



# St. Benedict Catholic Church

455 S. Suncoast Blvd. Crystal River, FL 34429

## Pastor

Fr. Ryszard Stradomski  
(Fr. Richard)

## Parish Information

Office (352) 795-4479

Email [stbens@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:stbens@tampabay.rr.com)

Website [www.stbenedictcrystalriver.org](http://www.stbenedictcrystalriver.org)

Facebook [www.facebook.com/stbenscr/](http://www.facebook.com/stbenscr/)

## Mass Schedule

Mon—Fri: 8:00am  
Saturday: 5:00pm  
Sunday: 8:30am & 10:30am

## Confessions

Saturday: 3:30pm-4:30pm

## Office Hours

Mon—Thurs: 9:00am-2:30pm  
\*Closed Friday's\*

## Parish Staff

### Deacon

Frederick Oberst

### Administrator

Noreen Pagano  
[noreenstben@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:noreenstben@tampabay.rr.com)

### Bulletin Editor/Receptionist

Marianne Zarek  
[bulletinstben@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:bulletinstben@tampabay.rr.com)

### Maintenance

Tony Moser — Dean Smith

### Music Ministry

### Organist/Choir Director

Josh Whiteneck

### Contemporary Choir Director

Vicki Raney

### R.C.I.A.

George Dluhy

### Sacristan

A.J. Gogan



Fourth Sunday of  
*Advent*

Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit,  
cried out in a loud voice and said,  
"Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb."  
Luke 1:41-42



Wishing that this season  
of Advent fills your  
heart and home with  
peace and happiness!



## Christmas Mass Schedule

**Christmas Eve Mass**  
Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm Vigil

**Christmas Day Mass**  
Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am

*Christmas Masses also live on our Facebook page*

## Mass Intentions

For the Fourth Week of Advent  
December 19 — 27, 2020

**Saturday, December 19 Late Advent Weekday**  
5:00pm †Patrick Doherty by Loving Wife

**Sunday, December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
8:30am †Tracy Wilson by Loving Family  
10:30am ♥Bill and Terri Obermeier

**Monday, December 21 St. Peter Canisius, Priest**  
8:00am ♥Edwin Chen by Loving Parents

**Tuesday, December 22 Late Advent Weekday**  
8:00am †Angelo Rivera  
by Loving Sister and Daughter

**Wednesday, December 23**  
**St. John of Kanty, Priest**  
8:00am †Joseph Silock by Bob LaRocca

**Thursday, December 24 Late Advent Weekday**  
**8:00am NO MORNING MASS**  
5:00pm Christmas Spiritual Bouquet

**Friday, December 25 The Nativity of the Lord**  
9:30am Christmas Spiritual Bouquet

**Saturday, December 26**  
**St. Stephen, The First Martyr**  
5:00pm †Timothy Cockream  
by Loving Sister Judi

**Sunday, December 27**  
**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**  
8:30am †David Salvador  
by John and Shirley Kornfeind  
10:30am Parishioners of St. Benedict

### Stewardship

Not available at time of print



### Holiday Office Hours

*Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> — 9:00-12:00*

*Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> — Closed*

*Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup> — Closed*

*Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup> — 9:00-12:00*

*Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup> — Closed*



## Pray for our People...

### Our Sick...

Clarence Redd, Michael Bottichio, Gordon Gould, Irene Cmar  
Michael Grivois, Julia Covert, Al Plante, Maria Canale,  
Steven Doyle, Don Miller, Ann Darling, Joan Golway,  
Dan Clymer, Marvin Long, Juanita Downum, Kevin Terrell,  
Annetta Wieczorek, Milton Miller, Ralph Esposito,  
Agnes and Michael Ross, Doug Sheppard, Louisa Berardi,  
Barbara and Fred Born, Linda Fusco, Ron and Mary Guadagnini,  
George Williams, Chuck Stuckey, Marianna Simpson,  
Eugene Janusz, Debra Cappadona, Tammy Myers,  
Joan Turcotte, Henry Suraci, Donna Sepe, Randy Sailor,  
Cole Eskay, Dayden Floyd, Lisa Mott, Tim Lolly, Tiffany Nickel,  
Diane Clemmer, Michael Celentano, Una Lewis, Chris Grivois,  
Bill Obermeier, Roman Jakubowski, JoAnn Dunton,  
Vincent Smith, Frank Polash, Smirna Velez, Luella Eggenberger,  
Barbara Brackin, Sigmund Sobiesiak, Elliana Deane,  
Angelina Jesselli, Sarah King, Michael Hembree, Alma Stephens,  
Joyce Cassidy, George McCurdy, Matthew McCown,  
Mary Jane Eggleston, Mary Jo Gallagher, Lindsay Longo\*  
Ashton Champs, Deena McManus, Gail Demar, Randy, Donna,  
and Beth Hesley, Dolores Marie Martin, Rich Eggenberger,  
and Cheryl Perez

### Active Duty...

#### Those protecting us at home and afar..

Anna Bily, Chandra Walton, Steve Sunstrom, Sean Ross,  
Ian Ross, Christopher Dergosits, Kevin Knudsen,  
Billy Keating, Cody Albritton, Lucas Zobel, Michael Turcotte,  
Cody Hibbard, Matthew Zarek, Dadrian Ruiz, John Kelley, Ron  
Casasanta Jr., Butch Tonnessen, Boyer Kornfeind,  
Matthew Baker, Chris Grillo, Dakota Giles, Tim Dottillis,  
Todd Vanderbogart, Garrett Gibson, Gage Gibson,  
Richard J. Surowiec, Robert J. Milan Jr., and Blake Leibach,

### Our Deceased...

The Lord has chosen to call **Lawrence Hall and Boyd Waller**  
to come back home with him. May they rest in the arms of God.  
As we pray for them, we extend our heartfelt sympathies  
to their family and friends.

Send your prayer request to our prayer warriors through  
Anne at [aschukne@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:aschukne@tampabay.rr.com)

faith  
— over —  
fear

## Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (*strike breast*) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Kyrie eleison.  
Christe eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.

### Reading 1 — [2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16](#)

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?' "It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** — R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

### READING 2 — [ROM 16:25-27](#)

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

**ALLELUIA** — R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

### GOSPEL — [LK 1:26-38](#)

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

## Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**SANCTUS** - Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.

**AGNUS DEI** - Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis. (repeat 1X) Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: dona nobis pacem.



**Congratulations to Tripp who received the Lord Jesus in Holy Communion. May he love God with all his heart and forever live faithfully.**



**Guys on Bikes!**  
**Fr. Ryszard, and some of our parishioners; Duke, Mike, Rich, and Jeff, recently enjoyed a ride!**

**SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR LIFE  
 BY PARTICIPATING IN THE ANNUAL SIGNATURE AD**

Each year, on the Sunday closest to the Anniversary of Roe V Wade (Jan 22), the Citrus County Chronicle publishes a full-page ad, sponsored this year by The Citrus County Right to Life and St. Benedict Knights of Columbus Council 15225. The names listed on this ad are those of our brothers and sisters in Christ, and businesses who take a stand for life. The Culture of Life Ministry and our Knights of Columbus will be placing forms and envelopes at the entrance to Hilgert Hall. We ask that you take one, complete the form by **PRINTING NEATLY** your name (or business name), and signing underneath. Please make checks payable to The Knights of Columbus 15225. Place your donation, \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family or business along with your signature form back into the envelope and place in the collection basket. You also can drop your envelope off or mail to the church office:

**Attention: Knights of Columbus 15225, 455 S. Suncoast Blvd, Crystal River, FL 34429.**

*Any extra monies received will be donated to the Pregnancy & Family Life Center of Citrus County.*



**Coats for Kids**

Your St. Benedict Knights of Columbus Council is asking you to donate a light-weight jacket, sweatshirt or hoodie jacket for the needy children of our local Citrus County community.

We will have large boxes at the church entrances the weekends of January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> To collect sizes, small to XXL, to be presented to Daystar for **free** distribution for the cooler weather.

While this is a Knights project for the winter months, we encourage anyone to continue giving these items throughout the year by giving to any St. Benedict Knight.

***Giving feels good!***

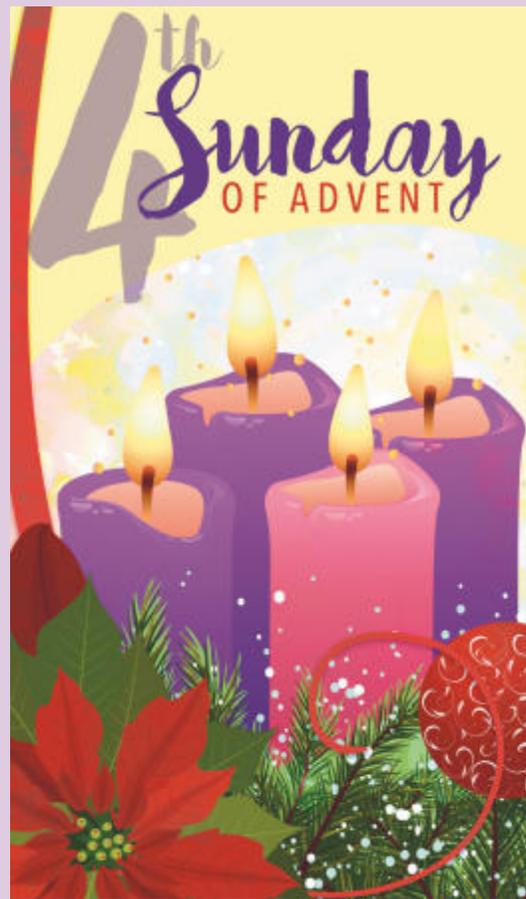
## GOSPEL MEDITATION

In Blaise Pascal's work, *Pensees*, he says: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself."

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come.



### Gift Cards for Jesus

At the Christmas Eve service, the pastor, quizzing some children about the nativity, asked, "What gifts did the three wise men give the Christ child?"

"Gold!" one child yelled.

"Frankincense!" shouted another.

After a pause, a third asked, "Gift cards?"



## SUNDAY'S READINGS

### First Reading:

"When your times comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will establish his kingdom firm." (2 Sm 12)

### Psalm:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 89)

### Second Reading:

According to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God. (Rom 16:25b-26a)

### Gospel:

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High." (Lk 1:31-32a)



## RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

### The Journey

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, "Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?" I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn't go as you had hoped, remember is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

### Question:

**What is the difference between apostles and disciples**

### Answer:

When we look at the gospel accounts of the life of Jesus, we see two special titles applied to his followers: *apostles* and *disciples*. At first glance, we might think that these two words are interchangeable, but when we look at what each one means, we quickly see that the evangelists were using them very specifically. When we look more closely, we see that while Jesus had many *disciples*, the group of *apostles* was much more limited and referred to Jesus' closest collaborators.

The word *apostle* essentially means "one who is sent forth" or, as we might think of it today, "an ambassador." The group of apostles — sometimes called the Twelve — included those twelve men who formed Jesus' inner circle (see Mark 3:13-14; Luke 6:12-13). It was this group that received the gift of the Holy Spirit and who were sent out by Jesus with the special mission of forgiving sins on that first Easter Sunday (see John 20:19-23). In time, the Catholic Tradition also recognize Saint Paul and Saint Barnabas as apostles, recognizing that they also shared the mandate of going out in the Lord's name to pray, to bless, and to preach. In 2016, during the Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis raised the liturgical celebration of Saint Mary Magdalene to the rank of feast, recognizing that she also received a special mandate to proclaim the good news of Jesus' resurrection to the Eleven, becoming the "apostle to the apostles." In a particular way, the bishops continue the mission of the apostles in our own time.

When we think of the word *disciple*, we see that it has a very different meaning. Rather than referring to those who were sent out to carry on the mission of Jesus, disciple literally means "student" or, more specially, an "apprentice learner." The task of the disciple is to learn and integrate into their lives the teachings, values, and way of life of their master teacher. Although a disciple might be called on to explain or represent aspects of their life, in light of the teachings they receive from this master teacher, Christian discipleship is ultimately about living our lives with faith and integrity, guided by the life and mission of Jesus, our Master Teacher. The call to discipleship is the common vocation of all Christians.





# COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



4th Sunday of Advent • Luke 1:26-38

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