

ST. BENEDICT, RIDGELY**MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS****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**Monday, December 29**

NO MASS/CONFESSIONS

Tuesday, December 30**9:00a.m. St. Benedict Church**
✠ Rick Middleton**Wednesday, December 31****9:00a.m. St. Elizabeth Church**
✠ Mike Campbell**6:00p.m. St. Elizabeth Church**
Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary (HDO)

✠ John A. Vogl

Thursday, January 1, 2026**SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD****9:00a.m. St. Benedict Church**
✠ Yvonne Wildanger**Friday, January 2****9:00a.m. St. Elizabeth Church**
✠ Al McCullough**Saturday, January 3****9:00a.m. St. Benedict Church**
FIRST SATURDAY MASS

✠ Holy Souls in Purgatory

4:00p.m. St. Elizabeth Church
People of the Parish**Sunday, January 4****THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**
7:15a.m. St. Benedict Church

✠ Emma MacMannis

8:30a.m. St. Benedict Church
✠ Cathy Alder**11:15a.m. St. Elizabeth Church**

For Widows & Widowers

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**HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE****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 Dec 31st through Jan 2nd.**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.

DECEMBER 27 & 28, 2025**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.

**JANUARY SUPER SUNDAY and
SOUP FOR SEMINARIANS**

Next Sunday, January 4th, is Super Sunday. The Knights will be offering their delicious buffet breakfast for just \$6 per person (\$30 max per family) which includes scrambled eggs, breakfast meats, sausage gravy and biscuits, potatoes, pancakes, and beverages. Visit <https://beparish.flocknote.com/signup/238150> to sign up or contact the Parish Office. And, anyone who placed orders for the Soup for Seminarians fundraiser sponsored by the Knights is reminded to pick up their soups and/or chicken salad between 8am and Noon that day.

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

Congratulations to parishioners, Mike & Marie Smithmyer, on the arrival of their first grandchild, **Sawyer Jane Smithmyer**. Sawyer is the daughter of Luke & Morgan Smithmyer. She was born on December 17th and weighed 8lbs.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY...

We recently received thank you notes in the mail from N.U.T.S. and Martin's Barn:

Dear St. Benedict/St. Elizabeth Parish,

On behalf of Neighbors United to Serve (NUTS), we wish to thank you for your financial donation that will benefit our 2025 Thanksgiving Day Meal distribution. With your generosity and other members of the community, we provided 1,000 meals to families in Caroline County. Without your support and our wonderful volunteers, NUTS would not be able to do what we do in reaching out to those who otherwise may not have food on a day on which we give thanks. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. ~ 2025 NUTS Volunteer Planning Committee

Dear Parishioners ~

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for your generous donation of food to those in need within our community, 1038 lbs. worth! Your compassion and willingness to share your blessings have made a meaningful difference in the lives of many individuals and families who are struggling. Because of your kindness, we are able to support our neighbors with both nourishment and hope. Your generosity reflects the true spirit of our faith - caring for one another and uplifting those most in need. Thank you once again for your continued support. May God bless you abundantly for the love you have shown. Sincerely, Odette Boyce-Ramirez, Food Pantry & Thrift Store Manager

THE HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**LIFE IN THE PARISH FAMILY****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

Monday, December 29

- NO MASS/CONFESSIONS

Tuesday, December 30

- 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

Wednesday, December 31 ~ NEW YEAR'S EVE

- Parish Office Closed
- Confessions - 8:15-8:45a.m.; Rosary-8:30a.m.; Mass- 9am - St. Elizabeth Church
- Intercessory Prayer Group - 9:30a.m. - St. Elizabeth Church
- Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation) - Mass @ 6:00p.m. at St. Elizabeth Church (NO Confessions)

Thursday, JANUARY 1, 2026 - NEW YEAR'S DAY

- Parish Office Closed
- Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation) - Mass @ 9:00a.m. - St. Benedict Church (NO Confessions)

Friday, January 2

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

Saturday, January 3 ~ FIRST SATURDAY

- Confessions - 8:15-8:45a.m./Mass - 9:00a.m. - St. Benedict Church
- Regnum Christi Gathering - 8am - Noon - Parish Hall
- First Saturday Rosary - 3:30p.m. - St. Elizabeth Church
- Confessions - 3:00-3:45p.m./Mass - 4:00p.m. - St. Elizabeth Church

Sunday, January 4

- 2nd Collection - Black & Indian and Home Missions
- Masses: 7:15a.m. & 8:30a.m. - St. Benedict Church & 11:15a.m. - St. Elizabeth Church
- 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 Class - 10:45-11:15a.m.
- Soup for Seminarians Fundraiser - Pre-Ordered Soups & Chicken Salad available for pick-up in the Parish Hall from 8am - Noon



December 28, 2025

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 | Col 3:12-21 | Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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

In his Angelus address on the Feast of the Holy Family in 2001, St. John Paul II shared this with those gathered: “If we aspire to a deeper understanding of Jesus’ life and mission, we must draw close to the mystery of the Holy Family of Nazareth to observe and listen.” Following in the footsteps of the Holy Family in today’s Scripture, we find ourselves in quiet Bethlehem, just after the departure of the Magi. The angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream, this time with a warning: “Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.” They trust in God and their response is immediate. It is easy for us to imagine the Holy Family as different from ourselves — holier and more spiritual. Certainly, that’s true. They were holy but they were also fully human, which means that what they attained is possible for each of us. Let us try to imitate them in this holiness.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

It’s easy to glamorize the life of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus, but in reality, the cross was with them long before the crucifixion. From the moment of the Annunciation, there would be trials, temptations, and sufferings. But each time, they respond with immediate obedience and deep trust. In doing so, they give us all a perfect example of what the Christian life should look like: a life motivated by love and always listening for the voice of God, ready to respond in an instant. As we accompany others on this journey of faith, we also must listen deeply to them in order to help them in discerning the Spirit’s movement in their lives. As we hone the spiritual muscle of attentive listening, we grow in our ability to respond to God and to God’s action in our lives, and to help others do the same.

REFLECT

Most of us will never hear from an angel in the middle of the night telling us to walk hundreds of miles with our baby in tow. But every single one of us will be — has been — called. Let us pray to the Holy Family for an increase in the virtues of obedience and trust, so that we can respond to God’s call in our lives.



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

FOR DECEMBER 20 & 21, 2025

Offertory Giving @ Masses	\$ 7,226.00
Building & Maintenance	\$ 527.00
Poor Box	\$ 895.00



YEAR- TO-DATE OFFERTORY (Week 25 of 52)	
Actual Offertory	\$ 137,614.16
Average Weekly Offertory	\$ 5,504.57

CAROLINE COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE/RESPECT LIFE NEWS



Christ came in the flesh to show us that life has meaning through all the joys and sufferings of this earthly journey toward eternal life. Let us be the face of Christ to our neighbors in material and spiritual need. Next meeting is January 20th at 6:30 pm.

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.cdow.org/giving.

NEW HANDICAP SPACES AT ST. BENEDICT CHURCH

We are excited to report that a new concrete pass-through has been installed adjacent to the Parish Office entrance in Ridgely. This pass-through will make it safer and easier for those using walkers, canes and wheelchairs to access the sidewalk. In the near future, signs marking two handicapped parking spaces on either side of the pass-through will be installed. In addition, after helpful input from some of those using the handicap spaces along 4th Street closer to St. Benedict Church, and additional two handicap spaces will be added along the roadway in front of the church for greater ease of use (the three handicap spaces along the side of the church will also remain in place). Please contact the Parish Office if you have any questions about these changes.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

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 to learn about the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales as they bring their year-long 150th anniversary celebration to a close, with Father Michael Newman, OSFS. 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).

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.MarriageHelpDelVal.org. All inquiries are strictly confidential.