

**Memorial Day is here already, the heat remains strong and steady.
Things don't stop just like the heat, so read the BITS and don't miss a beat!**

A Bit of a Mass Schedule!

This Weekend

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

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

Week of May 27

Monday, May 27 – 10:00am – Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 28 – 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 29 – 5:30 p.m.

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

Friday, May 31 – No Mass

Saturday, June 1 – 5:30pm (4:30 p.m., *Confession*)

Sunday, June 2 – 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

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. **This 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.

Baby Bottle Campaign

Thank You

The Pregnancy Resource Center of Metro Richmond has sent a tremendous THANKS - thanking Saint Benedict Catholic Church for the generous offering that was made this Lent showing our heart and commitment for the sanctity of human life. As a parish, through our 2019 Lenten Baby Bottle Campaign, we were able to donate **\$5,359.78** that will enable the PRC to continue to serve the community by offering professional pregnancy tests, ultrasound technology, options counseling that affirms life, practical resources and referrals: all without charge to the client. They offer thanks for your generous giving and prayers. They, in turn offer prayers for you that God will continue to richly bless you and our church for the blessing you have been to others. Thanks to all of you who contributed and also to Divine Mercy Cenacle members and the Knights of Columbus of Saint Benedict Parish for making this a reality!!

Reminder! If you took a bottle this year, 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!

Rosary Ministry

The Rosary Ministry at Saint Mary's Hospital is in need of volunteers. Every Monday through Friday at 3:00 p.m. the Rosary is recited in the newly renovated chapel located on the first floor of the hospital. Volunteers are asked to dedicate one hour a month to the recitation of the Rosary for St. Mary's patients, caregivers and their families as well as your own personal intentions. Coordinators strive to ensure two volunteers are available to provide this spiritual ministry. Please prayerfully consider becoming a part of this ministry to share your faith and prayer with others. For more information or to sign up to be a part of this effort, please contact Peggy Seaton at seaton5113@verizon.net or 804-358-2788. All are welcome to join this ministry!

Lilies of the Holy Trinity

Father's Day Bake Sale

The annual Father's Day bake sale hosted by the Lily of the Holy Trinity Women's Society will take place June 15 & 16. The Lilies will be selling delicious homemade baked goods after each Mass. Purchases may be made with cash or check. Your support is always appreciated! Enjoy! Flyer Attached. *(On the day of the bake sale and blood drive, regular parish hospitality is canceled)*

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.

Knights of Columbus Parish Breakfast and Blood Drive!

The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a parish Breakfast and Blood Drive Sunday, June 16 from 9:00am – 1:00pm in Saint Anselm Hall at the Parish School (While donors eat free, there is a fee for non-donors: Adults \$7.00, Children \$4.00 – kids under 4 eat free). The menu will consist of egg & sausage casseroles, fruit, danish, coffee & juice. For more information see the attached flyer entitled

“Blood Drive June 2019”. (*On the day of the blood drive and bake sale, regular parish hospitality is canceled*)

Religious Education

Vacation Bible School

Entitled "Jesus, More than Miracles", this year's vacation bible school will take place from **9:00am to 12:00Noon from Monday, July 29th through Friday, August 2nd** at St. Benedict Catholic School.

Open to all 3.5 year olds (must be potty trained) to rising 4th graders, the registration fee for each participant is \$20, \$50 total for three or more children. Rising 5th graders through adults are needed as volunteers and won't be charged. Interested adults older than 18 should contact Kevin Corcoran. Registration for both participants and volunteers under 18 years old is online this year at <https://www.saintbenedictparish.org>.

Edge and The Rule Summer Schedule

The Rule and Edge summer schedule and permission form is now available! All summer events for Edge are open to rising 6th through rising 8th graders. Edge events include a trip to Luray Caverns, our 4th annual kickball classic and more. Rising 9th graders through graduated seniors can attend all The Rule events. The Rule events include a hike and an overnight camping trip with white water rafting besides others. Please complete one permission form per youth, found on the side porch and parish website.

Vigil Mass and Kickers Game - Joint Edge and The Rule Event

Both Edge and The Rule will be going to a Richmond Kicker's Soccer game after the 5:30pm Mass on **Saturday, June 15**. Coming to the 5:30 Mass is not obligatory, but we'll meet afterwards on the side porch at 6:45pm. Cost \$14. Bring money for dinner. Drop-off is at St. Benedict Catholic Church but pick-up will be outside the Kicker's gate after the game, roughly 10:00pm. Forms due by June 12.

White Water Rafting - The Rule

St. Benedict high school youth ministry will be joining youth from St. Michael's Catholic Church for an overnight camping and white water rafting experience. We will meet at St. Michael's at 10:00am on Monday, July 22. We will take a coach bus to Oak Hill, WV and camp overnight. The next day we will go white water rafting before returning home by 10:00pm on Tuesday, July 23. Pick-up will again be at St. Michael's. Cost is \$150 if you sign up by June 12 and \$175 if you sign up after. Cost includes everything except for dinner on the way there and dinner on the way home. Please contact Kevin Corcoran if you are interested in joining. Registration (online) due by July 9.

Middle School Day Camp - Edge

Open to all rising 6th through 8th graders, the diocesan middle school day camp is a high-energy week filled with fun games, services activities, small group discussions, time for prayer, and a trip to a water park. Cost is \$140 and the dates are **Monday, July 15 through Friday, July 19 from 9:00am to 4:00pm** at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. Rising 11th and 12th graders are needed as counselors. Contact Kevin Corcoran to register. Forms due by June 19.

RVAConnect (Young Adults)

The next event is Theology on Tap on **June 3rd from 6:30 to 8:30pm** at Kitchen 64 on the Boulevard. Follow us on Instagram and Facebook! Email Connectrv@gmail.com for more information and to join our mailing list.

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 the Theological and Cardinal Virtues on June 4. 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).

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. The next Saturday night hospitality will be held on June 8. There will be no hospitality after either Mass Sunday, June 16.

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 3:00 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 3:00 p.m. In order to gain access to the church during these times, please ring the bell in the courtyard outside the side porch.

Summer Office Hours

During the summer months (Memorial Day to Labor Day) the church office hours will be 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please remember that during the summer, vacations are taken! Therefore, while the office may be open, the person you may wish to see may be out of the office. It is strongly recommended that you ALWAYS call or email in advance, to ensure that the person you hope to see, is available to see you. Subsequently, making appointments to meet with someone is greatly appreciated!

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.

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..

What do sheep do on Memorial Day?

They have a baa-baa-cue.

Ida B. O'Leary

Administrative Manager

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