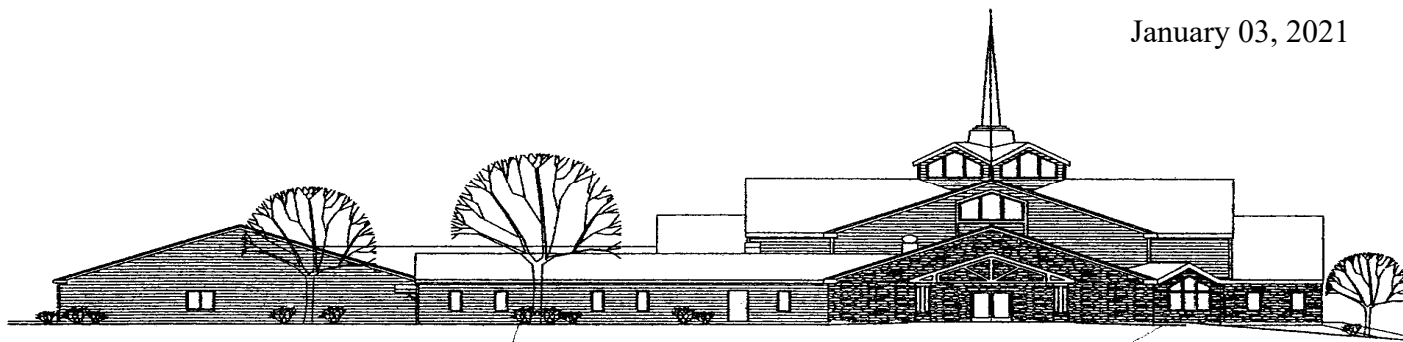


Church of Saint Benedict

Diocese of Allentown - Bishop Alfred A. Schlert, D.D.

January 03, 2021



MASS SCHEDULE

Daily: Mon. 6:30pm-Thurs.5:30pm Tue-Wed-Fri. 9:00am
Saturday: Vigil: 5:00pm
Sunday: 9:00, 11:00am
Holy Day Vigil: 5:00pm; Day-9:00am & 7:00pm

RECTORY PARISH OFFICE

2020 Chestnut Hill Rd, Mohnton, Pa 19540
610-856-1006 Office Hrs. Mon-Friday 9am-4:30pm
Website: www.churchofsaintbenedict.com
Email: Secretary@churchofsaintbenedict.org



Church of St. Benedict

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

PREP (W) 610-856-5146 - (C) 484-269-8744
LaSalle Academy Office 610-777-7392

www.lsabear.org

Berks Catholic High School 610-374-8361

www.berkscatholic.org

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Philip F. Rodgers.....Pastor
Fr. Thomas Kuller, S.J.....Weekend Ministry
Valerie Christo.....Director Religious Education
Andrew Angstadt.....Music Director
Stephen Mickulik, M.Ed.Principal LaSalle Academy
Susan Teaford.....Parish Secretary
Jeanie Hauck...Safe Environment/Rental Coordinator
Anne Long.....Bookkeeper
Clara Lush.....Bulletin Editor
Rosanne Weidner.....Rectory Housekeeping
Jason & Denise Leininger.....Maintenance

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., **DIRECT** 800-791-9209
Pamela J. Russo, M.S.W., M.S. Safe Environment Co-ordinator
610-332-0442, Ext. 2019

Allentown

Diocese

website

www.allentowndiocese.org

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Celebrated the 1st Sunday of the month at 12:30pm and the 3rd Sunday at 11:15am mass. Baptism preparation class held 2nd Saturday. Please call the office to schedule a baptism & class.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Couples should call the priest at least 6 months before the wedding. A marriage preparation program is offered to every couple.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK

Please call the parish office if a parishioner is homebound or hospitalized. Sacrament of Anointing is offered anytime. Eucharistic Ministers are available every Sunday.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday from 4:00-4:45pm or by appointment.

R C I A

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a program for anyone interested in the Catholic faith or in returning to the Church. If interested or have questions contact Mark Schrum at 610-750-5414.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We the Parish of St. Benedict, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and our patron St. Benedict, are a vibrant, worshiping and welcoming community of God. The strength of our people is obtained through joyful celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Our commitment is to promote the Gospel of the Lord through our prayers, words, and actions with Jesus as our guiding light.

GOSPEL THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The three kings in today's Gospel traveled a great distance at considerable cost to offer their richest gifts to the Infant Jesus. How far will *I* go and what will *I* offer to do homage to this newborn King and Savior?

DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN YOUTH PROTECTION PROGRAMS can be found on the diocese website *DioceseofAllentown.org*. Click on Youth Protection upper right corner. It contains a list of programs, events and clearances needed for a safe environment for the children of the diocese.



*January's Prayer
Holy Spirit,
grant me the wisdom
to refrain from judging
others
and the charity to love
them
as they are.*

FINDING GOD

The splendid magi, all sparkle and dash and solemnity, march right up off the pages of Matthew's Gospel and into our churches today. Matthew alone tells us this grand and seductive story so that we might see the light and know that the child these magi visited is the fulfillment of prophecy, the king of the world that stretches to the magi's home country and beyond, right down the ages to us.

We too see and understand anew. Like the magi, our patron saints for this day, we see in the newborn child the king of the universe and light of the world. Like the magi, we find in ourselves a new faith and a new life. Like them, we return to our home by a new route.

We are asked to come away from this festive season ourselves renewed and awake to the presence of God among us. We are asked to find God where God is to be found, to be attentive and surprised and ready to bow down in adoration and to offer our gifts

RESPECT



PRO-LIFE CORNER:

Some babies die by chance....no baby should die by "choice".

..PRAYER LIST.....

For those in need of Hope, Healing and Health pray for all in our parish who are ill, especially Vivian Barnhard, John Bergandino, Rita DelPercio, Allen Frank, Robin Schlottman, Gregory Schwartz, Susan Ward. Mary, Health of the Sick, please pray for them.

Remember in your prayers our homebound parishioners and also those in nursing homes.

Please remember in your prayers all who are in the military service: USAir Force: Mark Cahill, Tom Gutherman, Michael Rodgers, Ryan Vance; USArmy: Zach Brann, Nathan Calhoun, Eric Dompkowski, Christopher Hari, Richard Hari, Matt Kurz, Adam Latshaw, Matt McGinn, Matt Palange, Andrew Sickora, James Yorke; USMC: Grant Dufin, Dan Kenyon, James Moran, Breno Pinheiro, Daniel Scheidel, Chris Timothy; USNavy: Danielle Becker, Cole Drahus, Michael Koch, Jessica Rutkowski; PA Air Guard: William C. Leinbach.

Please remember all our military personnel especially Zach Brann who has been deployed.

Please pray also for an end to abortion, and for the victims of abortion.



Pray for the repose of *Christena Bertolet*. May her soul rest in peace.

Blessings throughout the New Year

*A little more happiness spread through each day...
A little more cheer to light up the way...
A little more thought for the chap at our side...
A little more credit for others who've tried...
A little more kindness in word and in deed...
A little more boosting that others may need...
A little more love for the folks that we know...
A little more effort so friendships may grow...
Just a little of these — as we plod along here,
Will make it a wonderful, wonderful year!*

K OF C MEMBERSHIP MEETING Monday, January 04 at 7:00 pm

RCIA meets Tuesday, January 05 at 7:00 pm in classroom #1

“INTO THE BREACH” PROGRAM—The sixth session of the Knights of Columbus sponsored “*Into the Breach*” program will be held on Wednesday, January 06 at 7:00 pm in the FLC. Session Topic is **Life**: Human life is sacred. Men have a responsibility to protect society’s most vulnerable. All men of the parish are welcome and encouraged to attend this important series. Information regarding cancellation due to inclement weather can be obtained by calling 484-263-0322.



FLOWER CALENDAR FOR 2021 is posted on the front vestibule bulletin board. If you are interested in requesting altar flowers in memory of a deceased loved one or a special

intention, please sign the name on the date requested. Cost for each arrangement is \$50.00

The SANCTUARY LAMP burns to remind us of the sacramental presence of Jesus Christ. You may have the sanctuary lamp memorialized for either a sick person or a deceased love one or any special intentions for a weekly donation of **\$10.00**. Please call the parish office to reserve a specific date.

PRAYER SHAWLS - Due to the generosity of knitters and crocheters in our parish and some outside friends, we have a supply of *Prayer Shawls blessed by Father Phil* ready to be given to anyone seriously ill and in need of comfort. Please contact Sylvia Firth at 610-286-5714.

2021 CALENDARS available in the gathering space.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Monday of this week is Christmas Day in Russia and in much of the Orthodox world. This curious difference in schedule has a lot to do with how calendars have been developed and changed over the years. In the year 45 B.C. Julius Ceasar gave the empire his Julian Calendar, with the winter solstice on January 6. This put an end to a system in which officials called “pontiffs” were able to tweak the calendar by adding extra days in as needed. He invented two new months at that time, December and January; and in order to correct the mess the pontiffs had made, forced a year of 445 days on the empire in what he named “The Last Year of Confusion.” The new months varied in number of days according to a complex schedule, but the calendar was still off by nearly twelve minutes a year, and lost a full day every 130 years.

Pope Gregory XIII reformed the calendar in 1583, but not everyone appreciated his efforts. England held out for two hundred years. The year 1700 was a leap year in England, but not in France; they were eleven days apart! George Washington was really born on February 11; when the Gregorian calendar was finally adopted in the English colonies shortly before the Revolution, he had to move his birthday to February 22. Now the calendars are thirteen days apart, which accounts for Russia’s Julian calendar Christmas. And Caesar thought he had brought confusion to an end!

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Liturgical Ministers— January 09-10

Saturday 5:00 PM

Lector: Jean Ruhl
EM: Rich Conte, Tom Henefer

Sunday 9:00 AM

Lector: Brent Musser
EM: Jeannette Bunch, Kelly Leiminger

Sunday 11:00 AM

Lector: Charlie Jones
EM: John Cocco, Sister Eileen

THIS WEEK AT ST. BENEDICT'S

Monday 01/04

7:00 PM K of C Membership meeting

Tuesday 01/05

7:00 PM RCIA meets in classroom #1

Wednesday 01/06

7:00 PM "Into the Breach" Program in the FLC

Thursday 01/07

7:30 PM AA meets in the FLC

COMING EVENTS...

01/11 Safety/Emergency Response Committee meeting

01/11 SVDP meeting

01/13 Into the Breach program

01/18 K of C Planning meeting



Please remember in your prayers all the living and deceased priests and deacons of our Diocese. Please also pray for our seminarians and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

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CHURCH PROTOCOL –Everyone is welcome to St. Benedict's Church. While you are with us please follow our protocol:

1. Wear mask while in church.
2. Wash hands or sanitize hands before entering church.
3. Follow social distancing of 6 feet on entering or leaving church.
4. Follow social distancing when finding a seat.
5. All enter thru main entrance. Exit at any door.
6. If not feeling well, please stay home.
7. Our church is sanitized after each Mass.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in memory of Robert Didyoung Sr. & Jr. by Irene Didyoung



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Monday 01/04 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
6:30 PM Christopher Colgan
by the Connelly Family

Tuesday 01/05 St. John Neumann
9:00 AM Johnny Bonnano
by John & Mimi Frank

Wednesday 01/06 Christmas Weekday
St. Andre Bessette
9:00 AM Joseph Antosy
by Jim & Floss Pleitner

Thursday 01/07 Christmas Weekday
St. Raymond of Penyafort
5:30 PM Harry Mazzarelli, Jr.
by Debbie Mazzarelli

Friday 01/08 Christmas Weekday
9:00 AM Robert Kacmar Jr.
by the Prime Timers
Rosary will be recited after Mass

Saturday 01/09 Christmas Weekday
4:00-4:45 PM Confessions

Sunday 01/10 *Baptism of the Lord*
5:00 PM (Saturday) Charles Hill
by Madelyn Stork
9:00 AM People of the Parish
11:00 AM Members of St. Benedict
Memorial Society
Wallace & Wilma Kompa
by Jim & Sandy Kozlowski

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EPIPHANY TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

On the feast of the Epiphany, we remember the Three Kings' visit to the Christ Child. Their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh symbolize Jesus as king, high priest and the means of our salvation through his sacrifice on the Cross. They followed the star to Him and paid him homage. Countries around the world celebrate this feast in many different ways. Here are just a few:

England

The night before the Epiphany is celebrated with plays, practical jokes and looking for the hidden bean in the Twelfth Night cake. Whoever finds the bean gets to be King or Queen Bean and the others had to obey whatever they were told to do. There is also hidden a clove (for a villain) and a twig (for a fool).

France

France has tradition similar to England, celebrating with a King's Cake. Whoever finds the bean in this cake gets to wear a gold paper crown. The first slice of cake is set aside to give to the first poor person who would knock at the door. This was called the "Good Lord's Slice."

Germany

A group of young "Star Singers" travel from house to house singing, in hopes of obtaining treats for their efforts or donations to worthy charities. They also mark the above the door in chalk. This protects the inhabitants from evil in the upcoming year. They will write 20 + C + M + B + 21 (The year surrounds the traditional names of the Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar). Others claim the CMB stands for "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" (Christ Bless This House).

Ireland

Epiphany is celebrated on the Emerald Isle, calling it "Women's Christmas." Since women do all the work of cooking and cleaning for the holiday celebrations, this is their holiday. They celebrate with high tea and sometimes wine, commemorating the miracle of the Wedding Feast at Cana.

Philippines

In the Philippines, custom is to have children leave shoes out on the eve of Epiphany to receive sweets and money from the Three Kings, similar to what European children do for St. Nicholas on his feast day. Some towns have parades of three men dressed in royal robes riding on horses giving candy and gifts to children.

Puerto Rico

In Puerto Rico, they celebrate Los Reyes or Three Kings. On January 5, children cut grass or greenery and put it in a box under their bed. This is grass for the camels to eat. Their wish list is placed on top of the grass. The Reyes only visit if the children are good throughout the year and if they are asleep when the kings arrive.