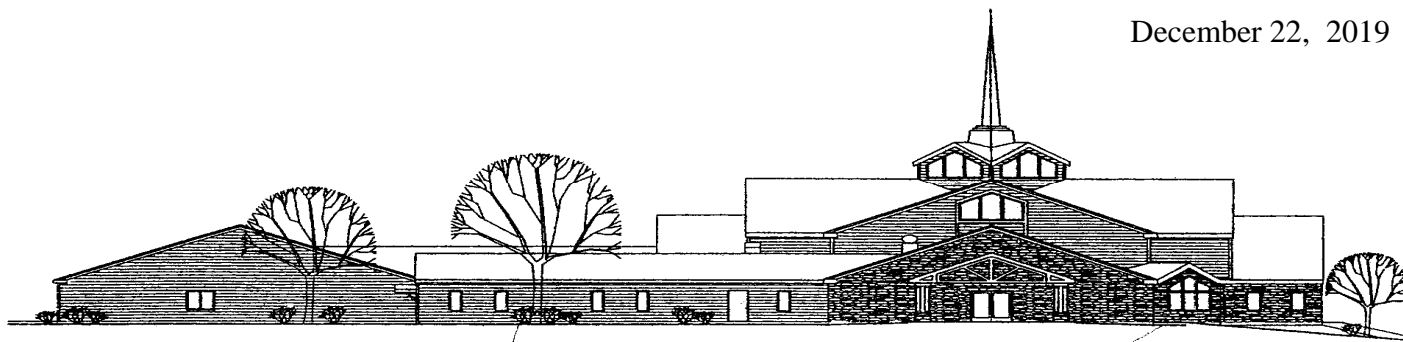


Church of Saint Benedict

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

December 22, 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.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 — You will be given this sign: The virgin shall conceive and bear a son (Isaiah 7:10-14).

Psalm — Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory (Psalm 24).

Second Reading — God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ

(Romans 1:1-7).

Gospel — The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:18-24).

GOSPEL THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and His mother Mary. God grant that I may be as open to the leading of the Holy Spirit!

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

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

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.



SUPPORT A CULTURE OF LIFE

We pray for all young professionals, especially doctors, lawyers and those in public service that they might come to know and cherish the truth of the Gospel of Life.

MARCH FOR LIFE WASHINGTON DC JANUARY 24, 2020

St. Benedict's will run a bus to the March. Please see the sign up list in the Gathering Space. A Pro-life rally will take place in the mall area near the Washington Monument. The March will proceed from the rally area to the steps of the Supreme Court. Please consider attending this peaceful protest of an immoral law on the books in our nation, namely the destruction of human life in the womb.

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.

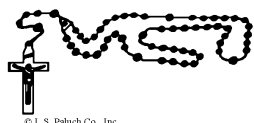
Please remember in your prayers all who are in the military service: USAir Force: Mark Cahill, Tom Gutherman, Michael Rodgers, Ryan Vance; USArmy: Zach Brann, Kelly Bunch, Nathan Calhoun, Christopher Hari, Richard Hari, Matt Kurz, Adam Latshaw, Matt McGinn, Matt Palange, Andrew Sickora, James Yorke; 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.

DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP will meet Monday from 7:00-8:30 pm December 23 in classroom #1. Last meeting for this session.



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.

RETROUVAILLE...a lifeline for Marriages. Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage! Tens of thousands of couples have healed their Marriages through Retrouvaille (RETROVIE). If you know of anyone who could benefit from this program please pass it on. Couples learn to build communication skills and rediscover intimacy. Retrouvaille provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins on the weekend of February 21-23, 2020 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. Another weekend will be held in April. For more information or to register for one of our weekends, visit our web site at: www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential!

EMMANUEL

To name someone or something means that we have a relationship with that entity. Family names identify us with our heritage; nicknames denote familiarity or a special bond. In the Old Testament, the meaning of a name ran deep. It identified one's mission, even one's very being.

The amazing name "Emmanuel" was first uttered by Isaiah as he described to the frightened King Ahaz the promised one who would come to redeem the people. Emmanuel is not a frightening philosophical name, such as Omnipotent, Omniscient, Almighty. It does not connote distance and transcendence. It does not generate reverential fear. The name Emmanuel implies closeness and intimacy and compassion. Emmanuel is the name given to the one who is coming. It means "God is with us." God is entrusted to the care of a virgin, who will bear this child. Only God would be so compassionate to draw so near, to be so available and vulnerable. Only God could love this well.

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BERKS CATHOLIC NEWS...

CONGRATULATIONS to our students who received honors in the first quarter:

Distinguished Honors: *Brooke Burrows, Gina Coccia, Mariella Frisina, Megan Hatcher.*

First Honors: *Jillian Avadanian, Dale Belville, Isabella Belville, Luke Brezina, Cristian Eichenlaub, Mary Henefer, Mary Kinsey*

Second Honors: *Paul Avadanian, Elise Kirwan, Robert Silver*

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY RETREAT FOR HIGH SCHOOL BOYS

The St. Peter Respect Life Committee is excited to announce our upcoming Theology of the Body Retreat for High School Boys. The culture is speaking lies to our young men. They deserve to hear St. John Paul's teaching and the truth about love, life and sexuality. The Retreat will be led by Brendan McCauley, TOB Speaker and Master's Degree Student at the St. John Paul Institute in DC. Arrival Time: Saturday, January 11 at 9:00 am. Ends: Sunday, January 12 at 11:00 am. at St. Mary of Providence, 227 Isabella Road, Elverson, PA. Cost \$100 (scholarships available). Talks, small group discussion, outdoor fun, Adoration, Mass, Confession, food and fun!! To register contact Tracy Phillips at tracymphillips@yahoo.com or 610-220-4346. Sponsored by St. Peter's Respect Life Committee.

WOMEN'S CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY—Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 6:30 pm at Mimmo's Restaurant, 290 Morgantown Road. Cost: \$25.00. Sign up sheet in the gathering area.

Liturgical Ministers—December 28 & 29

Saturday 5:00 PM

Lector: Peter Snow
Servers: Michael Lee, Matlyn Rhoades, Mary Henefer
EM: Tom Culbert, Tom Henefer, Kelly Leininger, Paul Waterman, Ursita Blechman

Sunday 8:00 AM

Lector: Brent Musser
Servers: Dalton Maiers, Sydney & Timothy Machion
EM: Rich Conte, Crystal & Chris Stein, Cindy Miller, Mary Ann Razzano

Sunday 9:30 AM

Lector: Steven Keech
Servers: Emily Boyer, Allison & Natalie Clayton
EM: Tom Dobson, Glenn Unger, Matt Martini, Paul Wirkus, Father Phil

Sunday 11:15 AM

Lector: Sister Eileen
Servers: Brianna Gallagher, Christopher Mangan, Megan Vance
EM: John Cocco, Helen MacMinn, Carie Leggett, Mary Alice Newhams, Father Phil

ADVENT CALENDAR

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.

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.



Prayer at the Creché,

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives He brings joy and peace, justice, mercy and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to Him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.



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

***Holy Day of Obligation
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God***

Tuesday December 31

Vigil Mass 5:00 PM

Wednesday January 01

Day Mass 9:00 AM

Liturgical Ministers - December 24 & 25

Tuesday 4:00 PM Church

Lector: Brian Heath
Servers: Megan & Emily Hatcher, Regan McClure
EM: Tom Dobson, Karen Keenan, Matt Martini,
Debra Mazzarelli, Gary Scollick

Tuesday 4:05 PM FLC

Lector: Dennis Brizick
Servers: A. J. Crisi, Madalyn Cocco, Gina Coccia
EM: George Bach, Joy & Lee Bandy, John Cocco
Mary Alice Newhams

Tuesday 6:00 PM

Lector: Kathy Appleton
Servers: Paul Avadanian, Jadon & Mark Scheidel
EM: Frank Burns, Ray Clapper, Adam Scheidel,
Tom Culbert, Father Phil

Tuesday 10:00 PM

Lector: Laura Kamerdze
Servers: Monique Baj, Michael Lee, Oleg Brann, Mary Henefer
EM: Mark Brezina, Tom Henefer, Kelly Leininger,
Paul Waterman, Mary Kozak

Wednesday 9:00 AM

Lector: Julie Angstadt
Servers: Emily Ward, Joseph & Sophia Kusznr
EM: Sylvia Firth, Jim Gregor, Joe Boylan,
Bo Kusznr, Ursita Blechman

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.



THIS WEEK AT ST. BENEDICT'S

The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in memory of Ron Ney, Sr. by the Bilski Family.

Monday 12/23
7:00 PM Divorce Support Group meets in classroom #1

Thursday 12/26
8:00 PM AA meeting in the RMR

Sunday 12/29
9:30 Mass with Children's Liturgy of the Word.
Leader: Lisa Boyer



Monday 12/23 Late Advent Weekday
6:30 PM Sister Kathleen McMullen, O.S.F.
by Sylvia Firth

Tuesday 12/24 Late Advent Weekday
NO MORNING MASS

Vigil of Christmas
4:00 PM Carol Ann Burns
by Frank Burns

Children's Christmas Pageant
4:05 PM Tony DelPercio
by Lee & Joy Bandy

6:00 PM Marian Yanitis Zielinski
by Patti Brenner

10:00 PM Gregory McGhee
by Andy Terifay



Wednesday 12/25 *Christmas—*
Nativity of the Lord
9:00 AM Msgr. Dennis T. Hartgen
by Jim & Floss Pleitner

Thursday 12/26 St. Stephen
NO MASS

Friday 12/27 St. John, Apostle
8:00 AM Salvatore Miccicke
by Jim & Sandy Kozlowski
Rosary will be recited after Mass

Saturday 12/28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
4:00-4:45 PM Confessions

Sunday 12/29 *Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*
Fifth Sunday Rosary 15 minutes before each Mass
Blessing of Families at each Mass
5:00 PM (Saturday) People of the Parish
8:00 AM John Schrum
by Jim & Sharon Helms
9:30 AM Kathleen Leininger
by Roland & Leininger Families
11:15 AM Benjamin Schools
by Karl & Ruth Beard

COMING EVENTS...

- 01/04 Ultreya meets
- 01/05 Hospitality Sunday
- 01/06 Respect Life meets
- 01/06 K of C General meeting
- 01/07 Women's Club meets
- 01/07 RCIA meets
- 01/09 Pastoral Council meets



C is for the *Child* asleep in the hay
H is for the *Hope* He brings us today
R is for the *Radiance* of His Holy face
I is for His *Innocence* and grace
S is for the *Shepherds* who followed the star
T is for the *Treasure* the Magi brought from afar
M is for the *Mother Mary*, sweet and mild
A is for the *Angels* who praised the Child
S is for the *Savior* who brought from above the promise of Peace and Hope and Love.

