

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

Monday, December 15

NO MASS/CONFESSIONS

Tuesday, December 16**9:00a.m. St. Benedict Church**

✦ Al McCullough

Wednesday, December 17**9:00a.m. St. Elizabeth Church**

✦ Timothy Thurber

6:00p.m. St. Elizabeth Church

John & Lora Breeding

Thursday, December 18**9:00a.m. St. Benedict Church**

✦ John Crouse

Friday, December 19**9:00a.m. St. Elizabeth Church**

✦ Mike Campbell

Saturday, December 20**4:00p.m. St. Elizabeth Church**

✦ Virginia Blades

Sunday, December 21**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT****7:15a.m. St. Benedict Church**

✦ Mary Westrick

8:30a.m. St. Benedict Church

Julia & Justin Medrano and Family

11:15a.m. St. Elizabeth Church

People of the Parish

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

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**CHRISTMAS & HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE****CHRISTMAS EVE (NO 9am Morning Mass)**

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

4:00p.m. - St. Benedict Church, Ridgely

7:00p.m. - St. Elizabeth Church, Denton

Midnight Mass - St. Benedict Church, Ridgely

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

Thursday, December 25, 2025

10:00a.m. - St. Elizabeth Church, Denton

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday, December 31, 2025 (Vigil Mass)

6:00p.m. - St. Elizabeth Church, Denton

Thursday, January 1, 2026

9:00a.m. - St. Benedict Church, Ridgely

(NOTE: There will be no confessions prior to holy day Masses.)

The Parish Office will be closed on December 24th through December 26th and December 31st through January 2nd.

DECEMBER 13 & 14, 2025**BVM LADIES SODALITY NEWS**

Join us for **Christmas Parish Palooza** THIS 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.

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 3 & 4 in the sacristy after all masses. Current trustees are: **St. Elizabeth: Paul Fountain and Beth McCullough and St. Benedict: Steve Fleegle and Kenny King.** 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.

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.

PARISH & FAMILY LIFE

WE REMEMBER ✦ WE CELEBRATE ✦ WE BELIEVE BAPTISMS



Brian Ladislav Bashtarz, son of Thomas & Carolann Bashtarz, was baptized last weekend. We celebrate the beginning of a life of faith for Brian as he 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.

CAROLING AT LOCAL NURSING HOMES

'Tis the season to spread joy and love, so make plans to join us on Saturday, December 20th to sing carols to the residents at two local nursing homes in Denton, Eden Green and Denton Nursing & Rehab. Our group plans to gather in the parking lot at Eden Green (410 Colonial Drive, Denton) at 1:45p.m. and we will start caroling inside the nursing home at 2pm. Songbooks will be provided. Bring a plate of cookies to share if you'd like. Contact Carm Powell at 410-200-1346 or carpowell@gmail.com with questions or for more information.

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

Monday, December 15

- NO MASS/CONFESSIONS

Tuesday, December 16

- 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
- Advent Penance Service - 7pm - Saints Peter & Paul Church, Easton MD

Wednesday, December 17

- 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

Thursday, December 18

- 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
- Remaniak Baptism - 4-6pm - St. Benedict Church

Friday, December 19

- Confessions - 8:15-8:45a.m.; Rosary-8:30a.m.; Mass- 9am - St. Elizabeth Church
- Private Event - 11am - Noon - St. Benedict Church
- Knights & Sodality Christmas Party - 6-8pm - Parish Hall

Saturday, December 20

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

Sunday, December 21

- 2nd Collection - Building & Maintenance
- Masses: 7:15a.m. & 8:30a.m. - St. Benedict Church & 11:15a.m. - St. Elizabeth Church
- Hospitality offered by Ladies' Sodality - 9:30-10:30a.m. - Parish Hall
- Rel Ed/O.C.I.A. Classes - 9:40-10:45a.m.
- Confirmation Prep Class - 10:45-11:15a.m.

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10 | Jas 5:7-10 | Mt 11:2-11

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

One morning, I woke up feeling exhausted after a fitful night of sleep. I was achy and generally under the weather. Despite this, I made a to-do list because the day's work still needed to be accomplished. I was determined to not let this sickness interrupt my productivity, even though I *knew* I needed to rest. It occurred to me, then, that rest — and dependence on others and God — is sacred also. In today's psalm, we hear of the many ways the Lord provides: The *Lord* gives, the *Lord* raises, the *Lord* loves, the *Lord* protects, the *Lord* saves. We cannot accomplish our own salvation, but we can rest in the promise the Lord provides, and we can hope in the salvation offered in Christ. As we wait in joyful anticipation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, let us find time to rest in his Word and his presence, trusting that our salvation does not depend on us and has already come to fruition in Christ.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As we saw in our psalm, God is the one who takes initiative, who provides for our salvation. In our work to share the faith with others, sometimes our task is simply to help others become aware of the ways God is providing for them by pointing out the signs of his action in their lives. When the disciples of John came to Jesus asking if he was “the one who is to come” or whether they should “look for another,” Jesus reminds them of the evidence all around them: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised. As we help others to see God's work in their lives, we are also leading them to greater faith and trust in him.

REST

We are more able to see the signs of God's providence in our lives when we take time to reflect. Make time to rest in God's presence this week. This could mean stopping into a chapel for a couple minutes of quiet prayer, reflecting on Scripture using *Lectio Divina*, or reading the story of Christ's nativity in the Gospel. These simple practices will prepare our hearts to recognize Christ's presence and goodness at each moment of our lives.

“Lord,
come and
save us.”

(Ps 146)

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

FOR DECEMBER 6 & 7, 2025

Offertory Giving @ Masses	\$ 6,710.21
Religious Retirement	\$ 580.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 365.00
Poor Box	\$ 412.00



YEAR-TO-DATE OFFERTORY (Week 23 of 52)

Actual Offertory	\$ 128,381.16
Average Weekly Offertory	\$ 5,581.79

2026 PARISH CALENDARS

2026 calendars (in two styles) are now available at the entrance of both churches. We thank **The Sewing Outlet (Joe & Paula Amalfitano and Family)** and **Moore Funeral Home** 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.

PARISH INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

WEEKDAYS: Weather conditions permitting, Fr. Markellos will celebrate daily Masses at their set times and locations. However, please use your best judgement and exercise appropriate caution when considering whether or not you should attend Mass. Please do not take unnecessary risks or put yourself in danger. Cancellation of daily Masses, meetings and events will be made on a case-by-case basis.

WEEKENDS: Pastor and parish staff will make determinations regarding Mass, Religious Ed and parish event cancellations based on road conditions.

Any closures or cancellations (weekdays and/or weekends) will be communicated via:

- **Parish Website:** www.beparish.com/inclement-weather-information **AND**
- **A notification will be sent out via Flocknote** (To sign up for Flocknote, visit: <https://beparish.flocknote.com/>)

If I miss Mass due to inclement weather, do I need to go to Confession?

No. Missing Mass (not meeting your Sunday obligation) due to inclement or dangerous weather is not a sin as the circumstances related to your missing Mass are beyond your control. You are not deliberately choosing not to go to Mass because you are too lazy or simply don't feel like it.

CAROLINE COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE/RESPECT LIFE NEWS



A thought to ponder during Advent: John the Baptist leaped for joy in Elizabeth's womb when Mary, who was pregnant with Jesus, greeted her. What does this event tell us about the value of human life in the womb? 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

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, Catholic country music singer and songwriter, Bradley Banning will be the guest and perform his original Christmas song. 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).

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>.

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

You are invited to the Festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 14 at 3:00 PM at the beautiful and historic Cathedral of St. Peter. The Cathedral of St. Peter, 6th and West Streets, Wilmington, DE will present a Festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 14 at 3PM. The concert will feature scriptures, choral music, and congregational hymns performed live and live-streamed by the choirs of the Cathedral and St. Patrick's Church. (302-654-5920) • <https://www.youtube.com/DowntownCatholic>

FIRST CLASS RELIC OF ST. MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA

All are invited to a very special event - Veneration of a First Class Relic of Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Join us on Sunday, December 14, 2025, at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, 800 West Lea Blvd., Wilmington, Delaware. A presentation by Fr. Brian Kolodiejcuk, Postulator of the Cause for Canonization for Mother Teresa will begin at 11:30 a.m. followed by veneration of her first-class relic. Come early for the Divine Liturgy beginning at 10:00 a.m.

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.