



Fr. Noel Danielewicz
OFM Conv.
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Feast of the Holy Family

May the blessings of the Holy Family be yours as we celebrate our togetherness as a family of families on this the third day of Christmas!

We have come out to **celebrate a CHILD**, whose birth marks time, whose birth has changed the course of history, and who promises to come again in glory and in majesty. Imagine, we are part of a bigger picture of humanity that encompasses all of creation beyond our mind's comprehension. We have been **watching and waiting, beholding and wondering**, what the promised Messiah would bring by his birth!

JESUS is that ultimate expression of God's LOVE for all humanity. Recall the sacred Scripture that the prophet Isaiah spoke about: **"a people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."** Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI said, **"Only if people change will the world change; and in order to change, people need the LIGHT that comes from God, the light which so unexpectedly on the night of Christmas entered into our night."**

Jesus is that LIGHT, that pierces the darkness of our world this year that walked in a sense of hopelessness, torn by the effects of COVID-19 that claimed over three hundred thousand American lives. We now walk in hope with the arrival of two vaccines that can combat it.

Our country has succumb to the violence perpetrated in our streets that has also marked innocent men and women of color. Senseless incidents have fueled the fire of complacency and callousness that has marked family life with too many tragic moments that have taken innocent lives from the hearts of parents and siblings, relatives and friends who cry out--**"Black Lives do matter!" We wait on the Lord, who hears our cry that echoes systemic violence within our structures need to end.**

We have listened to the political rhetoric for promise to change....rolling back the tide of injustice, or moving forward with the winds of the Spirit for economic justice and equity for the scales of divide that keep the poorer poor, and the rich even richer. Where do we turn to find an answer **that is TRUTH?**

Once again, Benedict XVI offers God's sign in the humility of Jesus. *God's sign is that **he makes himself small; he becomes a child; he lets us touch Him and he asks for our love. However, we would prefer a different sign, an imposing irresistible sign of God's power and greatness! But His sign summons us to faith and love, and thus it gives us hope: this is what God is like. He has power, he is Goodness itself.***

He invites us to become like Him. Yes indeed, we become like God if we allow ourselves to be shaped by this sign; if we ourselves to learn humility and hence, true greatness; if we renounce violence and use only the weapons of truth and love."

With the psalmist, Church we continue to sing and shout: **"Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord!"** Parents and Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles we come in worship, in prayer and in song to herald **the coming of our GOD in history and in mystery.** May we seize the challenge and the opportunity to reach out to those who want to know Him...especially the children and our children's children. Who will help answer their questions inspired by the gift of Faith? Who will teach them how to pray? Who will pass on the traditions, the songs of our family of Faith?

Who will accompany them on the Gospel Road when the road gets difficult? Who will bring them to Jesus? One couple, participated in their son's beatification ceremony in Assisi on October 10, 2020. **Carlo Acutis**, layman, who with the enthusiasm of youth, cultivated a friendship with our Lord Jesus, placing the Eucharist and the witness of charity at the center of his life. Pope Francis decreed **shall he be called Blessed.** After the reading of the apostolic Letter, the parents of **Blessed Carlos**, Andrea & Antonia Acutis-Salzano, processed towards the Altar carrying a reliquary containing **their son's heart.**

A new day for family holiness!
Your brother, *fr. Noel, ofm conv.*

St. Benedict the Moor Church



Our Mission

St. Benedict the Moor is a Catholic Christian Community that celebrates its African-American heritage and welcomes cultural diversity. Join us at the Table of the Eucharist as sisters and brothers in the Lord. We are committed to grow and diversify the Church through the new evangelization, family, catechesis, young adult ministry and outreach to the poor. In the spirit of the prophet Joshua, we can say:

"As for me and my household; we will serve the Lord."

December 27, 2020

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

"Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways."

St Benedict the Moor Parish

Sunday Mass: 10:30 am
Daily Masses: Mon.-Fri. 12:00 noon
Saturday: 8 am
Holy Days of Obligation:
Mass: 12 noon & 6:30 pm
(Exceptions will be posted)
Sacrament of Penance: Divine Mercy
Room Saturday 8:30-9:30am
or by Appointment

Emergencies:
call Fr.Noel: 410-818-8149
Office: 706- 323-8300

Communications
Address: St. Benedict the Moor
2935 9th Street
Columbus, Georgia 31906

Pastor

Fr. Noel Danielewicz, OFM Conv.
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410-818-8149

Staff

Administrative Assistant
Deborah Thompson

Director of Religious Education
Gail Buffong
706-536-8468

Director of Outreach
Beverly Casimier

Music Ministry
Mary Beth Kozee/Joe Saulsbury

Office Hours:
Pastor: Monday-Friday 10-11:30 am
1:00-3:00 pm

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Church

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2935 9th St.
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Christmas Blessings

Sisters and brothers,

On behalf of the Franciscan Friars Conventual~ Friars Robert, Bob, Manny, Paul and Franck and myself, we wish you a Christ-centered Christmas! Rest assured of my prayers and Christmas remembrances. Thank you for all your cards and generosity...I am humbled by your kindness and generosity.

As we enter the Christmas Season, we begin the evening of Christmas Eve and conclude after the feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 10th). May we celebrate this joyful season with hope and promise that the Lord will make all things new through his coming among us this Christmas 2020!

During this time of economic struggle, the Church has also felt the decline in stewardship giving. I would like to thank all those who have faithfully supported the ministry here at St. Benedict and gently remind those who have fallen behind to do whatever you can. May the Lord keep on blessing us as we give Him the honor and the glory for taking on our humanity and lifting us up by His divinity.

A blessed and spirited Christmas!

With love, **Friar Noel**



Holyday: Mary, Mother of God

Friday, January 1, 2021 10:30 AM

Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 3, 2021 10:30 AM

May the faith of God be with you this year. May the peace of God surround you, and may you be blessed each day of 2021.

Christmas Flowers

Christmas flowers were donated in memory of:

Cedric Johnson	Loyal Evans
James Grant	Archie Brown, Jr.
Vernicia Gaslin	Cheryl Jackson
Adries R. Shorty	Learline Hicks
Mary Helen Linton	Augustine Ayinmide
Alberta Casimier	Annie Veal



Mass Intentions

Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday, December 27, 2020 10:30 AM
St. Benedict the Moor Church—Family

Holy Innocents

Monday, December 28, 2020 12 Noon
+Betty Edwards

5th Day of Christmas

Tuesday, December 29, 2020 12 Noon
Joann Nejfelt on her birthday

6th Day of Christmas

Wednesday, December 30, 2020 12 Noon
Health of Sister Fides, CSSF

7th Day of Christmas

Thursday, December 31, 2020 12 Noon
For the Deceased Felician Sisters
Our Lady of Hope Province North America

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Friday, January 1, 2021 10:30 AM
St. Benedict the Moor Church Family

St. Basil & St. Gregory

Saturday, January 2, 2021 8:00 AM
Health of Friar Noel, OFM Conv.

Altar Flowers 2021

Sponsoring the altar flowers is a beautiful way to honor loved ones, or to mark a special life event: welcoming a new life, birthdays, the anniversary of a wedding, baptism, confirmation, in memory of a loved one, or simply in thanksgiving for life's many blessings. Select the date for your dedication and sign the form at the entrance of the Church or call the Church office. Currently, the suggested donation for Altar Flowers is \$100.

Special Collections

1. Catholic Schools (December)
There are no envelopes, please write Catholic Education on the memo line of your check
2. Black and Indian Mission Collection—
January 10, 2021

Stewardship

Offering: \$2082 (Online \$250)

Christmas Flowers: \$10

Southern Cross: \$25

Kitchen Reno: \$175

Utilities: (Online \$50)

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

READING 1 Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother. My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins—a house raised in justice to you.

READING 2 Col 3:12-21

Brothers and sisters:
Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged.

GOSPEL Lk 2:22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord*, and to offer the sacrifice of *a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons*, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord.

He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted—and you yourself a sword will pierce—so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

In Our Prayers

Fr. Noel Danielewicz	Elvia King
Sr. Agnes, fsma	Lenny Korona
Sr. Apollonia, cssf.	Ida Ruth Lane
Sr. Delores Anne, cssf	Elaine Layer
Helen Bell	Mittie Lewis
Amanda Cole	Delores McLeod
Mik Cole	Ruben Meinhofer & Fam.
Robert Cole	Denvey Nelson
Robert Dozier	Cordell Parker
Carl English	Gwendolyn Parker
Stephanie Findlay	Debra Pough
Fluellen Family	Evelyn Pough
Yvonne Gilberti	Joe Ravalese
Elizabeth Grey	Marcus Ransom
Ginnette Hughes	Lydia Sliva
Clarence Johnson	Madeline Smith
Donald Julien	Donnie Tarvin
Paul Julien	Emi Talbert
Jamaya Kennedy	Dorothy Washington
Michael King	Friar Jude Winkler
Earl King	

