



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

Phone: 912-232-7147 Fax: 912-238-0184

Website: www.stbenedict-sav.org

Email: stbenedict@bellsouth.net



September 1, 2024

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Rev. Romanus Obiora Ezeugwu, MSP, Pastor
Sharon Carson, Supt. of Religious Education
Audrey Moultrie, Parish Council Chairperson
Sharon Carson, Administrative Secretary
Deirdre Phillips, Account 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

On this Labor Day weekend, when we recognize all those who work – in whatever way they can – to provide for their families, their communities, and this nation, we also celebrate the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, praying that together we can work to ensure that the world God made can be enjoyed by future generations for centuries to come. Let us praise God for this wonderful world and the opportunity to work in it.

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Readings for this weekend are found in the Word & Eucharist Catholic Mass Book beginning on Page 508.

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*Parish Giving
August 25, 2024*

Offertory	\$5367.01
Special Collections: Assumption	\$ 40.00

“Thank You for Your Generosity”

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MASS INTENTIONS

10:00am: For our brothers and sisters who are celebrating their birthdays and various anniversaries during the month of September.

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LECTORS’ SCHEDULE
(*indicates Announcer also)

September 1, 2024

10:00am Joe Carter Alicia Carter

USHERS’ SCHEDULE

September 1, 2024

10:00am George Moultrie Thomas Dickerson
Richard Baker

ANNOUNCERS’ SCHEDULE

September 1, 2024

10:00am Atzmayah Bailey

**ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR CATHOLIC CHURCH
CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF LOVE & SERVICE
TO GOD**

Pray for our Sick & Homebound: Louise Allen, Brandon 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, Evelyn Porter, Delores Robinson, Elizabeth Robinson, Janice Quinn, Sr. Barbara Shimkus, 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.

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Our monthly luncheon for our sick and shut-in brothers and sisters will take place on Wednesday, September 11th. Volunteers are needed to assist with preparations the day before (Tuesday) and with the cooking and deliveries on September 11th. Please contact the church office if you have questions. Let us show the love of Christ to our brothers and sisters. Thank you – Gloria Stephens, Coordinator.

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OUR PARISH 150TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM:

A 3-day Anniversary Parish Retreat:
Friday, August 30 – Sunday, September 1, 2024

Parish Picnic:
Sunday, September 1, 2024, after the Unity Mass

Gospel Fest:
Sunday, September 22, 2024 @ 5:00pm

Historic Review of the Church/Youth Event:
Friday, October 4, 2024 @ 6:00pm

Banquet with Silent Auction:
Saturday, October 5, 2024 @ 6:00pm

Anniversary Thanksgiving Mass
Sunday, October 6, 2024 @ 10:00am

Blessing of the 3rd Floor of the Old School Building.:
Sunday, October 6, 2024, after 10am Mass

Celebration at the Old School Building Compound:
Sunday, October 6, 2024 after the blessing of The 3rd floor of the Old School Building.

OUR ANNIVERSARY PARISH RETREAT PROGRAM:

Retreat Preacher: Fr. Martin Eke, MSP
Pastor, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
Houston, Texas

Retreat Theme:
“Now You Are the Body of Christ, and Each One of You is a Part of It”

Day 3: Sunday, September 1, 2024
10 AM UNITY MASS / Conclusion of Retreat

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Announcement: Smoking Cessation Program at St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church

We are excited to announce a new Smoking Cessation Program that will take place within our parish community, starting this Sunday, September 1, 2024, and running through the end of October. This 9-week program is designed to educate our community about the many health risks associated with smoking and to assist those who wish to quit.

The program will be organized and led by Anne Florence Bakinde, a DNP student from Chatham University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as part of her final project. Through a series of educational workshops and personalized support, this program will provide valuable information and resources to help participants in their journey to a smoke-free life.

A sign-up sheet will be available after each Mass starting Sunday, September 1, 2024, and flyers will be distributed at the same time. Please note that participation is entirely voluntary, and we encourage all interested community members to join.

For more information and to sign up, please contact the parish office or speak with Anne Bakinde directly after Sunday Mass. We look forward to your participation!

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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.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL 2024	
Our Progress as of August 22, 2024	
TARGET	\$31,885.00
Pledged	\$14,690.00
Paid on Pledge	\$ 7,537.50
Pledge Balance	\$ 7,152.50
One-Time/Unpledged	\$ 14,159.50
Total Given (so far)	\$ 21,697.00
Percent of Target	68.05 (#12 of 14 Parishes)
Still Needed	\$10,188.00 (BY 11/03/24)
<p>We can do this together as One Family United in Faith!</p>	

WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

Uproot wrong thoughts and attitudes before they grow:

The Scribes and Pharisees were upset with Jesus because he allowed his disciples to break with their ritual traditions by eating with unclean hands. They sent a delegation all the way from Jerusalem to Galilee to bring their accusation in a face-to-face confrontation with Jesus. Jesus dealt with their accusation by going to the heart of the matter - by looking at God's intention and purpose for the commandments.

Jesus explains that they void God's command because they allow their hearts and minds to be clouded by their own notions of what is true religion. Jesus accuses them specifically of two things. First of hypocrisy. Like actors who put on a show, they appear to obey God's word in their external practices while inwardly harbor evil desires and intentions.

Secondly, he accuses them of abandoning God's word by substituting their own arguments and ingenious interpretations for what God requires. They devised clever arguments based on their own thoughts rather than on God's word. Jesus refers them to the prophecy of Isaiah (29:31) where the prophet accuses the people of his day for honoring God with their lips while their hearts were far away from choosing and doing what God asked of them.

Where does evil come from and what's the solution for eliminating it? Jesus deals with this issue in response to the religious leaders' concern with ritual defilement - making oneself unfit to offer acceptable sacrifice and worship to God. The religious leaders were concerned with avoiding ritual defilement, some no doubt out of fear of God, and others out of fear of pleasing other people.

Jesus points his listeners to the source of true defilement - evil desires which come from inside a person's innermost being. Sin does not happen. It first springs from the innermost recesses of our thoughts and intentions, from the secret desires which only the individual soul can conceive.

God in his mercy sent his Son Jesus Christ to free us from our sinful cravings and burden of guilt, and to

restore us to wholeness of life and goodness. But to receive his mercy and healing, we must admit our faults and ask for his forgiveness. *"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:8-9).

When Cain was jealous of his brother, Abel, God warned him to guard his heart: *"Sin is couching at the door; it's desire is for you, but you must master it"* (Genesis 4:7). Do you allow any sinful desires to enter the door of your heart and mind? We do not need to entertain or give in to sinful desires or thoughts, but instead, through the grace of God, we can choose to put them to death rather than allow them to be the master who controls our way of thinking, feeling, and acting. (*Daily Scripture Readings and Meditations*).

Your Pineapple for the Week:

"Hear me, all of you, and understand: 15 there is nothing outside a man which by going into him can defile him; but the things which come out of a man are what defile him" (Mark 7:14-15)

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150th Anniversary Gala Tickets

If you have not already done so, do not forget to purchase your tickets for the 150th Anniversary Gala which will be held in the Savannah Civic Center Grand Ballroom on October 5, 2024. Doors open at 5:30pm; A Silent Auction starts at 6:00pm and the Anniversary Gala Program begins promptly at 6:30PM.

Although installment payments have ended, tickets are available for purchase until September 1, 2024. Individual tickets are \$150.00 and a table of eight (8) is \$1,000.00. Please do all that you can to attend what will be a beautiful celebration as we mark this historic occasion of our parish, St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church, Savannah, GA.

Attire: Semi-Formal.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

We're back!! Faith Formation classes will resume on September 8th at 10:15am. Please register your children after Mass or on the first day of classes. We look forward to sharing the Catholic faith with your children so please sign up!!