



MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 5:30 pm

SUNDAY 9 am & 11:30 am

Weekday Mass @ 8:00 am
Wednesday-Friday in the Church

**FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
UNITY MASS @ 10AM**

**EVERY FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
@ 6:00pm**

**Christian Initiation:
Sacraments of Baptism,
Confirmation and Holy Communion**
Preparation of each Sacrament is required. Baptisms are celebrated quarterly usually at 11:30 am Mass. Adults seeking to receive the sacraments for the first time should contact the Pastor for further information.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Registration and participation prior to your wedding date is required. Arrangements should be made with the Priest before the wedding date is set; Instructions to begin at least four months before the wedding.



The VIRTUS Protecting God's Children training is required for all volunteers and employees in the Diocese of Savannah and must be completed before they begin their ministry.

Seating is limited, and pre-registration is required online. Registration instructions can be found at <https://diosav.org/how-do-i/register-for-virtus-training>. A LAPTOP or DESKTOP is recommended for registration.

Welcome to St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church

Our hope is that your presence here in celebration of the Mass with us will remind you of the wonder that is God's sustaining grace; that it encourages you in your walk and will

motivate you to pass on His amazing grace to others!

HISTORIC
ST BENEDICT THE MOOR CATHOLIC CHURCH - *Since 1874*
441 E. Broad St - Savannah, GA 31401-5106
Mailing Address: 556 E. Gordon St - Savannah, GA 31401
MASS Phone: 912-232-7147 Fax: 912-238-0184
Website: www.stbenedict-sav.org
Email: stbenedict@bellsouth.net



*February 18, 2024
First Sunday in Lent
Year B*

Rev. Romanus Obiora Ezeugwu, MSP, Pastor
Sharon Carson, Supt. of Religious Education
Audrey Moultrie, Parish Council Chairperson
Sharon Carson, Administrative Secretary
Bea Betworth, Accounts Secretary
Jerome Grayson, Bldg/Maintenance

Finance Council Members:

Carl Hayes Chairman 912-655-7153
Melanie White Secretary 912-439-1488
Frank Williams Member 912-233-2817



Visit our website to sign up and to begin contributing automatically to your parish. Sign up for Online Giving by visiting our parish website at www.stbenedict-sav.org and selecting the **Online Giving** link to get started!

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

Ashes and rainbows make a strange combination. Ashes are dirty, messy, and ugly. Rainbows, on the other hand, are beautiful and inspiring. But we encounter them both at the beginning of Lent this year. On Wednesday, ashes were smudged on our foreheads as a sign of our mortality and sinfulness. Today we hear that God set a rainbow in the sky as a sign of the covenant with us. As we begin this season of Lent, let us recognize both truths: we are always in need of repentance, but God stands ever waiting to forgive us. As ashes remind us to repent of our sins, may rainbows remind us of God's eternal forgiveness.

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Readings for this weekend are found in the Word & Eucharist Catholic Mass Book beginning on Page 396.

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*Parish Giving
February 11, 2024*

Offertory (includes School Support and Bus)	\$5381.00
Special Collection: Aid to Central and Eastern Europe	40.00

"Thank You for Your Generosity"

MASS INTENTIONS

All Masses: For the peaceful repose of the soul of Mrs. Marilyn Jackson on the anniversary of her passing. *Prince A. Jackson, III

9:00 For the peaceful repose of the soul of Mr. Frankie C. Brown on the anniversary of his passing. *Dena Maxwell

11:30am: For God's continuous blessings on Theresa Garvin who celebrated her birthday February 15th. *From her loving Family

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Our monthly lunch for the sick and shut-ins will take place on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. Volunteers are needed to assist with preparations the day before and with the cooking and deliveries on January 21st. Please contact the parish office if you have questions. Thank you – Gloria Stephens, Coordinator.

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Pray for our Sick & Homebound: Louise Allen, Willie Allen, Jr., Mariah Bailey, Joe Battle, Bea Betworth, Henry Blount, Odessa Bryant, Alethea Chaney, Otis & Lillie Charlton, Josefa Citizen, Lillian Dilworth, Morris Elliott, Juanita Fields, Jessica Jackson, Christine James, Mackenzie Jenkins, Vera Jennings, Clewon Johnson, Joyce Jones, Robert Locke, Lillie Middleton, Dawud Patterson, Evelyn Porter, Ellen Roberts, Delores Robinson, Elizabeth Robinson, Janice Quinn, Cornelius St. Mark, Inez Walthour, Margaret Weston, Nathaniel Wiggins, Arlene Wiley, Crystal Williams, Ellen Williams, Tambra Williams, Narvia Williams, Julie Porter-Winfrey (out-of-town).

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PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O God, hear our prayer
And let our cry come unto You.
Bless our Diocese of Savannah
With many vocations to the Priesthood,
Diaconate, and Religious Life.
Give the men and women You call
The light to understand Your gift
And the love to follow always
In the footsteps of Your Priestly Son.
Amen.

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PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal
life.

LECTORS' SCHEDULE (*ANNOUNCER ALSO)

February 17 - 18, 2024

5:30pm Taylor Walden Edna Mason
9:00am Georgene Jones Deborah Ngo-Bakinde
11:30am Faith Formation Faith Formation

February 24 - 25, 2024

5:30pm Rachel Hooper Shirley West
9:00am Melanie White Barbara McGhee
11:30am Matthew Jenkins Joyce Jones

ANNOUNCERS' SCHEDULE (*LECTOR ALSO)

February 17 - 18, 2024

5:30pm Sharon Carson
9:00am Gregory Milton
11:30am Faith Formation

February 24 - 25, 2024

5:30pm Dominique Jackson
9:00am Theresa Garvin
11:30am Atzmayah Bailey

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST SCHEDULE

February 17 - 18, 2024

5:30pm Dominique Jackson
9:00am Milenthia Williams
11:30am William Wright

February 24 - 25, 2024

5:30 pm Sharon Carson
9:00am Jabria Westley
11:30am Juliette Tolbert

USHER'S SCHEDULE

February 17 - 18, 2024

5:30pm Brenda Kennedy Thomas Dickerson
9:00am Richard Baker George Moultrie
11:30am Matthew Jenkins Latisha Bailey

February 24 - 25, 2024

5:30pm Robert Kennedy Anthony DeShay
9:00am Karen Polk Rosetta Brown
11:30am Matthew Jenkins Latisha Bailey

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the Friends of St. Benedict the Moor for their donation of \$1200 for our school subsidy. We appreciate your efforts on behalf of our church. May you be blessed as you bless others.

150th Church Anniversary Banquet: October 5, 2024

Installment payments for the 150th Anniversary Banquet are now being accepted. The cost per person is \$150.00 and children ages 6 - 12 is \$75.00. One-time payments are also being accepted. All payments are due on or before July 7, 2024. Please contact the church office should you have any questions. Thank you for being a part of this Grand occasion.

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ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL 2024

Through the Annual Catholic Appeal, our support of diocesan agencies and ministries is one way that we respond to God for all He does for us. If you are not able to pledge at this time, please consider a one-time gift.

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REMINDERS!

During the Lenten season, the Eucharistic Adoration will begin immediately following the Stations of the Cross which start at 6pm.

Parish Bible Study is held Wednesdays at 6pm in the parish hall. Please come and let us enrich ourselves with the Word of God.

Don't forget your donation of non-perishable food to the Social Apostolate during the month of October.

1st quarter Unity Celebration meeting in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, February 20th at 6:00pm. January, March and February celebrants are asked to attend. Coordinators are: January - Wilma Brown (912) 659-8941 & Emily Williams Fann (912) 713-1012; February - Rosetta Brown (912) 232-8921 & Theresa Garvin (912) 507-7553; March - Edna Mason (912) 247-1671 & Brenda Kennedy (912) 660-3464.

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THANK YOU

The family of Irvin Scott, Sr. would like to thank Fr. Romanus Ezeugwu, MSP and our Saint Benedict the Moor Catholic Church family for your unwavering support during our difficult time. Your kindness, presence, cards, thoughtful words, and prayers have been a source of comfort and strength. Your care and generosity are deeply appreciated. *Areatha Scott and Family.

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WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

God's Word and Spirit sustains those who seek God's will:

Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell us in their Gospel accounts that Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness. Mark states it most emphatically: "The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness" (Mark 1:12). Why was Jesus compelled to seek solitude for such a lengthy period? Was it simply a test to prepare him for his ministry? Or did Satan want to lure him into a trap? The word *tempt* in English usually means to entice to sin or wrong doing. The scriptural word here also means *test* in the sense of proving and purifying someone to see if there are ready for the task at hand. We test pilots to see that they are fit to fly. Likewise, God tests his servants to see if they are fit to be used by him.

God tested Abraham to prove his faith. The Israelites were sorely tested in Egypt before God delivered them from their enemies. Jesus was no exception to this testing. Satan, in turn, did his best to entice Jesus to chose his own will over the will of his Father in heaven. Despite his weakened condition, due to fatigue and lack of food for 40 days, Jesus steadfastly rejected Satan's subtle and not so subtle temptations. Where did Jesus find his strength to survive the desert's harsh conditions and the tempter's seduction? He fed on his Father's word and found strength in doing his will. Satan will surely tempt us and will try his best to get us to choose our will over God's will. If he can't make us renounce our faith or sin mortally, he will then try to get us to make choices that will lead us, little by little, away from what God wants for us.

As soon as John the Baptist had finished his ministry, Jesus began his in Galilee, his home district. John's enemies had sought to silence him, but the Gospel cannot be silenced. Jesus proclaimed that the time of restoration proclaimed by the prophets was now being fulfilled in his very person and that the kingdom of God was at hand. What is the kingdom of God? The word "kingdom" means something more than a territory or an area of land. It literally means "sovereignty" or "reign" and the power to "rule" and exercise authority. The prophets announced that God would establish a kingdom not

just for one nation or people but for the whole world. God sent us his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, not to establish an earthly kingdom but to bring us into his heavenly kingdom - a kingdom ruled by justice, truth, peace, and holiness. The kingdom of God is the central theme of Jesus' mission. It's the core of his Gospel message. (*Daily Scripture Readings and Meditations*).

Your Pineapple for the Week:

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15).

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2024 STATIONS of the CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held every

Friday at 6:00pm

(Rosary begins at 5:30pm)

Make this service a part of your Lenten journey!

February 23 - Parish Council and Finance Council

March 1 – Extraordinary Ministers
of the Holy Eucharist and CCD Teachers

March 8 – AMSP, Lectors

March 15 – New Horizons of Women and Men,
Traveling Moors

March 22 – CCW and Friends of SBM

**March 29 (Rosary at 2:30pm; Stations at
3:00pm)**

Legion of Mary, Choirs and Youth

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“WALK FOR THE MISSIONS”

Join the *Missionary Society of St. Paul* and the Associate Missionaries of St. Paul (AMSP) for **the 13th Annual “Walk 4 the Missions”** at Tom Bass Park on Saturday, **April 13, 2024**. We will be located at **Pavilion 4** off the Cullen Street entrance. Walk the mile(s) to empower weak and disadvantaged young people through education. **Registration begins at 8:00am; Walk begins at 9:00am**. Registration forms are available from any AMSP member or online at www.mspfathers.org. This is **a great opportunity to earn service hours for graduation, school, confirmation, etc.** and fun for the entire family! Registration Fee: - \$20.00 – Adult; \$10.00 – Child. **Register by April 1st to be guaranteed an official T-Shirt! For registration and more information please contact: Mr. Torrance Garvin @ 912-272-9766.**