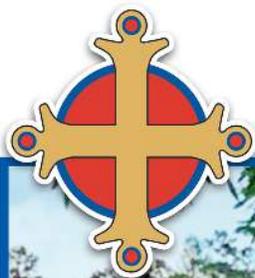




Advent

FOURTH WEEK



ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

Social Assistance Requests: 985-214-6237

www.stbenedictchurchcovington.com • Email: office@stbencov.org  www.facebook.com/stbencov

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

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

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 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...

As our Advent preparations end and Christmas fast approaches, it is fitting that today's readings demonstrate the intensity of the Father's perfect and passionate love for each of us, culminating in the gift of His own Son, Jesus Christ, on Christmas Day. As we reflect on the enormity of this gift, let us ask ourselves what we can offer in return.

In our first reading, from Isaiah, the Lord invites King Ahaz to "ask for a sign from the Lord, your God." And not just any sign. The Lord says, "let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky!" Ahaz, though, cannot arouse himself from his bleak and limited outlook, and actually refuses this invitation. Undeterred by his negativity, the Lord says through the prophet Isaiah, that he himself will provide the sign: "the virgin shall conceive and bear a son" and his name will be Emmanuel which means, "God with us." What great love and patience our heavenly Father has shown his people throughout all ages!

In the second reading, St. Paul sends a blessing of "Grace...and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. This — grace and peace — is precisely the gift we celebrate on Christmas Day. Through his incarnation, Jesus brings the intimate love of God right into our midst; and through His death and resurrection, He saves us from our sins and restores us to right relationship with the Father. This is the peace that the world cannot offer.

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, we find an unparalleled example of one who embraced this way of life in St. Joseph, as he responds to God's call to him through the message of an angel. St. Joseph immediately and humbly obeys the instruction from the angel: "Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

We never hear St. Joseph speak, but the Scriptures tell us he was always listening, attentive to the leading of the Holy Spirit for his family. It was Joseph who found the stable where the baby Jesus would be born. No doubt it was Joseph who cleaned it up and prepared it for Mary and Jesus since we know that Mary was about to give birth. Joseph protected the family, guarded them, and tended to their safety, their comfort, and their well-being at the expense of his own plans and preferences. Though we do not hear any words from St. Joseph his actions clearly show that he offered himself, his whole life, as a gift to his family through his strong guidance, protection, and service.

Let us imitate St. Joseph, then, giving our very lives to those around us in love and gratitude to God who has given us everything we have, especially His own Son, Jesus Christ. We will no doubt find that the more we give ourselves away, the more our generous Father will fill us with His grace and peace — these are truly the best Christmas gifts we could receive.



Tuesday, December 23

+Deceased Marianites of Holy Cross Guild

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m.

+Richard Duvieilh, +Pat Rapp, +Bubby Rapp,
+Joe & Madeline Vidrine, +John Vidrine

7:00 p.m.

+Abe Hebert

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day

9:00 a.m.

Parishioners of Saint Benedict

Friday, December 26

+Edward Dailey

Saturday, December 27

5:30 p.m.

+Normie Miller

Sunday, December 28

8:00 a.m.

+Dan Berlin, +John Mannion, +John Karpa, +Joe Billiot,
+Betty Lemoine, +John & Camille Steen, Theresas Dicks,
Lydia Gallo, +Armand Allen

10:30 a.m.

Parishioners of Saint Benedict



Prayer List



Jim Seward, Anthony Sorrentino, Dee Sylvia, Tina Zocco, Lisa Valley, Scott Lee, Carol Everhardt, Bennett Miller, Joanne Reber, Anna Istone, 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, Kai Joseph, Paul Richmon, Avery Fuselier, Ed Don-Jordon, Jenna Vial



Holiday Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Vigil Masses at 4 p.m. & 7 p.m.	Christmas Day Morning Mass at 9 a.m.
New Year's Eve Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m.	New Year's Day Morning Mass at 9 a.m.



The Parish Office closed at noon on Friday, December 19th and will re-open Monday, January 5th, in observance of Christmas and New Year's. We would like to wish everyone a very Blessed and Merry Christmas, and for those who will be traveling a safe trip to and from their destinations.

Happening this Week

Monday, December 22

Parish Office Closed

Tuesday, December 23

Parish Office Closed

Decorate Church 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 24

Parish Office Closed

NO Sacrament of Reconciliation

Christmas Vigil Masses at 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 25

Parish Office Closed

Christmas Day Mass at 9:00 a.m.

Friday, December 26

Friday Adoration after 8:00 a.m. Mass

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, December 27

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

Blessing of Marriages at the end of Mass

Sunday, December 28

Blessing of Marriages at the end of Mass

Coffee & Donuts after all Masses

STEWARDSHIP – December 14h

Weekly Collection:	\$5,724
E-Giving Online:	\$3,030
Building Fund:	\$80
Poor Box:	\$687
Mass Attendance:	478
Building Fund on Deposit:	\$694,004

Thank you for your generosity!

Please consider utilizing our parish's online giving program.
Explore the convenience of online giving
at giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stbencov
or by scanning our QR code.



Christmas Second Collection

There will be a second collection at Mass on Christmas to help cover the salaries and expenses of priests serving as Hospital and Hospice Chaplains, Chaplains at Nursing Homes and High Schools, and those involved in retreat ministries. We have already been assessed \$11,895 for this. Please be generous.

Thanks for Giving

The Lunch Ministry collected enough items for numerous Christmas Baskets. Baskets were delivered and greatly appreciated by all who received them. **THANK YOU** for your support.

H&R BLOCK

KELLY TRANCHINA
FRANCHISEE
SENIOR TAX ANALYST
Parishioner

1200 Business Hwy. 190 Ste. 42
Covington, LA 70433
O: 985-892-0651
F: 985.892.0706
kelly.tranchina@hrblock.com

HRBLOCK.COM

Land-O-Pines
Family Campground, Inc.

1-800-443-3697
www.camplop.net

Full Hook-Ups, Rental Units, Waterslide, Swimming Pools, River & Beach, Mini-Golf, Playground, Game Room, and more!

FAMILY DENTISTRY
DR. GLEN SPELL, DDS
Parishioner

Over thirty years serving family members of all ages

893-3900

www.spellfamilydentistry.com

Gastroenterology Group, AMC

www.gastrogroupamc.com

- SCREENING COLONOSCOPY
- CROHN'S DISEASE
- CAPSULE ENDOSCOPY
- HEMORRHOID BANDING
- LIVER DISEASE
- REFLUX
- COLITIS
- ULCER

GASTRO GROUP & ENDOCENTER

NEW LOCATION NOW OPEN 233 St. Ann Dr. Ste. 4 MANDEVILLE, LA 70471
985.323.4003

All Physicians are Board Certified in Gastroenterology

Anthony F. Albright, MD • Veronica T. Dugan, MD
Mark J. Nicaud, MD • Edward Dauterive III, MD

58515 PEARL ACRES RD., SLIDELL • **985.641.8982**
Felix G. Rabito, Jr., MD • L. Phillips Jenkins, MD
Nathan R. Ranney, MD • Brandon R. Brousse, MD

131-B CHEROKEE ROSE LANE, COVINGTON • **985.871.1721**

Dignity
LIFE WELL CELEBRATED

GRACE FUNERAL HOME
& ST. LAZARUS OF BETHANY MEMORIAL GARDEN

985-635-4745
GraceNorthshore.com

dicristina's
Italian and Seafood Restaurant

985.875.0160 810 N. Columbia St. Covington
Located across from the St. Tammany Parish Justice Center

Janie Ellis, REALTOR
LSS, LSE, LMS
Licensed in Louisiana

LATTER & BLUM
INCREALTORS
Since 1916

janieellis.latter-blum.com | jellis@latterblum.com
1119 N. Causeway Blvd., Ste. 2 Mandeville, 70471
Cell: **985.807.4254** Ofc: **985.626.8589**

ROOFING RENOVATIONS **DEBONNAIRE CONSTRUCTION** **LAND MANAGEMENT**

LOCAL LICENSED INSURED

985-DAT-ROOF
DEBONNAIRECONSTRUCTION.COM

SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY
www.saintjosephabbey.com
75376 River Road
Saint Benedict, LA 70457

MANDINA'S RESTAURANT
OF NEW ORLEANS
Lunch Specials: Mon.-Thurs. 11-9
Fri.-Sat. 11-10, Sun. 11-8

Sunday Brunch 11-3 • Frank Marcello
4240 Hwy. 22 **674-9883**

Delaune & Associates
LOCAL INDEPENDENT AGENTS
Francesca Laurent

Medicare Supplements/Advantage & Part D Plans, Life, Individual/Group Health 19438 Tice Rd.
francescamlaurent@gmail.com **985-892-5241**

NOEL MAESTRI'S Since 1972
FlooringAmerica

105 W. 31st Ave./Hwy. 190 W • **985-892-1673**
www.noelmaestris-flooringamerica.com

CASKETS
Handcrafted traditional and monastic caskets available in choice of mahogany or cypress. Cremation urns available in mahogany and oak.
985-867-5161

C J Ladner, Agent
Covington, LA 70433-5158
Bus: **985-892-5030**
Cell: **985-630-6380**
cj@cjladner.com
Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®
State Farm, Bloomington, IL

CHRIS PAVING LLC
ASPHALT & CONCRETE PAVING

Commercial • Residential • Govt • Industrial | Lic. & Ins.
Office: **504-909-2078** • Cell: **985-960-2131**
www.chrispaving.com

Barattini Custom Jewelry
Diamonds Monogram Specialist
Manufacturing Jeweler
Jewelry Repairs
Watch Batteries

985.893.5253 | 1421 N. Highway 190

CEMETERY
Plots and cremation niches available. Cost includes perpetual care. Payment plans available.
985-867-2253

NEW DESTINATIONS TRAVEL
Creating Seamless Journeys to Discover New Destinations

Samantha & Michael Musso
Travel Advisors & Parishioners
985-276-9750
www.newdestinationtravel.com

"Locally Owned & Operated"

AMERIBOX

Residential & Commercial
Dumpster & Portable Storage Rentals

985-635-0635 Book Online! Ameribox.com

Help improve lives.
Join a study in **Covington**.
Call (985) 273-0855

Velocity Find a study at
CLINICAL RESEARCH
VelocityClinicalTrials.com

Get this bulletin emailed to you every week.

Simply go to **www.DM.CHURCH/5524** ...or scan →

DISCOVERMASS

EJ. Fielding
FUNERAL HOME

Pincrest Memorial Gardens & Crematory

www.ejfieldingfh.com 985.892.9222

St. Tammany HEALTH SYSTEM

(985) 898-4000

World-class healthcare, right in your backyard.

ADVERTISE HERE

Promote your Business AND support your Parish.

Gabriella Herpin - 337-384-5054
gherpin@diocesan.com

catholicmatch
Louisiana CatholicMatch.com/goLA

R.A. BARATTINI Services LLC
Licensed Arborist Insured Local Family Business

Tree Services
Demolition
Earth Work/Grading
Bush Hogging
Land Clearing

985.630.0001