

**It's Mid-February and LENT draws near,
read these BITS to know what's going on here!**

A Bit of a Mass Schedule!

This Weekend

Saturday, February 16 – 5:30pm (4:30pm, Confession)

Sunday, February 17 – 8:30am and 11:00am

Week of February 18

Tuesday, February 19 – 5:30pm

Wednesday, February 20 – 5:30pm

Thursday, February 21 – 5:30pm (6:00pm, Confession)

Friday, February 22 – 8:30am

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

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

Letter from Fr. Tony

Please see the attached letter from Fr. Tony. It will also be included in this weekends bulletin.

Parish Clean-Up Day

Indoor Edition

A Parish Clean-Up Day will take place on **Saturday, February 16 from 9:00am to 12:00N**. The focus of the day will be on cleaning the inside of the church.

Parishioners of all ages are encouraged to participate. Those interested may sign up on the homepage of the parish website: <https://www.saintbenedictparish.org> .

Monday, February 18

In observance of Presidents Day, the church office will be closed on **Monday, February 18**. This is a Diocesan-wide holiday.

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) by February 19.**

Retreat for Married Couples

On **Saturday, February 23rd, from 9:00am to 12:30pm**, the parish will host a retreat for married couples title “My Lover Speaks.” This event will help deepen your prayer life as a married couple. Childcare will be provided. Couples are asked to RSVP to Kevin Corcoran (kcorcoran@saintbenedictparish.org), Director of Evangelization and Catechesis by February 17th. The cost is \$10.00 per couple. Registration with coffee and doughnuts will be at 8:30am; the retreat will begin at 9:00am.

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.

Oktoberfest Scholarship

Applications Available

The Oktoberfest Scholarship Program assists qualified high-school age parishioners (rising 9th through 12th graders) with the cost of tuition at a Catholic school recognized by the Diocese of Richmond. If you have an eligible child who is interested in applying, attached, please find necessary materials attached to this email or available in the brochure racks on the side porch of the church.

DEADLINE, FEBRUARY 20!!

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.

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.

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 20th** 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/>

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.

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. All Alumni are invited to attend our Alumni Social on Tuesday, March 5, 7-9pm at the school! RSVP: <http://bit.ly/SBCSALUM>

Look for us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SaintBenedictAlumniRVA>

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 – **this Saturday, February 9** - 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 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

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!