

Oktoberfest weekend is coming down the road! We need lots of volunteers to carry the load!

Read the BITS for info on how to enlist and everything else that shouldn't be missed!

A Bit of a Mass Schedule!

This Weekend

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

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

Week of September 17

Tuesday, September 18 – 5:30pm

Wednesday, September 19 – 5:30pm, *Vespers* - 6:30pm

Thursday, September 20 – 5:30pm ***No Parking in Lot**

Friday, September 21 – 8:30am ***No Parking in Lot**

Saturday, September 22 – 5:30pm (4:30pm, Confession) ***No Parking in Lot**

Sunday, September 23 – 8:30am and 11:00am ***No Parking in Lot**

Mass of Atonement

Bishop Barry C. Knestout will celebrate a Mass of Atonement in reparation for sexual abuse committed by members of the clergy on Friday, September 14, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, at 7:00pm at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Parishioners are encouraged to attend. For those unable to attend, the Mass will be livestreamed on the diocesan website: <https://richmonddiocese.org>.

Vespers

Vespers will be celebrated on Wednesday, September 19 at 6:30pm to give thanks to God for Ed Owen's ordination into the diaconate. A reception in Ed's honor will follow in the Parish Center.

Reception for Ed Owen

The Lily of the Holy Trinity Women's Society cordially invites all parishioners and guests to a reception honoring Ed Owen on the occasion of his Ordination to the Diaconate. The reception will follow the

6:30pm Vespers Service being held on Wednesday, September 19. Weather permitting, the reception will be held in the Courtyard of the church (or parish Center). Please indicate your acceptance by signing the

Reception Sheet located on the stand on the Side Porch of the Church.

Oktoberfest 2018

Parking NOTICE

In order to get our 'Festplatz' in top form for our 14th annual Oktoberfest, **half of the parking lot will be closed on Wednesday, September 19 and All of the lot will be closed Thursday, September 20 for set up and remain closed through Sunday, September 23. There will be no parking at all, at any time, for any reason during that time frame.** That weekend, please plan ahead! You will want to make sure you leave sufficiently early in order to find parking. As you plan, if you are coming to Mass on Saturday evening, plan on staying for dinner after Mass,

or on Sunday staying for Lunch. Thank you for your cooperation as we hope to make our 14th Oktoberfest success!

Oktoberfest Sign Up Blitz Weekend!!!

Sep 15/16 members of St Benedict's Oktoberfest Committee will be available after all Masses to sign up volunteers for our most important fundraiser of the year. You can sign yourself up online at www.stbenedictoktoberfest.com or we will be happy to sign you up during our Volunteer Blitz weekends! There are many shifts still needing to be filled!! Check your calendar and come ready to pitch in and sign up to help out at your parish event! Questions? Call Gretchen at 8046404506 or email volunteers@stbenedictoktoberfest.com. Sign up TODAY - its fast and easy! Thank you in advance for taking a few hours, one weekend this year, to support one of RVA's favorite 'fests - and our parish's most important fundraising event!

Lebkuchenherzen (Gingerbread Heart) Cookies

It's Gingerbread Heart Cookie making time folks! Our Cookie Captain is looking for help in making and decorating these incredibly popular cookies that are sold at our Oktoberfest every year! On Saturday, September 15 at 9:00am decorating and packaging will occur. Lunch and refreshments will be provided on each day! Come for part or all of each day. If you know someone who has a panache for baking or cookie decorating, please bring them along! Even if you don't bake, your hands can be used for cleaning, prepping and packaging. Baking and decorating will occur in the cafeteria of St. Benedict School. Please enter through the ramp door on Belmont Avenue. If you are able to attend at any point, or have questions - please contact Katie Toomey : Toomeyland@aol.com or call 804-218-1071.

Spread the Word!

Attached, you will find the Oktoberfest poster! Feel free to print it and post it wherever you can, email it to friends, follow it on Social Media and share the event with all your friends!! Go to the website and click on the links for all Social Media outlets! THANKS!

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.

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. This year, area churches are taking one day of the campaign and staffing it with parishioners to ensure prayer coverage. The day chosen for Saint Benedict Parishioners is the first day of the 40 Days - **Wednesday, September 26**. 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 – jkdisney@verizon.net or visit the website at: www.40daysforlife.com/Richmond .

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.

Religious Education

Registration

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

Religious Education (K-12th) 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.

Kickball Classic

The Edge Kickball Classic is on Friday, September 14. Please meet at 5:30pm and pick up at 8:00pm. Classic pizza and snow cones will be served. Meet on the St. Benedict patio. Open to all 6th through 8th graders. RSVP to iolery@saintbenedictparish.org

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.

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

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)

Oktoberfest help! Young adults will be meeting on Thursday, September 20 at 5:30pm to stuff steins. Beer and food will be provided. Please meet at the entrance to the Benedictine Gym located on Belmont Avenue. Tim York will meet you there.

Starting in October, RVAConnect will begin a study group meeting the second Thursday of the month to read and discuss spiritual books. A second social or service based event will happen later in the month. Stay tuned for more details.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook

Email Connectrva@gmail.com for more info 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.

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.

Boy Scouts

Scouting is an ideal way for boys of Saint Benedict to make friends in the parish and school. You can learn more about the fun that awaits you and your son in Scouting by attending the Parish and School Scouting Open House on Monday, September 17 at 7:00pm in Saint Anselm Hall (multipurpose room) of Saint Benedict School.

- Cub Scout Pack 498 — Boys in grades K-5
- Boy Scout Troop 498 — Boys ages 11-18 or grades 6-12

The scouts and adult leaders of Cub Scout Pack 498 and Boy Scout Troop 498 look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to the adventure of Scouting! For more information, contact Scoutmaster Barry Hodge at troop.498.bsa@gmail.com or Cub Master Sean Priest at SeanPriest@hometownrealtyservices.com.

Thank You from the Comboni Sisters

The Comboni Missionary Sisters wish to express their deep gratitude to Fr. Tony and our parish for allowing them to sell raffle tickets a few weekends ago. They were delighted with the warm welcome they received at our church! The proceeds from the sales amounted to \$625. They extend their most sincere thanks and assure you of their prayers for the needs of our parish and parish families.

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.**

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>

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 deactivate 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/](https://www.facebook.com/StBenedictRVA/); and follow us on Instagram: @stbenedict_RVA. When you find us, be sure to like and share our posts!

Food for Thought

They say, you'll never go hungry at the beach.

Because of the sand, which is everywhere.

Ida B. O'Leary

Administrative Manager

Saint Benedict Catholic Church

300 N. Sheppard Street

Richmond, VA 23221

804-254-8810 xt. 102

ioleary@saintbenedictparish.org

www.saintbenedictparish.org