

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

*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"*

*Blessed and Happy Easter
Bulletin: April 5, 2026*

RECTORY TELEPHONE NUMBER
718-828-3403

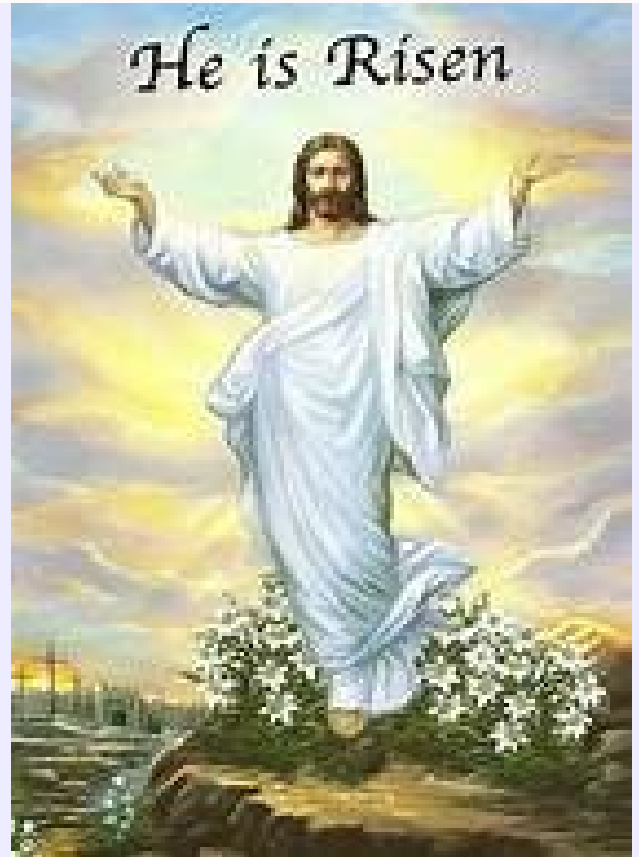
E-mail: stbenedict@optonline.net
Website:
<http://www.stbenedictchurchny.org>

RECTORY HOURS:
Monday through Friday
9:00am until 12:00 Noon
12:00 Noon until 1:00 (Lunch)
1:00pm until 3:00pm

Saturday:
9:00am until 1:00pm

Sunday: Closed

CLERGY:
Reverend Nikolin Pergjini, Pastor
Reverend David Birkdale, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Nestor Halpern



*He Has Risen.
Have Faith in Him ...
and He will always be there for you!*

*Happy Easter!
Alleluia!*

Celebrate the
resurrection of
our Lord!

Happy
EASTER



*A Blessed and Happy Easter from All
of Us to All of You, Our Faithful and
Loyal Parishioners, Vistors
and Friends!*

He is Risen!



MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

SUNDAY, April 5th; EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

7:00 Easter Novena
8:00 Easter Novena
9:30 St. Benedict's Parish
11:00 Easter Novena

Please Note: NO 5:00pm Mass

MONDAY, April 6th; Monday within the Octave of Easter

8:30 Easter Novena

TUESDAY, April 7th; Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

8:30 Easter Novena

WEDNESDAY, April 8th; Wed within the Octave of Easter

8:30 Easter Novena

THURSDAY, April 9th; Thurs within the Octave of Easter

8:30 Easter Novena

FRIDAY, April 10th; Friday within the Octave of Easter

8:30 Easter Novena

SATURDAY, April 11th; Sat within the Octave of Easter

8:30 Maria Jean

Living

4:00 Charles Halton

SUNDAY, April 12th; Divine Mercy Sunday

7:00 St. Benedict's Parish

8:00 John Donadio

9:30 The Volaj Family

Living

11:00 Anna and Antonio Mozzone

5:00 The Crowley and Janny Families

Living

The **Bible Study Group** is held every Tuesday in the Convent downstairs at 7:00pm.

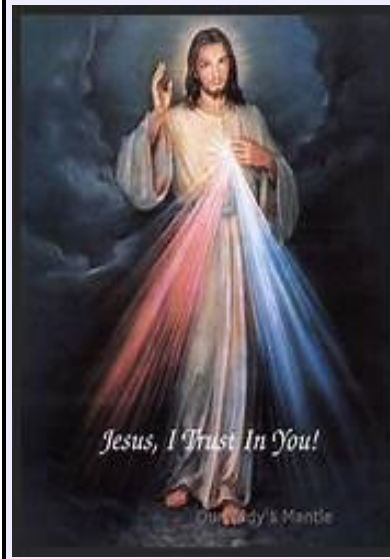
We will continue to discuss the Book of Revelation! **We hope to see you there!**

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

Michael Bruno
IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
Deceased Members of the Bruno and Ratjen Families

THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP HAS BEEN DONATED BY:

Daughter-in-Law and Grandchildren
IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
Angela Mannarino
Mother-in-Law and Grandmother
7 Years in Heaven



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Jesus, I Trust in You!

April 12, 2026
from 3:00pm until 5:00pm

St. Benedict's Church

Adoration, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Benediction

Confession will be available from 3:00-5:00pm

The Blessed Sacrament

We will resume the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Easter Monday, April 6th from 9:00am until 1:00pm in the Adoration Chapel.

Eucharistic Adoration

The Eucharistic Adoration Chapel is **OPEN** Monday through Saturday from 9:00am until 1:00pm. Since Good Friday was on the First Friday of April, we will **NOT** have Overnight Adoration during the Month of April. Therefore, the **NEXT Overnight Eucharistic Adoration will be Friday, May 1, 2026 from 8:00pm until 8:00am.** We always need volunteers!

One of the Precepts of the Catholic Church requires Catholics to confess their sins at least once a year, preferably in preparation for Easter. Still, the faithful can fulfill the obligation of going to confession during the Easter season.

As a Gentle Reminder: Those who are aware of not faithfully attending the Sunday Mass or not fulfilling the obligation of confession, we encourage that if you come forward for Communion, you do not receive the Body of Christ, but instead you can approach with your arms crossed for a blessing.

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

Lydia and Eva
IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
Maria Elisa Rios Merced-Villafana, and Roberto "Bobby" Villafana

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased Members of Our Parish and their Grieving Families:

Madeline Caio, Ivan Diaz, Josephine Lana, Antonio Zappone

This is a message from one of our adults who received the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil, April 4, 2026

I was born and raised a Muslim. From as long as I can remember, I loved praying and being close to God. Prayer was built into my days: the rhythm of the five daily salats, the quiet discipline of fasting during Ramadan. My family and community taught me the meaning of devotion in clear, uncompromising terms. Christians were often described as wrong; the Bible, we were told, had been corrupted and changed. We were forbidden to read it and to visit churches. I had only a vague sense of Christianity, a distant outline shaped by what I had been taught not to trust.

Even so, there were questions I could not let go of. In my reading of the Quran and the Hadiths, certain passages made me uncomfortable, and I found myself puzzled rather than reassured. Passages that seemed to allow captives and enslaved women to be taken as concubines troubled me. Descriptions of paradise that spoke of “fair women with large, beautiful eyes” and virgins waiting as companions for the faithful raised questions I could not answer. Why would heaven include sexual companionship? Wouldn't a pure spirit simply find fulfillment in God alone? These thoughts did not fit the tidy narratives I had been given, and slowly, over the years, questioning became routine.

By the time I turned thirty-five, that routine of doubt had grown into a steady current. I no longer believed in Islam the way I used to. I still believed in God, but my relationship with the faith of my childhood had shifted. The rituals continued for a while out of force of habit, but inside I was restless and searching. One ordinary night, after a long day of work, I completed my salat and went to bed with a prayer that felt different from any I had offered before. I didn't ask whether God existed — I wasn't in doubt of that — but I asked for guidance. I asked for help to lay my questions to rest.

What happened next I cannot explain with words that will satisfy everyone. I fell asleep and found myself in a dream — or something like a dream — inside a movie theater. The film had just ended. I bent to pick up my coat, rose, and, as I turned, I heard a voice call my name. In that instant, every cell in my body knew the voice was the voice of God. I turned, and all I could say was, “Oh my God! It is Jesus Christ!”

Before me was a huge black wall. On that dark surface the face of Christ appeared, a pale, gray image moving slowly, side to side, up and down. It left a shadowy afterimage as it shifted, like a face reflected in rippling water. I felt paralyzed, as if I weighed a thousand pounds. I was not allowed to move; I was made to listen. Then I heard words so simple and so direct they still echo in me: “You ask me for many things but you don't follow me. I am the Lord your God.” The pressure of that presence was more intense than anything I had known. When it released me, I jumped out of bed and stayed standing until morning light. I couldn't believe what had happened. I had encountered Christ — literally, in a way that reshaped everything I thought I knew.

The next morning I called my girlfriend and told her. She listened and believed me. For the next two weeks, my life felt like a hinge turning. I stopped praying as a Muslim and began to learn as much as I could about Jesus. I found a Bible, started reading, and spoke to a close friend who helped guide me. For a full year I read, thought and prayed. Gradually, a new pattern formed: the more I sought, the more I found evidence that my life was being redirected.

One afternoon, while resting in my prayer room, I had another terrifying encounter. This time I was fully aware but utterly unable to move — paralyzed from head to toe. Dread filled me. A growling noise seemed to come from the wall. I cried out the name of the Lord Jesus. Suddenly I felt a terrible wind, like a tornado, bearing down on my house. I heard it crash against my door. In that moment, more instinct than thought, I dropped to my knees and confessed, “Jesus is my Lord and Savior.” The moment I said it, everything stopped. I ran downstairs and found the door intact. I understood then, with a clarity that left no room for doubt, that something had come for me and the Lord had saved me.

From that day I felt a peace take root. By the inspiration and direction of the Holy Spirit I became Catholic. Committing myself to Bible studies and to living what I had learned. I am soon to be baptized and also to receive the sacraments this Easter vigil. When I look back at how I prayed as a child, at the unquestioning faith I once had, I realize how different my life is now — not because the routines are the same, but because my heart is different. I feel shaped by hands I can't fully describe, transformed into someone more tender, more honest with my questions, and more certain of where I belong.

This journey has not been easy. Leaving a familiar faith community carries cost and confusion. Families and friends sometimes struggle to understand. But the fear and uncertainty are outweighed by the sense of being found. Even now, when I speak of what happened, tears come to my eyes. I am grateful beyond words that God reached across the distance I felt between us and met me. I pray that anyone who reads my story might know, in whatever way they seek, that God is accessible; that He hears our questions and is not afraid of our doubts. For me, meeting Jesus has been the answer to a long, unsettled heart. I pray you all experience His peace and discover for yourselves what it means to be held by the living God.

Our Parish was Blessed this Easter Vigil to Welcome 18 Adults into the Catholic Church who were Baptized, Received Holy Communion and Confirmed.

We Pray and Hope that they will remain Faithful Witnesses to Christ All the days of their Lives!

Congratulations, Blessings, and Our Support and Prayers!

May Saint Benedict intercede for them and all of us!

Holy Eucharist



Nickolas Adhin

Kristjon Kacaj

Ladji Adula

Natalia LaMorta

Maria Caceres Buchan

Emanuel Lekaj

Maria Elena C. Diaz

Gertjola Mirashi

Teresa Fontan

David Murillo

Altin Gashi

Aidan Oliver

Paula Gjoka

Herbert Sandoval

Michael O. Gonzalez

Kristion Sukaj

Maureen Horan

James Wund



BINGO

St. Benedict's School and Parish are excited to announce a **Bingo Night Fundraiser to be held on April 25, 2026 in Fr. Albert Hall!** Doors open at 6:00pm and Bingo begins at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$30 and cover 10 game cards. Limited space available, *no door admission*. Please purchase tickets in advance in the church vestibule or through the rectory. 50/50 and other Raffles. Feel free to bring your own food and beverages. 50/50's for sale prior to event. Winner need not be present.

We hope to see you there!



DIVINE MERCY NOVENA
The Chaplet of Divine Mercy Novena is a very powerful novena given by Our Lord to St. Faustina and has many promises attached. **The novena began on Good Friday and continues for nine days, concluding on Divine Mercy Sunday, 4/12.**

Pamphlets are at the back of the Church. Consider taking one home and praying this beautiful novena.

2026 Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal

The Archdiocese of New York is pleased to announce the launch of the 2026 Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal!

This is an Important moment for our parish and our archdiocese, as we are all called to consider contributing to the *Cardinal's Appeal*.

Thank you to those who have already participated this year. If you have not yet done so, please join our fellow parishioners in supporting the mission of the Church today. Together, we can reach our goal in the amount of \$71,000.

Thank you for making a difference!

To make a gift, please visit: cardinalsappeal.org or call **646-794-3300** today.

Thank you for your consideration and for being loving and generous stewards of our Archdiocese and its mission. God Bless!

**Religious Education Announcements
APRIL CLASSES:**

Religious Education (CCD)

The Sacramental Fee for children receiving **FIRST COMMUNION (\$50) and CONFIRMATION (\$100)** is past due. **If you have not yet paid, please do so as soon as possible.** Thank you!

Sundays: APRIL 5 (NO CLASS-Easter Sunday)
Please attend Mass!
12, (Divine Mercy Sunday),
19, 26

Wednesdays: APRIL 1st (NO CLASS-Easter Break)
8, 15, 22, 29

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)

Sundays: APRIL 5 (NO CLASS-Easter Sunday)
Please Attend Mass!
12, (Divine Mercy Sunday), 19, 26

Maria Pirraglia:
reled@stbenedictsschool.com

FIRST PENANCE SERVICE @ St. Benedict's Church
Mon, April 20, 2026

- ◆ St. Benedict's School **1:00-2:00pm**
- ◆ Villa Maria **3:00-4:00pm**

Wed, April 22, 2026
◆ Wednesday and Sunday classes **4:30-5:30pm**

REHEARSAL for Communion
Tue, April 28, 2026
Religious Ed (CCD), St. Benedict School & Villa Maria
4:00-5:30pm

(Maybe 2nd practice on Thursday, April 30th; at the same time)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DAY
Sat, May 2, 2026
Religious Ed (CCD), St. Benedict School & Villa Maria
10:00am

Students begin to line up at 9:30am in Fr. Albert Hall (Downstairs of the church)

Deacon Nestor Halpern

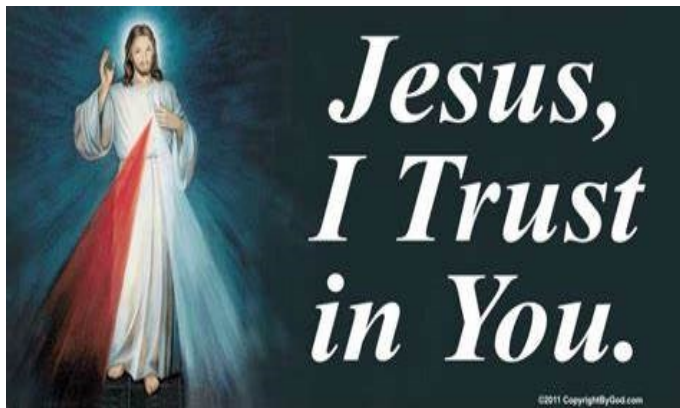
Deacon Nestor Halpern is available if you are in need to talk to someone about your faith or life in general.

You may leave a message for Deacon Nestor at 718-828-3403, ext. 7 or via email:

deaconnestor@stbenedictchurchny.com

The Eucharist is thus a sacrifice because it *re-presents* (makes present) the sacrifice of the cross, because it is its *memorial* and because it *applies* its fruit: [Christ], our Lord and God, was once and for all to offer himself to God the Father by his death on the altar of the cross, to accomplish there an everlasting redemption. But because his priesthood was not to end with his death, at the Last Supper "on the night when he was betrayed," [he wanted] to leave to his beloved spouse the Church a visible sacrifice (as the nature of man demands) by which the bloody sacrifice which he was to accomplish once for all on the cross would be re-presented, its memory perpetuated until the end of the world, and its salutary power be applied to the forgiveness of the sins we daily commit. ¹⁸⁷

¹⁸⁷ Council of Trent (1562): DS 1740; cf. 1 Cor 11:23; Heb 7:24, 27.



I ask you to consider that our Lord Jesus Christ is your true head, and that you are one of his members. He belongs to you as the head belongs to its members; all that is his is yours: his spirit, his heart, his body and soul, and all his faculties. You must make use of all these as of your own, to serve, praise, love, and glorify God. You belong to him, as members belong to their head. And so he longs for you to use all that is in you, as if it were his own, for the service and glory of the Father. ²⁵

For to me, to live is Christ. ²⁶

²⁵ St. John Eudes, *Tract.* de admirabili corde Jesu, 1, 5.

²⁶ *Phil* 1:21.

Prayer List For Our United States Servicemen and Women

U.S. Air Force: 1st Class Airman Eric Bosco, General Thomas D. Crimmins, Ismael Guiles, Major Roger Illari, 1st Airman Darren Morello, Stephanie Mendez, Air Force Airman, Msgr. 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, 82nd 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, 1st 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, YN3, Ryan T. Moreno, CS3; 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

U.S. Navy: Lieutenant Commander Diplomat John Brunetti, Lieutenant JG Bethany Lee Champlin; Petty Officer Gillen, LCDR Jennifer Groger Widman, ABH3 (AW) Christopher Hough, Ensign Brandon McGaughan, 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 April 5, 2026:

5 SUN Easter Sunday Of The Resurrection Of The Lord Solemnity Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 (42) or Mt 28:1-10 (41) or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Lk 24:13-35

6 Monday within the Octave of Easter
10 Acts 2:14, 22-33/Mt 28:8-15. Nine readings are assigned to the Easter Vigil: seven from the Old Testament and two from the New. Three selections from the Old Testament, both from the Law and the Prophets, should be read before the Epistle and Gospel. In any case, the reading from Exodus about the escape through the Red Sea (reading 3) should never be omitted.

7 Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

Acts 2:36-41/Jn 20:11-18

8 Wednesday within the Octave of Easter Acts 3:1-10/Lk 24:13-35

9 Thursday within the Octave of Easter Acts 3:11-26/Lk 24:35-48

10 Friday within the Octave of Easter

Acts 4:1-12/Jn 21:1-14

11 Saturday within the Octave of Easter Acts 4:13-21/Mk 16:9-15

12 Sunday Second Sunday Of Easter (Or) Sunday of Divine Mercy Acts 2:42-47/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

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Bronx, NY
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