

SAINT BENEDICT

1317 Eggert Road
Amherst, NY 14226
716-834-1041
www.saintbenedicts.com

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



18th Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME



Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." - Jn 6:32-33

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

August 1, 2021

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 8:00am and 10:00am

WEEKDAY:

7:00am M-F

CONFESSION:

Saturdays from 4:00 to 4:30pm

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:

Monday -Friday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.
Other times by appointment.

Rev. Msgr. Robert E. Zapfel, S.T.D.

Parish Mission Statement:

Saint Benedict Parish: An environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, and celebration.

BAPTISMS: Are celebrated at most weekend Masses. Please contact Andrew Pitisi, 836-6444, to schedule an appointment, answer questions and preparations.

MARRIAGES: Registered parishioners who have been members of our Saturday / Sunday worshipping community for at least 3 months are asked to notify the rectory at least 6 months prior to planned wedding day. A marriage preparation course is required for all couples.

SICK CALLS: Anytime. Call the rectory as soon as possible.

NEW PARISHIONERS: We welcome all who wish to join our parish. Please speak with Andrew Pitisi before or after a weekend mass to register. If you have questions, please call the rectory.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION: We gladly issue letters of recommendation for registered parishioners who have been asked to be sponsors at Baptism or Confirmation, provided they meet the following criteria:

- Attend Mass regularly.
- Have been confirmed.
- If married, have done so in conformity with the laws of the Church.
- Are sending their children to Catholic school or religious instructions.

Welcome!

You are a stranger but once. You are a child of God, redeemed by Our Savior, Jesus Christ. In God's name, we welcome you. May you find friendship, peace and serenity in our loving and worshipping community. If you are a visitor interested in joining our parish community or the Catholic Faith, please call the parish office (834-1041).
If you are returning after being away... welcome home!

SAINT BENEDICT DIRECTORY

Rectory:

Office834-1041
Parish Email.....rectory@saintbenedicts.com
Parish Fax835-5949
Pastor: Rev. Msgr. Robert E. Zapfel, S.T.D.834-1041
Business Manager: Dawn M. Cahill834-1041 ext 301
Emaildcahill@saintbenedicts.com
Administrative Asst.: Laura Matulich834-1041 ext 303
Email.....lmatulich@saintbenedicts.com

School:

Office835-2518
Principal: Mary Alice Bagwell835-2518 ext 201
Email.....mbagwell@saintbenedicts.com
Nurse: Mrs. Melinda Kraus835-2518 ext 203
Tuition: Leanne Antonucci.....lantonucci@saintbenedicts.com
Extended Day Program: Shawn Kaznica444-8248
Email.....skaznica@le3-inc.org

Lifelong Faith Formation:

Office836-6444
Faith Formation & Youth Ministry: Andrew Pitisi
Email:apitisi@saintbenedicts.com

Organizations:

Altar Servers: Dee Wood710-7028
Email:ddkins@verizon.net
Bereavement Committee: Elaine Wendel834-1041
Eucharistic Ministers: Dolores Byron833-8030
Holy Name Society: Andrew Rotola833-5644
Ladies of Charity: Mickey Delaney832-9230
Lectors: Ruth Sceda834-9149
Music Director: Maria Chomicka218-3805
Email.....mchomicka@saintbenedicts.com
Nurse Ministry: Carol Mathner633-1693
Home School Association: Beth Porterfield835-2518
Christa Bebak835-2518
Email:HSA@saintbenedicts.com
Respect Life Committee834-1041
Rosary Altar Society: Kathy Sieracki838-4792
Mary Long837-8940
St. Vincent de Paul: Jim Byron833-8030
Senior Citizens: Andrew Rotola833-5644
School Board: Alice Russ834-6207
Ushers: Leonard Swiat835-4625

Pastoral Council and Officers:

President: James Maher913-6784
Trustees: Amy Bradley, Christopher Flynn

MINISTRIES FOR THE SICK

If someone is having surgery and would like the Sacrament of the Sick, please contact the rectory to make arrangements with one of the priests. **In an emergency please do not hesitate to call the rectory day or night.**

ST. BEN'S OUTDOOR MASS & PICNIC

Please pencil in the date for our parish's **Outdoor Mass & Picnic!** This will be **Saturday, August 14th at 5:00pm.** We will start with Mass in the Westfield parking lot, followed by a cookout. To RSVP, please call 836-6444. If no one is available to answer, please leave a message with the amount of people for whom you are RSVPing.



OUR CALL TO HOLINESS

Thomas Merton, one of the great spiritual writers of the last century, always seems to touch a cord. His writings bring comfort, challenge, and confidence that the Lord is at work in our lives, even when we are not sure where we are going. The following quotation brings great relief to know that even before we start to pray, our desires, faulty attempts, and scattered efforts are also a grace. A simple desire to love, pray, and know the Lord is itself the starting point of communion with God. Enjoy!

“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”

- Thomas Merton, *Thoughts in Solitude*

DISCIPLES OF INVITATION

Do you know who may be considering learning about our faith or who is considering joining the Catholic Church? The invitation and encouragement begins with each of us. Start with a prayer for the person, asking the Lord to open their hearts to hear his invitation to come and see. Maybe all the person needs is for you to extend the words of welcome and a gentle invitation to step forward. It may be to attend Mass, join a prayer group, give them a ticket for a chicken dinner, or a book on prayer that will be nourishment for body and spirit. We all know someone who is searching. Maybe the RCIA process will bring them direction for their spiritual journey. If we all accept our responsibilities to be disciples of invitation, the Lord will bless us with renewed faith and animate our community.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

We would like to extend an invitation for all men of our parish to consider being part of our newly formed Men's Prayer Group. The group meets the second Thursday of every month at 7:00pm at St. Benedict's Rectory. In the midst of all the business of our lives, we all need to step aside for a time of prayer and reflection. Consider joining with fellow parishioners as we journey together spiritually with one another and the Lord.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH

Generations of Faith registration for September is now open! Contact Andrew Pitisi for more information at apitisi@saintbenedicts.com. Generations of Faith is our Religious Education Program. It meets once a month on Sundays and a few extra times throughout the year. It is also a full family inter-generational gathering. Anyone in the parish, especially our young families, are encouraged to register.

ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

August 13-15 at Church of the Annunciation, 7580 Clinton St., Elma. Festivities will open on Friday, August 13 with a Cruise Night & Car Show from 5-9 pm with hot dogs, hamburgers, soft drinks and water available for purchase. On Saturday, August 14 there will be a drive-thru Wendel's Chicken BBQ and chowder sale in the church parking lot from 11 am until sold out. No pre-sale tickets; cash or check only. On Sunday, August 15 there will be an outdoor Mass (weather permitting) at 11 am with refreshments to follow. Raffles will also be held throughout the weekend. For more information, call 716-683-5254 or visit www.annunciation.cc.

GIFT CARD RAFFLE

Queen of Angels Parish in Lackawanna is having a "Gift Card" Raffle for the month of August. Prizes are gift cards to Tops or Wegman's. Every Monday through Friday, the daily prize is a \$50 gift card; on Saturday & Sunday, the prizes are a \$100 gift card. An added bonus of a \$25 gift card is awarded every Tuesday & Thursday. On August 31 a final prize will be a \$200 gift card. Tickets can be purchased by calling the rectory at 716-826-0880, Gene at 716-646-0513, or Jane at 716-825-5985.

HOPE AFTER HEARTACHE

Buffalo Catholic Cemeteries offers a grief support program for those who have lost a loved one which includes three locations and four meeting choices per month, including a widow and widowers group. This program is presented as part of the Grief Support Program of the Buffalo Catholic Cemeteries, Buffalo Diocese. Open to the community at no charge. Call Marianne Hubert, Director of Grief Support, 716-873-6500, for a brochure of grief support times and locations, as well as other activities, or request information by email to: mhubert@buffalocatholiccemeteries.org.

HERITAGE ART DISCOVER CONTEST

The Bright Mountain Black Madonna



Know why the Black Madonna's black? It's not candle smoke. Who painted it? How did it end up in Poland? Why does it have scars? Encourage a friend or family member – adult, youth or child – to learn about the spiritual heritage of the Black Madonna. There are three age appropriate images for each of the three levels. For more information, visit www.stcasimirbuffalo.com and click on

the gold button "Heritage Art Discovery Contest." Select a drawing, color it in, respond to the heritage questions and mail to St. Casimir by August 12. Further details at <https://stcasimirbuffalo.com/heritage-art-discovery-contest/>.

YOUR LIFE, YOUR PLAN

A conference for young adults (18-39) who would like to learn more about living their Catholic lives fully while single, married, or choosing religious life or the priesthood. Join us on August 7 from 12—5:30pm at St. Amelia Church, 2999 Eggert Road, Tonawanda, for Praise & Worship music, panelists and breakouts for each vocation, keynote speaker John Finch from The Vigil Project, Adoration, Reconciliation, and Mass with Bishop Michael Fisher. Option to enjoy Chiavetta's Chicken Dinner and trivia under the tent with the parish. More information and registration is available at www.stamelia.com.

FIAT

St Gregory the Great Parish welcomes you to, "FIAT", a monthly Eucharistic Conference. Join us for an evening of Eucharistic Adoration, a solid faith filled talk, powerful music and prayer ministry. (Check out stgregs.org/fiat). Our guest speaker for August will be St. Gregory the Great Parishioner, Dawn Curazzato who will share with us her amazing story of courage. Just as Mary said 'Yes' to the will of God, this is an opportunity for you to also say, 'Yes' to the Lord. FIAT is open to everyone. Our next night will be Saturday, August 14 at 7 pm, in the church.

CARDINAL O'HARA GOLF OUTING

Cardinal O'Hara High School will host a golf outing on August 26 at Rothland Golf Course in Akron. Open to alumni and friends. For more information, visit www.cardinalohara.com or email rorr@cardinalohara.com.

MINI-FESTIVAL

Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish will host a mini-festival on Sunday, August 29 at 57 Center Avenue, North Tonawanda. Outdoor Mass at 10:30am, followed by a bake sale, basket raffle, along with kids' games and food trucks. The day ends at 2:00pm with our Megabucks Drawing. Join us as we celebrate with faith, family, and friends.

POP-UP MARKET

At Our Lady of Pompeii every Monday through August 30 from 4:30-7:30 pm in the church parking lot, 129 Laverack Ave., Lancaster. Each week featuring different food trucks, vendors and entertainment for people of any age.

ANNIVERSARY MASS

The Diocese of Buffalo and Office of Pastoral Ministries wishes to honor couples who will observe their 50th, 60th, and 70th wedding anniversaries and recognize the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifices, challenges, and comforts in daily married life. This will be held at St. Joseph Cathedral on Sunday, October 24th. More details to follow soon. If you have any questions, please call 716-847-2205.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Sunday marks the start of World Breastfeeding Week! Catholic Charities Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program offers breastfeeding education and support to expectant and new mothers. WIC also provides nutrition education and counseling, prenatal and postpartum support, referrals and eWIC benefit cards. To connect with Catholic Charities WIC in Erie, Niagara and Chautauqua counties, call 716-218-1484 or visit www.cwny.org/WIC.

WEEKLY PRAYER INTENTIONS

Sunday

For an End to Violence in our Cities

Let us pray that we will work to bring an end to the senseless loss of life. May we strive to support family life and promote peaceful resolution to conflicts.

Monday

For Those Searching for God

Let us pray for all who are searching for God, that they will come to realize that God has already found them and divine love is unconditional and ever-present.

Tuesday

For an Increase of Vocations

Let us pray that, in the midst of our noisy world, men and women will hear the Lord's call to consider priesthood and religious life, by dedicating their lives in building up the Kingdom of God.

Wednesday

For the Road to Renewal

Let us pray that as the Diocese of Buffalo continues to implement the Road to Renewal, each parish will work collaboratively to bring about greater cooperation and a sharing of resources to build up the Church.

Thursday

For Pope Francis and All Who are Sick

Let us pray for Pope Francis, as he recovers from surgery, and all those struggling with illness of any kind. May our Blessed Mother comfort and console them, and help them to find inner joy in the midst of their challenges.

Friday

For Family Life

Let us pray that homes will be a dwelling where the love of God is shared and lived, uniting all of our family members together in faith, hope, and love.

Saturday

For a Blessed and Safe Summer

Let us pray that, as we move into the heart of the summer months, we will experience a renewal of heart, mind, and body.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our yearly tradition will continue once again this summer. August 9th through the 13th. Every child from kindergarten through 5th grade is welcome to participate. All other grades are welcome to help lead VBS. \$30 per child. Multiple child discount available. Please email Andrew at apitisi@saintbenedicts.com for more information.

HEALTH & WELLNESS CORNER

Free Opioid Overdose Recognition and Narcan Training continues to be offered by Erie County Health Department. Next WebEx meetings are Tuesday, August 3rd from 12:00pm to 1:00pm, and Saturday, August 7th from 9:00am to 10:30am. Email Cheryll.Moore@erie.gov to register or call Cheryll at 716-858-7695.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. John Vianney

Feast Day: August 4

A man with vision overcomes obstacles and performs deeds that seem impossible. John Vianney was a man with vision: he wanted to become a priest. But he had to overcome his meager formal schooling, which inadequately prepared him for seminary studies.

His failure to comprehend Latin lectures forced him to discontinue. But his vision of being a priest urged him to seek private tutoring. After a lengthy battle with the books, John was ordained.

Situations calling for "impossible" deeds followed him everywhere. As pastor of the parish at Ars, John encountered people who were indifferent and quite comfortable with their style of living. His vision led him through severe fasts and short nights of sleep.

With Catherine Lassagne and Benedicta Lardet, he established La Providence, a home for girls. Only a man of vision could have such trust that God would provide for the spiritual and material needs of all those who came to make La Providence their home.

His work as a confessor is John Vianney's most remarkable accomplishment. In the winter months he was to spend 11 to 12 hours daily reconciling people with God. In the summer months this time was increased to 16 hours. Unless a man was dedicated to his vision of a priestly vocation, he could not have endured this giving of self day after day.

Many people look forward to retirement and taking it easy, doing the things they always wanted to do but never had the time. But John Vianney had no thoughts of retirement. As his fame spread, more hours were consumed in serving God's people. Even the few hours he would allow himself for sleep were disturbed frequently by the devil.

Who, but a man with vision, could keep going with ever-increasing strength? In 1929, Pope Pius XI named him the patron of parish priests worldwide.

Reflection

Indifference toward religion, coupled with a love for material comfort, seem to be common signs of our times. A person from another planet observing us would not likely judge us to be pilgrim people, on our way to somewhere else. John Vianney on the other hand, was a man on a journey, with his goal before him at all times.

St. John Vianney's Prayer to Love God

I love You, O my God, and my only desire is to love You until the last breath of my life. I love You, O my infinitely lovable God, and I would rather die loving You, than live without loving You. I love You, Lord and the only grace I ask is to love You eternally...My God, if my tongue cannot say in every moment that I love You, I want my heart to repeat it to You as often as I draw breath. Amen.

- Text taken from franciscanmedia.org.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

SATURDAY July 31

12:30pm Memorial Mass for Theresa Muffoletto

4:00pm Confession

5:00pm Mass

SUNDAY August 1

8:00am Mass

10:00am Mass

MONDAY August 2

7:00am Mass

TUESDAY August 3

7:00am Mass

WEDNESDAY August 4

7:00am Mass

THURSDAY August 5

7:00am Mass

FRIDAY August 6

7:00am Mass

SATURDAY August 7

2:00pm Nuptial Mass for the Wedding of David Schlant and Elizabeth Caputi

4:00pm Confession

5:00pm Mass

SUNDAY August 8

8:00am Mass

10:00am Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, July 31

5:00pm Jeanne Hanny req.: St. Ignatius of Loyola
Living & Deceased Fathers req.: Respect Life Ministries

Sunday, August 1

8:00am Jim Mondello req.: Eighteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
req.: The Mondello Family

10:00am Cynthia Golden req.: Family
Living & Deceased Mothers

Monday, August 2

7:00am Special Intention Weekday

Tuesday, August 3

7:00am For the People of St. Benedict Weekday

Wednesday, August 4

7:00am Francis X. Schwab req.: St. John Vianney
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Nikish

Thursday, August 5

7:00am All Souls Day Intentions Weekday

Friday, August 6

7:00am Deceased Members of the The Transfiguration
Frey Family of the Lord

Saturday, August 7

5:00pm Loretta Haynes req.: Weekday
Living & Deceased Fathers req.: Art & Sue Moslow

Sunday, August 8

8:00am Angeline & John Nineteenth Sunday
Szymaszek in Ordinary Time
req.: Family

10:00am Robert Cuddihy req.: Debbie & Mark
Living & Deceased Mothers

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The Sanctuary Candle is being lit this week in memory of:

*Jim Mondello
req.: Pat Webster*

Parishioners can request that the Sanctuary Candle be lit for the deceased "in memory of" or for the living "for the intentions of." The donation is \$15.00. Please stop in to the parish office or call 834-1041.

TIGER'S DEN FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your generous donations every month.

Highlighted items for August are: juice, spaghetti sauce, crackers, and lotion.

Donations of any kind are welcome. Boxes are placed at the entries to the church and donations can be placed there or dropped off at the rectory. The staff at the pantry are most grateful, and have said, "We are appreciative for anything we receive."



MASS INTENTION REQUESTS

Mass intentions are a wonderful way for us to remember our beloved deceased and keep them in our prayers. We have Masses available throughout the year. Each Mass is \$15 and they are available at the rectory during normal business hours. Mass cards are available as well.

FINANCIAL FACTS

Weekend of July 25

Weekly Offertory: \$5,697.00

Thank you for your generosity!

PRAYER TO

ST. MARGARET OF CASTELLO

O my God, thank you for having given St. Margaret of Castello to the world as an example of the degree of holiness that can be attained by anyone who truly loves you, regardless of physical abnormalities.



I beseech you, O God, to grant, through the intercession of St. Margaret of Castello, that all the handicapped, all the rejected, and all the unwanted of this world may make their weaknesses their own special boast so that your power may stay over them now and forever. Amen.

ST BENEDICT SCHOOL

It's not too late...



We still have a few spots open in our Preschool if you have a friend that has been considering enrolling the time to do so is NOW!



Enrollment is Open

Share the news! We are currently enrolling in grades K-8th. Let your friends come see why we are Amherst's top-ranked Catholic School.

The school is open for tours.

Employment Opportunities

Music Teacher PK-8th Grade
PK4 Aide

If you or someone you know is interested please contact
Mrs. Bagwell, 716-835-2518



HSA - Home School Association

The Home School Association is preparing for the 2021-2022 school year.

This is a great way to get involved and meet other parents. They are currently looking for volunteers and committee chairs.

Contact hsa@saintbenedicts.com for more information

Calling all Alumni



St. Benedict School will be celebrating 100 years. We need you! We are looking for graduate volunteers for planning purposes. Bring your ideas.

If interested please contact Marylis McGrath
mmcgrath@saintbenedicts.com

 Nicholas Reinhart
Parishioner
207-2352
www.reinhartlandscaping.com

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