

SAINT BENEDICT

1317 Eggert Road
Amherst, NY 14226
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THE HOLY FAMILY

GIO

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCC.

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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.

December 26, 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:

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 Wendel834-1041
Eucharistic Ministers: Dolores Byron.....833-8030
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 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

BE STILL IN SILENCE

You're going to think that I am nuts! BUT during this season of celebration, joy and happiness, I am calling for *silence*. In the midst of the noise and all the commotion of this time of year – say nothing. We need to sit in silence! Why? What is left to be said - when we stand before the quiet scene of Bethlehem, realizing the length and distance that our God has gone to proclaim His love for us and redeem us?

St. Francis of Assisi calls it the “poverty” of God. He has completely emptied himself to become one like us – given up everything - so that we can become one with Him. After all that we have gone through – after our struggles to find Bethlehem – what is there to say?

*Sit in the silence of your heart;
marvel at God's love for you!*

What we need most in order to make progress
is to be silent before this great God
with our appetite and with our tongue,
for the language He best hears is silent love.

St John of the Cross, OCD

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 January 4, at 6:30pm.

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 January 24 at 9:00am.

CONFIRMATION MEETING

For all candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation, the next meeting is January 30, at 6:30pm, St. Benedict Church.

PRE CANA

Any married couples interested in helping or learning more about our Pre Cana program, contact Andrew.

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

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

All men of our parish are invited to consider being part of our Men's Prayer Group. We meet on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00PM at St. Benedict's Rectory. January 13 is the next meeting. Hope to see you there!

CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

The Christmas celebrations in our parish were a wonderful expression of our faith and a source of blessings for us all. Our parish is grateful to all who have helped make the celebrations so memorable: the altar servers, ushers, lectors and Eucharistic ministers, those who decorated our church, chapel and gathering space, Melissa Herr and the choir, the contemporary music group, the parish maintenance staff, the technology ministers, the family who coordinated the presentation by the children at the Christmas Vigil Mass, and those who counted the collections over the holidays, the Eucharistic ministers who took Communion to parishioners who are homebound, the Giving Tree committee and all who donated to the needy in our community, the St. Vincent De Paul Society, which distributed food to the hungry, the parish office staff for all of their extra efforts and all those who volunteered for our Pancake breakfast with Santa.

Thanks too, to all who sent cards and notes of Christmas greetings. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated! May God bless you and all parishioners, as we begin a New Year together as a parish family. Please know of our prayers, as we rely on yours as well.

Gratefully,

Msgr. Zapfel & Fr. Gatto



RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE OF ST. LEO THE GREAT



The Christmas story chronicles the life of Jesus in the womb of Mary and His birth in a stable. It draws our attention to the humanity of the unborn child and God's great love and place for each and every baby, regardless of the circumstances of the child's conception or birth.

"The word was made flesh and dwelled among us," St. John's Gospel states. Perhaps if we could look at each unborn child as a word from God, we would be less likely to destroy those children – each one has a unique message to share with the world. Mary knew the trials and tribulations of an unplanned pregnancy, but she also knew that the baby growing inside her was a gift from God. All pregnancies are gifts from God. On December 28th, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Innocents. **Today, the struggle to save innocent lives continues.**

Let us pray to the Christ Child, whose birth heralds' victory over death. Lord, rescue the innocents threatened by abortion, embryo killing research and euthanasia and bring justice for your people in the year 2022.

As we worship at the crib of the newborn Jesus, we pray for all those whose lives are threatened by abortion.

St. Leo the Great's respect Life Committee wishes all a blessed and joyous Christmas and healthy New Year!

CALLED TO SERVE

Reflections on Christian Leadership

Join CJ Wild, Seminarian, at Our Lady of Pompeii Parish at 129 Laverack Ave., Lancaster on January 3, 2022 from 7-8pm for their free monthly Faith Enrichment Series.

THE HOLY INNOCENTS, December 28



Matthew 2:1-18 tells this story: Herod was "greatly troubled" when astrologers from the east came asking the whereabouts of "the newborn king of the Jews," whose star they had seen... Herod cunningly told them to report back to him so that he could also "do him homage." They found Jesus, offered him their gifts, and warned by an angel, avoided Herod on their way home... Herod became furious and "ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem...two years old and under." The horror of the massacre and the devastation of the mothers and fathers led Matthew to quote Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children..." (Matthew 2:18)

Reflection - The Holy Innocents are few in comparison to the genocide and abortion of our day. But even if there had been only one, we recognize the greatest treasure God put on the earth—a human person, destined for eternity, and graced by Jesus' death and resurrection.

Patron Saints of: Babies

2022 DARE TO DREAM DRAWING

Help support St. Benedict School! Tickets are now on sale. The drawing will be held on March 12.

Tickets can be purchased at the school or online at <https://stbens.cbqo.io>. A \$25.00 donation enters you into a chance to win \$10,000.00. Other prizes include a second prize for \$2,500, the third prize of \$500, 4th -5th prizes of \$250 and lastly, 6th - 10th prizes of \$100.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

St. Leo the Great Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, January 9, from 8:00am-11:00am, in the Parish Center. Cost is \$15 with carving station, \$12 includes; eggs, sausage, bacon, potatoes, fruit, danish, refreshments.

Children under 10—\$5. Children under 4 are free.

For more information call 716-835-8905 or visit the website: StLeoTheGreatAmherst.com

TIGER'S DEN FOOD PANTRY

Help ease the burden for many. Highlighted items for January: personal care items like **shampoo, toothpaste, body lotion, conditioner, deodorants** Donation boxes are at the entries to the church or drop off at the rectory.

HEALTH & WELLNESS CORNER

Are you ready for the next weather emergency?

Best to be prepared. Some things to have on reserve are:

- Easy to store & easy to prepare foods. You should keep a supply that can feed your household for 3-7 days. Buy a few items each week to build up your supply.
- Bottled water - 2 gallons per person per day, in case your water gets contaminated or a pipe bursts, etc.
- Emergency supplies like flashlights, extra batteries, a manual can opener. Be sure to have your cell phone completely charged.
- A week supply of medication. (The Health Ministry table in the church provides emergency checklists.)

We Proclaimed Glad Tidings of Great Joy – A Savior Has Been Born to Us!

They all came from far and wide, led by a star that guided them to that holy place where they found the Child and mother. Our parish family wishes to share with you the joy of this Holy Season and pray that the Christ Child will bring you and your loved ones countless blessing in the new year! We welcome you as we believe Jesus would welcome you - with open arms, with open hearts and open minds. We believe that the Holy Spirit of Jesus and the Father is present here in our faith community and we are honored to share the grace of God's love with you, especially as we celebrate the perfect expression of God's love for us in the birth of Jesus.

We welcome you as you are, as God loves you. All of us are graced by God with talents and abilities, with opportunities each day to know, love and serve Him. All of us are broken in some way as well. Each of us needs the compassion of God, the forgiveness of God, the peace which only God can give. You will find your needs met here.

Perhaps you came to church this weekend looking for a new start in life. What better place? What better time? Here in God's house, all are welcome. You belong here! At Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of Christ and the new start in life for the world, perhaps the Lord is tugging on your heart to begin in a new, profound way your relationship with Him. We have so many opportunities to grow in faith, please let us know how we can help you let the Lord enter more fully into your life.

Perhaps you have been away from the Church for a while. Are you at peace? Is something missing? Do you just go from day to day without direction or real meaning in your life? Please take a step in the right direction – please give this parish family the opportunity to help you begin a new chapter in your life; a chapter where the Lord wants to walk with you. We can help you take the first steps; we are ready to help you listen to your heart.

Christmas is all about new beginnings. We all need that at different times in our lives. Is Jesus speaking to your heart this Christmas? Please tell us how we can be of help to you. You are always welcome here. Information about our parish is available in the bulletin and our website saintbenedicts.com. Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year!

Our parish family is praying for you.

Rev. Msgr. Robert E. Zapfel
Pastor

Rev. Joseph C. Gatto
Senior Parochial Vicar

QUESTIONS?

Please call us at 716-834-1041 or tear fill out this section of this sheet and place it in the collection basket, drop it in the mail: St. Benedict Church, Amherst, NY 14226, or give it to one of the ushers. We would be happy to call you.

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Best time to call _____

I have questions about (optional)



GIVING TREE is GIVING THANKS!

The generosity and love this parish shows for any and all outreach opportunities is amazing! Thank you to everyone who donated gift cards, money and time to make this year's Giving Tree an AMAZING success! Through St. Benedict's Giving Tree, we were able to make

Christmas a lot brighter for 17 families!

May God bless you all for this heart of service and act of love.

Sincerely,

Judy Pasternak Brodka and Andrew Apitisi

PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE

www.facebook.com/StBenedictsAmherst. Take a tour of St. Benedict Parish. Visit behind the scenes with the adventurous duo: Maria and Andrew; catch up on current church events or join in prayer with others.

THANK YOU FROM THE RETIRED RELIGIOUS

A sister writes, "Our prayers belong most of all to the generous benefactors whose donations have made this financial assistance possible." Thank you for supporting the Retirement Fund for the Religious Collection. You can visit retiredreligious.org to learn how your gift supports elderly sisters, brothers and religious order priests.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

SATURDAY December 25

Christmas Day Masses:

8:00am

10:00am

5:00pm *Holy Family Vigil Mass*

SUNDAY December 26

Holy Family Masses:

8:00am Mass

10:00am Mass

MONDAY December 27

7:00am Mass

TUESDAY December 28

7:00am Mass

WEDNESDAY December 29

7:00am Mass

THURSDAY December 30

7:00am Mass

FRIDAY December 31

7:00am Weekday Mass

5:00pm *Vigil Solemnity of Mary Mother of God
Rectory will be closed.*

SATURDAY January 1

9:00am *Solemnity of Mary Mother of God*

5:00pm *Vigil Mass The Epiphany
Anointing of the Sick after Mass.*

SUNDAY January 2

The Epiphany of Our Lord

8:00am Mass

10:00am Mass

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. 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.

PRAYER LIST

Mr. Valentine Lesniak, Residents of Kentucky

Please keep the sick and homebound in your prayers and call the rectory with special requests 716-834-1041.

✦ January 31 the rectory will be closed
in observance of New Year's Day.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 25 **Nativity or the Lord**
8:00am Living & Deceased Members Req.: Divizio
of Divizio Family Family

10:00am Saviola & Cartonia Req.: Mark, Marlene,
Families Stephanie & Bridget

5:00pm Frank Ferro Req.: Tom & Shelly Reidy
Living and Deceased Fathers

Sunday, December 26 **The Holy Family**
8:00am Margaret Scalise Req.: Toni Danzi

10:00am Loretta Haynes Req.: Jay & Amy Roeder
Living & Deceased Mothers

Monday, December 27 **St. John the Apostle**
7:00am Eugene C. Tenney Req.: Family

Tuesday, December 28 **The Holy Innocents**
7:00am Francis X. Schwab Req.: Wife, Sandi

Wednesday, December 29 **St. Thomas Becket,
Bishop, Martyr**
7:00am Jean Cummings Req.: Alan & Mary Long

Thursday, December 30 **St Egwin**
7:00am Michael Vacanti Req.: Jim & Dolores Byron

Friday, December 31 **St. Sylvester I**
7:00am Antonio & Mary Req.: Family
Gagliardi

5:00pm Jim Deal Req: Art & Mary Warlow

Saturday, January 1 **Mary the Holy Mother
of God**
9:00am Jessica Marie Caputi Req.: Michele Secor

5:00pm Anthony Thomas Req.: Elizabeth Windringer
Living & Deceased Fathers

Sunday, January 2 **The Epiphany of the Lord**
8:00am Loretta Haynes Req.: Mr. & Mrs. Charles
Privitera

10:00am Richard Wiley Req.: Art & Sue Moslow
Living & Deceased Mothers

MASS INTENTION REQUESTS

Mass intentions are a wonderful way to remember our beloved deceased and keep them in our prayers. Masses available throughout the year. Each Mass/Mass card is a donation of \$15. Stop by the rectory, 9:00am-3:00pm, to schedule a Mass. The Mass book is filling up quickly.

FINANCIAL FACTS

*Weekend of December 12—Weekly Offertory \$6,868
Thank you for your generosity!*



ST BENEDICT SCHOOL

Many thanks go out to the families and alumni that have contributed to our 100th Anniversary Scholarship Appeal for more information or to donate please visit stbenschool.org/make-a-donation/

Tigers for Life

Abdallah Abou-Jaoude
Katie & Anthony Agostino
Peter Badame
Richard Barone
John Barron
Joyce Bayer
Matin Bealer
Matthew Bellittiere
Dion Benzino
John & Carol Bond
Michael Bowser
Micahel & Amy Bradley
Judith Pasternak Brodka
Donald & Ann Brown
James & Dolores Byron
Timothy Byron
Antoinette Calarco
Mary Carroll
Kathryn Carroll
Paul Cheny, Jr.
Charles & Kathleen Cimasi
Michael Cimasi, Esq.
David & Mary Coroglio
Mark & Sandra Costanza
Virginia Daetsch
Michael Darrow
Peggy Dedman
Virginia Deinzer
Colleen Dengler
Donna Drilling
Nancy Druar

Michael & Margaret Duggan
Joseph & Elizabeth
Eisenhauer
Elnicky Family
James Gallery
Richard Gian
Herbert Glose
Audrey & Robert Glover
William Good
Lynne Graves-Towers
Manny Guevera
Brian & Bridget Gwitt
Maureen & Tim Henderson
Chris & Jessica Henel
Marcia & Michael Horning
Claudia Huben
Terry Jerge
Bruce & Kathleen Karas
Danielle Keating
Kenneth Kirby
Madonna Kissell-Starr
Michael LaFever
Michael & Rosemary
LaMancuso
William & Patty Lawley
Michael & Maureen Lindner
Valentine Lesniak
Mary Long
Patrick Lucey
Maureen & Kevin Matthew
Meghan Mullen

Tim & Katy O'Mara
Nancy Ortolano
Brian Pavlock
Karen & Richard Penfold
Pristach Family
James Rahill
Therese Rivard
Diane Rodman
Ann Salter
Francis Sansone
Marlene & Danielle Schaefer
Jane & Gerald Schaefer
John Schlum
Richard Schueckler
Mollie Schrader
Donald Seitz
Ed Shepard
Arnold Soeder
Ellen & Sean Spencer
Gerald Strobel
Amy Strom
Wanda Sullivan
Christopher Tirabassi
Joseph Tuk
Carol Tunnah
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