

Stewardship

Weekly Finance Report: 3-12-23
Offertory: \$1405 (online \$401)
Building Fund: \$50 (online\$35)
Church Repair: \$20 (online \$410)
Utilities: \$50 (online \$60)

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
Gawlik Family	Debra Pough
Yvonne Gilberti	Evelyn Poug
Elizabeth Grey	Gary Shirley
Lillian Humber	Elaine Shorty
Sabrina Jackson	Madeline Smith
Clarence Johnson	Michelle Williams

Staff

Administrative Assistant
Deborah Thompson
706-323-8300
Director of Outreach
Beverly Casimier
706-323-8300
Music Ministry
Anastasiia Zakharchenko/
Joe Saulsbury

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

Worship Schedule

Sunday: March 19, 2023 10:30 am
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Monday: March 20 No Mass
Saint Joseph
Tuesday: March 21 11:00 am
Wednesday: March 22 12 noon
Thursday: March 23 11:00 am
Saint Turibius
Friday: March 24 12 noon
Stations of the Cross
Saturday: March 25 9 :00 am
The Annunciation of the Lord
Sacrament of Penance 9:30am

Catholic Relief Services

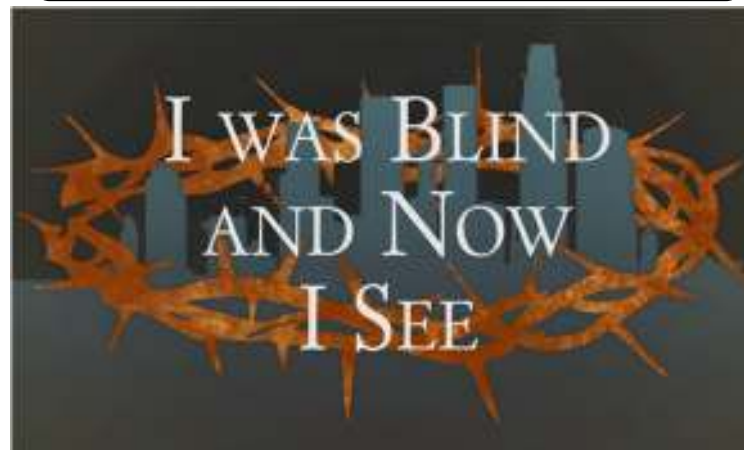
This week we take up ***The Catholic Relief Services Collection to reveal God's love to our brothers and sisters in need.*** This collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide relief and support for struggling communities and to work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Ultreya

The next Ultreya for the Columbus, Ft. Benning and Phenix City Cursillo Community will be held on Saturday, April 1, in Visitation Hall at St. Anne's following the 9:00 am Mass. **The Ultreya will include a potluck brunch.** All Cursillistas and anyone interested in learning more about Cursillo are urged join us for Mass and the Ultreya.

For information about Cursillo and upcoming events, call Bob Spano at 706-304-4457 or Louie Robinson at 706-464-5911.

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."

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent

**"The Lord is my shepherd,
there is nothing I shall want."**

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

Commentary

Fourth Sunday of Lent

All the readings of today tell us about sight and inner vision. The first reading takes us back to one thousand years before Christ when the prophet Samuel was to choose a king for the people of Israel from among the sons of Jesse of Bethlehem. All the sons of Jesse had the dignity and the physical appearance and characteristics of potentially good leaders, but God knew only one who would make a good king. And that was David, a shepherd boy. In the second reading St. Paul tells us that we have been enlightened by Christ. “You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.” (Eph 5:8) While in the Gospel we hear how a man born blind not only had his eyes opened by Christ but his heart opened (faith), whereas those who claimed to be able to see were blinded by arrogance and unbelief.

There was a Texan called John Howard who was blinded for twelve years during World War II in a plane explosion. He was completely blind and was unable to see. But one day as he was walking down the street near his parent’s home in Texas, he suddenly began to see “red sand” in front of his eyes, and without warning his sight returned. According to an eye specialist, a blocking of blood to his optic nerve caused by the explosion had opened. Commenting on his experience, John said, “You don’t know what it is like for a man to see his wife and children for the first time.” But, in today’s Gospel (John 4:7), something much more spectacular happened to a man born blind, for Christ conferred on him not just the man’s physical sight, but also his spiritual sight.

Jesus Christ opened his inner eyes of faith and radiated his own light into the mind and heart of the man born blind, so that the blind man believed in Jesus as one believes in the sun.

You and I also received the same gift of faith at our baptism, a faith without which there is neither hope nor love, for it alone grasps meaning in the midst of the meaningless of the world; a faith that sings like a bird while the dawn is still dark; a faith that can turn away any course, light up any path, relieve any distress, bring joy out of sorrow. At Baptism we too received the light of Christ, a light for which restless millions waited for ages, whose dawn makes all things new, a light that gives more than sight. This light enables us to emerge from the tombs of sin and death into the light of Christ’s life. St. Paul said, “There was a time when you were in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.” (Eph 5:8) The time when we were in darkness was before we were baptized. We were all blind and in darkness. At baptism we came to see in faith who Jesus Christ really is and the light he offers.

Lent is the time for each of us to ask whether we are in the light or still in the dark. Do we overlook people in need and keep talking about abstract questions of evil in the world like the disciples who asked whose fault it was that the man was born blind? Are we blind to the suffering of the poor and the sick, the oppressed and the abandoned? Are we afraid to support just causes, like the parents of the man born blind who would not stand up for him out of fear of authorities? Is our faith so weak that it cannot see any good beyond our sorrows? Holy Saturday is drawing near, when we will renew our baptismal promises. May we, therefore, come out of darkness and begin to walk in the light of the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Happy Birthday!



Gladys Moses

March 19

Gladys Ford

March 21

Mary Johnson

March 21

Jacqueline Harris

March 22

Spurgeon Glenn

March 23

5k Run/Walk

Save the date/spread the word! The Parish Council is planning a 5k run/walk for October 7, 2023. Encourage friends and family to participate. Your input is requested to help come up with a theme for the event. A suggestion box is located in the back of the church. Write your suggestion and place it in the box. The theme will be announced later. Please plan to support this fund raiser.

Baby Bottle Boomerang

Sound Choices Pregnancy Clinic is kicking off their **Baby Bottle Boomerang** fundraiser. This year there is one large bottle in the back of the church for collecting donations. We hope to fill it and turn it in by May 1, 2023. Give generously—*every cent could save a baby's life.*



Penance Service

March 31 5:30pm

Palm Sunday of the Passion— April 2nd

10:30 a.m. will begin with an outdoor gathering before the Church. Palms will be blessed and the community will join in the opening procession into the Church.

Mass of the Lord’s Supper—

Holy Thursday— April 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Washing of the Feet
Institution of the Eucharist
Call to Service
Adoration (1 hour)

(Security surveillance will be in place.)

Good Friday of the Passion Service—

April 7 at 3:00 p.m.

Service of the Word
(includes Stations)
Veneration of the Cross
Holy Land Collection
Communion Service

Holy Saturday/The Easter Vigil

April 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Service of the Word
Blessing of the New Fire
Easter Proclamation
Blessing of Holy Water
Renewal of Baptismal Vows
Liturgy of the Eucharist

(Security surveillance will be in place.)

Easter Sunday—The Mass of the Resurrection

April 9 at 10:30 a.m.

Renewal of Baptismal Vows