

A Bit of a Mass Schedule!

This Weekend

Friday, March 1 – 8:30am and 5:30pm *Exposition and Adoration following the 5:30pm Mass*

Saturday, March 2 – 8:00am - *Benediction*

Saturday, March 2 – 5:30pm (4:30pm, *Confession*)

Sunday, March 3 – 8:30am and 11:00am

Week of March 4

Tuesday, March 5 – 5:30pm

Ash Wednesday, March 6 – 1:30pm, 7:00pm (*Ordinary in Latin at both Masses*)

Thursday, March 7 – 5:30pm (6:00pm, *Confession*)

Friday, March 8 – 8:30am

5:30pm – *Fish Fry*

6:00pm – *Confession*

7:00pm – *Stations of the Cross*

Saturday, March 9 – 5:30pm (4:30pm, *Confession*)

Sunday, March 10 – 8:30am and 11:00am

Collecting Palms

Palms that were blessed last year on Palm Sunday are now being collected in preparation for the beginning of Lent. After the palms are burnt, the ashes imposed on the forehead on Ash Wednesday, March 6. Please deposit the palms in the basket that has been placed in the side porch.

AOH – 2019 Sixteenth Annual Raffle for a “Trip for 2 to Ireland”

The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) will be selling raffle tickets after Masses this weekend: March 2/3. The cost is \$10 per ticket with a cash prize of \$5,000 that can be used for a “Trip for 2 to Ireland”. Drawing for the prize is March 24, 2019 at the Irish Festival on Church Hill. You can also contact our Raffle Chair Jim Woods at tjwoods0701@gmail.com or 804-339-3628 if you’d like to buy tickets. In addition to our other charitable contributions, over the past 15 years we’ve donated over \$51,650 from the raffle proceeds to St. Benedict’s (\$5,000 in total donations) and other Catholic Churches and Schools in the Richmond area. The AOH is America’s oldest Irish Catholic Fraternal Organization. The Major James Dooley Division of the AOH has been active in the Richmond area for over 40 years. Their motto is Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Also, the AOH and the Ladies AOH will be available to discuss membership and accept applications after each Mass. Please contact John Cates at 804-972-2729; johncates1@verizon.net for AOH membership information. You can also visit their website, www.aohrichmond.org.

Ash Wednesday

March 6 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. The purpose of this holy season is to prepare us, through penance and conversion, to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ at Easter. Masses on Ash Wednesday will be at **1:30pm** (with Saint Benedict School), and at **7:00pm**, in both cases the Ordinary of the Mass being sung in Latin. On Ash Wednesday, Catholics ages 14 and above are required to abstain from eating meat (Code of Canon Law, canons 1251–1252). Animal flesh is not consumed out of respect

for Christ's flesh, which was crucified for our salvation. Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are required to fast from the normal amount of food (canons 1252–1253; U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Complementary Norm to canon 1253 [1983]). When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal; two smaller meals may also be taken, but should not equal a full meal.

LENT is upon us!

Attached, you will find Fr. Tony's Lenten letter as well as the "Schedule for LENT, 2019". Perhaps print it off and put it on your refrigerator and mark your calendar for the items you plan on attending! Included in the attached calendar, you'll find Confession and Mass times, Triduum Mass times as well as a variety of other happenings over these next few weeks. Among which are:

Stations of the Cross, Confessions

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed on the Fridays of Lent at 7:00pm in the church. Confessions will be heard beforehand at 6:00pm.

Lenten Fish Frys

This year, there will be three Friday Lenten Suppers – the ever popular FISH FRY. These will be held on **March 8, March 22 and April 5**. From 5:30 to 6:30pm and served in Saint Anselm Hall. The fabulous groups hosting these three suppers are the Knights of Columbus and Lilies of the Holy Trinity.

*Please see the attached flyer for more details! **Mark your calendar!!! The first one is FRIDAY, March 8!!***

Baby Bottle Campaign

In order to promote a culture of life, the parish Divine Mercy Cenacle group and the Knights of Columbus are sponsoring the annual Baby Bottle Campaign. Baby bottles will be **distributed** at all Masses on **March 9-10** and **collected** on the weekend of **April 13-14** (Palm Sunday). Throughout Lent, fill the bottles with currency, coins, and checks (made out to PRC). Our gifts will benefit the Pregnancy Resource Center of Metropolitan Richmond.

Divine Mercy Chaplet

During Lent, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy will be prayed 10 minutes before weekend Masses. This devotion originated in a vision of Our Lord to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska (1905–1938), a religious of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. The Divine Mercy Chaplet is an intercessory prayer that extends the offering of the Eucharist, and is therefore an excellent preparation for Mass. Please bring a Rosary with you, as the Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed using those beads. There will be pamphlets available that contain the prayers used in the Chaplet.

Extra Confessions

In an effort to make the Sacrament of Penance more available during Lent, confessions will be heard on Fridays from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. The Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 7:00pm.

Parish Mission

The Parish Mission will take place on **Wednesday, March 27** and on **Thursday, March 28**. Each night, Mass will be celebrated at 5:30pm, confessions will be heard at 6:15pm, and a presentation will be given at 7:15pm, sharp. Dinner will also be served (free of charge). The speaker will be Right Reverend Placid Solari, OSB, Abbot of Belmont. The theme will be “Benedict by Name and Grace: A Habit for Holy Living,” with a different presentation each night. Childcare will be provided from 6:45 to 8:30pm, please sign up for this event on the homepage of the parish website: www.saintbenedictparish.org (Childcare RSVP by March 17. Attendance RSVP by March 24.)

Lenten Concert

On **Sunday, April 7 at 7:00pm**, the parish will host a Lenten concert featuring the Richmond Concert Chorale, the Richmond-based period instrument ensemble Jefferson Baroque, and musicians from Saint Benedict. The concert will feature Dieterich Buxtehude’s Lenten oratorio *Membra Jesu Nostri* (The Limbs of Our Jesus.) Written in 1680, this piece is Buxtehude’s largest work. It is comprised of seven separate cantatas with biblical and sacred texts as a devotion to the body of the crucified Christ. Following the concert, a reception will be held in the Parish Center. A free-will offering will be taken up to support the musical ensembles.

40 Days for Life- Spring Campaign

Christians throughout Richmond are invited to take part in the international 40 Days for Life effort from **March 6 through April 14** which dedicates 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion in our city. A peaceful vigil of prayer is held outside of the Richmond Medical Center for Women abortion clinic (118 N. Boulevard) 7am-7pm. Area churches are taking days of the campaign and staffing it with parishioners to ensure prayer coverage. St. Benedict days are **April 5** and **April 13** the first and last days of A Novena for Life sponsored by St. Benedict Knights of Columbus Council 11533. Please sign up to pray for an hour at the vigil any day you can. For more information, contact: Cindy Tompkins at cindy.m.tompkins@gmail.com or Jim Disney at jkd Disney@verizon.net. Flyer Attached for more information.

Liturgical Guideline during the Flu Season

Communion under one kind

As a precaution during this especially virulent influenza season, Holy Communion under both kinds will be suspended. Until the flu abates, Holy Communion will be received only under the species of bread (that is, the Body of Christ). Please remember that receiving the Precious Blood is optional. The reason is that all of Christ is present in either the smallest particle of the consecrated bread or in the tiniest drop of the consecrated wine (concomitance). For those who can only receive Communion under the species of wine, they may approach at the end of the Communion line and the priest will administer the chalice to them.

Gesture of Peace

Furthermore, please remember that no one is ever under the obligation to shake hands during the Sign of Peace; indeed, it may be prudent to refrain from handshaking during the flu season. Rather than shaking hands, parishioners may make a statement of peace, or a bow, or some other gesture. The diocesan Office

of Worship has recommended parishes consider adopting these liturgical modifications during the flu season.

Lily of the Holy Trinity Women's Society

Meeting

The Lily of the Holy Trinity Women's Society invites all women of the Parish 18 years and older to join them for food, fun, fellowship and discussion of Parish Activities. The meeting is held in the Parish Center on the 2nd Sunday of each month. The next meeting is **Sunday, March 10, 2019 at 12:30 PM**. They look forward to seeing you there.

Military Appreciation

In order to recognize our troops, keep in touch with them, and let them know that they are not forgotten, the Lily of the Holy Trinity Women's Society would like to periodically send cards and packages of treats to them. If you have a family member or friend in our Armed Forces and would like for them to recognize them with these items submit their name and address to Rebecca Hickman at rehickman@comcast.net so that packages can be sent off to them. Please let them know that the Lilies are praying for them.

Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference

On **Saturday, March 23, 2019** men from across the diocese will gather at Saint Bede Catholic Church in Williamsburg for the 6th annual Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference. This year's theme is "Christ Our Hope" and will feature a dual-track conference with keynote speakers in English and Spanish, breakout opportunities, Reconciliation, Adoration, and Mass. Keynote speakers for both the English and Spanish-speaking tracks will be announced soon. General registration will be available online for \$55 until March 16, 2018. After that point, registration will only be available at the door for \$60. All those interested may contact the Center for Marriage, Family, and Life at cmfl@richmonddiocese.org or 804-622-5109 for more information.

Virginia March for Life

On **Wednesday, April 3**, a Virginia March for Life will take place. Bishop Barry Knestout will be celebrating Mass at 9:00am at St. Peter's Church. A rally will take place at the state capitol at 11:00am, followed by a march. Fr. Tony will be walking from St. Benedict's to St. Peter's for Mass. Parishioners are welcome to join him. Departure time is 7:30am sharp from St. Benedict's Church.

Religious Education

Religious Education K-12

There will be NO religious education for grades K-5, Edge, or The Rule on this next **Wednesday, March 6th** as it will be Ash Wednesday.

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. RCIA is now open for adults of the parish to

audit, with the focus of the class remaining on those in the RCIA process. The next class is on The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on **March 12**. Please see the parish website for details on the materials and to find a schedule.

RVAConnect (Young Adults)

The Spring Calendar is now available on the parish website, side porch, or email connectrva@gmail.com. Each month RVAConnect takes part in the regional Theology on Tap on the First Monday of the Month, holds Tolle Lege Book Study on the second Thursday of the Month, and partakes in the Regional Young Adult Social in the second half of every month. Please see the calendar for more details.

Theology on Tap

Monday, March 4th

Vocations Q&A Panel Discussion

We are excited to welcome Father Brian Capuano, Kevin and Emily Corcoran, and Philip Decker for a Q&A panel on vocations. Doors open at 6:30 PM. Please purchase food and beverages by 7:15 PM with talk to start at 7:30 PM.

Ever wondered what a vocation is? Or maybe you know what a vocation is, but want to know more about them. Is there a burning question you have been dying to ask? Tonight, is your chance to ask, as we invite a priest, a married couple, and a seminarian to share their vocational experiences and answer any questions you have. What is seminary like? What do parish priests do? Is there a secret to successful marriage? Father Brian Capuano is the Associate Director and Promoter of Vocations for the Diocese of Richmond, as well as the Pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Petersburg, VA. Kevin Corcoran works as the Director of Evangelization and Catechesis at St. Benedict Catholic Church. He has worked in youth ministry, explored marriage and family counseling, and spent a year discerning priesthood with the Salesians of Don Bosco. Emily Wavering Corcoran is a Community Development Research Analyst at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond with a background in economics and public policy. They dated for 6 months, were engaged for 7 months, have been married for a year and a half and are expecting their first child in late March. Philip Decker is a seminarian for the Diocese of Richmond, currently in his Pastoral Year at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Petersburg, VA. A graduate of the University of South Florida, he worked for a year and a half at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Yorktown, VA as the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Coordinator, before applying to seminary.

Richmond Theology on Tap is held on the first Monday of each month at Kitchen 64 located at 3336 N Boulevard, Richmond, VA. While Theology on Tap is traditionally a Catholic young adult event, we welcome singles and married people of all faith backgrounds to attend. Food and beverages need to be purchased by guest by 7:15pm. Talks are to start at 7:30 pm and ending with a Q&A at 8:30 pm.

RSVP at <https://www.facebook.com/events/305888626941138/>

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook! Email Connectrva@gmail.com for more information, to join our mailing list, and to receive the current schedule.

Tolle Lege,

Thursday, February 7th

The Foundations of Spiritual Discernment.

Our Tolle Lege book study series will continue on **March 14th at 6:30pm**. Participants go out to eat at a local restaurant after. This series addresses the foundations of spiritual discernment - the steps needed in order to discern what the Lord may be calling you to. Young Adulthood is a time of major life decisions, come discuss out how to lay the foundation that leads to listening and acting on what the Lord is calling you to. Materials will be read at Tolle Lege so no need to read prior to coming.

Vacation Bible School

Save the date! Vacation Bible School will be taking place **July 29 through August 2 from 9:00am to 12:00Noon**. A theme and registration will be coming later in Spring.

Tuesday Night Book Study

A book study group meets on approximately the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm in the St. Gregory room of the Parish Center. The current book is *A Catholic Introduction to the Bible: The Old Testament* by John Bergsma and Brant Pitre. All adults are welcome! Please purchase a book individually online or contact Kevin Corcoran to purchase. Contact Rebecca Hickman at rehickman@comcast.net or at 804-212-4786 for more information.

Contact

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

A Bit from the School

Calling All Saint Benedict Alumni!

Did you attend Saint Benedict Catholic School? We are planning celebrations for our Centennial – 100 years of educating Richmond's children. Please help us connect with you and others who attended Saint Benedict! Send your name, graduation year and contact info to: development@saintbenedictschool.org. Look for us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SaintBenedictAlumniRVA>

Mardi Gras Alumni Social

"We would like to invite ALL ST. BENEDICT SCHOOL ALUMNI to join us for our **Mardi Gras Alumni Social on Shrove Tuesday - that's March 5th - in St. Anselm Hall from 7-9pm**. We'll have wine, cheese, King Cake and memories to share, so we hope you can plan now to attend. Please invite your family and friends who are alumni as well! There are invitation cards on the side porch below the school bulletin board, and we just ask you to please RSVP: <http://bit.ly/SBCSALUM>. We look forward to seeing you there!"

HVAC

We have completed the replacement of the heating and cooling systems for the main body of the church. Over the next few months, we will fine tune the system and add protective fencing outside. Our aging system was inefficient and required upwards of \$40,000 in repairs every year to keep it running. The new

system is efficient (e.g., five small boilers, with each one only being used as needed); it should be less expensive to maintain; and it introduces outside conditioned air into the space to make for a healthier building. The entire project cost was just under \$400,000 (\$75,000 under budget). The majority of the project was funded from the Duffy Bequest, with the remainder funded from restorations. Remarkably, the parish has now completed \$6 million worth of capital projects in the last five years (parking lot and priory purchase, Parish Center renovation, upgrade of the electrical and sewer/storm water service, replacement of the church roof, and new church HVAC). You have made this possible through your generosity—thank you! —Father Tony

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 ioleary@saintbenedictparish.org.

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. On the second Saturday of every month there is hospitality after the 5:30pm Mass – which includes hors d'oeuvres, deserts, wine and other beverages. **In keeping with the penitential spirit during Lent, there will be no Saturday night hospitality and only coffee and juice will be served on Sundays.**

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

2018 Tax letter!!

Recently, a letter detailing your donations for 2018 was mailed. If, upon the receipt and review of your letter, you have any questions; you may contact Elizabeth Hanson in the office of finance at ehanson@saintbenedictparish.org or call 254-8810 ext. 103.

Contribution Envelope Information!!

The next set of quarterly envelopes (for April, May and June) will go out at the end of March.

If you didn't get your envelopes, lost them 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 de-activate 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!

A little funny..

What do you call a parade of rabbits hopping backwards?

A receding hare-line.

Ida B. O'Leary

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