



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

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Phone: 912-232-7147 Fax: 912-238-0184

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September 20, 2026

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Rev. Anselm Eke, MSP, Pastor

Deacon Torrance A. Garvin, Sr.

Theresa Garvin, Supt. of Religious Education

Dianne Williams, Parish Council Chairperson

Carl Hayes, Parish Finance Council Chairman

Sharon Carson, Administrative Secretary

Jerome Grayson, Bldg/Maintenance



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

This Sunday we begin a series of three Gospels set in vineyards. Today's Gospel tells of a generous landowner, willing to pay a full daily wage even to those who worked only the final hour of the day. They are very happy, of course, but the folks who labored all day in the hot sun resent the owner's extreme generosity. This, Jesus tells his disciples, can be compared to the kingdom of heaven, where "the last will be first, and the first will be last." Let us praise and thank God for inviting us all—first, last, and in-between—to the joyful kingdom.

Readings are found in the Word & Eucharist Catholic Mass Book beginning on page 328:

Isaiah 55:6-9 "My thoughts are not your thoughts."
Psalm 145 "The Lord is near to all who call upon him."
Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a "For me to live is Christ."
Matthew 20:1-16a "Are you envious because I am generous?"

Parish Giving September 13, 2026

Offertory: including Bus & School Support	\$6165.00
Online Giving	\$1213.00

"Thank You for Your Generosity"

MASS INTENTIONS

5:30pm For Michael and Dr. Deborah Robinson Jones as they celebrate their 39th wedding anniversary (9/24). *Dr. Deborah Robinson Jones

For the peaceful repose of the soul of Catherlene Washington on the anniversary of her birthday (9/19). *Sharon Carson and Family

5:30pm & 10:00am For the peaceful repose of the soul of Dr. Prince A. Jackson, Jr. on the anniversary of his passing (9/21). *Prince A. Jackson, III

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

THERE WILL BE A SECOND COLLECTION ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH FOR THE MISSION COOPERATIVE APPEAL.

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, Hilda Johnson, Willie Leachman, Robert Locke, Lillie Middleton, Dawud Patterson, Donald Perry, Evelyn Porter, Janice Quinn, Sr. Barbara Shimkus, 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,

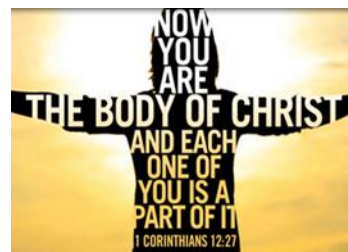
to be understood as to understand,

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
September 19/20, 2026

LECTORS

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

USHERS

5:30pm Brenda Kennedy Anthony DeShay
10:00am Faith Formation Faith Formation

ANNOUNCER

8:30pm Dr. Deborah Robinson Jones
10:00am Faith Formation

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MASS OF BEATIFICATION

We are all invited by Bishop Stephen D. Parkes to attend the **Mass of Beatification of the Venerable Servants of God Pedro De Corpa and Four Companions (The Georgia Martyrs)** 11:00am on Saturday, October 31, 2026 at the Savannah Convention Center (Hutchinson Island). There is no cost to attend, however, registration is required to help with planning. Please RSVP at diosav.org. For those who may have problems with transportation, our church bus will be available to take you to and from the water taxi on River Street. Please notify the church office by October 26, 2026 if you would like to take advantage of this service. You don't want to miss out on this special event.

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**ADORATION AND EXPOSITION OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT**

The Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place every Friday from 8:30am – 12:00noon (Except 1st Friday of the month). To ensure that our Lord is not left alone, there is 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).

CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to the following youth who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, September 19, 2026: Gabriel Broadnax - St. Carlos Acutis, Asher Dempsey – St. Michael, Clyde Green – St. Dominic and Kaleb Winder – St. Peter. We look forward to seeing them continue to grow in faith as they take on new responsibilities in our parish. We are proud of each of you!!

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SAVE THE DATE!

Photos for the upcoming St. Benedict the Moor Parish Directory will be taken on the following dates/times:

Friday, October 16, 2026
2:00pm – 8:30pm

Saturday, October 17, 2026
12:00am – 4:00pm

Please sign up for a time slot for your family on the sheet provided at the entrance of the church. We look forward to your participation.

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 \$16,021.04 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.

THANK YOU!

We thank the ladies of The Traveling Moors for their generous donation of \$1000 to our parish. These ladies worked very hard to raise funds for the needs of our parish and we appreciate them so much!

PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

On Sunday September 27th, St. Benedict the Moor Parish will celebrate Priesthood Sunday. It is a special day to show appreciation, encourage vocations, and affirm the priesthood. Let us take this opportunity to pray for our priests, especially our pastor, Fr. Anselm Eke, MSP. Appreciation envelopes are inserted in the bulletin. Thank you.

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YOUTH SUMMIT

Calling all middle school and high school youth: There will be a youth summit after the Unity Mass on October 4, 2026 to brainstorm and generate ideas for Youth Ministry and Faith Formation activities for the year. Please plan to attend. Thank you.

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NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Thank you to Mr. Carl Hayes who has served as Parish Finance Council chairperson for over a decade. His term of office comes to an end after this month. Carl, thanks for all your accomplishments on behalf of St. Benedict the Moor Parish!!

IT IS NEVER TOO LATE FOR GOD

What do you think? How does today's parable make you feel? What is your impression of the Landowner? And what about God, do you think that he is unjust? What lessons can we draw from the story? The parable teaches us that nothing God gives to us is due to us. Everything he gives us is from his free bounty and we cannot possibly earn it or deserve it. What God gives us is not pay but gift and God is generous to us all. We cannot be envious or jealous because God is generous to someone else. Today's parable also tells us of the tender compassion of God. A person out of work is a tragic figure and all the late comers wanted some opportunity to work so as to be able to put food on their table and God out of his generosity gives it. God addresses our needs, not our greed. We have to bear something in mind as we think about the parable. The workers who came at the last hour were not late, they came as soon as they were called; "No one has hired us" they answered after the landowner had said to them: 'Why do you stand here idle all day?'

If we were to see the kingdom of God as family, it would help us a lot in understanding this parable. The kingdom of God is a family more than a society. A society is characterized by we-and-them, by rivalry and survival of the fittest. A family, on the other hand, is all 'we' and no 'them'. It is characterized by a spirit of co-operation rather than competition. If the latecomers were family members of the early birds, the early birds would have rejoiced with them at their good fortune rather than grumbling. Today we are called upon to review our all too legalistic notion of the kingdom of God and see it more as a family where we are happy to expect from everyone according to their means and give to each according to their need -- as God our Father does.

It certainly seemed like the workers who spent the entire day in the vineyard had a point. It didn't seem just for them to receive the same pay as those who worked a few hours. After all, they were out in the sun all day, while those other guys only worked in the late afternoon. But the owner of the vineyard also had a point. He had made an agreement with each group as he called them to work in his vineyard. He did not violate his agreement with the first group by being so generous to the last group. He did not deprive the early birds of their rights, he was just and fair to them. But God is more than just, He is generous. Yes, his ways are above our ways, as his thoughts are above our thoughts. If we were to eschew jealousy and envy, then we might be able to see things from God's perspective. Have you ever thought of how sad it would

be if God gave to us only what we strictly deserved? What if we were truly judged according to our merits, not grace?

We are often shocked to learn that others who have behaved in terrible ways in the past have now turned to the Lord. We might know of someone who had been antagonistic and sarcastic to all who went to Church. And now, there is that person in the pew in front of you, praying fervently, looking to be active in the Church he had mocked. We might see someone whom we know has been involved in some very shady dealings. Maybe it is a person who has destroyed his or her family through infidelity. Maybe it is a person who flouted morality, saying that using drugs was normal, or that getting drunk was expected, or that stealing was part of life, or that destroying the reputation of others was the way to advance in work, in school, etc. And now there is that person in Church. More than that, there is that person taking an active role in ministry, even leading a ministry. So we ask, "How can that person all of a sudden become so spiritual?" The answer to that question is grace. At the same time that person will be the first one to decry his or her former lifestyle. They know what they had done was wrong, and they are the first to say that their former lifestyle was not acceptable. They also thank God that it was not too late for them to go into the fields and work for the Lord. Do you remember Levi the tax collector who later became Matthew one of the apostles or Saul who later became Paul or the 4th century young man from Thagatse, who became the famous bishop of Hippo called Augustine? And that is why St. Augustine is recognized in the Church today as the doctor of Grace; for he more than most people understood how much it is all grace and not our merits that have brought us to where we are today.

My dear friends, Christ continually calls us to himself. We are all a work in progress in God's hands. All of us have had times in our lives that we have not been as committed to God as we should have been. Yes, there have been times in our lives when we have chosen against God. There have been times when we have committed sins. But the Lord has not rejected us. I want you to know that it is never too late for the Lord. He continually goes into the marketplaces of our lives and calls us to come and work in His vineyard. It is never too late to do the Lord's work, never too late for those joining the faith, never too late for those returning to the faith, and never too late for you and me to strengthen our witness to Christ. If today you hear his voice, harden not your heart.

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