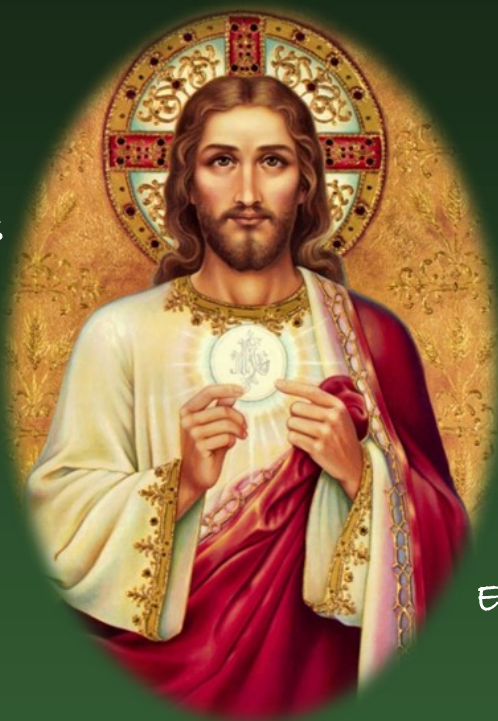


February 18, 2018

First Sunday of Lent

ORDINARY FAMILIES



EXTRAORDINARY FAITH

ST. BENILDE

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

1901 Division Street • Metairie, Louisiana 70001

Church Office: (504) 834-4980 • Church Fax: (504) 831-5810 • Church Email: stbenildechurch@cox.net

www.stbenilde.org

CLERGY

Rev. Robert T. Cooper, *Pastor*
Rev. H.L. Brignac, *Sacramental Asst.*
Deacon Biaggio DiGiovanni
Deacon Stephen Gordon
Deacon Clifford Wright

BAPTISMS

First and Third Sundays of the month
at 12 Noon. Please call the Parish
Office for more information.

MATRIMONY

Please contact a priest/deacon
8 months prior to your wedding.

FUNERALS

Arrangements may be made at the
Parish Office.

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil ... 4 p.m.
Sunday ... 9:00, 11:00 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Monday—Friday ... 7:00 a.m.
Monday and Thursday ... 5:30 p.m.
First Saturday ... 8:45 a.m.

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

See Inside the Bulletin for Schedule

CONFESSION TIMES

Saturday ... 3:00—3:45 p.m.
Sunday ... 5:00—5:45 p.m.
Monday ... 6:00—6:45 p.m.
and by appointment at the Parish Office

DIVINE MERCY ADORATION CHAPEL

Eucharistic Adoration from 7:00 p.m. Sunday
till 4:00 p.m. Saturday

DEVOTIONS

Holy Hour in Church
Monday, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Following 7 a.m. Mass on Tuesday

NEWCOMERS

Call the Parish Office to receive a New
Parishioner Registration Packet.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

St. Benilde Conference
(504) 233-3246

ST. BENILDE SCHOOL

Michael Buras, Interim Principal
1801 Division Street • Metairie, LA
(504) 833-9894



Ministers of the Liturgy

February 17 & 18, 2018

Saturday - 4 P.M.

Intention: Catherine S. Finnan, George Spaulding,
Judith Theisges, Marisa Saborio, Beverly Manfre,
Russell Joubert, Melissa Mendel Zimmerman,
Poor Souls, Rita Kaul, Joseph Segari, Carol Aymami,
Merle & Charles Dittmer, Annie Bollinger,
Patrick C. McKinney, Flora Maria Be,
Emile Fichter, Jr., Maurice D. Simmons, Sr.
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
A. & P. Delaup
Cantor: Trish Foti *Organist:* Jared Croal

Sunday - 9 A.M.

Intention: June & Marvin Ackermann (L)
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
J. Tusa, P. Cifreo, C. & R. Ayers
Song Leaders: Traditional Choir

Sunday - 11 A.M.

Intention: Joseph Donald Bernard, Albert Roux III,
Mary & Melvin Ducote, Kelvin Ducote, Joy Rojas,
Miriam Whitman, Ronnie & Dianne Z. Harrison,
Emile Fichter, Jr., Joseph C. Stengel, Jr. Alice Brin,
Rose Mary Silbernagel, J.C. Mixon,
Todd Hillburn, Paul J. Hymel, Jr.
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
J. Ackermann, J. Wright, K. & M. Sorensen
Song Leaders: Contemporary Choir

Sunday - 6 P.M.

Intention: Parishioners
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
M. Drawe, D. Powers
Cantor: Lauren Gisclair *Pianist:* Beth Kettenring

Weekday Masses

Monday	7:00 a.m. Thelma Conrad 5:30 p.m. Michael Bollinger
Tuesday	7:00 a.m. Floyd Bangs, Sr. 5:30 p.m. Jennifer Chevis
Wednesday	7:00 a.m. Joseph C. Stengel, Jr. 8:15 a.m. Margaret M. Knoker 5:30 p.m. Annie Bollinger
Thursday	7:00 a.m. Earl Lowrie 5:30 p.m. Joy Rojas
Friday	7:00 a.m. Floyd Dickinson 5:30 p.m. Sidney Stark Family

**The Church Sanctuary Lamp
burns in memory of
The Souls in Purgatory**



**The Blessed Mother
Votive Lamps burn
For Reparations for Sins**

**The St. Joseph Votive Lamps
burn for
World Peace**



**Adoration Chapel
Sanctuary Lamp burns
in memory of
Stuart & Gloria Fourroux**

**Adoration Chapel Candles
burn in memory of
Joanie Allen**



Altar Ladies

Week of February 18

J. LeBoeuf, C. Grace, T. Gsell,
S. Mercantante

Linens

Large - Y. Morise
Small - C. Ayers



**The Altar Flowers are in
memory of
Deceased Parishioners**



Stewardship of Treasure

Weekend of February 10 & 11

Totals unavailable due to early bulletin deadline.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

February 24/25

4 PM K. Hartdegen, R. Aucoin
 9 AM C. Rispoli, b. Soletto, J. Zeringue, G. Rojas
 11 AM C. & T. Pitre, S. Gordon, L. Peters
 6 PM D. Childers, T. Kettenring

Safe Haven Sunday: Equipping the Family, Safeguarding Children

The Archdiocese of New Orleans is setting aside this weekend, February 18-19 as "Safe Haven Sunday" in order to give focused time and resources to address the harmfulness of pornography and other online threats in marriages, family life and culture.

Today's awareness day is celebrated through prayer and a reflection within the context of the Mass. After Mass, copies of Covenant Eyes' most recent book, *Equipped: Smart Catholic Parenting in a Sexualized Culture* will be available to individuals and families as part of Hospitality Sunday. This book includes a unique seven-day text-to-opt-in program: **The Equipped 7-Day Challenge**. This Challenge provides practical tips any caring adult can take to create safer digital environments for themselves and our young people.

Thank you for celebrating with us! If you have any questions about this awareness weekend, please contact the Archdiocese of New Orleans Office of Marriage and Family Life at tmccaffery@arch-no.org or visit www.nolacatholic.com.

Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration

The Archdiocesan Golden Wedding Anniversary celebration will take place on Sunday, June 10, 2018, at 3 PM, in St. Philip Neri Church, 6500 Kawanee Ave., Metairie. Please call the Parish Office at 834-4980 for more information and to be registered. **The deadline to register is February 28.**

Lenten Mass Confession Times & Devotionals

For our complete Lenten Schedule visit: www.stbenilde.org/lent

We Need Your Help

Would you like to spend some quiet time with the Lord and fill a great need? We have several time slots open in the Adoration Chapel: **Mondays, 8 AM, Tuesdays, 3 PM, Wednesdays, 5 PM, Fridays 2 AM and 1 PM.** If you are able to give an hour of your time each week, please call the Parish Office at 834-4980 for more information. God Bless You.



BEST LENT EVER

DON'T GIVE UP chocolate FOR LENT

Instead, take a 40-day journey to become the-best-version-of-yourself.

Join our parish for Best Lent Ever, a free email program designed to help you have a life-changing Lent. Every day you'll get . . .

Inspirational Videos

Practical Tips

Encouraging Stories

ARE YOU READY TO HAVE YOUR BEST LENT EVER?

SIGN UP AT

DynamicCatholic.com/Lent

Dynamic Catholic



FR. COOPER'S CORNER

Safe Haven Sunday

I want to begin this article with a brief prayer. "Lord Jesus Christ, we pray that You would cover us, our families, and all of our possessions with Your love and the power of Your Most Precious Blood. Bind and drive out from among us any spirits who are opposed to Your Kingdom. Soften our hearts and heal our wounds so that we may receive Your Word today. Surround all of us with Your heavenly Angels, Saints, the strong arms of St. Joseph, and the mantle of Our Blessed Mother. Through Christ our Lord. Amen."

Consider this hypothetical situation: What if we all knew that some defect in the water pipes of this church was resulting in harmful exposure to a high percentage of parishioners and running the high likelihood of serious physical health risks and even death ... and we did nothing? We said nothing. I take it you would think that is crazy and irresponsible. You might even demand the Pastor and other parish staff be replaced. We have basically that very situation, but in the area of spiritual health. And most people hear nothing about it from pulpits or read nothing about it in the parish bulletin. Little is said or done to battle the crisis which is at epidemic proportions.

Today, I want to discuss a topic that impacts many men and women across many age categories. While the impact is broad, it does seem true that this spiritual health risk seems to have a more significant hold on men and boys. **I think it is necessary to speak on the topic of the pervasive presence and use of pornography in our society.**

All indications are that this is a widespread problem in our society, made ever broader by easy access and free content through the internet. I have made some general reference to this topic in other bulletin articles and homilies but this is, I believe, the first time in ten years as a priest that I have given this topic direct focus. Thus, I first want to apologize to you for failing to devote attention to this earlier in a clear, courageous, and manly way as your spiritual father. That is a failure and a weakness on my part because I should have been more resolved to protect my flock. Today that failure ends.

The statistics are alarming.

- Studies indicate that 73% of kids are exposed to explicit material before the age of 18 and 42% of kids first view it before the age of 13.
- The average age of first exposure to explicit images on the internet is 11 years old.
- The largest consumers of this material on the internet are kids ages 12 to 17.
- 50% of all Christian men and 20% of all Christian women say they are regular users of this material.

In addition, with access to the digital world on our smartphones it is alarming that 1 in 5 mobile phone searches is for explicit material. At younger and younger ages, kids are spending significant amounts of time online daily. One study found that nearly 70% of children ages 2 to 5 can operate a computer mouse, but only 11% could tie their own shoes. Together with this, studies show that only 1/3 of parents set up parental controls and monitor their children's online activity. In addition, 41% of American teens agree that their parents have no idea what they are doing online. No one is immune from this invasion and the problem exists in Christian homes as it does in other homes. I do not want to be misunderstood as if the problem does not exist among girls and women too. However, boys and men fall prey to this at significantly higher rates. In all categories of statistics measuring things like type of content viewed, age of first exposure, and frequency of use, boys and men outpace girls and women by large percentage margins. One study indicated that the strongest predictor of use of explicit material is simply being male.

One of the realities of this topic is that a person, through no fault of his or her own, can be exposed to this material quite innocently. A misspelled word in a search engine can lead to exposure and that can place a hook in a person. If we are not careful, first exposure develops into repeated curiosity and that develops into habitual use that impedes healthy human development and spiritual development. First exposure happened easily enough in my generation, but we must admit that with the dawn of the internet, it happens much more easily and frequently now, and it comes directly into your home. First exposure to explicit material now happens in our homes, right in the room where your child is on the computer, tablet, or smartphone.

This is a matter that cannot be ignored in the parish, in your family life, or in each person's examination of conscience. We cannot be





silent while souls are being ensnared and the risk of hell increases. Use of this explicit material makes its users spiritually crippled and deadened. It is serious sin that needs to be confessed immediately, and especially before coming forward to receive Holy Communion. It becomes enslaving. It negatively impacts personal discipline, dating, marriage, and even the ability of a young person to trust a call from God to priesthood or to a religious vocation.

I hope I do not cause rash judgment or awkward situations here, but given the statistics on use of explicit material: **Parents, you should likely just assume that your child has been exposed**, and that your middle school and high school aged child may already have a habit of use. You must speak with them. You must first treat this issue in your own life with serious resolve. You must take measures to control and eliminate the entry points for this material into your home. Use internet locks and filters and even have everyone in the house turn in all cellular and internet devices each evening where they remain locked in the parents' bedroom until morning. Men, dear brothers in the faith: You especially need to take such measures to protect yourselves, your wives, and your children. We need to live courageously this aspect of fatherhood as protector in our homes.

As your spiritual father, I want to set the tone for our response to this moral epidemic by saying that in the spiritual family of this parish, no one is permitted to shame anyone else about this struggle. The devil knows what he is doing in trafficking this filth. Anyone who is struggling needs to know they are loved, they are supported, and that they are called to true and authentic human relationships. Jesus gives us the example from the woman caught in adultery who easily could have been shamed. Instead, He says: "Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again" (Jn. 8:11). Therefore, in this parish, I am opening this topic for conversation, and I am asking you to continue it in your home and with your family. Opening this to conversation can allow healing to take place.

This is because in talking openly and honestly we will draw each other, spouses and children, into more authentic relationships that, together with confession, prayer, struggle, and acts of penance, will result in lessening the grip of false virtual "relationships". Anyone struggling needs to be prudent, but opening this matter – not to everyone – but to a trusted friend can offer accountability in the battle. I want you to know that there are in fact people who do not use explicit material. The battle is possible. Victory is already won with Christ Jesus. Moreover, others in this parish will be ready to stand with you as you engage in battle. It is time to reject the devil's message that tells you to keep this matter hidden. Kept hidden in the darkness, he increases his power over you. In the light, he flees.

Furthermore, we are also going to confess this matter with humility and honesty each and every time there is a fall and a sin. God is ready to meet you in this struggle and He already loves you as you hear this invitation to confession. He loves you and He wants you to have a deeper relationship with Him.

To fight against the evil of pornography in our lives and the lives of our families, I am going to suggest a few important spiritual weapons.

I want every person in this parish to learn how to pray the Rosary to invoke Mary in this battle. She brought us her Son who crushed the serpent's head. Her intercession is powerful. Pray it in your home with your family.

Reverent worship is a weapon in the battle and so, in addition to faithful attention at Holy Mass, I ask each of you to sign up for a Holy Hour of Adoration in our Divine Mercy Perpetual Adoration Chapel, or to share an hour with your family, or with another friend. Come receive blessing in the Lord's Real Presence and train your eyes to look upon the Holy One in our midst.

Men, I encourage you to invoke St. Joseph in this battle and to ask his help to see in him a great example of what it means to be a man of faith, a man of strength, and a man of purity in the family.

Don't forget the value of using Sacred Scripture, taking on practices like fasting, and using blessed objects like Holy Water or religious medals.

Finally, make regular use of confession and take the steps necessary to find an accountability partner.

Today, the First Sunday of Lent, our Archdiocese celebrates *Safe Haven Sunday*—an opportunity to appropriately spread awareness about the issue of pornography. Pornography is a grave offense against God and His gifts to men and women. God created men and women "in His image" to share in His divine life. Rather than respecting and cherishing this image of God, pornography promotes a harmful and destructive anthropology. It teaches people to use others as "objects" – in this case, a means of selfish, lustful gratification. In addition, since pornography attacks sexual desire and the conjugal act itself, it wages war on marriage. Let us be strong men and women of purity, chaste and holy, and fighting to preserve the garment of salvation we have received in Holy Baptism. May God help us to do so against the snares of the pornography epidemic!



GIVEN UP FOR YOU

St. Benilde Lenten Parish Mission

What:

A program of speaking, music, and prayer to help us dive deeper into the Pascal Mystery: Christ's free, total, faithful, and fruitful gift of Himself. We will reflect on how we, too, are called to the fullness of life through making the gift of ourselves in His image.

When:

Tuesday, March 27, 2018

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Where:

St. Benilde Catholic Church

1901 Division St.

Metairie, LA 70001

*The mission will be held inside the church.

Contact:

For questions about the mission, contact the church office at: (504) 834-4980.

About the Presenters:

BRIAN BUTLER



Brian co-founded Dumb Ox in 2002 and went full-time in 2006. He has over 15 years of youth ministry experience, and is a popular speaker and trainer around the country. He is co-author of *Theology of the Body for Teens* (High School and Middle School Editions) and the new YOU Program. Brian's bachelor's degree is in Communications and he holds a Masters in Theology from Notre Dame Seminary. He lives in Covington with his wife, Lisa, and their children.

GREG BOUDREAUX



Greg has worked with the Dumb Ox team to facilitate innumerable outreaches and retreats. Greg is married to his high school sweetheart, Lizzy, and they now live in Covington with their one year old daughter, Molly. Greg & Lizzy have recorded a full-length studio album of original music called "To the Dust", and a new EP entitled "Now That I Have Love". Greg holds a bachelor's degree in Logistics and Supply Chain Management from Auburn University, and has received ongoing education in the Theology of the Body since joining the Dumb Ox team.

*Resources will be available for purchase after the mission.

FEBRUARY 18, 2018

ST. BENILDE CATHOLIC CHURCH – ID # 113850
1901 DIVISION ST.
METAIRIE, LA 70001
504-834-4980

NANCY CAROLLO
504-834-4980
MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAYS - 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
FRIDAYS - 9 A.M. TO 12 NOON

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: