

SAINT BENEDICT

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



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Liberator for Mass ©2001, 1990, 1975 CCD

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January 2, 2022

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. Pastor

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 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 SEEK, LOVE AND SERVE

As we begin our New Year, I wish to share with you a prayer from St. Augustine:

O God, it is you alone I love, you alone I follow,
You alone I seek, you alone I am ready to serve.
Heal and open my ears that I may hear your voice.
Heal and open my eyes that I may see your will.
Tell me where to look that I may see you, and I
will place my hope in doing your will. Amen

Throughout the coming year, we will have countless opportunities to offer this prayer, numerous events that will pull us down on our knees and others that will challenge our faith. We will face moments of life and death, crisis and celebrations. We will question ourselves and doubt others; while at the same time, we will embrace family and friends, while casting a cautious eye toward those that have hurt us. In the midst of it all, let us remember the words of St. Augustine—that in and through it all, there is only one that we seek, love and serve...
God Alone.

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

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

Married couples interested in helping or learning more about our Pre Cana program, please 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 parishes were a wonderful expression of our faith and a source of blessings for us all. Our parishes are 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, Maria Chomicka, 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



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

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.

A BIG THANK YOU BOTTLES FOR BABIES

Harvest House sends a great big thank you and God bless to all the parishioners for their generous support. The last bunch of bottles contained \$328.88! Last year, 5,551 children were provided with basic items such as socks, underwear, coats, and cribs—free of charge. Harvest House has been overwhelmed by request for services and this gift helps make a difference!

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 information call 716-835-8905 or visit their website.

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.

"FIAT"

St. Gregory the Great Parish invites you to join them for FIAT, their monthly Eucharistic Conference on Saturday, January 8 at 7pm in the church. Fr. Dan Young, Pastor of Good Shepherd, will share the life of Fr. Nelson Baker.

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. Next meeting is January 18, at 6:30pm in the school cafeteria. All are welcome!

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.)

THE EPIPHANY, January 2



They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **Matthew 2:11**

Matthew 2:1 says, “When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to “Jerusalem.” As we can see, Matthew never says that the Magi were present at Jesus’ birth. He only says that “in the days of Herod the king” the Magi came to Jerusalem, not Bethlehem. By the way, Matthew never said there were three magi. That’s a pious tradition that developed later based on the three gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh that the magi brought Jesus. Matthew does tell us that after the Magi failed to return to Herod after visiting Jesus, Herod ordered all of Bethlehem’s male children under the age of two to be killed.

If the Magi had gone the six miles from Jerusalem to visit the newborn Jesus in Bethlehem and failed to return after a few days, then why would Herod need to kill toddlers? This implies that much more time had passed between Jesus’ birth and the Magi failing to return to Herod, thus motivating Herod’s plan to kill any child who could be the young king, who, by the time of the issuance of this decree, might have been two years old.

Matthew 2:11 says of the magi, “going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him.” If Jesus was a toddler when the magi visited, then the Holy Family were either permanently residing in Bethlehem after Christ’s birth before they later settled in Nazareth or they were temporarily residing there, possibly with relatives, while they were away from their home in Nazareth. Either way, the detail about the magi’s visit is not a contradiction. Instead, it is a revelation of how God was made known, or became an epiphany, not just for a few people in Israel, but for the whole world. Through this manifestation of the Incarnation all people could eventually rejoice in the birth of God their savior.

Taken from Catholic Answers, Trent Horn

Why give Jesus gold, frankincense, and myrrh?

In giving the infant Jesus gold and frankincense, the Magi evoke Isaiah 60:3, in which Gentile nations bring these gifts to the God of Israel ... In addition, myrrh is an oil that was used to consecrate levitical priests and the wilderness tabernacle, the forerunner to the temple in Jerusalem (Ex. 30:23-33). Myrrh was also used as a burial ointment.

In the allegorical...sense, St. Irenaeus says that the gifts signify the mystery of the Incarnate Word (God who has become man):

Gold, a symbol of royalty, represents his kingship;
Frankincense, used in worship, points to his divinity;
Myrrh, represents his humanity, particularly in his passion and death ...

Taken from Catholic Answers, Tom Nash

NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION

Pray more, complain less, step outside your comfort zone and make a positive change in yourself and in the world around you!

Happy New Year 2022!

PROLIFE NEWS

Dobbs and Jackson is a landmark case that could potentially overturn the decision of Roe V. Wade. On December 1, 2021 oral arguments for the case were heard by the Supreme Court. A decision is expected in June 2022. Pray and fast in the hopes that, on the 50th anniversary, January 22, 2023, of Roe v Wade, will have been overturned.



FETAL DEVELOPMENT: FIRST TRIMESTER

Weeks 1-4 Conception occurs when the male and female gametes unite. The embryo implants in the endometrium. A neural tube forms; it will ultimately become the brain and spinal cord. The circulatory system rapidly forms (including the umbilical cord), the heart begins to beat by day 21.

Week 5 Hands and wrist joints are forming. All cranial nerves are now present, and limb nerves are forming. Subtle movement begins.

Week 6 Brainwave activity has begun. Arm and leg bones form, along with tooth buds. Eye lids are present and growing and a primitive nasal cavity forms. Vital organs are continuing to form, including the kidneys, liver, pancreas, lungs, stomach, and intestines.

Week 7 The head rotates and legs move; the baby is also able to hiccup. Hands can touch each other and fingers can overlap. The heart, which began beating weeks ago, is nearly complete and is beating very quickly now (peaking between 165 and 170 beats per minute). Feet begin to have tiny notches that will become toes, and knee joints form.

Week 8 Hair appears around eyebrows and mouth. Urine production and release begins. Joints are similar to those of an adult. Fingers and toes are webbed and short but continuing to grow. Eyelids are completely fused together.

Week 9 The head is now much larger than the rest of the body. The baby can suck his/her thumb and move the tongue. Early vocal cords are present and the baby begins to yawn.

All that in just 2 months & 1 week!

Taken from Students for Life of America -Young Professionals for Life

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.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

SATURDAY January 1

9:00am Solemnity of Mary Mass

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

SUNDAY January 2

The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00am Mass

10:00am Mass

MONDAY January 3

7:00am Mass

TUESDAY January 4

7:00am Mass

6:30pm RCIA Meeting

WEDNESDAY January 5

7:00am Mass

THURSDAY January 6

7:00am Mass

8:00am School Mass

6:30pm Parent meeting for First Reconciliation
In the church.

FRIDAY January 7

7:00am Mass

SATURDAY January 8

5:00pm Mass

SUNDAY January 9

8:00am Mass

10:00am Mass

8:00am-11:00am St. Leo the Great Pancake Breakfast

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Epiphany of the Lord

8:00am Loretta Haynes

Req.: Mr. & Mrs. Charles
Privatera

10:00am Richard Wiley

Req.: Art & Sue Moslow

Living & Deceased Mothers

Monday, January 3

Most Holy Name of Jesus

7:00am For the People of
St. Benedict's

Req.: Msgr. Zapfel

Tuesday, January 4

Elizabeth Ann Seton

7:00am Special Intention

Wednesday, January 5

St. John Neumann,
Bishop

7:00am All Souls Day Intentions

Thursday, January 6

St. Andre Bessette

7:00am Jean Cummings

Req.: Rosary Altar Society

8:00am Edward Hayes

Req.: Arnold Soeder

Friday, January 7

St. Raymond
Penafort

7:00am Thomas Beilman

Req.: Ray & Donna Stall

Saturday, January 8

St. Angela Foligno

5:00pm Ralph Piscitello

Req.: Debbie & Mark
Piscitello

Living & Deceased Fathers

Sunday, January 9

Baptism of the Lord

8:00am Rosary Altar &
Holy Name Societies

10:00am Michael & Elizabeth
Rotola

Req.: Andrew, Michael,
& Lynn Rotola

Living & Deceased Mothers

SANCTUARY CANDLE

Special Intentions: Rich & Donna Mathner

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.

FINANCIAL FACTS

Weekend of December 19—Weekly Offertory \$7,511

Thank you for your generosity!

Due to early submission of the bulletin, weekly offertory amounts will be published next bulletin.

Thank you for your understanding.

MASS INTENTION REQUESTS

Mass intentions are a wonderful way to remember our beloved deceased and keep them in our prayers. Masses are 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. (In person scheduling of a Mass is preferred.) The new Mass book is filling up quickly!

PRAYER LIST

Those struggling with covid, Residents of Kentucky
Please keep the sick and homebound in your prayers and call the rectory with special requests 716-834-1041.



ST BENEDICT SCHOOL

Open House Sunday, January, 30th 10:30-12:30
Accepting Applications for PK3 - Grade 8
 Register for a grade level Zoom or schedule a private tour during Catholic Schools Week
 Register Online
www.stbenschool.org

SAINT BENEDICT
1921 + 2021

Dare to Dream tickets are on sale, please consider supporting the school and taking a chance on winning the Grand Prize...

2022 DARE TO DREAM DRAWING

Saturday, March 12, 2022

Winner Need Not Be Present to Win

Grand Prize	\$10,000
Second Prize	\$2,500
Third Prize	\$500
Fourth and Fifth Prize	\$250
Sixth through Tenth Prize	\$100



To purchase tickets visit <https://stbens.cbo.io>
Checks made payable to: St. Benedict Dare to Dream



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