

In Our Prayers

Fr. Noel Danielewicz	Cecil Jones
Valentina Nejfelt	Donald Julien
Helen Bell	Dennis King
Amanda Cole	Earl King
Mik Cole	Elvia King
Robert Cole	Mittie Lewis
Robert Dozier	Denvey Nelson
James Fisher	Major Nettles
Ollie Fisher	Cordell Parker
Carlos Gaslin	Gwendolyn Parker
Yvonne Gilberti	Debra Pough
Elizabeth Grey	Evelyn Pough
Lillian Humber	Elaine Shorty
Sabrina Jackson	Madeline Smith
Clarence Johnson	Michelle Williams

Stewardship

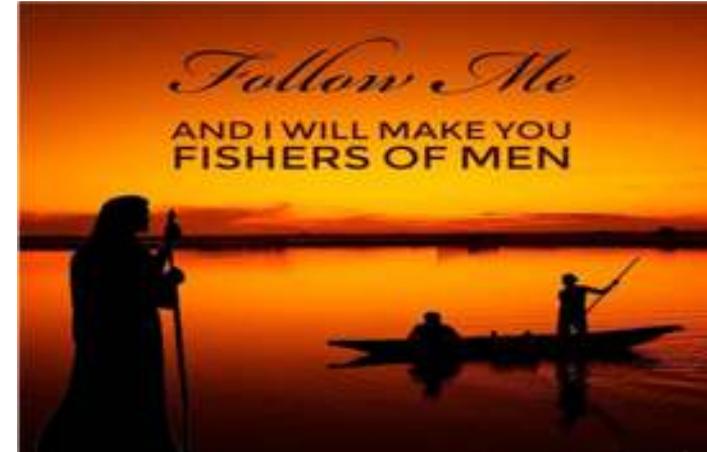
Weekly Finance Report: 1-15-23
Offertory: \$1637 (online \$250)
Black and Indian Missions: \$20
Utilities: \$45 (online \$50)
Church Repair: (online \$400)
Building \$25

Staff

Administrative Assistant
Deborah Thompson
706-323-8300
Director of Outreach
Beverly Casimier
706-323-8300
Music Ministry
Mary Beth Kozee/Joe Saulsbury

Communications
Phone: 706-323-8300
Address: St. Benedict the Moor
2935 9th Street
Columbus, Georgia 31906

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."

January 22, 2023
**Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

"The Lord is my light and my salvation."

Mass

Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.
Daily Masses: Wed. & Fri. 12:00
Tues. & Thurs. 11:00 a.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.
Holy Days of Obligation:
Mass: 12 noon & 6:30 p.m.
(Exceptions will be posted)
Penance: Divine Mercy Room
Saturday 9:30a.m.
or by Appointment
Emergencies:
Call Fr. Patrick: 713-302-6549

Pastor

Reverend Patrick Otor MSP
713-302-6549
706-323-8300

Office Hours

Pastor
Tuesday-Friday:
10-11:30 a.m. 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Secretary
Monday-Tuesday 10-2 p.m.
Wednesday-Thursday 10-4 p.m.

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

Commentary

When Jesus called his disciples it was not a random call. The call we heard in the Gospel today was only the beginning. It was merely preparing them for what we might say was a second call they would receive from Jesus later when he formed them into the college of the twelve apostles. Each of the four Gospels in their own diverse way show this second call of Jesus forming the twelve from the larger body of disciples. It is easier to see this in Luke because Luke explicitly says that Jesus gathered his disciples and from them he chose the twelve (Luke 6:13). This second call from Jesus into the college of the twelve apostles happened in the context of Jesus' prayer, and once again it is easier to see in Luke because Luke writes that Jesus spent the whole night in prayer before choosing the twelve out of the disciples (Luke 6:12-13). We see then that the call of the twelve apostles arises out of the prayer of Jesus with his Father, out of Jesus' relationship with his Father. They were specially chosen by God. Their call, their vocation, is an expression of the love of God for them. It was because God loved them specially that God chose them. I think we could surely apply to the call of the twelve what Moses says to the people in Deuteronomy, "It was not because you are the largest of all nations that the Lord set his heart on you and chose you, for you are really the smallest of all nations. It is because the Lord loves you..." (Deut 7:7-8) When Jesus called the twelve it was not because they were greater than anybody else, but because he loved them. When Jesus calls you it is not because you are better than anybody else but because he loves you. This love of Jesus for those he calls is specifically mentioned twice in the Gospel of John. As the Last Supper commences John writes, "He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end" (John 13:1) and during the supper Jesus declared, "As the Father loves me, so I also love you." (John 15:9)

We heard in today's Gospel that after Peter and Andrew were called they left their nets and followed Jesus (Matt 4:20) and after James and John were called they immediately left their boat and their father and followed Jesus (Matt 4:22). Of course the reason they were able to leave everything to follow Jesus is because they loved Jesus. If they did not love Jesus they would not have been able to leave everything to follow Jesus. Jesus explicitly stated on one occasion that they loved him; during the Last Supper in John's Gospel Jesus said, "the Father himself loves you, because *you have loved me...*" (John 16:27) Yes, they failed Jesus during his Passion but Jesus forgave them and they were restored in the relationship of love with Jesus again. Three times Jesus asked Peter if he loved him and three times Peter responded that he loved Jesus. When one loves Jesus, obeying Jesus is not even an issue. Again during the Last Supper in John Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." (John 14:15) When one loves Jesus, suffering for Jesus does not even seem like suffering. When the apostles were interrogated by the Sanhedrin for preaching about Jesus after Pentecost, they were beaten but went home rejoicing because they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the name of Jesus (Acts 5:40). They had been called by Jesus because he loved them and their love of Jesus enabled them to do anything for Jesus.

Jesus called the apostles, "Come after me." It was a call firstly to spend time with Jesus. Jesus called them not because they were better than others but because he loved them. The apostles responded because they loved Jesus, and because they loved Jesus obedience and suffering would not even seem like obedience and suffering. "Come after *me*." They left everything and followed Jesus.

Offering Envelopes

Some of you may be aware of delays in the offering envelope mailings. The company states that dealing with supply chain and employee issues has created a slow draw on production and mailing. Both issues have recently been resolved but catchup will take time. Mailings will resume by March. Meanwhile, envelopes are available in the back of the church. Please remember to write your name on the envelope if you choose to use one or simply place checks in the basket.

Altar Flowers

There are still dates available for donating Altar Flowers in honor of a loved one. Call the office for available dates. This is an excellent way to remember the anniversary of departed family members or to honor the special occasion of a birthday or wedding anniversary. Your contributions to this fund also supports the cost of providing flowers for the church. Your support is always appreciated.

Special Mass

"There will be a special Mass for Seneca, Choices for Life at St. Anne's on Tuesday, the 24th, at Noon. Immediately following there will be a blessing of Seneca's facilities on Rosemont Dr. (close to St. Francis Hospital). Refreshments will be served there. Please join us for either, or both, events. ALL are welcome!"

Happy Birthday!

Darlene Thomas

January 27



Happy Anniversary

Altar Flowers are donated in honor of **Junius and Ceolia Julien** as they celebrate their 53rd Wedding Anniversary

With prayers that the wonderful life you've made together will continue to be filled with God's richest blessings



Worship and Pastoral Schedule

Sunday, January 22, 2023 10:30 am
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday : January 23 No Mass
Saint Vincent; Saint Marianne Cope
Tuesday: January 24 11:00 am
+Wayne Carter, Sr.
Saint Francis de Sales
Wednesday: January 25 12 noon
The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle
Thursday: January 26 11:00 am
Saints Timothy and Titus
Friday: January 27 12 noon
Saint Angela Merici
Saturday: January 28 9 :00 am
Saint Thomas Aquinas
Sacrament of Penance 9:30am