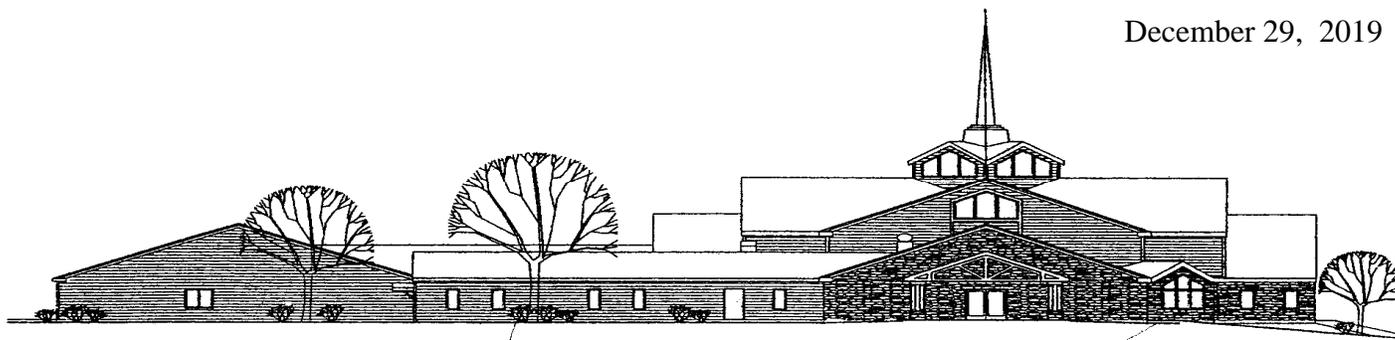


Church of Saint Benedict

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

December 29, 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 — Those who honor and comfort their parents shall never be forgotten (Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14).

Psalm — Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways (Psalm 128).

Second Reading — You are called into one body. Bear with

one another; forgive one another; let Christ's peace control you (Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17]).

Gospel — Joseph rose, took the child and his mother, and fled to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23).

GOSPEL THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Joseph's obedience to God was not a one-time thing. His attention to the angel's warning kept Jesus from being murdered by Herod and led to the fulfillment of the prophecy that the Messiah would be a Nazorean. Fidelity to God's will assures the best use of my talents, too!

Stewardship- Gifts of God	
<i>Thank you for your generous gifts!</i>	
Stewardship 12-15-19:	\$8,769.00 (246 envelopes)
EFT:	\$ 540.00
FLC Mortg. 12-15-19:	\$3,649.50 (101 envelopes)
EFT:	\$ 232.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$1,366.00 (98 envelopes)
EFT:	\$ 190.00

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.



SUPPORT A CULTURE OF LIFE

We pray for a growing respect for life among the leaders of our government that our laws might respect the right to life and liberty of every human being from conception to natural death.

**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.

PARISH CONTACT DIRECTORY

All parish groups welcome new members. Please feel free to contact leaders for more information.

- AD Cursillo - Mary Messner - 610-775-3154*
- Adult Altar Servers - Frank Burns - 610-913-6630*
- Altar Servers - Michelle Steinbrecher - 484-529-0562*
- Bereavement Ministry - Judy Campion - 610-775-7782*
- Book Club - Anita Harrison - 610-777-4230*
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd - Valerie Christo - 610-856-5146*
- CYO - Mark Brezina - 610-582-0835*
- Disabilities Coordinator - Brooke Frech - 610-777-7111*
- Eucharistic Ministers - Tom Henefer - 610-603-9196*
- Family Life - Amy Basehoar—610-554-2556*
- Food Pantry - Rosanne Weidner - 610-286-5568*
- Friendly Visitors - Treesa Schools - 610-207-6644*
- Gardens - Cecelia Kacmar - 610-856-1394*
- Greeters - Diane Roulston - 610-775-6550*
- Knights of Columbus - Richard Conte - 610-223-8846*
- Landings - Lee & Joy Bandy - 610-709-6509*
- Lectors - Susan Teaford - 610-207-5763*
- Liturgical Scheduling - Jim Helms - 610-856-7355*
- Ministry to Divorced Catholics - Joseph Boylan - 610-781-6415*
- Music Ministry—Andrew Angstadt—610-451-5664*
- Parish Outreach - Ellie Albright - 610-763-9528*
- Pastoral Council - Kathy Minnich - 610-796-9939*
- Pastoral Counselor, Spiritual Director - Robin Ball - 610-856-1402*
- Picnic Grove & FLC Rentals - Jeanie Hauck - 610-856-7575*
- Prayer Chain & Shawls - Sylvia Firth - 610-286-5714*
- PRÉP/Catechists—Valerie Christo—610-856-5146*
- Prime Timers - Paul Wirkus - 610-913-0910*
- Property Committee—Steven Keech—484-947-3143*
- RCIA - Mark Schrum/Father Phil - 610-856-1006*
- Respect Life - Mary Newhams - 610-777-3858*
- Rosary Group - Jeanie Hauck - 610-856-7575*
- St. Vincent de Paul - Carol Nygard—484-794-0428*
- For Food - 484-336-4665 (c)*
- Stewardship Committee—John Bergandino—610-960-4318*
- Ushers - John Coccia - 610-404-0712*
- Vocations Ministry - Sandy Bach - 610-273-7685*
- Women's Club - Lillian Meyers - 610-856-1215*
- Women's Spirituality Group - Robin Ball - 610-856-1402*
- Youth Group - Abby Canela—610-769-1599*

MEMORIAL BELL TOWER PAVERS: Deadline to order: 12-31-19! Pavers can be used to: memorialize a loved one, announce a Bible quote, or imprint your family name. Order forms can be picked up at the parish office.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION First Saturday January 4 from 9:00 a.m.-12 noon. Please feel free to stop by for silent prayer and adoration at any time that is convenient.

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.



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!

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.



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

Liturgical Ministers - December 31 & January 1

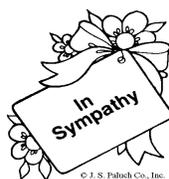
- Tuesday 5:00 PM**
 Lector: Emily Coppa
 Servers: Nora & Sam Coppa, Abby Thatcher
 EM: Debra Mazzarelli, Sister Eileen, George Bach, Frank Burns, Karen Keenan
- Wednesday 9:00 AM**
 Lector: Sylvia Firth
 Servers: Madeline & Mariella Frisina, Bryce Shelly
 EM: Ray Clapper, Jim Gregor, Helen MacMinn, Gary Scollick, Mary Kozak

Mary, Mother of God



JANUARY 1—SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD—

Masses for the Holy Day are Tuesday, December 31 at 5:00 pm and Wednesday, January 1 at 9:00 am.



Pray for the repose of *Joseph Leisner, husband of Barbara*. May his soul rest in peace.

"ALL YOU CAN EAT" BREAKFAST BUFFET at the Geigertown Fire Company, 3433 Hay Creek Road on Sunday, January 5 from 7:00-11:00 am. The fire company needs and appreciates your support.



RESERVED SEATING - A special pew on the tabernacle side of the church has been designated for persons who need assistance at Communion time. Any person who finds it difficult to walk toward the altar for Communion is invited to sit in the handicap pew and a Eucharistic Minister will bring Communion to that pew. The pew is marked with the International Blue Handicap sign.

Liturgical Ministers—January 04 & 05

- Saturday 5:00 PM**
 Lector: Susan Teaford
 Servers: Paul Avadanian, Mary Henefer, Regan McClure
 EM: George Bach, Jeanne DiGiacomo, Tom Dobson, Tom Henefer, Debra Mazzarelli
- Sunday 8:00 AM**
 Lector: Brian Heath
 Servers: Emily Boyer, Monique Baj, Oleg Brann
 EM: Joy & Lee Bandy, Chris & Crystal Stein, Paul Waterman
- Sunday 9:30 AM**
 Lector: Julie Angstadt
 Servers: Jadon & Mark Scheidel, Gina Coccia
 EM: Betsy Offutt, Rich Conte, Mark Brezina, Carol Wirkus, Adam Scheidel
- Sunday 11:15 AM**
 Lector: Kathy Appleton
 Servers: Jack & Marie Riehl, Madalyn Cocco
 EM: John Cocco, Helen MacMinn, Matt Martini, Sister Eileen, Kyle Mazur

Mary, Mother of God



JANUARY 1 - THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Since ancient times, the first day of the year was celebrated as special, but the religious meaning of the day was often overlooked. Before the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) the holy day on January 1 was called the Feast of the Circumcision, commemorating Jesus' submission to Jewish Law. After the Second Vatican Council, the feast was changed to honor Our Lady as the Mother of God. In 1967, Pope Paul VI decreed that January 1 would also be a day of prayer for World Peace.

While the secular world celebrates New Year's Day, you can put a Catholic emphasis on New Year's traditions. For example, the New Year's tradition of visiting friends and neighbors can be tied to Our Lady's Visitation to her cousin, Elizabeth. The tradition of making New Year's resolutions can be tied to the early Christian practice of reflecting on past mistakes and resolving to improve oneself in the coming year. In recognition of Our Lady as the Queen of Peace, you could set aside time during the day to pray for peace in your home, in your communities, and in the world.

January 1 is both the feast of *Mary, the Mother of God*, and a *day of prayer for world peace*. We can deepen our celebration of the New Year by our prayer that our families and our world be open to the peace Jesus offers.



*Today and all through the New Year
may the peace of Christ be in your heart!*

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!*

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Today's feast is new as feasts go, and it sets us this year in a very modern crisis. Amid conflicting schedules and commitments, a young man, testing the limits, has strayed from his parents and gone off to the big city. Mary and Joseph search frantically, only to find the child Jesus in the temple, conversing with the elders and scholars of the law, who are amazed at his wisdom.

In the time of Jesus, the temple was the religious center of Jewish ritual. Outside of Jerusalem, people gathered in the synagogues, centers of learning, for daily prayer and study. Still, everyone longed to journey to the temple to participate in the offerings, and to fulfill certain obligations of the law that could only be done there. On this feast, we catch a glimpse of the family of Jesus: parents dealing with the normal stresses of raising a child, and yet completely grounded in the ways of faith and tradition.

There has always been an appreciation in Christianity for the value of pilgrimage—the journey to holy places that is a symbol of our life's journey to God, and a sense of connection to important events in our family history. During the Christmas season, many of us undertake pilgrimages to the family homestead for festival meals, to the parishes where we were formed in the faith, or perhaps even to a beautiful manger scene or festival of lights. There are few better days than this in our calendar for spending time with the family, especially on a short pilgrimage to a favorite place. Just make sure that no one gets left behind!

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

ETIQUETTE IN CHURCH

1. Come on time - don't leave early.
2. Dress properly - you are in the presence of the Lord.
3. Speak in whispers - others are trying to pray.
4. Don't congregate in church - use the gathering space and parking lot.
5. Take the bulletin home - don't litter the pews.
6. No chewing gum.
7. Take restless young children into the Crying Room or gathering area so others are not disturbed.

THIS WEEK AT ST. BENEDICT'S



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The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in memory of Carol Burns by Frank Burns



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Monday 12/30 Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
6:30 PM Mary Jane Butt
by Nancy Hewitt

Tuesday 12/31 Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

NO MORNING MASS

Vigil of Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mary, Mother of God

5:00 PM Ben Schools
by Rita Setta



Wednesday 01/01 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

9:00 AM Floretta Schools
by Bob & Cecelia Kacmar

Thursday 01/02 Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
5:30 PM Intention of Rosemary Connelly
by Robin Ball

Friday 01/03 Holy Name of Jesus *First Friday*
8:00 AM Teresa Breton
by Clara Lush
Rosary will be recited after Mass

Saturday 01/04 St. Elizabeth Seton *First Saturday*
9:00 AM Jim Bortz
by Kathy, Brian & Joe Appleton
Eucharistic Adoration until 12 noon
Rosary will be recited after Mass
4:00-4:45 PM Confessions

Sunday 01/05 *Epiphany of the Lord*
5:00 PM (Saturday) Harry Mazzarelli
by Debbie Mazzarelli
8:00 AM People of the Parish
9:30 AM Members of St. Benedict Memorial Society
11:15 AM Robert Didyoung Sr.
by Irene Didyoung

Saturday 01/04
9:00 AM Ultreya meets in the conference room

Sunday 01/05
"Hospitality Sunday" hosted by Landings
9:30 Mass with Children's Liturgy of the Word. Heather Yohn
9:30 AM Family Life Committee meets in the conference room



COMING EVENTS...

- 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
- 01/14 Women's Club Holiday Party



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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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