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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
Phone: 912-232-7147 Fax: 912-238-0184
Website: www.stbenedict-sav.org
Email: stbenedict@bellsouth.net



April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B

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

Finance Council Members:

Carl Hayes, Chairman 912-655-7153
Eboney Jarrett, Member 912-844-2688
Tracey Maloof, Member 912-663-3413
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

"I am the vine, you are the branches," we hear Jesus tell his disciples in today's Gospel. We are those branches now. Connected to the vine that is the Lord, we are expected to bear fruit. What fruit do we bear? Let us contemplate that question as we prepare to celebrate Mass today. May listening to God's word and sharing in the Eucharist nourish us as we strive to bear good fruit for the Lord.

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Readings for this weekend are found in the Word & Eucharist Catholic Mass Book beginning on Page 434.

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*Parish Giving
April 21, 2024*

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| Offertory (includes School Support and Bus) | \$8253.00 |
| Second Collection: Catholic Home Mission Appeal | \$ 15.00 |

"Thank You for Your Generosity"

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MASS INTENTIONS

5:30pm For God's blessings and the joy of Taylor A. Walden celebrating her Birthday, April 30th.
*Rosemary Walden

For the peaceful repose of the soul of James David Carson on the anniversary of his birthday (May 1st).
*Sharon Carson & Family

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PARISH CONDOLENCES

Parish sympathy to Mr. & Mrs. Greg and Tracey Maloof and family on the loss of his father - Mr. George Maloof - who passed away Sunday, April 21, 2024 in New Jersey. Funeral services were held Thursday, April 25th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

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UNITY MASS CHOIR REHEARSAL

"Psalms 98:4 - Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise." Unity Mass Choir Rehearsal will be held on April 30, 2024, at 6 p.m. Calling all Youth and Adults your attendance is needed to prepare for 1st Sunday. Thank you - Kathy L. Stewart

Pray for our Sick & Homebound: Louise Allen, Willie Allen, Jr., Mariah Bailey, Joe Battle, Bea Betsworth, 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

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| <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> |
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LECTORS' SCHEDULE (*ANNOUNCER ALSO)

April 27/28, 2024

5:30pm Edna Mason* Sharon Carson
9:00am Dianne Williams Melanie White
11:30am Juliette Tolbert Beverly Blue

May 5, 2024 Unity Mass

10:00am Georgene Jones Barbara McGhee

ANNOUNCERS' SCHEDULE (*LECTOR ALSO)

April 27/28, 2024

5:30pm Edna Mason*
9:00am Theresa Garvin
11:30am Joyce Jones

May 5, 2024 Unity Mass

10:00am Emily Fann

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST SCHEDULE

April 27/28, 2024

5:30pm Sharon Carson
9:00am Milenthia Williams
11:30am Juliette Tolbert

May 5, 2024 Unity Mass

10:00am William Wright

USHER'S SCHEDULE

April 27/28, 2024

5:30pm Robert Kennedy Anthony DeShay
9:00am Karen Polk Michael A. Chaney
11:30am Matthew Jenkins Latisha Bailey

May 5, 2024 Unity Mass

10:00am Rosetta Brown Karen Polk Brenda Kennedy

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.

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE WORD OF GOD

The Bible is not just information or a historical book. It is not just for quick inspiration. One of the most important ways the Holy Spirit reaches us is through scripture. If we neglect His voice in that place where He speaks, we are shutting off a crucial part of our relationship with Him.

Bible Study...Try it!
Every Wednesday evening at 6pm in the Parish Hall.

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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INFANT BAPTISM

The next infant baptism will take place on May 19, 2024. Parents wishing to have their children baptized should contact Theresa Garvin (912-507-7553 or Sharon Carson (912-656-0286) for more information or to register their children.

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SECOND COLLECTION

Today's second collection is for Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Please plan to give generously to this fund. Thank you.

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CONGRATULATIONS

It is with great joy and thankfulness to our God that we announce the diaconate ordination of one of our own – Mr. Torrance Garvin, Sr. The ordination will take place on Saturday, May 25, 2024 at 10:00am in the Cathedral Basilica of St. John the Baptist (222 E Harris Street, Savannah, GA). This is another moment in the history of St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church. Please join us in witnessing this occasion.

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WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

Bearing the fruit of righteousness, peace, and joy:

Why does Jesus speak of himself as the *true vine*? The image of the vine was a rich one for the Jews since the land of Israel was covered with numerous vineyards. It had religious connotations to it as well. Isaiah spoke of the house of Israel as "*the vineyard of the Lord*" (Isaiah 5:7). Jeremiah said that God had planted Israel "*as his choice vine*" (Jeremiah 2:21). While the vine became a symbol of Israel as a nation, it also was used in the Scriptures as a sign of degeneration - a deformed state of spiritual growth and moral decline. Isaiah's prophecy spoke of Israel as a vineyard which "*yielded wild grapes*" (see Isaiah 5:1-7). Jeremiah said that Israel had become a "*degenerate and wild vine*" (Jeremiah 2:21).

When Jesus calls himself the *true vine* he makes clear that no one can grow in spiritual fruitfulness and moral goodness unless they are rooted in God and in his life-giving word. Religious affiliation or association with spiritually minded people is not sufficient by itself - one must be firmly rooted in the "Tree of Life" (Revelation 22:1-2, Genesis 2:8-9) who is the eternal Father and his only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus makes a claim which only God can make - he is the true source of life that sustains us and makes us fruitful in living the abundant life which God has for us. It is only through Jesus Christ that one can be fully grafted into the true "vineyard of the Lord".

Jesus offers true life - the abundant life which comes from God and which results in great fruitfulness. How does the vine become fruitful? The vine dresser must carefully prune the vine before it can bear good fruit. Vines characteristically have two kinds of branches - those which bear fruit and those which don't. The non-bearing branches must be carefully pruned back in order for the vine to conserve its strength for bearing good fruit. Jesus used this image to describe the kind of life he produces in those who

are united with him - the fruit of "*righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit*" (Romans 14:17). Jesus says there can be no fruit in our lives apart from him. The fruit he speaks of here is the fruit of the Holy Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23).

There is a simple truth here: We are either fruit-bearing or non-fruit-bearing. There is no in-between. But the bearing of healthy fruit requires drastic pruning. The Lord promises that we will bear much fruit if we abide in him and allow him to purify us. Do you trust in the Lord's healing and transforming power to give you the abundant life and fruit of his heavenly kingdom? (Daily Scripture Readings and Meditation).

Your Pineapple for the Week:

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last (John 15:16).

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150th THEME NAMING CONTEST

Don't forget! The deadline to submit your suggestion for our 150th Anniversary theme is April 30, 2024. With a focus on Unity, let's continue to unite as one family at St. Benedict the Moor to make our anniversary an overwhelming success. Thank you to everyone who has already turned in their contest forms and we are looking forward to receiving many more before the April 30th deadline. If anyone has any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the parish office. Thank you - 150th Anniversary Planning Committee

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