

ST. BENEDICT, RIDGELY

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 2
4:00p.m. St. Elizabeth Church
People of the Parish

Sunday, December 3
First Sunday of Advent
7:15a.m. St. Benedict Church
Donald A. Campbell
8:30a.m. St. Benedict Church
Donny Gallagher
11:15a.m. St. Elizabeth Church
Rosemarie Heaney

Monday, December 4
9:00a.m. St. Elizabeth Church
Intentions of Claire Stevens

Tuesday, December 5
9:00a.m. St. Benedict Church
Mark Cassidy

Wednesday, December 6
9:00a.m. St. Elizabeth Church
John J. Gaworski, Jr.
6:00p.m. St. Elizabeth Church
Mark Cassidy

Thursday, December 7
9:00a.m. St. Benedict Church
Tom Davis
6:00p.m. St. Benedict Church
Vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Fr. Thomas Kearney

Friday, December 8
9:00a.m. St. Elizabeth Church
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Trippe Callahan

Saturday, December 9
4:00p.m. St. Elizabeth Church
Benedict Dyer

Sunday, December 10
Second Sunday of Advent
7:15a.m. St. Benedict Church
People of the Parish
8:30a.m. St. Benedict Church
Intentions of Megan & Jason Hayes
11:15a.m. St. Elizabeth Church
Richard Harfeld

TABERNACLE LIGHT INTENTIONS

NOVEMBER 25 through DECEMBER 8

St. Elizabeth Church

Intentions of Maureen Duggan-Cassidy

St. Benedict Church

Intentions of Maureen Duggan-Cassidy

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT OF STEWARDSHIP
BACK TO THE LORD

FOR NOVEMBER 25 & 26, 2023

Envelopes	\$ 1,980.00
Loose	\$ 1,132.00
Online Giving via WeShare	\$ 4,843.52
TOTAL OFFERTORY	\$ 7,955.52
Thanksgiving Collection	\$ 406.00
Poor Box Support	\$ 942.00
YEAR- TO-DATE OFFERTORY	
Actual Offertory	\$ 122,263.94
Average Weekly Offertory	\$ 5,822.09/wk
(Week 21 of 52)	

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ST. ELIZABETH, DENTON

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR...



Dear Parishioners ~

It seems that with our modern American culture, there is definitely no time for rest during the Advent Season! We are expected to shop till we drop, cook, bake cookies & pies, decorate to outdo the neighbors' lights, and get those glitter laden Christmas cards out and stamped! But this is not what Christmas is about. Advent is a penitential season. This is why we see purple decorating the church. It is a time of anticipation and expectation. The time to prepare our hearts, not our garments, so to speak for the coming of Jesus. Jesus tells us in the gospel this weekend: Be watchful! Be alert! Do not sleep! In other words, don't let Christmas catch you off guard. Anticipate and prepare for its arrival by preparing your heart.

This year's Christmas Bazaar "Rockin' Round' The Christmas Tree" was, as usual, a tremendous success! Every ticket for our Friday night dinner sold out! We had large crowds, plenty of delicious food and baked goods. Our several dozen vendors had wonderful and unique items for purchase. Both the live and silent auctions had fantastic prizes. Our children loved seeing Santa and Mrs. Claus. ☺ Fun and Christmas Spirit was in the air! I thank all our volunteers, cooks, parishioners, guests, and especially our Fundraising Committee for helping to put on a wonderful event!

This year, our Youth Group participated in the Ridgely Christmas Parade on Saturday evening (12/2). We thank all our young people for putting together a beautiful and Christ-centered Catholic float to portray to all that Jesus is the center of this holy season.

Please take advantage of our Advent Faith Formation coming up on Saturday, December 16th. Sister Deirdre Byrne, POSC will speak to us about the Eucharist. We will have Mass in St. Benedicts Church at 11 AM followed by a FREE lunch in the Hall. After lunch, Sister will begin her talk. We hope to see you there!

Please remembered that since Christmas falls on a Monday this year, you are required as a Catholic to attend the Holy Mass to fulfill your obligations for both the 4th Sunday of Advent AND Christmas. On Sunday, December 24th, we will have our regular morning Masses for the 4th Sunday of Advent. Then, that evening, we will have our Christmas Eve Masses: 4:00p.m. (St. B), 7:00p.m. (St. E) and Midnight (St. B). Our Christmas Day Mass will be celebrated at 10:00a.m. at St. Elizabeth Church on Monday morning, 12/25.

~ Fr. Coffey

LITURGY

This Sunday, December 3rd, is the First Sunday of Advent. There are several free prayer booklets available at the entrances of the churches to enrich your Advent journey. Be sure to pick some up.

MASS SCHEDULE FOR FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Friday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and a holy day of obligation. Masses for this feast will be celebrated on Thursday, December 7th at 6:00p.m. at St. Benedict Church and on Friday, December 8th at 9:00a.m. at St. Elizabeth Church.

SIGN-UP TO TAKE HOME THE TRAVELING CHALICE

Pray for Vocations, Eucharistic Revival, Life, Peace & More!

Our parish has begun a Traveling Chalice prayer effort in observance of the National Eucharistic Revival and to pray in a special way for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The program will continue until the closing weekend of the Year of Parish Eucharistic Revival on July 20, 2024. We are asking all parishioners/parish families to consider signing up to participate. Participation entails receiving the Traveling Chalice at a weekend liturgy, keeping it in a place of honor in your home for a one-week period and offering simple prayers each day for vocations, Eucharistic Revival, peace and your own personal intentions (a prayer guide will be provided). If you would like to sign-up, visit <https://beparish.flocknote.com/signup/142285> to choose a date or contact Lori in the Parish Office (410-634-2253 or LParks@beparish.com). Once you sign up, you will be contacted as the date you have chosen draws near so that we can find out which Mass you plan to attend on your chosen weekend; then, the Chalice will be presented to you at that Mass.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Support a lifetime of service. Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in need – usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious this weekend. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious.

DECEMBER 2 & 3, 2023

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Just a reminder to all families of First Reconciliation students: The celebration of the sacrament will take place on Sunday, December 3rd at 6pm in St. Benedict Church. Please arrive at the church by 5:45p.m.

SAVE THE DATE ~ ADVENT FAITH FORMATION

WHEN: Saturday, December 16th

WHAT: Mass at 11:00a.m. at St. Benedict Church followed by lunch and presentation with Eucharistic theme by Sr. Deirdre Byrne, POSC in the Parish Hall

WHO: All parishioners & friends are invited to attend. Please RSVP via Flocknote or by contacting the parish office by 12/12



Sr. Deirdre Byrne, POSC

Sister Deirdre Byrne is an active missionary sister and superior of her community in Washington, DC. She is double board-certified in family medicine and general surgery. A native of the Washington, D.C. area, Sister Deirdre (known to many as Sister DeDe) is one of eight siblings, attended Langley High School, and graduated from Virginia Tech. After college, Sister DeDe followed in her thoracic surgeon father's footsteps and entered medical school at Georgetown

University, where she eventually completed a surgical residency. During that time, she also joined the Army. After a life of medical and military service in far ranging areas, she was led to the Little Workers of the Sacred Hearts community, whose charism involves sisters placing each and every person they care for between the Heart of Jesus and Mary.

PARISH & FAMILY LIFE

NEW PARISH DIRECTORY

NEXT STEPS... TURN IN A PHOTO IF YOU DIDN'T GET ONE TAKEN

Even if you weren't able to have your photo taken by the directory company last week, we would still love to have your smiling face included in the new directory. You can submit a photo for inclusion by following these steps: Your photo must be a 4x6 or vertical wallet size paper photo OR a digital photo in JPEG format (email digital photos to LParks@beparish.com with subject line: Directory Photo). A payment of \$15 must accompany your photo along with the following information on a separate sheet of paper: the names of all those shown in the photograph, your address, phone #, and email address as you would like them to appear in the directory (omit any information you do not want included). If you are submitting a paper photo you may include payment & info in envelope with photo. If you are submitting a digital photo, place payment & info in an envelope marked "Photo Directory". Photos/payment may be submitted via the collection basket at any Mass or via mail or drop off at the Parish Office. The final date for photo submissions will be December 19th. Thank you for your support of this project.

SODALITY NEWS

The Blessed Virgin Mother Ladies' Sodality will meet this Tuesday, December 5th at 7:00p.m. in the Parish Hall. The Rosary will be prayed at 6:30p.m. All parish women age 18 and older are welcome to join us.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

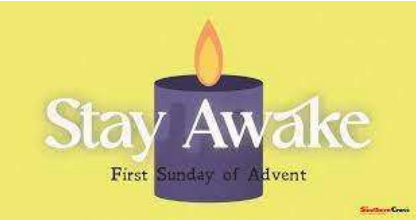
As we begin the joyous season of Advent and look forward to the celebration of the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ, at Christmas, our Council remains focused on helping our parish and community. This weekend, we assisted with our annual parish Christmas Bazaar/fundraiser, "Rockin' Round the Christmas Tree" and we will be hosting our December Super Sunday Breakfast. Our annual Coat Drive has also begun and each year, with the help of our generous parishioners, we are able to provide coats/hats/gloves/scarfs to many in need within our local community. If you would like to become a Knight and take part in these many charitable efforts as well as build fraternity with other men in the parish, it is easy to do so. Remember, most Knights lead busy lives and help out with projects as they are able. Please reach out to me or any other Knight if you are interested in finding out more. This month, we'd like to congratulate our newest member, Eric Silva, on becoming a knight.

May God bless you and your families during this holy season,
Chuck Gailunas, Grand Knight, St. Joan of Arc Council

COAT DRIVE INFORMATION

The Knights of Columbus will be collecting winter coats throughout December, January, and February for distribution to anyone needing these items, parishioner or non-parishioner alike. They are accepting new/gently used coats of all sizes as well as gloves and hats (only new, please). Please launder used coats before donation. Donation boxes can be found in the back of St. Elizabeth Church and in the Parish Hall. Please let us know if you know someone in need of winter coats, hats, or gloves. (NOTE: No clothes, please. Only coats/hats/gloves).

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



LIFE IN THE PARISH FAMILY

Sunday, December 3

- 2nd Collection – Retirement Fund for Religious
- Masses: 7:15 & 8:30a.m. – SB Church; 11:15a.m. – SE Church
- Super Sunday Breakfast after 7:15 & 8:30a.m. Masses
- Religious Ed/RCIA Classes – 10:00a.m-10:45a.m.
- Confirmation Prep Class – 10:45-11:15a.m.
- First Reconciliation Service – 6:00p.m. – St. Benedict Church

Monday, December 4

- Confessions – 8:15-8:45a.m./Mass – 9am – SE Church
- 9:30a.m. – Intercessory Prayer Group – SE Church
- 10:15a.m. – Diabetes/Pre-Diabetes Support Group – SE Church

Tuesday, December 5

- Confessions – 8:15-8:45a.m./Mass – 9am – SB Church
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – 9:30-10:30a.m. – SB Church
- Cemetery Committee Meeting @ Holy Cross Cemetery for Layout Plans – 1:00p.m.
- BVM Ladies' Sodality Meeting – 7pm – Parish Hall (Rosary prayed at 6:30p.m.)

Wednesday, December 6

- Confessions – 8:15-8:45a.m./Mass – 9am – SE Church
- Confessions – 5:15-5:45p.m./Mass – 6pm – SE Church
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – 5:15-5:45p.m. –SE Church
- Knights of Columbus Meeting – 7pm – Parish Hall

Thursday, December 7

- Confessions – 8:15-8:45a.m./Mass – 9am – SB Church
- Homeschool Group Classes – 9:30a.m.-1:30p.m. – Hall
- Vigil Mass for Feast of the Immaculate Conception – 6pm – SB Church

Friday, December 8

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

- Mass - 9:00a.m. – St. Elizabeth Church

Saturday, December 9

- Men's COR Faith & Fellowship Gathering – 7am – Parish Hall
- Benedictine Oblate Gathering – 9:00a.m.-1:00p.m. – Parish Hall
- Confessions – 3:00-3:45p.m. – St. Elizabeth Church
- Mass – 4pm – St. Elizabeth Church
- Ridgely Winterfest – 4:00-9:00p.m. – Railroad Avenue Park

Sunday, December 10

- 2nd Collection – Christmas Flowers
- Masses: 7:15 & 8:30a.m. – SB Church; 11:15a.m. – SE Church
- Butler Baptism – after 8:30a.m. Mass – SB Church
- Religious Ed/RCIA Classes – 9:40a.m-10:45a.m.
- Hospitality provided by Knights of Columbus – 9:30-10:30a.m. – Parish Hall

VOCATION REFLECTIONS

"Like a man away on a journey, he assigns each of us a task: be on the alert." Being chosen to serve as a priest or in consecrated life is an amazing work of the Lord. Ask the Holy Spirit and our Blessed Mother to help you recognize and be faithful to your vocation. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (302) 573-3113 or vocations@cdow.org.

REMEMBERING IN PRAYER THIS WEEK...

Kathleen Green ~ Edie Crank ~ Ben Shirley ~ Butch Petroski ~ Michael Petroski ~ Mary Jo Clancy ~ Socorro McIntire ~ Allen Kinnamon ~ Rita Albright ~ Ben Adams ~ Joe Dobrenski ~ Sr. Paula Revire ~ Marianna Breeding ~ Jackie Long ~ Mary Ellen Black ~ Mindy Shiflett ~ Sarah Griffith ~ Tony Keating ~ Jeanie Bennett ~ Kenny Breeding ~ Rodey Eckenrode ~ Jimmy Sheeran ~ Logan Persyn ~ Randy Jopp ~ Rob Schmitt ~ Dave Parrott ~ Justin Burgess ~ Doug League ~ Susie Crocco ~ Jessie Rinehart ~ William R. Walton ~ Ruth Susini ~ Helen Vogt ~ Shirley Proctor ~ Eleanor Chambers ~ Erica Redgraves ~ Cindy Cummings ~ Myrtle Boyd ~ Marceline Rukavina Huey ~ Elisa Walker ~ Susan Frear ~ Dawn Lopez ~ Brenda Breeding ~ Claire Stevens ~ Joan & E.T. Dize ~ Martie Greco ~ Remi Michael Tedesco ~ Sr. Maritia Smith ~ Catherine Buchanan ~ Dan Finnerin ~ Andrew Tetrack ~ Teresa Pinder ~ Tracey Jarvis ~ Dan Hayes ~ Frances Vogt ~ Grace Burnside ~ Mike Porter ~ Theresa Cochrane ~ Joan Mollick ~ Suki Irwin ~ Kathleen Ruskin ~ Ashley Gnacyk ~ John & Anne Rastelli ~ Joe Smiegelski ~ Andrea Emilia Bernabey ~ Gustavo Cáceres & Family ~ Beau Larson ~ Judy Klug ~ Punky Bennett ~ Michael Mumford ~ Josie Prince ~ Richard Norfolk ~ Ernest Becraft ~ ~ Kathy Brown ~ Olivia Wade ~ Lynn Campbell ~ Kim Mayer ~ Nancy Sollers ~ Keith & Maria Poptanich ~ Wayne Winchester ~ Matthew Bach ~ Caryn Tablib ~ Anne & John Rastelli ~ Selene Escobar-Rodriguez & Family ~ Adelaide Meyer ~ Willard Parks ~ Erica Jarman ~ Mike Babige ~ Mark Hartlage ~ Maureen Duggan-Cassidy ~ Marie Harfeld ~ Donald J. Kempel ~ Henrietta Wood

WE NEED YOUR INPUT ON A SURVEY FOR OUR DEANERY

The Eastern Shore Deanery has prepared a survey and invites all parishioners aged 15 and older within the Deanery to take part in this initiative. The purpose of the survey is to identify priorities and allocate resources effectively for the Deanery. As a valued member of the Church, we kindly request that you take a moment for reflection and complete the survey. Your input is greatly appreciated.

To access the survey, please use the link or QR Code below:



English:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CXNVWYR>



Español:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CXPRCQD>

AROUND THE DIOCESE/COMMUNITY

CHRISTMAS WITH MARK TWAIN

Christmas with Mark Twain, a solo performance by Fr. Paul Mast, is set for Sunday, December 10 at 3 pm at St. Joseph Parish Hall, 319 E. Main St, Middletown, DE. Tickets are \$12.00 and include a Basket Raffle entry. There is no charge for students under the age of 18. Additional Basket Raffle entries are 3 for \$10. Fr. Mast will sell signed copies of his book and refreshments will be served following the performance. Proceeds from the event benefit the restoration of St. Francis Xavier Shrine in Warwick, MD. Go to <https://bit.ly/TwainChristmas> to purchase tickets. For additional information, email OldBohemiaHS@gmail.com.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT

A Rachel's Vineyard Catholic Retreat will be held the weekend of April 19-21, 2024. This retreat offers emotional and spiritual healing for anyone who has struggled with the pain of abortion. Whether you are post-abortive or know someone who is, freedom awaits. Contact Nan Freeman at 302-463-7711 (call or text) or lucyminn929@gmail.com by April 5.

PILGRIMAGE: Join Fr. Mike Gallagher on a SEINE RIVER CRUISE PILGRIMAGE IN FRANCE with an optional post-tour to Lourdes, June 9-17, 2024. Lourdes: 17-20. This will not be a strenuous journey. We will spend seven nights on a ship and a bus will take us from the ports to various religious sites. Visit the Chapel of the Miraculous Medal, the Church of St. Vincent de Paul, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, the Basilica of St. Theresa (the Little Flower) and Church of St. Joan of Arc. We will also visit the gardens of Giverny and the beaches of Normandy. For further information and registration forms, call Lisad at 1-800-842-4842.

LISTEN TO CATHOLIC FORUM EACH WEEK. Next Saturday, December 9th, Michael Foley, author of the international bestseller, "Drinking With the Saints," will talk about his book, "Why We Kiss Under the Mistletoe: Christmas Traditions Explained," plus we will chat with Sister Ann David Strohming about the 800th anniversary of St. Francis' establishing the tradition of the Christmas Crèche. You can listen online anytime at cdow.org/CatholicForum, or by searching "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, or Amazon Music podcasts. You can see videos of select interviews at [YouTube.com/DioceseofWilm](https://www.youtube.com/DioceseofWilm). For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, links and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at [@CatholicForum](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicForum).

MILESTONE WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS WITH BISHOP KOENIG

Bishop William E. Koenig invites all couples celebrating their 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, wedding anniversary, or any anniversary beyond 50th, to the annual Wedding Anniversary Mass being held on World Marriage Sunday, February 11, 2024, at 1:00PM at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Newark, DE. Reservations are required by February 2, 2024. Bishop Koenig will be available for photos with interested couples beginning at 12:00pm and again after the Mass. If you would like to have a photo taken with Bishop Koenig, please arrive at 12:00pm or plan to stay after Mass. Questions may be referred to the Office for Marriage and Family Life at 302-295-0657 or by emailing QMFL@cdow.org. Registration can be completed by using the following link – cdowcym.wufoo.com/form...

RETRouvaille: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties, or crises. **The next program will be held February 16 - 18, 2024 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA.** For more information, or to register, visit [HelpOurMarriage.com](https://www.HelpOurMarriage.com), or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.