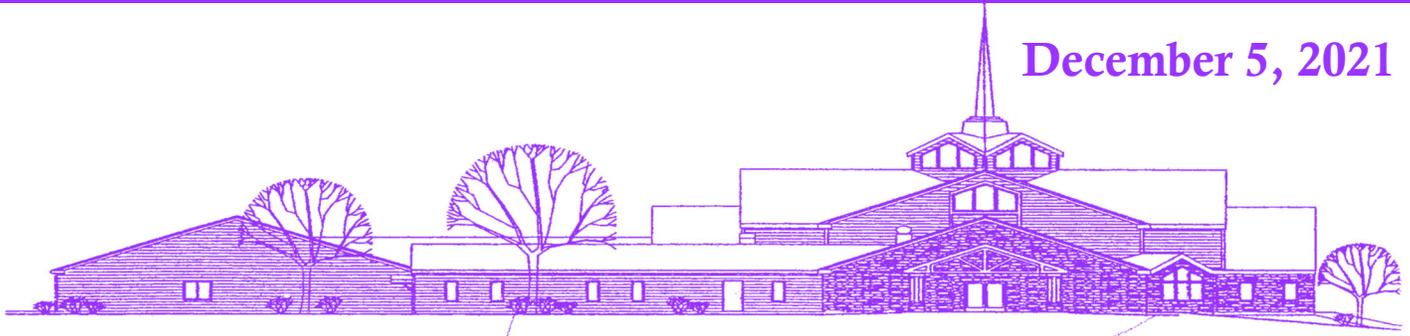


Church of Saint Benedict

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

December 5, 2021



MASS SCHEDULE

Daily: Mon & Thurs 6:30pm 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 Hours Mon-Fri. 9am-4:30pm
Website: www.churchofsaintbenedict.com
Email: Secretary@churchofsaintbenedict.org
Pastor@churchofsaintbenedict.org

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Celebrated the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month immediately following the 11:00am 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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesdays, 4:00-6:00pm
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.

CHURCH SAFETY INFORMATION

Lead: Richard Conte, 610-223-8846
Location of Emergency Operating Plan

<https://www.churchofsaintbenedict.com/wp-content/uploads/St-Benedict-Emergency-Operating-Plan-Rev-00.pdf>



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PARISH STAFF

Fr. John A. Frink.....Pastor
Fr. Thomas Kuller, S.J.....Weekend Ministry
Valerie Christo.....Director Religious Education
Stephen Mickulik, M.Ed. Principal LaSalle Academy
Susan Teaford.....Parish Secretary
Jeanie Hauck...Safe Environment/Rental Coordinator
Kathy SheppardBookkeeper
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 Coordinator at 610-332-0442, Ext. 2019
Website www.allentowndiocese.org

SANCTUARY LAMP burns this week for all of our special intentions.

ST. JOSEPH VOTIVES— This week, the votives are offered in memory of Mark L. Kuna.

PRAYER LIST

Please pray for those in need of hope, healing and health, for all in our parish who are ill and homebound, especially Sue Clapper, John DeAngelo, Rita DelPercio, Irene Didyoung, Sylvia Firth, Charlie Flannery, Alexa Frey, Fr. John Frink, Marian Gring, Lisa Ianni, Ted Kozak, Jason Leininger, Bob Macminn, Ralph Maio, Mary Ogden, Steve Or-nosky, Jim Pleitner, Jenn Reasinger, Joe Reilly, Gregory Schwartz, Barbara Silver, Nettie Thomas, Miriam Ulrich, Baby Henry Williams, Paul Wirkus, John E. Yost, Jr. and all those in nursing homes. Mary, Health of the Sick, please pray for them.

Consider enrolling a loved one (living or deceased) or yourself in the St. Benedict Memorial Society. A Mass is offered one Sunday per month for the intention of those enrolled.

Barbara Gibson has been enrolled by Ellie Albright and Charlie Flannery.



“The Eucharist is the supreme proof of the love of Jesus. After this, there is nothing more but heaven itself.”—St. Peter Julian Eymard

Eucharistic Adoration is offered before the 9am Daily Masses on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. In addition, every Tuesday, Adoration will be offered all day, ending with evening prayer and Benediction at 6:45pm. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available on December 14th and 21st, between 12 noon and 2:00pm, as well as from 4:00pm and 6:00pm. Come spend some quiet time with the Lord and feel His grace and healing in Confession.

PRO-LIFE CORNER— *“Human life is precious to the Creator! His love for us is endless and it begins long before we are born.”—Archbishop Jose Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles CA.*



Stewardship—Gifts of God
 Thank you for your generous gifts!
 No figures are available because of early publication.

Stewardship	November 21	\$ 5,186.00 (151 envelopes)
	EFT	\$ 165.00
	Parish Giving	\$ 2,345.00
FLC Mtg.	November 21	\$ 967.00 (51 envelopes)
	EFT	\$ 67.00
	Parish Giving	\$ 725.00
Stewardship	November 28	\$ 5,099.00 (132 envelopes)
	EFT	\$ 350.00
	Parish Giving	\$ 1,970.00
FLC Mtg.	November 28	\$ 945.00 (48 envelopes)
	EFT	\$ 177.00
	Parish Giving	\$ 580.00

Diocesan Poverty Relief: \$935.00/\$55.00 EFT

Giving is worship, giving back to the One Who gave first.



COOKIES!!!—The Women’s Club will be having their annual Cookie Sale the weekend of December 11th and 12th. They will be accepting donations of **homemade** cookies, which can be dropped off all day Friday, December 10th or Saturday December 11th by 10am.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 1st ANNUAL ADVENT FISH FRY—This is the last weekend to order tickets. It will take place on Friday December 10, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm, You may dine in or take-out. The meal includes fried cod, mac & cheese, stewed tomatoes, cole slaw, dinner roll, and drink for \$15.00. Kids’ meals will be available for \$5.00 (half fish or grilled cheese with mac and cheese, drink, and cookies). Tickets may be purchased in the gathering space.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY—is collecting turkeys and hams for Christmas baskets. Donations may be placed in the refrigerators/freezer in the FLC kitchen. Thank you for helping put a delicious meal on someone’s table this holiday season!



PRAYING FOR A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE—As was mentioned in Fr. John’s homily last week, don’t forget to return your angel in the collection basket. A few things to ponder when I ask God for something—What kinds of thoughts cross my mind? Do I wonder if God could really do it? Do I believe that God could, and wonder why God wouldn’t? And then, do I conclude that it’s probably more or less because of my sinfulness? Do I believe that God could, and trust that if God didn’t, it’s because there’s more to my request than I can see?



CHURCH ENVIRONMENT AND DECORATING—

We are looking to form a committee that will decorate and enhance the beauty of the church for holidays such as Christmas and Easter, as well as throughout the year. If you have an interest in this and are willing to offer your decorating talents, please speak to Fr. John or contact the parish office.

BERKS CATHOLIC NEWS—Berks Catholic High School is accepting applications for the second semester of this school year as well as next Fall. Please contact Nicky Smith – nsmith@berkscatholic.org with your questions. All inquiries are confidential.



Upcoming Events

12/19/21— Christmas Vespers: Berks Catholic High School invites you to celebrate the Birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ with our Christmas Vespers Prayer Service on Sunday, December 19, 2021 at 4:00 P.M. at Sacred Heart Church, West Reading. Admission is free and open to the public.

1/27/22- 5-7 p.m.- Open House and Registration event- It's a great time to Be A Saint! Join us and feel the energy of our community. For more information please contact Nicky Smith @ nsmith@berkscatholic.org



WE ARE IN NEED OF LECTORS—Have you ever felt called to proclaim the Word of God as a Lector? If you are interested in becoming part of this beautiful liturgical ministry, please contact the parish office. Complete training is provided, as well as a workbook with all the readings for the upcoming liturgical year.

THIS WEEK AT ST. BENEDICT'S

Sunday 12/06

1:00pm Landings, Chapel

Monday 12/07

7:00pm Knights of Columbus, FLC

7:00pm Respect Life, Chapel

7:00pm Divorce Support Group, Classroom #1

Tuesday 12/08

9:30am-5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration in church

7:00pm Women's Club, FLC

7:00pm Women's Faith Sharing Group, Conference Room

Wednesday 12/09

7:00pm KOC "That Man is You," FLC

Thursday, 12/10

8:00pm AA, FLC

Friday 12/10

5:00pm-7:00pm KOC Fish Fry, FLC



Monday 12/06 St. Nicholas
6:30pm Nicholas Lintz by Lucy Concordia

Tuesday 12/07 St. Ambrose/Immaculate Conception Vigil
5:00pm Mary Dolan by the Arnold Family
(There will be no 9am Mass.)

Wednesday 12/08 Feast of the Immaculate Conception
9:00am George & Margaret Moran by Clara Lush
7:00pm Theresa Vizza by Ralph & Lisa Vizza

Thursday 12/09 Advent Weekday
5:30pm Mary & Stanley Plevyak by Debbie Sullivan

Friday 12/10 Advent Weekday
9:00am Tony Tyler by Debbie Cioffi

Sunday 12/12 Gaudete Sunday
5:00pm (Saturday) Eileen Creighton by John & Mimi Frank

9:00am Ronald Weidner by John & Mimi Frank;
Richard Ball and Joan Ball by Robin Ball
11:00am Joseph Sweeney by Andrea Sweeney,
People of the Parish

LITURGICAL MINISTERS
DECEMBER 11/12

Saturday 5:00 PM

Lector: Mary Jo Lewis

Altar Servers: Madelyn Frisina, Karyn Creelman

EM: Gary Scollick, George Bach, Tom Dobson

Sunday 9:00 AM

Lector: Chris Mensak

Altar Servers: Mark & Jaden Scheidel

EM: Jeanette Bunch, Mark Brezina, Cindy Miller

Sunday 11:00 AM

Lector: Marie Blimline

Altar Servers: Joseph & Sophia Kusznrir

EM: Ursita Blechman, Kim and Kelly Mazur

EM Visitations: Sharon Helms, Jeanette Bunch, Helen Macminn, Mark Brezina, Rich Conte, Cindy Miller

Please remember that if you are unable to fulfill your scheduled assignment, we ask that you find a substitute. Thank you for your faithful service as Liturgical Ministers.

Miracles - Second Sunday of Advent

Miracles are wonderful things, not magical, but certainly they are wonderful, unexpected, hoped for, miraculous. The fact is, they really happen: The Bible tells us miracles are real. God created the universe, designed this world and setup the laws of nature. He loves us so he created order out of chaos. God sustains this creation and supports this order. Except...every once in a while he doesn't. He just takes the laws of nature/ of probability/ of physics/ and upends them. And he does it to help us out, to get our attention, to move us to deeper faith and commitment, to just help us understand more of his plan. That's what happened at Christmas. The first Christmas was a miracle. Actually, it was a series of miracles. Lots of them.

During this season, I invite you to do two things: one thing for yourself and one thing for someone else. For someone else, consider who you know who needs to hear this message this Christmas; plug them into it, from joining here in person, on line, or inviting them to Mass on Christmas Eve. For yourself I asked you to think of a miracle that you could expect this Christmas. Last week we made paper angels available, we're calling them miracle angels. Write on one, that miracle you desire, if you haven't already, then we pray over them in the time between now and Christmas. Before every miracle, there is a problem, a storm, that needs to be overcome. In fact, the problem helps us to know we need a miracle, that we need God to come through in some way. If there wasn't a storm, if life were easy then a miracle wouldn't be needed. Problems and difficult situations are the breeding grounds for miracles.

In every miracle we see in the Bible, God does something. God acts, but he does not act alone. He acts after human beings do something. If we want to see a miracle in our life, if we want to see wonderful things happen, we have a role to play. What do you need to do, if you want a Christmas miracle?

Lets look at todays gospel. Luke tells us that John, who we know as The Baptist received the word of God:

He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance

- A not uncommon practice Toward the end of the Old Testament period the practice of immersion as a sign of sorrow for sin, and John seems to have taken up that idea and amplified it as something everyone should do. Repentance begins with sorrow and sadness for sin or failure. Those aren't necessarily positive emotions in the beginning but the Bible tells us over and over again that sorrow is the beginning of conversion. It's never much fun at first, but sorrow for our sin can lead to positive life change. You have had that experience before. There are some things you have changed but first you had to experience sorrow. You maybe only began to work out or exercise because you

didn't like the way you were feeling. You only started studying and working at school because you were sorry for the grades you were getting. You only got your house in order because you were sick and sorry to live in chaos. Most of us don't change until we experience some kind of sorrow for something we want to change.

Whatever miracle you are looking for this Christmas, there is probably a bit of sorrow in your heart that things are the way they are. The sorrow leads us to desire change. Repentance is a specific kind of sorrow. It is a sorrow in how we have added to the problem. Repentance takes some responsibility in saying, "I am sorry that I have been part of this problem in some way and owning the problem if even in a small way."

- Maybe the miracle you are praying for is about your marriage. Repentance begins by saying, "I own the fact that I have caused problems in this marriage and I am owning my failings." Maybe you are saddened that two family members don't get along. Repentance is acknowledging that maybe you have unintentionally stoked that fire, that maybe you have gotten some satisfaction about being in the middle. If you have some health issues, maybe it is acknowledging that you haven't always taken care of yourself. If a family member has bad habits, is drinking too much, maybe repentance might look like an acknowledgement that you have enabled them.

Repentance is an acknowledgement that we are part of the problem, feeling the sadness about it and desiring to change.

John shares what else we need to do, he's quoting Isaiah: "*Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.*" In other words, do something to prepare for God to do something. And John communicates this instruction with some sense of urgency, as in, the time is now. If you want a miracle if you want to see some wonderful things this Christmas, get rid of the obstacles that are keeping God from intervening in your life. So what keeps God from intervening? Dishonesty and deceit; injustice, intolerance, ingratitude; bitterness, anger, envy or pride; gossip, lying, lust, laziness, basically anything that dishonors God. Preparing the way for a miracle means taking action and removing those things that get in the way. You can't expect God to act and do a wonderful thing in your finances if you are still digging a deeper hole of debt. You can't expect God to work a miracle in your family if you gossip about the other family members. You can't expect God to heal your marriage if you keep putting down your spouse in front of others. You can't expect God to bring a wonderful person into your life if you keep spending all your free time looking at junk on the internet. In whatever area this Christmas you want a miracle, you need to prepare the way for God to act by removing some kind of sin from your life. You don't have to remove all of it. You can't all on your own anyway. You can't do everything, especially if you're talking about a big thing, but you can do something. John says you go ahead and *Prepare the way*.

You do what you can...and then look what happens:

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways be made smooth.

- That's not something we do. That's what God does. Maybe the miracle you need is like a valley, you need it filled in. Maybe the problem you've got going on is like an unscalable mountain...maybe it's a twisted crooked maze you'll never find your way through, a rough tough place to be that you can't even take anymore. You do what you can do and let God do what only God can do.

Prepare the way for God to work the miracle you need. Here's John's promise

Then all flesh will see God's salvation.

- Salvation is being saved, it's something you can not do on your own. It's a recognition of hurt and you need someone bigger and stronger or of greater means to come and bail you out. And who is this a promise for? All flesh, everyone. Every single person. This means if you have gone to Church all your life or back in Church for the first time. If you are straight or gay, if you are man or woman, if you are a Republican, Democrat, whoever you are, God wants to do a miracle in your life, wants to do a wonderful thing, this Christmas. So why not do your part in the week ahead, with a certain sense of urgency. Don't wait. Prepare the way for God and you will see his hand on your life. So how do you prepare the way for God? You take the next step you know you're supposed to take. In light of the miracle you want this Christmas, you remove the obstacles, the sins that keep God from moving in your life. What step you take is going to depend on who you are. My guess is that as I was talking, something came to mind. You know there is something that you can remove from your habits or your behavior to prepare the way for God to move. You may know there is something in your life that makes it hard for you to go to God and ask for help. The obstacle you remove, doesn't have to be big. It could be very small. It may even in some ways be symbolic. If you read on in the chapter, people ask John what they should do to prepare the way and John tells them to do very practical things.
- He told rich people, "give to the poor" He told tax collectors, "stop cheating people" He told soldiers, "defend the defenseless"
- ***Prepare the way:*** You want to see a miracle this Christmas, prepare the way AND EXPECT A MIRACLE TO HAPPEN

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