

SAINT BENEDICT

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



24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it." - Mk 8:34-35

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1996, 1970-CCD.

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September 12, 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.

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.

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 Scheda834-9149
 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.**

CALL TO HOLINESS

The Second Vatican Council repeatedly underscores the gifts of grace that come from reading the scriptures, that God is present to us when they are proclaimed at liturgy and are personally reflected upon for prayer. Whether it is a verse from the Prophet Isaiah or a letter of St. Paul to the early church, the proclamation touches our hearts and awakens us that we are being embraced by God. 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.

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 Please consider joining, for both a deepening of your spiritual life and an increase of knowledge of the psalms. The first meeting will provide more information. To sign-up please contact Mary Meshlovitz at 830-6105 or email mmeshlovitz@gmail.com.

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 14, 2021 @ 6:30pm at St. Leo's.

RCIA

We all know someone who is searching; maybe the RCIA process will bring them direction for their spiritual journey. Beginning September our parishes will begin regular sessions for those considering learning and growing in their Catholic faith. 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.

If we all accept our responsibility to become disciples of invitation, the Lord will bless us with renewed faith and

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 October 14th. Consider joining as we journey together spiritually with one another and the Lord.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH

Generations of Faith is our Religious Education Program. The first session is September 19 at 9:00 AM in the school cafeteria. Contact Andrew Pitisi for more information at apitisi@saintbenedicts.com. 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.

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 at St. Leo the Great. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending the celebration of thanksgiving for Msgr. Zapfel's years of service for God's people!

SPECIAL COLLECTION SEMINARIAN EDUCATION

This collection will take place on September 26 to help support the education and formation of Seminarians for the Diocese of Buffalo. Your support is crucial for this most important ministry, as we prepare future priests for service in our parishes. Please place your envelope in the collection basket. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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 items for Gianna Molla Center, such as diapers, wipes, binkies, clothing up to size 2T, etc. Also accepting gift cards to Tops, Wegmans, Walmart, Target.

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. For details or to register for the next Retrouvaille weekend call (716)474-9371 or visit <https://www.HelpOurMarriage.org>. (You can read couples' testimonials here.) The next weekend is Sept. 17-19. All inquiries are confidential. Preregistration is required.

FIDELIS

A Catholic Group for Young Women

Young women in grades 6-12: Fidelis will begin meeting at the Mother Cabrini Social Center Hall, 180 Court St., Buffalo (St. Anthony of Padua Parish) beginning Monday, September 13 from 6-8:30 pm. Fidelis is rooted in Catholic virtues, mentorship and sisterhood. Women over 18 are also welcome to join as lady mentors. Fidelis nights include recreation, meal time, movie clip, discussion, prayer and fun. Call or text Beth Anne Van Horn 716-816-6226; email fidelisbuffalosisterhood@gmail.com.

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!

CHIAVETTAS CHICKEN BBQ

September 20 from 3-7PM Join us for a chicken bbq to benefit St. Benedict's School STREAM. \$10 Presale, \$12 at the door. See enclosed flyer for more details!

OKTOBERFEST

Sisters of St. Joseph are sponsoring a drive-thru German dinner on September 26 from 12-2pm at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church, 157 Cleveland Dr. \$11 Presale, \$12 day of event. (Sausage, German potato salad, sauerkraut, rye bread and dessert!)

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Services offered for youth and adults in Erie & Niagara counties include tutoring, high school equivalency prep, employment readiness, post-secondary planning, etc. Visit Catholic Charities at WWW.ccwny.org

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 That Seem 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

A Dietitian from Catholic Health, Katherine Jastrzeb, RD shares her top 5 picks for local produce:

- **BERRIES.** Blueberries, raspberries great with salads, cereal and ice cream.
- **TOMATOES.** Store at room temperature and use within a week of ripening.
- **CANTALOUPE.** Choose fragrant ones without bruises.
- **PEPPERS and CUCUMBERS.**

Lots of vitamins, antioxidants and fiber!

Are you looking to improve diet habits? Reach out to a dietitian at Catholic Health: 716-706-2112.

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS September 14



Early in the fourth century, Saint Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. She razed the second-century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Savior's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher on that spot. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman.

The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem toward the end of the fourth century, according to an eyewitness, the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus' head: Then "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on." To this day, the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614, 15 years earlier. According to the story, the emperor intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself, but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim.

Reflection

The cross is today the universal image of Christian belief. Countless generations of artists have turned it into a thing of beauty to be carried in procession or worn as jewelry. To the eyes of the first Christians, it had no beauty. It stood outside too many city walls, decorated only with decaying corpses, as a threat to anyone who defied Rome's authority—including Christians who refused sacrifice to Roman gods. Although believers spoke of the cross as the instrument of salvation, it seldom appeared in Christian art unless disguised as an anchor or the Chi-Rho until after Constantine's edict of toleration.

Chi-Rho - a Christogram formed from by overlaying the first two Greek letters of the word "Christ".

Taken from Franciscan Media.



HAPPENING THIS WEEK

SATURDAY September 11

9:00am Mass
4:00pm Confession
5:00pm Mass

SUNDAY September 12

8:00am Mass
10:00am Mass

MONDAY September 13

7:00am Mass

TUESDAY September 14

7:00am Mass
6:30 pm RCIA Meeting

WEDNESDAY September 15

7:00am Mass

THURSDAY September 16

7:00am Mass
8:00 am School Mass

FRIDAY September 17

7:00am Mass

SATURDAY September 18

4:00pm Confession
5:00pm Mass

SUNDAY September 19

8:00am Mass
9:00am Generations of Faith Meeting
10:00am Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 11

5:00pm Franklin & Beatrice Bingeman Anniversary
Patriot Day req.: Family
Living & Deceased Fathers

Sunday, September 12

24th Sunday Ordinary time

8:00am Rosary Altar & Holy Name Societies
10:00am Maria S. Rotola req.: Andrew, Michael, Lynn
Living & Deceased Mothers

Monday, September 13

St. John Chrysostom, Bishop, Dr. of the Church
req.: Rosary Altar Society

7:00am Teresa J. DiVizio

Tuesday, September 14

Exaltation of the Holy Cross
req.: Bud & Kitty Siegel

7:00am Edward Haynes

Wednesday, September 15

Our Lady of Sorrows
req.: Daughter Suzanne

7:00am Robert Seitz

Thursday, September 16

St. Cyprian
req.: Alan & Mary Long

7:00am Norma Durawa

Friday, September 17

Saint Robert Bellermino
req.: Pat Webster

7:00am Norma Durawa

Saturday, September 18

Weekday
req.: Grandma

5:00pm Dean Muraco

Living & Deceased Fathers

Sunday, September 19

25th Sunday in Ordinary time

8:00am Francis X. Schwab req.: Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Seaner
10:00am Anna Lesniak req.: Family
Living & Deceased Mothers

PRAYER LIST

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

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society is here to offer assistance to those who need help due to a loss of job, illness, or some other situation. Please contact Jim Byron at 833-8030.

On the second Thursday of each month, we sort clothes at the St. Vincent de Paul center. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Jan and Bob Halt at 834-9968.

Our St. Vincent de Paul conference meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the school cafeteria. All are welcome to join us!

PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE

Www.facebook.com/StBenedictsAmherst 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

Heather Anne O'Loughlin
Req; Bill O'Loughlin & Linda Dobmeier

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 during normal business hours, 9:00AM-3:00PM.

FINANCIAL FACTS

Weekend of September 12

Weekly Offertory will be posted in next week's bulletin.
Thank you for your generosity and understanding!



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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