

ST. BENEDICT, RIDGELY

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 3	
4:00p.m.	St. Elizabeth Church Mary Lukacsina
Sunday, February 4	
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
7:15a.m.	St. Benedict Church People of the Parish
8:30a.m.	St. Benedict Church Intentions of Kelly Smith
11:15a.m.	St. Elizabeth Church Walt Scanlan
Monday, February 5	
9:00a.m.	St. Elizabeth Church Mark Cassidy
Tuesday, February 6	
9:00a.m.	St. Benedict Church NO MASS/CONFESSIONS/ADORATION
Wednesday, February 7	
9:00a.m.	St. Elizabeth Church NO MASS/CONFESSIONS
6:00p.m.	St. Elizabeth Church NO MASS/CONFESSIONS
Thursday, February 8	
9:00a.m.	St. Benedict Church NO MASS/CONFESSIONS
Friday, February 9	
NO MASS/CONFESSIONS	
Saturday, February 10	
4:00p.m.	St. Elizabeth Church Jimmy Blades
Sunday, February 11	
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
7:15a.m.	St. Benedict Church People of the Parish
8:30a.m.	St. Benedict Church Mike Musachio
11:15a.m.	St. Elizabeth Church Walt Scanlan

TABERNACLE LIGHT INTENTIONS

FEBRUARY 3 – FEBRUARY 16, 2024

St. Benedict Church

Intentions of Pamela & Brett Carmean

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT OF STEWARDSHIP BACK TO THE LORD	
FOR JANUARY 27 & 28 2024	
Envelopes & Loose Cash/Checks	\$ 3,557.00
Online Givig for January via WeShare	\$ 3,980.10
TOTAL OFFERTORY	\$ 7,537.10
2 nd Collection – Energy Offset	\$ 443.00
Poor Box	\$ 198.00
YEAR- TO-DATE OFFERTORY	
Actual Offertory	\$ 175,831.25
Average Weekly Offertory	\$ 5,861.04/wk.
(Week 30 of 52)	

2023 TAX LETTERS

If you would like a 2023 statement of your contributions for tax purposes, please contact the parish office to request one (parishoffice@beparish.com or 410-624-2253).

Do I need a tax letter?

If the amount of your deductible 2023 donations & expenses is more than the standard deduction (*standard deductions for the tax year 2023 are: \$13,850 for single and married filing separately, \$27,700 for married filing jointly, and \$20,800 for heads of households*) then you should consider itemizing and requesting a tax letter from the parish would be necessary.

www.beparish.com

ST. ELIZABETH, DENTON

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR...



Dear Parishioners ~

Often times, you might hear someone who has stopped coming to church or who has never gone to church tell you: I don't go because church is full of hypocrites! This, in fact, is a tremendous fallacy. The reality is that the church is certainly full of sinners in need of Gods redemption. We don't come to church because we are perfect. We come to church because we are imperfect. Church isn't just simply a place to come to because it feels good, to come out of habit, to connect with friends, or to pass time. We come to Mass because we need Gods mercy and grace to strengthen our life throughout the coming week. The real hypocrite, then, is the person who refuses to come to church. They must obviously think they are perfect and have no need for redemption. We come because we need God. They don't come because they think they don't need God.

St. Paul stresses this point in the second reading this weekend when he says: If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it! In other words, St. Paul is saying that when he speaks the message of Christ, he isn't doing it to make himself look holy, pious, or perfect. Rather, he is doing it because it is an obligation from God. Do we realize how much God has entrusted to us? Christ makes perfect the imperfect!

Please be aware there will be NO daily Confessions, Masses, or Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament this Tuesday-Thursday, as all the priests in the Diocese will be on mandatory retreat with the Bishop. Please pray for all the priests of the Diocese that we may experience peace, rest, consolation, and refreshment in this quiet time away with the Lord and with our head and shepherd- Bishop Koenig.

Lent is only a little over a week away and begins with Ash Wednesday which is on Valentine's Day this year (February 14th). You will notice in the vestibules of both churches there are Lenten booklets and devotional materials. Please take a copy to help you as you prepare for these 40 days leading up to Easter. The schedule of prayer services and Masses for Ash Wednesday can also be found below and on the parish website.

~ Fr. Coffiey

LITURGY

LENT BEGINS ON FEBRUARY 14th with ASH WEDNESDAY.

Masses with the Distribution of Ashes will be celebrated at 9:00a.m. at St. Elizabeth Church and 7:00p.m. at St. Benedict Church.

Prayer Services with the Distribution of Ashes will take place at 6:30a.m. at St. Elizabeth Church and Noon at St. Elizabeth Church



The Blessed Virgin Mother Ladies' Sodality will offer a Soup & Bread Dinner from 5:00-7:00p.m. in the Parish Hall on Ash Wednesday. A variety of meatless soups along with crackers & bread will be served. There is no cost for the dinner; a basket will be available for a Free Will Offering. No sign-up/RSVP is required for the Soup & Bread Dinner.

SHROVE TUESDAY DINNER ~ FEAST BEFORE THE FAST ON FEBRUARY 13th

Featuring Mardi Gras Activities for Kids

The Knights of Columbus will offer a Shrove Tuesday PANCAKE & SAUSAGE SUPPER on Tuesday, February 13th from 5:00-7:00p.m. in the Parish Hall. There is no cost for the dinner, but a basket will be available for a Free Will Offering to benefit the parish Poor Box Fund. Join us for a delicious meal and fellowship. There will also be some simple and fun activities for kids --- mask making, games, and a parade to Mardi Gras music. Older youth are welcome and encouraged to come and help the younger kids with these activities. Please RSVP for the Pancake & Sausage Dinner by Sunday, February 11th h via Flocknote (<https://beparish.flocknote.com/signup/153139>) or by contacting the parish office.

MAGNIFICAT SUBSCRIPTIONS



Magnificat is a monthly publication which contains daily and weekend mass prayers and readings, morning and evening prayer, meditations, spiritual writings and essays on the saints. Magnificat subscriptions will be available through the parish office beginning with the May 2024 issue. The cost of \$39.00 per subscription (which is a \$10 savings off the cost of ordering a subscription on your own). The deadline to subscribe through the parish is March 5, 2024. Please see the insert in today's bulletin to sign-up or contact the parish office for more details.

FEBRUARY 3 & 4, 2024

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORTS

Mid-Year Progress Reports will be sent home with all students within the next couple of weeks. Parent feedback is important as well as your commitment to your baptismal commission to educate your child in the ways of faith. You will be asked to review the Progress Report, sign it and return it via US mail, drop off at parish office, or placement in collection basket at any Mass.

YEAR OF EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

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. 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). Sign up on Flocknote at <https://beparish.flocknote.com/signup/142285> or contact Lori in the Parish Office.

SHARE YOUR WITNESS STORY

What impact has the Eucharist had on your life? How have you been transformed by your encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist? What does the Eucharist mean to you? Have you experienced any Eucharistic miracles in your own life? The stories and experiences of our own life of faith, our “witness stories”, can often serve as doorways to conversion for others. These stories have the power to evangelize, to break down barriers, to offer mercy and to revive the faith of those who have fallen away. As part of the year of Eucharistic revival in our parish, we are collecting these witness stories in order to create an inspiring webpage or booklet to share with parishioners and others who might benefit from these insights and inspiration. If you are willing to share your story, please send it via mail (PO Box 459, Ridgely MD 21660) or email (LParks@beparish.com) or click [this link](#) for a downloadable form. If you would like to share your story anonymously simply let us know and we will not publish your name. Stories come in all shapes and sizes, so whether you have a few thoughts to share or a paragraph or two, all stories are welcome. Want to be inspired by the Eucharistic witness stories of others? Visit <https://www.iamhere.org/stories>.

PARISH & FAMILY LIFE

YOUTH MINISTRY



The Youth Ministry Group would like to thank all parishioners, friends and families that came out and supported us by attending the annual Spaghetti Dinner last Saturday. Due to your support, the dinner was a great success! Our thanks go out to the following:

- Father Coffiey for his support of the Youth Ministry and allowing us to host the dinner.
- Lori Parks for all of the behind-the- scenes work that she does from ticket making & bulletin blurbs to Flocknotes & emails.
- The St. Joan of Arc Knights of Columbus Council for their very generous monetary donation. It really helped and allowed us to stay on budget for expenses.
- Walmart & store manager, April Cannon, for their donation of 50lbs of ground beef and 20 loaves of Italian bread. That was a huge help and greatly appreciated!
- The 8 adults – Marlinda Tuel, Jack Doherty, Carm Powell, Mike & Nancy Campbell, Angela Meyer, Donald King and Brett Carmean – who assisted that evening.
- The Ladies' Sodality and all parishioners who made the most delicious desserts.

We served about 120 meals, which was about 50 less than last year, but still a very good turnout. On Friday night, 22 young people gathered in the hall to decorate, set tables, make loads of salad and roll about 700 meatballs. On Saturday they returned to complete last-minute preparations, make garlic bread and then serve all the hungry folks. They also cleaned up, reset tables for the next group of diners and worked hard in the kitchen. Dan Tuel, who kind of put it all together, would like to personally thank all the adults, the youth group, Father Coffiey, Lori Parks, the Knights and all that came out to support our wonderful Youth Ministry of fine young folks. Our money raffle went very well. We had 3 winners who received \$150 each. The winners were Anthony DePasquale, Mike Smithmyer and Judy Bucci. Congratulations to all! Thanks again to all and may God Bless You! We look forward to seeing and serving everyone next year!

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LIFE IN THE PARISH FAMILY

Sunday, February 4

- 2nd Collection – Black & Indian/Home Missions
- Super Sunday Breakfast – after 7:15a.m. & 8:30a.m. Masses
- Religious Ed/R.C.I.A. Classes – 10:00-10:45a.m.
- Confirmation Prep Class – 10:45-11:15a.m. – 10th Gr Classroom
- Private Event – 1:00-3:15p.m. – Parish Hall

Monday, February 5 ~ Parish Office Closed

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

Tuesday, February 6 ~ Parish Office Open

- NO MASS/CONFESSIONS/ADORATION
- Blessed Virgin Mother Ladies' Sodality Meeting – 7pm – Parish Hall (Rosary will be prayed at 6:30p.m. in Hall prior to the meeting)

Wednesday, February 7 ~ Parish Office Open

- NO MORNING MASS/CONFESSIONS
- NO EVENING MASS/CONFESSIONS/ADORATION
- Knights of Columbus Meeting – 7pm – Parish Hall

Thursday, February 8 ~ Parish Office Open (9:30-11am)

- NO MASS/CONFESSIONS
- NO ADULT BIBLE STUDY
- Homeschool Group Classes – 9:30a.m.-1:30p.m. – Hall

Friday, February 9 ~ Parish Office Open

- NO MASS/CONFESSIONS

Saturday, February 10

- Men's Faith & Fellowship (COR) Gathering – 7am – Parish Hall
- Benedictine Oblate Gathering – 9am-1pm – Parish Hall
- Confessions – 3:00-3:45p.m. – SE Church
- Mass: 4:00p.m.– SE Church

Sunday, February 11

- 2nd Collection – Building & Maintenance
- R.C.I.A. Rite of Sending – during 8:30a.m. Mass
- Religious Ed/R.C.I.A. Classes – 9:40-10:45a.m.
- Hospitality provided by Knights of Columbus – 9:30-10:30a.m. – Parish Hall
- Private Event – 1:00-3:15p.m. – Parish Hall

REMEMBERING IN PRAYER THIS WEEK...

Kathleen Green ~ Edie Crank ~ Butch Petroski ~ Michael Petroski ~ Mary Jo Clancy ~ Socorro McIntire ~ Marianna Breeding ~ Jackie Long ~ Mary Ellen Black ~ Kenny Breeding ~ Randy Jopp ~ Doug League ~ Susie Crocco ~ William R. Walton ~ Ruth Susini ~ Helen Vogt ~ Erica Redgraves ~ Claire Stevens ~ Joan & E.T. Dize ~ Martie Greco ~ Remi Michael Tedesco ~ ~ Dan Finnerin ~ Dan Hayes ~ Frances Vogt ~ Mike Porter ~ Theresa Cochrane ~ Joan Mollick ~ Kathleen Ruskin ~ John & Anne Rastelli ~ Judy Klug ~ Josie Prince ~ Olivia Wade ~ Kim Mayer ~ Nancy Sollers ~ Keith & Maria Poptanich ~ Willard Parks ~ Erica Jarman ~ Mike Babige ~ Mark Hartlage ~ Maureen Duggan-Cassidy ~ Marie Harfeld ~ Donald J. Kempel ~ Page Murphy ~ George Sebestyen ~ Todd Gross ~ Tom Haney ~ Jeffrey Kinnamon ~ Dawn Auman ~ Christina Jewell ~ Sue Kibler ~ James Smith ~ Renee Medri

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED THIS WEEK...

** **NOTE:** Remember to let us know if someone whose name you have added to the list has experienced significant healing or entered into eternal life. In this way, we can keep our prayer list focused and offer prayers for those who are most in need. Thank you.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

Hello fellow parishioners,

I wanted to give you an update on what the St. Joan of Arc Council has been up to lately. Our annual Coat Drive is going very well thanks to your overwhelming response in donating new & used coats as well as new hats & gloves. This effort will continue until the end of February and it really helps needy families in our community. Our Council is so proud to be part of St. Benedict / St. Elizabeth Parish because our members love helping our parish and community. Our Super Sunday Breakfasts have been well received and well attended all year. You just cannot get a delicious breakfast that cheap anywhere else in Caroline County (\$6 per person).

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (February 14th) and on Shrove Tuesday (February 13th), the Knights are doing a Pancake & Sausage dinner in the Parish Hall from 5-7pm. Please sign up on Flocknote or by contacting the parish office so we can have enough food.

I want to invite all men of the parish and your families to attend these events at our church. Please ask for some information about becoming a knight. In doing so you will make new friends plus learn more about our faith. I can tell you that you will receive so much satisfaction knowing that you have reached out to help our parish and community.

Thank you and God Bless ~ *Chuck Gailunas*, Grand Knight

MEN'S FAITH & FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Our next COR meeting is on Saturday, February 10th at 7AM in the Parish Hall. Our mission at COR is answering the needs of Catholic men through prayer, formation and fraternity. Our goal is to build a group of men with a foundation of faith within themselves and their brothers so that they can lead their families in faith. Please join us for fellowship and friendship over coffee. We are using the video series "Into the Breach" to guide our discussions. Questions? Contact Chris Grazzini, COR Director, at 703-927-3243 or wendiggrizz1750@gmail.com.

CEMETERY NEWS

With Springtime on the horizon, we respectfully request that all Christmas and Fall decorations are removed from gravesites at Holy Cross Cemetery by the end of February. A general Cemetery Clean-Up will take place in the Spring prior to Easter.

VOCATION REFLECTIONS

"Jesus went away to a secluded place and prayed." If you are seeking greater simplicity of life and a closer following of the Lord in prayer and action, consider that He may be calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life. Talk to Fr. Coffey or reach out to the diocesan Vocations Office at (302) 573-3113 or vocations@cdow.org.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Fun Fact about Black Catholic History #1

Did you know that there are six African Americans known as the *Saintly Six* currently being considered for sainthood from all parts of country? There are four Venerables: Augustus Tolton (Chicago), Henriette DeLille (New Orleans), Pierre Tousaint (New York City), and Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange (Baltimore). There are two Servants of God: Julia Greeley (Denver) and Sr. Thea Bowman (Mississippi). The process of becoming a *Saint* starts with being declared a *Servant of God*, then made a *Venerable*, then beatified as a *Blessed*, and then canonized a *Saint*.

FUNDRAISER FOR MARTIN'S HOUSE & BARN

Would you like to support a fundraiser to benefit Martin's House & Barn in Ridgely? Through their Family Shelter, Food Pantry and Thrift Shop. Martin's House & Barn provides support for Caroline County residents and others in need. Check out One Hope Wine where all wine and gift purchases make an impact. Shop with CE,

Nancy Campbell (410-310-6732; campbellmn.218@gmail.com) or visit <https://www.onehopewine.com/event/202718>. You can also shop by contacting Deborah Hudson-Vornbrock, Director or Martin's House & Barn.



AROUND THE DIOCESE/COMMUNITY

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...

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK

The observances of **National Marriage Week** (February 7-14 and World Marriage Day (Sunday, February 11) are an opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. The theme for 2024 is "Love Beyond Words." The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has created a special resource – an At-Home Couples' Retreat – for married couples in order to help them continue to grow in love through the sacrament of marriage. To view the retreat or print out materials, visit

<https://www.foryourmarriage.org/celebrate-national-marriage-week/>

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.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER – Learn tools to revitalize romance and deepen communication in your marriage!!! No group sharing required. The next weekend is March 1-3, 2024 at the Brighton Suites in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. For information or to register visit our website <http://www.wvme.org> or call Tony and Linda Massino at 302-648-2228.

PILGRIMAGE TO IRELAND with Fr. Mike Gallagher, MAY 17-27, 2024. For an itinerary and registration forms, contact Heidi at gvthnks@aol.com or at 1-540-760-6387. Only three spaces remain.

LISTEN TO CATHOLIC FORUM EACH WEEK. Next Saturday, February 10th, learn about Retrouvaille, a program to heal marriages, when Deacon Craig and Judy Bickel are the guests. Catholic Forum will not air on Relevant Radio 640 this week due to their fund drive, but 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 most 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).

