

SAINT BENEDICT

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



November 28, 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 Wood.....710-7028
Email:ddkins@verizon.net
Bereavement Committee: Elaine Wendel.....834-1041
Eucharistic Ministers: Dolores Byron.....833-8030
Holy Name Society: Andrew Rotola833-5644
Ladies of Charity: Mickey Delaney.....832-9230
Lectors: Ruth Scheda.....834-9149
Music Director: Maria Chomicka218-3805
Email.....mchomicka@saintbenedicts.com
Nurse Ministry: Carol Mathner633-1693
Home School Association: Beth Porterfield835-2518
Christa Bebak.....835-2518
Email:HSA@saintbenedicts.com
Respect Life Committee834-1041
Rosary Altar Society: Kathy Sieracki838-4792
Mary Long837-8940
St. Vincent de Paul: Jim Byron.....833-8030
Senior Citizens: Andrew Rotola833-5644
School Board: Alice Russ834-6207
Ushers: Leonard Swiat.....835-4625

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

O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

As we begin this Advent Season, maybe a good question for all of us to ask is: "WHO is waiting for WHOM?" I think that the real answer to this question is: OUR GOD IS WAITING FOR US! In patient love, our God waits for us – we have wandered far from Him. Advent not only allows us to ask the question of WHO is waiting for WHOM, but guides us on our journey – we travel the spiritual distance by leveling the mountains of our pride and filling in the valleys with forgiveness. Traditional wisdom calls us to be alert, attentive, and preparing for the day of the Lord that is near; our God is coming! NO! He has already come and it is now our turn to come to Him – meet Him at a place called Bethlehem. He has fulfilled His promise and has traversed the distance caused by our sins. So in fact, I am/we are the one(s) whom God is waiting for; we are pilgrims on a journey.

Emmanuel – God is with us! Holy travels!

CONFIRMATION MEETING

For all who have not received or are planning to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, the next meeting is on Dec. 19, at 6:30pm in St. Benedict's Church.

RCIA

We all know someone who is searching; maybe the RCIA process will bring them direction for their spiritual journey. Our RCIA Group will meet on November 30 at 6:30pm at St. Leo the Great. If we all accept our responsibility to become disciples of invitation, the Lord will bless us with renewed faith and animate our parish community!

GENERATIONS OF FAITH

Generations of Faith is our Religious Education Program. We meet 9:00am in the school cafeteria once a month on Sundays and a few extra times throughout the year. It is an inter-generational gathering. The next meeting is December 11 at 10:00am. Anyone in the parish, young families, those with special needs, all who want to receive the sacraments or attend faith formation, please contact Andrew Pitisi.

PRE CANA

Any married couples interested in helping or learning more about our Pre Cana program, contact Andrew; his email is listed below.

- ♦ Any questions regarding the religious ed programs, please email Andrew at apitisi@saintbenedicts.com.

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. Our next meeting is December 9th.

SUPPORT ST. BENEDICT'S SCHOOL

- ◆ Gift wrap purchase through December 3.
- ◆ Dare to Dream Poinsettia sale.
- ◆ Poinsettia—pick up dates: December 9 & 10.

ADVENT RETREAT

Mark your calendar to join us on Mondays during Advent at 6:30pm for our joint - parish Advent Retreat! The retreat will begin on Monday, November 29 at St. Leo the Great and then alternate between St. Benedict's and St. Leo's for the following weeks. Join us as we prepare for the birth of Our Savior!

ADVENT PILGRIMAGE

Reminder for those who made reservations for December 3 to *Our Lady of Fatima Shrine*. Bus will leave promptly at 3:00 pm from St. Benedict's parking lot. Please be sure to bring a mask! Any concerns, call Mary & Alan Long 716-837-8940.

FAMILY FIELD TRIP

St. Benedict and St. Leo the Great families are invited December 5th at 5:30pm. to a field trip to *Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Lewiston* to see the Christmas light show. We will be carpooling from the parking lot at St. Leo the Great. Please RSVP to Andrew at apitisi@saintbenedicts.com.

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

December 6, at 6:pm for members of St. Benedict's Rosary Altar & Holy Name Societies hosted at St. Leo's! Cost \$20 per person, includes wine paired with a multi-course gourmet buffet and some surprises! Contact Kathy Sieracki 716-838-4792 for advanced prepaid reservations. Checks payable to St. Benedict Church.
Deadline is Wed., December 1, 2021.

FAMILY ADVENT EVENT "GOD IS CALLING"

Families from St. Benedict and St. Leo the Great are invited on Saturday, December 11, from 10:30am-12:00 pm, to St. Leo the Great Church Parishes, to listen to Fr. David Baker, the Diocesan Vocation Director, speak about how God called Mary and now God calls us to a special and unique mission in our lives. It will be followed by fun activities, several religious Christmas carols, and some yummy Christmas snacks! Hope to see you there!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

We 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. If you are interested in volunteering, to sort clothes, please call Jan and Bob Halt at 834-9968. Our St. Vincent de Paul conference meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the school cafeteria. All are welcome to join us!

YOUNG ADULT PROFESSIONALS

All young adults "YAP" (ages 18-40) are welcome to attend our upcoming events:

"THIN PLACES"

Thursday, December 2 at 6:30 pm in St. Benedict's School Cafeteria. A discussion with Dr. Nancy Nielsen, MD, PhD, former President of the American Medical Association; she will share how she has encountered God in her busy practice as a physician. Discover how you can connect your faith-life to your professional work, through her story and conversation with your peers!



ADVENT CANDLELIGHT MASS

Saturday, December 11, at 7am in the Church. Young adults join us for our annual tradition of the *Rorate Caeli* Mass by candlelight! Fr. Robert Mock will lead this old Advent tradition; where we celebrate Mass in a darkened church lit only by candlelight, which gradually is filled with light as the sun rises.

As we journey towards Christmas to welcome Christ, our Light, we join together in hopeful expectation!



GIFT CARD GIVING TREE

The generosity of the parishioners of St. Benedict's parish has been life changing for many families for over two decades of our Parish Giving Tree project. The Christmas season is a joyous holiday but a difficult one for many. Our Parish Gift Card Giving Tree project will bring that joy to families who are experiencing hardship. This year, we are modifying our giving tree project by asking you to donate gift cards to stores like Target, Walmart, Wegmans, Tops or Aldis, so families can use them to purchase gifts and food for their loved ones. Gift Card or Money envelopes will be on the tree in the back of the church as well as on the walls by the side doors. Cash donations will be converted to gift cards from our local stores for our families. Envelopes may be dropped in the collection baskets at Mass.

Please bring your donations by Sunday, December 12!

We ask your diligence in returning them in time for delivery to the families that week.

Thank you once again and God bless you for your continued generosity!

TIGER'S DEN FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your generous donations every month.

Highlighted items for December: **juice, paper products, tomato paste and crushed tomatoes.**

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, **"St. Ben's folks are magnificent!!!"**

SAINT OF THE DAY

BLESSED RAFAL CHYLINSKI, DECEMBER 2

Born near Buk in the Poznan region of Poland, Melchior Chylinski showed early signs of religious devotion; family members nicknamed him "the little monk." After completing his studies at the Jesuit college in Poznan, Melchior joined the cavalry and was promoted to officer rank within three years.

In 1715, against the urgings of his military comrades, Melchior joined the Conventual Franciscans in Krakow. Receiving the name Rafal, he was ordained two years later. After pastoral assignments in nine cities, he came to Lagiewniki, where he spent the last 13 years of his life, except for 20 months ministering to flood and epidemic victims in Warsaw. In all these places, Rafal was known for his simple and candid sermons, for his generosity, as well as for his ministry in the confessional. People of all levels of society were drawn to the self-sacrificing way he lived out his religious profession and priestly ministry. Rafal played the harp, lute, and mandolin to accompany liturgical hymns. In Lagiewniki, he distributed food, supplies, and clothing to the poor. After his death, the Conventual church in that city became a place of pilgrimage for people throughout Poland. He was beatified in Warsaw in 1991.

Reflection

The sermons preached by Rafal were powerfully reinforced by the living sermon of his life. The Sacrament of Reconciliation can help us bring our daily choices into harmony with our words about Jesus' influence in our lives.

Taken from Fransiscan Media.

Spend some time volunteering during this Holy Season! It will boost your spirits and probably someone else's! Help a family member, a neighbor, a friend, a stranger!

HEALTH & WELLNESS CORNER

DIABETES PREVENTION

More than 1 in 10 adults in the US have Diabetes;
1 in 3 have prediabetes.

Here 4 simple habits to follow to prevent from going from prediabetic status to a full diabetic:

1. Eat more whole food. Meaning - less processed food like pasta, white bread, cookies and more fresh veggies and fruits. Aim for your plate at lunch & dinner to have 50% low-carb veggies (broccoli, asparagus, avocado, green beans, strawberries, watermelon)
2. Find joyful movement. Activities such as walking, dancing, & cleaning such as vacuuming or raking leaves, all count as exercise.
3. Sleep your way to better health. Sleep is very important to your health. Wind down an hour before going to bed by reading a good book, saying a rosary, or listening to soft music.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!"
Benjamin Franklin

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Every first Saturday of the month, (December 4, after the 5:00pm 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 of the illness and to assure them of the prayers and support of the entire faith community in their time of need. 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.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE RELIGIOUS

Give in Gratitude—Show your thanks for the prayerful service of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Your gift to the second collection on December 11 & 12, helps provide care, medicine, and more to our aging religious. Thank you for your support!



CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE!

Decorate this Christmas season with a wreath!

Boy Scout Troop #431 is back selling Christmas wreaths for the 2021 Christmas season! The scouts will be selling wreaths after masses during the weekends of November 27, 28 and December 4 & 5. The cost is \$20.00. We appreciate your support!

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL

Located at 4129 Lake Shore Rd, Hamburg, NY 14075

Tuesday, December 14 at 7:00pm – Instrumental

Christmas Concert in Alumni Hall Theatre, featuring the Concert Band, Jazz Messengers and K-OS

Thursday, December 16 at 7:00pm – Vocal Christmas Concert in Alumni Hall Theatre, featuring the Chorus Classes, Men's Choir & Senior Schola.

All of the performances are **free of charge**.

EWTV PROGRAMMING

EWTV is proud to bring you live Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses from Rome and the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington D.C. Experience inspiring musical performances, specials for children and teens, and new holiday presentations that the whole family will enjoy. Watch or listen to EWTV TV & EWTV Radio on your local channel, online, or even on your cell phone using our free EWTV App! For program times: ewtn.com/tv/schedule. For local TV/Radio stations: ewtn.com/tv/channel-finder.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

SATURDAY November 27

4:00pm Confession

5:00pm Mass

SUNDAY November 28

8:00am Mass

10:00am Mass

MONDAY November 29

7:00am Mass

6:30pm *Advent Retreat starts at St. Leo's.*

TUESDAY November 30

7:00am Mass

6:30pm *RCIA Meeting at St. Leo's.*

WEDNESDAY December 1

7:00am Mass

Deadline for Altar Rosary & Holy Name reservations.

THURSDAY December 2

7:00am Mass

8:00am School Mass

6:30pm *YAP "Thin Places" Presentation in school cafeteria.*

FRIDAY December 3

7:00am Mass

3:00pm *Advent Pilgrimage to Fatima Shrine. Bus leaves St. Ben's parking lot.*

SATURDAY December 4

4:00pm Confession

5:00pm Mass

Anointing of the Sick after Mass.

Boy Scout Wreath sale after Mass.

SUNDAY December 5

8:00am Mass

10:00am Mass

5:30pm *Family Fieldtrip to Our Lady of Fatima Carpool meeting in St. Leo's parking lot.*

Last day for the Boy Scout Wreath sale after Masses.

SANCTUARY CANDLE

In memory of: Chester Kozdroj

Req.: Patty & Bob 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 the parish office or call 834-1041 to check date availability. We are only able to take donations via mail or hand delivery. Thank you for your understanding.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 27

St. Francesco Antonio Fasani

5:00pm Living & Deceased req.: Arthur & Mary
Members of Chabowski Family Warlow

Living & Deceased Fathers

Sunday, November 28

1st Sunday of Advent

8:00am Edward Haynes req.: Janice & Kenneth
Goldstein

10:00am Russell Alessi req.: Judy & Family
10 yr. Anniversary

Living & Deceased Mothers

Monday, November 29

St. Clement

7:00am For the People of St. Benedict

Tuesday, November 30

St. Andrew, Apostle

7:00am Teresa DiVizio req.: Art & Sue Moslow

Wednesday, December 1

St. Charles de Foucauld

7:00am Clemens Halt Anniversary req.: Family

Thursday, December 2

Blessed Rafal Chelinski

7:00am Thomas Limeri req.: Family

8:00am Anna Smith

req: St. Benedict's
School Faculty & Staff

Friday, December 3

St. Francis Xavier

7:00am Special Intention

Saturday, December 4

St. John Damascene

5:00pm Francis Scheda req.: Ruth Scheda

Living & Deceased Fathers

Sunday, December 5

2nd Sunday of Advent

8:00am Ann Guerra req.: Arnold Soeder

10:00am Michael & Louise Scibetta req.: Family

Living & Deceased Mothers

PRAYER LIST

Please pray for the sick & homebound members of our community. Please call the rectory with special requests 716-834-1041.

FINANCIAL FACTS

Weekend of November 14—\$8,215

Due to early submission deadlines, we did not have the amount of donations available from the weekend of November 21. It will be posted in the next bulletin. Thank you for your generosity and your understanding!

MASS INTENTION REQUESTS

Mass intentions are a wonderful way for us to remember our beloved deceased and keep them in our prayers. Each Mass/Mass card is a \$15 donation. You may stop by the rectory between 9:00am-3:00pm.



ST BENEDICT SCHOOL



Drummer Boy Mass
Dec 9th, 11 am Dismissal
Parents of K, 1, 2 and 8th grade invited



Poinsettia PICK UP Thursday DEC. 9th 11 am -5 pm or
Friday, December 10th during school hours 8 am -3 pm

School Happenings...

STREAM Science is underway at school - classes have been doing experiments about electricity working with circuits, building things with Legos, conducting color experiments just to name a few things.



Second grade had a penny drive and received over \$1,366.37 which will be donated to Roswell Park for Breast Cancer Research

The third grade visited the Science Museum to complete a workshop on animal adaptations and explore all the amazing exhibits.

Kindergarten has been working hard this month! We had our first spelling test last week! All of the students did a great job! We have also been learning about different animals and how they move! We acted out different animals and the class had to guess what we were! We are always learning and having fun in K!

St. Leo the Great Breakfast with Santa



**Sunday,
December 12th
8 -11 AM**

at the Parish Center

\$15 Breakfast with Carving Station

\$12 Breakfast—includes eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, fruit, danish, and refreshment

\$5 Kids' Breakfast—children under 10

Children under 4—free

Special for the kids:

Silver dollar pancakes with chocolate chips
Giveaway from Santa

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