

ST. BENEDICT, RIDGELY	
MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS	
Saturday, December 16	
11:00a.m. St. Benedict Church	
For Eucharistic Revival	
4:00p.m. St. Elizabeth Church	
Virginia Blades	
Sunday, December 17	
Third Sunday of Advent	
7:15a.m. St. Benedict Church	
People of the Parish	
8:30a.m. St. Benedict Church	
Donny Gallagher	
11:15a.m. St. Elizabeth Church	
Ken Flynn	
Monday, December 18	
9:00a.m. St. Elizabeth Church	
Georgia Sebestyen	
Tuesday, December 19	
9:00a.m. St. Benedict Church	
Mike Musachio	
Wednesday, December 20	
9:00a.m. St. Elizabeth Church	
Walt Scanlan	
6:00p.m. St. Elizabeth Church	
Mark Cassidy	
Thursday, December 21	
9:00a.m. St. Benedict Church	
Walt Scanlan	
Friday, December 22	
NO MASS/CONFESSIONS	
Saturday, December 23	
4:00p.m. St. Elizabeth Church	
People of the Parish	
Sunday, December 24	
Fourth Sunday of Advent	
7:15a.m. St. Benedict Church	
Francis P. Domenick	
8:30a.m. St. Benedict Church	
Mark Cassidy	
11:15a.m. St. Elizabeth Church	
Walt Scanlan	
CHRISTMAS MASSES	
Christmas Eve	
4:00p.m. St. Benedict Church	
People of the Parish	
7:00p.m. St. Elizabeth Church	
People of the Parish	
Midnight St. Benedict Church	
People of the Parish	
Christmas Day	
Monday, December 25	
10:00a.m. St. Elizabeth Church	
People of the Parish	
TABERNACLE LIGHT INTENTIONS	
DECEMBER 9 through DECEMBER 22	
St. Elizabeth Church	
St. Benedict Church	
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT OF STEWARDSHIP	
BACK TO THE LORD	
FOR DECEMBER 9 & 10, 2023	
Envelopes	\$ 2,365.00
Loose	\$ 407.20
TOTAL OFFERTORY	\$ 2,772.20
Christmas Flowers	\$ 1,291.00
Poor Box	\$ 70.00
YEAR- TO-DATE OFFERTORY	
Actual Offortory	\$ 138,536.14
Average Weekly Offortory	\$ 6,023.31/wk
(Week 23 of 52)	

www.beparish.com	ST. ELIZABETH, DENTON
A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR...	
	Dear Parishioners ~ The word <i>Rejoice</i> is a constant theme this weekend. This word appears in the opening antiphon at Mass: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, Rejoice." The first reading, responsorial psalm, and second reading also mention this word. And even though the gospel does not contain this word, its expression is felt in the festive and enthusiastic excitement of St. John the Baptist as he prepares the world to receive his cousin Jesus: "Make straight the way of the Lord!"

This is why we call this Sunday *Gaudete Sunday*. The word *Gaudete* means *Rejoice*. This is why we wear the color rose and light the third rose candle on our advent wreath. It is a shocking color that the church only has twice a year. This Sunday and the fourth Sunday of Lent. It reminds us through this shock and color that we are not used to seeing, that something important is going to happen. In this case, Jesus is near. Are we ready?

Thank you to all who came to our Advent Day of Recollection on Saturday to listen to Sr. Dede's talk on the Holy Eucharist. It was a prayerful and grace-filled event and was the perfect way to prepare us for this *Gaudete Sunday* by allowing our hearts to *Rejoice*.

As Advent is also a penitential time, known as "Mini-Lent", perhaps you would like to take advantage of this time by putting faith into action. The Knights are having their famous "Coats for the Cold" Drive. You can purchase new or donate gently used coats, hats, or gloves for those in need this Christmas. Please drop these items off into the bins in the back of St. Elizabeth Church or in the parish hall.
~ Fr. Coffey

LITURGY	
CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE	
	This year, Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. Therefore, the morning Masses that day will be celebrated as usual for the 4 th Sunday of Advent (7:15a.m. & 8:30a.m. at St. Benedict Church and 11:15a.m. at St. Elizabeth Church). Then, that afternoon/evening, the Christmas Eve Masses will be celebrated at 4:00p.m. at St. Benedict Church, 7:00p.m. at St. Elizabeth Church and Midnight at St. Benedict Church. On Christmas Day, Monday, December 25 th , Mass will be celebrated at 10:00a.m. at St. Elizabeth Church. Also, please take note that the Parish Offices will be closed from December 22, 2023 – January 3, 2024.

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.	

TRUSTEE ELECTIONS	
In compliance with church and civil law, the election of parish trustees is to take place on the first Sunday of each year. Therefore, elections for trustees will take place on the weekend of January 7 & 8 in the sacristy after all masses. Current trustees are: St. Elizabeth : <i>Paul Fountain</i> and <i>Beth McCullough</i> and St. Benedict: <i>Steve Fleegle</i> and <i>Kenny King</i> If you would like to nominate someone to fulfill the responsibility of parish Trustee other than those listed above, you will also have the opportunity to write-in your choice on the prepared ballot. A trustee must be a parish member, a practicing Catholic, and at least 25 years of age. Priests and deacons assigned to the parish are not eligible to serve as a trustee. State law requires that trustees be elected every year and that they serve until their successors are elected. Trustees may not hold office on the Parish Council or Finance Council, nor should they serve as chairpersons of parish committees. Generally, the trustees do not have regular meetings but are convened by the Pastor/Parish Administrator as circumstances require.	

DECEMBER 16 & 17, 2023
CHRISTIAN FORMATION
There will be no Religious Ed or R.C.I.A. classes on December 24 th or December 31 st . May you and your families have a blessed and peace-filled celebration of Christmas.
ADULT BIBLE STUDY
Our Adult Bible Study Group will NOT meet on Thursday, December 21 st or Thursday, December 28 th . The group will resume their meetings on Thursday, January 4 th at 9:30a.m. in the FLC Resource Room. New members are always welcome.

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 19 th . Thank you for your support of this project.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS



As we journey through the 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. Our annual Coat Drive will be continuing throughout December and January and each year, with the help of our generous parishioners, we are able to provide coats/hats/gloves/scarves to many in need within our local community. If you would like to become a Knight and take part in charitable efforts like this one 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.

May God bless you and your families during this holy season,
Chuck Gaithmas, 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).

NATIVITY VIDEO



A new video, produced by the Diocese of Wilmington, presents a montage of photographs of Nativity crèches from the Catholic churches of Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore. The video, which also includes beautiful instrumental Christmas hymns as a background, will debut on the Diocese of Wilmington's YouTube channel – [YouTube.com/DiocesefofWilm](https://www.youtube.com/DiocesefofWilm) – on Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. Families are invited to watch the 12 ½ minute video together, discuss which scene they like best and why, maybe try to be the first to identify the scene from our parish. Also, the video could be played in the background of Christmas gatherings so everyone can enjoy the holy music and images.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LIFE IN THE PARISH FAMILY
Sunday, December 17
• 2 nd Collection – Building & Maintenance
• Masses: 7:15 & 8:30a.m. – SB Church; 11:15a.m. – SE Church
• Religious Ed/RCIA Classes – 9:40a.m-10:45a.m.
• Hospitality provided by Knights of Columbus – 9:30-10:30a.m. – Parish Hall
• Confirmation Prep Class – 10:45-11:15a.m. – 10 th Grade Classroom
Monday, December 18
• Confessions – 8:15-8:45a.m./Mass – 9am – SE Church
• 9:30a.m. – Intercessory Prayer Group – SE Church
Tuesday, December 19
• Confessions – 8:15-8:45a.m./Mass – 9am – SB Church
• Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – 9:30-10:30a.m. – SB Church
Wednesday, December 20
• 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
Thursday, December 21
• Confessions – 8:15-8:45a.m./Mass – 9am – SB Church
• NO Adult Bible Study
• NO Homeschool Group Classes
Friday, December 22
• NO MASS/CONFESSIONS
• PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
Saturday, December 23
• Confessions – 3:00-3:45p.m. – St. Elizabeth Church
• Mass – 4pm – St. Elizabeth Church
Sunday, December 24
• 2 nd Collection – Christmas
• 4 th Sunday of Advent Masses: 7:15 & 8:30a.m. – SB Church; 11:15a.m. – SE Church
• Christmas Eve Masses: 4:00p.m. (SB), 7:00p.m. (SE), Midnight (SB)
• NO RELIGIOUS ED/R.C.I.A. CLASSES
Monday, December 25 ~ CHRISTMAS DAY
• 2 nd Collection – Christmas
• 10:00a.m. Mass – SE Church
VOCATION REFLECTIONS
"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me." God is empowering you for a specific purpose! How will you respond to so great a love? Is He asking you to follow Him by serving in the priesthood or consecrated life? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at at (302) 573-3113 or vocations@cdow.org .

PLASTIC HOLY WATER BOTTLES
We have small, plastic holy water bottles at the Parish Office at no cost. If you would like one, feel free to stop by the parish office during office hours to pick one up or contact the office to make other arrangements.



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 Javis ~ 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 ~ 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 ~ Page Murphy

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

ESTATE SALE IN GREENSBORO, MD ~ DECEMBER 16 & 17

A parishioner is holding an Estate Sale on Elmor Court in Greensboro, Maryland this Saturday and Sunday, December 16 & 17 from 8am-2pm each day. Many items will be offered including tools, garden tools, generator, furniture, wall hangings, glassware, dishes, cookware, collectable village houses (Dickens Village), collectable glass dinnerware (Cape Cod by Avon), linens, brick-a-brack, 50 years of Redskins & other sports memorabilia, a huge lot of Christmas items, plus much more. Just come to Elmor Court and follow the signs to the sale.

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 OMFL@cdow.org. Registration can be completed by using the following link – cdowcym.wufoo.com/form...

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 23rd, tune-in to hear the annual Christmas program featuring Bishop Koenig's Christmas message to the people of Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore and some beautiful holiday hymns. Catholic Forum airs on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640. 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. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, links and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at [@CatholicForum](https://facebook.com/CatholicForum).

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 or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.