

Stay  
awake!



## ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC CHURCH



20370 Smith Road, Covington, LA 70435 • Office: 985-892-5202 • Fax: 985-892-4211

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[www.stbenedictchurchcovington.com](http://www.stbenedictchurchcovington.com) • Email: [office@stbencov.org](mailto:office@stbencov.org)  [www.facebook.com/stbencov](https://www.facebook.com/stbencov)

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:45 am-4:00 pm

<b>Pastor</b>	Very Rev. Charles J. Benoit, J.C.L.	<a href="mailto:cbenoit@arch-no.org">cbenoit@arch-no.org</a>
<b>Deacon</b>	Rev. Mr. Daniel Musso	<a href="mailto:dmusso@arch-no.org">dmusso@arch-no.org</a>
<b>Deacon</b>	Rev. Mr. Ellis Iverson	<a href="mailto:civerson@arch-no.org">civerson@arch-no.org</a>
<b>Parish Secretary</b>	Channon Horner	<a href="mailto:office@stbencov.org">office@stbencov.org</a>
<b>Parish Catechetical Leader (PCL)</b>	Corina Montreuil	<a href="mailto:psr@stbencov.org">psr@stbencov.org</a>
<b>Youth Minister</b>	Bobby Thomas	985-373-5198
<b>RCIA</b>	Corina Montreuil	<a href="mailto:rcia@stbencov.org">rcia@stbencov.org</a>
<b>Lunch Ministry</b>	Janie Ellis	<a href="mailto:jellis1129@gmail.com">jellis1129@gmail.com</a>
<b>New Baby Meal Ministry</b>	Debra Dwight	<a href="mailto:debradwight07@gmail.com">debradwight07@gmail.com</a>
<b>Communion Ministers</b>	Parish Office	<a href="mailto:office@stbencov.org">office@stbencov.org</a>
<b>Communion to the Sick</b>	Parish Office	985-892-5202
<b>Lectors</b>	Darlene Bertrand	<a href="mailto:dennisbertrand@bellsouth.net">dennisbertrand@bellsouth.net</a>
<b>Ushers</b>	Phil Rapp	<a href="mailto:rapppp1976@outlook.com">rapppp1976@outlook.com</a>
<b>Blanket Ministry</b>	Susan Treuting	<a href="mailto:ricktreuting@gmail.com">ricktreuting@gmail.com</a>
<b>Men's Club</b>	Phil Rapp, President	<a href="mailto:rapppp1976@outlook.com">rapppp1976@outlook.com</a>
<b>Altar Society</b>	Lorelle Russell, President	<a href="mailto:lorellwr@yahoo.com">lorellwr@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Knights of Columbus Council 3061</b>		
	Grand Knight, David Schexnayder.	<a href="mailto:grandknight@koc3061.org">grandknight@koc3061.org</a>

### MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday Vigil** 5:30 pm  
**Sunday** 8:00 & 10:30 am  
**Tuesday-Friday** 8:00 am

### RECONCILIATION

**Wednesday** 5:00-6:00 pm  
**Saturday** 4:00-5:00 pm

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Fridays** 8:30-9:30 am  
**First Friday** 7:00-8:00 pm

### ROSARY FOR PEACE

**Third Thursday** 8:30 am

**MARRIAGE** Please contact the church office at least six (6) months prior to the desired date of the wedding.

**SACRAMENT OF THE SICK** Any Catholic who is in danger due to age or health, or undergoing medical procedures and feels the need for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, please contact Father Charles. It is the parish's custom to do anointings during the daily Mass, but they can also be administered privately. For emergencies, call the parish office 892-5202 and follow the prompt for emergencies.

**BAPTISM** Please email Deacon Danny [dmusso@arch-no.org](mailto:dmusso@arch-no.org) or contact the office to begin preparations. Seminars are held on the last Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Guided by the Gospel, strengthened by the Eucharist, and inspired by Benedictine values, the mission of St. Benedict Catholic Church is to be a vibrant family of believers, worshipping God with joy, excitement, and reverence. Forming the Body of Christ and acting upon our faith in Jesus, we strive to spread the Good News by engaging in ministries of hospitality, hope, education, spirituality, and social justice to each other and those beyond our community.



### *Father Charles's Corner...*

This weekend we begin the beautiful season of Advent. It is a season meant for preparation. In reality it is a preparation for two things: the celebration of our Savior's birth and the anticipation of His second coming. These are weighty tasks that have eternal consequences. So, let us Christian stewards make the words of the Prophet Isaiah our motto for the season: "Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways and we may walk in his paths."

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, it seems everywhere we turn we are pushed to spend more, do more, entertain more, and generally rush around at a frantic pace — all to create a "perfect" Christmas day. In contrast to this worldly pressure, the Church's guidance to use these weeks as a time to focus on our spiritual lives can indeed seem like a mountain climb.

St. Paul tells us in the second reading: "It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep." And what should we do once awake? We must be-come like Christ. St. Paul puts it this way: "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh."

Our Lord Himself gives us several powerful images to fix in our minds as we travel through the Advent season. First, He calls to mind for us the image of Noah preparing the ark in the days before the flood. While Noah used his time (and talents) to follow God's instructions in preparation for the coming flood, everyone else around him was "living it up." This is exactly what it can feel like for us as we attempt to focus our time on spiritual matters in the days leading up to Christmas! But when the flood came, those unprepared were carried away by the water while Noah endured unharmed. Jesus warns that this is how it will be at His second coming.

To further illustrate the suddenness with which He will return, Jesus describes it as two men out in a field. One man gets taken while the other is spared; and as two women grinding at a mill, one taken, the other spared. Then he describes his return as a thief in the night, certainly the image of a sudden and unexpected event. "Therefore, stay awake!" He implores, adding, "So, too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, Son of Man will come."

How can we prepare ourselves and our families for a holy celebration of Jesus' birth on Dec. 25 and for his certain second coming at a date we do not know? We can push back against the world's pressure to have the "perfect Christmas." Scale back on the material kind of gift-giving, the complicated menus, and the unessential trappings of the season so that we have more time for spiritual preparation: Confession, weekday Mass, adoration, family prayer time, lighting the Advent wreath, performing acts of kindness.

It may feel like a mountain climb, but in the end, we will be prepared to celebrate a truly meaningful Christmas, we will have become more like our Savior, and we will be ready for Him to come again. Let's go climb the Lord's mountain!

## Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



### **Tuesday, December 2**

+Deceased Parents of Marianites of Holy Cross Guild

### **Wednesday, December 3**

Parents of Marianites of Holy Cross Guild

### **Thursday, December 4**

Families of Holy Cross Guild

### **Friday, December 5**

+Poor Souls

### **Saturday, December 6**

**5:30 p.m.**

Sisters of Mount Carmel Benefactors,

+Don Mastio, +David Mastio, +Normie Miller,

+Deceased Sisters of Mount Carmel Apostolate,

+Skip Miller, +Guy Palermo, +Benjamin Minden,

+Carrol Arcement Family, +Narvey & Esmá DeLage,

+Betty Lemoine, +Dr. Jerry Casey, +Nestor Bourgeois,

### **Sunday, December 7**

**8:00 a.m.**

Parishioners of Saint Benedict

**10:30 a.m.**

+Barbara Gaudin, +Marjorie Sayers, Brian Peterson,

+Arthur DeLaune, +John Mannion, +Don Mastio,

+Betty Lemoine, Wayne & Eileen Gremillion,

+Dr. Jerry Casey, +Phillip E. Lee, Jr.



## Prayer List



Jim Seward, Anthony Sorrentino, Dee Sylvia, Tina Zocco, Lisa Valley, Scott Lee, Carol Everhardt, Bennett Miller, Joanne Reber, Anna Ison, Gerardo Antonucci, Presley Patrick, Kaiden Lessard, Jennifer Bradley, Ryan Ware, Timothy Rollman, Angela Brady, Judy Woolley, Phillip E. Lee, Sr., Flavia Langan, Addie Pitre, Carol Vickers, Evan Cartozzo, Ed Ansardi, Margaret Ruiz, Patricia Holden, Linda Richerson, Brooke Joseph, Kai Joseph, Paul Richmon, Avery Fuselier, Ed Don-Jordon, Jenna Vial

The Men's Club thanks everyone who supported their

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## Poinsettia Sponsorship Form

If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia for Christmas, please place your donation of \$20.00 per poinsettia in an envelope marked "Poinsettias" with this form and place it in the weekend collection or drop it off at the office **by 9 a.m. on December 15th**. It is important that you **PRINT** your dedication **CLEARLY** in order to avoid errors.

**Please note: One person, couple, family or group per numbered line.  
\$20 per Poinsettia/Dedication Line.**

Donor Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of:**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_



# Catholic Social Teaching and Migration

## Background

In advocating on behalf of migrants, immigrants, and refugees, it is important to understand that the Catholic position is based on Catholic social teaching, which is derived from the Gospels and the words of Christ; statements and encyclicals of the Popes; and statements and pastoral letters of bishops around the world, including the bishops of the United States. In *Strangers No Longer Together On The Journey Of Hope* (2003), bishops of the United States and Mexico wrote, "Our common faith in Jesus Christ moves us to search for ways that favor a spirit of solidarity. It is a faith that transcends borders and bids us to overcome all forms of discrimination and violence so that we may build relationships that are just and loving."

## Gospel Foundations

There is a long Biblical foundation for hospitality, but nowhere is it made more clear that persons on the move—refugees, migrants, immigrants—are special in the eyes of God than the life and words of Jesus Christ in the Gospel.

As a baby, Jesus was a refugee who, along with the Holy Family, fled the terror of Herod into Egypt (Mt. 2:14-15). In His public ministry, Jesus was an itinerant preacher, moving from place to place, "with nowhere to lay His Head...." (Mt. 8:20).

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus instructs us to welcome the stranger: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me" (Mt. 25-35). Jesus Himself was not welcomed by His own people: "He came to what was His own, but His own people did not accept him." (Jn. 1:11).

As we welcome the stranger into our midst, we welcome Christ Himself, for in the face of the migrant, immigrant, and refugee, we must see the face of Christ. In the Gospel of Luke, this is made clear in the experience of the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Lk. 24: 13-15), as they become witnesses to the Truth by welcoming the stranger, who is Christ.

## Papal Teachings

In the first social encyclical, *Rerum Novarum* (*On the Condition of Labor*), Pope Leo XIII established that persons have a right to work to survive and to support his or her family.

Pope Pius XII, in the apostolic constitution *Exsul Familia* (*On the Spiritual Care of the Migrant*), reaffirms that migrants have a right to a life with dignity, and therefore a right to migrate toward that end: "Then, according to the teachings of *Rerum*

*Novarum*, the right of the family to a life worthy of human dignity is recognized. When this happens, migration attains its natural scope..."

In the encyclical, *Pacem in Terris* (*Peace on Earth*), Pope John XXIII clearly articulates the right to migrate and the right not to migrate: "Every human being has the right to the freedom of movement and of residence within the confines of their country; and, when there are just reasons for it, the right to emigrate and take up residence elsewhere."

Saint John Paul II reaffirmed this basic teaching in an address to the New World Congress on the Pastoral Care of Immigrants in 1985: "Every human being has the right to freedom of movement and of residence within the confines of his own country. When there are just reasons in favor of it, he must be permitted to migrate to other countries and to take up residence there. The fact that he is a citizen of a particular state does not deprive him of membership to the human family, nor of citizenship in the universal society, the common, world-wide fellowship of men."

Pope Benedict XVI continued this positive message in relation to immigration. During a visit to the United States, Pope Benedict XVI called on Americans "to continue to welcome the immigrants who join your ranks today, to share their joys and hopes, to support them in their sorrow and trials, and to help them flourish in their new home. This, indeed, is what your fellow countrymen have done for generations. From the beginning, they have opened their doors to the tired, the poor, the 'huddled masses yearning to breathe free.' These are the people whom America has made her own."

Since his inaugural trip to Lampedusa, Pope Francis has worked to highlight the dignity of migrants. He has consistently spoken out on the plight of immigrants and called people to stand in solidarity with them. In his message before the United States Congress in 2015, he stated: We must not be taken aback by their [migrants] numbers, but rather view them as persons, seeing their faces and listening to their stories, trying to respond as best we can to their situation. To respond in a way which is always humane, just and fraternal."

**For more information on Catholic social teaching on migration, visit [cliniclegal.org/CST](http://cliniclegal.org/CST).**



**CATHOLIC LEGAL  
IMMIGRATION  
NETWORK, INC.**

## December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 KC Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	2	3 Lunch Ministry 8:45 a.m.  Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	4	5 <b>Friday Adoration</b> after 8:00 a.m. Mass	6 <b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
7 <b>Angel Tree Deadline for gifts to be returned to the Church by Noon</b>	8  <b>Mass of the Immaculate Conception at 8 a.m. &amp; 7 p.m.</b>  Parish Office Closed  <b>Angel Tree Sorting of gifts 9:00 a.m.</b>	9 <b>Angel Tree Distribution of gifts 9:00 a.m.</b>	10 Lunch Ministry 8:45 a.m.  Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	11	12 <b>Friday Adoration</b> after 8:00 a.m. Mass	13 <b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.   <b>Bambinelli Sunday</b> <b>Bring the infant Jesus from your Nativity Scene to Church</b>  <b>Retirement Fund for Religious Appeal</b>
14  <b>Bambinelli Sunday</b> <b>Bring the infant Jesus from your Nativity Scene to Church</b>  <b>Retirement Fund for Religious Appeal</b>	15 KC Choir Practice 6:30 p.m.	16	17 Lunch Ministry 8:45 a.m.  <b>NO Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Benedict</b>  Deanery Penance Service at Most Holy Trinity at 6:00 p.m.	18 <b>Rosary for Peace</b> after 8:00 a.m. Mass  <b>Family Faith Formation</b> 6:00 p.m.	19 <b>Friday Adoration</b> after 8:00 a.m. Mass  Parish Office Closes at Noon	20 <b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
21	22 Parish Office Closed	23 Parish Office Closed  <b>Decorate Church</b> 9:00 a.m.	24  <b>Christmas Vigil Masses at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.</b>  Parish Office Closed  <b>NO Sacrament of Reconciliation</b>	25  <b>Christmas Day Mass at 9 a.m.</b>  Parish Office Closed	26 <b>Friday Adoration</b> after 8:00 a.m. Mass  Parish Office Closed	27 <b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.  <b>Blessing of Marriages at the end of Mass</b>
28 <b>Blessing of Marriages at the end of Mass</b>  <b>Coffee &amp; Donuts after all Masses</b>	29 Parish Office Closed	30 Parish Office Closed	31  <b>New Year's Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m.</b>  Parish Office Closed	1  <b>Mass at 9:00 a.m.</b>  Parish Office Closed		



## HELP AND ENCOURAGEMENT AFTER THE DEATH OF A LOVED ONE

Grief is a complex and often overwhelming experience.

The emotions that surface during this time can be painful and confusing, making it difficult to know how to move forward. Whether your bereavement is recent or occurred some time ago, this can be a unique opportunity to connect with people who truly understand what you are going through.

### **About GriefShare®**

This 13-week support group program is designed to help you learn what to anticipate in the days ahead and to recognize that there is no single “right” way to grieve. There are no neat or predictable stages of grief; instead, the journey is unique for each person.

### **What to Expect**

Each week you can expect to view a 30-minute video filled with helpful guidance, discuss grief-related issues, and gain personal recovery tips through your participant workbook. Each session is self-contained so you may join at any week, but registration is required.

### **Facilitators and Registration**

Sharon Hoffman, a widow and parishioner of St. Benedict Church and Sister Kateri Battaglia, MSC, will serve as facilitators. Feel free to contact Sharon at [hoffmansha@charter.net](mailto:hoffmansha@charter.net); Sister Kateri at [srkaterimsc@yahoo.com](mailto:srkaterimsc@yahoo.com) or **504-453-0618**.

To register go online to [griefshare.org/findagroup](http://griefshare.org/findagroup). A Registration/Participant Fee of \$25 is payable to St. Benedict Catholic Church.

### **Schedule and Location**

This GriefShare® support group will meet every Tuesday, beginning on January 20 and continuing through April 21, 2026. Please note that there will be no session on Mardi Gras. Meetings are scheduled from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM in the Catechetical Center at St. Benedict Catholic Church, Covington, LA.

### **Support and Understanding in GriefShare®**

Many individuals who attend GriefShare® sessions consistently express that they experience a sense of comfort and encouragement by being surrounded by others who genuinely comprehend the challenges of grief.





*Happening this Week*

**Wednesday, December 3**

Lunch Ministry 8:45 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation available, 4 to 5 p.m.

**Friday, December 5**

Friday Adoration after 8:00 a.m. Mass

**Saturday, December 6**

Sacrament of Reconciliation available, 4 to 5 p.m.

**Sunday, December 7**

Angel Tree Deadline for gifts to be returned by Noon



Angel Tree gifts are due back next weekend, Sunday, December 7. Gifts need to be unwrapped and placed in gift bags. Please make sure the Angels are securely attached to the gift bags. The Angels are the only way we have of identifying the recipients of the gifts. Gifts will be sorted December 8th and distributed December 9th.



CATHOLIC WOMEN in Action

2025 Northshore Advent Morning of Reflection

*"The Light shines in the Darkness and the Darkness has not overcome it."*  
(John 1:5)

Mary, Queen of Peace Church in Mandeville

Thursday, December 11  
9:00-11:00 a.m.

Join Catholic Women in Action (CWIA) for our 2025 Northshore Advent Morning of Reflection.

**REFLECTION SPEAKER**

THEME: "The Light shines in the Darkness and the Darkness has not overcome it." *Preparing for Christmas When Your Heart is Heavy*



As a mother, grandmother, and former middle school teacher, **Liz Fitzpatrick** understands literature's profound influence on young minds.

After surviving a massive stroke at 38, she began writing Christmas stories in thanksgiving to God. She has authored *Father Si-mi-ty* and *A Great Light in the Darkness* and is writing two books for younger readers. When not writing, Liz plays piano in nursing homes and volunteers at the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos.

CELEBRANT: **Most Reverend Thomas Rodi** (retired Archbishop, Diocese of Mobile)

SPEAKER: **Liz Fitzpatrick**

SCHEDULE:

- 8:30-11:30 AM: Confession available
- 9:00 AM Mass
- Reflection speaker to follow



For more, please contact Kathi Zimmerman 504.527.5794 | kzimmerman@ccfnola.org

*Holiday Baskets*

The Lunch Ministry will be collecting canned vegetables, instant mashed potatoes, easy mac and cheese, and stuffing for them to put in the Annual Holiday Baskets. Please drop your non-perishables off at the Catechetical Center before December 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Annual Christmas Card Campaign*

Mail bins have been placed at the entrance of the church to begin collecting your Christmas Cards for those in our community in Long Term Care, Nursing, and Rehabilitation Homes. Place as many Christmas Cards as you like... Please include the "thoughts and prayers from the Parishioners of St. Benedict Parish" in your Christmas greeting/signature. The outside of the envelope can be left blank or you may write, "Merry Christmas". Please place your Christmas cards in the mail bins no later than Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. The Card will be distributed on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> by the Deacons.



**KELLY TRANCHINA**  
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