

ST. BENEDICT, RIDGELY**MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS****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

Monday, December 8**FEAST of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION****9:00a.m. St. Elizabeth Church**

Brett & Pam Carmean and Family

6:00p.m. St. Benedict Church

✠ Richard Sawyers

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

✠ Jim Baker

Wednesday, December 10**9:00a.m. St. Elizabeth Church**

✠ Wayne Morrill

6:00p.m. ST. BENEDICT CHURCH

The McCullough Family

Thursday, December 11**9:00a.m. St. Benedict Church**

Eric & Sandra Silva

Friday, December 12**9:00a.m. St. Elizabeth Church**

Rev. Christopher R. Coffey

Saturday, December 13**4:00p.m. St. Elizabeth Church**

✠ Susie Booze

Sunday, December 14**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT****7:15a.m. St. Benedict Church**

People of the Parish

8:30a.m. St. Benedict Church

✠ Francis Donald Kempel

11:15a.m. St. Elizabeth Church

✠ Ken Flynn

NOTE: ✠ indicates a deceased person(s).

TABERNACLE LIGHT INTENTIONS**DECEMBER 6 - DECEMBER 19****St. Elizabeth Church**

In Memory of Eugene Higgs

St. Benedict Church

In Thanksgiving for Prayers

offered for Gene Ingram

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 ~ 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 ~ Amy Richter ~ Lisa Gardner ~ Peggy Finnerin ~ Sue Fleegle ~ Tolbert Rowe ~ Jeannette Radtke

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**MASSES for the FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Monday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and a holy day of obligation. Masses will be celebrated at 9:00a.m. at St. Elizabeth Church and 6:00p.m. at St. Benedict Church. There will be NO confessions prior to either Mass.

**ADVENT EVENING OF RECOLLECTION**

Mark your calendars for our Advent Evening of Recollection which will take place this 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.

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY ... The Italian word "bambinelli translates to "Baby Jesus" in English and the 3rd Sunday of Advent is traditionally Bambinelli Sunday in Italy. So, bring the Baby Jesus from your home Nativity scene to church with you on the weekend of December 13 & 14 for a special blessing during Mass.

DECEMBER 6 & 7, 2025**CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

As the weather is now 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, 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.

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.

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.

2026 PARISH 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.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT****LIFE IN THE PARISH FAMILY****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.

Monday, December 8**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

- Masses: 9:00a.m. - St. Elizabeth Church and 6:00p.m. - St. Benedict Church

Tuesday, December 9

- 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
- Finance Council Meeting - 7pm - FLC Finance Ofc.

Wednesday, December 10

- Confessions - 8:15-8:45a.m.; Rosary-8:30a.m.; Mass- 9am - St. Elizabeth Church
- Intercessory Prayer Group - 9:30a.m. St. Elizabeth Church
- Advent Evening of Recollection: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions - 5:15-5:45p.m at St. Benedict Church; Mass - 6pm - St. Benedict Church; Presentation and Refreshments in hall after Mass

- Knights of Columbus Meeting - 7pm - Hall

Thursday, December 11

- 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 12

- 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 13

- COR Men's Faith & Fellowship Gathering - 7am - Parish Hall
- Benedictine Oblate Gathering - 9am-1pm - FLC Resource Room
- Knights collecting items for Little Sisters of the Poor prior to Mass
- Confessions - 3:00-3:45p.m./Mass - 4:00p.m. - St. Elizabeth Church

Sunday, December 14

- 2nd Collection - Christmas Flowers
- 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
- Christmas Parish Palooza Event sponsored by Ladies' Sodality - 8am-1pm - Parish Hall
- Rel Ed/O.C.I.A. Classes - 9:40-10:45a.m.

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 11:1-10 | Rom 15:4-9 | Mt 3:1-12

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

Today's Gospel is a challenging one, inviting us to consider how much spiritual fruit we are bearing in our lives. St. John the Baptist tells us, "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance," reminding us that the depth of our conversion will be measured by our fruit. Speaking to the Pharisees and Sadducees, John says it is not enough to say that "We have Abraham as our father." If he were speaking today, John might put it this way: it's not enough to say "I'm Catholic!" or "I belong to X Parish." Our lives must show outward evidence of the inward conversion we have undergone. The good news for us today is that we can pause and take stock of how well we are bearing spiritual fruit. Pay attention to what areas might need pruning or fertilizing to ensure that when we come to the Lord's threshing floor at the end of our lives, there is a bountiful harvest he can gather into his barn.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Our first reading gives us a glimpse of God's kingdom: The Son of David will rule with wisdom, understanding, counsel, and knowledge, judging "the poor with justice" and striking "the ruthless with the rod of his mouth." In his kingdom "the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb" and yet "there shall be no harm or ruin." What a poetic way of describing the harmony and wholeness that God longs for in society! As disciples, this is our mission. We're called to work so that God's kingdom vision can become reality. As we work for peace and justice, we're doing our part in the Church's work of evangelization. As the U.S. bishops reminded us in their letter *Communities of Salt and Light*, "social justice is an integral part of evangelization, a constitutive dimension of preaching the Gospel, and an essential part of the Church's mission."

REFLECT

In the Gospel, John the Baptist says of Jesus, "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Our ability to bear spiritual fruit comes from the power of the Holy Spirit within us. Take a moment to reflect on where you see the gifts (see the first reading from Isaiah!) and fruits of the Holy Spirit in your life. How might the Spirit of God be working to increase your spiritual fruitfulness this Advent?



[JESUS] WILL
BAPTIZE YOU WITH
THE HOLY SPIRIT
AND FIRE.

(MT 3:11)

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

FOR NOVEMBER 29 & 30, 2025

Offertory Giving @ Masses	\$ 2,049.00
Online Giving via Flocknote for November	\$ 7,040.00
Poor Box	\$ 217.00



YEAR-TO-DATE OFFERTORY (Week 22 of 52)	
Actual Offertory	\$ 121,670.95
Average Weekly Offertory	\$ 5,530.50

The **Retirement Fund for Religious collection** will take place on the weekend of December 13/14. They gave their lives in service - now they need your help. For decades, women and men religious have cared for others, teaching, praying, and serving those in need. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your support ensures they receive the care they deserve. Let us now offer them the dignity they have so selflessly granted to others. Your generosity is not just a donation - it's a way of thanking them for their lifelong service.

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 prior to all Masses on December 13 & 14. 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 in today's bulletin, 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

FROM THE DIALOG: To our readers and advertisers. The Dialog publishes two more editions in 2025. The only edition in December publishes Dec. 12. The Dialog will not publish a print edition Dec. 26. As always, we will be regularly updating our website, TheDialog.org, on daily basis through the holiday season. The Dialog returns to print Friday, Jan. 9, 2026.

LISTEN TO THE CATHOLIC FORUM EACH WEEK.

This week, local author, Mike McGrew will discuss his picture book titled, "The Boy Who Would Be Santa". The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/DiocesefWilm 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).

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 MarriageHeldDelVal.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.