

With the psalmist, we just prayed:
“I will walk before the Lord in the
land of the living.”

The depth and the breadth of that prayer should fill us
with fullness that comes only from being in love with
God!

Jesus asks his disciples—**Who do people say that I
AM?**” They replied: some say **John the Baptist**, others
Elijah and still others **the prophets**. But Jesus gets
personal and asks of them—**“But who do you say that
I am?”** And Peter responds—
“**You are the Christ!**”

Peter has given the right answer, but the wrong concept
of that answer. Peter has a false notion of what it
means to be the Messiah.

You see, as the time of Jesus, there were numerous
notions of what the Christ would look like, and it is
pretty likely that *Peter* had the wrong notion because
Jesus immediately silences him.

When Peter says—“that you are the Christ!” he is
thinking about an earthly glory....a worldly triumph! a
man so powerful, strong attractive and invulnerable
that everyone would have to fall at his feet. The reason
why Jesus’ sharp reply—**“Don’t tell anyone about that!”**

Theologian, Fr. Ronald Rolheiser explains it this way—
that the **CHRIST**, Jesus tells us, **is a dying and rising
Savior** whose glory is demonstrated in **letting himself
be transformed** through accepting with proper love and
graciousness the unavoidable **passivity, humiliation,
diminishment, and dying that eventually find him..**
That’s the dying part. But when ONE dies like that
there’s always a subsequent Passover to the Glory of a
heart so stretched and enlarged that it’s now able to
transform evil into **GOOD**....hatred into **LOVE**.....and
bitterness into **FORGIVENESS!**

How do YOU **imagine the MESSIAH? Imagine
Triumph? Imagine Glory?** Would he look us straight
into the eyes, and as he asked of Peter: **“How do you
understand me? What would he say to our answer?”**
“Don’t tell anyone about that?”

What kind of understanding do you have of Jesus as
our Messiah? From the days of our youth.....to the
times of mid—life crisis.....to the senior moments of
life.....Jesus beckons us:

“Just who do you say that I am?”

Turning to the Gospel of John 14: 6 we recognize that
Jesus is the WAY...the Way to the Father! And the Way
to remain faithful to Him is to love God and to love one
another as sisters and brothers in Christ!

St. Thomas Aquinas, a Dominican Friar and one of the
great theologians of the Church has this to say: Jesus
is himself at once both the WAY and the GOAL. Christ
is the WAY by which we come to know the TRUTH,

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

since he is the TRUTH! and then Aquinas adds: *“It is
better to limp along the way than to stride along off the
way. For tireless running on the wrong road only takes
me ever farther from the GOAL.....Christ the Way!”*

Today’s passage from the Gospel of Mark, was one of
three passages that St. Francis turned to in
discerning the way of life for he and his brothers.

**“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny
himself, take up his Cross and follow me!”**

To be a **FOLLOWER....A DISCIPLE** of the LORD means
that we are to experience *a change of HEART* that **we
call conversion!** As we answer his question, we in turn
say who we are and whose we are! The perennial ques-
tion is before us once again:

“Who do you say that I am?”

**I am a baptized sister or brother in Christ Jesus! I am
a daughter or son of the Living God. I am a witness to
the Trinitarian Community of Father, Son and Holy
Spirit! I am fully initiated as a son or daughter
through the sacraments of Baptism, of Confirmation
and Eucharist.**

Where were you 58 years ago on **September 15, 1963?**
It too was a Sunday morning in Birmingham, Alabama?
Yes, today we celebrate the **Martyrs of Birmingham**,
who had just finished their Sunday School classes and
were changing into their choir robes. The slain children
were Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robertson, Cynthia
Wesley and Denise McNair, members of the Sixteenth
Street Baptist Church. The awful symbolism of such a
massacre in church, and the innocence of the young
victims, underscored the **spiritual character of the
forces** engaged in the Birmingham struggle—literally a
battle waged between the *Children of Light and the
Children of Darkness*. Do you also remember: that it
was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who delivered the
eulogy at the girls’ funeral calling them **“Martyred
heroines of a holy crusade for freedom and human
dignity.”** Dr. King said: “These children—unoffending,
innocent and beautiful—were the victims of one of the
most vicious, heinous crimes ever perpetrated against
humanity.”

Yes, we remember, we celebrate and we believe!

Our Holy History continues from the times of Jesus to
the present moment. Why we gather and pray! The
struggle continues.....the names have changed, but it is
greater than we first realized. It’s not simply political or
solely racially motivated. The powers and the
principalities have also claimed this fight for human
rights and justice for all. AMEN! We witness to the
crucified and risen ONE! Amen! We live by and testify
to his Gospel Values! We are a sign of His Kingdom of
Justice, Love and Peace that is a New World Order for
all! **Justice/ Equality /Harmony**

As we continue to answer Jesus’ question with clarity
and truthfulness, we will have a better sense of our
own **IDENTITY** as well?

“Just, who do you say that I am?”

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.”

September 12, 2021

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**“I will walk before the Lord,
in the land of the living.”**

St Benedict the Moor Parish

Sunday Mass: 10:30 am
Daily Masses: Mon.,Wed.,Fri. 12:00
Tues.,Thurs. 11:00am
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.
tau1226@gmail.com
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

E-mail Address

stbenedict07@knology.net
Phone: 706- 323-8300
Fax: 706- 324-2641

Website
stbenedictthemoorcolumbus.org
Church

2930 Thomas Street
Columbus, GA 31906
Community Hall/Office
2935 9th St.
Columbus GA 31906

Altar Flowers



Altar Flowers were donated in memory of

**Dorothy Stewart
and
Sonsia Richerson**

by Beverly Casimier &
Deborah Thompson

Thank you!

The Lane family thanks our St. Benedict family for the love, support and prayers during a difficult time. Your kindness and caring were greatly appreciated!

In the Diocese

2021 Red Mass
Catholic Lawyers Guild to
Host Red Mass

The Catholic Lawyers Guild will host its annual Red Mass Friday, October 1, at noon. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Stephen Parks and will take place in St. Mary's Chapel, the Catholic Pastoral Center, 2170 E. Victory Drive. A reception will follow in O'Hara Hall to immediately following the Mass. All are invited. For additional information contact Sandra Saseen-Smith at ssaseen@glsp.org.

Lector Schedule

September 12—R. Gibbs & M. Evans
September 19—C. Ferguson & J. Turner
September 26—E. Johnson & G. Dawson

Worship and Pastoral Schedule

Sunday, September 12, 2021
10:30 A.M. 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
for St. Benedict Church Family

Monday, September 13, 2021
12 Noon St. John Chrysostom
Service of Word & Communion
Friars leaving for Baltimore for an
Extraordinary Pre—Chapter Mtg.

Tuesday, September 14, 2021
11 AM *Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross*
Service of Word & Communion

Wednesday, September 15, 2021
12 Noon *Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows*
Service of Word & Communion

Thursday, September 16, 2021
11 AM Sts. Cornelius & Cyprian/martyrs
Service of the Word & Communion

Friday, September 17, 2021
12 Noon St. Joseph Cupertino
Service of the Word & Communion
Fr. Noel on retreat at Mercy by the Sea Madison, CT

Saturday, September 18, 2021
No Service today! Church gets cleaned.....
Fr. Noel on retreat at Mercy by the Sea Madison, CT

Sunday, September 19, 2021
10:30 AM 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Guest Friar celebrant/homilist
Fr. Noel on retreat at Mercy by the Sea Madison, CT

Stewardship

Weekly Finance Report: September 5
Offertory: \$3421.00 (Online \$2150.00)
Church Repair: \$40.00
Kitchen Reno: \$230.00
Utilities: \$245.00 (Online \$110.00)
Haiti Relief Fund: \$187.00

Pastoral Concerns

1. The **Friars** of Our Lady of the Angels Province will gather from September 13th-16th in Baltimore, MD for an Extraordinary Pre—Chapter meeting. I plan to return after some time on retreat at Mercy by the Sea in Madison, CT. The other Friars will be returning to Columbus on the 16th and I will be back on the 24th. In case of an emergency please call the Church Office. Please keep us in prayer for safe travel and wise deliberations.
2. **RE-VAMPING the KITCHEN:** On Tuesday, September 7, 2021 M & M Construction was here to begin work on our Hall Kitchen. As the Outreach Team emptied out the pantry and the kitchen cabinets and shelves, the crew built a wall/barrier to define the construction site. Our goal is to have a larger kitchen by utilizing the area from the pantry, breezeway and current kitchen as one space. The AVAC room will also be upgraded: walls, flooring and lighting. May the Lord bless our efforts as we collectively build-up St. Benedict.
3. **CHURCH GARDEN:** the front Church garden has a beautiful selection of fall flowers thanks to the dedication and green—thumb of JJ (Junius Julien). Time, energy, and spirit are part of what makes things happen at St. Benedict the Moor. In the name of the entire community, thank you JJ for once again blessing us with a beautiful church garden. What it says is welcome! And that someone cares!
4. **SUNDAY ROSARY:** Beginning with the first Sunday of October/ October 3rd, we will begin praying the Rosary before Mass at 10:10 AM **remembering that the family that prays together, stays together!** Let us celebrate OCTOBER as the month of the Rosary.
5. **FEAST of St. Benedict the Moor** will be held the weekend of Saturday, October 16th and Sunday, October 17th. As we celebrate our patronal feast of Franciscan Friar, St. Benedict the Moor, we also celebrate our collective FEAST! St. Benedict is a family of families, that continues to express our cultural diversity within the Catholic Church. We are planning to focus on families both present and from the past, upon whose shoulder we rest.

Help us tell our story, share our Faith, and celebrate our gifts and blessings. Some of the events that will comprise our weekend will be:
an afternoon of games/prizes
a Family Potluck Dinner
a celebratory Mass
a Gospel Concert

Choose from any of the above where you would like to be involved in the events of the FEAST of St. Benedict the Moor!

name _____
cell phone _____
list event(s) _____

6. **A TIME to GATHER** As we prepare to GROW the CHURCH—we need your help in calling forth those interested in returning to the Church, those who would like to learn about the FAITH, and those who would like to walk with someone as a sponsor on their faith journey. Please call:
Gail Buffong 706-536- 8468
or Fr. Noel 410-818-8149

In Our Prayers

Our sick list is for parishioners, family and friends in need of prayer. Please keep our list current by calling the office to add or remove a name.

Fr. Noel Danielewicz	Donna Koermer
Valentina Nejfelt	Lenny Korona
Helen Bell	Mittie Lewis
Amanda Cole	Brenda Malone
Mik Cole	Delores McLeod
Robert Cole	Ruben Meinhofer & Fam.
Paul Danielewicz	Denvey Nelson
Robert Dozier	Major Nettles
Carl English	Cordell Parker
Yvonne Gilberti	Gwendolyn Parker
Elizabeth Grey	Debra Pough
Ginnette Hughes	Evelyn Pough
Lillian Humber	Joe Ravalese
Cecelia Hyams	Joan Rogala
Clarence Johnson	Lydia Sliva
Cecil Jones	Madeline Smith
Donald Julien	Emi Talbert
Earl King	Dorothy Washington
Elvia King	Mamie Wooden