



### 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**

### **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](http://www.stbenedict-sav.org)

Email: [stbenedict@bellsouth.net](mailto:stbenedict@bellsouth.net)



**August 30, 2026**

***Twenty-second 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](http://www.stbenedict-sav.org) and selecting the **Online Giving** link to get started.

## Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us as his disciples to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow him. None of these actions is easy. To put God's will before our own, to willingly accept what will make us suffer, and to follow someone who was put to death on the cross, is very difficult. But we will not be alone, for Jesus is with us as we follow him. Also, as he tells us in the Beatitudes, our reward will be great in heaven. Let us realize his real presence as we celebrate and receive the Eucharist.

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## Readings are found in the Word & Eucharist Catholic Mass Book beginning on page 321:

Jeremiah 20:7-9 *"The word of the Lord has brought me derision."* Psalm 63 *"My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God."* Romans 12:1-2 *"Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice."* Matthew 16:21-27 *"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself."*

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### Parish Giving August 22/23, 2026

|                                                                 |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Offertory:<br>including Bus,<br>School Support, &<br>Assumption | \$3889.00 |
| Assumption                                                      | \$ 85.00  |
| Online Giving                                                   | \$ 834.00 |

### "Thank You for Your Generosity"

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## MASS INTENTIONS

**10:00am:** RIP Dr. Lester B. Johnson, Jr. on the occasion of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 26<sup>th</sup>.

In memory of Mrs. Lillie Mae Charlton. \*Shirley West

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. As of the last report we received, we have contributed \$15,146.70 which is 45% of our target goal. Our support of diocesan agencies and ministries is one way that we respond to God for all we have received. 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, Tambra 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 29/30, 2026**

**LECTORS**

**5:30pm** Dominique Jackson Sharon Carson  
**10:00am** Juliette Tolbert Matthew Jenkins

**USHERS**

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

**ANNOUNCER**

**5:30pm** Theresa Garvin  
**10:00am** Earl Berksteiner



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**DIOCESE of SAVANNAH**  
2170 E VICTORY DR • SAVANNAH, GA 31404 • DIOSAV.ORG

**TODAY IS CALLED BY NAME!**

Help us recognize faithful young people in the Diocese of Savannah who love Christ and His Church. Bishop Parkes is asking parishioners to submit the names of unmarried young men and women, high school age or older, who may be called to priesthood or consecrated life, or who show the gifts to become faithful Catholic leaders in any vocation.

Those who are named will receive a letter of encouragement from Bishop Parkes and support from the Vocation Office as they seek God's will for their lives. Complete a card at Mass or submit a name at:  
[savannahvocations.org/calledbyname](http://savannahvocations.org/calledbyname).

Thank you for helping another person hear the Lord's call: "I have called you by name; you are mine."

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**QUARTERLY UNITY MASS RECEPTION**

The quarterly Unity Mass Reception will take place on Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup> immediately after the 10:00am Mass in the parish hall. All are invited to attend and celebrate with our brothers and sisters who have birthdays and/or anniversaries in the months of July, August and September. We look forward to seeing you there!

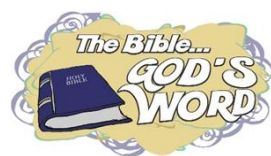
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**SECOND COLLECTION**

There will be a second offertory collection on Unity Mass Sunday - September 6, 2026 - for the Annual Catholic Appeal Campaign. Please be generous with your donation.

**FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

Classes will resume on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> immediately following the 10:00am Mass. Sign your children up after each Mass the next two weekends. We look forward to helping your children know their faith and preparing them to receive the sacraments.



**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!**

**Weekly sessions resume on Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at 6:00pm in the parish hall.**

**ADORATION AND EXPOSITION OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Holy Hour Adoration will take place on Friday, September 4, 2026 at 6:00pm.

Beginning September 11, 2026, through June 2027, the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place every Friday from 8:30am – 12:00noon (Except 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month). 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).

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**UNITY CHOIR REHEARSAL**

This is a friendly reminder that Unity Mass Choir rehearsal will be held on the following date:

- Tuesday, September 1st at 6pm

## THE CROSSES IN OUR LIVES

In the Gospel of today Jesus teaches the disciples about the full meaning of the Messiah: He will suffer, die and rise again. Peter cannot understand why Jesus must suffer and die and tries to admonish him. He receives the reprimand from Jesus and also receives the correct teaching about the cross. He tells his disciples that they have to deny themselves, carry the cross and follow him to be his followers.

What does this command really mean? It means that sometimes doing the will of God is hard, and involves suffering. This was what Jeremiah found out in our first reading, as he cried out: "the word of the Lord has brought me derision and reproach all day". At that point, Jeremiah felt alone and abandoned by God, but at the end he had to convince himself that doing the will of God was the right thing in spite of the suffering that came his way.

To carry the cross means that sometimes loving God and neighbor demands sacrifice as Paul says in our second reading: "offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God". The cross is very central in Christianity and especially for Catholics; we are constantly signing ourselves with the cross, when we drive past a church, on entering the church, as we begin our prayers, and so many other times. In our own little way, we are accepting the cross as we make these gestures. But still we must show in our everyday lives that we understand what it means to carry our crosses and follow Christ.

The truth is: so many of us here are already carrying crosses. You do not have to go looking for them. They find us. And I think if we could see each other's crosses we would be humbled and in awe.

You have denied yourself a thousand times over and have done the will of God by raising a family and all of the personal sacrifice that goes with that. You have gone without so that your kids could have advantages that you did not have. That is cross carrying.

You have endured the hardships of supporting that family member or friend in his or her struggle with an addiction. Or you're dealing with that addiction yourself and digging in and trying to walk the straight line. That is cross carrying.

You are a teenager and you are determined to live a life of virtue and chastity when it seems to you that no one else is. And you think you may pay a price for that. You will sacrifice popularity and hanging with the crowd that calls themselves cool. That is cross carrying.

You have devoted what seems to be your life to caring for that physically or mentally challenged child, spouse or infirm, elderly parent because it is simply the right thing to do and you do it out of love. That is cross carrying.

You have lost a child or your spouse and not a day goes by that you do not think of that person you have lost, but you find the strength to stand up and carry on and continue being a giving person when you feel that everything in life has been taken from you. That is cross carrying.

You have carried around a hurt so deep and so stinging for years and even decades and you have never spoken about it to another soul and there have been times that you have wanted to act out in anger and revenge and rage, but you have resisted and turned the other cheek and responded with love. That is cross carrying.

My dear friends, the gospel of today challenges us to say no to the very attractive but one-sided worldly gospel of instant glory, a sugar-coated gospel that offers the false promise of "no cross, all crown." Possibly you have heard it before on television or from the many prosperity preachers in our world today: "Only believe and everything will go well with you". Truth is, Jesus had it rough; he had to endure the cross. What about his mother Mary; a sword of sorrow pierced her soul. There were countless men and women saints who have gone before us who suffered various forms of deprivations and finally gave their lives for the gospel. Why then should we expect an easy ride? In the face of disappointment, bereavement, sickness, ingratitude and failure, our faith response should be to recognize that these crosses and trials are the necessary condition for our future glory. It should not be to question: why me? It is understandable for us to wonder when this cross carrying will be over or where this cross will lead us. Look where it led Jesus to: the glory of the resurrection. So too all who generously accept their own crosses and faithfully carry it to the end will be rewarded with eternal life.