

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

Monday, December 22

NO MASS/CONFESSIONS

Tuesday, December 23**9:00a.m. St. Benedict Church**

✠ Dan Finnerin

11:00a.m. St. Benedict Church

Memorial Mass for Raymond McGlynn, Jr.

Wednesday, December 24**CHRISTMAS EVE****4:00p.m. St. Benedict Church**

People of the Parish

7:00p.m. St. Elizabeth Church

People of the Parish

Midnight St. Benedict Church

People of the Parish

Thursday, December 25**CHRISTMAS DAY****10:00a.m. St. Elizabeth Church**

People of the Parish

Friday, December 26**9:00a.m. St. Elizabeth Church**

NO MASS/CONFESSIONS

Saturday, December 27**4:00p.m. St. Elizabeth Church**

People of the Parish

Sunday, December 28**THE HOLY FAMILY OF****JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH****7:15a.m. St. Benedict Church**

Carlos & Mandy Pita and Family

8:30a.m. St. Benedict Church

✠ Francis Kinnamon

11:15a.m. St. Elizabeth Church

✠ Dan Finnerin

NOTE: ✠ indicates a deceased person(s).

TABERNACLE LIGHT INTENTIONS**DECEMBER 20 - JANUARY 2****St. Elizabeth Church**

Intentions of John Werner

St. Benedict Church

In Memory of Martin & Grace Kibler

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 ~ Rene Floyd

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 20 & 21, 2025****BVM LADIES SODALITY NEWS**

RE-SCHEDULED DUE TO SNOW: Join us for Christmas Parish Palooza THIS SUNDAY, December 21 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. Breakfast sandwiches will also be on sale.

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

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**

Congratulations to parishioners, Mike & Mary Redgraves, on the arrival of their first grandchild, **Greyson Harry Redgraves.** Greyson is the son of Chris & Erica Redgraves. He was born on December 9th and weighed 7lbs, 7oz.

Leo Pasciak, son of Leo Pasciak and Samantha Brittingham and grandson of David & Ruth Pasciak, was baptized last weekend. We celebrate the beginning of a life of faith for Leo 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.

We pray for the repose of the soul of parishioner, **Mr. Mike Porter**, who died on December 14th. Please keep him and his family in your prayers in the days ahead. A funeral Mass was celebrated for Mike on Saturday, December 20th at 11am at St. Benedict Church.

CAROLING AT LOCAL NURSING HOMES

'Tis the season to spread joy and love, so make plans to join us this 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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**LIFE IN THE PARISH FAMILY****Sunday, December 21**

- 2nd Collection - Building & Maintenance
- Masses: 7:15a.m. & 8:30a.m. - St. Benedict Church & 11:15a.m. - St. Elizabeth Church
- Christmas Parish Palooza sponsored by Ladies' Sodality - 8am - 1pm - Parish Hall
- Rel Ed/O.C.I.A. Classes - 9:40-10:45a.m.
- Confirmation Prep Class - 10:45-11:15a.m.

Monday, December 22

- NO MASS/CONFESSIONS

Tuesday, December 23

- 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
- Memorial Mass for Raymond McGlynn, Jr. - 11am - St. Benedict Church

Wednesday, December 24 ~ CHRISTMAS EVE

- Parish Office Closed
- Masses:
 - 4:00p.m. - St. Benedict Church
 - 7:00p.m. - St. Elizabeth Church
 - Midnight - St. Benedict Church

Thursday, December 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

- Parish Office Closed
- Mass - 10:00a.m - St. Elizabeth Church

Friday, December 26

- Parish Office Closed
- NO MASS/CONFESSIONS

Saturday, December 27

- Confessions - 3:00-3:45p.m./Mass - 4:00p.m. - St. Elizabeth Church
- Annual Financial Report at Mass

Sunday, December 28

- 2nd Collection - Poor Box Support
- Masses: 7:15a.m. & 8:30a.m. - St. Benedict Church & 11:15a.m. - St. Elizabeth Church
- NO Religious Ed/O.C.I.A. Classes
- Annual Financial Report at all Masses



December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14 | Rom 1:1-7 | Mt 1:18-24

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

Throughout my life, I have had a litany of requests for God. I have asked for mundane and ultimately inconsequential favors and also for guidance in much more important matters. But I have often hesitated to ask for the deepest desires of my heart. Those requests feel too big, too impossible, and possibly too selfish — as though asking these things would take away from God’s ability to provide for others. But in thinking this way, I am putting limits on a limitless God. In today’s first reading, the Lord speaks to Ahaz and tells him to ask for a sign — “let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky!” When Ahaz refuses, God speaks through the prophet Isaiah to deliver the most impossible promise — that “the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.” God wants to give us everything we need to be close to him, so much so that he sent his Son to open the pathway to eternal life with him. God *wants* us to ask for him to do the impossible because he longs to give generously to us.

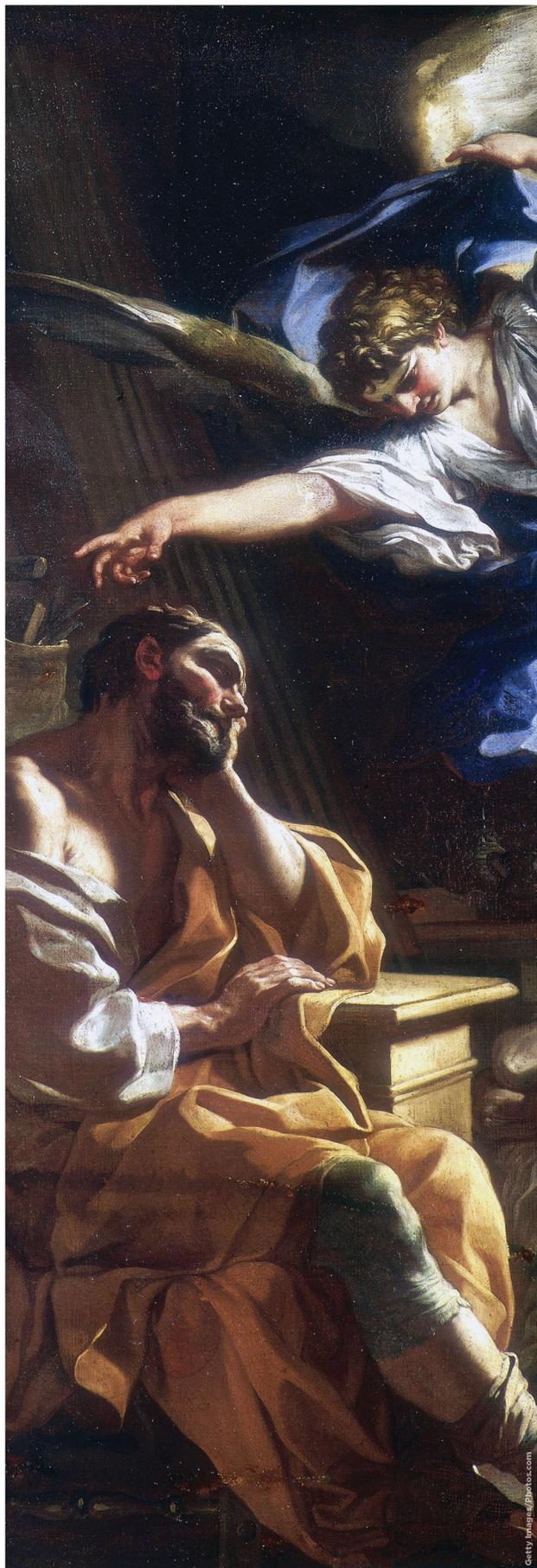
GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

God brings about his plan of salvation in an extraordinary way: The virgin Mary conceives Jesus in her womb through the power of the Holy Spirit. Although God does all the spiritual heavy lifting here, notice that our Gospel tells us that he also desired and asked for Joseph’s cooperation. “Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home,” the angel tells Joseph. The Gospel tells us that Joseph “did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.” In our work of evangelization, God does the heavy lifting: it’s God who moves the hearts of others to seek him. But the amazing thing is that God still wants us to be part of the way his plan unfolds. We, too, cooperate with God’s work of sharing the faith and bringing salvation to others by our actions and obedience.

PRAY

As we begin this final week of Advent, the Church continues to pray with the O Antiphons, which we hear in the hymn, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.” Listen to the refrain, which speaks of Israel’s immense longing to be set free and for her savior to appear. As you reflect on the first reading and upon this hymn, bring your own deepest desires to the Lord. Spend some time in prayer asking for what you need to draw closer to God.



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

FOR DECEMBER 13 & 14, 2025

Offertory Giving @ Masses	\$ 2,007.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 721.00
Poor Box	\$ 222.00



YEAR-TO-DATE OFFERTORY (Week 24 of 52)	
Actual Offertory	\$ 130,388.16
Average Weekly Offertory	\$ 5,432.84

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 forecasted weather and/or actual 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.

Faith & Charity Appeal: Together in Hope

As we celebrate the blessings of this past year and look ahead with hope, please consider making an end-of-year gift to the 2025 Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal. Your gift supports more than 40 ministries across the Diocese of Wilmington—ministries that nurture faith, serve families in need, care for the poor, educate young people, and strengthen parish life throughout Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore. Every contribution—no matter the amount—makes a difference and helps our parish reach its goal. Gifts made through January 6, 2026 will count toward our 2025 Appeal total. Together, we are one body in Christ, united in hope and love. To make a secure gift online, visit www.cdw.org/giving.

CAROLINE COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE/RESPECT LIFE NEWS



Need a last minute Christmas gift? Consider a donation to a pro-life organization in honor or memory of someone. Here are a few: And Then There Were None, (a ministry designed to assist abortion clinic workers in transitioning out of the industry); Students for Life (supports pro-life work on high school and college campuses); Maryland Right to Life; March for Life; Choices Pregnancy Center in Easton, and, of course, Caroline County Right to Life....just to name a few. Wishing us all Peace on Earth. Next meeting is January 20th at 6:30 pm.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

SOUP FOR SEMINARIANS

The Knights are sponsoring a Soup for Seminarians sale. From November 24 - December 28, 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

LISTEN TO THE CATHOLIC FORUM EACH WEEK.

Tune-in this week for the annual Catholic Forum Christmas show featuring Bishop Koenig's Christmas message to the people of the Diocese of Wilmington and an exclusive report from Rome with EWTN's Boglarka Sztancs! 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.

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 begins the weekend of February 6-8, 2026 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, call 215-766-3944 or visit www.MarriageHelpDeVal.org. All inquiries are strictly confidential.