

SAINT BENEDICT

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

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



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.

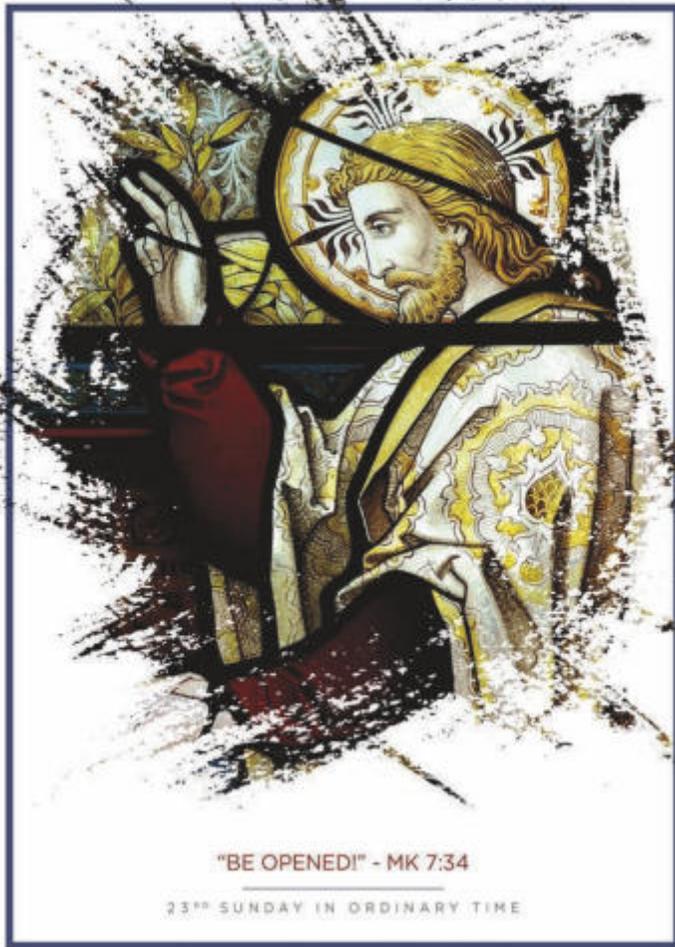
MARRIAGES: Registered parishioners who have been members of our Saturday / Sunday worshipping community for at least 3 months are asked to notify the rectory at least 6 months prior to planned wedding day. A marriage preparation course is required for all couples.

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.



September 5, 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.

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:

Office **834-1041**
Parish Email.....rectory@saintbenedicts.com
Parish Fax 835-5949
Pastor: Rev. Msgr. Robert E. Zapfel, S.T.D. 834-1041
Business Manager: Dawn M. Cahill 834-1041 ext 301
Email dcahill@saintbenedicts.com
Administrative Asst.: Laura Matulich 834-1041 ext 303
Email..... lmatulich@saintbenedicts.com

School:

Office **835-2518**
Principal: Mary Alice Bagwell 835-2518 ext 201
Email..... mbagwell@saintbenedicts.com
Nurse: Mrs. Melinda Kraus 835-2518 ext 203
Tuition: Leanne Antonucci lantonucci@saintbenedicts.com
Extended Day Program: Shawn Kaznica 444-8248
Email..... skaznica@le3-inc.org

Lifelong Faith Formation:

Office **836-6444**
Faith Formation & Youth Ministry: Andrew Pitisi
Email: apitisi@saintbenedicts.com

Organizations:

Altar Servers: Dee Wood 710-7028
Email: ddkins@verizon.net
Bereavement Committee: Elaine Wendel 834-1041
Eucharistic Ministers: Dolores Byron 833-8030
Holy Name Society: Andrew Rotola 833-5644
Ladies of Charity: Mickey Delaney 832-9230
Lectors: Ruth Sceda 834-9149
Music Director: Maria Chomicka 218-3805
Email..... mchomicka@saintbenedicts.com
Nurse Ministry: Carol Mathner 633-1693
Home School Association: Beth Porterfield 835-2518
Christa Bebak 835-2518
Email: HSA@saintbenedicts.com
Respect Life Committee 834-1041
Rosary Altar Society: Kathy Sieracki 838-4792
Mary Long 837-8940
St. Vincent de Paul: Jim Byron 833-8030
Senior Citizens: Andrew Rotola 833-5644
School Board: Alice Russ 834-6207
Ushers: Leonard Swiat 835-4625

Pastoral Council and Officers:

President: James Maher 913-6784
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.**

OUR CALL TO HOLINESS

Clearly a big challenge for Christianity is how to remain in contact with the millions of people who look for God but do not come to Church. **Timothy Radcliffe**

I am certain that every single one of us knows someone, a friend or relative or it could be yourself, who is struggling to find God and a meaning in life but have left their parish and have decided not to come to church. Is it solely a question of the institutional Church that appears out of touch? Was it a bad experience with a teacher in class, a priest, an insensitive homily, a cold uninviting parish, “the church just does not get where I am at”, or simply, the daily challenges of day to day living have overwhelmed and there is no place for God?

Truthfully, I could have filled the column with reasons why our friends and loved ones stand outside the embrace of our parish community; however, not one of the endless reasons would eliminate the mandate of Jesus - for us to share our faith story, for us to be that invitation, to be the words and action of forgiveness that embraces them anew in His love. We may have to say or be the words of apology and an embrace of humble service at their feet in contrition for Christ’s sake. They may never walk into the door of this or any other church – but then again, most of our Lord’s ministry was done outside the temple, in a home, on a mountain, a road, lake, or well, wedding feast and even in a tree! As we begin the Road to Renewal, pray for the grace to go out wherever the Lord sends us and be His words and gestures of healing and invitation.

PRE CANA

Any married couples who are interested in helping or learning more about our new Pre Cana group, please contact Andrew Pitisi: apitisi@saintbenedicts.com. Our Next meeting is on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 @ 6:30pm at St. Leo's.

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Are you considering learning more about our faith or do you know someone who is considering joining the Catholic Church? Our RCIA Group will begin gathering once more on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 @ 6:30pm. Please contact Andrew for more details at apitisi@saintbenedicts.com.

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.

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. We meet on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00PM at St. Benedict’s Rectory. Next meeting is on September 9th. . We look forward to seeing you!

MSGR. ZAPFEL'S 40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:

Saturday, September 25th - 4:00 p.m. Mass

The parish communities of St. Leo the Great and St. Benedict's will gather together to celebrate Msgr. Robert Zapfel's fortieth anniversary of priestly ordination. A reception will follow the mass in the Parish Center. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending the celebration of thanksgiving for Msgr. Zapfel's years of service for God's people!

SEMINARIAN & DEACONATE FORMATION

A Special Collection will take place on September 26 to help support the education of Seminarians and those seeking to become deacons for the Diocese of Buffalo. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

OUR LADY OF POMPEII

2nd Annual HEARTBEAT Event

158 Laverack Ave., Lancaster - September 13 at 7-8 PM
"The Vulnerable Heart" Deacon Michael Ficorelli speaks on Life reflections, followed by musical selections by Mary Palmer, Lee Morgan, David Chriswell. Welcoming Baby and Mama items for Gianna Molla Center: diapers, wipes, binkies, clothing up to size 2T, etc. Accepting gift cards to Tops, Wegmans, Walmart, and Target.

SOCK HOP

Sock Hop for people with disabilities and their families and friends on Saturday, September 11 from 1-2:30 pm at St. Bernadette Parish, 5930 S. Abbott Rd., Orchard Park. RSVP to Paula 716-649-1051 or cozmo3631@gmail.com.

RETRouvaille

September 17-19

Are you or someone you may know struggling in their marriage? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Retrouvaille can help you work through this and save your marriage and family. It is designed to help troubled marriages regain their health. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages. For details or to register for the next Retrouvaille weekend call (716)474-9371 or visit <http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org>. (You can read couples' testimonials here.) The next weekend is Sept. 17-19. All inquiries are confidential. Space is limited; so, preregistration is required.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Ever feel like you needed to talk to someone about something going on in your life? Feel like no one is there, has time, or understands? Perhaps a Stephen Minister could be that person. St. Benedict has five wonderful, fully trained Stephen ministers who are ready to lend a listening ear and offer prayers for you. Call 716-836-6444 if you are interested in using this awesome new ministry.

HEALING MASS

St. Francis of Assisi, 150 Broad St. City of Tonawanda. Wed., Sept. 8 at 7:00 PM—The Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Fr. DiGiulio will be the celebrant.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

Beginning Saturday, September 5th

Following the 5:00 p.m. mass, the Sacrament of the Sick will be celebrated for anyone wishing to be anointed. In the Sacrament of the Sick, a person who is ill, preparing for surgery or suffering physically or spiritually can be anointed. Anointing with oil is intended to strengthen the individual in the face the illness and to assure them of the prayers and support of the entire faith community in their time of need.

We encourage any parishioners who wish to pray with and for our brothers and sisters to stay after mass to celebrate the sacrament of healing with those being anointed.

The Sacrament of the Sick will be celebrated every first Saturday of the month after the vigil mass.

Let us together, raise up in prayer all of our brothers and sisters who are in need of healing, that the Lord will make His presence known and healing of body and spirit.

ROSARY & ALTAR SOCIETY INVITATION

On Monday, September 13, 2021 at 6PM all parishioners (ladies and gentlemen), are invited to attend 6PM Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church, a historical treasure, located at 1029 Delaware Ave. in the Elmwood village. Rev. Joseph Porpiglia, former pastor of St. Benedict Parish and now pastor of Blessed Sacrament, will be our celebrant. If you would like to carpool, please meet in the Eggert Rd. parking lot at 5:30 PM. Following Mass, Fr. Porpiglia graciously offered to give us a brief tour. We will return to St. Benedict's cafeteria for pizza and beverages. If you are planning to attend, please call Kathy Sieracki, 716-838-4792 by September 10th. A perfect opportunity to thank God for our glorious summer!

HARVEST HOUSE THANK YOU

Bottles For Babies

On August 17th, the parish received a letter from CEO/Co-founder of Harvest House, Linda Tatu, giving a great big thank you to everyone for their generosity; \$360.70 was donated! She also stated in her letter that last year, 5,551 children were provided with clothing, furnishings, car seats, etc. free of charge, because of your compassion. Due to our current economy, they are overwhelmed by requests for their services and your gift is making a difference and is truly appreciated. Your donation brings hope and comfort to the children Harvest House serves. In closing she stated: "May God bless you as you have so abundantly blessed us.

TIGER'S DEN FOOD PANTRY

Donations of any kind are welcome. Highlighted items for September are white and brown rice; canned mushrooms, sauerkraut and especially corn, and instant mashed potatoes. Boxes are placed at the entries to the church and donations can be placed there or dropped off at the rectory. Thank you so much.



DAILY PRAYER INTENTIONS

Sunday

For our military and first Responders

May the Lord bless the members of the military, police, firefighters, and EMT's, that they will be kept safe from harm and be given perseverance and strength from God as they serve our community

Monday

For the Afghani People

For the people of Afghanistan, that the Lord will protect them, give them hope, and provide for their needs.

Tuesday

For Catechists

For Catechists, that they inspire those in their care to become faithful witnesses to the Word of God.

Wednesday

For Catechumens

For the Catechumens as they begin their life's journey of faith. May we walk with them as a faith community, as they search for a deeper, personal relationship with God.

Thursday

For Those Impacted by Hurricane Ida

For those seriously affected by Hurricane Ida, most specifically the people of Louisiana, that we, as a nation, will assist them during this devastating time - assisting them by our care for them and by our prayers.

Friday

For Struggles Too Tough to Bear

For all those who are suffering under the heaviness of the crosses of life that the Lord will come to their aid and lift their burdens with his gentle and loving care.

Saturday

For Guidance in Our Diocese

For the intercession of Our Lady of Undoer of Knots to guide us as we embark on the Road to Renewal in our diocese.

HEALTH & WELLNESS CORNER

So, you have problems with Heartburn, also known as Acid Reflux. This is when the acid in your stomach reverses course and backs up into the esophagus, and may cause a burning sensation. One third of adults have problems with heartburn. Some tips that can help:

- Maintain a healthy body weight.
- Don't Smoke.
- Exercise
- Cut down on coffee, tea, soda (caffeine)
- Follow a heart- healthy diet. Also know as the Mediterranean style diet.
- Avoid acidic foods like tomatoes, oranges, grapefruit and spicy food.
- Avoid eating within 3 hours of bedtime.

NATIVITY of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Feast Day-September 8

The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century. A September birth was chosen because the Eastern Church begins its Church year with September. The September 8 date helped determine the date for the feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8.

Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth. However, the apocryphal *Protoevangelium of James* fills in the gap. According to this account, Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child who will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story, like many biblical counterparts, stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning. Saint Augustine connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth the nature inherited from our first parents is changed." The opening prayer at Mass speaks of the birth of Mary's Son as the dawn of our salvation, and asks for an increase of peace.

Reflection

We can see every human birth as a call for new hope in the world. The love of two human beings has joined with God in his creative work. The loving parents have shown hope in a world filled with travail. The new child has the potential to be a channel of God's love and peace to the world. This is all true in a magnificent way in Mary. If Jesus is the perfect expression of God's love, Mary is the foreshadowing of that love. If Jesus has brought the fullness of salvation, Mary is its dawning.

Birthday celebrations bring happiness to the celebrant as well as to family and friends. Next to the birth of Jesus, Mary's birth offers the greatest possible happiness to the world. Each time we celebrate her birth, we can confidently hope for an increase of peace in our hearts and in the world at large.

Taken from Franciscan Media



Psalms: The School of Prayer:

Beginning on Monday - September 20th from 7p.m. until 9:00 p.m. a bible study group will begin at St. Leo the Great Parish. At the heart of the Bible are the Psalms: prayers from God that help us learn to pray.

The Holy Spirit inspired them. Israel sang them. Christ himself prayed them. These sacred hymns become our heartfelt response to God's loving and wondrous deeds for us. Please consider joining the bible study group. The first meeting will provide more information. To sign-up or for more information, please contact Mary Meshlovitz at 830-6105 or email her at mmeshlovitz@gmail.com

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

SATURDAY September 4

9:00am Mass
11:00am Memorial Mass for Antoinette Brazer
1:00pm Memorial Mass for Edward Brodka
4:00pm Confession
5:00pm Mass

SUNDAY September 5

8:00am Mass
10:00am Mass

MONDAY September 6

7:00am Mass
 Rectory Office is closed in observance of Labor Day

TUESDAY September 7

7:00am Mass
6:30pm Pre Cana at St. Leo's

WEDNESDAY September 8

7:00am Mass

THURSDAY September 9

7:00am Mass
8:00am School Mass
7:00pm Men's Prayer group in Rectory

FRIDAY September 10

7:00am Mass

SATURDAY September 11

4:00pm Confession
5:00pm Mass

SUNDAY September 12

8:00am Mass
10:00am Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 4 **Saint Rose of Viterbo**
 5:00pm Rosemary Lawley req.: Robert Bennett & Family
 Living & Deceased Fathers

Sunday, September 5 **Saint Teresa of Calcutta**
 8:00am Charles Fletch Jr. req.: Joyce Family
 10:00am Rosemary Lawley req.: Militello Family
 Living & Deceased Mothers

Monday, September 6 **Labor Day**
 7:00am Marion Schloger req.: Rosary Altar Society

Tuesday, September 7 **Weekday**
 7:00am Marion Schloger req.: St. Ben's Seniors

Wednesday, September 8 **Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
 7:00am Edward Haynes Req.: Edward & Joan Niles

Thursday, September 9 **Weekday**
 7:00am Joan Baranosky Req.: Lovell Family

Friday, September 10 **Saint Thomas of Villanova**
 7:00am Special Intention

Saturday, September 11 **Saint Cyprian**
 5:00pm Franklin & Beatrice Bingeman req.: Family
 Anniversary
 Living & Deceased Fathers

Sunday, September 12 **24th Sunday in Ordinary time**
 8:00am Rosary Altar & Holy Name Societies
 10:00am Maria S. Rotola req.: Andrew, Michael, Lynn
 Living & Deceased Mothers

Labor Day

In observance of Labor Day, the rectory office will be closed on Monday, September 6.



PRAYER LIST

Please pray for the sick and homebound members of our community.

NEWLY BAPTIZED

Ann Elizabeth Kittleson
 Louis Joseph Reinhart

PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE

www.facebook.com/StBenedictsAmherst or just go to facebook.com and type in St. Benedict Amherst. Take a tour of St. Benedict Parish. Learn some fun, behind the scene facts with Maria and Andrew. Catch up on some current church events or join in prayer with other friends who visit our page.

SANCTUARY CANDLE

In Memory of
 Maria S. Rotola

Req: Andrew, Michael, Lynn

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.

MASS INTENTION REQUESTS

Mass intentions are a wonderful way for us to remember our beloved deceased and keep them in our prayers. Masses available throughout the year. Each Mass is \$15. Stop by the rectory, 9:00AM-3:00PM to schedule a mass.

FINANCIAL FACTS

Weekend of August 29
 Weekly Offertory: \$ 8,800
 Thank you for your generosity!

ST BENEDICT SCHOOL



Horrah! School Begins Sept 8th

Just a few reminders as we begin our school year.

Students may be dropped off in the gym
no earlier than 7:15.



The Preschool door (Eggert Entrance) opens at 7:30.

Preschool dismissal is at 2:25 pm

K-8 dismissal is at 2:30 pm

Chiavetta's BBQ to benefit STREAM

Online tickets <https://tinyurl.com/sbsstreambbq>

September 20th from 3 -7 pm

Presale Tickets \$10.00, \$12.00 Day of the Event

Name _____

Phone _____

How Many Dinners _____ Total Amount _____

Please return your order form to the school or the parish
with a check or cash in an envelope labeled "Chiavetta's"

NO later than Sept 15th

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

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- Parishioner -



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- Nursing Home Neglect and Abuse
- Real Estate

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