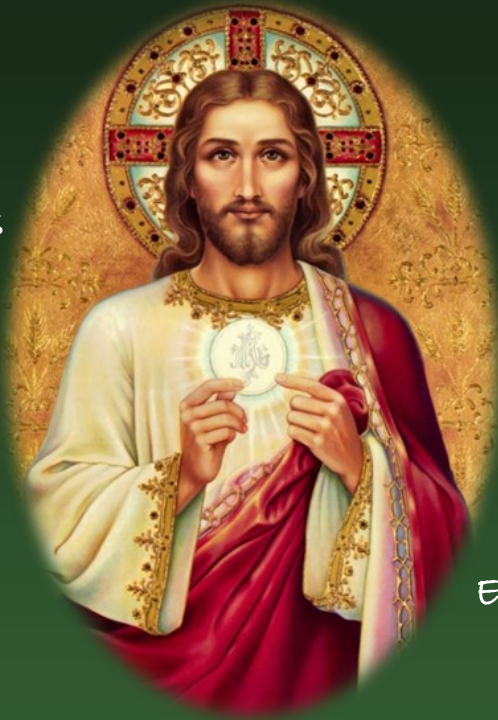


March 4, 2018

Third 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](mailto:stbenildechurch@cox.net)

[www.stbenilde.org](http://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

March 3 & 4, 2018

### Saturday - 4 P.M.

*Intention:* Carl A. Guidroz, Jr., George Spaulding, Russell Joubert, Henry P. Kaul III, Joseph Segari, Beverly Manfre, Marilyn Rogers, Raymond Asprien, Merle & Charles Dittmer, Patrick C. McKinney, Flora Maria Be, Austin Burroughs, Betty Pourciau, Rita Bertolino, Carol Aymami, Roger Ettienne  
*Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:*  
A. & P. Delaup

*Cantor:* Trish Foti *Organist:* Jared Croal

### Sunday - 9 A.M.

*Intention:* Parishioners  
*Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:*  
M. Evola, P. Fleming, R. Meche, B. O'Hara  
*Song Leaders:* Traditional Choir

### Sunday - 11 A.M.

*Intention:* Albert Roux III, Emile Fichter, Jr., Joy Rojas, Miriam Whitman, Joseph Donald Bernard, Ronnie & Dianne Z. Harrison, Mary & Melvin Ducote, Kelvin Ducote, Annie Bollinger, Alice Brin, Connie Gay (L) Todd Hillburn, Paul J. Hymel, Jr., Gerardo Passarelli, Juan Pablo Passarelli, Fred Leonard Sandoval  
*Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:*  
C. & T. Pitre, A. Duersel, R. Oleksik  
*Song Leaders:* Contemporary Choir

### Sunday - 6 P.M.

*Intention:* June & Marvin Ackermann (L)  
*Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:*  
A. Calongne, B. Henry  
*Cantor:* Lauren Gisclair *Pianist:* Beth Kettenring

### Weekday Masses

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Monday    | 7:00 a.m. Paul O. Onebane<br>5:30 p.m. Joy Rojas   |
| Tuesday   | 7:00 a.m. June & Bill Cresson<br>7:00 p.m. Confirmation Candidates                       |
| Wednesday | 7:00 a.m. Raymond A. Melan Jr.<br>8:15 a.m. Special Intention<br>5:30 p.m. Bessie Bodden |
| Thursday  | 7:00 a.m. Eddie & Lucy Lehrmann (L)<br>5:30 p.m. Joy Rojas                               |
| Friday    | 7:00 a.m. Julian Laine, Jr.<br>5:30 p.m. Judith Theisges                                 |

**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 in Thanksgiving  
For Prayers Answered**



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

**Adoration Chapel Candles  
burn for and  
End to Abortion**



## Altar Ladies

### **Week of March 4**

B. O'Hara, J. Didier

### **Linens**

Large - K. Birrcher  
Small - A. Duersel,  
M. Meece



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



## Stewardship of Treasure

Weekend of February 24 & 25

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Envelopes .....         | \$3,785.00        |
| Loose .....             | 2,824.00          |
| Electronic Giving ..... | 321.00            |
| <b>Totaling .....</b>   | <b>\$6,930.00</b> |

Church in Eastern & Central Europe Collection...\$832.00

*"Let us focus on generosity, or returning God's gifts with increase, through the generous sharing of our time, talent and treasure."*

~ Fr. Cooper

## Lenten Masses, Confession Times & Devotionals

For our complete Lenten Schedule visit:  
[www.stbenilde.org/lent](http://www.stbenilde.org/lent)

## The Paschal Candle

During the 50 days of the Easter Season the Paschal Candle (Easter Candle) will burn at all Masses celebrated at St. Benilde Church. The Paschal Candle represents Christ, the Light of the World. The pure beeswax of which the candle is made represents the sinless Christ who was formed in the womb of His Mother. The wick signifies His humanity, the flame, His Divine Nature, both soul and body. Five grains of incense inserted into the candle in the form of a cross recall the aromatic spices with which His Sacred Body was prepared for the tomb, and of the five wounds in His hands, feet, and side. During the Easter Vigil, the deacon carries the candle in procession into the dark church. The candle, representing Christ himself, is blessed by the priest who then inscribes in it a cross, the first letters and last of the Greek alphabet and the current year. ***If you would like the Paschal Candle to burn in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for prayers answered throughout the Easter season, please contact the Parish Office. The cost of the candle is \$300.***

## Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

March 10/11

4 PM C. Casente, K. Hartdegan,  
9 AM C. Frederick, L. Director, J. Zeringue, G. Rojas  
11 AM N. Bostick, L. Frey, J. Hutchison, J. Hutchison  
6 PM L. Daigle, B. David

## Sacrament of Confirmation

Due to the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation, there will be **NO 5:30PM Mass on Tuesday, March 6.** Please pray for all of our young people who will be confirmed by Bishop Cheri.



## Easter Memorial Flowers and Lilies

The beautiful Easter lilies and spring flowers that adorn our altar and sanctuary are a special part of the celebration of Easter at St. Benilde Catholic Church. We invite all parishioners to share in the experience through a memorial or thanksgiving gift by using the **Easter Flowers Memorial Envelopes**. Donations toward the cost of Easter flowers in the Church may be made in memory or honor of your family members and friends. This is a wonderful way to remember loved ones, honor friends, and offer thanksgiving to God for prayers answered and blessings received. ***The suggested donation is \$10 per remembrance.*** Please place your envelopes in the collection basket, the Poor Box or bring them to the Parish Office before April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Memorial Envelopes will be placed on the altar throughout the Easter Season. The names of all those for whom our Easter flowers are in memory of will be printed in the parish bulletin in the weeks following Easter Sunday.



## FR. COOPER'S CORNER

### *Do Not Get Lost in Gehenna!*

"And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna" (Matthew 10: 28). **What is Gehenna?** The word *Gehenna* is the Greek transliteration of the Hebrew *ge-hinnom*, meaning "Valley of Hinnom." This valley, south of Jerusalem was where some of the ancient Israelites sacrificed their children to the Canaanite false god Molech. In later years, Gehenna continued to be an unclean place used for burning trash from the city of Jerusalem. The Gehenna Valley was thus a place of burning sewage, burning flesh, and garbage. Maggots and worms crept through the garbage and sewage. The smell from the smoke was strong and nauseating. It was a place that was utterly filthy, disgusting, and repulsive to the senses. Gehenna presented such a vivid image, that Jesus used it as a depiction of hell: a place of eternal torment where the fires never ended and the worms never stopped crawling.

"And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna." Who are the people that are not afraid to die so that they do not lose their soul in hell for all eternity? These are the martyrs. There are millions of them throughout the history of Catholicism. Some are very young and some are older. They all died under cruel and terrifying circumstances. Here is the story of a young girl, a child, who preferred to die rather than to commit a mortal sin. She was only eleven years old.

Maria Goretti (October 16, 1890 – July 6, 1902) is an Italian virgin-martyr, and she is one of the youngest canonized saints. She was born on the eastern side of Italy to a farming family, but increased poverty forced the family to move to the western side of the country when she was only six. Her father died from malaria when she was nine, and they had to share a house with another family, the Serenellis, in order to survive. The Serenelli family was what we would call today a very dysfunctional family. Alessandro Serenelli, the young man who attacked Maria was part of a terrible mess.

Giovanni, his father, was an alcoholic and his mother died in a psychiatric hospital when he was only a few months old, apparently after trying to drown Alessandro when he was a newborn. Alessandro's brother was interned in a psychiatric hospital where he died. On July 5, 1902, eleven-year-old Maria was sitting on the outside steps of her home, sewing one of Alessandro's shirts and watching Teresa, her baby sister, while Alessandro was threshing beans in the barnyard. Knowing she would be alone, he returned to the house and threatened her with a knife if she did not do what he said; he was intending to rape her.

She would not submit, however, protesting that what he wanted to do was a mortal sin and warning him that he would go to hell. She desperately fought to stop him. She kept screaming, "No! It is a sin! God does not want it!" He first choked her, but when she insisted she would rather die than submit to him, he stabbed her eleven times. She tried to reach the door, but he stopped her by stabbing her three more times before running away. Teresa, the little baby, awoke with the noise and started crying, and when her mother and Alessandro's father came to check on her, they found Maria on the floor bleeding and took her to the nearest hospital. She underwent surgery, but her injuries were beyond anything that the doctors could do.

Halfway through the surgery, she woke up. She insisted that it stay that way. The pharmacist said to her, "Maria, think of me in Paradise." She looked at him and said, "Well, who knows, which of us is going to be there first?" "You, Maria," he replied. "Then I will gladly think of you," she said. She also expressed concern for her mother's welfare. The following day, 24 hours after the attack, having expressed forgiveness for Alessandro and stating that she wanted to have him in Heaven with her, she died of her injuries, while looking at a picture of the Virgin Mary and clutching a cross to her chest.

The wounds penetrated the throat, with lesions of the pericardium, the heart, the lungs, and the diaphragm. Surgeons were surprised that the girl was still alive. In a dying deposition, in the presence of the Chief of Police, Maria told her mother of Serenelli's sexual harassment, and of two previous attempts made to rape her. She was afraid to reveal this earlier since she was threatened with death.

Alessandro was promptly arrested, convicted, and jailed. After three years, he repented, and when eventually released from







prison, he visited her mother begging forgiveness, which she readily granted. He later became a lay brother in a monastery, eventually dying peacefully in 1970. Maria Goretti was beatified by Pope Pius XII in 1947, and canonized in 1950 by the same Pope. Maria's mother and Alessandro were present at both ceremonies.

My dear friends, we live in a culture where we have lost the sense of sin. We have lost the horror of sin. This is true because we have lost the sense of who God is. These tragic losses have caused many Catholics to neglect or even forget about the importance of the Sacrament of Confession. Let us, once again, remember some basic teachings of our Catholic Faith.

**What is sin?** The Catechism of the Catholic Church gives us a concise definition. "Sin is an offense against reason, truth, and right conscience; it is failure in genuine love for God and neighbor caused by a perverse attachment to certain goods. It wounds the nature of man and injures human solidarity. It has been defined as an utterance, a deed, or a desire contrary to the eternal law" (CCC 1849). Scripture tells us that actual sin is divided into two classifications: mortal sin and venial sin. "There is a sin that leads to death..." (1 John 5:16). "Every kind of wickedness is sin, but not all sin leads to death" (1 John 5:17). Mortal sin is forgiven through the Sacrament of Confession. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: "Confession to a priest is an essential part of the sacrament of Penance. All mortal sins of which penitents after a diligent self-examination are conscious must be recounted by them in confession..." (CCC 1456). Just like all the other sacraments of the Church, Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Confession. The Church has always understood the Scriptural reference for the Sacrament of Confession to be John 20:22-23: "Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained."

**What an immense gift we have been given!** The Sacrament of Confession is an enormous source of interior peace. The priest raises his hand, and then with a blessing pronounces those amazing words: I absolve you from your sins. At that moment, we know that God has heard our cry for forgiveness, and we have been pardoned of our sins. "God, who is rich in mercy..." (Ephesians 2: 4). There is a direct relationship between the Sacrament of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Confession. St. Paul speaks to us about this essential relationship in his First Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 11, Verses 23-32. Let us consider the entire text.

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord. A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are ill and infirm, and a considerable number are dying. If we discerned ourselves, we would not be under judgment; but since we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

The Sacrament of the Eucharist is one of the sacraments of the living. We need to be free from mortal sin before we receive Holy Communion. **If we receive the Eucharist while we are in the state of mortal sin, we are committing a sacrilege.** "For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself." That act of receiving the Eucharist with a bad conscience has a direct influence on our physical health. "That is why many among you are ill and infirm, and a considerable number are dying." **Sexual sin is not the only sin**, but like for the Corinthians of old, it is certainly the battle of our times. Adultery, fornication, masturbation, addiction to pornography, contraception, sterilization, and abortion are real life struggles for many Catholics. Relativism has convinced many of Catholics that there is no longer any need to go to confession for these sins before they receive the Eucharist. It is possible to live the virtue of chastity in an unchaste world. We have to make a decision to change and to live the Gospel with greater authenticity.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him" (John 3: 16-17). We experience God's mercy through the Sacrament of Confession. It is there that we acknowledge who we are: limited, weak, and sinful creatures in need of redemption. It is there that God forgives us of any and all of our sins. Everyone is welcome to the Catholic Church, but let Jesus liberate you from sin. No one who has ever met Jesus has remained the same.



# 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.

MARCH 4, 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: