



MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 5:30 pm

SUNDAY 10:00am

**Weekday Mass -8:00 am
Wednesday-Friday in the Church**

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

UNITY MASS - 10AM

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

@6:00PM (Beginning 9/4/2026)

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



July 19, 2026

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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

Joseph Carter, Member 912-398-0414



www.stbenedict-sav.org

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 midsummer day, Jesus invites us to sit back and listen to the master storyteller tell three parables about the kingdom of heaven. Instead of describing it literally, Jesus uses parables to explore its aspects and express its richness. Once again, he speaks of a farmer sowing seed. Let us pray that the seed that is the word of God may find fertile soil in each of us so that we may come to a deeper understanding of our faith.

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Readings are found in the Word & Eucharist Catholic Mass Book beginning on page 307:

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 "You give repentance for sins."

Psalms 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16 "Lord, you are good and forgiving."

Romans 8:26-27 "The Spirit intercedes with inexpressible groanings."

Matthew 13:24-43 "Let them grow together until harvest.."

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Parish Giving July 12, 2026

Offertory: including Bus and School Support	\$4402.00
Online Giving	\$1510.00
Special Collections: Church in Africa	\$ 5.00

"Thank You for Your Generosity"

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MASS INTENTIONS

10:00am For the peaceful repose of the soul of James David Carson on the anniversary of his passing (7/22). *Sharon Carson

For the people and the needs of the parish.

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SPECIAL COLLECTION

This weekend's Special Collection is for the **Church in Africa**. Please be generous with your donation.

THANK YOU

The family of Emma J. Preer wishes to thank Fr. Anselm Eke, MSP and the church members for the warm welcome extended to them at the Mass on June 14th to help celebrate her 90th birthday on June 15th. May God bless each of you.

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

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**

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MINISTRY SCHEDULE
July 18 - 19, 2026

LECTORS

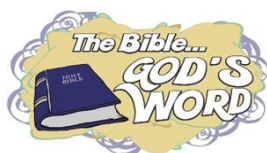
5:30pm Beverly Blue Shirley West
10:00am Faith Formation Faith Formation

USHERS

5:30pm Brenda Kennedy Richard Baker
10:00am Faith Formation Faith Formation
Faith Formation

ANNOUNCERS

5:30pm Dr. Deborah Jones
10:00am Faith Formation



**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.

**Please note: Our Bible study group will not meet
during the months of July and August.**

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Our parish target goal for this year's Annual Catholic
Appeal is \$33,307.00. In order to meet this goal, each
family is asked to please make a pledge of at least \$275.00
or more, if you can. Again, this year the Diocese has
implemented giving a rebate to parishes that have
exceeded their individual target goals. Please prayerfully
consider making your pledge today. With God's help, and
the generosity of our parish family, we can reach our goal
together.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROJECT UPDATE

Last weekend, the BTS Committee kicked off its first
Back-to-School project. Thanks to your generosity, we
have already collected \$420.00 in donations to purchase
gift cards so that families can use it for school supplies for
our youth in the church, in grades Pre-K through college.
Thank you so much for your support!

We will continue accepting donations this weekend. A
donation box is located at the entrance of the church for
your convenience. Parents and family members, if you
have not yet signed up for your child to receive a Walmart
gift card, please do so by completing the sign-up sheet
with your child's name, school name and grade level. The
sign-up sheet is also located at the entrance of the church.
**Walmart gift cards will be distributed on Sunday,
August 2, 2026, following the Unity Mass.**

*Emily Williams-Fann, Chairperson

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

Don't know what to do with all of those pennies you have
been saving now that they are being taken out of
circulation? Well, the Knights of Columbus Council
#10274 will be happy to take them off your hands and give
them to a charitable cause through their **Pennies From
Heaven** fundraiser. Bring any pennies you don't want
and put them in the white bucket at the front entrance of
the church beginning this week. May you be blessed as
you bless others. Thank you!

QUARTERLY UNITY MASS RECEPTION

Just a reminder to those who are celebrating their
birthday or anniversary during the months of July,
August or September to contact your coordinator to see
how you can help with the quarterly Unity Mass reception
scheduled for September 6th. Coordinators are: July –
Sharon Carson (912-656-0286), August – Ruth Simmons
(912-713-9921), September – Yvonne Williams (912-657-
3841). Requested donation is \$25 which can be given to
any of the coordinators listed above or dropped off to the
parish office. The next planning meeting will be August
14, 2026 to finalize details. Thank you.

**ADORATION AND EXPOSITION OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Beginning September 4, 2026, we will have Adoration of
the Blessed Sacrament on the First Friday of each month
through June 2027. We invite you to take part in this
beautiful prayer as we raise our hearts and minds to God.

Then beginning September 11, 2026, through June 2027,
the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place
every Friday from 8:30am – 2:00pm. To ensure that our
Lord is not left alone, there will be a sign up sheet for
participants to indicate when they will plan to be available
to spend time in the church with the Blessed Sacrament
(at least 30 minutes or more). More information will be
provided soon.

FESTIVAL OF PRAISE

The inaugural **Festival of Praise**, a deanery-wide
evening of faith, fellowship, and family formation will
take place at the Catholic Pastoral Center (2170 E Victory
Drive) on Sunday, August 2, 2026, from 4:00pm –
8:00pm. The goal of this event is to bring together
families and youth from throughout the Savannah
Deanery to grow in their faith, learn practical ways to live
out that faith in the home, and become more engaged in
the life of their local parish communities. This is a **free,
family-friendly event** for all ages. The **only cost for
attendees is dinner if they choose to purchase
food from one of our food trucks**. Everything else—
including the speaker, praise and worship, games,
activities, and fellowship—is completely free. Please come
out and join us!!

-Weekly Reflections

16TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

The First Reading of today tells us about the love of God and the divine power which has mastery over everything and directed at gradually steering people toward the path of life. God cares about everyone, shining in righteousness and has patience towards all. Righteousness is his strength and he will not judge anyone unjustly. In his divine righteousness, God provides all of us with the opportunity to be saved. However, when some are arrogant, doubting the power of God, He shows them his strength. Through such actions, God teaches his people that the righteous must be kind. He fills his children with good hope because he freely gives to all who repent of their sins. The all-knowing God knows every human weakness. In their weakness, people misuse the freedom granted them by God. They turn away from the creator and instead worship created things.

The gospel reading contains three very important parables about the kingdom of God that Jesus told his disciples to highlight various realities of God's Kingdom among us. First he indicates that the Kingdom of God is going to be, on the whole, a messy business in which the good and bad, the strong and the weak, the clean and the corrupt, will rub shoulder to shoulder both inside the Church and in the larger Society. Secondly, no matter how small the beginnings, if we are faithful to the spirit and values of the Kingdom, we can be sure that what seemed like difficult obstacles, threats and even dangers can be overcome. Finally, any community with the Kingdom values, even though very small, can exert a real influence on the growth of the environment of which it is fully a part and be instrumental in spreading Kingdom values as the accepted values.

Again and again we see the evil ones acting powerfully in the world and we are left to ask: Why does God not intervene promptly and root out evil and evil people? What kind of Kingdom did Jesus establish if it cannot destroy evil once and for all? Have there been times when we have felt that God is too lenient or too tolerant? That's surely the impression we get from the first of the three parables in today's gospel. The answer to our questions could be found in 2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to

+repentance." God is a God of mercy. He is always giving us chance after chance to get it right. God is a father "who wants everyone to be saved" (1 Tim 2:4) and "God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved" (John 3:17).

Often we mistake God's patience for blindness or weakness. We may mistake his mercy for softness. We sometimes blame God for doing nothing in the face of evil as he appears not to care at all as the evil forces run riot in our world. We just need to understand God's tremendous love for us in which he does not wish the death of the wicked one, but rather he should repent and live (Ezekiel 33:11). God is love and that is why he can wait, he is patient and continues to hope that the sinner will change. God waited on the adulterous Mary Magdalene, he waited on Saul who persecuted the Church until he became Paul, and he also waited on the promiscuous Augustine who is today a saint. He will continue to wait on the sinner of today. However one thing is certain: anyone who refuses to turn away from evil or persists in evil is not building up his/her life; he/she is instead ruining it. We have to remember that there is always a day of reckoning when good triumphs over evil; when God shows his might. Remember God is equally a God of justice.

To conclude, let me draw our attention to one last point in today's parable, even if it is not clearly stated: the parable encourages us to stand firm and stay strong in our world infested with the works of evil people. We are to stand our ground, and not spend our whole energy lamenting and wanting the weeds to be uprooted. Unfortunately, the battle between light and darkness has been in existence from the very beginning of the world, and truth be said the end of that battle is not in sight, especially if we follow what goes on in the various social media. St. Paul challenges us in Romans 12:21, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Jesus uses the parable to teach us the reality of evil in the world, and to encourage us that evil does not have the last word. The Evil One and his agents will never stop sowing weeds. Therefore, we must always be prepared and not be caught off guard by their weeds. St. Peter, also, encourages us, "Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in faith, knowing that your fellow believers throughout the world undergo the same sufferings" (1 Peter 5:8)..