

**Last week of February is upon us!
Please read the BITS! .. it's a must!**

A Bit of a Mass Schedule!

This Weekend

Saturday, February 23 – 5:30pm (4:30pm, Confession)

Sunday, February 24 – 8:30am and 11:00am

Week of February 25

Tuesday, February 26 – 8:30am

Wednesday, February 27 – 5:30pm

Thursday, February 28 – 5:30pm (6:00pm, Confession)

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

A Bit of Thanks

Volunteer Reception

“I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now” (Philippians 1:3–5).

In thanksgiving for all parish volunteers, there will be a holy hour, featuring Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, on **Tuesday, February 26 at 5:30pm**. A reception will follow at 6:30pm. **All parish volunteers are invited to attend, and are asked to RSVP to Ida O’Leary (ioleary@saintbenedictparish.org) ASAP.**

Note: Mass on Tuesday, February 26 will be at 8:30am.

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.

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.

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.

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 Rev. 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 6:45-8:30pm, 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.

Religious Education

Religious Education K-12

Religious Education for grades Kindergarten through 5th, Edge Middle School Youth Ministry, and The Rule High School Youth Ministry continue this **Wednesday, February 27th** at 6:30pm. K-5 Religious Education meets in St. Benedict Catholic School and ends at 7:30pm with aftercare provided for those with parents in choir or siblings in Edge or The Rule until 8:00pm. Edge meets in St. Anselm Hall of St. Benedict Catholic School and ends at 8:00pm. The Rule meets in the parish center and ends at 8:00pm.

Edge and The Rule Outing

Edge and The Rule will be going on a joint outing to LaserQuest on **Saturday, March 2nd**. Meet at St. Benedict's at 10:00am and pick-up at 2:00pm. Cost is \$20 and is due with permission form, which may be found on the parish website, by Wednesday, February 27th. Bring money for Chick-Fil-A lunch after we play.

Confirmation Class 7

The next confirmation class will be on **Sunday, February 24th from 12:30-2:30pm** in St. Anselm Hall of St. Benedict Catholic School.

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 Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism and Confirmation on February 19th. 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.

Regional Young Adult Social

The next event is the Regional Young Adult Social taking place at Hardywood Brewery on Ownby Lane. Meet at 7:00pm and again look for young adults wearing name tags. Come enjoy a beer, meet new people, hang out with old friends, and try for dinner whatever food truck will be there at the time.

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/>

[Log In or Sign Up to View](#)

www.facebook.com

See posts, photos and more on Facebook.

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.

Tolle Lege has a new starting time of 6:30pm so that we can go out to dinner after in nearby Carytown or local restaurant. 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.

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

Home School Group

The Saint Benedict Home School Group is an activity group that meets on the First Friday of the month in the Parish Center from 9:30am until about 11am. The next meeting is on Friday, March 1st. 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 Please let us know if you would like to attend!

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. 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!"

[Alumni Social March 5, 2019](#)

[bit.ly](http://bit.ly/SBCSALUM)

Join Us on Shrove Tuesday for an Alumni Social! Connect with old friends, share food and drink and check out some great photos and mementos!

Your Parish Bulletin Needs You!

Advertising on the Back of the Bulletin!

Have you ever taken the time to look at the back of our awesome Bulletin? If not, you should! Many of our parishioners advertise their businesses on the back of our bulletin. It's a great way to give our fellow parishioners business and support fellow Catholics! Next week, there will be a representative from Diocesan Publications (the people who produce our bulletin) in town and she would love to talk with you about how you can advertise on the back of the bulletin! Her name is Lisa Sparkman at 717-507-3766 or email her at lsparkman@diocesan.com. (Note: this is for business advertising on the BACK of the bulletin, not the "informational blurbs" on the inside.)

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 to4:00pm. 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..

Did you hear about the dog who ran two miles to bring back the stick his owner tossed?

Personally, I think it's a bit far-fetched.

