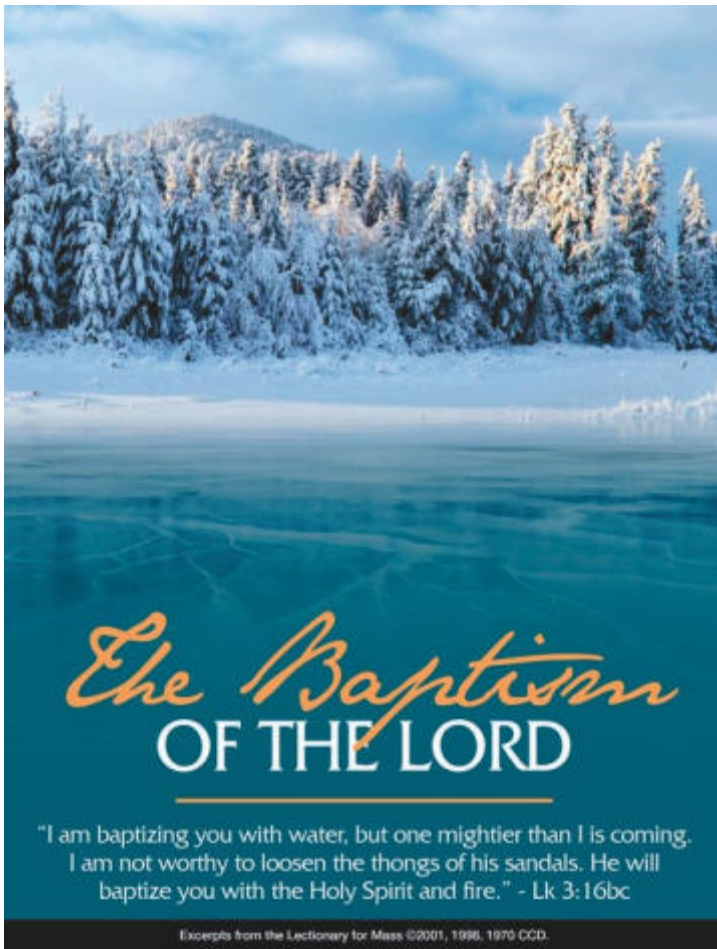


SAINT BENEDICT

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



January 9, 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 Delaney.....832-9230
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 Bekak.....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

I am thankful to a good friend who sent this to me last week, written by Howard Thurman:

When the star in the sky is gone,
When the Kings and Princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost
To heal the broken
To feed the hungry
To release the prisoner
To teach the nations
To bring Christ to all
To make music in the heart

Now the real work of Christmas begins. As we enter into this "ordinary time" of the year, let us live lives that declare to everyone that we have been to the manger; we have seen the Child; we believe that Love has been born to us!

As individuals, as a parish, let us wholeheartedly commit ourselves to being the heralds of the miracle of Bethlehem – to the nation, our neighborhoods, homes and families! They are waiting and in need of the Good News that a Savior has been born for them. Through us, He will find, heal, feed, release, teach and make a joyful song... to bring all to Himself... through us!

Let us get to work!

FIRST RECONCILIATION UPDATE:

Our first learning session will be held on January 30, 2022, please attend 10am Mass and we will gather in the Church right after to learn together and share together until 12:20pm. If you have a child or children in 2nd grade, they are eligible to begin working towards this Sacrament. If you have not gotten the material for this sacrament, please come to the first meeting and stay after and Andrew will get you set up.

FIRST COMMUNION:

Our first Parent meeting will be held on January 20, 2022 @ 6:30pm in the Church. If your Child is in 3rd grade has received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and would like to continue the process of receiving First Eucharist, you should attend. New material and information will be given at that time.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH:

Our next session is on January 23, 2022 @ 9am. Please pay attention to the bulletin and your emails for more information. As we may have to adjust our schedule, due to Covid, to protect our participants.

CONFIRMATION:

Our next meeting will be held on January 30, 2022 starting with 10am Mass and then our regular session until 12:30pm in the Cafeteria.

RCIA UPDATE:

We are excited to have six candidates for Sacraments for this upcoming Easter Vigil! Our team is always looking to add new members; so, if you are interested in being a part of this awesome process, please contact me, Andrew, at apitisi@saintbenedicts.com. Our next meeting will be held on January 18, 2022 @ St. Benedict, 6:30pm. If you have not received any of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Holy Eucharist or Confirmation, or if you are returning to the Church after an absence, or if you want to just learn and talk about the Catholic Faith you are welcome to join us!

MEN'S GROUP UPDATE:

We will meet on January 13, 2022 @ 7pm in the Cafeteria of the School. All Men 21 years or older are welcome to join us. This month we will have a guest speaker.

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.



STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE

Our high school youth group plans to participate in the Steubenville Catholic Youth Conference July 8-10, 2022, at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio. Those who will be in Gr. 9-12 in 2022-23 are welcome to attend. The cost per youth is \$245 plus travel expenses, but we anticipate lowering the cost greatly through fundraising. **A \$50 deposit is due by January 24th.** This is a transformational experience in a totally Catholic setting. Donations are very much appreciated! Please contact Michael at St. Leo the Great's parish office for more information 716-835-8905.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Ever feel like you needed to talk to someone about something going on in your life? St. Benedict has 5 fully trained Stephen ministers ready to lend a listening ear and offer prayers for you. Call 716-836-6444.

HEALTH & WELLNESS CORNER Opioid Overdose & Narcan Training

Erie County Department of Health is offering training to recognize the signs of opioid overdose and use of Narcan to reverse an overdose. Virtual training will be held on Saturday at 9am Jan 22 and Thursday Jan 20. Sign up at <http://www.erie.gov/opioidtrainings>.

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.

TAX TIME

If you would like a copy of your 2021 Church Contribution Statement, please contact St. Benedict's Rectory at 716-834-1014 or rectory@saintbenedicts.com. We will be glad to provide it for you via email, mail or in person pick up at the rectory. Advanced notice is appreciated.

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 friends who visit our page. Be sure to "LIKE" us.

HOPE AFTER HEARTACHE

Buffalo Catholic Cemeteries offers a grief support program for those who have lost a loved one which includes three locations and four meeting choices per month, including a widow and widowers group. This program is presented as part of the Grief Support Program of the Buffalo Catholic Cemeteries, Buffalo Diocese. Open to the community at no charge. Call Marianne Hubert, Director of Grief Support, 716-873-6500, for a brochure of grief support times and locations, as well as other activities, or request information by email to: mhubert@buffalocatholiccemeteries.org.

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. Many thanks to the parishioners of St. Benedict!

SAINT OF THE DAY

St. Paul, the Hermit, January 15

It is unclear what we really know of Paul's life, how much is fable, how much is fact. Paul was reportedly born in Egypt, where he was orphaned by age 15. He was also a learned and devout young man. During the persecution of Decius in Egypt in the year 250, Paul was forced to hide in the home of a friend. Fearing a brother-in-law would betray him, he fled in a cave in the desert. His plan was to return once the persecution ended, but the sweetness of solitude and heavenly contemplation convinced him to stay.

He went on to live in that cave for the next 90 years. A nearby spring gave him drink, a palm tree furnished him clothing and nourishment. After 21 years of solitude, a bird began bringing him half of a loaf of bread each day. Without knowing what was happening in the world, Paul prayed that the world would become a better place.

Saint Anthony of Egypt attests to his holy life and death. Tempted by the thought that no one had served God in the wilderness longer than he, Anthony was led by God to find Paul and acknowledge him as a man more perfect than himself. The raven that day brought a whole loaf of bread instead of the usual half. As Paul predicted, Anthony would return to bury his new friend.

Thought to have been about 112 when he died, Paul is known as the "First Hermit." His feast day is celebrated in the East; he is also commemorated in the Coptic and Armenian rites of the Mass.

Reflection

The will and direction of God are seen in the circumstances of our lives. Led by the grace of God, we are free to respond with choices that bring us closer to and make us more dependent upon the God who created us. Those choices might at times seem to lead us away from our neighbor. But ultimately they lead us back both in prayer and in fellowship to one another.

Taken from FranciscanMedia.org

PROJECT RACHEL

A ministry of the Catholic Church in the U.S. for men & women who have been involved in abortion. It offers hope and healing. It is a diocesan-based network of specially trained priests, religious, counselors, & laypersons who provide a team response of care for those suffering in the aftermath of abortion...the ministry provides an integrated network of services i.e. pastoral counseling, support groups, retreats & referrals to licensed mental health professionals. (USCCB website)

Martin Luther King Day

The Rectory will be closed on January 17, 2022 in observance of this federal holiday. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is the only national holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities, according to the corporation for National & Community Service.

Taken from: Officeholidays.com

Side note: His niece, Alveda King, is very active in the Pro-life Movement. (EWTN)

NEW YEAR—BETTER YOU

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, of Roe v Wade, January 22, 2023, will have been overturned.

MARCH FOR LIFE

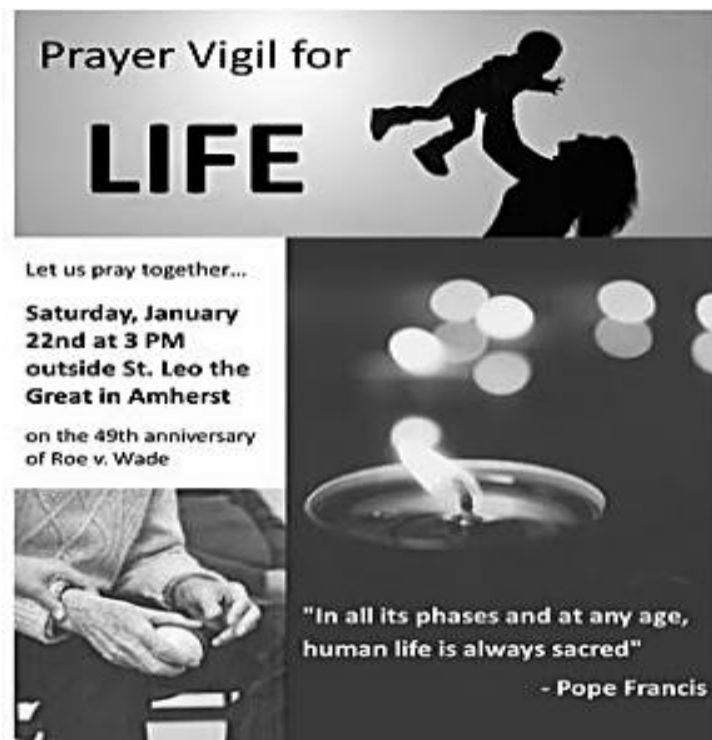
The mission of the March for Life is to unite, equip and mobilize pro-life Americans in the public square. The March for Life was founded in 1973 as a result of two Supreme Court cases, *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*, which legalized elective abortion through all nine months of pregnancy in all fifty states. The organization works for the day that abortion will become unthinkable in the United States! This year's March for Life takes place on January 21, 2022 in Washington, DC.

The theme for the upcoming March for Life is "Equality Begins in the Womb".

Taken from Marchforlife.org.

An estimated 62,000,000 babies' lives have been taken by abortion since Roe V. Wade took place in 1973.

Taken from 40Daysforlife.com



Prayer Vigil for
LIFE

Let us pray together...

Saturday, January 22nd at 3 PM
outside St. Leo the Great in Amherst

on the 49th anniversary
of Roe v. Wade

"In all its phases and at any age,
human life is always sacred"

- Pope Francis

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

SATURDAY January 8

4:00pm Confession

5:00pm Mass

SUNDAY January 9

8:00am Mass

10:00am Mass

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

MONDAY January 10

7:00am Mass

TUESDAY January 11

7:00am Mass

WEDNESDAY January 12

7:00am Mass

THURSDAY January 13

7:00am Mass

7:00pm Men's Group Meeting in St. Benedict's School Cafeteria

FRIDAY January 14

7:00am Mass

SATURDAY January 15

4:00pm Confession

5:00pm Mass

SUNDAY January 16

8:00am Mass

10:00am Mass

SANCTUARY CANDLE

*In Memory of: Heather Anne O'Loughlin
Req.: Bill O'Loughlin and 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.

FINANCIAL FACTS

Christmas Day Collection—\$12,546

December 26—Weekly Offertory \$7,605

January 2—Weekly offertory \$ 5,865

It was through your donations that we were able to provide such a beautiful worship environment for St. Benedict's congregation for the Christmas Holy Season! Thank you!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 8

5:00pm Ralph Piscitello

St. Angela Foligno

Req.: Debbie & Mark Piscitello

Living & Deceased Fathers

Sunday, January 9

8:00am Rosary Altar & Holy Name Societies

Baptism of the Lord

10:00am Michael & Elizabeth Rotola

Req.: Andrew, Michael, & Lynn Rotola

Living & Deceased Mothers

Monday, January 10

7:00am Charlie Gordon

St. Gregory of Nyssa

Req.: Jim & Dolores Byron

Tuesday, January 11

7:00am Deceased Members of Rotola Family

Blessed William Carter

Req.: Andrew Rotola

Wednesday, January 12

7:00am Jean Cummings

St. Margaruerite

Req.: Art & Sue Moslow

Thursday, January 13

7:00am Living & Deceased Members of DiVizio Family

St. Hilary

Req.: DiVizio Family

Friday, January 14

7:00am Thomas Giambra

Weekday

Req.: Mr. & Mrs. Privitera

Saturday, January 15

5:00pm Sally Macaluso

St. Paul, the Hermit

Req.: Nancy Ortolano

Living & Deceased Fathers

Sunday, January 16

8:00am Thomas Beilman

Req.: Art & Sue Moslow

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00am Julia M. Hannon

Req.: Cynthia Manzo

Living & Deceased Mothers

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

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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