

*Get to the Heart of the Covenant!*

1. **"Hear O Israel! The Lord is our God, The Lord alone!"** This key passage today's reading from the **Book of Deuteronomy** is called the **SHEMA!**
  - It was prayed by practicing Jews three times a day, while the commandment **"to love one's neighbor"** is taken from the Book of Leviticus 18:18.
  - What Jesus does is **to bring these two commandments together** as if there were two sides of the same coin.
2. St. John tells us: **"that anyone who says 'I love God and love neighbor are like two sides of the same coin.'"**
  - Jesus gets to the **HEART** of the Covenant Relationship with God and with our brothers and sisters.
  - As you know, there were hundreds of commandments and the Scribes and Pharisees were constantly quoting and misapplying their meaning oftentimes to suit themselves.
  - Jesus is making a rather definitive statement--that you cannot love God and NOT love one's neighbor.
3. This double commandment binds together **the life of worship and our daily behavior towards others.**
  - We can become so wrapped—up in our cocoon of God and ME through layers and layers of religious practice/ prayers/ devotions that we can miss **the importance of GOD and US!**
  - As one of the Scribes came to Jesus and asked him: **"which is the first of all commandments? He replies...."**The first is this: **Hear O ISRAEL! The Lord our God is Lord Alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength."** (*Commandments 1-3 in the decalogue*)
  - The second is this: **"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."** There is no other commandment greater than these.. (*Commandments 4-10 in the Decalogue.*)
4. Jesus challenges us to see the bigger picture! The Gospel shakes us from our spiritual complacency/ or apathy to a **conversion of heart and lifestyle.**
  - As we fall in love with our God, we enter into what Henri Nouwen calls the "Life of the Beloved" as we realize that we are working together to form the **"community of the Beloved Jesus."**
- Fr, John Dear in his work, **Jesus the Rebel**, further expounds that: "we are *sisters and brothers of Jesus*, members of the one human family. We turn enemies into friends and friends into true sisters brothers. We eagerly anticipate life in the communion of saints by revealing and forming that communion here and now with all we meet. Indeed, **life will never be the same."**
5. Sisters and brothers, **when we fall in love with the beloved Jesus**, and recognize that we are beloved as family, as community, as church, as the communion of saints **everything changes.**
  - Before us in the sanctuary, are the faces of our

- parents and grandparents, spouses, children and grand-children, friends and church members, who form the ancestral enthronement.
- They remind us of our mortality, as well as our belief in the Resurrection!
  - For they live now in Christ Jesus and life has not ended, but merely changed.
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6. Jesus is calling us into a deeper relationship as one of his disciples. The Gospels do not romanticize discipleship.
    - Fr. Dear has this to say about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus— Disciples drop everything , renounce their livelihood, leave everyone and follow Jesus completely.
    - There is no half—way, part-time, temporary discipleship. Jesus expects that his disciples **will heal the sick, exorcise demons, build community, proclaim God's reign, practice non-violence, carry the cross, keep watch with him, pray with him, share the Eucharist meal and, most importantly die and rise with him—and to remain with him forever.**
  7. Sisters and brothers, where do you find yourselves on this faith journey?
    - Does the Gospel put you on the edge for the Beloved Jesus?
    - Listen up! Hear O Church! **The Lord our God is Lord alone!**
    - **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. And you shall love your neighbor as yourself!**
    - The call to love God, self and neighbor is central to our Faith, and with the time we have, have we seriously addressed our mandate as responsible adult Christians?
  8. Living nearly three years into the pandemic---have we ceased the opportunity to help our family members, neighbors, or someone in need?
    - extra time.....to do good! or to let the world pass by.
    - availability of sharing a meal....with an elder, helping someone struggling with putting out their trash;
    - a church member, who would appreciate a ride to Mass.
    - whatever we can do for the love of God and neighbor is how we can concretely live this commandment , as together, **you and I are building up a more fraternal and evangelical world!**
  9. St. Francis of Assisi would often remind the friars and sisters: **While we have time, let us do good. For up until now we have done but little.**
    - **Procrastination** is a serious temptation to put off what we need to do. May it not prevent us from being faithful to our Covenant relationship with the Lord.
    - May the **invitation of the Gospel** propel us to the commandment to **LOVE!**

## 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."*

## October 31, 2021 Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

"I love you, Lord, my strength. "

### 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

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



## Altar Flowers



Altar Flowers are donated in memory of  
**Elizabeth Thornton**  
 and  
**Fannie Mae Turner**  
 by Maria & Joseph Turner

## Listening Session

All Catholics in the Diocese are invited to attend a Listening Session with Bishop Stephen D. Parkes as part of the **Reflect, Renew, Rejoice** planning initiative. These town-hall-style meetings will give Bishop Parkes the opportunity to learn about the needs, expectations and hopes of the Faithful across the Diocese.

On Pentecost Sunday, Bishop Parkes outlined a process of planning and discernment designed to help the Diocese Reflect, Renew and Rejoice as together we formulate a vision for our local Church.

**REFLECT**, the first stage in the process, will begin at the end of September with a series of Listening Sessions across the Diocese.

Listening Sessions are town-hall-style meetings that will give Bishop Parkes the opportunity to learn about the needs, expectations and hopes of the People of God in the Diocese. He will be present at each of the Sessions to listen to you, to hear your concerns, and to learn of your dreams and aspirations for the future of our local Church. He will be seeking comments on three key questions:

1. As a Diocese, what are we doing well?
2. What are we doing that we could improve upon?
3. Where should we be focused over the next 3-5 years?

By baptism, every member of the Church is called into communion with one another - the many coming together as one body in Christ. These Listening Sessions will provide us with an opportunity for listening, for sharing, for communion. Please continue praying for this initiative and join us on this journey. **Columbus will meet Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at St. Anne, 7:00pm to 8:30pm.**

## Worship and Pastoral Schedule

**Sunday, October 31, 2021**

**31st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

10:30 AM St. Benedict the Moor Church Fam.

+Diane Gaslin sister-in-law of Elvia King

**Monday, November 1st All Saints Day**

12 Noon +Sr. Peter Slawinski, SSJ, Tor

**Tuesday, November 2nd All Souls Day**

11 AM for all the souls in Purgatory

**Wednesday, November 3rd St. Martin de Porres**

12 Noon blessings for interracial justice

**Thursday, November 4th St Charles Borromeo**

11 AM +John Murphy, Jr.

**Friday, November 5th**

12 Noon +Marie Murphy

**Saturday, November 6th**

8:00 AM +Frederick Howard

8:30 AM Sacrament of Penance

*Join us for daily Liturgy! Celebrate the peace!*

## Ministry for Active Living

Join us for movement—inspiration—laughter for improved health and living.

November 12, 2021 12:00—2:30pm

## Daylight Savings Time Ends



## Pastoral Concerns

**Welcome** to the Church-family of St. Benedict—Joseph and Sommer Reeder and their children Joel, Isaiah, Micah, and Adaline.

May the blessings of the Lord be upon you as you make your home with us in Columbus.

**Ancestral Enthronement**—As we anticipate the Feast of All Souls on November 2nd, we will remember our dead by displaying their pictures in the Sanctuary throughout the month of November. Scripture tell us, “that it is laudable to pray for the dead”. We welcome framed pictures of your significant loved ones to help complete our “Ancestral Remembrance.”

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen!*

**Listening Sessions**—November 10, 2021

As we gather with our Bishop Stephen and with the Friars and Pastors of the 5 Catholic Churches that comprise the Columbus Deanery, I would like to have church accompaniment to voice our concerns and ideas to build-up the Catholic presence as the Diocese of Savannah.

This is a great opportunity to meet our Catholic sisters and brothers from St. Anne, Our Lady of Lourdes, Holy Family and Christ the King.

**Kitchen Reno Update:** We are seeing further development as the kitchen walls are being painted, new vinyl flooring has been chosen and ordered and we are awaiting the granite counter tops to be installed. Special thanks to all who have contributed towards this major renovation. We welcome further giving.

## Grace Scholars

Register now for your 2022 Georgia state tax credit that benefits Catholic education. GRACE Scholars provides scholarships to children from families with financial need in grades PreK-12 for use at participating schools located in the State of Georgia.

You will receive a 100% state of Georgia tax credit for your donation. This gift helps deserving students in Georgia receive an excellent Catholic education at no cost to you! Visit [gracescholars.org](http://gracescholars.org) for more details!

## Stewardship

**Weekly Finance Report:** October 24

Offertory: \$1712.00 (online \$416.00)

Church Repair: \$120.00 (online \$20.00)

Utilities: (online \$60.00)

Kitchen Reno: \$625.00

World Mission: \$195.00

Sisters and brothers, thank you for your steadfast and faithful giving as we continue in a spirit of generous stewardship. May the Lord keep on blessing your goodness!

## 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  
 Valentina Nejfelt  
 Helen Bell  
 Amanda Cole  
 Mik Cole  
 Robert Cole  
 Paul Danielewicz  
 Robert Dozier  
 Carl English  
 Yvonne Gilberti  
 Elizabeth Grey  
 Sarah Hicks  
 Ginnette Hughes  
 Lillian Humber  
 Cecelia Hyams  
 Clarence Johnson  
 Cecil Jones  
 Donald Julien  
 Earl King  
 Elvia King

Donna Koerner  
 Lenny Korona  
 Mittie Lewis  
 Brenda Malone  
 Delores McLeod  
 Ruben Meinhofer & Fam.  
 Denvey Nelson  
 Major Nettles  
 Cordell Parker  
 Gwendolyn Parker  
 Debra Pough  
 Evelyn Pough  
 Joe Ravalese  
 Joan Rogala  
 Elaine Shorty  
 Lydia Sliva  
 Madeline Smith  
 Emi Talbert  
 Dorothy Washington  
 Mamie Wooden