

ST. BENEDICT
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL



165 BETHANY ROAD
732-264-4712 PARISH

HOLMDEL, NEW JERSEY 07733
732-264-5578 SCHOOL

ALL ARE WELCOME

DECEMBER 25, 2016
NATIVITY
OF THE LORD

OUR MISSION

Guided by the Gospel and strengthened by the Eucharist, we the Catholic people of St. Benedict worship God with joy, excitement and commitment. We welcome and reach out to each other and those beyond our community. Challenged by our call to receive God's gifts gratefully; nurture God's gifts responsibly; share God's gifts generously and return God's gifts with increase. Living our faith in Jesus Christ, we spread the Good News by providing hope, spirituality, education, hospitality and social justice.

Pastor:

Rev. Garry Koch

Parochial Vicar:

Rev. John Michael Patilla

Deacons

John L. Clymore

Richard L. Morris

Raymond R. Pelkowski

Stephen G. Scott

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.

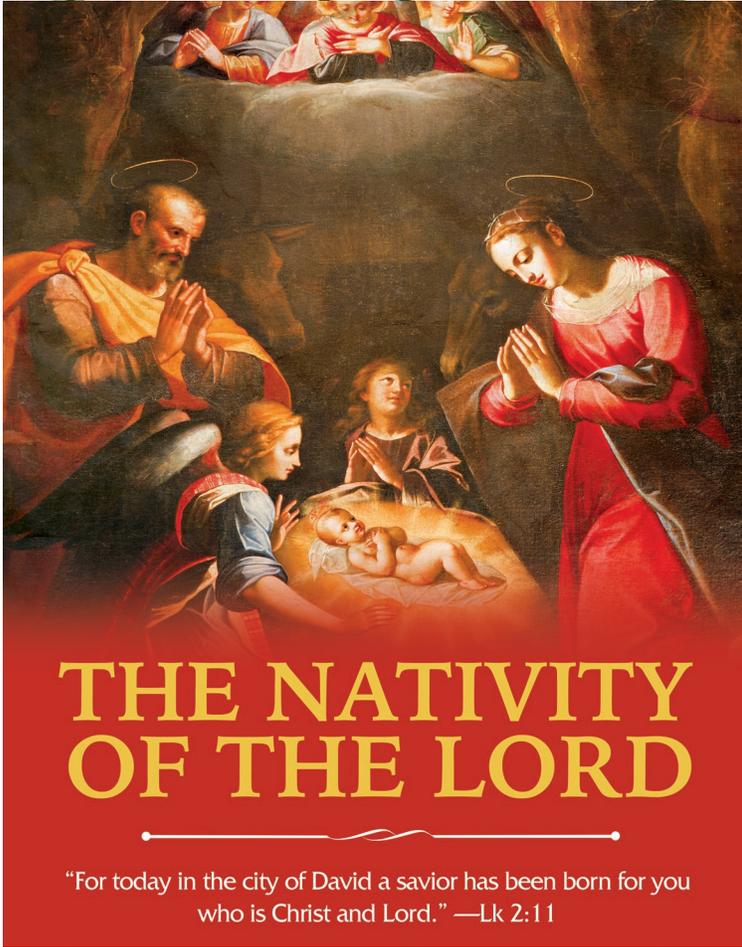
*Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.
and 12:30 p.m.*

Monday - Saturday: 9:00 a.m.

RECONCILIATION

*First Friday: following the
9:00 a.m. Mass*

*Every Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
and by appointment*



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you
who is Christ and Lord." —Lk 2:11

parishoffice@stbenedictnj.org

Like us: st. benedict school and church



165 Bethany Rd., Holmdel NJ www.stbenedicholmdel.org

PARISH REGISTRATION

New parishioners, regardless of where they live, are always welcome and are encouraged to register at St. Benedict. Registration forms are available in the parish office and on our website at stbenedictnj.org.

PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours: Monday to Friday
9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Voice: 732/264-4712; Fax: 732/264-9080

Mrs. Lorrie McGee, *Administrative Assistant*
email: mcgee@stbenedictnj.org

Mrs. Eileen Cannarozzo, *Administrative Assistant*
email: cannarozzo@stbenedictnj.org

Mrs. Margaret Roddy, *Administrative Assistant*
email: roddy@stbenedictnj.org

Mr. Bob Cognat, *Facilities Manager*
email: cognat@stbenedictnj.org

Mrs. Francine DeMuria, *Business Administrator*
email: finance@stbenedictnj.org

Mrs. Lori Ulrich, *Director of Marketing and Event Management*
email: ulrich@stbenedictnj.org

ST. BENEDICT SCHOOL

St. Benedict School is staffed by a state certified lay faculty, and has earned Middle States Accreditation. We provide Catholic education from kindergarten through eighth grade, as well as an extended day program.

Voice: 732/264-5578; Facsimile: 732/264-8679

Mrs. Candace Wallace, *Principal*

Mrs. Francine DeMuria, *Administrative Assistant*
email: demuria@stbenedictnj.org

Mrs. Monica Hurni, *Administrative Assistant*
email: hurni@stbenedictnj.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Religious Education Program provides religious formation and sacramental preparation for children from first through eighth grade.

Mrs. Denise Contino, *Director of Faith Formation*
732/264-4712 ext. 26

email: contino@stbenedictnj.org

Mrs. Carol Cesario, *Administrative Assistant*
732/264-4712 ext. 24

email: cesario@stbenedictnj.org

CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS (CYO)

The Junior CYO (Grades 6-8) and High School CYO (Grades 9-12) are open to all students for monthly meetings, as well as social and service activities.

Mrs. Lori McCahill, *Director of Youth and Marriage Ministry*
732/264-4712 ext. 27
email: mccahill@stbenedictnj.org

FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Fellow Parishioners of Saint Benedict:

In speaking about Christmas Archbishop Fulton Sheen wrote: “The purpose of God’s coming to man was not to make us nice people, but to make us new creatures.” Often during this time of the year we focus on being nice. The month of December and much of early January means many of us are attending social events related to the holidays. Many of these events involve people we do not know or do not know well.

Others require that we are with people with who we have some conflict or just outright dislike. As much as we might want to avoid some of these situations entirely we generally cannot. Hence, we are forced to be nice.

When we think of being nice and Christmas many of us think of *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, where children are taught the necessity of “being nice” in order to earn the gifts that they want for Christmas. Our entire educational system reflects the promotion of niceness. It is probably the ideal social skill. As Christians we are expected to be nice. Because of this we can easily be shamed into performing acts of kindness or charity for others. When we fail to act nice we are subject to snide remarks about kindness or “what would Jesus do?” or the ever accusatory “I thought you were a Christian (Catholic).” We then grudgingly – with a smile – do what is expected.

Being a Christian is not about being nice. Certainly when we read the New Testament we can see that the apostles were not always nice. Indeed a careful read of the Gospels will show that even Jesus was not always nice in a conventional sense of the word. If being nice means that we are the doormats of the world, can be easily taken advantage of, must always do what others want and never – under any circumstances – offend someone or hurt another’s feelings, then Christians are and ought not often be, nice.

The incarnation – the indescribable mystery of love that we celebrate at Christmas – should challenge us out of our comfort zones instead of lull us into a haze of sentimentality. However, for most people Christmas is more of the latter, and is seen as an event we have to “get through” instead of actually live. That in the person of Jesus God became a human being should startle us and keep us awake at night. The incarnation is the expression of the profound love that God – the creator of all that is seen and unseen – has for humanity. We cannot imagine the depth of that love for we lack the capacity to either return that love or to love someone or something else as much. The incarnation would have been complete in itself and yet, as we move through the liturgical season and reach the highpoint in the Easter Triduum, we see the depth of this love.

With the reality of the incarnation standing in front during the Christmas season the challenge for us gets even greater. We cannot simply be nice. We must be men and women who love in imitation of God who loved us first.

That Jesus became a human means that our humanity can never be the same. Yet, to focus on Jesus as an infant is neither trite nor nostalgic. The evangelists do so for two basic reasons: first is to emphasize the human nature of Jesus and secondly to draw us in to reflect more deeply on what it means for us to be human. Human beings are drawn towards infants. Everyone wants to coo over a baby. Even the most hardhearted can melt in the presence of an infant. A baby in a family has a way of breaking down barriers of hostility that have been built up over time.

This becomes an important reflection on Christmas – but it is not just about a day or a season. Christmas reminds us of the demand to be a person of love even to the point that we fail to be nice in order to do so. Christmas ought to draw us away from niceness and into the depth of the demand to genuinely love one another as God has loved us.

Merry Christmas!
Fr. Garry

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

9:00 a.m. **James and Eileen Lynch** req. Family
Robert Keane req. The Keane Family

4:00 p.m. **Children's Mass in the St. Benedict School Gym**
 4:00 p.m. **Christmas Intentions**

6:00 p.m. **Christmas Intentions**

8:00 p.m. **Christmas Intentions**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

12:00 a.m. **Christmas Intentions**
 8:30 a.m. **Christmas Intentions**
 10:00 a.m. **Christmas Intentions**
 11:30 p.m. **Christmas Intentions**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

9:00 a.m. **Marie Jones** req. Paul and Judy Switaj
Dylan Vassallo req. The Vassallo Family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

9:00 a.m. **John M. Brennan** req. Ana Thomas

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28TH

9:00 a.m. **John Brennan** req. Jack and Helen Lietz
James and Eileen Lynch req. Daughter
Tony Malone req. The Armstrong Family
Catherine Schader req. The Casey Family
Angie Foglia req. Nancy Piskorowski
Emilio Gerbasio req. The Califano Family
Gerda Kraft req. Joanne and Jerry Vincelli
Dylan Vassallo req. The Coffaro Family
Angelo Garaffa req. The Wintjen Family
Anthony Scipione req. The Wintjen Family
Daniel Snel req. The Ford Family
Joseph Lucciola req. Kathleen Apple
Eugene Sheehan req. Kathleen Apple
Eddie Power req. Charlie and Ann Schafer

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29TH

9:00 a.m. **Michael Sabo** req. Barbara Moser

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30TH

9:00 a.m. **James and Eileen Lynch** req. Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

9:00 a.m. **Frank and Mafalda Aprile**
 req. Children and Grandchildren

5:00 p.m. **Charles and Louise Imbro** req. The Imbro Family

SUNDAY, JANURAY 1ST

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

8:00 a.m. **Pro Populo¹**
 9:30 a.m. **Raymond Thomson** req. His Family
 11:00 a.m. **James and Eileen Lynch** req. Family
 12:30 p.m. **Valentine Ruiz** req. Alice White

Please remember in your prayers all those whose names are listed in our Prayer Intention Book.



Please pray for the Deceased
Gerald Wyhopen
Patricia Diaz

OUR LADY OF VICTORY ADORATION CHAPEL



For those interested in giving up one hour a week to our Lord or for questions regarding scheduling please call

Kathy, 732/739-3381.

For questions concerning Adoration or the Real Presence of our Lord please email inquiries to Deacon Steve Scott, dcnsteve06@gmail.com

DEVOTIONALS

If you would like to memorialize one or all of the candles in our Adoration Chapel in honor/memory of a loved one for one week, please contact the parish office.



*II Stephanie Petrosini (Church of St. Catharine, Holmdel)
 Donald Klimoski (St. Benedict)*

JOY TO THE WORLD THE LORD! THE LORD IS COME

Liturgical Ministry Schedule for Saturday, December 31st and Sunday, January 1st

| | Sat. 5:00 p.m. | Sun. 8:00 a.m. | Sun. 9:30 a.m. | Sun. 11:00 a.m. | Sun. 12:30 p.m. |
|------------------------------|--|--|---|--|---|
| Altar Servers | M. Lara C. Lyness G. Riley | K. Keenan N. White A. Granatelli | K. Koestler N. Koestler T. Musilli | T. Moore C. Paolini A. Bruzzese | B. Clark 2 Altar Servers needed |
| Lector | R. Lalor First reading E. Lalor Second reading | C. Faverio First reading J. Lloyd Second reading | D. LaCross First reading M. Sutherland Second reading | J. Kreiger First reading G. Niro Second reading | C. DeMuria First reading F. Montagnino Second reading |
| Eucharistic Ministers | L. Barwood-B1 E. Kubis-B2 S. Michaud-C3 C. Michaud-B3 Deacon-C4 M. Stroz-B5 EMHE needed-B6 | M. Lane B1 & B2 J. Lane-C3 A. Merced-B3 Deacon-C4 L. Altobelli-B5 J. Vella-B6 | S. Chodakiewicz-B1 N. Francese-B2 R. Francese-C3 EMHE needed-B3 Deacon-C4 EMHE needed-B5 C. LaCross-B6 | C. Ahearn-B1 E. Bodisch-B2 J. Fiorelli-C3 J. Greene-B3 Deacon-C4 L. Hoffman-B5 M. Mykityshyn-B6 | W. Clark-B1 EMHE needed-B2 N. Morris-C3 J. DeMuria-B3 Deacon-C4 EMHE needed-B5 A. Brescia-B6 |
| Screen Operator | Operator needed | A. Palumbo | Operator needed | G. Harris | C. Clark |

Church Offertory

Due to the Christmas Holiday, this bulletin was transmitted on an earlier date. The amount of last Sunday's collection and the Christmas collection will be published in a future bulletin.

Junior Lectors

A Junior Lector is any student in grades 6-12 that would be interested in reading at Mass. This is a perfect opportunity for the youth of our parish to serve and be more engaged in the liturgy. All inquiries can be directed to Denise Contino at 732/264-4712 ext. 27 or email contino@stbenedictnj.org.

MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES



If you would like to memorialize the Altar Bread and Wine, Altar Flowers or Sanctuary candle in honor/memory of a loved one for one week, please contact the parish office. Intentions will be listed in the bulletin.



**St. Benedict Catholic Church
Memorial Mass Society**

For a suggested donation of \$20 those who are enrolled in the Memorial Mass Society will benefit from Masses to be celebrated on Twelve First Saturday's. A book with the names of all those enrolled will be placed near the altar for the Memorial Mass. The names of first time enrollees will be read at the first Mass in which they are remembered.

When requesting enrollment in the Memorial Mass Society a blue padded Mass Card will be provided for presentation to the family of the deceased.

PARISH NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Holiday Closing

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, December 26th in observance of Christmas.



Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany is Sunday, January 8th, we are looking for children to dress up as the three Kings to bring up the gifts at all the Masses. If your son/daughter is interested please sign up in the Gathering Space or email Carol Cesario at cesario@stbenedictnj.org

Epiphany House Blessing

This custom started many centuries ago, families marked their doorway entrances to invite Jesus to be a daily guest in their homes. A traditional way of doing this is by taking a piece of chalk and writing 20+C+M+B+17 above the doorway entrance. The initials represent the names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazor and the abbreviation of the Latin word *Christus mansionem benedicat*. Which means "May Christ bless the house." The "+" sign represents the cross and 20 and 17 represent the year. We will be handing out chalk, instructions and a prayer for all parishioners after all the Masses on Saturday, January 7th and Sunday, January 8th.

Please join us in memory of Dylan Vassallo
BLOOD DRIVE

Hosted at:
St. Benedict Church & School
165 Bethany Rd
Holmdel, NJ 07733

Thursday, December 29, 2016
2:30pm – 6:30pm
To schedule your donation appointment, please contact:
Dennis Vassallo at djvi024@aol.com or 917-686-8361.



To the world you may be one person...
But to one person you may be the world!

Thank you for being a part of this very special event

Don't Forget:
• DONORS must present photo or signature ID.
• PLEASE eat and drink water before donating.
• DONORS must be healthy, at least 16yrs with Parental Consent or older & weigh at least 120lbs.



11th Annual AOH Polar Plunge for Catholic Education



Help raise money for the students of St. Benedict School by participating in the annual Polar Plunge. The Polar Plunge will be held on Sunday, January 8th at 1:00 p.m. at Rooney's in Long Branch. All proceeds benefit the students of St. Benedict School. Sponsor, Pledge or Plunge! Forms located in the Gathering Space or through St.

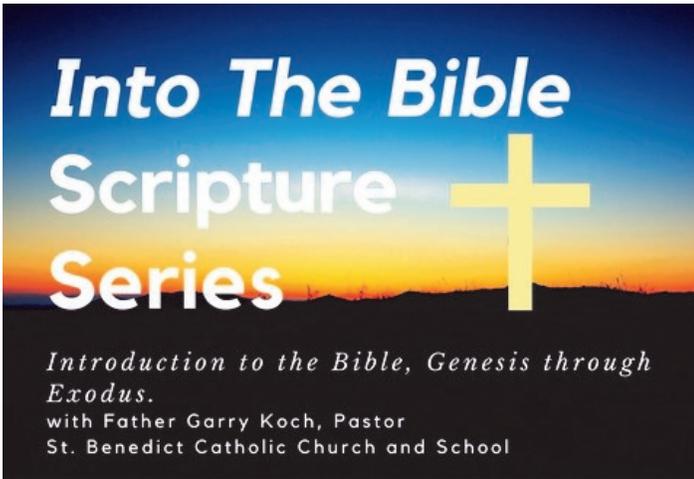
Benedict School website: www.stbenedictholmdel.org. For additional information or questions please contact Mary Ellen Balcezak maryephd@aol.com or Stephanie Zielaznicki slnally@47@gmail.com.



Maria Cotter, Madelyn McGuckin, Hannah Lane and Helen Domashinski received their AHG Respect Life Patch by sponsoring a Diaper Drive in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas and the Unborn. The girls also created prayer cards featuring Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The girls were especially moved by the generosity of the parish community that provided over 2,000 diapers and 18 sets of maternity clothes which were delivered to BirthRight of Freehold on December 12th. BirthRight offers love and support to expectant mothers and their children.

Our next AHG Meeting is Sunday, January 8th at 1:30 p.m. in the FAL. We will be starting our Physical Fitness Badge. Girls 5-18 are always welcome! Merry Christmas!



**Into The Bible
Scripture
Series**

Introduction to the Bible, Genesis through Exodus.
with Father Garry Koch, Pastor
St. Benedict Catholic Church and School

**Jan 18 -
Feb 8**
Wednesdays
7:30 PM
in Church

Week 1: "Bible as Literary Form"
Using the Book of Genesis we will consider the problems of authorship, history, and literary form through the scriptures.

Week 2: "Covenant: Being Shacked to God"
Covenant is the core theme of the Scriptures. Beginning with Abraham we will examine the various forms of the covenant as it is presented in Genesis and throughout the Biblical texts.

Week 3: "Who's Who?"
Genealogy is an important aspect of the Israelite consciousness. Here we will discuss the various forms of lineage that have their origins in Genesis and develop throughout the Hebrew Scriptures.

Week 4: "Exile to Exodus"
Join us starting January 18th at 7:30 pm in Church. No RSVP necessary.
www.stbenedictholmdel.org




"Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible"

...this time we are inviting both men and women to participate!
8 session program
Providing the easiest way to understand the Bible...
...and Our Place in It!

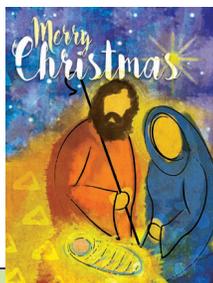
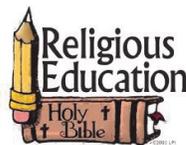
Meeting Tuesdays, January 24 – March 14, 2017
at 7:00-8:30 pm Father Anderson Library

sign up online at <https://study.ascensionpress.com/pick/holmdel-nj-st-benedict-church>
Cost is \$19.95 + S/H

Questions – Contact: Ray Yuhas 848-466-1580 or
ray1701d@hotmail.com

Children's Masses

We are currently looking for children in grades 4 and 5 to serve as Lectors during the 9:30 a.m. Children's Masses. If your child is interested please contact Denise Contino at contino@stbenedictnj.org or call 732/264-4712 ext. 26. Children in grades 2-8 are invited to sing in the Youth Choir. Contact Ellen Remick at remick@stbenedictnj.org if you are interested in the Youth Choir.



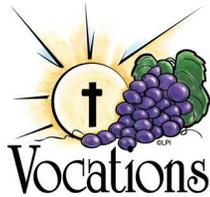
Christmas Break

Religious Education classes are not scheduled for Wednesday, December 21st and 28th. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 4th.

We would like to wish all families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Summer Academy 2017

St. Benedict Religious Education will offer a one week Summer Academy for grades 1-6. This is a one week experience for students from Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. In addition, an Extended Day Program will be provided in the morning and up until 6:00 p.m. for those families who require this program. This program includes attendance at 4 catechetical sessions for the families during the academic school year. There will be a Parent Meeting for all those interested in the Summer Academy on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the Church. All information on registration and eligibility will be given out that evening.



Pray for Vocations

St. Benedict parishioners are praying for vocations. Families have agreed to take an icon of St. Benedict and prayer cards home with them after Sunday Mass. The family will pray together for vocations every day for a week. The icon should be returned to the sacristy every Sunday so it can be taken by the next family.

Please sign the roster in the Gathering Space.
This week (December 25th — December 30th)

- The Mariano Family
- The Chivi Family
- The Brescia Family
- The Domashinski Family

WHY NOT YOU? WHY NOT NOW?

If you are looking for a more meaningful way to be of service to our brothers and sisters and desire to deepen your relationship with God, you might be hearing a call to the priesthood. To assist you in further discernment of where God is calling you in your life, make contact with Father Garry Koch, Monmouth County Regional Director of Vocations at: gkoch@dioceseoftrenton.org or by calling 732/264-4712 ext. 10. Information can be found at: dioceseoftrenton.org under the Vocations tab.

ST. BENEDICT SCHOOL CORNER
"Let our school be a place of mercy and hope, where all feel welcome, loved and forgiven."



Sunday, December 25th
 Wishing everyone a Blessed and very Merry Christmas!

Monday, December 26st - Monday, January 2nd
 Christmas Break

Tuesday, January 3rd
 School Resumes



SAVE THE DATE!
 Catholic Schools Week
Saturday, January 28th

- ◆ 3:00-5:00 pm SBS Open House
- ◆ 5:00 pm Catholic Schools Week Kickoff Mass

Please see the FYI page under the school website for more information. www.stbenedictholmdel.org/FYI



A new Marriage Ministry has been formed at St. Benedict. The ministry will be a peer, intergenerational ministry that serves the full range of spiritual, emotional and social/relational needs of all married couples through every stage of marriage and family life. We will kick off our Marriage Ministry with a **"Couple's Night Out"** on January 21st, 2017 at Jacques Catering Facility with beer, wine, dinner and dancing. The cost is 25.00 per couple, cash or check made payable to St. Benedict.

Please RSVP no later than January 14th to:
 Lori McCahill at mccahill@stbenedictnj.org.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



The Knights of Columbus is the world's foremost Catholic Fraternal Benefit Society. It also maintains a highly rated insurance company with attractive rates for its members and their families. St Benedict Knights give their time and support to various charities both locally and state wide including, but not limited to: Birthright, Developmentally Disadvantage, Boy Scout Eagle Projects and other church, school, and community programs. Consider joining to make a positive difference in our world while enjoying the camaraderie of other like minded Catholic men.

Information on how you can join us can be found on our Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/kofcholmdel, pick up a prospect card at the entrance of the church and drop it in the collection basket or drop us an email at kofcholmdel@gmail.com. Our meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month starting at 8:00 p.m. More information on the Knights of Columbus, their insurance products and services can be found at kofc.org.

Member Knights

The next Knights of Columbus business meeting will be held on Thursday, January 5th at 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel.



Eyes for the needy

The Knights of Columbus seek your help to help those in need to see what the good lord has provided all of us. Eyes for the Needy are a global organization founded by Julia Lawrence Terry in 1932, Short Hills, NJ. Eyes recycle donated prescription, reading, sunglasses, and jewelry. Please drop your unwanted eye glasses and jewelry (which is sold to raise funds for the purchasing of new glasses) so that we as a community may help our fellow brothers and sisters throughout the world. Please place your items in the collection basket in the closet in the back of the Church.



ChristLife: Discovering Christ Small Groups Registration Open for February 2017

In February 2017, St. Benedict will embark on a spiritual journey that promises to bring you closer to Christ than you ever thought possible. ChristLife is a three-part evangelization process that equips parishes to enter into the New Evangelization. The courses are:

- I. Discovering Christ
- II. Following Christ
- III. Sharing Christ

Part I. Discovering Christ is a seven-week experience that invites people to explore the meaning of life and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Each session includes a meal, prayer, a video-based presentation of the Gospel, and small group discussion. A Saturday retreat follows the 5th session.

Our first session for Discovering Christ will take place during the Lenten season, an opportune time to open yourself and your heart to Christ. During this program, you will uncover the treasure of a personal relationship with God and find out how He can make a difference in your life.

We invite you to our next session of ChristLife: Discovering Christ which will begin on **Thursday, February 23rd from 6:45 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.**

The dates and session topics for the seven-week program of Discovering Christ are as follows:

- Session 1: Thursday, February 23: What Is the Meaning of Life?
- Session 2: Thursday, March 2: Why Does Jesus Matter?
- Session 3: Thursday, March 9:
What Does Jesus Want Us To Know?
- Session 4: Thursday, March 16: Why Do I Need a Savior?
- Session 5: Thursday, March 23:
Why Is the Resurrection Important for Us?
- Retreat Day: Saturday, March 25
- Retreat Topic 1: Who Is the Holy Spirit?
- Retreat Topic 2: The Holy Spirit and You!
- Session 6: Thursday, March 30:
New Life in the Spirit: Being a Catholic Disciple
- Session 7: Thursday, April 6: Believing and Belonging: Why We Need the Church and Evaluations

Please note: Childcare will be available for registered participants.

Register today! Space is limited!

To register, please fill out the form in the Gathering Space and submit to the Parish Office or email christlife@stbenedictnj.org by Wednesday, January 4th.

To learn more about the program, visit www.christlife.org for more information or if you have any questions, please contact Jean Fiorelli at christlife@stbenedictnj.org.



March for Life Unveils 2017 Theme:

“The Power of One” Person to Stop Abortion

Whether fact or fiction, the stories that tend to draw us in the most are ones that reveal how the courage and determination of one individual to overcome huge obstacles can make the world a better place.

That message in J.R.R. Tolkien’s popular fantasy series “Lord of the Rings” is what inspired the March for Life organizers to choose “The Power of One” as the 2017 theme, Catholic News Service reports.

The fictional series contains a powerful, real-life message that every human life has value and potential. Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life, said the theme comes from the Tolkien quote, “Even the smallest person can change the course of the future.” The 2017 March for Life will be held on Friday, January 27th in Washington, D.C. The march typically is held on or around January 22nd, the date when the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its ruling on *Roe v. Wade*, which allowed for abortion on demand through all nine months of pregnancy. Organizers said the 2017 march is later than usual because of the presidential inauguration.

Mancini expressed cautious optimism about the in-coming Congress and President-elect Donald Trump, and emphasized that the March for Life is non-partisan. She told CNS that they hope to see pro-life lawmakers pass measures to permanently ban taxpayer funding of abortion and protect pain-capable unborn babies from abortion after 20 weeks. “It is our hope that in this administration, late-term abortions will be outlawed,” Mancini said.

The national March for Life usually draws hundreds of thousands of pro-lifers to the streets of Washington, D.C. to peacefully protest abortion and to call for restored protections for unborn babies. The pro-life crowd tends to be very diverse, but young people typically make up a large part of the crowd.

A sign of the strong support for life among young adults, about 500 pro-life students from the University of Mary in North Dakota plan to travel cross-country to attend the 2017 march, the Bismark Tribune reports. The university students were chosen to lead the march this year, according to the report.

“You can feel the energy and excitement in the air because many who wanted to go last year elected not to because of the stormy weather and now they are all counting down the days,” university alumna and pro-life leader Anne Dziak said in a statement. “... My fellow colleagues and Mary students will be at the forefront of this massive pro-life rally, leading, chanting and marching for life.”

HEALING THE WOUNDS OF ABORTION

Rachel's Vineyard can help you find your inner voice. It can help you experience God's love and compassion on a profound level. It creates a place where men and women can share, often for the first time, their deepest feelings about abortion. You are allowed to dismantle troubling secrets in an environment of emotional and spiritual safety.

For information, contact: Judy Warenkiewicz
732/536-6871 or email: judywarren543@msn.com

REIGNING MERCY

Have you suffered an abortion? Experience God’s love and mercy and begin the journey of healing. Please call the Sisters of Life 888/575-0075 or email: hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org.

For men, call Theresa Bonopartis at Lumina 877/586-4621 or email Lumina@postabortionhelp.org.

ADOPTION CONNECTIONS

Adoption Connections is a support group for all members of the adoption triad (birth parents, adoptive parents, adoptees) including pre-adoptive parents who are exploring the different pathways to adoption. The group meets on the 3rd Friday evening of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir room. **Please note Adoption Connections will not be meeting in December.**

For information contact Suzy DelMage 732/670-2722 or email adoptionconnectionsny@gmail.com.

PARISH COUNSELING SERVICES

Through a joint effort of the Diocese of Trenton and Catholic Charities, licensed professional counselors are available to help parishioners with difficult issues that interfere with day-to-day functioning. This service can be accessed by contacting your pastor or parish priest who will provide additional information and a referral. The fee is \$75.00 per session. If needed, financial assistance for short term counseling (up to 6 sessions) is available through the Diocese of Trenton Parish Counseling Services.

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY

A social ministry, SVdP provides spiritual, food distribution, emergency financial and other services to those in need. For assistance, please call 732/264-4712, ext. 33, and leave a message your call will be returned. **Please do not leave a message for financial assistance on the Emergency line.** For questions or to volunteer please contact Bill Casey – billy.casey@hotmail.com.

FOOD PANTRY HOURS

The Food Pantry is open Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Tuesday evening from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. *The Food Pantry is closed on Mondays and Saturday.*

SCRIP CARDS

The St. Vincent de Paul Society provides food gift cards to area supermarkets for many of our pantry visitors. Parishioners are asked to use Scrip envelopes in the back of Church and make a donation. Scrip envelopes can be placed in the collection basket or at the Parish Office.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS / LOADERS

The Food Pantry needs drivers to help pick up food at Aldi’s, Hazlet and at the Food Bank in Neptune on a weekly basis. Help is also needed to unload vans and restock the shelves on Mondays. If you feel you could assist in either of these areas, please contact the Food Pantry at 732/264-4712 ext. 34.

FOOD PANTRY-BAG MINISTRY

For your convenience, bags are left at all the Church doors on the 1st Sunday of each month. We welcome any donations for our pantry. Please consider supporting this ministry.

ITEMS NEEDED:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Diapers (all sizes) | Baby Food (stages 2/3) |
| Baby Wipes, | Children’s cereal |
| Coffee/Tea | Juice |
| Soup | Soap |
| Shampoo | Toothpaste and Toothbrushes |
| Laundry Detergent | Dish Detergent |
| Toilet Tissue | |

Thank you for your generosity.

ST. BENEDICT THRIFT SHOP

St. Benedict Virtual Thrift Shop is a service for those wishing to donate clean, working household goods. Clothing is not accepted but may be donated via the clothing bin located behind the food pantry. We connect donors with individuals in need of goods. Donors and recipients should call 732/264-4712 ext. 13 and leave a message. When leaving your message please speak slowly and clearly. Volunteers update our list weekly and will contact you to arrange a convenient time for you to *drop off your donation if there is a match.* PLEASE NOTE WE ARE UNABLE TO PICK UP OR DELIVER DONATIONS. A tax letter receipt for accepted donations will be provided.

PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF ANY ITEMS AT THE PANTRY WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL.

ST. CATHARINE’S EMPLOYMENT RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Frustrated in your career? In transition and don’t know where to find someone who cares? Not sure that you’re following the right job search path? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, then join us at 7:00 p.m. in room 15 on the fourth Monday of the month for suggestions on preparing resumes as well as networking and interviewing techniques. Visit www.stcatharine.net/parish-ministries/employment-resource for employment news. For more information contact:

- Deacon Tom DiCanio-tjd55555@aol.com
- Vin Pizzolo-vpizzolo@stcatharine.net

BIRTHRIGHT SUPPLIES

Birthright provides free and confidential support to women who are distressed by an unplanned pregnancy. Birthright provides emotional support, free pregnancy testing, maternity and baby clothes. It also provides information and referrals to help their clients meet legal, medical, financial and housing needs. There is a continuous need for newborn and size 4 diapers. There is a bin in the gathering space for diapers and maternity clothes only. All other baby supplies may be donated to St. Vincent de Paul.

Birthright of Freehold is located at 49 East Main St. Freehold. Any questions please call: [732/462-2888](tel:7324622888).

Christmas Altar Flowers

St. Benedict Parish gratefully acknowledges the gifts that accompanied the following prayer intentions for the beautiful Christmas Altar Flowers.

These following intentions will be remembered at all Masses throughout the Christmas Season.



In Memory of:

- * The Wollenhaupt Family req. Dennis and Marie Costa
- * The Costa Family req. Dennis and Marie Costa
- * The Scozzaro Family req. Dennis and Marie Costa
- * The Buta Family req. Dennis and Marie Costa
- * Eda Gilligan req. John Gilligan
- * Roberta O'Hara req. Edward G. O'Hara
- * Kozicki and Smith Families
req. Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Smith
- * Josephine Demma req. Tornabene Family
- * Alphonse and Concetta Nobile
req. Loving daughter Josephine Nobile
- * The Pucciariello Family req. Loving niece Josephine Nobile
- * Pat and Elma Higgins req. James and Lucy Higgins
- * Frank and Nancy Spinelli req. James and Lucy Higgins
- * Robert McMenamin req. Ann McMenamin
- * David Moyer req. Angela Moyer
- * Elizabeth and Vincent Loccisano req. Angela Moyer
- * Isabelle and Alfred Moyer req. Angela Moyer
- * Richard Pannell req. L. Pannell
- * Doris and Elizabeth Oblazney req. Chester Oblazney
- * Joanne O'Neill req. Thomas and Alyce Sutherland
- * Patricia Harmon req. The Conroy family
- * James Harmon req. The Conroy Family
- * Bridget Conroy req. The Conroy Family
- * Joseph Pomara req. Jackson Family
- * Rachel Jackson Req. Jackson Family
- * Ben and Lucy Pomara req. The Jackson Family
- * Fr. William Anderson req. Jean and Bill Fiorelli
- * William and Catherine Fiorelli req. Jean and Bill Fiorelli
- * Anne Mallahan req. Jean and Bill Fiorelli
- * Eda Gilligan req. Jean and Bill Fiorelli
- * Stephen Fiorelli req. Jean and Bill Fiorelli
- * Ana Kahora req. Iris Csimbok
- * George Kahora req. Iris Csimbok
- * Elmer Csimbok req. Iris Csimbok
- * Luke Roy req. req. Iris Csimbok
- * Mary S. Smith req. Iris Csimbok
- * Cynthia Racioppa req. Marie Caprio
- * Julius Caprio req. Marie Caprio
- * David and Olga Matthews req. Joseph and Joyce Muller
- * Josephine and Elizabeth Muller req. Joseph and Joyce Muller
- * Mary and James Gilligan req. John Gilligan
- * The Podgorski Family
req. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Healey and Family
- * The Healey Family
req. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Healey and Family
- * Pat and Dorothy Carrano
req. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Healey and Family
- * Anthony and MaryAnn Conigliario
req. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Healey and Family
- * The Genito Family
req. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Healey and Family
- * John J. and John M. Brennan req. Lois Brennan
- * Andrew Peter req. Viola, and Margaret Peter
- * Mary Sosnowski req. Viola and Margaret Peter
- * Ignacy Sosnowski req. Viola and Margaret Peter
- * Ray Thomson req. Bobbie Thomson
- * Joseph and Vera Falvo req. Ron and Judy Cleary
- * Charles and Noreen Cleary req. Ron and Judy Cleary
- * John and Anne Murphy req. Margaret Trudeau
- * Mary Catherine Murphy req. Margaret Trudeau
- * Charles F. Brierley req. Diane, Kristen and Jennifer
- * Shaun Walsh req. Mom, Tom, Meg and Matt
- * Michael Shea req. Wife and children
- * Sandra Policastro req. Ortman Family
- * Frank Policastro req. Ortman Family
- * Marie Ortman req. Ortman Family
- * John Ortman req. Ortman Family
- * Warren Abrahamsem req. Ann Abrahamsem
- * Margaret and Joseph Clark req. Children
- * John Kozak req. Rosemary Walsh and Family
- * Geraldine Kozak req. Rosemary Walsh and Family
- * John Hroncich req. Reilly Family
- * Michael Denboske req. Reilly Family
- * Andrew and Helen Dalton req. Betty Dalton
- * Andrew "Rusty" Dalton req. Betty Dalton
- * Deceased Members of the Seery Family req. Betty Dalton
- * Deceased Members of the Lauriat Family req. Betty Dalton
- * Deceased Members of the Delavan Family
req. Betty Dalton
- * Anthony and Barbara Ritti req. Anne T. Malcolm and sons
- * T. Frank Dalton req. Suzanne Dalton
- * Joseph A. Pomara Sr. req. Josephine Pomara
- * Jerry and Mollie Allocco req. Maria Allocco
- * Vincent, Sergio, Susanna and Charles Valente
req. James and Rose Allocco
- * Matthew Marabito req. Maria Marabito and Family
- * Joseph Hoffman req. Lynn Hoffman
- * Edgar, Margaret and Daniel Gilbert req. Lynn Hoffman

- * Robert Walsh req. Mr. and Mrs. Ricco Rios
- * Angelo and Francesca Evangelista req. The Brescia Family
- * Joseph Evangelista req. The Brescia Family
- * Robert McCartin req. Joanna McCartin
- * Michael Di Mauro req. Joanne Bunzel
- * Edythe DiMauro req. Joanne Bunzel
- * Louis DeMauro req. Joanne Bunzel
- * Alice Kearney req. Albertson Family
- * Dottie Kearney req. Albertson Family
- * Francis Swiney req. Albertson Family
- * Susan Seldes req. Albertson Family
- * Christine Cavalli req. Rosanne and Arthur Velardo
- * Gino and Elvira Coletta req. Umberto and Susan Coletta
- * Sam and Rose Costanzo req. Umberto and Susan Coletta
- * Joseph and Maria Giambone
req. Umberto and Susan Coletta
- * John and Anna Kolp req. Umberto and Susan Coletta
- * Amaddio and Carolina Lucchesi
req. Umberto and Susan Coletta
- * Patricia Coe and Walter Coe
req. Christopher and Kimberly Coe
- * Deceased Members of the Carpenter/Hardman Families
req. Maureen Carpenter
- * Deceased Members of the Cleary/McIntyre Families
req. Maureen Carpenter
- * Patrick Hogan req. Al and Anne Valentino
- * Carmela Marzigliano req. The Wintjen Family
- * Janice Vitale req. The Wintjen Family
- * Matthew B. Slocum req. Michael and Christine Mullaney
- * Joseph P. Reardon req. Mary Reardon and Family
- * Josephine and Edward Ballotta req. The Mushinskie Family
- * Judith and Joseph Mushinskie req. The Mushinskie Family
- * Charles Baker req. Chris and Carol Baker
- * Charlie Benjamin
req. Una Benjamin and Chris and Carol Baker
- * Lemanski. Furey and Ciacciarelli Families
req. Rich and Karen Lemanski
- * George Craigmyle req. Kathy Craigmyle
- * Ann and John Gannon req. Kathy Craigmyle
- * Charles Nieczykpor req. Pat Nieczykpor
- * Joseph Chiginsky req. Agnes Chiginsky and Family
- * Joseph Sinacore req. The Talamo Family
- * Michele Talamo, Fedora Talamo req. The Talamo Family
- * Facendo and Bialkowski Families req. Loretta Facendo
- * Nancy Lopez req. Lydia and Jim Lauro
- * Freda Salamy req. Linda and Matthew Szabo
- * The Drew and Switaj Families req. Paul and Judy Switaj
- * Bob Roddy req. The Roddy Family
- * Patrick and Maureen McCabe req. The Roddy Family
- * Kevin Herron req. The Roddy Family
- * Anna and Daniel Murphy req. The Liptzen Family
- * James and Eileen Lynch req. Family
- * Maryann Cannarozzo req. Family
- * Deceased members of the McGlynn Family req. Family
- * Theodore Materek req. Rosemarie Conner
- * Young Han req. Soo Park



Living Prayer Intentions For 2016

- * Grace and Albert Pangia req. John Gilligan
- * Edith A Duggan req. Edith J. Duggan
- * Prayers answered req. The Kubis Family



Nativity of the Lord

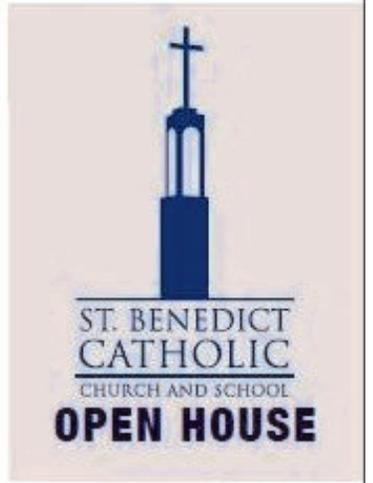
"And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God." Even the company of angels rejoiced on Christmas Day. The magnificence of the Nativity reverberated in heaven itself with the beautiful hymn we call the Gloria. There in the midst of perfect, celestial bliss, the heavenly host paused to praise God for the birth of his Son.

Mary and Joseph and the shepherds surely had cause to rejoice as they beheld the newborn face of their God and their Savior. But why do the angels, who already enjoy union with God, bother to visit this scene? Perhaps it is because Christmas is the miraculous moment when heaven and earth are joined together. In this tiny babe of Bethlehem, divinity and humanity are united. The infant in the manger could not speak, but God was not silent! He sent his angels to illuminate the darkness of this holy night with their supernatural message: "A savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. . .
Glory to God in the highest."

We too can join our voices with the angels by giving glory to God for the gift of Jesus. At Christmas we celebrate the wonder of the Lord's birth, but in truth, our whole lives as Christians could be a hymn of thanks for the coming of our Savior. The joy of this special season is not restricted to December 25. Through a living relationship with Christ, the miracle of Christmas can be with us all year long.



LET US PUT A
smile
ON YOUR FACE



take a tour
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| SATURDAY | WEDNESDAY |
| JANUARY 28 | FEBRUARY 1 |
| 3:00PM – 5:00PM | 9:00AM – 11:00AM |

In an ever-changing world, we strive to create an atmosphere where your child will grow, be challenged, and discover his or her own unique talents along the way—in a warm Christian environment. Take a tour during our open house!

165 Bethany Road, Holmdel, NJ 07733
732.264.5578 | www.StBenedictHolmdel.org