

ST. BENEDICT, RIDGELY**MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS****Saturday, November 29****4:00p.m. St. Elizabeth Church**

✠ E.J. Prudot

Sunday, November 30**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT****7:15a.m. St. Benedict Church**

✠ Marvin Breeding

8:30a.m. St. Benedict Church

✠ Francis Kinnamon

11:15a.m. St. Elizabeth Church

✠ Ken Flynn

Monday, December 1**NO MASS/CONFESSIONS****Tuesday, December 2****9:00a.m. St. Benedict Church**

✠ Donald Joseph Kempel

Wednesday, December 3**9:00a.m. St. Elizabeth Church**

✠ Mark Auman

6:00p.m. St. Elizabeth Church

Stirling Ward

Thursday, December 4**9:00a.m. St. Benedict Church**

John Breeding

Friday, December 5**FIRST FRIDAY****9:00a.m. St. Elizabeth Church**

Mark & Nancy Kerner

Saturday, December 6**FIRST SATURDAY****9:00a.m. St. Benedict Church**

✠ John A. Vogl

4:00p.m. St. Elizabeth Church

✠ Marvin Breeding

Sunday, December 7**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT****7:15a.m. St. Benedict Church**

✠ Betsy Wood

8:30a.m. St. Benedict Church

People of the Parish

11:15a.m. St. Elizabeth Church

✠ Kevin Flynn

NOTE: ✠ indicates a deceased person(s).

TABERNACLE LIGHT INTENTIONS**NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 5****St. Elizabeth Church**

Intentions of the Finnerin Family

St. Benedict Church

Intentions of the J. Breeding Family

www.beparish.com**ST. ELIZABETH, DENTON****REMEMBERING IN PRAYER**

Kathleen Green ~ Edie Crank ~ Butch Petroski ~ Michael Petroski ~ Mary Jo Clancy ~ Socorro McIntire ~ William R. Walton ~ Erica Redgraves ~ Martie Greco ~ Remi Michael Tedesco ~ Frances Vogt ~ Joan Mollick ~ John & Anne Rastelli ~ Olivia Wade ~ Nancy Sollers ~ Erica Jarman ~ Mike Babige ~ Mark Hartlage ~ Page Murphy ~ George Sebestyen ~ Todd Gross ~ Jeffrey Kinnamon ~ Dawn Auman ~ MaryJo Hathaway ~ Yvonne Liswell ~ Debbie Layton ~ Cindy Cummings ~ Keith & Maria Poptanich ~ Freddie Adams, Jr. ~ Steve Goff ~ Mary Ellen Black ~ Dick Palazzolo ~ Jack Houtz ~ Carla Moure ~ Pat Pasciak ~ Jim Flohr ~ Mary P. Epps ~ Nial Straley, Jr. ~ Barbara Thompson ~ Jackie Gammons ~ Kathryn Belmonte ~ Mickey Dickerson ~ The Flaherty Family ~ Kathryn Poll ~ Ann Cannon ~ Jonathan Freed ~ Yacintha Johnson ~ Kelley Van Ess ~ Nina Taylor ~ Sid Pinder ~ Judy Mogilewski ~ Doug League III & Family ~ David Jones ~ Mary Ann Jones ~ Deacon Hal Jopp ~ Gene Ingram ~ Laurie Thomas ~ Carrie Lang ~ Stirling Ward ~ Cheryl Harris ~ Chrissy Jackson ~ Joseph Wood, Jr. ~ Anne Jones ~ Jackie Poore ~ Rosemary Kinnamon ~ Amy Richter ~ Lisa Gardner ~ Peggy Finnerin ~ Sue Fleegle

Please pray for our parish and diocesan seminarians and those discerning a call to religious life: Joe Lewis ♦ Dylan Emerson ♦ Kaya Manizade ♦ James Kimmel ♦ Anthony Miranda ♦ Tibor Nagy ♦ Jakob Brown ♦ Sr. Amanda Marie de Jesus, LSP

Please pray for our members of the military who are serving both here and abroad: Capt. Joseph Remaniak, US Army, Ramstein AFB, Germany (Son of David & Teresa Remaniak) ~ Lt. Catherine Remaniak, Joint Base Lewis/McChord, Tacoma Washington, US Army (Daughter of David & Teresa Remaniak) ~ Sgt. Trevon Price, US Army, Killeen, TX (Son-in-law of Kevin & Lori Parks), Staff Sgt. Jacob Stevens, USAF, Shaw AFB, South Carolina (Son of Brenda & John Stevens), Sgt. Jack Finnerin, USMC (grandson of Peggy Finnerin) ~ Lt. Col. Eric J. Fleegle, USMC, North Carolina (Son of Steve & Sue Fleegle), Sgt. Alexander Davis, US Army, Ft. Hood, TX & PV2 Christopher Davis, US Army, Ft. Hood, TX (Sons of Sylvia Davis) ~ 2nd Lt. J. Aubrey Perry, US Army, Ft. Bragg, Fayetteville NC (Son of Carrie & Jim Perry)

LITURGY**ADVENT EVENING OF RECOLLECTION**

Mark your calendars for an Advent Evening of Recollection on Wednesday, December 10th. That evening, confessions and Adoration will take place at St. Benedict Church from 5:15-5:45p.m. followed by Mass at 6pm. After Mass, parishioner, Dr. Janyne Althaus, will make a special presentation in the hall with the theme, "Clearing Out the Clutter to Make Room for Happiness". All are invited and no RSVP is necessary.

FORMED ~ A GIFT FOR OUR PARISH

Last weekend during all Masses, information was provided to all parishioners about how to sign up for your own FREE account for FORMED, a comprehensive and beautiful Catholic app which includes videos, movies, podcasts, children's content and more. Need to sign up? Follow these easy steps:

- Go to formed.org/signup
- Search for our parish by Zip Code/ Postal Code. Click on our parish.
- Register with your name and email address
- Check that email account for a link to begin using Formed

NOVEMBER 29 & 30, 2025**PARISH & FAMILY LIFE****WE REMEMBER ✠ WE CELEBRATE ✠ WE BELIEVE**

We pray for the repose of the soul of parishioner, **Mrs. Joyce Ann Morris**, who died on November 20th. A funeral Mass will be celebrated for Mrs. Morris on Tuesday, December 2nd at 11:00a.m. at St. Elizabeth Church.

We also offer prayers for **Mrs. Patricia Whalen**, mother of parishioner, Mrs. Patricia Brown, who died on November 25th.

Please keep the Morris and Whalen/Brown families in your prayers.

BVM LADIES SODALITY NEWS

Join us for **Christmas Parish Palooza** on Sunday, December 14 from 8AM-1PM in the Parish Hall. The event will include a Cookie Sale, Parish Market, and Santa's Workshop at which children can purchase gifts for family members. The ladies are requesting items for the Parish Market (handmade items, new & gently used items, jams/jellies/relish/salsa, etc...). These items can be dropped off at the Parish Office or given to any Sodality member anytime. We also welcome donations of cookies of any kind. Cookies (and Parish Market items) can be dropped off at the Parish Office (8AM-4PM) or the Parish Hall (5PM-8PM) on Friday, December 12.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

As the weather turns colder outside, the classrooms can feel chilly, so please make sure your child(ren) brings a sweater, sweatshirt, or jacket just in case they get cold.

For the upcoming holiday season, there will be **NO Religious Ed classes on Sunday, November 30, 2025, (for the Thanksgiving break) or Sunday, December 28, 2025, (for the Christmas break)**. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 4, 2026, a Super Sunday, so enjoy a delicious breakfast by the Knights of Columbus before classes start at 10:00. As we keep moving forward, please continue to remember the importance of attending classes on a regular basis. More than four unexcused absences will require a meeting with Father Markellos. 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.

Friendly reminder: parents or guardians must still drop your child(ren) off to the classroom and pick up from the classroom for each class. If they will be going home with someone other than the parent or guardian, we will need a written note stating who they are going home with. We appreciate your cooperation with these new procedures.

DECEMBER SUPER SUNDAY

The Knights will host the December Super Sunday Breakfast next Sunday, December 7th. The delicious buffet breakfast includes scrambled eggs, breakfast meats, sausage gravy with biscuits, potatoes, pancakes and beverages. Cost is just \$6 per person with a \$35 max per family. RSVP via Flocknote or by contacting the parish office if you plan to attend.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**LIFE IN THE PARISH FAMILY****Sunday, November 30**

- Masses: 7:15a.m. & 8:30a.m. - St. Benedict Church & 11:15a.m. - St. Elizabeth Church
- NO RELIGIOUS ED/O.C.I.A. CLASSES

Monday, December 1

- NO MASS/CONFESSIONS

Tuesday, December 2

- Confessions - 8:15-8:45a.m.; Rosary-8:30a.m.; Mass- 9am - St. Benedict Church
- Adoration - 9:30a.m.-10:30a.m. - St. Benedict Church

- Joyce Morris Funeral Mass - 11a.m. - St. Elizabeth Church

- First Reconciliation Prep Gathering - 6:15p.m. - Parish Hall

- BVM Ladies' Sodality Meeting - 7pm - Family Life Center Great Room

Wednesday, December 3

- Confessions - 8:15-8:45a.m.; Rosary-8:30a.m.; Mass- 9am - St. Elizabeth Church
- Intercessory Prayer Group - 9:30a.m. - St. Elizabeth Church

- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions - 5:15-5:45p.m./Mass - 6pm - St. Elizabeth Church

- Knights of Columbus Meeting - 7pm - Hall

Thursday, December 4

- Confessions - 8:15-8:45a.m.; Rosary-8:30a.m.; Mass- 9am - St. Benedict Church

- Adult Bible Study - 9:30a.m. - FLC Resource Room

- Three Hearts Homeschool Classes - 9:30a.m. - 1:00p.m. - Parish Hall/Great Room

Friday, December 5 ~ FIRST FRIDAY

- Confessions - 8:15-8:45a.m.; Rosary-8:30a.m.; Mass- 9am - St. Elizabeth Church

- Sodality Gathering - 6:00-8:30p.m. - Parish Hall

Saturday, December 6 ~ FIRST SATURDAY

- First Saturday Mass - 9am - St. Benedict Church (Confessions from 8:15-8:45a.m.)

- First Penance Celebration - 10:30a.m. - St. Benedict Church

- Regnum Christi Retreat Group - 8am-Noon - Parish Hall

- Knights collecting items for Little Sisters of the Poor prior to Mass

- First Saturday Rosary - 3:30p.m. - St. Elizabeth

- Confessions - 3:00-3:45p.m./Mass - 4:00p.m. - St. Elizabeth Church

- Youth Ministry St. Nicholas Celebration - 6:00-8:30p.m. - Parish Hall

Sunday, December 7

- 2nd Collection - Retirement Fund for Religious
- Knights collecting items for Little Sisters of the Poor prior to all Masses

- Masses: 7:15a.m. & 8:30a.m. - St. Benedict Church & 11:15a.m. - St. Elizabeth Church

- Super Sunday Breakfast after 7:15 & 8:30a.m. Masses - Parish Hall

- Rel Ed/O.C.I.A. Classes - 10:00-10:45a.m.



“It is the hour
now for you
to awake
from sleep.”

(Rom 13:11)

November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

Is 2:1-5 | Rom 13:11-14 | Mt 24:37-44

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

For many in the upper latitudes of the northern hemisphere, this is the darkest time of the year, the time when the duration of daylight is at its lowest. It's providential, then, that our first reading calls us to “walk in the light of the Lord!” Paul tells us that we do this by “throw[ing] off the works of darkness” and “put[ing] on the armor of light.” While we might not struggle with the vices listed in Paul's Letter to the Romans, each of us has our own struggles against sin. As we begin this Advent season, let us take time to do a thorough examination of conscience to discern areas of weakness and sin – those “works of darkness” Paul talks about – in our own lives. Then, consider taking up practices that help you to foster the opposing virtues to arm yourself against these temptations. As you grow in these virtues, you'll certainly be on your way up the mountain of the Lord and walking in his light!

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today's Gospel calls us to vigilance. Jesus tells us, “Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” While he is speaking about our need to be ready to meet the Lord when he comes at the end of our lives, it's also an invitation for us to always be ready to share our faith with others whenever the opportunity presents itself. As Scripture says, we should “always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you a reason for your hope.” (1 Pet 3:15) We never know the moment when someone will come to us in need of prayer, a word of encouragement, or with questions related to their own spiritual hunger. We must always be ready to meet them where they are and offer a word of hope.

PRAY

Take a moment to pray this week for those “divine appointments” – those individuals who might come your way – seeking encouragement or insight into the spiritual questions in their lives. Ask for the grace to be “awake” so that you're ready to meet them when they come. We can't always predict when these encounters will happen, but we can prepare ourselves to receive these persons as Christ and offer them our full attention and love.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT OF STEWARDSHIP
BACK TO THE LORD**

FOR NOVEMBER 22 & 23, 2025

Offertory Giving @ Masses \$ 3,034.00
Poor Box \$ 252.00



YEAR-TO-DATE OFFERTORY (Week 21 of 52)
Actual Offertory \$ 112,581.95
Average Weekly Offertory \$ 5,361.05

2026 CALENDARS

As we soon prepare to welcome a New Year, 2026 calendars (available in two styles) will soon be available at the entrance of both churches. We thank The Sewing Outlet (Joe & Paula Amalfitano and Family) and Moore Funeral Home in Denton for their sponsorship of the calendars. The parish bears no cost for the printing of the calendars thanks to their generosity. Please feel free to take more than one calendar.

The **Retirement Fund for Religious collection** will take place on the weekend of December 13/14. In 2024, Catholics across the Diocese of Wilmington contributed \$129,873.49 to the collection. From the collection, the Capuchin Poor Clare Nuns; Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary; Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales; and Oblates of St. Francis de Sales received a combined total of \$322,892.56 in financial assistance. Rising health-care costs and the absence of traditional retirement plans have placed significant financial strain on many religious communities. The Retirement Fund for Religious helps address this need, supporting more than 21,000 religious over the age of 70. In 2024, the average annual cost of care was about \$56,600 per person, with skilled nursing care averaging \$96,000.



CAROLINE COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE/RESPECT LIFE NEWS

Caroline County Right to Life will have their next meeting January 20, 2026 at 6:30pm in the parish hall. Contact Tom Lough at upcycle1atatime@gmail.com or Anne Fountain at anne@annepaul.com for more information. Get involved by becoming a member. Join us on the National March for Life in D.C. on January 23rd and the Maryland March for Life in Annapolis on March 16th. Fast and pray for all to respect the dignity and value of human life - no matter what the age or condition.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR COLLECTION

The Knights will be collecting items and donations in support of the Little Sisters of the Poor on the weekends of December 6 & 7 and December 13 & 14 prior to all Masses. Please see the special insert on the [parish website](#) for a list of requested items.

SOUP FOR SEMINARIANS

The Knights are sponsoring a Soup for Seminarians sale. From November 24 - December 21, orders for soup and chicken salad will be accepted through the collection basket at any Mass and through the Parish Office. See the Order Form on the [parish website](#) or pick one up at the parish office. Orders will be prepared and ready for pick-up at our January Super Sunday on January 4th between 8am-Noon. All proceeds will benefit our parish seminarians, Joe Lewis and Dylan Emerson as well as Sr. Amanda Marie de Jesus, I.s.p.

ANNUAL "COATS FOR THE COLD" COLLECTION

The St. Joan of Arc Knights of Columbus will be collecting new and gently used winter coats as well as new hats, gloves and socks throughout November, December, January, and February for distribution to anyone needing these items, parishioner or non-parishioner alike. (Please, NO donations of clothing other than coats.) Donation boxes can be found in the back of St. Elizabeth Church and in the Parish Hall.

AROUND THE DIOCESE/COMMUNITY

QUEEN ANNE CHORALE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Queen Anne's Chorale is having its December 2025 concert and is once again performing at the Todd Performing Arts Center at Chesapeake College (TPAC) for one performance only, "A Classic Christmas", on Sunday, December 7th at 3 p.m. The concert features beautiful Christmas pieces including John Rutter's, "Angel's Carol", "And the Glory of the Lord" from Handel's Messiah, "Breath of Heaven-Mary's Song" from the Lloyd Larson Choral series along with many Christmas favorite audience sing-alongs. The ticket price is \$27.30 per adult; students ages 13-18 are \$16.80 (ticket prices include the TPAC fee) and children up to age 13 are FREE (when accompanied by a paid adult admission). To purchase tickets, please visit www.qachorale.org. Our fellow parishioner, Sharon Balling, a long-time member of the Chorale, wishes to thank you for your past support. She is looking forward to seeing you at the December concert. Questions? Contact Sharon at 410-897-7663.

AROUND THE DIOCESE/COMMUNITY

LISTEN TO THE CATHOLIC FORUM EACH WEEK.

This week, Diocese of Wilmington Delegate for Religious, Sister Ann David Strohming, OSF, will be the guest. 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](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicForum).

YOU ARE INVITED...

to the Aaron's Place Workforce Development Training Series, designed to strengthen essential professional and interpersonal skills in a supportive, interactive environment. From December 2025 through June 2026, Aaron's Place will host monthly 90-minute workshops at 401 B, [401 Aldersgate Dr, Denton, MD](https://www.google.com/maps/place/401+B+Aldersgate+Dr,+Denton,+MD). Each session focuses on a key area of professional growth including business etiquette, communication, digital professionalism, personal branding, and productivity to help participants enhance workplace readiness and confidence.

Here's a quick look at the upcoming sessions:

- Dec 2, 2025: *Mastering the Art of Business Etiquette*
- Jan 6, 2026: *Speak with Impact: The Power of Verbal Communication*
- Feb 3, 2026: *Digital Professionalism: Navigating Online Etiquette*
- Mar 3, 2026: *Brand Yourself: Dressing for Success*
- Apr 7, 2026: *Write It Right: Polishing Your Professional Communication*
- May 19, 2026: *Unleash Your Strengths: Maximizing Your Natural Qualities*
- Jun 2, 2026: *Own Your Time: Strategies for Smart Productivity*

Each class accommodates 2-15 participants and provides hands-on activities, discussion, and practical takeaways for professional success. If you would like to enroll, visit <https://forms.gle/ctnLRgdc314rkYxD9> or contact the St. Benedict Parish Office.

SUPPORTING HIS HOPE MINISTRIES HOMELESS SHELTER

As temperatures drop, His Hope Ministries Homeless Shelter is preparing to serve more individuals and families than ever before. Right now, they are asking for support of their Winter-Ready Giving effort through donations of essential items to keep their guests safe, clean, and comfortable through the winter months. You can help by donating any of the following:

- ◆ Hygiene kits and toiletries
- ◆ Warm socks, gloves, and blankets
- ◆ Household items like paper towels and detergent
- ◆ Non-perishable food items and bottled water
- ◆ Gift cards for gas, groceries, or personal needs

You can drop off items at the shelter (409 Aldersgate Drive, Denton) or at the His Hope Ministries office (105 Gay Street, Denton) or call our team to coordinate delivery (443-448-7297). Want to help in other ways? Many of our volunteers pack meals, organize drives, or help distribute supplies to those who need them most. Learn more and sign up to help: <https://lnkd.in/e-eWiCaC>.

Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage

In 2026, the programs will be held **February 6-8, July 31 - August 2**, and **October 21-23**, at the Malvern Retreat Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit MarriageHeldDeVal.org or call 215-766-3944. All inquiries are strictly confidential. 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.