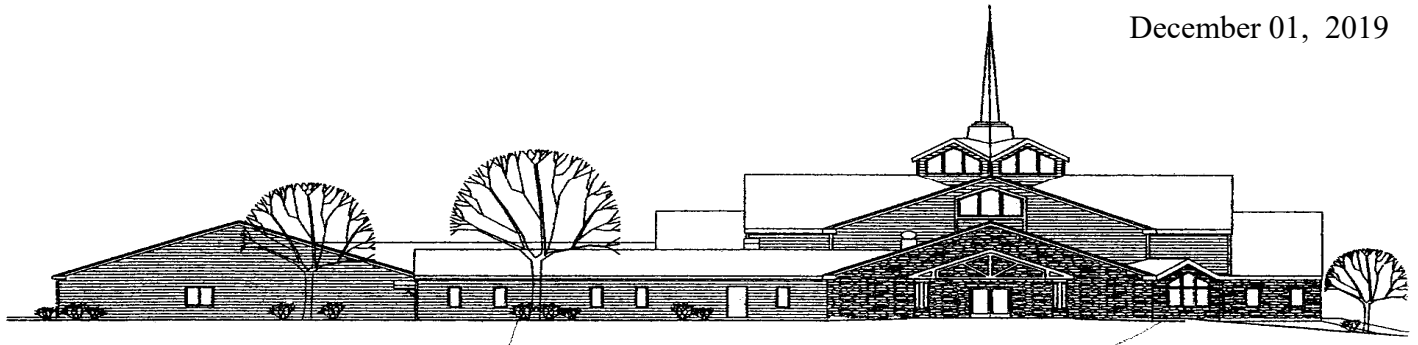


# Church of Saint Benedict

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

December 01, 2019



## MASS SCHEDULE

Daily: Mon. 6:30pm-Thurs.5:30pm Tue-Wed-Fri. 8:00am  
Saturday: Vigil: 5:00pm  
Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:15am  
Holy Day Vigil: 5:00pm; Day-8:00am & 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](http://www.churchofsaintbenedict.com)  
Email: [Secretary@churchofsaintbenedict.org](mailto: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](http://www.lsabear.org)  
Berks Catholic High School 610-374-8361  
[www.berkscatholic.org](http://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  
Richard Ball.....Maintenance

## Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., **DIRECT** 800-791-9209  
Sister Meg Cole, S.S.J. Safe Environment Coordinator  
610-332-0442, Ext. 2019

Allentown Diocese website  
[www.allentowndiocese.org](http://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.



**TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — All the peoples shall stream toward the LORD's house (Isaiah 2:1-5).

**Psalm** — Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord (Psalm 122).

**Second Reading** — It is the hour to cast off the dark and clothe ourselves in the light (Romans 13:11-14).

**Gospel** — Stay awake! Be prepared! The Son of Man will come when you least expect (Matthew 24:37-44).

**eADV1aRDGWK**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Monday: Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
- Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
- Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
- Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
- Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1
- Sunday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

**GOSPEL THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

“At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come”, says today’s Gospel. Good stewards know that they are accountable to God for all they have and are and strive to live in readiness for His coming.

**Stewardship- Gifts of God**  
*Thank you for your generous gifts!*

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND** will be for the Retired Religious Fund. Give in Thanksgiving. “The nuns left lasting impressions on me”, writes a donor. “I shall always be grateful for my Catholic education”. Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need.

**DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN YOUTH PROTECTION PROGRAMS** can be found on the diocese website [DioceseofAllentown.org](http://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.



**SUPPORT A CULTURE OF LIFE**

We pray for our Representatives and Senators and all leaders of our country that God may make them strong and effective defenders of the poor, the unborn and the forgotten.

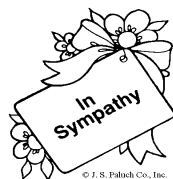
**.PRAYER LIST....**

*For those in need of Hope, Healing and Health pray for all in our parish who are ill, especially Baby Isabella, Rich Ball, Loretta Becker, John Bonnell, Tom Cioffi, Steven DeAngelo, Irene Didyoung, “Charlie” Flannery, Wayne & Ellen Gohacki, Marian Gring, Cecelia Kacmar, Bob Kacmar Jr., Andy Kuzmission, Doris LaMonaca, Jason Leininger Jr., John Lodge, Pat Luther, Sandy & Ralph Maio, Gertrude Mastrosante, Francis Newhams, Kelly Reagan, Sam Reber, Eleanor Slanga, Vickey & Joanne Sullivan, Judy Tamagno, Peggy Condon-Vance, Jeremiah Williams, Michael Wittorf, Doris Yeager, John Yost, Greg Zimmerman. 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, Kelly Bunch, Nathan Calhoun, Christopher Hari, Richard Hari, Matt Kurz, Adam Latshaw, Matt McGinn, Matt Palange, Andrew Sickora, James Yorke; USMC: Grant Dufin, Dan Kenyon, Kevin Moran, Daniel Scheidel, Chris Timothy; USNavy: Danielle Becker, Cole Drahus, Michael Koch; PA Air Guard: William C. Leinbach.*

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



Pray for the repose of the soul of *Joan Cronan, sister of John Frank.* May her soul rest in peace.

**PLEASE NOTE:** All announcements for the December 22 bulletin must be received in the parish office by 5:00 pm Thursday, December 12.

**ADVENT**

Let’s approach Christmas with an expectant hush, rather than a last-minute rush.

—Anonymous

**DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP** will meet Mondays from 7:00-8:30 pm until December 23 in classroom #1. For more information contact Deb Seidel at 610-763-6528 or Joe Boylan at 610-781-6415.

**K OF C GENERAL MEETING** Monday, December 2 at 7:00 pm in the RMR.

**Bible Study**



**ADVENT SCRIPTURE STUDY 2019**

Join us as we take four weeks to journey to Christmas through the eyes of St. Joseph—**"Rejoice"** - a guided retreat for busy people. Learn truths about St. Joseph hidden in the Gospel and in Church tradition. Choice of morning or evening: Tuesday at 9:00 am, or Tuesday at 6:30 pm. Four sessions:

- December 3—St. Joseph in Galilee;
- December 10—St. Joseph's Journey;
- December 17—St. Joseph in Bethlehem.

**WOMEN'S CLUB MONTHLY MEETING** Tuesday, December 3 at 7:00 pm in the conference room.

**WOMENS' CLUB COOKIE SALE** - The Women's Club will have their Cookie Sale December 14 & 15. If anyone would like to donate cookies for the sale, please bring them to church before noon on Saturday, December 14.



**RCIA** meets Tuesdays at 7:00 pm in the gathering area.

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION** First Saturday December 7 from 9:00 a.m.-12 noon. Please feel free to stop by for silent prayer and adoration at any time that is convenient.

**WINDSTAR SCHOONER SAIL CRUISE**—Father Phil and Father Don Henry are joining parishes to sponsor a wonderful sail cruise. It begins with 2 nights in Athens, Greece with Tauck leading us on a tour of Athens and then on the 118 passenger schooner sail boat called Windstar. This is for August 21 returning to the USA August 30 of 2020! Contact Father Henry at hk8655@aol.com or Kathy at Berkshire Travel 800-223-3884 for more information.

**CHRISTMAS TOUR AT LANGOMA**—Historic 1890 Pott's Mansion current home of Sisters of St. Mary of Providence, 227 Isabella Road, Elverson. Tour scheduled for Saturday, December 14 from 12 noon to 6:00 pm. Tour Tickets at the door \$15(donation) or call ahead for tickets at 610-942-4166. Visits with Santa, Hot Chocolate and Treats at the "Gingerbread House".



The Knights of Columbus Council is sponsoring a **Light-up for Christ Spaghetti Dinner** in conjunction with the Light-up Ceremony at the Manger Scene on Saturday, December 7 after the 5:00 pm Mass. The Dinner is complimentary. To estimate food, please sign up in the gathering space or contact Rich Conte at 610-223-8846.

You will also be able to participate in the Adopt a Priest Program.

**ADOPT-A-PRIEST PROJECT** - The Vocations Committee cordially invites you to its Annual Adopt-a-Priest Project! This is a unique way for our parish family to express our appreciation to all the retired priests of the Diocese. Each person will choose a priest to adopt, and will then create a homemade Christmas card with a personal greeting which will be sent to the priest. All necessary supplies will be provided and refreshments will be served. This special activity will take place in the Family Life Center after all the Masses on December 7 & 8.

**MOVIE NIGHT "UNPLANNED"** will be co-sponsored by the Knights Council and the Respect Life Committee in order to raise funds for the March for Life Bus Trip in January starting at 6:00 pm on Friday December 13. Hamburgers and Hot Dogs and other hot foods will be sold before the movie which starts at 7:00 pm. The movie is **"Unplanned"** which is the inspiring true story of one woman's journey of transformation from a worker in the abortion industry to a staunch life advocate. All Abby Johnson ever wanted to do was help women. She became one of the most ardent pro-life speakers in America. While this movie is rated "R" by the Motion Picture Assoc. of America our recommendation is that it would be appropriate for ages 15 and older. To estimate food, please sign up in the gathering space or contact Rich Conte at 610-223-8846.

**Liturgical Ministers—December 07 & 08**

**Saturday 5:00 PM**

Lector: Stephanie Hartline  
Servers: Paul Avadonian, Michael Lee, Matlyn Rhoades  
EM: George Bach, Mark Brezina, Frank Burns, Tom Culbert, Cindy Miller

**Sunday 8:00 AM**

Lector: Mary Jo Lewis  
Servers: Dalton Maiers, Oleg Brann, Mark Conlow  
EM: Mary Ann Razzano, Ray Clapper, Sylvia Firth, Paul Waterman, Ursita Blechman

**Sunday 9:30 AM**

Lector: Lauren Lush  
Servers: Abby Thatcher, Joseph & Sophia Kuszniir  
EM: Joy Bandy, Karen Keenan, Bo Kuszniir, Betsy Offutt, Gary Scollick

**Sunday 11:15 AM**

Lector: Marie Blimline  
Servers: Madalyn Cocco, Jack & David Riehl  
EM: John Cocco, Carie Leggett, Helen MacMinn, Sister Eileen, Matt Martini

## **ADVENT CALENDAR**

November 30-December 1— Blessing of Advent Wreath—Parish families will light wreath.

December 4—Advent Mass at Berks Catholic High School at 9:00 am.

December 5—PREP Confessions at 6:15 pm.

December 7—Light up for Christ ceremony at 6:00 pm followed by Spaghetti dinner.

December 9—Immaculate Conception Feast Day—Mass at 7:00 pm.

December 9—Rosary at 6:40 pm. Icon prayers to Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians after 7:00 pm Mass.

December 10—Confessions at LaSalle Academy

December 11— Confessions at Berks Catholic High School

December 12—PREP Christmas Caroling

December 13—Movie Time “Unplanned” in FLC.

December 13—Christmas program at LaSalle Academy

December 14—Wreaths Across America, bus departs at 8:30 am. Trip to Indiantown Gap National Cemetery includes Mass and dinner stop.

December 15—Honorable Guest State Deputy of K of C will present our parish council with Star Council Award at 11:15 Mass.

December 15—Advent Vespers at 6:00 pm.

December 16—Adult/Teen Advent Penance Service at 7:00 pm.

December 20—LaSalle Christmas Pageant Prayer Service at 10:00 am—4th grade.

## **ADVENT AT ST. BENEDICT’S**

### **CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE**

**RESPECT LIFE TREE** - The annual Giving Tree Project for 2019 is underway starting November 30 and ending December 15th. Our parish family is asked to share in the “spirit of giving” that serves mothers, babies and their families throughout the coming year in Berks County. Please join us during this Advent season to help a child whose mother chooses life, with ongoing support to ensure the best possible start. Choose an angel tag, listing a needed baby item from the Giving Tree located in the gathering space. Bring the new unwrapped item and place it under the tree attaching the tag to your gift. Your donation will be sent to Lifeline, Mary’s Shelter/Home or given to mothers facing crisis in our local community. Thank you in advance for your generosity and respecting Life. Life is a gift!

**GOING HOME TREE**—Contributions will go directly to resettlement efforts organized by Knights of Columbus to assist Christian families in returning to their homes in the Middle East. Checks made payable to K of C Council 14654.

**ADVENT DAILY REFLECTION BOOKS** are available in the gathering space. Donation \$1.00.

**DID YOU KNOW?** We celebrate two great feasts of Mary during Advent. On the *Feast of the Immaculate Conception* (December 8), we celebrate the truth that Mary was conceived without sin. (This feast does not celebrate the conception of Jesus, as many mistakenly believe.) Masses for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be Monday, December 9 at 7:00 pm. On the *Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe* (December 12), we celebrate Mary’s appearance to the poor Indian peasant St. Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531.

### **CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:**

*December 24 Christmas Vigil Masses at 4:00, 6:00 & 10:00 pm.*

*December 25 Christmas Day Mass at 9:00 am*

# THIS WEEK AT ST. BENEDICT'S

*The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in memory of Bob & Inge Boran by Bill & Jeanie Hauck*

## Monday 12/02

7:00 PM Respect Life meeting in the chapel  
7:00 PM K of C General meeting in the RMR  
7:00 PM Divorce Support Group meets in classroom #1

## Tuesday 12/03

9:00 AM Advent Bible Study in the conference room  
12 Noon Prime Timers Christmas Luncheon at Stokesay |Castle  
6:30 PM Advent Bible Study in classroom #3  
7:00 PM Women's Club monthly meeting in the conference room  
7:00 PM RCIA meets in church

## Thursday 12/05

6:00-7:30 PM PREP Classes  
6:15 PM PREP Confessions  
6:00-7:30 PM CGS L1  
8:00 PM AA meeting in the RMR

## Saturday 12/07

Lay Missionaries of Charity meet  
9:30 AM Ultreya meets in the conference room  
6:00 PM Christmas Cards for Priests in the FLC  
6:00 PM Light up for Christ Spaghetti Dinner

## Sunday 12/08

"Hospitality Sunday" hosted by Respect Life  
9:30 Mass with Children's Liturgy of the Word. Leader: Heather Yohn  
10:45-12:00 noon—CGS L1 & L2



### COMING EVENTS...

12/09 St. Vincent de Paul Society meeting  
12/13 Movie Night  
12/14 Bus Trip to Ft. Indiantown Cemetery  
12/14-15 Women's Club Cookie Sale  
12/15 "Breakfast Sunday"  
12/15 Advent Vespers  
12/16 Adult /Teen Penance Service  
12/16 K of C Officers meeting



Monday 12/02 Advent Weekday  
6:30 PM Vince & Pat Suglia  
by Clara Lush

Tuesday 12/03 St. Francis Xavier  
8:00 AM Patsy Derbes  
by Rick DuBois

Wednesday 12/04 Advent Weekday  
St. John Damascene  
8:00 AM Emma & Harry Gallen  
by Jack Mitnacht

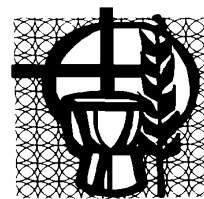
Thursday 12/05 Advent Weekday  
5:30 PM Bob Fondots  
by Jim & Sharon Helms

Friday 12/06 Advent Weekday St. Nicholas  
*First Friday*  
8:00 AM Nicholas Lintz  
by Larry & Lucy Concordia  
*Rosary will be recited after Mass*

Saturday 12/07 St. Ambrose *First Saturday*  
9:00 AM Marian S. Fenner  
by Joe Stoyer  
*Eucharistic Adoration until 12 noon*  
*Rosary will be recited after Mass*  
4:00-4:45 PM Confessions

Sunday 12/08 *Second Sunday of Advent*  
5:00 PM (Saturday) Anne Marie Fuselli  
by the North Family  
8:00 AM Robert Pouleson  
by Al & Mary Collins  
9:30 AM Mary Dolan  
by Diane Arnold  
11:15 AM Diane M. Januszak  
by Floyd & Mary Januszak

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*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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