

A Bit of a Mass Schedule!

This Weekend

Saturday, September 29 – 5:30pm (4:30pm, Confession)

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

Week of October 1

Tuesday, October 2 – 5:30pm

Wednesday, October 3 – 5:30pm

Thursday, October 4 – 5:30pm

Friday, October 5 – 8:30am and 5:30pm – *Exposition and Adoration to follow Saturday, October 6* – 8:00am Benediction

Saturday, October 6 – 5:30pm (4:30pm, Confession)

Sunday, October 7 – 8:30am and 11:00am

SPAM

Let this be a friendly reminder to be ever vigilant about SPAM. Don't click on any email links or reply to any email unless you know the sender and are confident it's not SPAM. Father Tony's official email address is tmarques@richmonddiocese.org. Any other email you may think is from him is NOT. Spammers are relentless so you must be alert!

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.

Blessing of Animals

The parish invites pet owners to bring their animals to the church parking lot on **Thursday, October 4 at 6:30pm** for the Blessing of Animals. (Confessions will still be heard in the church, beginning at 6:00pm.) The Blessing of Animals traditionally takes place on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi (1181/1182–1226), a deacon who was a lover of all creatures, and who is the patron of ecologists.

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>

Hurricane Florence / Natural Disaster Relief Second Collection Scheduled

In response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Florence, the USCCB has asked that we take up an emergency collection to support Church relief agencies as they provide humanitarian aid in the form of water, food, shelter, and medical care, as well as long-term efforts to restore communities after widespread destruction, from this and any other natural disasters that occur this year. The (2nd) collection will take place at Saint Benedict parish the weekend of October 6/7. Parishioners should make the check out to “Saint Benedict Parish” and write “2018 Disaster Fund” in the memo line. Alternatively, individuals can send donations directly to Catholic Charities USA at www.catholiccharities.org.

Saints in Light

“Let us give thanks to the Father for having made you worthy to share the lot of the saints in light” (Colossians 1:12). On Tuesday, October 23 at 6:30pm there will be a presentation on the “saints in light”: the holy men and women depicted in the stained-glass windows and mural of the church. The evening will include brief biographies of these saints, along with prayers and hymns. Parishioners are encouraged to attend this excellent preparation for All Saints Day (November 1).

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. 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 – jkd Disney@verizon.net or visit the website at: www.40daysforlife.com/Richmond.

Music Notes!

Saint Benedict Parish Choir Resumes:

Regular rehearsals of the Parish Choir will resume on Wednesday, October 3rd at 6:30pm. A meet and greet and choir orientation will follow. Dinner will be served. Choir rehearsals are held most Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00pm in the choir loft, unless otherwise scheduled. The Parish Choir sings most Sundays at the

11:00am Mass, as well as select holidays, October through June. Members of the Parish Choir foster active participation in the Holy Mass by leading the people in liturgical music and performing pieces of sacred choral music. Choristers receive musical, liturgical, and pastoral formation as part of their ministry. Our choristers come from various age groups and backgrounds, ranging from those with little singing experience and limited or no ability to read music, to those with advanced musical degrees. Parishioners are strongly encouraged to consider signing in the choir.

Children's Choir Resumes:

Regular rehearsals of the parish Children's Choir will resume on Tuesday, October 2nd, at 3:00pm. Children in grades 2–8 are encouraged to sing in the Parish Children's Choir. Rehearsals are held on Tuesdays from 3–4pm in the school library. The Children's Choir allows young people to deepen their appreciation and love for liturgical music, and provides basic instruction in singing and musicianship. The Children's Choir will sing monthly at various weekend Masses, as well as select holidays during the school year.

Cantors:

The parish is very much in need of Cantors to sing at all weekend Masses. The role of the cantor is to foster active participation in the Holy Mass by leading the Responsorial Psalm and the other chants and hymns, singing in dialogue with the assembly. Cantors sing at liturgies throughout the year, including weekend Masses. Training for cantors is scheduled individually with the Choirmaster and Organist.

For more information on these items, please contact Joel S. Kumro, Choirmaster and Organist.

Religious Education

Religious Education 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.

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.

Registration

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

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

Confirmation Orientation

Will take place on Sunday, Oct. 7th from 12:30-1:30 pm in St. Anselm Hall. Please register for confirmation on the parish website.

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)

Starting October 11th at 7:00 pm, RVAConnect will begin a study group (Tolle Lege) meeting the second Thursday of the month to read and discuss spiritual works in the Parish Center. A second social or service oriented event will happen later in the month. The current work are selections from The Confessions of St. Augustine. A fall schedule can be found on the side porch.

On October 4th at 6:30pm, Young Adults will facilitate the blessing of animals by passing out materials and instructing people where to go. Please RSVP to toconnectrva@gmail.com.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook Email Connectrva@gmail.com for more info about Tolle Lege 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.

Priest Convocation

Fr. Tony be away from the parish from October 15 to 17 in order to attend the annual Priest Convocation with Bishop Knestout and all priests of the diocese. Daily Mass will not be celebrated on October 16 or 17. Instead of Mass, Deacon Ed Owen will lead the celebration of Vespers (Evening Prayer) on Tuesday,

October 16 at 6:30pm. Vespers is part of the liturgy or official worship of the Church. If there is an emergency while I am gone, please call the emergency line. Father asks that you to pray for the bishop and priests of the diocese during our annual gathering.

Lily of the Holy Trinity Women's Society

Are you looking for a way to be of service to St. Benedict Parish and its members? Come check us out.

The purpose of the Lily of the Holy Trinity Women's Society is to:

- enhance spiritual growth & fellowship among our members,
- engage in activities to benefit the St. Benedict Parish Community, and
- assist and support the William J. Nolte Council 11533, Knights of Columbus.

Our Society invites all women 18 years and older to join us every 2nd Sunday of each month at 12:30 PM in the Parish Center.

The next meeting of The Lily of the Holy Trinity Women's Society will be Sunday, October 14, 2018 at 12:30 PM in the Parish Center. Please join us.

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. 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. **There will be NO Hospitality on the weekend of September 22/23.**

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 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..

Did you hear about the documentary about bikinis?
It's a two part series that's quite revealing.

Ida B. O'Leary

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