been cold and gloomy, so appropriate for the mood of the season, perhaps -- and now the Easter Season of fifty days is upon us.

We had a spiritually enriched Lent, strengthened by the many speakers, programs, and opportunities for prayer and reflection, and now we come to the Easter Season, ready and hungry for more.

Deacon Steve will lead us in Stations of the Cross on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm for the Easter Season. In this way we keep the connection between Lent and Easter present within our liturgical focus.

The next few weeks are also celebrations of First Holy Communion for the children of the parish. We pray for them on their journey, and we pray for their families. We deeply hope that the Eucharist will be a sustaining presence in their lives.

This week I am embarking on a pilgrimage with our Bishop and eighteen other priests, to Paris. It is the four-hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the Vincentian community -- the Congregation of the Mission -- the religious order of which the bishop was a member prior to his election as bishop. He is still deeply committed to the Vincentian mission, and continues to use the designation of the order -- C.M. -- after his name. As I studied at a seminary conducted by the Vincentians and have some old friends in the order, I am happy to join in this celebration. I will remember you all at the various Masses we are holding at different churches during the sojourn.

I wish to thank everyone here for your generosity to the parish and to the staff during the Easter season. It is a blessing to all of us. Thank you also to the staff of the parish who worked diligently to make sure that all of our services were well-planned and executed, and that the church was in its best form for the holy days.

This week, as we are replacing the air conditioning unit in the church, the church will be unavailable for use. We will have daily Masses this week in the gym at 9am. You can continue to use the back parking lot, and enter through the main FAL door (8B) for access to the Gym for Mass. Thank you.

I pray that each of you has a blessed Easter -- He is Risen -- Alleluia!  
*Fr. Garry*





**BISHOP OF THE  
DIOCESE OF TRENTON**

**MOST REVEREND  
DAVID M. O'CONNELL, C.M.**

**PASTOR**

**Very Rev. Garry R. Koch, V.F.**

**PAROCHIAL VICAR**

**Rev. Adam Midor**

**Weekend Assistants**

**Msgr. Jack Carroll  
Rev. Tony Carotenuto**

**DEACONS**

**John L. Clymore  
Raymond R. Pelkowski (Ret.)  
Paul A. Remick  
Stephen G. Scott**

**MASS SCHEDULE**

*Saturday Vigil: 8:00 p.m.*

*Sunday: 6:30 Sunrise Mass, 8:00, 9:30 (Live Streamed)  
and 11:00 am*

*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](mailto:parishoffice@stbenedictnj.org)**

**Mr. Richard Romero**

*Facilities Director*

**email: [romero@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:romero@stbenedictnj.org)**

**Mrs. Francine DeMuria,**

*Office of Temporal Administration*

**email: [finance@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:finance@stbenedictnj.org)**

**Mrs. Margaret Roddy,**

*Pastoral Minister for*

*Church Management*

*and Sacrament Coordination*

**email: [roddy@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:roddy@stbenedictnj.org)**

**Mrs. Lori Ulrich,**

*Director of Marketing and*

*Event Management*

**email: [ulrich@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:ulrich@stbenedictnj.org)**

**ST. BENEDICT SCHOOL**

**Mr. Nicholas Cammarano, Principal**

**email: [cammarano@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:cammarano@stbenedictnj.org)**

**PARISH REGISTRATION**

Registration forms are available in the parish office and on our website at [stbenedictholmdel.org](http://stbenedictholmdel.org)

**Certificates of Eligibility (Sponsor Letters)**

**Requirements**

The following is required by Canon Law to be a Catholic Godparent/Sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation. Be at least 16 years of age. Have completed the Sacraments of Initiation. (Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation). If married, have a marriage that is canonically valid and recognized by the Catholic Church. Be a registered and active parishioner living a life of faith. You must be registered with our parish for at least 3 months before we can provide a sponsor letter. Although you may have registered with our parish, if you are not attending Mass regularly and using the envelope/coupon system there is no way for the parish office to confirm regular Mass attendance. Please contact the Parish Office to confirm your status with our parish.

**The Sacrament of Baptism**

Please contact Margaret Roddy at 732/264-4712 ext. 17 or [roddy@stbenedictnj.org](mailto: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](mailto: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**

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) provides help to New Jersey Medicare beneficiaries who have problems with, or questions about their health insurance. The program provides FREE, objective, confidential help with questions about Medicare, Medicare Supplement Plans, Medicare Advantage Plans and Part D prescription drug plans. Please contact Lorrie McGee at 732-264-4712 ext. 37 or [mcgee@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:mcgee@stbenedictnj.org).

**Holy Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**9:00 a.m. **Morning Prayer****Easter Vigil**8:00 p.m. **Pro Populo<sup>1</sup>****Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, April 20<sup>th</sup>**6:30 a.m. **Pro Populo**8:00 a.m. **Pro Populo**9:30 a.m. **Pro Populo**11:00 a.m. **Pro Populo****Please note there is no 5:00 pm Mass****Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>****Monday within the Octave of Easter**9:00 a.m. **Adrienne Malone** req. The Lyons Family**Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>****Tuesday within the Octave of Easter**9:00 a.m. **Ralph Garofalo** req. Wife and Children**Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>****Wednesday within the Octave of Easter**9:00 a.m. **Adam Quinones** req. Mom and Dad**Daniel, Charlotte and Dylan Vassallo**  
req. The Vassallo Family**Jeanne Gillen**

req. Clergy, Staff and Parishioners of St. Benedict

**John "Jack" O'Brien** req. Maria and Mark Wintjen**Fred Quijano** req. Andy and Marilen Mendoza**Mona O'Connor\*** req. MaryAnn and Dave Armstrong**\*Living Intention****Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>****Thursday within the Octave of Easter**9:00 a.m. **Lauren Hewski** req. Lady Strykers**Nitu Vasani** req. Jason Lavin**Thomas Gough** req. Paul Stewart**Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>****Friday within the Octave of Easter**9:00 a.m. **Patricia Sorensen** req. Betty Walsh and Family**Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>****Saturday within the Octave of Easter**5:00 p.m. **Frederick Anthony Barbieri** req. The Hutin Family**Sunday of Divine Mercy, April 27<sup>th</sup>****Second Sunday of Easter**8:00 a.m. **Pro Populo**9:30 a.m. **Jim Miley** req. The Scazzafavo Family**Marie Slater** req. The DeMuria Family11:00 a.m. **Marie Karpie** req. The Doxbeck and Karpie Family**James G. Harris** req. Regina Dahir-Harris and sons5:00 p.m. **Jan Gillen** req. The Contino Family**Please remember in your prayers all those whose names are listed in our Prayer Intention Book**<sup>1</sup> For the People of St. Benedict<sup>2</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Death**Memorial Intention***Altar Bread and Wine*In loving memory of **Peter Hoskey**  
req. Wife and Daughters**Madeline Helfrich**  
**Mary Ann Vene****April 20, 2025**  
**Easter Sunday**  
**John 20: 1-9**

When I was a young boy, my parents told me about their wedding. Then a few years later, they showed me my mother's wedding dress and my dad's suit. It was astonishing to see and touch garments that connected me to the event that led to my existence. Of course, I already believed they were married based on their word. But these holy garments made the event real and tangible for me.

Something like this is at play when St. John reports encountering in Jesus' tomb, **"the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place"** (John 20:7). Those two separate cloths, for his head and for his body respectively, meant a great deal to St. John and to the early Christians. Some years after the resurrection, there surfaced reports of two cloths with unusual characteristics, one bearing the image of a crucified man's body, another smaller one with the image of a wounded man's face. Some call them the Shroud of Turin and the Veil of Manoppello; they both can be seen today.

These two cloths have a long and complicated history, and scholars debate aspects of them. If you're curious, I encourage you to read about them. To be clear, I believe in the resurrection of Jesus because of the testimony of eyewitnesses and the gift of faith in the Church. Nevertheless, seeing these two mysterious cloths have made the life-giving event of Jesus' resurrection more real and tangible for me. Maybe they will for you, too.

— *Father John Muir***Offertory Gifts**

Members of the parish are welcome to take part in the Mass by bringing the gifts of bread and wine to the altar during our celebration of the Eucharist. If you or your family would like to take the gifts to the Altar, please see one of the ushers prior to the start of Mass.





## *Easter Flower Memorials*

*The beautiful Easter flowers adorning our Church are in memory of loved ones.*

**Alice M. Carroll** req. Mary Ann and Bill Hople  
**Carmine and Josephine Demma**  
 req. Frank, Maureen and Justen Tornabene  
**Frank and Joan Tornabene**  
 req. Frank, Maureen and Justen Tornabene  
**Glenden Sullivan** req. Mary and Hal Schwartz  
**Lillian Mitzkovitz** req. Valerie Niess  
**Lincoln Niess** req. Valerie Niess  
**Rose Pino** req. Melissa Pino  
**Gerard Lucas** req. The Lucas Family  
**Alice and Alec Long** req. The Lucas Family  
**Robert Lucas** req. The Lucas Family  
**Louise Lucas** req. The Lucas Family  
**Our Parents** req. Ron and Lucille Terrone  
**Frances, Alfred and Al Guglielmo** req. The Guglielmo Family  
**Judy Anghelone** req. Robert Anghelone  
**Rose and Anthony Licari** req. The Sabatino Family  
**Barbara Gaudenzi** req. Ellen and Robert Gaudenzi  
**Dolores R. Hartt** req. Ellen and Robert Gaudenzi  
**Eduardo and Rachel Jackson**  
 req. Mr. and Mrs. Eduardo Jackson  
**Joseph Pomara Sr.** req. Mr. and Mrs. Eduardo Jackson  
**Ben and Lucy Pomara** req. Mr. and Mrs. Eduardo Jackson  
**Joseph and Eleanor DiFalco** req. Marguerite Pignato  
**Raymond and Frances Pignato** req. Marguerite Pignato  
**Joseph Louis Pizzi** req. Marguerite Pignato  
**Francis and Rosemarie Journick** req. Janine and Melanie  
**Francis Journick Jr.** req. Janine and Melanie  
**Sal and Rose Trentacoste** req. Tony and Diane Recco  
**Adam Quinones** req. Mom and Dad  
**Tony and Theresa Recco** req. Tony and Diane Recco  
**Deceased members of the Thomson Family**  
 req. Bobbie Thomson  
**Christine Carapucci** req. Marie Gasparini  
**Emanuel and Marie Vizzotti** req. Anita and Stephen Asfour  
**Agnes and Elias Asfour** req. Anita and Stephen Asfour  
**Kozicki and Smith Families** req. Evelyn and Danny Smith  
**Barbara and Anthony Ritti** req. Anne Malcolm and Sons  
**Edythe DiMauro** req. Joanne Bunzel  
**Michael DiMauro** req. Joanne Bunzel  
**Louis DiMauro** req. Joanne Bunzel  
**Bill Lind** req. Gerry Lind  
**Kathleen Lind** req. Gerry Lind  
**Eugene Stroz** req. Mary Jane Stroz  
**Deceased members of Fenick and Cordero Families**  
 req. Gary and Janice Cordero  
**Judith McBride** req. Edward McBride  
**Jeanne Gillen** req. The Gillen Family  
**Opsasnick, Higa and Miklus Families**  
 req. Michiko and Joseph Opsasnick

**Mollie and Jerry Allocco** req. Maria Allocco  
**Deceased Members of the Valente Family** req. Maria Allocco  
**James Allocco** req. Rose Allocco  
**Alice and Alexander Long** req. The Kubis Family  
**Teresa Kubis** req. The Kubis Family  
**Bialkowski and Facendo Families** req. Loretta Facendo  
**Patricia and Walter Coe** req. Christopher and Kimberly Coe  
**Virginia Baker** req. Bobbie Thomson  
**Elizabeth and August Wollenhaupt**  
 req. Dennis and Marie Costa  
**Vincenzia and Anthony Costa** req. Dennis and Marie Costa  
**Elizabeth Matkowski** req. Dennis and Marie Costa  
**Ann and Mike Cwik** req. The Monforte Family  
**Christine and Joseph Monforte** req. The Monforte Family  
**Joseph and Arlene Kondek** req. The Kondek Family  
**Carol Healey** req. Andrea Healey  
**Deceased members of the Podgorski Family**  
 req. Andrea Healey  
**Deceased Members of the Healy Family** req. Andrea Healey  
**Deceased Members of the Carrano Family**  
 req. Andrea Healey  
**Deceased Members of the Conigliario Family**  
 req. Andrea Healey  
**Deceased Members of the Genito Family** req. Andrea Healey  
**Barbara "Bobbie" Ennis and Patricia Schlosser**  
 req. Andrea Healey  
**Fred, Jamileh and Freda Salamy**  
 req. Linda and Matthew Szabo  
**Dominic Tropea** req. Wife Marie and children  
**Sandra Policastro** req. The Ortman Family  
**Frank Policastro** req. The Ortman Family  
**Marie Ortman** req. The Ortman Family  
**John Ortman** req. The Ortman Family  
**Mr. and Mrs. Michael Poko** req. Marian Mendryk  
**Cunningham Family** req. The Manning Family  
**Manning Family** req. Marion Manning  
**Mary Henderson** req. Robert Henderson  
**Emily Santos** req. Melody Berg  
**Poggi and DeMuria Families** req. Carol and John DeMuria  
**Joseph J. Huber Jr.** req. The Huber Family  
**Anna and Daniel Murphy** req. The Liptzin Family  
**Robert Agresta** req. The Liptzin Family  
**James and Eileen Lynch** req. Family  
**Joseph, George and Maryann Cannarozzo** req. Family  
**Greg Johnson** req. Family  
**Price-Chiarelli Family** req. Bridget and Sal Chiarelli  
**Joseph Reardon** req. Mary Reardon and Family  
**Lilly Norbut** req. The Norbut Family  
**Marlene Maloney**  
 req. Colleen, Mark, Nicole and Danielle Coppolino



**John and Geraldine Kozak**

req. Tim and Rosemary Walsh and Family

**William McCloskey** req. Kelly McCloskey and Family

**Ann and Anthony Giaquinto** req. Toni and Tom Sansevero

**Lauren Hewski** req. Mom and Dad

**Daryl Earle** req. Jacqueline Earle and Family

**Madeline and John Duhigg** req. Jacqueline Earle and Family

**Yvonne Duhigg** req. Jacqueline Earle and Family

**Johnny Kemp and Miguel Hernandez**

req. Jacqueline Earle and Family

**Patrick and Anne Hogan** req. Al and Anne Valentino

**James P. Benson** req. His Wife Jeanette

**Helen and Wally Corridon** req. Mary and Bill Perkins

**Jody Corridon** req. Mary and Bill Perkins

**Ed and Louise Perkins** req. Mary and Bill Perkins

**Patricia Harmon** req. The Conroy Family

**James Harmon** req. The Conroy Family

**Patrick Harmon** req. The Conroy Family

**Bridget Conroy** req. The Conroy Family

**Patricia Finn** req. The Conroy Family

**Alan Conroy** req. The Conroy Family

**Deceased members of Dalton and Seery Families**

req. The Family

**Deceased Members of the Maloney Family**

req. Mary Jane Maloney

**Mr. and Mrs. Ezequiel Hernandez**

req. Vincent and Rose Broillet

**Kevin and McLoughlin Family** req. Catherine Mietz

**Renee Godlewski** req. Lynn Hoffman

**The Wisniewski and Clarke Families**

req. Frank and Jane Wisniewski

**Paul Switaj** req. Judy Switaj

**The Drew and Lillis Families** req. Judy Switaj



*The 2025 Pascal Candle has been donated in memory of Joseph "Bud" Mullaney and Anne Conway by the Mullaney Family.*

GO OUT  
AND  
SPREAD  
THE  
GOOD  
NEWS  
CHRIST  
IS RISEN!

©LPi



# The Exsultet: Christ our Light



Cerity Images

## BY FATHER MICHAEL J. FLYNN

The first major section of the annual Easter Vigil celebration may be the most memorable and engaging to the senses. It certainly includes some vivid symbols and actions which we do not encounter in the liturgy every day. Formerly called simply the “Service of Light”, in the present English translation of the third edition of the Roman Missal this introductory sequence of liturgical elements is entitled “The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil or Lucernarium”. The solemn liturgy begins—usually outdoors—with the blessing of the fire followed by the preparation and lighting of the Paschal Candle. As the candle is being carried in procession into the dark church, all those in attendance are given individual candles which have received their light from the one Paschal Candle. When the Paschal Candle is placed in its prominent candle stand in the church, the church’s lights are turned back on, the candle is incensed, and the deacon (or a priest, or a lay cantor if need be) intones one of the most evocative and poetic hymns of praise in all liturgy: the Easter Proclamation—also known as the Exsultet, named after the first word of the Latin original. The liturgy’s symbolic movement has been from darkness to light; now words and music are used to praise and thank God for what the light represents: God’s saving activity throughout human history, culminating in Christ’s defeat of death and resurrection from the dead.

To appreciate fully the function of this great hymn on this most holy of nights, it is important to note that this portion of the Easter Vigil has not always been the only example of a “service of light.” Such services were once commonplace. Imagine how precious a candle, as the only source of light, must have been to families and monastic communities alike as the day came to an end and the sun began to set in Gaul, Spain, and other areas in the early Middle Ages. There were of course no electric street lights, no lamps available at the touch of a switch. Candles were costly, and often a single candle provided the sole source of light throughout the impenetrable darkness of the night. The importance of such a light found liturgical expression in evening lamp-lighting services called *lucernaria*. In monastic communities these often served as a kind of prelude to





## THE EXSULTET: CHRIST OUR LIGHT

all-night vigils, especially on important feast days. The hymn and prayer texts which accompanied the lucernaria made ready use of the solitary light—this one sign of security and hope enclosed by an otherwise dark night—as a symbol of Christ as the light to the world. It is no wonder, then, that a most elaborate Lucernarium came to climax the opening moments of the Vigil of Easter, the most important vigil of the year.

In texts prior to the early Middle Ages, we find that a lengthy prayer of blessing of the candle was used in Rome and in the areas most influenced by Roman liturgy. In areas of northern Europe, however, the practice of a deacon intoning a proclamation of praise in the presence of the Easter Light became customary, and during the course of the Middle Ages, this was eventually imported into regular Roman practice as well. It is quite possible that the earliest of these Easter Proclamations were improvised, but by the Middle Ages the text we now know as the Exsultet became the standard hymn for the Easter Vigil in the West. In fact, in the important and influential Sacramentary compiled from both Roman and Northern European sources for the 9th century court of Charlemagne, we find the Exsultet essentially as we know it today. Despite its antiquity, this 1200-plus year old Latin text is nearly identical to the one in our Missal today, except that the older one is about one third longer. In this early Exsultet, there was an entire long section devoted to a rich symbolism drawn from the activities of bees. In our present version, this has been reduced to two references to the role of bees in the production of the wax which makes up the sacred candle—language which has been noticeably restored in the new English translation of the Exsultet. In Southern Italy during the later Middle Ages the Exsultet was often written out on elaborately decorated scrolls. As the deacon progressed through the long text, the assembly was able to see beautiful illuminations accompanying the various parts of the text. These illustrations on the “Exsultet Rolls” were painted upside down in relation to the text and musical notation, so that onlookers would see the figures right side up as the long scroll unfurled.

Despite its antiquity, this text still serves splendidly as a present-day expression of Easter joy and exuberant thanksgiving. Rich with patristic allusions, the Exsultet also provides a preview of the scriptural and theological themes that will ground the rest of the Easter Vigil liturgy. Salvation history, especially God’s deliverance of his Chosen People from Egyptian slavery and exile are prominent both in the Exsultet, and the extended Liturgy of the Word that will follow it. The text poetically recalls the Passover Feast; the candle present before the assembly is likened to the pillar of fire which guided Israel in its desert journey; their miraculous passage through the Red Sea serves as both a sign of deliverance and as a prefiguring of the waters of Baptism, another prominent element of Easter Vigils both ancient and modern. Having recalled key moments of the Old Covenant, the New Covenant between God and humanity is proclaimed eloquently in terms of the brilliant Light of Christ dispelling the darkness of sin and death for all time.





## THE EXSULTET: CHRIST OUR LIGHT

As is fitting for a text of this importance and solemnity, the Exsultet should always be sung—unless singing it worthily would be truly impossible. The chant notation in the Missal is not difficult to sing, but the Easter Proclamation is lengthy, so preparation and practice well in advance is essential. It is also important to take note of the rubrical instructions concerning the Exsultet which are contained in the Missal. Deciding which of the various options best suits a given community and the capabilities of its ministers will go a long way to ensuring a rendition of the Exsultet which is both dignified and evocative of joy. As the rubrics indicate, intoning the Exsultet is primarily the responsibility of the deacon. In the absence of a deacon, it may also be sung either by the priest who is presiding, or by a concelebrant. However, if local circumstances suggest it, the instructions also permit the intoning of the Exsultet by a lay cantor, with certain indicated portions of the text being omitted. Finally, if the length of text proves daunting, the Missal also contains an abbreviated form of the Exsultet. These various options, together with the determination of which ministers will execute them, should be discussed early in the planning stages, and never left to chance at the last minute.

For centuries the Exsultet has served as a liturgical jewel of unsurpassed beauty on this, the “mother of all holy vigils”, as St. Augustine aptly described the Easter Vigil. As the Exsultet exhorts us, “Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King, let all corners of the earth be glad, knowing an end to gloom and darkness.” May this venerable Easter Proclamation serve us and our assemblies as a genuine expression of Easter hope and joy.

“Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King, let all corners of the earth be glad, knowing an end to gloom and darkness.”

—THE EXSULTET



Catholic  
Current

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CATECHETICAL CORNER

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Father Garry is pleased to announce St. Benedict has received \$51,816 in pledges for the Annual Catholic Appeal. Our Parish goal is \$89,000.

The Appeal funds vital ministries in our parish as well as across our Diocese that nurture faith and serve those in need. Please make your gift as soon as possible. Pledge forms are available at the doors of the Church.

### Parish Counseling Services

Through a joint effort of the Diocese of Trenton and Catholic Charities, licensed professional counselors are available to help parishioners with difficult issues that interfere with day-to-day functioning. This service can be accessed by contacting your pastor or parish priest who will provide additional information and a referral. The fee is \$90.00 per session. If needed, financial assistance for short term counseling (up to 6 sessions) is available through the Diocese of Trenton Parish Counseling Services.

### ALS Prayer Group

Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS) is a neurological disease with no known cure. For those impacted by ALS, the Holy Innocents Society (HIS) Diocese of Trenton is sponsoring a weekly prayer group. It is an opportunity to pray for strength with others impacted by ALS and to offer up their suffering to our Lord. The group meets via Zoom every Monday at 11:00 am. For information or to register, please email [holyinnocentsociety@dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto:holyinnocentsociety@dioceseoftrenton.org) with the subject line ALS. Please include your name and telephone number.



### 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](mailto:abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org)**

### Weekly Offerings 4/13/2025

Loose Collection	\$	3,014
Envelope Collection	\$	14,505
# of Envelopes		509
Avg \$ per Envelope	\$	28.50

*Note: Excludes WeShare Collections*



### 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 the candle in Our Lady of Victory Adoration Chapel in honor/memory of a loved one for one week, please contact the parish office for revised pricing. All intentions will be listed in the bulletin.

### Cremation and Proper Handling of Cremated Remains

While you may have chosen to be cremated, remember to choose your final resting place. Although the Church earnestly recommends the pious custom of burying the bodies of the dead be observed, it does not however, forbid cremation unless it has been chosen for reasons which are contrary to Christian teaching. Cremated remains are the body of the deceased in a changed form. We should honor them as we honor the body. They must be reverently buried or entombed in a place reserved for the burial of the dead.



Our Lady of Victory Adoration Chapel is open for Perpetual Adoration.  
Contact the Parish Office 732-264-4712 for more information



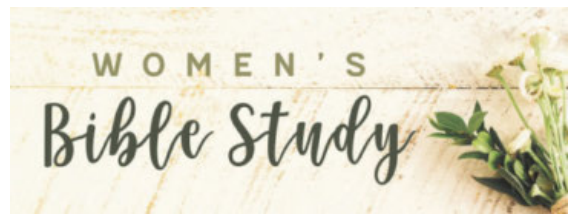
Discover the best Catholic content in one place. **FORMED** is a wonderful website that has been called a "Catholic Netflix". Go to **FORMED.org** and register with our parish code **HHNG3M**.





### Parish Office Schedule

The Parish Office will be closed on Easter Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> and reopen on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.



Do you ever feel like it's almost impossible to raise holy kids in a modern world? Then please join us for a Women's Bible study on The Catholic Parent. We will meet the first three Thursdays of May from 8:00 to 10:00 am in our Father Anderson Library. No Bible experience is needed just an open heart and mind to God's Word. This is a great opportunity for women to bond through faith, friendship and fellowship. Please respond to Lori McCahill by April 29<sup>th</sup> at [mccahill@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:mccahill@stbenedictnj.org)



We celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter, the last day of the Easter Octave.

**Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm**

**Recitation of the Divine Mercy Prayers and Chaplet  
Presentation and Reflection**

**Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
Blessed Sacrament will be reposed at 4:45 pm.**

**Please join us for 5:00 pm Mass.**

Please join us in this powerful prayer invoking the mercy of God for ourselves and for a world so desperately in need.

*During the course of Jesus' revelations to Saint Faustina on the Divine Mercy He asked that a feast day be dedicated to the Divine Mercy on the Sunday after Easter. The liturgical texts of that day concern the institution of the Sacrament of Penance, and are already suited to such a celebration. Pope John Paul II designated this feast day on the occasion of the canonization of Sr. Faustina on April 30, 2000.*



### Blessed Carlo Acutis Movie

The highly anticipated documentary *explores the life and legacy of the soon-to-be Saint Carlo Acutis* and how he navigated the modern world. The movie will be showing at Cinemark Hazlet 12 Theater on Sunday, April 27 at 4:00 pm, Monday, April 28 at 7:00 pm and Tuesday, April 29 at 7:00 pm.

### JOIN THE PARISH CHOIR

St. Benedict choirs are recruiting new members! The choirs sing September-May. The Adult Choir sings for the 11:00 a.m. Mass and rehearses Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. in the church. For more information contact Adult Choir Director Tom O'Brien [thomasobrienjr1@gmail.com](mailto:thomasobrienjr1@gmail.com). The Youth Choir sings on the second and fourth Sundays at the 9:30 a.m. Mass and rehearses 4:00-5:00 p.m. on Friday. The Praise Choir sings at the 5:00 p.m. Sunday Mass once a month and rehearses at 4:00 p.m. on Mass days. For more information on Youth Choir or Praise Choir or for general questions contact Music Director Ellen Remick [remick@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:remick@stbenedictnj.org). All singers and instrumentalists are welcome!



This support group is for those grieving the death of a loved one. If you have lost a loved one, please join others who have also experienced a loss for a series of six sessions of information, mutual sharing and peer support in a spiritual, caring, and confidential setting.

If you would like more information about the group please contact Carol DeMuria at [carol.demuria@gmail.com](mailto:carol.demuria@gmail.com) or call 732/239-2053

### Angel Hands Ministry

The Angel Hands Ministry provides baptismal blankets to newly baptized infants of St. Benedict Parish. If you or someone you know would be interested in helping this ministry by crocheting or knitting a blanket. Please contact Maria Franz for more details at [franzm630@gmail.com](mailto:franzm630@gmail.com)

### Merciful Savior Prayer Group

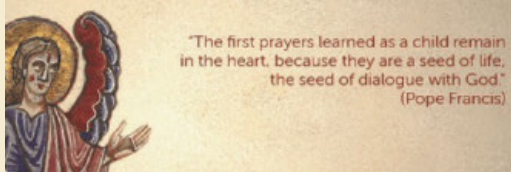
Please contact call Sal and Janice Alagona at 732/264-5744 or Geri Ventura at 732/566-6642 for information regarding the Merciful Savior Prayer Group.

## Faith Formation

Mrs. Nancy Arkin  
*Director of Faith Formation*  
732-264-4712 ext. 26  
email: [arkin@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:arkin@stbenedictnj.org)

Mrs. Loretta Assini  
*Administrative Assistant*  
732-264-4712 ext. 24  
email: [assini@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:assini@stbenedictnj.org)

Mr. Ciro Saverino  
*Coordinator of the 7/8 Confirmation Program*  
732-264-4712 ext. 12  
email: [saverino@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:saverino@stbenedictnj.org)



### Traditional Religious Education

#### Upcoming April Family Days

Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> Knights of Columbus Family Rosary - 4:30 pm

Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> Divine Mercy Sunday

Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> Family Devotions  
"Enthroning the Word" 4-5:00 pm and 6-7:00 pm

#### Summer Academy '25/'26

St. Benedict offers a Summer "Intensive" Religious Education program for children in Grades 1 thru 7. Each session is for one week Monday-Thursday 8:45am-2:45pm and Friday 8:45am-1pm. All sessions are in-person.

**At this time, registration for Weeks 1 and 2 is suspended.  
All Grades 1-7 are still open in Week 3 - July 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>**

**PLEASE NOTE: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (final Confirmation Prep) is not offered during Summer Academy.**

#### Requirements:

- The full week must be completed as well as attendance at 4 Family Day events during the 2025-2026 school year.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade (First Communion) families attend 4 Sacramental formation sessions and 2 information meetings during the 2025-2026 school year.
- Families should be registered parishioners at St. Benedict in order to participate.
- Family Day events for current year (2024-2025) students must be completed by June 2025 in order to attend the next grade level.

Cost of the program: one child: \$275.00;  
two children: \$450.00  
three or more children: \$600.00  
Fee pertaining to FHC: \$ 60.00

This is a first-come/first served basis. No phone or email registrations will be accepted. All applications must be submitted online.



Are you a baptized Roman Catholic, have made your First Communion, are over the age of 18 and have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation? If you would like additional information please email Nancy Arkin at [arkin@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:arkin@stbenedictnj.org) or by calling 732/264-4712 ext.26

### OCIA might just be for you!



OCIA 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.

OCIA 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.

Maybe 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. Please call Nancy Arkin at 732-264-4712 ext. 26 if you have any questions.

### YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

#### St. Benedict's Young Adult Group

Would you like to become involved in Saint Benedict's Young Adult Group? St. Ben's YAG meets every second and fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm unless otherwise announced for faith and fellowship. Anyone ages 18-39 is welcome to join us. We'd love to have you! Please contact our group leader Kate Rose Marino if you have any questions and to be added to our group chat: [katerosemarino@aol.com](mailto:katerosemarino@aol.com)



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



### 2025 Bishop's Anniversary Blessing Sunday, October 19, 2025 at 3:00 pm

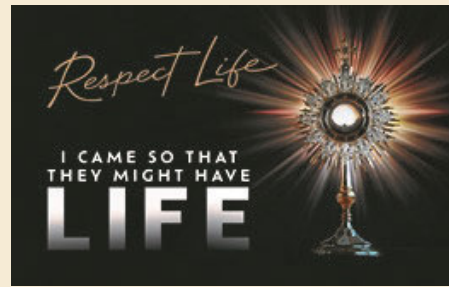
The Bishop's Anniversary Blessing is an annual Mass and reception to honor all couples celebrating their 1<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> (or more) wedding anniversary at the Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine in Freehold for couples in Ocean and Monmouth County parishes. Participation in this Mass fulfills the Sunday obligation. Family and friends are encouraged to attend, but pre-registration is required. Couples must be validly married in the Catholic Church to participate in the Bishop's Anniversary Blessing. For additional information [www.DiocesefofTrenton.org](http://www.DiocesefofTrenton.org)



Looking for resources to strengthen your marriage or advice for dating and engaged couples? Visit the For Your Marriage website at [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org)

### Engagement and Anniversary Announcements

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



### Pray

*Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be*

### Reflect

Each year, on the Second Sunday of Easter, the Church celebrates the Sunday of Divine Mercy. In the 1930s, Jesus appeared to a humble Polish nun, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska. As Jesus continued to appear to St. Faustina, she recorded His messages in her *Diary*. *On one such occasion, Jesus said to St. Faustina, "My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners" (Diary, no. 699).*

When recalling our sins, we may feel discouraged or fearful of approaching God; however, we can cling to the truth that Christ's Passion on the Cross did not end in death, but in the joy of the Resurrection. The miracle of Easter gives us the courage to face our sins, confess our mistakes, and then humbly receive God's forgiveness and accept the joy that comes with new life in Christ. In His infinite love for us, God desires nothing more than to wash away our sins and offer us His mercy. He has a prepared place in His merciful heart for each of us, and no sin is bigger than His power to forgive.

No matter how we have fallen, the Resurrection of Christ is an assurance of *hope*. *Christ's mercy is constantly available to us, if only we reach out to Him in faith and confidence through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The words Christ revealed to St. Faustina, He also speaks to us: "Lay your head on my shoulder, rest and regain your strength. I am always with you" (Diary, no. 498).*





Please ask Our Lord for more dedicated, holy priests, deacons, and consecrated men and women. May they be inspired by Jesus Christ, supported by our faith community, and respond generously to God's gift of vocation."

***Please continue to pray for our Seminarians***



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. Carlos Aguirre  
Fr. Pierre Alabare  
Fr. Peter James Alindogan  
Fr. Angelo Amaral  
Fr. Silvano Amora

### **Seminarians of the Diocese**

Rev. Mr. Alan Bridges, Nicholas Alescio, Benedict Quiambao, Kyle Holler, George Castiglia, David Georgeanni, Brian Leonard, Andrew Lewandowski and Jake Snyder

### ***Deceased***

Fr. James F. Hendrick  
Fr. Gerard Cristiano  
Fr. Francis J. Quinn  
Msgr. Charles G. McCorristin  
Msgr. Pasquale Mugnano  
Fr. Matthew P. Waldron  
Fr. Edward J. Dougherty  
Fr. William H. Orams  
Bp. Moses E. Kiley  
Fr. Joseph Doran  
Fr. Joseph Keuper  
Fr. James F. Child  
Fr. Charles I. LaCavera

### **Why Not You? Why Not Now?**

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

**Contact:** Father Garry Koch-[frgarry@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:frgarry@stbenedictnj.org)



### ***Prayer for Pope Francis***

O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful, look favorably on your servant Francis, whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd; grant, we pray, that by word and example he may be of service to those over whom he presides so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care, he may come to everlasting life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



The Jubilee Year will offer the faithful opportunities to participate in various jubilee events at the Vatican and in their own dioceses. The jubilee years also traditionally offer opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences, and other events intended to strengthen and revive faith.

**Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of *charity* enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*  
for the coming of your Kingdom.**

**May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both humanity  
and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.**

**May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.  
May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.  
*Amen***

## St. Vincent DePaul/Knights of Columbus



St Vincent de Paul Society  
*good works*

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  
**Mary Mykityshyn** [marymyk23@gmail.com](mailto:marymyk23@gmail.com)

### FOOD PANTRY HOURS

The St. Benedict Food Pantry is open on  
**Wednesdays** 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 4:00-6:00 p.m.

**Thursdays** 4:00-6:00 p.m.

**Saturdays** by appointment

### 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 and snacks
- Coffee/Tea
- Juice (for adults and children)
- Soup
- Bar Soap
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Toothpaste, Toothbrushes and Mouthwash
- Laundry Detergent
- Dish Detergent
- Toilet Tissue, Paper Towels, etc.

*When donating please check expiration dates as we cannot accept expired items. Thank you for your generosity.*



Consider donating to St. Vincent De Paul. Does your company offer matching donations to charitable organizations? Many companies require ACH to process matching gifts.

St Benedict's St Vincent DePaul can accept ACH payment for matching gift corporate donations. National Council of the United States Society of St Vincent DePaul (Holmdel, NJ)  
Tax ID/EIN: 13-5562362

### VINCENT'S LEGACY

Saint Vincent De Paul Legacy Furniture Outreach works with your local SVdP Conferences to serve neighbors in need of furniture and household items. Vincent's Legacy accepts donated furniture that is in good condition to redistribute to our neighbors in need. The Furniture Outreach Conference offers many opportunities for you to share your time, talent, and/or treasure. Whether you have furniture to donate, 2—5 hours a month to volunteer, or financial support to offer that will help cover warehouse and truck expenses. If you have any questions, please contact us at: 609-557-7837 or [Furniture@svdptrenton.org](mailto:Furniture@svdptrenton.org)



## He Is Risen

Wishing you joy at this beautiful season of rebirth and renewal...

Rejoicing with you in God's marvelous gift of life.

**Have a Blessed and Happy Easter**



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## Donations Save Lives!



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## BLOOD DRIVE

**Sunday, April 27th from 8:30am - 1:00pm**  
**in the St. Benedict School Gym**

**APPOINTMENTS ENCOURAGED** walk-ins welcome if capacity permits

To make an appointment scan the QR code or sign up at:  
[www.nybc.org/drive](http://www.nybc.org/drive) sponsor code 70339

For additional information contact Ron Calvosa  
[ronbdchair@gmail.com](mailto:ronbdchair@gmail.com)

Questions Call/Text: 917-699-9073 or [www.nybc.org](http://www.nybc.org)



Please remember to eat, drink plenty of water and bring your NYBC donor card or ID with name and photo. Donors 76 & over need a doctor's note to donate unless one is already on file.

**The Saint Benedict Knights of Columbus Council 11349**



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Mrs. Megan Gallagher, *Vice Principal*  
email: [gallagher@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:gallagher@stbenedictnj.org)

Mrs. Monica Hurni, *Administrative Assistant*  
email: [hurni@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:hurni@stbenedictnj.org)

Mrs. Leolanie Jensen, *Administrative Assistant*  
email: [jensen@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:jensen@stbenedictnj.org)



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**Week 2: July 14-18 Safari**  
**Week 3: July 21-25 Winter in July**  
**Week 4: July 28-August 1 Superhero**  
**Week 5: August 4-8 Little Chef**  
**Week 6: August 11-15 Campout Carnival**

**MORE INFO: [school.stbenedictholmdel.org/camp](http://school.stbenedictholmdel.org/camp)**

### RaiseRight Store/Gift cards

The RaiseRight 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 RaiseRight can be ordered using the RaiseRight Order Form. Both forms can be printed from the SBS website under the RaiseRight 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](mailto:mcgee@stbenedictnj.org) or by phone 732-264-4712 ext. 37.



## Prayer

Jesus, you died and rose from the dead so I can share your life on earth and in heaven. Thank you.

## Mission for the Week

I will tell someone that Jesus is alive.

## Sharing the Gospel

Mary Magdalene was surprised when she found the empty tomb of Jesus. She ran and told Peter and John that his body was gone. Peter and John ran to the tomb. They found no body, just strips of cloth. One piece was the cloth that covered the face of Jesus. Peter and John knew that Jesus was not in the grave, even though they did not understand what it meant to rise from the dead.

Now color the picture! →

Circle the group in each row that has more.  
Then color in all the pictures.



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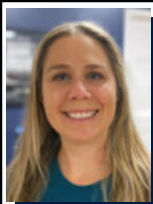
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