



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



August 16, 2026

Twentieth 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 Finance 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

In today's first reading, we hear the LORD tell Isaiah, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." Two and a half millennia later, this house of worship, along with hundreds of thousands of others like it around the world, continues to be a house of prayer for all peoples. In a spirit of Christian hospitality, we welcome everyone who comes here to pray in this holy place. Together we lift our hearts and voices in praise and thanksgiving to our loving and welcoming God.

Readings are found in the Word & Eucharist Catholic Mass Book beginning on page 316:

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7 The Lord brings foreigners into His house of prayer. Psalm 67 "O God, let all the nations praise you!" Romans 11:13-15, 29-32 "The call of God is irrevocable. Matthew 15:21-28 Great is the faith of the Canaanite woman.

Parish Giving August 8/9, 2026

Offertory: including Bus, School Support, & Assumption	\$ 4350.00
Church in Latin America	\$451.00
Online Giving	\$ 810.00

"Thank You for Your Generosity"

MASS INTENTIONS

10:00am: For the People and needs of the Parish.

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.

Pray for our Sick & Homebound: Louise Allen, Frances Allen, Joe Battle, Henry Blount, Alethea Chaney, Otis Charlton, Josefa Citizen, Ida Cruse, Juanita Fields, Glenn Grant, Raymond Heyward, Jessica Jackson, Mary Jackson, Christine James, Ebonee Jarrett, 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, Tandra 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**

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

August 15/16, 2026

LECTORS

5:30pm Taylor Walden Beverly Blue
10:00am Faith Formation

USHERS

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

ANNOUNCER

5:30pm Edna Mason
10:00am Faith Formation

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MONTHLY LUNCHEON

The monthly luncheon for our sick and shut-in brothers and sisters will take place on Wednesday, August 19, 2026. Please consider volunteering to help with the deliveries. Call the parish office if you have any questions. Let us show the love of Christ to our brothers and sisters. Thank you – Gloria Stephens, Coordinator

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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.

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Faith Formation/Youth News

Faith Formation and Youth Ministry **registration** for the upcoming year has begun. A Catechist will be available out front after each Mass. Please take the time to complete forms for your child/ren. 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.

Our Inaugural Back-to-School Project!

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated and supported our Inaugural Back-to-School Project. Because of your generosity, we were able to raise an incredible \$1,495.00 in donations!

Thanks to the kindness and generosity of our supporters, all the youth of our beloved St. Benedict the Moor Church received a Walmart gift card to help with the purchase of school supplies and other back-to-school necessities. A very special shout-out and sincere appreciation goes to the following organizations and individuals for their generous contributions:

- Friends of St. Benedict the Moor
- The Knights of Columbus
- A private donor from Estelle Estates

Your generosity and commitment to our youth made this project a tremendous success. Thank you for helping us show our young people that they are valued, supported, and surrounded by a caring community. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of our youth! With heartfelt gratitude, Thank you for your continued support!
Emily Williams-Fann, BTS Chairperson

20TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A
THE FAITH OF THE CANAANITE
WOMAN

Mahatma Gandhi in his autobiography tells how, during his student days, he read the Gospels and saw in the teachings of Jesus the answer to the major problem facing the people of India, the caste system. Seriously considering to embrace the Christian faith, Gandhi attended church one Sunday morning intending to talk to the minister about the idea. On entering the church, however, the usher refused to give him a seat and told him to go and worship with his own people. Gandhi left the church and never returned. "If Christians have caste differences also," he said, "I might as well remain a Hindu."

The belief that God's blessings are somewhat limited to peoples of certain nationalities or cultures has been around for a very long time. Such a belief was very much alive in the society in which Jesus grew up. When Jesus said in today's gospel reading, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 15:24) he was expressing a popular belief. It is not clear whether he really believed it himself or whether he said it in order to expose and correct its false claims. Every people and culture have a handful of such prejudices and myths – from the myth of the Jews as the only people of God to that of no salvation outside the Church, from the prejudice of the caste system in India to that of racial superiority in Nazi Germany, from the myth of the superiority of men over women to that of the superiority of Western cultures. We are today invited to expose such myths and correct their false and exaggerated claims.

It took the active intervention of a complete outsider, a Canaanite woman, to create the awareness among early Jewish Christians that the belief in the exclusive divine prerogatives of the Jewish people did not stand up to reason. Probably you and I owe the fact that we are Christians today to the heroism of this unnamed woman who dismantled the dividing wall of intolerance between Jews and Gentiles. We need to consult this woman in today's service, asking her to teach us how to go about dismantling the structures that create

undue division among God's children, the human race that God has loved into being.

The first thing she teaches us in our Christian vocation to reconcile all humankind to God is courage. Given her position as a foreigner and as a woman, it took phenomenal courage on her part to decide to take on the all-Jewish and all-male company of Jesus and his disciples. She was so small that, even though she addresses Jesus by his proper Messianic titles: "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David" (verse 22), Jesus still ignored her: "He did not answer her at all" (verse 23a). Most people at this point would give up and accept defeat. But not our Canaanite sister. Rather she intensifies her efforts and embarks on a one-woman demonstration to the point that the disciples had to ask Jesus to do something about it: "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us" (verse 23b). Her courage and her refusal to take 'no' for an answer finally paid off.

The second thing we can learn from this woman is focus or what the civil rights movement calls "keep your eyes on the prize." When Jesus spoke to her in language that demeaned her people: "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs" (verse 26), she did not lose her cool but kept her eyes on the goal of her mission, which is to show that even non-Jews are entitled to God's blessing in Christ. Our sister knew that if she gave Jesus a piece of her mind at that moment, that would jeopardize her mission and she might lose what she came for. But with focus and with her eyes on the prize, she made it. She is a model of non-violence, if you figure that the words of Jesus to her were unjustified verbal assault on her and on her people.

Finally, it was Jesus who gave in: "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish" (verse 28) and the woman got what she wanted. The message of this single woman outsider to every one of us today is: Be not afraid. Be not afraid to challenge prejudice and falsity even in high places, even in religious high places. The least among us can be a vehicle that God can use to bring justice and healing to all of God's disadvantaged daughters and sons all over the world.

