



## ST. BENEDICT PARISH

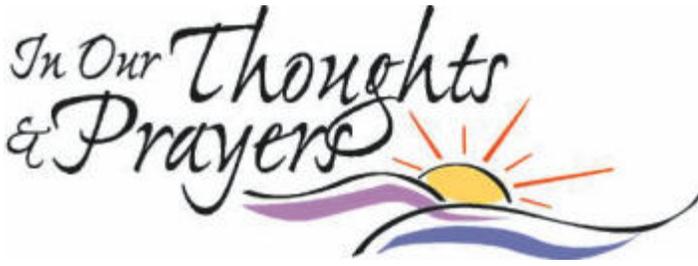
80 S. LYNN, WATERFORD, MI | 248.681.1534 | STBENZ80@GMAIL.COM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021

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



He summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile." - Mk 7:14-15



### PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS...

Paul Bonfiglio, Judy DeKeyser, Larry Edwards, Marge Flanigan, Nancy Flanigan, Tom Fisher, Phil Hanson, James Hildebrand, Alben Lipar, Michael Jozwik, Stan Slavsky, Norma Swift, Linda Tongko, Frank Vertin, Wally Wetherbee, Sylvia Zanger.

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

Kate Banaszek, Sandi Bonfiglio, Leonard Britt, Joyce Campbell, Norma Fay, Melinda Kici, John Kleinschmidt Jr., Louise Martin, Janel Nadeau, Anne Marie Pizzuti, Avery Pope, Russ Ranke, Felecisimo Sabaldan, Miles Sabaldan, Kris Schermerhorn, Suzie Skidmore, Kelly Ann Stratton, Charlie Stacer, Laura Thomson, Bill Thomas, Scott Thor, Primo Tongko Jr. Names run four weeks. To re-list, please call 248-681-1534.

### LABOR DAY MASS...

There will be a Labor Day Mass celebrated on Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. at the rectory backyard. Please bring a chair and a dish to pass.

### GOLF COMMITTEE DATES...

The Golf Committee will be meeting in the church social hall at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates:

- Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>
- Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>
- Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> (tentative)
- Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>



### FLU CLINIC COMING SOON...

In the midst of our COVID-19 Pandemic, the Center for Disease Control is urging everyone to protect themselves against the seasonal influenza virus.

St. Benedict Parish, in conjunction with CVS Pharmacy is hosting a flu vaccine clinic in the Gathering Space after 4:00 Mass on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> and after 9:00 and 11:00 Masses on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. "Senior" high-dose flu shots will be available.

Monday, August 30

12:15 p.m. - Martha Shaw req Gavin family

Tuesday, August 31

12:15 p.m. - Cheryl Cummings req friend

Wednesday, September 1

12:15 p.m. - Mary Skipworth req family

Thursday, September 2

12:15 p.m. - Robert Benson req family

Friday, September 3

St. Gregory the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church

12:15 p.m. - Ellen Felice req daughter, Barb Swatz

Fr. Richard Rakoczy req St. Benedict Parish

4:00 p.m. - Paul Sr. & Lorraine Bonfiglio req

Son, Paul Bonfiglio

Rick Clifton req Dawn Cauley

Rosemarie Kostrzewa req Joni Brun

Ellen Quarles req W. Quarles & Clarke families

Sunday, September 4

9:00 a.m. - Richard Yerant (1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.) req

St. Benedict Parish

11:00 a.m. - Fred Lauinger req Sexton family

John Little req mother, Marie Little

Richard Vestuto req Rose DeAnda

Gary Shepline req Bruce & Mary Shepline



### LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS...

St. Benedict will be holding a "Volunteer Sunday" informational event on our parish commissions following Masses on September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Please consider stopping by one or all of our commission tables in the gathering space to get details about the groups. We need volunteers in all areas.

### ST. BERNADETTE GUILD...

Ladies, if you are interested in joining St. Bernadette Guild, we are meeting on Monday, Sept 13 at 1:15pm in the parish center. We are always looking for new members. We put on card party/luncheons in the Spring and Fall. We also help with other functions at church, such as the lenten mission and receptions following confirmation. Mostly, we enjoy fellowship with one another. We meet seven times a year for about an hour. We end our meeting with prayer, coffee and dessert. If you have any questions or want further information, please call me at 248-698-4042.

Margaret Hanson

ST. BENEDICT PARISH

GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE WINNERS...

We had the final raffle drawing last Sunday and here are the lucky winners...

\$10,000 - Mary Carlton

\$5,000 - Virginia Smith

\$1,000 - Brookelynn Mitchell  
[Not pictured]



As of the writing of this article, we don't have an exact amount of money that we raised but it will be close to \$30,000. The big winner is our parish, where much needed funding is always a challenge.

Thanks to all the ticket buyers and ticket sellers who have helped during this effort. God Bless you all.

~John Elbode  
Raffle Chairperson



Above: Grand Prize Winner Mary Carlton

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS...

There are many opportunities to participate in the Music Ministry program at St. Benedict.

**Adult Choir:** The choir will meet in the church on Wednesday, September 8, at 6:30PM for a fellowship time, followed by a short rehearsal. The Adult Choir practices weekly at 7:30PM on Wednesday and will sing monthly at the 9:00AM Mass.

**Youth Choir:** This is a new opportunity for the youth of the church to share their gifts with their parish. This group is open to all those that have been Confirmed and older. Rehearsals will take place in the church, on Wednesday, at 6:00PM, beginning September 22. If you play an instrument or sing, please consider joining us! The Youth Choir will sing monthly at the 9:00AM Mass.

**Cantors:** Adult Choir members as well as others are welcome to sing at the 9:00AM Mass when the choirs are not scheduled to sing. If you are not yet a part of the Music Ministry and are interested in being a cantor, please see Pam for more information.

**Children:** We will have a combined Christmas Program again this year and are looking for children to participate. All ages are welcome. We will begin weekly rehearsals on Sunday, September 19 at 12:20PM.

Please see Pam if you are interested in joining any of the above opportunities.

Pam Tucker  
Music Minister  
pam.tucker.stben@gmail.com



Above: Second Place Winner Mary Carlton

# WORSHIP & MEDITATION



## FIRST READING

In your observance of the commandments of the LORD, your God, which I enjoin upon you, you shall not add to what I command you nor subtract from it. (Dt 4:2)



## PSALM

The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord. (Ps 15)



## SECOND READING

Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. (Jas 1:22)



## GOSPEL

"You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition." (Mk 7:8)

*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

Albert Einstein said that the "true measure of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination." Being a disciple of Jesus Christ requires a great deal of imagination. It is not enough to simply attend to facts, rules and rituals and consider the job done. Quite contrarily, the Gospels demands creativity, of trying to discern how to put flesh on the Beatitudes and properly serve God's children. Jesus never doled out a top down agenda. Not once did he ever demand conformity over conversion or sacrifice over mercy. The Gospel is always about putting people in touch with their compassionate, forgiving, and unconditionally loving God and meeting them where they are.

For Jesus, it often meant breaking a few rules. Well respected and time-honored traditions had to be set aside in order to attend to what really mattered. God's compassion, mercy and true conversion were always the trump cards. The story of the Good Samaritan, healing on the Sabbath, and bypassing of purification rituals all display this theme. Human beings can get too hung up on protocol and tradition. This is so much so that often preserving all of these things is of greater concern than the beggar knocking on our door or the sinner looking for mercy. It is no wonder, then, that we can easily become hypocritical. Many can see us on our knees in prayer while our true heart and actions, rooted in judgment and self-preservation, are hidden from others. It is a trap into which we can easily fall. Who cares how we live our lives as long as our hands are properly washed!

Here enters the need for imagination and the distinction of truly being a wise and intelligent person. It takes a good measure of creativity and a lot of guts to really be a doer of God's word and not merely a hearer. Being a person who doesn't just tell people about God but shows people God requires courage and ingenuity. That's why people like St. Francis of Assisi and St. Teresa of Calcutta are timeless. Their genuineness speaks volumes generation to generation. It's risky business taking the step to allow God into our hearts. Permitting God to release us from the grip of our evil thoughts, infidelity, greed, malice, sexual improprieties, licentiousness, envy, arrogance, folly, and the like takes courage. That's why we prefer to spend our energy rearranging the future rather than take measures to secure a foundation that is most certainly crumbling.

## JIM'S GEMS...

National Catholic Register July 18, 2021

Fr. Raymond J. de Souza

Pope Benedict's Priesthood Milestone

At age 94 and increasingly frail, it is quite possible that we will not hear from Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI again. The 70th anniversary of his priestly ordination passed quietly in Rome on June 29, the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul.

There was no public appearance, not even a photograph. Benedict, no longer able to stand long enough to celebrate the Holy Mass, concelebrates from his wheelchair with his personal secretary, Archbishop Georg Ganswein.

As an anniversary gift, choristers who long ago had sung in the Regensburg cathedral boys came to the *Mater Ecclesiae* residence to sing for Benedict. That choir had been led for decades by Benedict's late brother, Father Georg Ratzinger.

But that was it. A private liturgical gallery put on a small exhibition of items from Benedict's long priestly life. The Holy See press office took no notice of the anniversary. It was not even included in the weekly preview of events that customarily includes anniversaries of all kinds, including this week the 14th anniversary of Benedict's 2007 letter to Catholics in China.

Pope Francis did not make a public visit to Benedict, and there was no papal letter of appreciation as St. John Paul II sent for Ratzinger's 50th anniversary in 2001. In his Peter and Paul Angelus address, Pope Francis added a few lines of gratitude in the section usually reserved for short comments on the news. The words for Benedict followed congratulations to *L'Osservatore Romano* for its 160th anniversary.

The underwhelming observance in the Vatican was striking, given the usual prominence it gives to anniversaries. No one elected pope has ever been a priest for 70 years; Pope Francis would have to live to be 103 to complete seven decades. John Paul did not make 60 years.

On his 60th anniversary in 2011, Benedict devoted the lion's share of his Peter and Paul homily to reflecting on his priestly ordination. At the time, at the end of the ordination rite the bishop spoke to the new priests the words of Jesus: "I no longer call you servants, but friends" (John 15:15). Benedict recalled:

Jesus calls me his friend. He welcomes me into the circle of those he had spoken to in the Upper Room... He grants me the almost frightening faculty to do what only he, the Son of God, can legitimately say and do: I forgive you your sins. ... I know that forgiveness

comes at a price: in his Passion he went deep down into the sordid darkness of our sins. He went down into the night of our guilt, for only thus can it be transformed. And by giving me authority to forgive sins, he lets me look down into the abyss of man, into the immensity of his suffering for us men, and this enables me to sense the immensity of his love. He confides in me: "No longer servants, but friends". He entrusts to me the words of consecration in the Eucharist.

Five years later, Benedict's 65th anniversary was marked with a special gathering of the cardinals in Rome, an address from Pope Francis and the formal publication of a collection of Benedict's writings on the priesthood, edited by Cardinal Gerhard Müller, then the prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

It was at that occasion that Benedict XVI gave his last public address. Speaking extemporaneously, he spoke about the priesthood as an identity of thanksgiving, a "*Eucharistomen*." He recalled that one of his classmates, Father Rupert Berger, wrote that single word on his ordination card.

*Eucharist*. The priest is ordained for thanksgiving in the first moments of his priesthood, and it remains so after the long passage of years.

Benedict then spoke of the words that just precede the consecration in Latin: *gratias agens benedixit fregit deditque*. Jesus, taking the bread, *giving thanks, blessed it, broke it and gave it*.

What Jesus does with the bread of the Eucharist, he also does with man ordained a priest — he takes him, gives thanks to the Father, blesses him, breaks him and gives him to the Church. Benedict was almost certainly thinking then of his friend, the late Hans Urs von Balthasar, who wrote that on his ordination card: *benedixit, fregit, deditque*.

"*Eucharistomen* harks back to the reality of thanksgiving, to the new dimension that Christ imparts to it," Benedict said five years ago:

"The cross, suffering, all that is wrong with the world: [Jesus] transformed all this into 'thanks' and therefore into a 'blessing.' Hence he fundamentally transubstantiated life and the world, and he has given us and gives us each day the bread of true life, which transcends this world thanks to the strength of His love."

His voice now reduced to a whisper, Benedict no longer has public words to offer. What remains is the *Eucharistomen* of the former Servant of the Servants of God, who 70 years ago heard that he was no longer a servant, but a priestly friend of Jesus.

# Riverside Chapel



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