

*St. Benedict's Roman Catholic Church*  
2969 Otis Avenue, Bronx, NY 10465  
718-828-3403  
Bulletin: January 4, 2026

*The Home Parish of Terence Cardinal Cooke - (March 1, 1921 - October 6, 1983)*  
*Cardinal Archbishop of New York — Motto: Fiat Voluntas Tua, meaning,*  
*“Thy Will Be Done”*



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**WE MARCH FOR LIFE!**  
**Friday,**  
**January 23, 2026**

We are happy to announce that due to a grant the Annual Bus Trip for March for Life on Friday, January 23, 2026

is **free of charge**. While the grant will cover 3k toward the bus, the cost of the bus is \$3,650.00. We will gratefully accept voluntary donations to help cover the remaining balance not covered by the grant. If interested, please register for the trip (or bring donations to help offset remaining costs) to the rectory office .

**Itinerary: 5:30am Mass here at Saint Benedict's Church; Bus departs 6:00am SHARP.** We will return approximately 9:00pm.

Please join us in the fight to protect and respect the dignity of human life, from conception to natural death. We, as Marchers, will bring our prayers and the pro-life message to our nation's capital.

For more information, please contact the rectory office at 718-828-3403, ext.101. Thank you



## *The Epiphany of the Lord*



### *The Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts*

On the Epiphany of the Lord, after the singing of the Gospel, a Deacon or cantor, in keeping with an ancient practice of Holy Church, announces from the ambo the moveable feasts of the current year according to this formula:

Know, Dear Brethren, (brothers and sisters), that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of His Resurrection, who is our Savior.

On the 18th day of February will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

On the 5th day of April you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal Feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the 14th day of May (or, where applicable, the 17th day of May) will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the 24th day of May, the feast of Pentecost.

On the 7th day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

On the 29th day of November, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honor and glory forever and ever. Amen!

*(From the Roman Missal, Third Edition, Appendix 1)*

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK:**

**SUNDAY, January 4th; The Epiphany of the Lord**

7:00 St. Benedict's Parish  
8:00 Alfonso DiGregorio  
9:30 Vinny Carotenuto  
11:00 Brendan Golden  
5:00 Patrick Durkin

**MONDAY, January 5th; St. John Neumann**

8:30 All Souls in Purgatory

**TUESDAY, January 6th; St. Andre Bessette**

8:30 Erin Hughes

**WEDNESDAY, January 7th; St. Raymond of Penyafort**

8:30 Vincent Cavallo

**THURSDAY, January 8th**

8:30 Lester and Margaret Kamocsai

**FRIDAY, January 9th**

8:30 St. Benedict's School

**SATURDAY, January 10th**

8:30 Kathy Brogan  
4:00 Joyce Patrella

**SUNDAY, January 11th; The Baptism of the Lord**

7:00 Anthony Avitabile  
8:00 St. Benedict's Parish  
9:30 Michelangelo Cipollone  
11:00 Ralph Dello Iorio  
5:00 Randy Varona

**THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD, WINE, AND ALTAR CANDLES HAVE BEEN DONATED BY:**

*Angela Miserendino*  
**IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**  
*Francesca Messina*

**THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP HAS BEEN DONATED BY:**

*Pasquale D'Abbraccio and Family*  
**IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**  
*The Deceased Members of the D'Abbraccio, Ficarra, Granitto and Salerno Families*

**THIS WEEK'S ADORATION CHAPEL CANDLES HAVE BEEN DONATED BY:**

*Pasquale D'Abbraccio and Family*  
**IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**  
*The Deceased Members of the D'Abbraccio, Ficarra, Granitto and Salerno Families*



**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

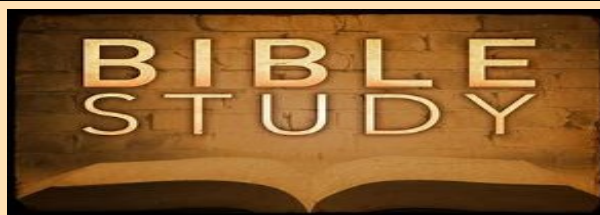
The Eucharistic Adoration Chapel is **OPEN** Monday through Saturday from 9:00am until 1:00pm. The **NEXT Overnight Eucharistic Adoration will be Friday, February 6, 2026 from 8:00pm until 8:00am.**

**We always need volunteers! Thank you!**



**Please remember to pray for our Police Officers, Firefighters, First Responders, Military, and for all those who have no one to pray for them.**

**Lord, hear our prayer!**



The Bible Study Group will be held every Tuesday in the Convent downstairs at 7:00pm beginning, again, Tuesday, January 6th.

We will continue to discuss the Book of Revelation!

We hope to see you there!

**A Healthy and Happy 2026  
from All of Us to All of You,  
Our Faithful and Loyal  
Parishioners, Friends,  
and Visitors!**

**There is an insert in this bulletin regarding the "NYS Bishops' Statement on Gov. Hochul's Plan to Sign Assisted Suicide Bill"**

*Message from: Father Pergini:*

Every year on January first, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, the first reading has this powerful prayer from the book of Numbers 6:22-27. **“The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you and keep you. The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!** In the spirit of this beautiful prayer, on New Year’s Eve, December 31, 2025, after the Holy Mass at 5:00pm, the Blessed Sacrament was exposed until midnight in our Adoration Chapel. It was a decent crowd who every year dedicate their time to pray in silence and in peace. This was my fifth New Year’s Eve spent in adoration at Saint Benedict’s Parish. In the past, I used to go to the Corpus Christi Monastery. The Corpus Christi Monastery is in the Hunts Point area, not far from our parish. In their beautiful chapel the Blessed Sacrament is exposed. It is a very prayerful place. The Blessed Sacrament is placed in an impressive monstrance in the niche that is high up. For a long time, I used to go with other faithful parishioners to welcome in the New Year in adoration. It was my faithful New Year’s Eve visit to spend a few hours in that peaceful place before the Blessed Sacrament. It is a very dear place to me because I often go there to pray and pick up the hosts that we use for consecration in our parish. The contemplative Dominican nuns of perpetual adoration are well-known for their hospitality. As soon as I walk in, I am welcomed by their gentle smile. A hot tea or a hot meal is often served in a cozy guest room. It is a relaxing and enjoyable atmosphere drinking the hot tea alone or sometimes one of the nuns keeps me company. I finish the tea and then quietly go to the chapel where the Blessed Sacrament is exposed. Unfortunately, with the covid situation everything changed. The Dominican nuns had to close the monastery for visitors. Since then, my visits at the Corpus Christi Monastery on New Year’s Eve belongs to my past; a beautiful experience of the past. My first year at Saint Benedict’s, we decided to remain here in our parish adoring Christ on the Altar and waiting in prayer to welcome the new year. The outside noise of the fireworks does not interfere with our silent prayer. We all felt united in the spirit of Christ who unites all of us in the power of the adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. I always take a spiritual book in which I take refuge and rest. I read a page and pose for a moment looking at the Blessed sacrament exposed on the Altar. For me it is time to thank Almighty Father for the year of grace that has passed, and now we are ready to usher in the new year. It is a time in which we place ourselves with trust into the hands of our Almighty Father. We place our unknown future, invoking the intercession of the Blessed Mother for all of us. This year I took an old book which I bought many years ago of Cardinal Ratzinger, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. It is a book very dear to me because it has daily meditations from his writings during his long experience as a teacher and a well-known theologian. In the last page of this book, he powerfully describes Psalm 16:5 *“O Lord, my chosen portion and my cup, you hold my lot in your hands.”* In that short page of his reflections, I was deeply absorbed by the power of Christ who sent him to provide for us hope, trust, and salvation. We, who firmly believe in the power of the Eucharist are not people who are governed by one rule, the blind chance of good or bad luck. We are people who trust in the power of Christ, people who regardless of our confusing and sometimes depressing reality within and without our church, country and the world, is only Christ who has the power and who leads us, and calm our worries. It is a time spent before Christ in silence. The silence spent before Christ, hidden in that sacred Host is very important for our souls. The silence before the Blessed Sacrament is the silence of Christmas, the silence of the Epiphany of the Lord, the silence of our existence. Cardinal Ratzinger powerfully explains the deep and profound meaning of silence: ***“that to enter into silence means to discover a new inner order. It means to concentrate not only on things that can be defended and demonstrated. It means to gaze not only at things that have worldly value and can be traded. Silence means to develop an inner sensitivity, a sensitivity for our conscience, for the eternal in us, and openness for God speaking to us.”***

Yes, indeed, during those moments of peace and silence I place all of you, known and unknown, into the power of Almighty Father. I thank Christ for the gift of our faith in Him and for the good faith of many of you who are part of my priestly ministry. I thank God for what you have done and continue to do for our parish. In those moments of silence, I do pray for your intentions, as I always do during the Holy Mass. It is during those divine moments that I invisibly place you before the Blessed Sacrament, the Real Presence, Body and Blood, Soul, and Divinity of our Redeemer. During those hours spent in that peaceful and prayerful adoration you were invisibly present, next to the Blessed Sacrament in a very special way. Yes, indeed, in my heart and mind I thanked Cardinal Ratzinger for helping me to enter more prayerfully in the power of prayer and getting closer to Christ by meditating the beautiful words of Psalm 16:5 **“O Lord, my chosen portion and my cup, you hold my lot in your hands.”** Yes, indeed, we trust the Lord who holds our lot in His hands. Whatever the future is going to be we must trust His Divine Presence. Our future, our lot does not depend on us but, belongs to Him who leads us first, who opens the path of our salvation. The path sometimes, unfortunately, for many of us is very dark and we are unable to see the exit. But, Christ who is light, enlightens that dark path and we have only to follow Him. It is a gift, an inestimable gift to be in silence before the Blessed Sacrament on the Altar. The Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen used to say: “The greatest love story of all times is contained in a tiny white host.” Yes, indeed, we remain looking at His Majesty hidden in that tiny White Host on the Altar, and He is looking and reading our hearts and souls. You and I humbly and prayerfully say for all of you: **“The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you and keep you. The Lord, look upon you kindly and give you peace!**

**Amen!**



Dear Parishioners,

As we continue to celebrate the Christmas season with joy and hope, we welcome a new year filled with God's grace and many blessings. Fr. Birkdale, Deacon Nestor, and I would like to thank all of you, faithful and generous parishioners of Saint Benedict's Parish, for your kindness. We thank you for your beautiful cards, thoughtful gifts, and "delicious goodies" that you gave us for Christmas; this is a sign that you love us. We are very grateful and thankful for being in your life and serving you in this beautiful parish.

We specifically wish to thank our good ushers, the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, the lectors, the children's choir, the adult choir, under the direction of Anne Myers who truly brought our parish into the spirit of this beautiful season; the altar servers, and many humble and dedicated volunteers who beautifully and faithfully decorated the church inside and outside. Thanks to them, the Christmas celebration was so magnificent. We thank you for being such beautiful people.

During this time with you, we have seen so much goodness among you and the true Christian spirit that humbles us to think that we are at your service. We are blessed to serve you, and we humbly ask you to keep us in your prayers, as you are in our prayers, and that we may always serve you faithfully in the Lord Jesus. May God continue to bless you and your loved ones throughout the New Year!

*Fr. Nikolin Pergjini*

**God Bless  
America!**



### **A Prayer for Our Country<sup>1</sup>**

**O Most Blessed Virgin Mary**, Mother of Mercy, at this most critical time, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care. Most Holy Mother, we beg you to reclaim this land for the glory of your Son. Overwhelmed with the burden of the sins of our nation, we cry to you from the depths of our hearts and seek refuge in your motherly protection.

Look down with mercy upon us and touch the hearts of our people. Open our minds to the great worth of human life and to the responsibilities that accompany human freedom.

Free us from the falsehoods that lead to the evil of abortion and threaten the sanctity of family life. Grant our country the wisdom to proclaim that God's law is the foundation on which this nation was founded, and that He alone is the True Source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

O Merciful Mother, give us the courage to reject the culture of death and the strength to build a new Culture of Life.  
Amen!

<sup>1</sup>Men of the Sacred Hearts for cards, please call 586-264-8550 or email: [info@menofthesacredhearts.org](mailto:info@menofthesacredhearts.org)

**50/50 WINNER:**  
**Mrs. Norma Medero-Collazuol**  
**December 7, 2025**  
**\$126.00**

**Please Remember to Pray for the Sick!**  
**May they find healing and comfort in Jesus Christ!**

Sr. Claire Regan, Stacey Addario, Joseph Abbate, Nydia Alicea, Louis Amend, Donna Antonacci, Yselsa Arroyo, Gustavo Bardana, Andrea Emilia Bernabey, Jack Bonacorso, Kathleen Bowers, Joseph Brenner, Wendelin Brenner, Walter Buddington, Peter Burnett, Amy Buscamonte, Caceres Family, Diane, Georjina Cales, Frankie Carpenter, Fay Carter, Jay and Patricia Cepero, Carolyn Chiappetta, Patricia Coughlin, Tom Curran, Maryann Cuttita, Lillian Cuttler, Frank Dailey, Vinny D'Amico, Louis D'Annunucci, Carla DeCicco, Anton Deski, Darielle Deviccaro, Angela Diaz, Lali Dilone, Anthony DiNardi, Charisa DiNardi, John DiNardi, Margaret Dionisio, Dorothy DiPierro, Pat Eaccirano, Sandra Edwards, Sean Fagan, Barbara Farrell, Francisco Fernandez, Isabelle Mercedes Fernandez, John Fernandez, Nereida Ferrer, Filomena Fidanza, David Fisher, Anthony Fortunato, Roseann Frattini, Debra Ann Garcia, Richard Garcia, Sr., Richard Garcia, Jr., Rose Gettenberg, Ralph Giorgio, Hope Gordon, Marion Gruber, Frank Hinz, Jr., Sharon Holzapfel, Donna Inzano, Eileen Jeninngs, Edward Kennedy, Paul Komgold, Stephanie (Tyko) Kreps, Daniel Kundig, Josephine Lambell, Irene Lang, Manuel Larino, Elise Lawle, Geraldine Lee, Mary Alexandra Lee, Virginia Lee, Frankie Lettera, Jessica Lettera, Francine Lettley, Katharina Listner, Frank Lomangino, LauMei Sheung Louie, Tiffany MackKnight, Ernie Magnotta, Julia Magnotta, Elizabeth Mandile, Ann Marro, Olga Martinez, Robert McCarthy, Margo McGinty, Annette Matranga, Denise McPadden, Sue McVey, Carolyn Morello, Christie Madonna Muccino, Paula Mullane, Rosa Munoz, Lisa Murphy, Oyola Family, Maylee Roman Overman, Angelo Palumbo, Sr., Juana Perez, Pasquale Preziosa, Paolo Principe, Michael and Robert Prokop, Linda Ranallo, Kim Rappold, Joshua Reaser, Philip Rebia, Maritza Resto, Frank Riegel, Phillip Rivera, Joanne and Walter Robinson, Mario and Nelson Roman, Antonette Roublick, Sylvia Russo, Angela Dello Russo, John Russo, Carl Saglimbeni, Ann and Dave Samhammer, Joseph P Santangelo, Ashley Saucedo, Ada Scanga, Margaret Geddis Schmidt, Nicolai Soriano, Maria Soto, Edward Spar, Lois Stabile, Virginia Strasser, Theresa Stanton, Ramon Surita, Pasquale Tartaglione, Stefanie Ural, Teresa Bosquez Valdez, Thomas Vecchio, Fran Walsh, Loretta White, Tracy Young

**+ Babies/Children +**

Amber, Baby Amari, Baby Rose, Brayden, Brinley, Mia Carolla, Daniella Grace Comblo, Charli Mary Carozza, Sebastian DeLuca, Caleb DeJesus, Marco Garcia, Joseph Gentile, Ella Grazia Delli Carpini, Eli, Blake Salvatore Haddock, Noelle Jablonka, Katherin, Savannah Longo, Sophia Lopez, Emi Lun, Aubrey Madden, Giulia Sofia McCullough, Mila, Natalie, Lucas Ortiz, Sihanna, Anastassia Savov, Tiffany Toro, Summer Rose Vachna

**Religious Education Announcements**

**JANUARY CLASSES:**

Traditional Religious Education (CCD)

Thursday, January 1—Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Holy Day of Obligation . Attend Mass

**CLASSES RESUME:**

**Sundays: January 4, 11, 18, 25**

**Wednesdays January 7, 14, 21, 28**

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Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)

**Sundays January 4, 11, 18, 25**

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**CATECHESIS of the GOOD SHEPHERD (Level 1)**

Religious Education designed for **children ages 4-6 years or Pre-K and Kindergarten**. Sessions are **October through May on Sundays from 12:30pm to 1:30pm at the Convent**.

**TO REGISTER AND FOR MORE INFORMATION,** please contact Maria Pirraglia at: [reled@stbenedictsschool.com](mailto:reled@stbenedictsschool.com)



**San Silverio Committee of Morris Park**  
**BINGO NIGHT Fundraiser**

**Friday, January 23rd at 6:30pm**

**Morris Park Association, 1824 Bronxdale Ave**

**\$35.00 per person (6 games - 3 cards per game)**

**Cash Prizes and Raffles**

**Beverage included! Bring snacks and goodies to share with your table!**

**To reserve your spot, please call:**

**Domenic at 718-344-4103 or**  
**Angela at 347-204-8183**

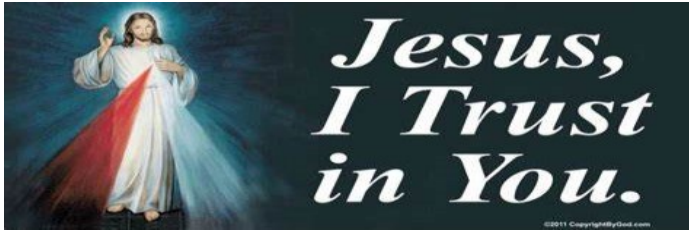
**I LOVE GOD**  
I'm proud to say that

**Prayer List For Our United States  
Servicemen and Women**

*Quotes from the Fathers of the Church,  
the Saints, and the Great Teachers!*

**“We must know how to forgive, to live in  
peace and unity”**

**—St. Dulce Pontes**



**RECTORY HOURS:**

**Monday—Friday**

**9:00am until 12:00pm**

**12:00pm until 1:00pm (Closed for Lunch)**

**1:00pm until 3:00pm**

**Saturday: 9:00am until 1:00pm**

**Sunday: Closed**

**Rectory Telephone Number: 1-718-828-3403  
Extensions:**

Fr. Nikolin Pergjini	Pastor	109
Fr. David Birkdale	Parochial Vicar	104
Deacon Nestor Halpern		107
Miladi Barnard	Reception Desk	101
Chrissy Sette	Reception Desk	101
Carole Janicki	Bulletin	102
Carl Triano	Finance	117
Maria Pirraglia	Religious	718-829-1200
	Education	718-828-3403 Ext. 101

**U.S. Air Force:**

1<sup>st</sup> Class Airman Eric Bosco, General Thomas D. Crimmins, Ismael Guiles, Major Roger Illari, 1st Airman Darren Morello, Stephanie Mendez, Air Force Airman, Msgt. Daniel Rivera, Lieutenant Colonel Alicia Stumpf, Lieutenant Colonel Sean Stumpf.

**U.S. Army/U.S. National Guard:**

SPC, Army National Guard, Middle East, Marcus Cassin, Pvt. Matthew Dooley, Sgt. Scott Douglas, Jason Engeldrum, Sgt. Pedro Flores, Pvt. Anthony Grieco, Jr., 2nd Lt. Christopher Hackett, Johnny Jiminez, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, Corporal Jenna Kuhl, Sergeant First Class Javier Mendoza, PV2 James McCarthy, Private Patrick W. Mooney, Major Peter Anthony Orlando, Pvt. Anthony Ottaviano, Rev. (Captain) Peter Pompisello, Major Lori Robinson, Thomas Robinson, Jr., Pvt. Sidney Antonio Kearns Rodriguez, Pvt. Justin Roman, Ryan Shank, Timothy S. Valentine, S.J., Capt. Javi San Juan, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Renee San Juan, Colonel Raymond Van Pelt, Franky Perez, Sgt. Andrew Santander, Staff Sgt. Matthew Wickes, SPC Albert Zapata, Staff Sgt. William Ziegler.

**U.S. Coast Guard:**

Jayke Hooks, Seaman Apprentice, Thomas J. Hooks, Brandon A. Moreno, Seaman Apprentice, PO3 Eberlee Santander.

**U.S. Marine Corps:**

Corporal Michael John Canzone, III, 1st Lieutenant Ryan E. Dengler, Master Sgt. Mark S. Lynch, Corporal Kevin S. Major, LCpl Erik Mango, Lieutenant Colonel Frank Parisi, Reserves, In Basic Training Daniel Smith Peters; Sgt. Benjamin Rodriguez, Staff Sgt. Randy Vaccaro, Reserves; Pvt. 1st Class, Jason R. Wager, Reserves.

**U.S. Navy:**

Lieutenant Commander Diplomat John Brunetti, Lieutenant JG Bethany Lee Champlin; Petty Officer Gillen, LCDR Jennifer Groger Widman, ABH3 (AW) Christopher Hough, Jordan McKay, Active Reservist, Naval Airman E-3, Sea Bee Sammy Pizzano, Petty Officer William F. Ramos, Ralph Romero Sanchez, Richard Torrens, Lieutenant Commander Victor Schaefer, E-4 Edwin Vargas, Pvt. Nicholas Zayas.

**Spiritual Readings for the Week of January 4, 2026:**

**4 SUN USA: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**  
Solemnity Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12 (20)

**5 Mon USA:** Saint John Neumann, Bishop Mem 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25 (212)

**6 Tue** Christmas Weekday [USA: Saint André Bessette, Religious] 1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44

**7 Wed** Christmas Weekday [Saint Raymond of Penyafort, Priest] 1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52 (214)

**8 Thu** Christmas Weekday 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Lk 4:14-22a

**9 Fri** Christmas Weekday 1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16

**10 Sat** Christmas Weekday 1 Jn 5:14-21/  
Jn 3:22-30

**St. Benedict's Church  
Bronx, NY  
Online Giving with We Share**

To strengthen your involvement with  
our community.

Consider signing up for safe, secure,  
& confidential online giving.

Used by over 2,000 Catholic  
parishes to accept donations  
online, quickly & easily



Visit our Website: [www.stbenedictchurchny.org](http://www.stbenedictchurchny.org)