

Fifth Sunday of Lent

“Give up SIN and believe in the GOSPEL”

Sisters and brothers, we often hear folks saying—**“God makes a way out of NO way!”** Whether through the sea, or in the desert, we are called to walk on the path that God has hewn for us! In order for us to do so, we need to let go of the baggage of the past and move forward unencumbered. All the folks mentioned in the Gospel today, the Israelites to the Ephesians, the Scribe and the Pharisees, and the unnamed woman are being asked to accept the challenge of the new freedom Jesus offers.

As the Gospel of John unfolds, the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been **caught in the sin of adultery**. They also stated her punishment under the Law—**that she was to be stoned to death**. Jesus responds by saying nothing and begins to write on the ground. He chooses NOT to engage in conversation with the legalists of his time. By the very fact of rejecting their authority, Jesus reminds us that God has made us a free people and we should guard our freedom by not letting others define us. The point he is making is that we have all sinned and have been endowed with a conscience to show us the error of our ways. Amen!

As followers of the Christ, you and I are called **to give up SIN and believe in the GOSPEL!** Think about the unfairness in the situation presented. The sin adultery and it is not committed alone. Where is the man who was involved with her? The inequity of only singling her out for judgment and for sentencing begins to unravel. A WOMAN has been sentenced to death by stoning, but such a sentence **is NOT the way of our God**.

As we reflect on the partiality of her sentence, this attitudinal bias continues today, in some of the Churches that require a woman caught in adultery to come before the congregation and **“confess up!”** American author, Nathaniel Hawthorne in his book the Scarlet Letter, details the meaning of **the scarlet letter A** that was worn by the accused signifying **that the A** stood for adultery, branding, shunning, judging, condemning and executing.

Have we made much progress today in our sense of SIN and what truly offends God? Probably not! It seems that we are still caught up in the vestiges of “Puritanism, Jansensism, Hedonism, and Sexism” and have not begun to understand the dignity of the human person within the moral context of the mind of the Creator God, who placed the Natural Law in our conscience and heart.

As we touch base with the plot of the “unnamed woman” of John’s Gospel, it gives us cause to reflect on God’s attitude toward SIN regardless of what the sin is. Jesus then addresses those gathered and says: **“let the one among you who is without sin, be the first to throw a stone at her!”** One by one, they threw down their stones and walked away.

Turning to the woman Jesus says—**“Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”** She replied, **“no one!”** And in turn he replied, **“Neither do I do condemn you!” “Go and from now on do not sin any more!”**

Perhaps, we too, were in this situation that our weaken humanity caused us to fall into the sin of adultery or if not married fornication. As Jesus offers forgiveness to the woman, He extends it to everyone here as well! Amen! Thank-you, Lord! Such a dead—end sentence by the Law offered no hope nor an opportunity for a second—chance. It interferes with the Spirit of the Lord working on the human heart....that needs healing and forgiveness through the process of **“Gospel—Conversion.” Jesus is calling for an openness to a change of heart called METANOIA!**

There is a song whose lyrics are—
“please be patient with me, God is not through with me yet!”

Whether it be the woman caught in adultery or the convicted robber, Dismas on Calvary’s cross there is always room for God’s love (HESED) that is **unconditional love**, always **ready to forgive** and **open to mercy**.

Sisters and brothers, may our Lenten journey lead each of us to **Easter—Transformation with the gifts of new life and peace!** Our way of life is centered on Jesus, as we give—up SIN and extend the compassion of Jesus! May today’s Gospel give us all a new optic in embracing what FORGIVENESS is all about! Seventy times seven times!

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.”

April 3, 2022

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

**“The Lord has done great things for us,
we are filled with joy.”**

St Benedict the Moor Parish

Sunday Mass: 10:30 am
Daily Masses: Mon.,Wed.,Fri. 12:00
Tues.,Thurs. 11:00am
Saturday: 9 am

Holy Days of Obligation:
Mass: 12 noon & 6:30 pm
(Exceptions will be posted)
Sacrament of Penance: Divine Mercy
Room Saturday 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
Secretary: Monday-Tuesday 10-2 pm
Wednesday-Thursday 10-4 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

Pastoral Concern

Outreach Ministry

During the month of March 2022, our Outreach Ministry prepared and fed 587 sisters and brothers from our local community. We are blessed with a dedicated team, who are committed in the name of the Church to minister to Jesus at the door. Among them are: Beverly Casimier, Director, Andrea Lane, Carleton Pearson, Ruby Rumley, Anne Marie Dawson, and Shirley Dexter.

Donations are welcome to help sustain this ministry. We receive a grant of \$2000 from the ACA Annual Catholic Appeal. In the name of all who serve and have donated gifts, we thank—you in the name of our sisters and brothersour walking Church!

Palm Sunday's Second Collection

On Palm Sunday, April 10th, we will be taking up a special collection for our sisters and brothers in the Ukraine. The ushers will take up this collection as we walk in solidarity with our sisters and brothers, fighting for their freedom as a sovereign nation. Please be as generous as you can be. May the blessing of God be upon us, that you may know of His abundance.

As they experience war in their native land, they are being forced to leave and find safety and security beyond the borders of what is familiar. Facing the unknown of what lies before them. May we, through our generosity make a difference in their lives with our response not to refugees, but to our sisters and brothers in need of the essentials of life for their families and their elderly.

May the presence of our Friars be the extension of our arms to make a difference there. Reaching out to the Jesus in them, may the Jesus in us continue to be generous! We Friars invoke the benediction of a loving God upon all who participate in this tragic situation of war and denigration. May our giving be a living testimony to the prayers of so many, as we join in solidarity with them.

Rice Bowls

Sisters and brothers, please return your Rice Bowls on Holy Thursday the last day of Lent/ April 14th. Your sacrificial giving will help in addressing the need of world hunger. Remember: Matthew 25: 31—46.....when I was hungry, when I was thirsty Let us continue to see Jesus in the face of the poor.

Good Friday Collection

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the Church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines of the Holy Land.

The pandemic hit particularly hard the Christians in the Holy Land. Most of them depend on pilgrimages to work. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection is also necessary to meet the basic needs of the People of God still living in this Land where the Church was born.

When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. Please be generous!

Easter Sunday Collection

On Easter Sunday, April 17th, 2022 the second collection has been designated by the Diocese of Savannah for our Priests Retirement. Health care for our Senior Priests continues to become a concern of the entire community. Please be as generous as you can. May God keep on blessing you!

Holy Hour of Healing

All are invited to join Bishop Stephen D. Parkes at a Holy Hour for Healing in recognition of those in the Diocese of Savannah that have been affected by physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse, and to pray for comfort, hope and healing.

Wednesday, April 6 at 5:30 PM
St. James the Less Catholic Church
8412 Whitfield Ave., Savannah, GA

Happy Birthday

Barbara Lawrence	April 8
Norman Johnson	April 12
George Smith	April 14
Ellie Chardos	April 17
Yetunde Ayinmide	April 21
Gina Hern-Martinez	April 26



Worship and Pastoral Schedule

Sunday, April 3, 2022	10:30 am
<i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	
Church Family of St. Benedict the Moor	
Healing for Agnes Olbrys	
Monday, April 4, 2022	12:00 Noon
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	
+ John Murphy, III	
Tuesday, April 5, 2022	11:00 am
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	
+ Clementine Knox	
Outreach Ministry	12 Noon
Wednesday, April 6, 2022	12 Noon
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	
+ George Leighton	
Thursday, April 7, 2022	11:00 am
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	
+ Sharon Smith	
Outreach Ministry	12 Noon
Friday, April 8, 2022	12 Noon
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	
Blessings upon Valentina Nejfelt	
Stations of the Cross	12:40 pm
Saturday, April 9, 2022	9:00 am
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	
Health of Fr. Noel	
Sacrament of Penance/Confessions	9:30 am

Stewardship

Weekly Finance Report: March 27, 2022
Offertory: \$2313.00 (online \$255.00)
Church Repair: \$890.00 (online \$25.00)
Building Fund: \$485.00
Easter Flowers: \$35
Catholic Relief: \$75.00
Utilities: (online \$50.00)

Our stewardship is an act of thanksgiving for everything we have and are. It is an act of personal response to our Baptismal call: to live in a faith community committed to the Lord Jesus Christ and committed to serve each other's needs.

In Our Prayers

Fr. Noel Danielewicz	Veronica Mary Koleser
Valentina Nejfelt	Lenny Korona
Helen Bell	Richie LaBorde
Beverly Casimier	Mittie Lewis
Amanda Cole	Brenda Malone
Mik Cole	Delores McLeod
Robert Cole	Ruben Meinhofer & Fam.
LaKeith Collier	Denvey Nelson
Paul Danielewicz	Major Nettles
Robert Dozier	Cordell Parker
Carl English	Gwendolyn Parker
Carlos Gaslin	Debra Pough
Yvonne Gilberti	Evelyn Pough
Elizabeth Grey	Joe Ravalese
Sarah Hicks	Joan Rogala
Ginnette Hughes	Adryonna Rutherford
Lillian Humber	David Savoy
Cecelia Hyams	Elaine Shorty
Sabrina Jackson	Lydia Sliva
Clarence Johnson	Madeline Smith
Albertine Jones	Fannie Square
Brittany Jones	Friar Jude Surowiec
Cecil Jones	Emi Talbert
Donald Julien	Dorothy Washington
Earl King	Mamie Wooden
Elvia King	