



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

Email: stbenedict@bellsouth.net



October 4, 2026

**Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
Unity Mass**

Rev. Anselm Eke, MSP, Pastor

Deacon Torrance A. Garvin, Sr.

Theresa Garvin, Supt. of Religious Education

Dianne Williams, Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson

Sandra Best, Parish Finance Council Chairperson

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

Today's Gospel reminds us that Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith, of the Church, and of our lives as his disciples. It also reminds us that he became the cornerstone after he was rejected by the religious and secular leaders of his day. On Respect Life Sunday, we pray for those who are often rejected by society and our leaders, left vulnerable to unjust laws and practices, from the unborn to the terminally ill, from immigrants and refugees to criminals on death row. Let us never forget that we all have been made in the image and likeness of God.

Readings are found in the Word & Eucharist Catholic Mass Book beginning on page 333:

Isaiah 5:1-7 *"The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel."* Psalm 80 *"The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel"* Philippians 4:6-9 *"Do these things, and the God of peace will be with you."* Matthew 21:33-43 *"He will lease his vineyard to other tenants."*

Parish Giving September 27, 2026

Offertory: including Bus & School Support	\$3854.00
Special Collection: Mission Cooperative Appeal	\$ 433.00
Online Giving	\$1146.00

"Thank You for Your Generosity"

MASS INTENTIONS

10:00am For the peaceful repose of the soul of Felix Walden, Jr. on the anniversary of his death (10/5). *Rosemary Walden and Taylor Walden

For the People and the needs of the Parish.

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MONTHLY LUNCHEON

The next luncheon for our sick and shut-in brothers and sisters will be provided on Wednesday, October 21, 2026. Help is especially needed with the delivery of the meals. Let us continue to share the love of Christ. Thank you – Gloria Stephens, Coordinator.

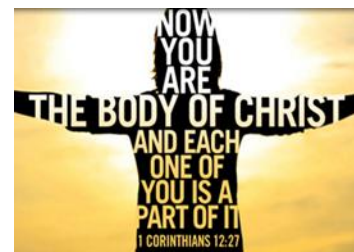
Pray for our Sick & Homebound: Louise Allen, Frances Allen, Joe Battle, Henry Blount, Alethea Chaney, Otis Charlton, Josefa Citizen, Ida Cruse, Juanita Fields, Glenn Grant, Raymond Heyward, Jessica Jackson, Mary Jackson, Christine James, Ebonee Jarrett, Mackenzie Jenkins, Vera Jennings, Hilda Johnson,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

October 4, 2026

Unity Mass

LECTORS

10:00am Barbara McGhee Georgene Jones

USHERS

10:00am George Moultrie Tyrone Bryant
Sylvester Brown

ANNOUNCER

10:00am Shameka Broadnax

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.

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).

YOUTH SUMMIT

Calling all middle school and high school youth: There will be a youth summit after today's Unity Mass to brainstorm and generate ideas for Youth Ministry and Faith Formation activities for the year. The summit will take place in the parish hall. Please plan to attend. Thank you.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

Plans for the new church directory have been postponed. New dates for photos will be announced in the near future. Thank you for your interest and patience.

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 \$18,737.38 which is 56.26% 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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus Council #10274 is collecting baby supplies for children up to age 3. There is a box placed near the stairs in the church for donations. Please contact any Knight if you would like to give or have items picked up for donation. All items will go to the Living Vine Maternity Home. Thank you.

FINAL CALL

The deposit of \$400 is now due for the Friends of St. Benedict the Moor trip to Chicago. If you would like to purchase travel insurance, this is also due with your deposit. Contact Ruth Simmons (912-713-9921) or Claretha Bivins (912-604-6059). Thank you.

Thank You!

My beloved parishioners, thank you very much for all the sentiments of love you sent my way on the celebration of Priesthood Sunday last weekend.

Your prayers, cards and gifts made me feel so loved and appreciated here at St. Benedict the Moor.

May you all receive the disciples reward for your kindness.

*Fr. Anselm Eke, MSP
Your Pastor*

THE WICKED TENANTS

In our first reading today taken from the Prophet Isaiah, the prophet tells the story of his friend who owned a vineyard. He dug around it, he cleared it of stones, planted the choicest vines, built the traditional watchtower, installed the typical wine press and then anticipated an excellent and abundant harvest. What he got instead were wild grapes. He was disappointed. This is what would look at today and label as unreciprocated love

How many of us can identify with unreciprocated love? Have you felt the hurt associated with loving someone who does not love you back? Do you remember that hurt? That pain? Those sleepless nights? Those expectations smashed? What may have compounded that hurt is the apparent unconcern the object of your affection showed toward your pain, or worse, the apparent obliviousness of how deeply you loved this person. Can we identify with the disappointment illustrated in Isaiah's words? Does this make us want to be more responsive to the love and attention showed to us by God?

The gospel reading continues on the same theme as the first reading; but it brings out one of the central attributes of God: Our God is a patient God. Just as the landowner in the gospel sent several servants in multiple waves to collect his payment of produce, God also seemingly gives us chance after chance to respond to his unique call to us through many prophets and preachers. This parable also tells us of God's patience and justice. Not once, but many times he forgave the tenants their debts. But while the tenants took advantage of the owner's patience, his judgment and justice prevailed in the end. Do we recognize and appreciate the patience of God? How many warnings have we disregarded? Do we recognize the impending judgment of God based upon our response to His call to holiness?

What else does Jesus' parable tell us about God and the way he deals with his people? It tells us of God's generosity and trust. The vineyard is well equipped with everything the tenants needed. We see the providence of God. Before God entrusts a responsibility to an individual, He makes provision for all that he will need in carrying out

the responsibility. The owner went away and left the vineyard in the hands of the tenants. God likewise trusts us enough to give us freedom to run life as we choose. God does not stand looking over our shoulders, policing us to make sure we do the right thing. God trusts that we will do the right thing. Unfortunately, many of us don't.

The church is the vineyard of the Lord. It has been placed by God on a fertile hillside, claimed by Christ as his bride. Unfortunately, what grows in this vineyard is often not a crop of grapes but wild fruit, of no use to the master. When we look closely we have within our community a good share of selfishness, lack of compassion, power grabbing, and shortsightedness. The very same social ills that we see in the world at large can be found right here within our own community: pride, hatred, jealousy, and gossiping.

We pray that God forgive our failings. We hope that God will take care of this vine, and protect what His right hand has planted. The challenge is for us to become a true vineyard of the Lord, free of all the sinful conditions that we lament in the world. We look for the day when Christians will form a Christian community united in love and service.

My brothers and sisters, the parable of the wicked tenants compels us to look at our lives, our attitudes and actions, in light of whether they are an embrace or rejection of Jesus' saving message. Rather than putting the focus on what the story says about Jewish leaders, we must ask: what does it say about us Christians? What is my vision of the kingdom of God? How am I producing a harvest for God's kingdom, in my private and in our communal lives? Am I producing the fruits of generosity, goodness, truthfulness and honesty? Yes, the wicked tenants in today's Gospel did indeed try God's patience. But am I any different? How do I respond to God's boundless mercy and goodness that he offers me each day? God wants to be proud of us who are his children. Let us today pray for the wisdom and the courage never to abuse our privileges but rather to make a judicious use of all the privileges and opportunities that God gives us.