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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
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



*March 31, 2024
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
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

Today we gather in joy to celebrate the holiest and most wonderful of days: Easter Sunday. Jesus, who sacrificed his life on behalf of us all, has been raised from the dead. Alleluia! This is the day that gives meaning to Jesus' suffering and death, and in turn to our own. Suffering and death are not the end. Jesus has led the way to his Father for all eternity. How appropriate that we gather today for the Eucharist. In the Eucharist, we give thanks to the Lord for the ultimate sacrifice he made for our sins. In the Eucharist, we receive his Body and Blood, more closely uniting us with him, now and eternally. Let us celebrate the Eucharist on this blessed day as we are reborn in the Lord.

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Readings for this weekend are found in the Word & Eucharist Catholic Mass Book beginning on Page 424.

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*Parish Giving
March 24, 2024*

Offertory (includes School Support and Bus)	\$6231.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 40.00

"Thank You for Your Generosity"

MASS INTENTIONS

10:00am For the peaceful repose of the soul of Nicholas Kruse-Wright on the anniversary of his birthday. *Robert Wright

For the peaceful repose of the soul of Leroy W. Simmons on the anniversary of his birth (3/18). Ruth Simmons and Family

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PARISH SYMPATHY

Parish condolences are extended to the family of parishioner Mrs. Ellen Roberts who passed away on Monday, March 18, 2024. Funeral service will be held 11:00am on Saturday, April 6, 2024 at St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

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Today's Special Collection is for Priests' Retirement. Please give generously to this fund. Thank you.

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, 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 30, 2024 **Easter Vigil Mass 8:30pm**
1st Reading Taylor Walden
2nd Reading Dominique Jackson
3rd Reading Edna Mason
4th Reading Sharon Carson
5th Reading Joyce Jones
Epistle Donald Perry

March 31, 2024 **Easter Sunday Mass**
10:00am Joe Carter Alicia Carter

April 7, 2024 **Unity Mass**
10:00am Edna Mason Shirley West

ANNOUNCERS' SCHEDULE (*LECTOR ALSO)

March 30, 2024 **Easter Vigil Mass**
8:30pm Edna Mason

March 31, 2024 **Easter Sunday Mass**
10:00am Emily Fann

April 7, 2024 **Unity Mass**
10:00am Ruth Simmons

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST SCHEDULE

March 30, 2024 **Easter Vigil Mass**
8:30pm Sharon Carson

March 31, 2024 **Easter Sunday Mass**
10:00am Theresa Garvin

April 7, 2024 **Unity Mass**
10:00am Marvin Manning, Sr.

USHER'S SCHEDULE

March 30, 2024 **Easter Vigil Mass**
8:30pm Anthony DeShay Thomas Dickerson

March 31, 2024 **Easter Sunday Mass**
10:00am Rosetta Brown Karen Polk

April 7, 2024 **Unity Mass**
10:00am Michael A. Chaney George Moultrie
 Robert Kennedy

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BUS MINISTRY

Anyone wishing for transportation to the 9:am Mass or 10am Unity Mass should call either Dr. Earl Berksteiner at (912) 713-0414 or Mr. James Warren at (912) 655-8717 on or before Friday to schedule pickup. Thank you.

GETTING OUR FINAL AFFAIRS IN ORDER:

As life would have it, we fail to realize that it is never too soon to put our final affairs in order. And although we are sure to include immediate family and friends in our estate planning, please remember your church, St. Benedict the Moor, in your bequests.

You can make a difference: your legacy matters to St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church. When you leave an estate gift, like a house, land, or a monetary gift to your church family, you are leaving your mark for the future of this Parish that you love and cherish. For instance, over the years, our children have benefitted from the Carolyn G. Mitchell Trust Fund. This Trust helps our Parish with subsidies for our children in Catholic elementary schools in our deanery.

As you get your affairs in order, for your family and loved ones, please remember that St. Benedict is part of your family. The future of this Parish depends on us. As Terry Tempest Williams would say, "The eyes of the future are looking back at us, and they are praying for us to see beyond our own time". It is our prayer that you consider leaving your legacy by bequeathing your gift for the future of your Church family.

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CONGRATULATIONS!

Parish congratulations to Ruth Simmons on her retirement (03/15/2024) after 36 years, 2 months and 2 weeks of employment – 26 years, 2 months, and 2 weeks with the Chatham County District Attorney's Office Child Support Services and 10 years with AT&T. We are so happy for you, Ruth!

Parish congratulations to Jayden Jones on his induction into the Savannah State University chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers on March 25, 2024. Your St. Benedict the Moor Church family is very proud of you, Jayden!

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USHERS NEEDED

There is an urgent need for ushers at all Masses. Ushers welcome visitors and parishioners to the church and are vital to the flow of the services. If you haven't found a way to give of your time and talent, consider this ministry. Contact Michael A. Chaney at (912) 655-1856 to sign up or for more information. Next meeting is April 11, 2024 at 6pm in the parish hall.

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WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

THE LORD HAS RISEN:

Early Sunday morning the women went to the tomb to pay their last tribute to a dead body. The disciples thought that everything had finished in tragedy. Neither were ready to see an empty tomb and hear the angel's message, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." (Mark 16:6-7). The angel urged them to believe that Jesus had indeed risen just as he had promised. In joy then went to share the good news with the other disciples.

Is it any small wonder that it was the women, rather than the apostles, who first witnessed the empty tomb and the resurrected Lord? Isidore of Seville, a 7th-century church father comments on this: "As a woman (Eve) was first to taste death, so a woman (Mary Magdalene) was first to taste life. As a woman was prescient in the fall, so a woman was prescient in beholding the dawning of redemption, thus reversing the curse upon Eve." The first to testify to the risen Lord was a woman from whom Jesus had cast out seven demons.

What is the significance of the stone being rolled away? It would have taken several people to move such a stone. And besides, the sealed tomb had been guarded by soldiers! This is the first sign of the resurrection. Bede, a church father from the 8th century, comments: "[The angel] rolled back the stone not to throw open a way for our Lord to come forth, but to provide evidence to people that he had already come forth. As the virgin's womb was closed, so the sepulcher was closed, yet he entered the world through her closed womb, and so he left the world through the closed sepulcher." (From Homilies on the Gospels 2,7,24) Another church father remarked: "To behold the resurrection, the stone must first be rolled away from our hearts" (Peter Chrysologus, 5th century). Do you know the joy of the resurrection?

Significantly, the disciples had to first deal with the empty tomb before they could come to grips with the fact that scripture had foretold that Jesus would die

for our sins and then rise triumphant. They disbelieved until they saw the empty tomb. Bede explains why the Risen Lord revealed himself gradually to the disciples:

"Our Lord and redeemer revealed the glory of his resurrection to his disciples gradually and over some time, undoubtedly because so great was the virtue of the miracle that the weak hearts of mortals could not grasp [the significance of] this all at once. Thus, he had regard for the frailty of those seeking him. To those who came first to the tomb, both the women who were aflame with love for him and the men, he showed the stone rolled back. Since his body had been carried away, he showed them the linen cloths in which it had been wrapped lying there alone. Then, to the women who were searching eagerly, who were confused in their minds about what they had found out about him, he showed a vision of angels who disclosed evidences of the fact that he had risen again. Thus, with the report of his resurrection already accomplished, going ahead of him, the Lord of hosts and the king of glory himself at length appeared and made clear with what great might he had overcome the death he had temporarily tasted." (From Homilies on the Gospels 2,9,25)

One thing is certain, if Jesus had not risen from the dead and appeared to his disciples, we would never have heard of him. Nothing else could have changed sad and despairing men and women into people radiant with joy and courage. The reality of the resurrection is the central fact of the Christian faith. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Lord gives us "eyes of faith" to know him and the power of his resurrection. The greatest joy we can have is to encounter the living Lord and to know him personally. Do you celebrate the feast of Easter with joy and thanksgiving for the victory that Jesus has won for you over sin and death? (*Daily Scripture Readings and Meditations*).

Your Pineapple for the Week:

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" (Luke 24:5-6).

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