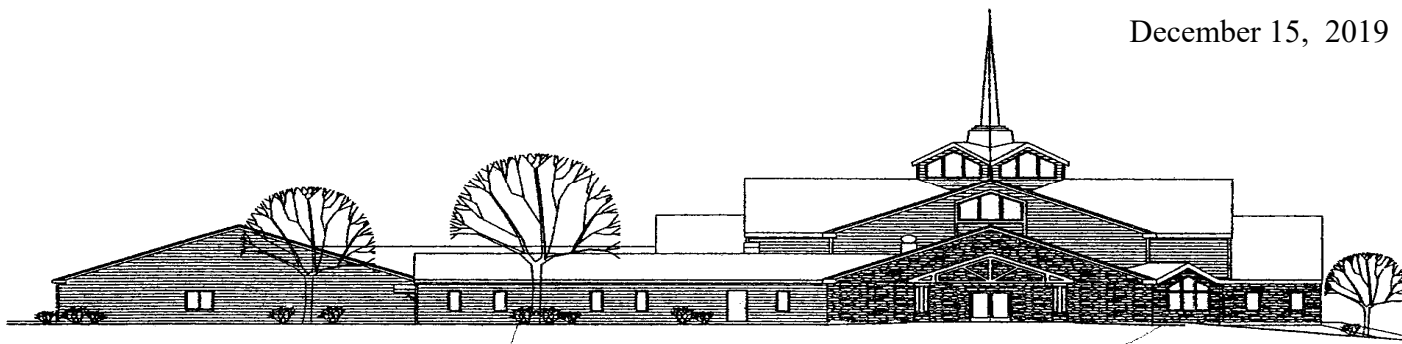


Church of Saint Benedict

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

December 15, 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
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
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.allentowndioecese.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, worshipping 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 — The barren deserts will rejoice and flower. (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10).

Psalm — Lord, come and save us (Psalm 146).

Second Reading — Be patient, for the coming of the Lord is as sure as the rain (James 5:7-10).

Gospel — Tell of what you hear and see: The blind regain their vision, the crippled their movement, the deaf their hearing. (Matthew 11:2-11).

GOSPEL THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Each of us has his or her own role to play in the coming of the Kingdom of God. John the Baptist was called to be the herald of the Messiah, preparing the way of the Lord. To what is the Lord calling me?

Stewardship- Gifts of God

Thank you for your generous gifts!

Stewardship	12-08-19:	\$10,944.00	(254 envelopes)
	EFT:	\$ 355.00	
Capital Camp.	12-08-19:	\$ 2,250.00	(84 envelopes)
	EFT:	\$ 122.00	
Retired Religious		\$ 2,080.00	(50 envelopes)
	EFT:	\$ 185.00	
Add'l. Utility		\$ 450.00	
Add'l. Catholic Military		\$ 200.00	

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.



FLOWER CALENDAR FOR 2020 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



SUPPORT A CULTURE OF LIFE

We pray for those who work to change our laws to reflect the Gospel of Life that God might inspire and shepherd them.

.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, Don Fronczak, 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, Karen Stoner, 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.

ST. BENEDICT MEMORIAL SOCIETY—Tony DelPercio has been enrolled in our Memorial Society by **Ralph & Sandy Maio**.



Pray for the repose of the souls of *Irene Bateman; Albert Levenson, father of Debbie Cioffi; and Charlotte Rinehart.* May their souls rest in peace.

DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP will meet Mondays from 7:00-8:30 pm until December 23 in classroom #1.

K OF C OFFICERS MEETING Monday, December 16 at 7:00 pm in the RMR.

Bible Study **ADVENT SCRIPTURE STUDY 2019**



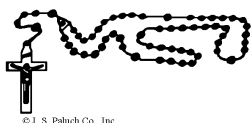
Join us as we take four weeks to journey to Christmas through the eyes of St. Joseph—**"Rejoice"** - a guided retreat for busy people. Learn truths about St. Joseph hidden in the Gospel and in Church tradition. Choice of morning or evening: Tuesday 8:30 am, or Tuesday at 6:30 pm. Last session: December 17—St. Joseph in Bethlehem.



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



SAVE THE DATE: The Knights of Columbus **Designer Bag Bingo** is returning Saturday, January 25, 2020. Doors open at 6:00 pm with games to start at 7:15 pm. Tickets will go on sale after Masses the weekend of January 4 & 5. Last year the event was sold out. Get your tickets early!



Join the Knights of Columbus as we pray the Rosary for our country at all Masses the weekend of December 28 & 29. The Rosary will begin 17 minutes before the start of Mass. Come early and pray with us. We look forward to you joining us. In celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family, Father will bless families at the end of each Mass.



THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY will be collecting turkeys and hams thru Thursday, December 19 for distribution to the needy at Christmas. Your donations may be placed in the refrigerator/freezer in the education wing and are greatly appreciated. Food will be delivered Saturday, December 21. Thanks to everyone who gives so generously to our efforts to feed those in want during the holiday season!

THANK YOU...

...to all those who made Christmas cards for our retired priests. Thanks to your generosity every priest received at least one and sometimes two cards this year.

Dear Father Phil and the Parishioners of St. Benedict,

The DelPercio family wishes to convey our sincerest appreciation for your prayers and support during Tony's passing.

It is difficult to find the words to express how grateful we are for the expression of love to our family during this truly difficult time. We are very thankful for the kindness our family has received.

Thank you to Andrew and the choir for the beautiful music during the funeral service. Tony loved the music in church, it was very beautiful and emotive and honored his memory.

Thank you to Father Phil for your words of comfort at Tony's funeral service. Our family was greatly consoled by the memories you shared, the joy of remembering Tony and the message of hope and compassion you gave us.

Thank you to the Bereavement Committee, thank you to the Women's Club and thank you to all those who prepared the wonderful, delicious food that everyone took such care to make and present to our family and friends after the funeral service.

We are blessed to have a community and friends like you and are thankful and comforted to know you are a part of our lives.

The DelPercio Family

Liturgical Ministers—December 21 & 22

Saturday 5:00 PM

Lector: Chris Mensak
Servers: Mary Creamer, Karyn & Nathan Creelman
EM: George Bach, Frank Burns, Debra Mazzarelli, Cindy Miller, Glen Unger

Sunday 8:00 AM

Lector: Ellie Albright
Servers: Bryce Shelly, Mark Conlow, Grace Kelly
EM: Joe Boylan, Mary Kozak, Mary Ann Razzano, Chris & Crystal Stein

Sunday 9:30 AM

Lector: Charlie Jones
Servers: Jason, Joseph & Jax Leininger
EM: Tom Culbert, Bill Offutt, Ursita Blechman, Lee Bandy, Paul Waterman

Sunday 11:15 AM

Lector: Leslie Wohlbruck
Servers: Mikayla & Marie Riehl, Nicholas Barse
EM: John Cocco, Helen MacMinn, Rich Conte, Sister Eileen, Matt Martini

ADVENT CALENDAR

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 11:00 am—4th grade.

December 22—Decorating the church for Christmas



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Tuesday, December 24

*4:00 PM Vigil Christmas Mass with
Children's Christmas Pageant*

4:05 PM Mass in the FLC

6:00 PM Vigil Christmas Mass

10:00 PM Vigil Christmas Mass with Adult Choir

Wednesday, December 25

9:00 AM Christmas Day Mass

TWO MASSES AT 4:00 PM DECEMBER 24 - In the past we ignored all safety regulations and put up close to 200 extra chairs in our church and doorways for the 4:00 pm Vigil Mass. This is not a good practice. Therefore, this year we will have 2 Masses. Father Phil will be in church for the 4:00 pm Mass and Father Tom will be in the FLC for the 4:05 Mass. Once the church is filled, ushers will be instructed to inform Mass goers that the next Mass in church will be at 6:00 pm or they may attend Mass in the FLC at 4:05 pm. NO chairs will be set up in church or at the doorways.

VOLUNTEER USHERS AND GREETERS NEEDED for the extra Christmas Masses. If you can help, please sign up on the sheets posted on the vestibule bulletin board.

ADVENT AT ST. BENEDICT'S

ADVENT VESPERS will be led by our parish choir on Sunday, December 15 at 6:00 pm in our church. All are welcome to join us in keeping the spirit of this holy Advent season in preparation for our feast of Christmas.

LAST CHANCE FOR GIVING TREES - Parishioners and visitors have been very generous in responding to our Giving Trees. Please bring your items and place it under the tree attaching the tag to your gift. This is the last weekend for your donations.

CHRISTMAS CONFESSION

PARISH PENANCE SERVICE will be Monday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. Several priests will be available to hear confessions and celebrate God's peace and reconciliation.

ADVENT VESPERS AND MORNING PRAYERS known as Liturgy of the Hours is part of the complete liturgy of the church. It contributes to the sanctification of the people of God, and gives honor and praise to our heavenly Father. The "O" antiphons are sung in Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are known as the "Jewels of the Advent Season". Here at St. Benedict's the Evening Prayer of the Church or Vespers as they are also known, and Morning Prayers will be offered 15 minutes before all weekday Masses December 17-23. Come and join us for these beautiful seasonal prayers.

DECK THE HALLS - We will decorate our church for the great feast of Christmas on Sunday, December 22 at 12:30 pm. Volunteers are needed to help set up trees, the crèche and add greens and red bows, etc., etc. We greatly appreciate whatever help you can give. The more hands and feet we have, the quicker the task of readying our church to the Christmas season of feast days.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT -Christmas Eve 4:00 pm Mass - Practice will be Sunday, December 15 after the 9:30 Mass.

THIS WEEK AT ST. BENEDICT'S

Monday 12/16

7:00 PM K of C Officers meeting in the RMR

7:00 PM Divorce Support Group meets in classroom #1

Tuesday 12/17

8:30 AM Advent Bible Study in the conference room

6:30 PM Advent Bible Study in classroom #3

7:00 PM RCIA meets in church

Thursday 12/19

8:00 PM AA meeting in the RMR

Friday 12/20

SVDP packing food baskets

Saturday 12/21

SVDP delivers food baskets

Youth Group Christmas Dance



Sunday 12/22

9:30 Mass with Children's Liturgy of the Word.

Leader: Jacklyn Rhoades

10:45-12:00 noon—CGS L1 & L2

12:30 PM Church Decorating for Christmas

6:00 PM Advent Vespers

COMING EVENTS...

12/29 Fifth Sunday Rosary

PLEASE NOTE: All announcements for the December 29 bulletin must be received in the parish office by 5:00 pm Wednesday, December 18. All announcements for the January 5, 2020 bulletin must be received in the parish office by 5:00 pm Thursday, December 26.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL—As of December 5 our parishioners have raised \$62,931.00 towards our goal of \$65,615.01 from 169 parishioners representing 19.54% of our total number of registered families in our parish. Thank you to all who are supporting this Appeal.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in memory of Klement Kremp by his children and spouses.



Monday 12/16 Advent Weekday

8:00 AM Klement Kremp—100th Birthday
by his children and spouses

7:00 PM Advent Penance Service

Tuesday 12/17 Late Advent Weekday

7:45 AM Advent Morning Prayer

8:00 AM Christopher Wirkus

by Bill & Diane Arnold

Wednesday 12/18 Late Advent Weekday

7:45 AM Advent Morning Prayer

8:00 AM Marge & Chad Gilpatric

by Jack Mitnacht

Thursday 12/19 Late Advent Weekday

5:15 PM Advent Vespers

5:30 PM Richard Meyers

by Jim & Sharon Helms

Friday 12/20 Late Advent Weekday

7:45 AM Advent Morning Prayer

8:00 AM Ben Schools

by Ralph & Lisa Vizza

Rosary will be recited after Mass

Saturday 12/21 Late Advent Weekday

St. Peter Canisius

4:00-4:45 PM Confessions

Sunday 12/22 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

5:00 PM (Saturday) Rev. James Bechtel

by Robert & Joyce Joyce

8:00 AM Tom Lush

by the Riebe Family

9:30 AM Joe Offutt

by Jim & Floss Pleitner

11:15 AM Members of St. Benedict Memorial Society

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Prayer for the Perseverance of Vocations:

O God, you have constituted your only-begotten Son supreme and eternal priest for the glory of your majesty and the salvation of mankind: grant that those whom he has chosen ministers and dispensers of his mysteries may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received. We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen