

**Events keep coming! So many BITS!
Please-o-please read them all, so you don't miss the hits!**

A Bit of a Mass Schedule!

This Weekend

Friday, September 7 – 8:30am and 5:30pm, Exposition and Adoration following the 5:30pm Mass.

Saturday, September 8 – 8:00am - Benediction

Saturday, September 8 – 5:30pm (4:30pm, Confession)

Sunday, September 9 – 8:30am and 11:00am

Week of September 10

Tuesday, September 11 – 5:30pm

Wednesday, September 12 – 5:30pm

Thursday, September 13 – 5:30pm

Friday, September 14 – 8:30am

Saturday, September 15 – 5:30pm (4:30pm, Confession)

Sunday, September 16 – 8:30am and 11:00am

Deacon Ed Owen Novena

Just a reminder that the simple novena for parishioner Ed Owen leading up to his ordination as a deacon should begin today, September 7 and will conclude on September 15, which is Ed's ordination day (10:30am at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond).

The following prayer will be used:

O God, who have taught the ministers of your Church
to seek not to be served
but to serve their brothers and sisters,
grant, we pray, that your servant, Edward,
whom you graciously choose for the office of Deacon,
may be effective in action, gentle in ministry, and constant in prayer.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

—Collect for the Ordination of One Deacon, adapted from the Roman Missal

Saint Benedict Music Series

Mark your calendars for this Saturday, September 8th, at 7:30pm. Three Notch'd Road: The Charlottesville Baroque Ensemble presents "Cantatas of J.S. Bach: Sacred Harmony." Three Notch'd Road launches the first in a cycle of J.S. Bach's glorious cantatas with two alto cantatas written for the liturgical season of Trinity, featuring guest countertenor Nathan Medley. Artistic Director Fiona Hughes is joined by oboist Debra Nagy for the famous double concerto for violin and oboe. A free-will offering will be accepted.

Oktoberfest 2018

Oktoberfest Sign Up Blitz Weekends!!!

Aug 25/26, Sep 8/9 and Sep 15/16 members of St Benedict's Oktoberfest Committee will be available after all Masses to sign up volunteers for our most important fundraiser of the year. You can sign yourself up online at www.stbenedictoktoberfest.com or we will be happy to sign you up during our Volunteer Blitz weekends! There are many shifts still needing to be filled!! Check your calendar and come ready to pitch in and sign up to help out at your parish event! Questions? Call Gretchen at 8046404506 or email volunteers@stbenedictoktoberfest.com. Vielen Dank!

Volunteers!!! OKTOBERFEST IS COMING...

And will likely bring over 40,000 GUESTS to our beautiful parking lot-turned-Festplatz, along with thousands of dollars to support our parish and its support of Catholic education! The event is quickly approaching September 21-23! What we need now IS YOU....YES YOU....EVERY ONE OF YOU... to volunteer for AT LEAST 1 SHIFT at this year's Oktoberfest because many hands make light work and this work supports our parish and our parish school. If we weren't able to raise these funds through our Oktoberfest, other parish dollars would be required to raise the funds necessary to help support our parish school and assist our parishioners in obtaining a Catholic education. We need EVERYONE'S HELP to welcome and serve the thousands of guests coming to our parish event next month. Please be a part of this major undertaking. There's many different sitting, standing, front-lines and behind-the-scenes jobs that need help. Click [HERE](#) or visit www.stbenedictoktoberfest.com to sign up TODAY - its fast and easy! Thank you in advance for taking a few hours, one weekend this year, to support one of RVA's favorite 'fests - and our parish's most important fundraising event!

Costumed Volunteers needed!

Young men and women between the ages of 12 and 17 are wanted to be volunteers at Oktoberfest and wear German folk costumes. The costumes are provided. The girls will wear dirndls (full-skirted dresses with apron) and boys will wear lederhosen (leather shorts). Your duties will include selling Oktoberfest merchandise, gingerbread hearts, cookies and fudge, helping with the chicken dance and assisting sponsors. It's a great volunteer opportunity that helps our school and parish and it's lots of fun! For more information, call Katie Toomey at 804-218-1071 or email her at Toomeyland@aol.com".

Lebkuchenherzen (Gingerbread Heart) Cookies

It's Gingerbread Heart Cookie making time folks! Our Cookie Captain is looking for help in making and decorating these incredibly popular cookies that are sold at our Oktoberfest every year! On Saturday, September 8 at 9:00am the rolling, baking, storing will occur. On Saturday, September 15 at 9:00am decorating and packaging will occur. Lunch and refreshments will be provided on each day! Come for part or all of each day. If you know someone who has a panache for baking or cookie decorating, please bring them along! Even if you don't bake, your hands can be used for cleaning, prepping and packaging. Baking and decorating will occur in the cafeteria of St. Benedict School. Please enter through the ramp door on Belmont Avenue. If you are able to attend at any point, or have questions - please contact Katie Toomey : Toomeyland@aol.com or call 804-218-1071.

Parking NOTICE

In order to get our 'Festplatz' in top form for our 14th annual Oktoberfest, half of the parking lot will be closed on Wednesday, September 19 and All of the lot will be closed Thursday, September 20 for set up and remain closed through Sunday, September 23. There will be no parking at all, at any time, for any reason during that time frame. That weekend, please plan ahead! You will want to make sure you leave sufficiently early in order to find parking. As you plan, if you are coming to Mass on Saturday evening, plan on staying for dinner after Mass, or on Sunday staying for Lunch. Thank you for your cooperation as we hope to make our 14th Oktoberfest success!

Hosts still Needed

Members of the Bavarian band Blaskapelle Lechrain are coming to play at our 2018 Oktoberfest! WE NEED YOUR HELP to house them for the two nights they are here! The band arrives in Richmond on Friday September 21 and departs on Sunday September 23. It is preferred that hosts live in the Near West End, Fan or Museum Districts and that no less than two band members stay with hosts. We trust that members of our Parish will come forward to share their homes with our German guests! Any questions, please contact Ruppert Beirne at beirne@mg-law.com . THANK YOU!!!!

Mass of Atonement

Bishop Barry C. Knestout will celebrate a Mass of Atonement in reparation for sexual abuse committed by members of the clergy on Friday, September 14, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, at 7:00pm at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Parishioners are encouraged to attend. For those unable to attend, the Mass will be livestreamed on the diocesan website: <https://richmonddiocese.org>.

richmonddiocese.org - Search Parishes
richmonddiocese.org

Bishop Barry C. Knestout's Invitation to Mass of Atonement for Victims of Abuse and to read his most recent "Christ Our Hope" Column. ...

Vespers

Vespers will be celebrated on Wednesday, September 19 at 6:30pm to give thanks to God for Ed Owen's ordination into the diaconate. A reception in Ed's honor will follow in the Parish Center.

Reception for Ed Owen

The Lily of the Holy Trinity Women's Society cordially invites all parishioners and guests to a reception honoring Ed Owen on the occasion of his Ordination to the Diaconate. The reception will follow the

6:30pm Vespers Service being held on Wednesday, September 19. Weather permitting, the reception will be held in the Courtyard of the church (or parish Center). Please indicate your acceptance by signing the Reception Sheet located on the stand on the Side Porch of the Church.

Altar Server Training

A training session for altar servers will take place on Saturday, September 29 at 10:00am. To be an altar server, a child must be baptized, have received First Holy Communion, regularly attend Mass, and be enrolled in religious education (either through the home, the parish, or Saint Benedict School) and attend the training. All Altar Servers are encouraged to attend this session.

40 Days for Life

Christians throughout Richmond are invited to take part in the international 40 Days for Life effort from Wednesday, September 26 – Sunday, November 4 which dedicates 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion in our city. A peaceful vigil of prayer is held at the right-of-way outside of Planned Parenthood at 201 N. Hamilton, 7am-7pm. This year, area churches are taking one day of the campaign and staffing it with parishioners to ensure prayer coverage. The day chosen for Saint Benedict Parishioners is the first day of the 40 Days - **Wednesday, September 26**. Please sign up to pray for an hour at the vigil any day you can. For more information, contact: Cindy Tompkins –cindy.m.tompkins@gmail.com or Jim Disney –jkdisney@verizon.net or visit the website at: www.40daysforlife.com/Richmond .

Religious Education

Registration

Registration for sacramental preparation (First Communion and Confirmation), K-5 Religious Education, Edge, and The Rule is underway and is done entirely online this year. Please visit the parish website at <https://www.saintbenedictparish.org> for information.

Religious Education (K-12th) Kickoff

Religious education for children and young people (K–12th grade) will begin on October 3rd at 6:30pm. All grades will meet at the church for the opening night. Dinner will be provided. Schedules for K-5, Edge (middle school), and The Rule (high school) can be found on the side porch or parish website. Registration is on the parish website.

Religious Education (K-5)

K-5 Religious Education will take place on Wednesday nights from 6:30pm to 7:30 pm at the Parish school. After-care provided for those with siblings in Edge or The Rule or parents in choir.

Edge

Edge, middle school religious education, will take place from 6:30pm to 8:00pm on Wednesday nights in the St. Anselm Hall of the Parish School after the kickoff.

Kickball Classic

The Edge Kickball Classic is on Friday, September 14. Please meet at 5:30pm and pick up at 8:00pm. Classic pizza and snow cones will be served. Meet on the St. Benedict patio. Open to all 6th through 8th graders. RSVP to Ida O’Leary at ioleary@saintbenedictparish.org

The Rule

The Rule, high school religious education, will take place from 6:30pm to 8:00pm on Wednesday nights in the Parish Center after the kickoff.

Deadline for Sacramental Preparation

The deadline for signing up for all sacramental preparation is October 3. This includes First Penance / First Holy Communion (whether the child is in 2nd grade or a higher grade) and Confirmation (normally 10th grade). If a child or young person has not been enrolled by the deadline, the reception of the sacraments will be postponed until next year. Please remember that any child or young person preparing to receive sacraments must be concurrently enrolled in religious education. First Penance and First Communion along with Confirmation letters and schedules are now on the side porch and parish website.

Religious Education and Sacramental Preparation

Please note that religious education is not the same as sacramental preparation. Every child (K to 12th grade) should receive religious education each year (either through a Catholic school, the parish religious education program, or a homeschool program). By contrast, sacramental preparation supplements religious education for those students who will receive First Penance (normally in 2nd grade), First Holy Communion (normally in 2nd grade), and Confirmation (normally in 10th grade). Therefore, every young person should receive religious education each year; some years, the young person will also receive sacramental preparation. —Fr. Tony Marques

RCIA

Do You Know Someone Who Wants to Become a Catholic? The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), the process for entering the Catholic Church, is ongoing. Sessions are held approximately every other Tuesday from 6:30 to 7:30pm in the Parish Center.

Contact

For more information, please contact Kevin Corcoran, the director of Evangelization and Catechesis (kcorcoran@saintbenedictparish.org).

RVAConnect (Young Adults)

Oktoberfest help! Young adults will be meeting on Thursday, September 20 at 5:30pm to stuff steins. Beer and food will be provided. Please meet at the entrance to the Benedictine Gym located on Belmont Avenue. Tim York will meet you there.

Starting in October, RVAConnect will begin a study group meeting the second Thursday of the month to read and discuss spiritual books. A second social or service based event will happen later in the month. Stay tuned for more details.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook

Email Connectrva@gmail.com for more info and to join our mailing list.

Book Study Group

The book study group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm in the St. Gregory room. The current book is *The Case for Jesus* by . Brant Pitre. All adults are welcome! Please contact Rebecca Hickman at rehickman@comcast.net or at 804-212-4786 for more information and to purchase a book.

St. Benedict Home School Group

The St. Benedict Home School Group is an activity group that meets on the First Friday of the month in the Parish Center from 9:00am until about 11:00am. Each participating family takes turns hosting activities, crafts, games, etc. We also meet for field trips and have a “mom's night out” dinner several times a year. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Elizabeth Nichols at elizabethanne628@gmail.com or Christine Williams at williamsclan92@gmail.com. A brief planning meeting for participating families will take place after the 11:00am mass on September 9th.

ENDOW Group

Attention Ladies! The Monday night Endow group is excited to announce some big changes! We are now meeting on the First Friday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00pm to read and discuss Theresa of Avila, Teacher of Prayer. Only one meeting a month, and there is NO HOMEWORK! Many of the nights we meet will be followed by time for adoration, an opportunity to spend time learning and growing in faith and fellowship. The cost for the whole year is \$34.95 plus shipping! All you have to do is join us! Contact Elizabeth Nichols for more information at Elizabethanne628@gmail.com or go to Endowgroups.com and click on “Find a Group” and type in “Virginia”. Our first meeting is September 7 in the St. Joseph Parlor, so please sign up soon!

Safe Environment Requirements

VIRTUS REMINDER!

You are responsible for keeping your VIRTUS account up to date. Please be responsive to the monthly email updates and newsletters that VIRTUS sends you. Remember that you **MUST** read the newsletter and indicate such **EVERY SINGLE MONTH**. The Diocese monitors these accounts often and if you are defunct in your reading, they will suspend your account! We value your volunteer services and don't want to lose you!! Please be proactive in ensuring that your account is active and that we remain compliant with the Diocesan Safe-Environment Regulations. If you have any questions pertaining to this or volunteer opportunities, please contact Ida B. at iolery@saintbenedictparish.org.

Boy Scouts

Scouting is an ideal way for boys of Saint Benedict to make friends in the parish and school. You can learn more about the fun that awaits you and your son in Scouting by attending the Parish and School Scouting Open House on Monday, September 17 at 7:00pm in Saint Anselm Hall (multipurpose room) of Saint Benedict School.

- Cub Scout Pack 498 — Boys in grades K-5
- Boy Scout Troop 498 — Boys ages 11-18 or grades 6-12

The scouts and adult leaders of Cub Scout Pack 498 and Boy Scout Troop 498 look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to the adventure of Scouting! For more information, contact Scoutmaster Barry Hodge at troop.498.bsa@gmail.com or Cub Master Sean Priest at SeanPriest@hometownrealtyservices.com.

Lily of the Holy Trinity Women's Society

Membership

The Lily of the Holy Trinity Women's Society invite all women 18 years and older to join us on the 2nd Sunday of each month for fun, fellowship, service to the Parish. Please come join us Sunday, September 9, 2018 at 12:30pm in the Parish Center.

Thank You from the Comboni Sisters

The Comboni Missionary Sisters wish to express their deep gratitude to Fr. Tony and our parish for allowing them to sell raffle tickets a few weekends ago. They were delighted with the warm welcome they received at our church! The proceeds from the sales amounted to \$625. They extend their most sincere thanks and assure you of their prayers for the needs of our parish and parish families.

Hospitality!

All are Welcome!

Remember! After our Sunday morning Masses there will be time to gather and talk with other parishioners in the Parish Center while enjoying a bit of light refreshment. Hospitality after the 8:30 and 11:00am Masses will include coffee and baked goods. Beginning in October, on the second Saturday of every Month during the school year, there is hospitality after the 5:30pm Mass – which includes hors d'oeuvres, deserts, wine and other beverages.

Parish Clean-Up Day - Fall Edition!

All parishioners, including children ages 8 and above, are invited to participate in a Parish Clean-Up Day on Saturday, October 6 from 9:00am to 12:00pm. The purpose of the effort will be to do minor landscaping on the parish grounds (weeding, trimming bushes, etc.). Please sign up for this event here: <https://goo.gl/forms/Nf34jRCCjVDaNDij2>

Weekday Church Availability

In order to ensure the safety of parishioners and the security of the parish campus, during the week, the church will be closed from 4:00pm, when the office closes, until the sacristan arrives to set up for the 5:30pm Mass. On a normal weekdays, the church is available for prayer during normal business hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 4:00pm. In order to gain access to the church during these times, please ring the bell in the courtyard outside the side porch.

Homebound a Bit?

If you happen to be going into the hospital or if you know of a parishioner who is in the hospital, homebound, or unable to attend church any longer please let me know. We have no way of knowing if our parishioners have fallen ill and need a pastoral visit from Fr. Tony unless we are informed. So please keep me in the loop! Call or email me and when you do, be sure to make sure you leave your name and number so that I can contact you for details if necessary. THANKS so much!!

After Hours EMERGENCY!?

If you ever find there is an emergency in which you need a priest IMMEDIATELY – you can call 804-254-0887. This is an emergency answering service that will get in touch with Fr. Tony right away.

A Solemn Bit.

Remember, in our parish bulletin, weekly – we publish a list of parishioners for whom we pray - both sick and deceased. Please be sure to pick up a parish bulletin and perhaps keep the list near your prayer book so, during the week you can offer up prayers for those who are dear to us. You can also access our parish bulletin through this website: <http://discovermass.com/church/st-benedict-richmond-va/>.

While we try to retain people on the sick list as long as necessary, many people place names on the list and never have them removed. If you have added someone to the sick list that can be removed, please let me know so that we know who to pray for. THANK YOU!

A bit of administrative housekeeping

Contribution Envelope Information!!

The next set of quarterly envelopes (for October, November and December) will be mailed at the end of September. You may notice that the last envelope in your current packet and the first envelope in your next packet are the same date (but a different color). It was an intentional replication as, while the envelopes are mailed in plenty of time, there are times that the USPS sometimes has issues getting mail to folks prior to that first weekend of the month that begins the next round of envelopes. This extra envelope just provides you a “security blanket” in the event that you didn’t get this next set of envelopes prior to last weekend. Please be sure to make note of the dates on the envelope so that you don’t think you have to contribute twice in one weekend!

And remember!

If you don’t get your envelopes or forget your contribution envelope and you are paying with a check, simply write your envelope number (if you remember it) in the Memo section of the check and fold it and drop it in the collection basket. You do not need to use one of the “Welcome” envelopes unless you are contributing with cash.

eGiving

If you contribute through e-Giving and prefer to not receive contribution envelopes anymore, please let me know. If you are not enrolled in e-Giving and would prefer to tithe in this manner visit our website www.saintbenedictparish.org and click on the “e-Giving” box on the bottom right corner of webpage. If you are enrolled in e-Giving, it is recommended that you check your account on a regular basis in order to review your selections as sometimes recurring may have an end date, which you may want to extend.

Address Change?

Please try to keep me “in the know” if you have changes to your address or phone number. If you move – you will need to inform me of your new address so I can make the change in our database. Similarly, please let me know if your email address will be changing. Along these same lines, in an effort to keep our database current, if you move to another state or parish and will no longer be attending Saint Benedict, you will want to inform me of this so I can deactivate your membership.

A Website BIT

Visit our Website!

We have a wonderful Website that provides a lot of up-to date information. Bookmark it and check it often! <http://www.saintbenedictparish.org> . Note that if there is any change to the daily Mass schedule, this will be posted on the homepage (along with your receiving an update from me).

A Bit More?

Have a look at the Bulletin on-line!

Did you know that the parish bulletin is available on-line at www.discovermass.com. Through this site, you can also sign up to receive the bulletin via email weekly. Please remember to look at the bulletin every week! While my email provides most highlights and I try to include reminders of important events and such, it is but a secondary resource to the primary resource of the bulletin and announcements at the beginning of Mass!

To get the BITS or not... your choice!

If you know of anyone that wishes to receive these emails, please pass my email along to them and tell them to send me an email that requests that I place them on the distribution list. If you prefer

NOT to receive these emails anymore, please let me know so I can remove you from our Parish distribution list.

Find us on Social Networks!!

Follow Saint Benedict Catholic Church on Facebook and Instagram!

Our community life and evangelistic efforts will be greatly aided by the use of social networking. Please look for Saint Benedict's on Facebook at: facebook.com/StBenedictRVA/; and follow us on Instagram: @stbenedict_RVA. When you find us, be sure to like and share our posts!

Food for Thought

I have an idea for a chain of Elvis Presley steak houses.

It's for people who Love Meat Tender.

Ida B. O'Leary

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