

A Bit of a Mass Schedule!

This Weekend

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

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

Week of December 17

Tuesday, December 18 – 5:30pm

Wednesday, December 19 – 5:30pm

Thursday, December 20 – 5:30pm

Friday, December 21 – 8:30am

Saturday, December 22 – 5:30pm (4:30pm, Confession)

Sunday, December 23 – 8:30am and 11:00am

Advent

Letter from Fr. Tony

Attached, please find Fr. Tony's Advent letter.

Angelus

Throughout Advent, the Angelus will be prayed five minutes before each Mass.

“O” Antiphons Holy Hour

A holy hour will take place on **Tuesday, December 18 at 6:30pm** that will focus on the famous “O” Antiphons of Advent. This prayer service will include Exposition of the Holy Eucharist, biblical readings, Gregorian chant, and Benediction.

Lesson and Carols

All parishioners are invited to attend a service of Lessons and Carols on **Wednesday, December 19 at 11:30am**, performed by the students of Saint Benedict School.

Karoling with Kumro at Saint Benedict Catholic Church and Christmas Tree Lighting

Thursday, December 20th, 6:30pm

Please join us for Saint Benedict's third annual "Karoling with Kumro." This exciting event is open to parishioners and friends of all ages. We will continue our mission of evangelization by sharing the Good News of the Birth of Our Savior with our neighbors by singing Christmas carols. We will meet on Thursday, **December 20th at 6:30pm** in the Parish Center to enjoy fellowship, Kookies, and KoKoa, sponsored by the young adults of the parish.

At approximately **7:05pm** the group will gather outside to enjoy the with the blessing and lighting of a Christmas tree in the courtyard outside the church.

We will begin Karoling through the neighborhood at about **7:15pm**, singing everyone's favorite Christmas carols, led by our Choirmaster, Joel S. Kumro. Afterward, we will return to the Parish Center for more food and fellowship. This is a great event for the whole family; all ages and singing abilities are welcome and encouraged to attend. Invite your friends! Mass is available at 5:30pm, and the Sacrament of Penance will follow at 6:15pm. Attached, please see poster and feel free to forward, or print and post!

Advent/Christmas Card

Cards that include the Advent and Christmas schedule were sent to all registered parishioners. The card was sent to the address we currently have on file. If your address has changed, please let me know so I can change it in our system and send you another card. If you are not a registered parishioner and would like to receive a card, please email me your address and I'll send you one! If you'd like to become a member of the parish, let me know and I'll include a registration form.

Confession before Christmas

We are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Penance in preparation for Christmas. For those who like to make use of the Sacrament of Penance, confessions will be heard on Monday, December 24 at 10:00 am

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24:

Confessions: 10:00am

Masses: 5:30pm, 12:00 midnight (*Ordinary of the Mass in Latin*)

There will be a choral program with carols 30 minutes prior to the Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25:

Mass at 10:00am

Christmas Second Collection

Commonwealth Catholic Charities

Each year, there is a Diocesan-wide Second Collection during the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses which benefits CCC. This collection is the largest fundraiser for the agency and provides much needed support so that they can serve the most vulnerable of our fellow Virginians. A large proportion of those whom are served are children, families, refugees, individuals with disabilities and seniors in need. If you are paying with a check, please make the check out to Saint Benedict Catholic Church and in the memo section write "CCC 2018 Collection"

Holiday Office Closure

The church office will be closed December 21, 24, - 28, 31 and January 1.

During this time, if there is an emergency for which you need a priest immediately – you can call the emergency number: 804-254-0887. This number is for emergencies only. All other calls should go to the normal office number or email me and I will address your call/email when able.

January 1: Holy Day of Obligation

January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, and the Octave (eighth) Day of Christmas. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be offered on Monday, December 31 at 5:30pm, and on Tuesday, January 1 at 10:00am (*Ordinary of the Mass in Latin*).

A Bit of a date?!

Calendars are Here!

Every year, Bliley Funeral home gives us the wonderful gift of Calendars for your home. While many use their portable, electronic devices to keep dates - I always keep an "old fashioned" calendar in my kitchen! These calendars are wonderful for many reasons! Awesome Artwork, they state the Holy Days of Obligation and Liturgical calendar. Stacks of these calendars are located on the Side porch of the church and are yours for the taking. FREE! Be sure to grab one now and put all of the items listed on these bits on the calendar! Thanks so much Bliley's!!!!

A Bit of Music

Youth Choir

Saint Benedict Youth Choir, (formerly Children's Choir) is preparing to sing at the **5:30pm Mass on Christmas Eve (December 24.)** If your child is singing, he/she must arrive to warmup and rehearse no later than 5:00pm. Youth Choir rehearsals will resume on **Tuesday, January 8 from 3–4:00pm** in the school library.

Rehearsals are held on **Tuesdays from 3–4pm** in the school library. The Youth Choir allows young people to deepen their appreciation and love for liturgical music, and provides basic instruction in singing and musicianship.

Parish Choir

Saint Benedict Parish Choir is preparing to sing for the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. The choir will present a program of Christmas Music for choir, organ, and violin, as well as carols to be sung by the assembly, beginning at **11:30pm on Christmas Eve**. Selections will be presented from the German, French, and English traditions, including selections from Camille Saint-Saëns Oratorio de Noël, traditional Gregorian Christmas chants, the famous French Baroque organ Noëls of Louis-Claude Daquin, and other choral favorites.

Following Christmas, choir rehearsals will resume on **Wednesday, January 9**, and are usually held from **6:30–8:00pm** in the choir loft. For more information, please contact our Choirmaster and Organist, Joel S. Kumro.

Religious Education

Religious Education K-12

Religious Education for grades Kindergarten through 5th, Edge (6th-8th) and The Rule (9th-12th) is on hold for the holidays. They will resume on January 9th.

Confirmation Class

The next Confirmation Class is from **12:30-2:30** in St. Anselm Hall of St. Benedict Catholic School on **Sunday, December 16th**.

March for Life

Youth grades 8-12 are invited to join for the March for Life and Life is VERY Good youth rallies. We will head up on Thursday, January 17 in the afternoon for the Evening of Prayer at the EagleBank Arena. That night we will stay in a local hotel. In the morning we will attend the Life is VERY Good rally at the same arena before heading into D.C. for the March. After the March we will return home on Friday, January 18. All travel will be on Diocesan buses. Thursday evening snack and Friday breakfast and lunch included. Please contact Kevin Corcoran for pricing, details, and permission form. Forms are due by Sunday, December 16th.

Diocesan Youth Conference

Registration for the Diocesan Youth Conference is underway. **February 8 – February 10**. Open to all 8th through 12th grade students. The conference is a gathering of youth from all parishes of the diocese to grow in faith and fellowship. Included are most meals, lodging, keynote speakers, breakout sessions, inflatables, a T-shirt, and a service component. Email Kevin Corcoran for more pricing, details, and permission form. To get the early bird pricing, forms are due by **Sunday, December 16th**.

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.

RVACONnect (Young Adults)

The last Tolle Lege for the autumn is on ***Thursday, December 13th from 7:00 to 8:30pm*** in the parish center.

Karoling with Kumro: RVAConnect is once again sponsoring Karoling with Kurmo on **December 20th!** Young adults are asked to bring their favorite Christmas cookies to share. Please see “Karoling with Kumro” headline for more information.

Young Adults are invited to be lectors at the “O” Antiphons Holy Hour on Tuesday December 18th. Please contact Kevin Corcoran if interested.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook

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

Tuesday Night Book Study

A new book! Starting **Tuesday, January 8th**, the new book will be *A Catholic Introduction to the Bible: The Old Testament* by John Bergsma and Brant Pitre. All adults are welcome! Meetings take place on the ***second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm*** in the St. Gregory room. 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

Saint Benedict Catholic School Alumni

Did you attend Saint Benedict Catholic School? Plans have begun for the School Centennial – 100 years of educating Richmond’s children. Please help the school connect with you and others who attended Saint Benedict School! Please take a minute to visit this website www.saintbenedictschool.org/alumni/ and sign up for

Alumni socials, events and to receive a twice-yearly newsletter. For more information contact Pat Maehr, Director of Development at Saint Benedict School at pmaehr@saintbenedictschool.org.

St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Church Fundraiser

This weekend, the St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Catholic Church will be taking T-shirt orders in order to raise funds to build their church. Sales will occur in the St. Gregory Room of the Parish Center. The St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Catholic Church is a small community with a strong desire to construct a small church for us to worship. They have already purchased a plot for their future church and construction plans are in the beginning stages. Their primary goal for this campaign is to raise fund for construction site work. Cost of the T-shirt is \$19.99 and a shipping charge of \$3.99. Our profit per T-shirt is \$8. To purchase on-line click on this link: <https://www.bonfire.com/take-my-hand-not-my-life/>. They appreciate any support toward this mission. As a 501(c)3 organization, they will provide a tax receipt for all your contributions. For more information about their church visit their website www.stalphonsamissionva.org.

40 Days for Life - Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who prayed during this past campaign, at Planned Parenthood, in church or at home. This was our twenty second campaign in Richmond so far! We had sixteen churches and an individual sponsor a day with many people praying. Bishop Knestout joined about forty people in prayer along with Fr. Tony, Fr. Michael Boehling and Fr. Gino Rossi one morning during the campaign. The pregnancy help centers in the Richmond area are helping many clients with a total of 2102 visits reported from the Pregnancy Resource Center from January thru October in 2018, with over 3,000 referrals for other assistance. Please continue to pray throughout the year for pro-life issues.

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.

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. **Please note that over the holidays the office and church availability times will vary. Please check the schedule of church and/or availability of office staff prior to making a trip in.**

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

Giving using your IRA

If you are 70½ or older, instead of receiving the required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA, you can give some or all of it directly to charity. By doing this it keeps the distribution out of your taxable income avoiding income tax on the funds, as well as helping to keep your adjust gross income lower to avoid Medicare income related surcharges. In order to arrange for this distribution, you would need to contact the custodian of your IRA so the funds must be distributed directly from the IRA to the charity.

Year End Giving Opportunities:

As we draw near to the end of the year, many individuals and families are reviewing their charitable contributions for 2018. If you plan to make a gift of appreciated stock please contact Elizabeth Hanson at the parish office (254-8810 ext. 103) to get the most recent instructions. Thank you for your generosity to Saint Benedict Catholic Church throughout the year!

2018 Tax Reminder!!

Your donations for 2018 must be both dated AND postmarked no later than December 31, 2018 in order to be acknowledged by Saint Benedict Catholic Church as donations in 2018 for income tax purposes. For those of you who use e-Giving (Credit Card) donations, the year of the gift is based on the processing date. You will receive a letter detailing your donations for 2018 at the end of January 2019.

Contribution Envelope Information!!

The next set of quarterly envelopes (for January, February and March) will go out at the end of December.

No Envelope?? No Problem!!

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 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..

How do you scare a Panda?

With some Bam ... BOO

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