



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 26, 2026

Seventeenth 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

Carl Hayes, Parish Financial Council Chairman

Sharon Carson, Administrative Secretary

Jerome Grayson, Bldg/Maintenance



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

Each Sunday when we come together to worship God, we are nourished first by God's word in the readings, psalm, and Gospel and then by Christ's own body in the Eucharist. We may take both for granted, because each is available to us every Sunday, but these are gifts that are meant to be treasured. In today's Gospel, Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a great treasure buried in a field, bought by a person lucky enough to have found it. But we have our treasure right here and right now, given to us by a God of infinite generosity. May we be blessed with the wisdom to see the treasures we have in the Word and Eucharist.

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Readings are found in the Word & Eucharist Catholic Mass Book beginning on page 310:

1 Kings 3:5, 7 - 12 "You have asked for wisdom."

Psalms 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130 "Lord, I love your commands."

Romans 8:28-30 "God predestined us to be conformed to the image of his Son."

Matthew 13:44-52 "He sells all that he has and buys the field."

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Parish Giving July 19, 2026

Offertory: including Bus and School Support	\$ 3232.00
Online Giving	\$ 1900.00
Special Collections: Church in Africa	\$ 546.00

"Thank You for Your Generosity"

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MASS INTENTIONS

5:30pm For the peaceful repose of the souls of William C. Jackson, Arthur Jackson, and Olga Jackson Bailey. *Prince A. Jackson, III

For God's continued blessings upon Mrs. Vivian Johnson as she celebrates her 91st birthday on 7/27.
*Children and grandchildren

10:00am For the repose of the soul of Mrs. Esther Brown on the 15th anniversary of her passing. (Rena Brown).

For the people and the needs of the parish.

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UNITY MASS CHOIR

Unity Mass choir rehearsal will be held on July 28, 2026 at 6pm. Parents, please bring your children.

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,

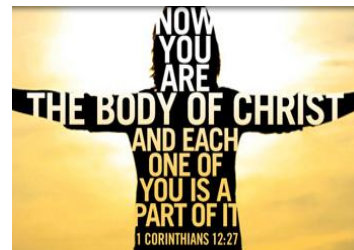
to be understood as to understand,

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**

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

July 25-26, 2026

LECTORS

5:30pm Taylor Walden Edna Mason
10:00am Adrian Broxton Bradaya Broxton

USHERS

5:30pm Robert Kennedy Anthony DeShay
10:00am George Moultrie Tyrone Bryant
Sylvester Brown

ANNOUNCERS

5:30pm Edna Mason *
10:00am Theresa Garvin

PARISH SYMPATHY

Parish condolences to the families of Mrs. Monique Davis and Mrs. Debra Scott-Davis on the loss of their grandson and great-grandson, Mr. Kyrie M. Hudson, who passed away Monday, July 20, 2026. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time and will announced when available. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families.

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

This is the final week to donate to our 1st Back-to-School Project. The donation box is located at the entrance of the church. Thank you for your prayers, support, and generous donations. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated.

Parents and family members, if you have not yet signed up for your child to receive a Walmart gift card, please complete the sign-up sheet located at the entrance of the church. Be sure to include your child's name, school, and grade level.

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

17TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

In this life we are all searching for something; it all comes in various shapes and forms – good health, good looks, success in our studies and in our work, stable families, prosperity, even power, and the list can go on. But ultimately, we are looking for happiness. There are different ways we can go about the search, some good, some not so good and others out rightly wrong. To know the difference and to choose the right way, we need the wisdom that comes from God. Wisdom is what helps us to know how to live, to know what is more important and what is less important. Wisdom is that gift from God which helps me to put first things first in my life; to order my priorities right. It gives me the right direction in my life and helps me to go for the things with true value.

It is true that the parables in today's Gospel present us with the image of the kingdom of God, yet the focus is not on the hidden treasure, pearls or the catch of fish. It is the actions of the individuals in the parables that is of great interest to me. It is about the wisdom they brought to their search. They are relentless in their search for the prize. They are persistent in the face of challenges and they become innovative in looking for ways to overcome the obstacles they face. Solomon too wanted to be a good king even better than his father David; and he knew that to be a good king required more than education and training in the art of governing, it required the wisdom that came from God and that is why when he had the opportunity to make a request from God, he asked for wisdom: "Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong". How I wish many of our leaders today, both religious and civil, will actually ask for wisdom from God. And of course, the Lord, who knows and always grants us what we truly need, was pleased with his request and responded: "I give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now, and after you there will come no one to equal you".

In the Gospel of today we are presented with three parables, but I will like to focus on two which are closely linked in meaning but with slight difference (one happens to find a treasure – luck, while another finds the pearl of great value after a long search – diligence). The first lesson for us is that the Kingdom of God is both a gratuitous gift from God and the fruit of the search and diligence of the individual. Secondly, these two parables speak of

individuals who with joy and assurance sell everything else to possess something precious. The parables are in effect saying that to know God and to live according to the Gospel are the most precious things in life. We are invited to know and understand what the real meaning of life is and what the most important things in life are. We also come to realize that the choice is not always between good and bad, but there are times we must choose between the good and the best. Finally, both parables demand renunciation, risk and commitment. The emphasis is not so much on the pain of renunciation as on the supreme value of the reward they will obtain.

The supreme treasure we seek as Christians is 'the kingdom of God', it is friendship with God, which leads to eternal life. This is of the highest value and we must be prepared to sacrifice everything else in order to acquire it. This is what the individuals in the two parables did, they sold everything they owned in order to acquire the treasure and the pearl of high value. We might not be asked to give up everything we have to remain friends with God, but there might be certain things we need to 'sell', to take out of our lives in order for our friendship with God to blossom. These things include hatred, immorality, gossip, pride, anger, cheating, etc. We must take these things out because they inhibit friendship with God. We also need to watch our inordinate love and attachment to things and people we have in our lives, because they could become obstacles in our relationship with God. We should not let anything, including progress in our careers or success in our studies, get in the way of our friendship with God.

Finding the treasure and the pearl of great value left both individuals in the parable very excited and happy, so too we should be excited and happy as Christians as we make the necessary sacrifices in order to enjoy God's friendship. Being in Church, being at prayers, studying the word of God, serving the brothers and sisters, and approaching the Sacraments should be things of joy; we should not look gloomy in God's company.

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PRAYER FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Lord, we lift all teachers, students, and school staff as they prepare for this next school season. Fill them with the tools they need to complete the year with success. Amen.

**Start the new academic year with a moment of reflection. Use focused prayers to ask for wisdom, patience, and a peaceful heart for teachers, students, and the broader school community as they step into the classroom.*