

Summer is fast approaching, Spring rolls on.

Read the BITS – there's always a ton!

A Bit of a Mass Schedule!

This Weekend

Saturday, May 18 – 5:30pm (4:30 p.m., Confession)

Sunday, May 19 – 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Week of May 20

Tuesday, May 21 – 10:00 a.m. – Funeral (*Linda Barth*)

Wednesday, May 22 – 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 23 – 5:30 p.m. (6:00-7:00 p.m., Confession)

Friday, May 24 – 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 25 – 5:30pm (4:30 p.m., Confession)

Sunday, May 26 – 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

First Holy Communion

The children of the parish will receive their First Holy Communion on **Sunday, May 19 at the 11:00am Mass**. Note: This Mass will run longer than normal.

Please pray for the children who will receive Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. To quote Pope-Emeritus Benedict XVI, “I would like to emphasize the importance of First Holy Communion. For many of the faithful, this day continues to be memorable as the moment when...they first came to understand the importance of a personal encounter with Jesus. Parish pastoral programs should make the most of this highly significant moment.” **There will be no hospitality after either Mass this Sunday.**

Baby Bottle Campaign

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Baby Bottle Campaign. If you took a bottle please return it – even if you didn't have a chance to fill it!). We are hopeful to return as many bottles (filled or unfilled) as possible as they can be re-used yearly. Thank You!

Welcome Cristo Rey

This fall, Cristo Rey Richmond will open its doors to its inaugural class. In an effort to get the school ready for the academic year, Cristo Rey will be doing a much needed renovating the North Sheppard complex. *Phase One* will take place between Memorial Day and Labor Day in order to ensure spaces are ready for the incoming Freshman Class. *Phase Two* will begin after Oktoberfest. We are excited to welcome Cristo Rey and delighted that the North Sheppard complex is being used by a Catholic organization to support an under-served population and the City of Richmond. Next weekend, we welcome Peter McCourt, President & CEO of Cristo Rey Richmond who will be speaking at all of our Masses to talk about the development of the High School and the efforts of construction to the current building in which the school will be housed.

Memorial Day

Mass on Memorial Day, **May 27 at 10:00 a.m.**, will be offered for the repose of the souls of members of the Armed Forces who have died in service to our country.

Office Closed

The church office will be closed Memorial Day, **Monday May 27**. This is a Diocesan-wide holiday.

Ascension of the Lord

Please note that in the ecclesiastical Province of Baltimore, to which the Diocese of Richmond belongs, the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord is not celebrated on Thursday (this year, May 30); rather, it is transferred to the following weekend (June 1–2), and takes the place of the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

Religious Education

Religious Education K-12

Religious Education for grades K-5, Edge (6-8), and The Rule (9-12) have concluded for the year. Please see the parish website for a list of summer activities for Edge and The Rule.

First Holy Communion

The First Holy Communion Rehearsal is on **Saturday, May 18th from 10:00 to 11:30am**. First Holy Communion itself will be during the **11:00am Mass on Sunday, May 19th**.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be taking place from **Monday, July 29 through Friday, August 2 from 9:00am to 12:00Noon**. The theme this year is Jesus: More than Miracles. Registration will be online this year on the parish website and will be available by the end of next week. Middle and High School students are needed to volunteer. Please contact Kevin Corcoran if you wish to volunteer.

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.

May Regional Young Adult Social

This month's social will be attending a Flying Squirrels Baseball game on Fireworks and Faith Night on Saturday, May 18 at 6:05pm. Purchase your ticket online and join us in the general admission area above section 205. Come out for a night of fellowship at the old ball game.

Theology on Tap

Monday, June 3

Join us for a journey to the intersection between faith and reason, as discussed in St. John Paul II's encyclical on Faith and Reason. Chris Malone will lead us in an engaging discussion in the ways reason leads to faith, while faith is the bedrock of reason and rational thinking. He will illuminate God's continuing creative acts which allow us as subjects of God's creation to understand more and more about

God's created universe and to gain ever greater insights into the genius of God's creation and the constancy of God's grace.

Chris Malone is a lifelong Catholic who was raised in Georgetown and Alexandria and attended Catholic elementary and high school. He received his undergraduate degree in History/Philosophy at William & Mary in 1976 and a law degree from UVA in 1979. More recently, he received a master's degree in theology from St. Leo University in 2012. He has been married to the love of his life for over 40 years and was blessed with five children and many foster children who became part of his family. He has practiced law for 40 years, first as a law clerk at the Supreme Court of Virginia for 2 years and for 38 years at Thompson McMullan where he currently serves as managing partner. In 2003, he was ordained as a permanent deacon for service in the Diocese of Richmond and currently serves at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond. Chris's passions include adult faith formation, hospital and visitation ministry and working for the needs of the homeless. In his spare time, he enjoys the outdoors and seeing new places.

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.

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 Sacraments of Healing: Penance and Anointing of the Sick on May 21. Please see the parish website for details on the materials and to find a schedule.

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).

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.

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. **There will be no hospitality after either Mass this Sunday, May 19.**

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 4:00 p.m., when the office closes, until the sacristan arrives to set up for the 5:30 p.m. Mass. On a normal weekdays, the church is available for prayer during normal business hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 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 July, August and September) will arrive at your home in the later part of June. The envelopes are prepared for mailing a month prior to receipt. Please remember to let me know if your address changes ASAP!

If you don't get your envelopes, lose 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.

2019 Annual Appeal

If you made a pledge to the 2019 Appeal, the Diocese has begun sending reminders, so you can fulfill your pledge. It is important for all our parishioners to complete their pledges. The assistance that is provided to the ministries and programs the Appeal supports, such as grants to our mission parishes, heating and grocery assistance to families and tuition for our future priests to attend the seminary, is based on what is collected.

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..

This is the time of year the bees start appearing.

Ahh.. the joys of Sting.

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