



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 LENT
STATIONS OF THE CROSS –
5:30PM
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – 6PM

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



February 22, 2026 **First Sunday of Lent - Year A**

Rev. Anselm Eke, MSP, Pastor
Deacon Torrance A. Garvin, Sr.
Sharon Carson, Supt. of Religious Education
Dianne Williams, Parish Council Chairperson
Sharon Carson, Administrative Secretary
Jerome Grayson, Bldg/Maintenance

Finance Council Members:

Carl Hayes, Chairman	912-655-7153
Ebonee Jarrett, Member	912-844-2688
Tracey Maloof, Member	912-663-3413
Marvin Manning, Sr. Member	912-844-5580
Audrey Moultrie, Member	912-398-5301
Melanie White, Member	912-439-1488
Eric Scott, Jr., Member	912-695-5189



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

During the forty-day journey through the desert that we make each Lent, again and again we will find ourselves tempted to do the wrong thing, to overindulge, to lie, to take the easy way out. Fortunately, the Holy Spirit accompanies us to guide us along the right path and lead us back after we lose our way. We recall that filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was able to resist temptation on his journey, even when the devil offered him the whole world. May we be strengthened regularly by his Body and Blood while on our holy pilgrimage.

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Readings are found in the Word & Eucharist Catholic Mass Book beginning on page 208.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word:

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 *“The creation of our first parents, and sin.”*

Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17 *“Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.”*

Romans 5:12-19 *“Where sin increased, there grace increased all the more.”*

Matthew 4:1-11 *“Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights and was tempted.”*

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Parish Giving
February 15, 2026

Offertory: including Bus and School Support	\$4423.00
Online Giving	\$1230.00

“Thank You for Your Generosity”

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MASS INTENTIONS

9:00am For the peaceful repose of the soul of Mr. Frankie Brown on the anniversary of his passing (2/22). *The Brown Family

For the peaceful repose of the soul of Mr. Clarence John Bailey, Sr. on the anniversary of his birthday (2/27). *Mrs. Mariah Bailey

For God’s blessings on Ms. Norissa T. Brown as she celebrates her birthday (2/25). *Keilen and Kaitlen Brown

For the people and the needs of the parish.

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Pray for our Sick & Homebound: Louise Allen, Frances Allen, Joe Battle, Henry Blount, Alethea Chaney, Otis & Lillie Charlton, Josefa Citizen, Juanita Fields, Glenn Grant, Raymond Heyward, Jessica Jackson, Mary Jackson, Christine James, Mackenzie Jenkins, Vera Jennings, Clevon Johnson, Hilda Johnson, Willie Leachman, Robert Locke, Louis McClendon, Jr., Lillie Middleton, Dawud Patterson, Evelyn Porter, Emma Preer, Janice Quinn, Sr. Barbara Shimkus, Cornelius St. Mark, Inez Walthour, Margaret Weston, Nathaniel Wiggins, Crystal Williams, Tambra Williams, Narvia Williams, Julie Porter-Winfrey (out-of-town).

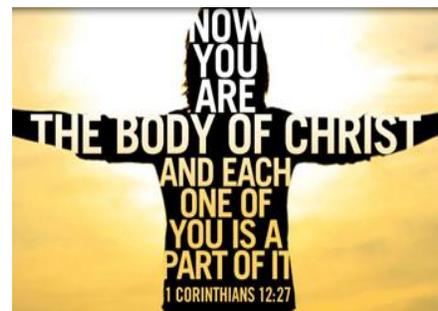
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PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

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.

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.



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

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE
February 21 - 22, 2026**

LECTORS

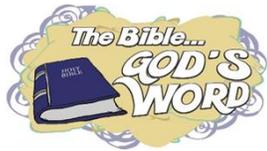
5:30pm Edna Mason Sharon Carson*
9:00am Joe Carter Alicia Carter
11:30am Beverly Blue Matthew Jenkins

USHERS

5:30pm Anthony DeShay Robert Kennedy
9:00am Richard Baker George Moultrie
11:30am Sylvester Brown Matthew Jenkins

ANNOUNCER

5:30pm Sharon Carson*
9:00am Ruth Simmons
11:30am Theresa Garvin



**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 the place where He speaks, we are shutting off a crucial part of our relationship with Him.

BIBLE STUDY ... TRY IT!

Every Wednesday evening @6:00pm in the Parish Hall.

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TOWN HALL MEETING

The Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 3:00pm**. All parishioners are strongly encouraged to attend. Thank you.

THANKS AND APPRECIATION

Sincere thanks to St. Benedict the Moor, Fr. Eke, Fr. Chaney, Michael and Michaela Chaney, and Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary for your prayers, cards, calls and attendance at the Homegoing Services for Mrs. Catherine Walls Taylor, our mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Your kindness will always be remembered.

*Rosemary and Taylor Walden

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YOUTH PLAY

Tickets for the upcoming children's play, "The Magic Carpet Ride, Fashion and Talent Show" on Sunday, **March 8th** following the 11:30am Mass are now available. Cost of the tickets, which includes the play and lunch, is only \$10 for attendees age 18 and older. There is no charge for youth age 17 and younger. Mark your calendars and please come out to support our children. If you would like more information, please contact Vergie Williams (912-220-1803), Kimberly Carter-Johnson (912-323-2750) or Sharon Carson (912-656-0286). Tickets are available for purchase after each Mass or from the church office.

**2026 STATIONS OF THE CROSS
SCHEDULE**

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday at 5:30pm beginning February 20th. 30 minute Eucharistic Adoration will follow after the Stations of the Cross.

Make this service a part of your Lenten journey!

February 27 – Pastoral Council and Finance Council

March 6 – Knights of Columbus & Ladies Auxiliary

March 13 – Associate Missionaries of St. Paul, Lectors & Choirs

March 20 – New Horizons of Women and Men, Traveling Moors & Legion of Mary

March 27 – Council of Catholic Women, Friends of St. Benedict the Moor & Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist

April 3 – (Celebration of the Lord's Passion begins at 3:00pm) - Pastor, Deacon and Youth

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YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

WHO: YOU

WHAT: First Unity Celebration for 2026

WHERE: St. Benedict the Moor Parish Hall

WHEN: Next Sunday March 1, 2026

TIME: After Unity Mass

WHY: Because there is no US without U!

PLEASE JOIN US!



WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Our readings on this first Sunday of Lent remind us of the worship we owe God, our Creator. They remind us that we need more than material things to truly live and be fully human: it's not by bread alone that we live. They also remind us that we should not adopt the philosophy of the world which says one should always use what one has to get what one needs. The readings remind us that God must take priority over everything else in our lives, for God alone is worthy of our worship. Lent is a time to grow spiritually through prayer, fasting and reaching out to others in love. It is a time for us to make an extra effort to control those impulses that want to pull us in the wrong direction. It is important that each of us makes a conscious decision during this first week of Lent to do something special in order to make spiritual stride in our Christian journey.

Our Gospel today is on the Temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. Three temptations are recounted: to change stone into bread, to fall down and worship the devil, and to jump down from the pinnacle of the Temple. In each of these three temptations what the devil is saying to Jesus is, "Come on; use what you have to get what you want." And in each case Jesus overcomes the temptation by replying, "No, we can only use godly means to satisfy our God-given needs or to pursue our goals in life."

Let us look briefly at the drama of the three temptations of Jesus by the devil as recorded by St. Matthew. First, the devil has a sense of perfect timing when he approached Jesus. He knows that Jesus had fasted for forty days and nights without food and was hungry (Mt. 4:2). Prove that you are the Son of God: turn these stones into bread, he said (Mt. 4:3). In response,

Jesus says: Man will not live on bread alone (Mt. 4:4). Here, Jesus insists that there are higher goals for us to live or die for. The devil had hoped that like the dictators of today, Jesus could seduce the people with the bread of temporal power to gain cheap followership. No, Jesus says, you must set a higher moral goal.

Second, the devil asks Jesus to throw himself down the cliff. After all, he tells Jesus, the Angels of God will hold you (Mt. 4:6). Here, Jesus is called to take a shortcut to fame. Why travel the hard road of suffering, sacrifice, exclusion, and powerlessness? Succumb to the seduction of the dreamer, the charmer, climb the actor's shoulder. And then what next? Jesus rejects this temptation. Why? Because God demands more than theatrical performances from us.

Third, the devil says he will give Jesus all the kingdoms of the world (money, power, territory) only if He bows and acknowledges him (Mt. 4:8). Wow! No better evidence that the devil is a liar. He knows he has no kingdom and what he has is his kingdom of darkness and lies. It was in this same manner that the devil deceived Eve at the Garden of Eden by mixing a concoction of lies. At the base of this temptation is the seduction of pride and power. God knows that the day you eat it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God (Gen. 3:5). Think of the many who have sold their souls for ephemeral power, those who have denied Jesus by action so as to ascend the throne of power. By His resistance to the devil, Jesus shows that following His path will require tremendous sacrifice.

By his responses to all the suggestions of the devil, Jesus shows us that we should never trade off our faith in God or our moral principles to obtain anything in this world, because faithfulness to God is more precious than anything in this world.

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