



## ST. BENEDICT PARISH

80 S. LYNN, WATERFORD, MI | 248.681.1534 | STBENZ80@GMAIL.COM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi"—which translated means Teacher— "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." - Jn 1:38-39a



## REMEMBER *in your prayers*

### PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS...

Judy DeKyser, Marge Flanigan, Phil Hanson, James Hildebrand, Kathy Lauinger, Alben Lipar, Nellie Mojica, Stan Slavsky, Mike Somerville, Norma Swift, Linda Tongko, Wally Wetherbee.

#### ...Loved ones who are ill and in need of prayer:

Kate Banaszek, Bryan Green, Heather Halls, Robyn Hamilton, Jennifer Harmon, Maureen Hubble, Ethel Jaruzel, Dennis Jaruzel, John Kleinschmidt Jr., Joy Long, Janel Nadeau, Sebastian Vincent, Alan Ratcliff, Gary Sheipline, Suzie Skidmore, Susan Smith, Rosemary Tovey, Samuel Walker Sr. Names run four weeks. To re-list, please call 248-681-1534.

...For all active military personnel from our parish family: Keith Armstrong, Max Evans, Jon Hamel, Daniel D. McKinstry, Don Meyer, James Watson, Jr.

### 24 HOUR PRAYER LINE...

Nuns of the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament have a twenty-four hour prayer line. Even if your call goes to voicemail, the Sisters are attentive to begin the requested prayers promptly. The prayer line phone number is 248-626-8253.

### PRAYER & MILITARY LIST UPDATE...

Please remember to contact the Parish Office for any updates on your loved ones you have listed on our Prayer and Military list.

We are not always aware of someone's entry or completion of duty into our armed forces. Thank you for keeping our lists accurate.

### FUNERAL NOTIFICATION...

We developed a notification system to alert parishioners of funeral Masses to be held at the church for our St. Benedict parishioners.

If you would like to be added to a notification list, please complete the information below. You may drop it in the collection basket, bring it to the parish center or mail it to us.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

List your email address (one email per household):  
\_\_\_\_\_

PH: \_\_\_\_\_



Monday, January 18

Martin Luther King Day

12:15 p.m. - Dave Cascarelli req family

Tuesday, January 19

12:15 p.m. - \*Special Intention Suzie Skidmore req friend

Wednesday, January 20

St. Fabian, Pope & Martyr, St. Sebastian, Martyr

12:15 p.m. - Paul & Joe Felice req family

Thursday, January 21

St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

12:15 p.m. - \*Special Intention Eva Maciag req family

\*Special Intention Sherry Showers req family

Friday, January 22

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn

12:15 p.m. - \*Special Intention Julie Mazza req family

Saturday, January 23

St. Vincent, Deacon & Martyr;

St. Marianne Cope, Virgin

4:00 p.m. - Guilio Bernero req Jon & Susan Herzfeld

William A. Hanson req Suzanne Hanson

Nripen Nandi req Maureen Nandi

Edmund Scheetts req Jerry & Barb Baumgart

Sunday, January 24 (Fr. Ytsen)

9:00 a.m. - Mary Stevenson req

Gerry & Paula Stevenson

11:00 a.m. - Pham family req Roman family

Charlie Whiting req Brenda Savage



### JIM'S GEMS...

With a hankering to be in better "touch" with you these chilly Covid days, I would like to set-up Zoom fireside chats with you.

Our first chat will be Tues., Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Call the parish office regarding connecting up with us.

As of this writing, I am not sure if we will be doing an hour or half-hour chats. I would like to focus the sessions with questions/issues regarding Families of Parishes which I talked about a few weeks ago. This week could you possibly call in your comments to the office so that I have some material in advance for the chat. Thanks so much, this should be fun.

~Love in Him,  
Fr. Jim

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP...

### Christ Is Anything but Ordinary

We're about to dive headlong into week two of Ordinary Time, and we need to admit, after the hustle and bustle of the holidays, things are indeed looking more ... ordinary, at least in our spiritual lives.

The transcendent highs of the Christmas season are flatlining a bit and the vivid imagery of the Nativity scene has faded. The solemn anticipation of the Advent season is by now a distant memory.

Are you bored yet?

Here's a secret: I think that Ordinary Time can actually be quite extraordinary, if we're really living out our baptismal call.

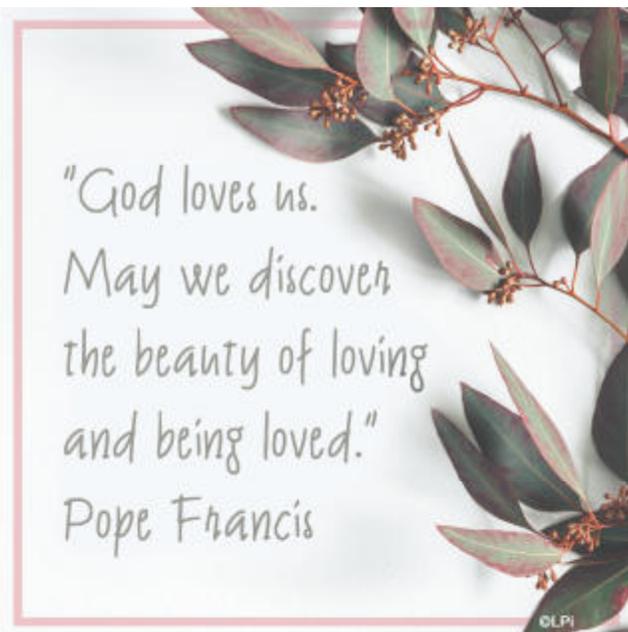
In today's Gospel, Jesus point-blank asks Andrew, who is following him after hearing John the Baptist's testimony: "What are you looking for?" He's asking us the same question.

What are you looking for? Why are you following me? Is it for the Christmas cookies and the Advent carols? Is it for the King's Cake on the Epiphany? Is it for the feeling we get on Christmas when we just know God has done a wondrous thing?

None of those things are bad, but they are not what Andrew was looking for, and they were not what Christ promised him when he said, "Come, and you will see." Andrew was looking for the Messiah — the One who makes even Ordinary Time extraordinary. The One who can sanctify the longest and dullest of to-do lists, on the longest and dullest of days. The One whose peace can reign in our homes on January 25, not just December 25.

Remember what you are looking for. Come, and you will see.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



St. Benedict Church  
80 S. Lynn St., Waterford, MI 48328  
Pastor - Rev. James Mayworm  
(248) 681-1534; Fax (248) 681-4501  
Daytime Office Hours: Mon. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Tues., Wed., Thurs.- 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Fri. 9 a.m. - 12 noon.  
Closed for lunch from 12 noon - 1 p.m.

Website - [stbenc.org](http://stbenc.org)  
Face book: St. Benedict's Catholic Church

Deacon Tom Mohan - 248-761-7016  
Office Manager - Joyce Miracle  
Liturgical Minister - Connie Cunningham  
Minister of Music - Pam Tucker  
RCIA/Faith Formation Director- Gloria Armstrong  
Faith Formation Coordinator - Vicki Krier  
Youth Ministers - Deacon Tom Mohan, Julie Mohan, Mary Allan  
Business Manager - Larry Edwards  
Administrative Assistant - Rose DeAnda  
Building Manager - Greg McInally  
Maintenance - Dale McCleery, Eileen Kell

#### Weekday Mass Schedule

Mon - Fri. 12:15 p.m.

#### Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday - 4 p.m.; Sunday - 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

#### Holy Day Mass Schedule

12:15 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00 p.m. or by appointment

#### Sacraments

In order to get married or to have your child baptized, you must be a registered member of the parish. This means that you are participating in the life of the parish, regularly attending Mass and using your envelopes.

#### Baptisms

Arrangements must be made at least three months prior to desired date. Parents must be a registered member of the parish for 6 months.

#### Marriages

Arrangements must be made at least six months prior to desired date. You must be a registered member of the parish for 6 months.

#### Sick Calls and Communion for the Homebound

Please call the Parish Office 248-681-1534.

#### Faith Formation

Grades 1-8 - Wednesdays - 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (Oct.-May)

#### R.C.I.A.

Mondays - 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Parish Center (Sept.-Easter Vigil)

#### St. Vincent de Paul—St. Benedict Conference

248-681-1534, ext. 206

#### Bulletin Copy Deadline

Friday at noon

#### Suicide Hotline (Common Ground)

1-800-231-1127

#### Project Rachel Post Abortion Ministry

1-888-722-4355

#### National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-7233

#### Report Sexual Abuse Hotline

1-855-444-3911

## WORSHIP & MEDITATION



### FIRST READING

When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the LORD came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening." (1 Sm 3:9-10)



### PSALM

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will. (Ps 40)



### SECOND READING

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?  
But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him. (1 Cor 6:15, 17)



### GOSPEL

So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. (Jn 1:39)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.*



### GOSPEL MEDITATION

#### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Our faith is not just about ideas. It's really about having an encounter with God and, in particular, the Risen Christ! Once we give ourselves over to the notion of God's presence, we have to train ourselves to listen for God's voice and be attentive to God's call. Having companions on our faith journeys is so incredibly important as they can help us fine-tune our listening skills and discern God's voice from others we may be hearing. Faith is all about having these profound encounters not only with God but with our brothers and sisters, and creation itself. Anyone or anything that is alive with God's presence becomes an occasion for God to speak and call us to deeper graces and experiences. "Come, and you will see."

The example and teaching of Jesus, the lives of the saints, those living among us and those glorified in heaven, and the wonder and beauty of creation can all serve to help us listen more clearly and assist in positioning ourselves for this profound God meeting. It is an encounter that can quickly and easily lead to a friendship and intimate intertwining of our souls to their Maker, making a claim on us like no other. Then, the Word of God moves from being just a body of ideas to something we simply accept and do. The person of Jesus Christ swiftly moves from being just a good prophet in word and deed to the incarnate presence of God Himself, the Lamb of God. The voice leads us to the Person behind it.

The Gospel is hard to follow. We can intellectually debate whether what Jesus said is really what we are asked to do. The Gospel ideas do not always make sense in our practical, secular world. The person of God always does. We can debate the practicality and sense of ideas and doing so often keeps the more difficult ones at a safe distance away from us. Jesus said to love our enemy, but we really don't need to do that, our minds try to convince us. It just doesn't make sense. Yet, if we are truly in love with the God who is behind the voice of those words, they make perfect sense. Our deep and intimate love of this God would even find us laying down our lives for Him if necessary. Speak Lord, your servant is listening.

## JIM'S GEMS...

Does God 'set' the day and time of our death?

Msgr. Charles Pope

Our Sunday Visitor November 2020

**Question:** A post from a Facebook friend puts forth this position: God has "set" the day and time of our death, so there is no sense in fighting against COVID. God will pull my card at the appointed time, and that is that. This would also apply to my neighbor, so wearing a mask, social distancing, etc., will not change anything because God has already determined the day and time my neighbor will die. My question is, does God "set" the day and time of our death or is it that God "knows" the day and time of my death? If God has "set" the day and time of my death, why should I care about following good health practices? If my neighbor is going to die on at a certain time, why should I care about helping to stop the spread of COVID, by following good health practices? What is the proper Catholic response to such a fatalistic Facebook post?

— Brian Majerus, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

**Answer:** There are some distinctions and clarifications needed in the premise provided by your friend. In the first place, there is a mysterious interaction between God's sovereignty and our free-will acts. That God knows what we will do before we do it does not change the fact that we freely choose those acts. God lives in the fullness of time. For God, past, present and future are all present to him continuously. God is not waiting for anything. He is not wondering what we will do. But this knowledge does not mean we are fatalistically forced to do what he already knows. So, we freely do what he has always known we would do, and his graces and actions are based on that. Thus, for us whose lives unfold in chronological time, what we do matters; the free choices we make matter. We are not locked in a fatalistic drama where we are forced to read our lines and leave the stage when our character is written off.

In some sense, we can say that the date of our death is fixed. But that date is not set arbitrarily by God. Rather, he sees what we will do and knows what this will lead to. For example, God may know from all eternity whether we would choose to live a healthy life or an unhealthy one, whether we would engage in risky behaviors or live prudently and safely. He has also known from all eternity how the individuals and wider human family around us would freely choose to act; whether individuals would act recklessly around us or not, whether our nation would engage in war or not,

and whether we would live in a time marked with disease, famine and natural disasters or not. Knowing all this, God also knows the date of our death, but he has not set it in a way unrelated to our free-will choices and the choices of others.

And therefore, regarding this current plague of COVID-19, God knows and expects us to freely fight it and take prudent measures to protect ourselves and others. And while he has always known what we would do or not, we are not fatalistically forced to follow a script or be like marionettes controlled by him. He does surely know what our action or inaction will result in, but his knowledge does not cancel our freedom. Rather it takes into account our free-will actions, and God's plans move forward. God is not thwarted by our foolish decisions, for he has always known them, planned accordingly and can make a way out of no way.

Thus while one may have questions about the effectiveness of wearing a mask or social distancing, this sort of fatalistic "theological" posturing — a form of double-predestination rejected by the Church — does not yield a reasonable objection.

## JIM'S JOKES...

Every year I make a resolution to change myself. This year I resolved to be myself.

My 2021 resolution is for everyone else to gain the 50 pounds I refuse to lose.

Many things can be preserved in alcohol on New Years Eve. Dignity is not one of them.

What you are is God's gift to you, what you become is your gift to God.

God doesn't call people who are qualified, He calls people who are willing, and then qualifies them.

Love is a condition in which the happiness of another is essential to your own.

When the congregation falls asleep, it is time for the minister to wake up.

Love is the only capable force of transforming an enemy into a friend.

If quitters never win, and winners never quit, then who is the fool who said, "Quit while your ahead?"

The perfect day is going to bed with a dream and waking up with a purpose.

One should eat to live, not live to eat.

# Riverside Chapel



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