

A Bit of a Mass Schedule!

This Weekend

Saturday, December 1 – 5:30pm (4:30pm, Confession)

Sunday, December 2 – 8:30am and 11:00am

Week of December 3

Tuesday, December 4 – 8:30am

Wednesday, December 5 – 5:30pm

Thursday, December 6 – 5:30pm

Friday, December 7 – 5:30pm (*Vigil, Immaculate Conception*)

Saturday, December 8 – 10:00am – Immaculate Conception - *Ordinary of Mass in Latin*

Saturday, December 8 – 5:30pm (4:30pm, Confession)

Sunday, December 9 – 8:30am and 11:00am

Christmas Outreach

Adopt a Christmas Angel

Our Angel Tree returns! The foster care program of Commonwealth Catholic Charities is looking for families to adopt their Christmas Angels. Presents are limited to \$35 each. DO NOT wrap the presents, prefers in gift bags. Please make sure the angel is attached to each gift bag. Presents can be placed under the Christmas tree. The deadline for these gifts is **Sunday, December 2** at the **11:00am** mass. You don't have to get everything on your Christmas tag. Anything you give is greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for making this Christmas a little brighter for these foster children! Any questions, please contact Kevin Corcoran, Director of Evangelization and Catechesis, at 254-8810, xt.109. The Tree with tags is located in the St. Gregory Room of the Parish Center.

Advent

Letter from Fr. Tony

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

First Penance Prayers

This weekend several of our young parishioners will be receiving their First Penance. Please keep these children in prayer.

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.

Angelus

Throughout Advent, the Angelus will be prayed five minutes before each Mass. This is a beautiful prayer that recounts, in capsule form, the Incarnation (Christ's coming among us as a man). The Angelus is powerful Advent prayer that welcomes the Son of God into our lives. This follows the example of Blessed Mary, who welcomed the Son of God at the Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38).

Advent Penance Liturgy

The parish's Advent Penance Service will take place on **Thursday, December 6 from 6:30 to 7:30pm**. Several priests will be on hand to hear confessions. Please note that this will be the individual form of Penance (Rite for Reconciliation of Individual Penitents) and not the communal one (Rite for Reconciliation of Several Penitents with Individual Confession and Absolution). Therefore, it is not necessary to arrive at the church right at 6:30pm; confessions will continue until approximately 7:30pm.

Immaculate Conception

December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and a Holy Day of Obligation. This feast commemorates our belief that Mary was conceived without the stain of original sin, and so became a pure, immaculate vessel for Christ the Lord. The Virgin Mary, honored under this title, is the patroness of the United States. Two Masses will be offered on this feast: **Friday, December 7 at 5:30pm (vigil); Saturday, December 8 at 10:00am (Ordinary of the Mass in Latin)**.

Lesson, Carols, and Christmas Tree Lighting

All parishioners are invited to attend a service of Lessons and Carols on **Tuesday, December 11 at 6:30pm**, performed by the students of Saint Benedict School. The evening will conclude with the blessing and lighting of a Christmas tree in the courtyard outside the church.

"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.

Karoling with Kumro at Saint Benedict Catholic Church

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. 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!

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

A Bit of Music

Youth Choir

Saint Benedict Youth Choir, (formerly Children's Choir) will sing this weekend at the 8:30am Mass. If your child is singing, please ensure he or she arrives in time for rehearsal at 8:00am. Students in grades 2–8 are welcome to join Saint Benedict Youth Choir as we prepare to sing for the 5:30pm Mass on Christmas Eve. 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. Guest choristers are encouraged to consider joining the choir for Midnight Mass. 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. Our next rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, December 5th. For more information, please contact our Choirmaster and Organist, Joel S. Kumro.

Knights of Columbus

Christmas Card Sales

The Father William J. Nolte Council 11533 of the Knights of Columbus will hold their annual "Keep Christ in Christmas" Card Sales continue! The proceeds from the sales goes to support our future Priests for the Diocese of Richmond, while in the Seminary. There also will be the opportunity to purchase cards and have them donated to the Little Sisters of the Poor. Thank you!

Lily of the Holy Trinity Women's Society

Advent Items and St. Nicholas Breakfast Ticket Sales

The Lilies of the Holy Trinity Women's Society will be selling Advent items, baked goods and St. Nicholas Breakfast Tickets this weekend before and after all masses in the St. Gregory Room of the Parish Center. New items include contemporary wreath options, eternal greens and a variety of calendars. The St Nicholas Breakfast features St. Nicholas who shares stories about the real St. Nicholas and presents each child with a keepsake. Saint Nicholas and the Lily of the Holy Trinity Women's Society are excited about this upcoming event and looking forward to seeing you on December 9th in Saint Anselm Hall. Tickets are \$5 per person, 2 and under are free. For more information about the breakfast, Contact Diane Cullen at 804-789-9727.

The Saint Nicholas Breakfast tickets can be pre-ordered by emailing Elizabeth Chenery at echenery05@gmail.com. This is not a reservation and must be paid for no later than 1:00 p.m. this Sunday, December 2nd.

They will need the following information:

Number of Adult tickets

Number of Children (ages 3 and older) tickets; and each child's age and name

Number of Children (under 3 years of age) tickets; and each child's age and name

Indicate if you will be attending which seating:

The one following the 8:30 am Mass

The one following the 11:00 am Mass

Religious Education

Religious Education K-12

Religious Education for grades Kindergarten through 5th, Edge (6th-8th) and The Rule (9th-12th) continues on **Wednesday, December 5th**. Kindergarten through 5th grades meet at St. Benedict Catholic School from 6:30-7:30 pm with aftercare provided until 8:00 for those with siblings in Edge or The Rule or parents in choir. Edge, 6th through 8th, which also serves as middle school youth ministry, meets from 6:30-8:00 pm at St. Benedict Catholic School. The Rule, 9th through 12th, meets from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Parish Center.

Edge and The Rule Outing

Both middle school students and high school students are invited to join us for a trip to Jumpology, indoor trampoline park on **Saturday, December 15th**. . Activities include free jump, ninja obstacle course, dodgeball, airfunk, slackline, trapeze, and foam pits. Price \$25 (includes socks). You will meet 8:30am at St. Benedict's. Return by 12:00pm. Lunch not included. Please submit St. Benedict permission form by **Wednesday December 12th**. Please also go online and complete the Jumpology waiver form, then print it and sign it and submit it along with the permission form.

Confirmation Class

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

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.

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.

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.

RVACoconnect (Young Adults)

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

Join us Monday, December 3 at Kitchen 64 for our start of Theology on Tap as well as the Advent season by welcoming Dom Quaglia from Nashville, TN. Dom is a speaker and author serving at parish events and conferences throughout the USA and abroad. His speaking and writing have helped people of all ages lean further into the Gospel and apply it to their lives. He co-founded the Ten Ten Group to reveal to every person his or her potential to become fully alive. We hope to see you for this exciting event!

RSVP at <https://www.facebook.com/RichmondTheologyOnTap/>

[Facebook](#)

www.facebook.com

You must log in to continue. Log into Facebook. Log In

Richmond Theology on Tap is held on the first Monday of each month at Kitchen 64, 3336 N Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23227. While Theology on Tap is traditionally a Catholic young adult event, we welcome singles and married people of all faith backgrounds to attend. Doors open at 6:30. Food and beverages need to be purchased by guest by 7:15pm. Talks are to start at 7:30 pm and end with a Q&A at 8:30 pm.

Karoling with Kumro: RVACoconnect 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.

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.

[Alumni - St. Benedict Catholic School](http://www.saintbenedictschool.org)

www.saintbenedictschool.org

Join Saint Benedict Alumni Association! It is an amazing community of alumni Saint Benedict Catholic School has graduated since its founding in 1919.

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 on December 9.

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

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..

I got a new pair of gloves today, but they're both 'lefts' which, on one hand, is great, but on the other, it's just not right.

Ida B. O'Leary

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