

ST. BENEDICT, RIDGELY
MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 22
4:00p.m. St. Elizabeth Church
Susie Booze

Sunday, February 23
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
7:15a.m. St. Benedict Church
Betsy Wood

8:30a.m. St. Benedict Church
Francis Kinnamon

11:15a.m. St. Elizabeth Church
People of the Parish

Monday, February 24
9:00a.m. St. Elizabeth Church
Intentions of Lisa & Doug League & Family

Tuesday, February 25
9:00a.m. St. Benedict Church
James & Shirley Lombardo

Wednesday, February 26
9:00a.m. St. Elizabeth Church
Dan Finnerin

6:00p.m. St. Elizabeth Church

Thursday, February 27
9:00a.m. St. Benedict Church
Francis Donald Kempel

Friday, February 28
NO MASS/CONFESSIONS

Saturday, March 1
4:00p.m. St. Elizabeth Church
Virginia & Jimmy Blades

Sunday, March 2
EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
7:15a.m. St. Benedict Church
Daniel L. Tuel, Sr.

8:30a.m. St. Benedict Church
People of the Parish

11:15a.m. St. Elizabeth Church
Jose Morales Gallegos

TABERNACLE LIGHT INTENTIONS
FEBRUARY 15 - FEBRUARY 28, 2025
St. Elizabeth Church
For the Intentions of Mike Lindemann
St. Benedict Church
In Memory of Betsy Wood

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT OF STEWARDSHIP
BACK TO THE LORD
FOR FEBRUARY 15 & 16, 2025
Offertory Giving @ Masses \$ 2,186.00

Poor Box \$ 809.00
YEAR- TO-DATE OFFERTORY (Week 32 of 52)
Actual Offertory \$ 195,059.48
Average Weekly Offertory \$ 6,095.60/wk.

Need a 2024 Tax Statement?
Contact Mrs. Kimberly Ernest in
the parish office with your
request.



www.beparish.com ST. ELIZABETH, DENTON
A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR...

Dear Parishioners ~
Occasionally, we may be late showing up to Mass. Our car won’t start, the baby has bubble gum in their hair, there is traffic, a road is closed, I overslept...whatever a “legitimate” excuse may be. There is a difference between a legitimate excuse, however, versus forming a bad habit. In this case, showing up more times than not to Mass perpetually late. Habits can form because we are simply lazy, have poor time management skills, or we have social anxiety and want to slip in “unnoticed” without the assumed confrontation of greeting people. There are several reasons. A few parishioners have asked me to explain what the Church expects from us in this matter. For instance...at what point in the Mass is it “too late” to have fulfilled my Sunday obligation? If I am late, should I refrain from receiving the Eucharist? Should I go to confession if I am late?

First, we must understand what Holy Mother Church expects from us, that we first and foremost must attend Holy Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Notice the Church says we must attend. This is not an option. We must be at Church unless we are sick or have a legitimate excuse beyond our control. (Catechism 1285)

Secondly, at Mass, we are encouraged to receive the Eucharist as often as possible, but there is no obligation to do so. Technically, the minimum obligation to receive Our Lord is once a year. But there are conditions which must be met to receive the Eucharist. We can only receive if we are in the State of Grace and are not a public manifest sinner whereby causing scandal to the Body of Christ. (Catechism 1415)
Third, the Church calls each of us to full, active, and conscious participation in the Mass, which is both internal and external. The Mass is divided into several parts but has two main sections: The Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Whereby, Christ is fully present to us in Word and Sacrament. (Sacrosanctum Concilium 14)

When we attend Mass, we are coming to experience Christ’s Passion, Death, and Resurrection. It is therefore of utmost importance that we hear and understand the Living Word of God in the Readings, Gospel, and allow the Sacred Word to be “opened” for us in the Homily, whereby, we are then led into the mystery of the Lords Sacrificial Meal - the Eucharist. (General Instruction of the Roman Missal 29)
With this said, and the understanding that the Church calls us to be fed by Word and Sacrament, it is important that we not miss the readings, gospel, or homily, nor, miss the Eucharistic Sacrifice. Since the Mass is the highest form of prayer, this is why it begins and ends with the Sign of the Cross- the Sign of our salvation. Everything contained within those blessings is of utmost significance. So, we should never be late to Mass, nor leave early. Certainly, we may have to leave early if there is a legitimate emergency. But we should not be leaving early just because we want to be the first one out of the parking lot or because we want to be the first one in line at the diner for supper or breakfast. Remember: Judas was the first person to leave Mass early...look how it turned out for him!

While there is no official “written in stone” way of determining if you arrived “too late” at Mass to fulfill your Sunday obligation, I would say a good judgement is to think about how you are encountering the Lord at Mass. If we miss the readings, we miss encountering God in salvation history. As St. Jermonie said: “Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ”. Therefore, if we have not arrived on time to hear the Word of God in the readings, we should not approach receiving Him at the altar for Holy Communion. We cannot fully receive Him if we have first not encountered Him in the Scriptures. We are sustained by Word AND Sacrament. Not by only one or the other.

Simply put, the clearest explanation for all of this is looking at our own time management. If we have our lives organized accordingly, we should never even think about coming to Mass late. Of all the various appointments and obligations we have every week, is there really anything more important in your schedule than Mass? If there is, your priorities in life are seriously misdirected.

Yes, we may be late every once in a blue moon. If it is beyond our control and legitimate, it is not a sin and does not need to be confessed. But if it becomes constant and a habit, it should be confessed, and we should make a firm amendment and resolve to keep Mass as THE priority of our lives and week. As the old saying goes: Don’t get caught showing up late to your own funeral. ☺

~ Fr. Coffiey

FEBRUARY 22 & 23, 2025
CRISTIAN FORMATION

Lent will be here soon! Keep a look out for Lenten resources that will be sent home with your kiddos!

If you haven’t yet signed and returned your child’s mid-year progress report, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Please continue to remember the importance of attending classes on a regular basis. More than four unexcused absences will require a meeting with Father Coffiey. An absence will be marked excused once your student has completed and turned in all make-up work to their Catechist in a timely manner. I can be reached at kperza@beparish.com or 410-634-2253 with any questions. ~ Kasey Perza

PARISH & FAMILY LIFE
WE REMEMBER ✠ WE CELEBRATE ✠ WE BELIEVE

Cathryn Esther Jean Everett, daughter of Michael & Hayley Everett, was baptized on February 15th. We celebrate the beginning of a life of faith for Cathryn as she receives the gift of new life in God’s spirit and becomes a part of the fellowship of the Church through the Rite of Baptism. Cathryn is the granddaughter of Sherry & Wilbur Levengood.

We pray for the repose of the soul of **Eileen Lynch**, wife of Robert Lynch and sister of parishioner, Trudy Dean.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD!
We congratulate Hope Brown & Dyllan Rust on the birth of their first child, son **Oaklin Scott Rust**, who arrived on Sunday, February 16th and weighed in at 7 lbs., 5 oz and was 20” long. Oaklin is the great grandson of parishioners, Pat & Bob Brown.

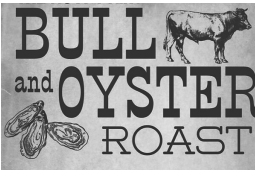


FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE
SAVE THE DATE... GAELIC & GARLIC CELEBRATION
Sunday, March 16, 2025 ~ 4:00-6:00p.m. ~ Parish Hall

Last year’s Gaelic & Garlic Celebration was a big hit as we gathered to celebrate the feast days of St. Patrick (March 17) and St. Joseph (March 19)! The afternoon will begin at 4:00p.m. and will feature a Chili Cook-Off as well as pastries & desserts in honor of the Feast of St. Joseph. Any interested parishioner is encouraged to bring a crock pot of chili to enter into the Cook-Off (and to share for dinner). Chili toppings, beverages and desserts will be provided. There is no cost for this event. Please RSVP via Flocknote or by contacting the Parish Office.

SAVE THE DATE...
OLD FASHIONED EASTERN SHORE
BULL & OYSTER ROAST
Saturday, April 26, 2025
2:00-7:00p.m. ~ Parish Hall

The event will include delicious food & drinks, a ticket auction, music & dancing, raffles & games of chance and more. Tickets will be \$40 per person or \$300 for a table of 8. TICKETS GO ON SALE NEXT WEEKEND and will be available for purchase on Sundays in the parish hall at the Super Sunday Breakfast or Hospitality gatherings. Or, you can visit the parish website or contact the Parish Office to purchase tickets.



HELP WANTED...The parish Fundraising Committee is seeking another cook to join their team. This volunteer would work with a “seasoned” cook who knows all the ropes and would be able to guide them in the required tasks. So, if you have a knack for cooking, reach out to Tony Sala at 443-768-8864 or tonysala@yahoo.com.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
LIFE IN THE PARISH FAMILY

Sunday, February 23
• 2nd Collection – Parish Religious Ed Support
• Knights of Columbus Hospitality – 9:30a.m-10:30a.m. – Parish Hall
• RELIGIOUS ED/O.C.I.A. Classes – 9:40-10:45a.m.
• Keeping Our Promises Curriculum for 4th & 5th Grade – during regular class time
• Confirmation Prep Class – 10:45-11:15a.m.
Monday, February 24
• Confessions – 8:15-8:45a.m./Mass – 9am – SE Church
• Intercessory Prayer Group – 9:30a.m. – SE Church

Tuesday, February 25
• Confessions – 8:15-8:45a.m./Mass – 9am – SB Church
• Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – 9:30-10:30a.m. – SB Church
• Deacons Meeting – 11am – Rectory
• Catechist Formation Gathering – 6:00-7:30p.m. – Parish Hall

Wednesday, February 26
• Confessions – 8:15-8:45a.m./Mass – 9am – SE Church
• Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions – 5:15-5:45p.m/Mass – 6pm – SE Church

Thursday, February 27
• Confessions – 8:15-8:45a.m./Mass – 9am – SB Church
• Adult Bible Study – 9:30a.m. – FLC Resource Room
• Homeschool Co-Op Classes – 9am-1pm – Parish Hall

Friday, February 28
• NO MASS/CONFESSIONS
Saturday, March 1
• Confessions – 3:00-3:45p.m. – SE Church
• First Saturday Rosary – 3:30p.m. – SE Church
• Mass – 4pm – SE Church
Sunday, March 2
• Super Sunday Breakfast after 7:15a.m. & 8:30a.m. Masses – Parish Hall
• RELIGIOUS ED/O.C.I.A. Classes – 10:00-10:45a.m.
• Confirmation Prep Class – 10:45-11:15a.m.
• Youth Ministry Gathering – 6:00-8:00pm – Parish Hall

REMEMBERING IN PRAYER THIS WEEK...
Kathleen Green ~ Edie Crank ~ Butch Petroski ~ Michael Petroski ~ Mary Jo Clancy ~ Socorro McIntire ~ Kenny Breeding ~ William R. Walton ~ Helen Vogt ~ Erica Redgraves ~ Joan & E.T. Dize ~ Martie Greco ~ Remi Michael Tedesco ~ Dan Hayes ~ Frances Vogt ~ Joan Mollick ~ Kathleen Ruskin ~ John & Anne Rastelli ~ Judy Klug ~ Josie Prince ~ Olivia Wade ~ Kim Mayer ~ Nancy Sollers ~ Erica Jarman ~ Mike Babige ~ Mark Hartlage ~ Page Murphy ~ George Sebestyen ~ Todd Gross ~ Jeffrey Kinnamon ~ Mark & Dawn Auman ~ Christina Jewell ~ MaryJo Hathaway ~ Chelsey Townsend ~ Yvonne Liswell ~ Debbie Layton ~ Cindy Cummings ~ Rosemary Kinnamon ~ Keith & Maria Poptanich ~ Freddie Adams, Jr. ~ Steve Goff ~ Mary Ellen Black ~ Claire Stevens ~ Dick Palazzolo ~ Jack Houtz ~ Carla Moure ~ Pat Pasciak ~ Shirley Smith ~ Jim & Noreen Flohr ~ Mary P. Epps ~ Nial Straley, Jr. ~ Bridget Clark ~ Robert & Donna Nocchi ~ Barbara Thompson ~ Jackie Gammons ~ Tuel Family ~ Kathryn Belmonte ~ Mickey Dickerson ~ Addie Flaherty ~ Flo Petroski ~ Pat Myers ~ Kathryn Poll ~ Jeffrey & Danniell Simms ~ Domnic Nallathambi ~ Ann Cannon ~ Nina Taylor ~ Sr. Mary DiMeglio, O.S.B. ~ James & Elizabeth Smith & Family ~ Pope Francis

SUPER SUNDAY

Our next Super Sunday Breakfast will take place on Sunday, March 2nd. The Knights of Columbus offer a delicious breakfast buffet including farm-fresh eggs, breakfast meats, potatoes, biscuits with sausage gravy, pancakes and beverages for just \$6 per person with a \$35 max per family. Please RSVP by February 26th by contacting the Parish Office or via Flocknote:

<https://beparish.flocknote.com/signup/198248>.

CEMETERY NEWS

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS REMOVAL

Prior to Ash Wednesday (March 5), all Christmas decorations will be removed from graves at Holy Cross Cemetery by members of our Cemetery Committee in preparation for spring and Easter. Should you wish to personally remove anything that you have placed on a loved one's grave, please do so in the near future. Thank you.

PARISH LEADERSHIP NEWS

HELP WANTED: PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

JOB DESCRIPTION: "To discern, with the authorization of the pastor, a set of pastoral goals for the parish, to assist with the implementation of these goals, and to evaluate existing programs and policies for their pastoral effectiveness." (*from the Parish Council constitution*)

WHEN: Elections held in May, 2025. Meetings are monthly 9 times a year (Sept - June) in the evening.

QUALIFICATIONS: Registered members of the parish at least 18 years of age who are fully initiated and practicing members of the Roman Catholic Church.

If you would like to be included on the ballot or to nominate someone for inclusion, please contact Lori in the Parish Office. A short bio and photo of each nominee will be required (samples will be provided).

SODALITY NEWS



The Blessed Virgin Mother Ladies' Sodality is sponsoring a "Love for Our Seminarians" collection throughout the month of February in honor of our two parish seminarians, Joe Lewis and Dylan Emerson. At the entrance of each church are boards which contain paper hearts listing items that would help support our seminarians in their vocation journey. You are encouraged to take a heart from the board, purchase the requested gift card, and then return the gift cards by the end of February. You may place them in an envelope marked "Love for Our Seminarians" and drop them in the collection basket at any Mass. Thank you for helping us to shower our seminarians with love and care.

CAROLINE COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

Senator Will Smith, chair of the Maryland Judicial Proceedings Committee, has regretfully introduced a bill to legalize physician assisted suicide (PAS) in Maryland. [Senate Bill 926](#), the "End of Life Option Act," currently is scheduled for a hearing by Smith's committee on March 5. Bishop Koenig and the Maryland Catholic Conference invite you take action and speak to your local representatives. Please visit the website www.mdcatholic.org for more information.

The Maryland Right-to-Life March is set for Thursday, March 27th in Annapolis. Our parish is procuring a bus to ride to Annapolis for this event. It will leave St. Benedict Church at 3:30 PM and return at approximately 9:00 PM. The bus is FREE of charge thanks to generous donations from the Knights of Columbus, Ladies Sodality, and Caroline County Right-To-Life Committee. If you would like to attend, please contact Tom Lough at upcycle1atatime@gmail.com or 443-996-3024. The bus will leave Ridgely at 3:30pm and travel to St. Mary's in Annapolis with a return by approximately 9pm. The bus holds 24 people.

PARISH & FAMILY LIFE

GREETING CARD MINISTRY

Our small group of volunteers plans to continue the ministry of sending cards each year for Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Easter. They also plan to send out cards when they hear about a sudden illness, unexpected hospitalization, or surgery for any of our parishioners. And, as a corporal work of mercy, they will send out "Thinking of You" cards and cards of encouragement to those who are in need. **Therefore, they are seeking donations of Get Well, Thinking of You, or cards of encouragement - those with uplifting scripture verses are most welcomed. They also ask for donations of prayer cards and/or uplifting bookmarks which they will include with the cards.** Handmade cards are welcome (please provide an envelope the size of your handmade card as well). Cards, prayer cards and bookmarks can be dropped off at the parish office anytime throughout the year. Or, you may contact Maria Poptanich at 302-725-7218 or serenity12@myyahoo.com to arrange for other drop off times/locations or if you would like to volunteer to assist in some way with these efforts. Please continue to remember those in need in our parish and keep in touch with those in your neighborhood during harsh times like snowstorms or local disasters. Thank you for your support ~ Maria Poptanich

AROUND THE DIOCESE/COMMUNITY

LISTEN TO THE CATHOLIC FORUM EACH WEEK. This week, Jessica Rodgers from the Patients' Rights Action Fund will discuss physician assisted suicide from a secular, non-partisan point of view. The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/DiocesefofWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoon at 1:30. More information is available at cdow.org/CatholicForum and FaceBook.com/CatholicForum.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Learn tools to revitalize romance and deepen communication in your marriage!!! No group sharing required. The next weekend is March 7-9, 2025 at the Brighton Suites in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. For information or to register visit our website <http://www.wwme.org> or call Tony and Linda Massino at 302-648-2228.