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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
EUCCHARISTIC 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



March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday of 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

As we draw close to Holy Week, we hear Jesus talk about his approaching death. Yet his message to his disciples is not so much about his death as it is about eternal life. As Christians, we know that as difficult as death is, our true focus, our true hope is in eternal life, trusting that our Lord is our source of eternal salvation. During this final week before Holy Week, let us keep in mind that just as our Lenten journey will not end with Good Friday, but with Easter, so too does our own life's journey end not in death but in new life.

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Readings for this weekend are found in the Word & Eucharist Catholic Mass Book beginning on Page 406.

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*Parish Giving
March 10, 2024*

Offertory (includes School Support and Bus)	\$5424.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 519.00

"Thank You for Your Generosity"

MASS INTENTIONS

5:30pm For the repose of the soul of Prince A. Jackson, Sr. on the anniversary of his passing. *Prince A. Jackson, III

For the repose of the soul of Deacon Prince A. Jackson, Jr. on the anniversary of his birthday. *Prince A. Jackson, III

For the repose of the soul of Mattie Glover on the anniversary of her birthday. *Prince A. Jackson, III

9:00am For the repose of the soul of Nancy H. Gordillo on the anniversary of her birthday. *Robert Wright

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LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

Please join our Communal Penance Service on Wednesday, March 20th at 6:00pm in the church. All are encouraged to take this opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament as a part our Lenten spiritual journey.

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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, Mary Jackson, Christine James, Mackenzie Jenkins, Vera Jennings, Clewon Johnson, Hilda Johnson, Joyce Jones, Robert Locke, Lillie Middleton, Dawud Patterson, Jacqueline Bailey-Patterson, Evelyn Porter, Ellen Roberts, Delores Robinson, Elizabeth Robinson, Janice Quinn, Cornelius St. Mark, Catherine Spann, 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

<p>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.</p>

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<p>PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

LECTORS' SCHEDULE (*ANNOUNCER ALSO)

March 16 – 17, 2024

5:30pm Taylor Walden Shirley West
9:00am Deborah Ngo-Bakinde Barbara McGhee
11:30am Faith Formation Faith Formation

March 23 – 24, 2024

5:30pm Edna Mason Sharon Carson
9:00am Dianne Williams Melanie White
11:30am Juliette Tolbert Donald Perry

Palm Sunday

ANNOUNCERS' SCHEDULE (*LECTOR ALSO)

March 16 - 17, 2024

5:30pm Edna Mason
9:00am Gregory Milton
11:30am Faith Formation

March 23 – 24, 2024

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

Palm Sunday

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST SCHEDULE

March 16 – 17, 2024

5:30pm Dominique Jackson
9:00am Marvin Manning
11:30am Sharon Carson

March 23 – 24, 2024

5:30pm Shirley West
9:00am Jabria Wesley
11:30am William Wright

Palm Sunday

USHER'S SCHEDULE

March 16 -17, 2024

5:30pm Robert Kennedy Anthony DeShay
9:00am Rosetta B rown Karen Polk
11:30am Faith Formation Faith Formation

March 23 – 24, 2024

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

Palm Sunday

ST. PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The St. Pius X High School Alumni Assoc. (SPXHSA) invites all former students and staff to attend the monthly alumni ZOOM meetings every 3rd Saturday of the month at 1:00pm, except August. The 3rd Saturday of August hosts the Annual Pius Fest Celebration. Text 912-224-4815 for Zoom meeting user I.D. and password. Ms. Mary Lewis, '62, President.

IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN IN AUGUST 2024! The Annual 2024 PiusFest! The St. Pius X High School Alumni Assoc. (SPXHSA) invites all former students and former staff to register for the 2024 PiusFest. Activities are scheduled for Friday 8/16/24, Saturday, 8/17/24 and Sunday, 8/18/24. Venues and fees to be announced at a later date. To stay informed text your name and email address to 912-224-4815. Ms. Mary Lewis, '62; President.

**150th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET
OCTOBER 5, 2024
SAVANNAH CIVIC CENTER BALLROOM**

Installment payments for the 150th Anniversary Banquet are now being accepted until July 7, 2024. A table of eight is being offered for a reduced price of \$1,000.00. Individual tickets are also being accepted. Please contact the church office should you have any questions. Thank you for being a part of this Grand occasion. *The 150th Anniversary Planning Committee

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CHOIR REHEARSALS

Rehearsal for 9am choir will be held on Tuesday, March 19th at 6:00pm to prepare for Palm Sunday. Unity Mass choir rehearsal will be held on Tuesday, March 26th at 6:00pm to prepare for Easter Sunday. Please come and join us as we prepare for the Resurrection of our Savior!

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150th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY THEME NAMING CONTEST

Calling all parishioners! Would you like to win a complimentary ticket to the 150th Anniversary Banquet? Submit your entry for the Anniversary Theme Naming Contest before the April deadline. Contest forms will be issued after each Mass on April 7, 13 & 14, 2024. Submission deadline will be April 30th. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Sandra Best or Dianne Williams.

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UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Please give generously to the following special collections during the month: March 29th – Pontifical Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land; March 31st – Priests' Retirement. Thank you.

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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.

Knights of Columbus #10274 - Annual Charity Raffle: Cost – 1 ticket \$5.00 or 5 tickets \$20.00.

WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

Victory through suffering and the cross:

Shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover, Jesus announced to his disciples that the "hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified" (John 12:23). The Son of Man is a prophetic title for the Messiah recorded in the prophecy of Daniel (see the Book of Daniel 7:13-14). In Jesus' time the Jewish people were looking for a Messiah who would set them free from the oppressive rule of Rome. Jesus came to set people free from the worst oppression of all - the tyranny of endless slavery to sin, Satan, and death. Jesus came to bring us into a new covenant relationship with God that would not end with death but lead to eternal life.

Jesus announced to his followers that when "he would be lifted up from the earth, he would draw all people to himself" (John 12:32). What did Jesus mean by the expression of being "lifted up" and "drawing people to himself"? When a great leader won a complete and decisive conquest over his enemies and brought freedom and peace to his people, he was crowned and given a new title, as Victor, Savior, and Deliverer of the people. A conquering ruler was robed in royal splendor and raised up and enthroned on high in the sight of his people.

Jesus knew that the only way to decisive victory for God's kingdom on the earth would be through his voluntary suffering and death on the cross. Jesus described his willingness to go to the cross as his "hour of glory" (John 12:23) when he would fulfill his Father's will and accomplish the mission entrusted to him. Jesus saw his death on the cross as triumph over the powers of sin and Satan's forces of darkness. The real enemy that Jesus came to overcome was Satan who tempts the human race to rebel against God and his commands in order to create their own destiny through sinful pride and disobedience. Jesus took our sins upon himself and nailed them to the cross to set us free from condemnation to death and destruction, and the eternal consequence of separation from God.

Jesus used the illustration of the "grain of wheat" to show how God brings life from death and good fruit

through patience and suffering. Seeds by themselves are worthless and lifeless. Only when the seed is destroyed by burying it in the ground, can it rise to new life and bear fruit.

What is the analogy which Jesus alludes to in the image of the grain of wheat that must first die in order to rise to new life and bear good fruit? Is this simply a veiled reference to his own impending death on the cross and to his resurrection? Or does Jesus have another kind of "death and rebirth" in mind for his disciples as well? Jesus, no doubt, had both meanings in mind. Jesus' obedience and death on the cross obtain for us freedom and new life in the Holy Spirit. His cross frees us from the tyranny of sin and death and shows us the way of perfect love and readiness to lay down our lives in sacrificial service for the good of others. (*Daily Scripture Readings and Meditations*).

Your Pineapple for the Week:

"Truly, truly, I say to you unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24).

Our Lenten Home Study:

Read, meditate, and pray with Romans 8:18-39.

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EASTER VIGIL REHEARSAL

There will be an important practice session for lectors who are scheduled to read and choir members who will sing the responsorial psalms – along with the musician – for the Easter Vigil Mass. The rehearsal will take place on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 10:00am. It is important that those involved attend this practice. Thank you.

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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!

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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