

**Things change in this email every week,
read it ALL if it's information you seek!**

A Bit of a Mass Schedule!

This Weekend

Saturday, November 17 – 5:30pm (4:30pm, Confession)

Sunday, November 18 – 8:30am and 11:00am

Week of November 19

Tuesday, November 20 – 5:30pm

Wednesday, November 21 – 5:30pm

Thanksgiving Day - Thursday, November 22 – 10:00am

Friday, November 23 – No Mass

Saturday, November 24 – 5:30pm (4:30pm, Confession)

Sunday, November 25 – 8:30am and 11:00am

Music Notes!

Three Notch'd Road: The Charlottesville Baroque Ensemble presents:

Rejoice, Mother Poland: The Glory of the Polish Baroque

The next concert in Saint Benedict Music Series will be performed on **Saturday, November 17, at 7:30pm** by Three Notch'd Road: The Charlottesville Baroque Ensemble. Poland's musical heritage is vast and rich, but its flourishing in the Baroque period is virtually forgotten. Three Notch'd Road is joined by bass Peter Walker and soprano Jessica Petrus to rediscover composers Wojciech Długoraj, Mikołaj Zieleński, Adam Jarzębski, and Grzegorz Gerwazy Gorczycki along with traditional folk melodies and hymnody. This program will also feature a world premiere from Polish-American composer Mark Nowakowski. A reception will follow the concert, graciously hosted by the Lily of the Holy Trinity Women's Society.

Saint Bridget String Ensemble at 11:00am Mass

We are proud to welcome the Saint Bridget String Ensemble, who will play at our 11:00am Mass this Sunday, November 18. The Saint Bridget String Ensemble is in its second year of music ministry at Saint Bridget Catholic Church. Under the guidance of our parishioner, violinist and teacher, Loretta McCray, students have the opportunity to share their musical talents with parishioners in the Liturgy of the Mass. The ensemble prepares music for four masses from September through May. String musicians in kindergarten through twelfth grade and of all talent levels are welcome.

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.

Thank You!

Ancient Order of Hibernians Donation

The Major James H. Dooley Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians recently donated \$3,500 to Catholic Schools, Parish Faith Formation Programs and Parish Needs for various Parishes in Richmond. Donations were made from the proceeds of their 16th Annual "Trip for Two to Ireland" 2018 Raffle. This year, AOH is donating \$250 to St. Benedict's for Catholic Education, and will be presenting the check to Fr. Tony after the 11:00am Mass on **Sunday, November 18**. Over the years St. Benedict's has received \$5,250 from the proceeds of this raffle. If you'd like to buy a ticket for the 2019 Raffle, contact Jim Woods: 804-339-3628/ jwoods0107@gmail.com . Practicing male parishioners of Irish descent are encouraged to join. For membership information contact Johnny Cates: 804-972-2729 / johncates1@verizon.net or visit www.aohrichmond.org.

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day Mass Time

Mass on **Thanksgiving Day, November 22**, will be celebrated at **10:00am**. Although this is not a Holy Day of Obligation, it is praiseworthy to attend Mass in order to thank God for all of his blessings. **There will be no Mass on Friday, November 23.**

St. Francis Home – Thanksgiving Collection

On Thanksgiving morning, **Thursday November 22**, the collection will be taken for Saint Francis Home. Saint Francis Home is a social ministry of the Diocese of Richmond which serves seniors & disabled adults of limited financial means by offering life-enhancing care and services designed to promote physical, mental,

emotional, social, and spiritual well-being in a home-like environment where independence, dignity, and self-worth are nurtured.

Church Office - Thanksgiving Week

In observance of Thanksgiving, the Church office will be closed **November 21, 22 and 23**. If there is an emergency for which you need a priest immediately, you can call the emergency number: 804-254-0887.

A Bit of Remembrance

Book of the Dead

The observance of All Souls' Day on November 2 initiated the month-long devotion of offering special prayers for the dead. To underscore the importance of this Spiritual Work of Mercy, the Book of the Dead has been placed on the altar of St. Joseph, who is the patron of a happy death. Each year, parishioners are encouraged to inscribe the names of their deceased family members and friends, along with their date of death, in the book. Beginning on All Souls' Day, and lasting throughout November, the Book of the Dead will be displayed in the St. Joseph chapel.

Advent

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 **Tuesday, 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.

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.

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).**

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 have begun! 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 and St. Nicholas Breakfast Tickets this weekend after Sunday 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. In case you run out of time to bake, the Lily's will have homemade baked goods available for sale the weekend of December 1st and 2nd. The St Nicholas Breakfast features St. Nicholas who shares stories about the real St. Nicholas and presents each child with a keepsake. Tickets are \$5 per person, 2 and under are free. For more information about the breakfast, Contact Diane Cullen at 804-789-9727.

Religious Education

Religious Education K-12

There will be no Religious Education (K-5, Edge, and The Rule) on Wednesday, November 21 for the Thanksgiving holiday. We will resume on Wednesday, November 28.

First Penance Classes

Preparation Classes for First Penance are from **6:30-7:30 pm** on **Tuesdays November 20**, and **November 27** in the Parish Center. These classes are for both children and for at least one practicing Catholic parent. First Penance will take place on **Saturday, December 1**, beginning at **9:30 am**.

Confirmation Outing

The outing for Confirmand is **Saturday, November 17th, from 10:00am – 1:00pm**. Since the trip is off campus, please submit the permission form sent home in email and on the parish website.

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.

RVACONnect (Young Adults)

RVACONnect (Young Adults) Our next outing will be to G-Force Karts on **November 29th**, meet at the parish at **6:45pm**. A fall calendar is on the side porch and on the parish website. Please email to be added to the email list.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook

Email Connectrva@gmail.com for more info about Tolle Lege 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 rhickman@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 Pat Maehr, Director of Development at Saint Benedict School will be available after all Masses this weekend in the St. Augustine room of the Parish Center as they are hosting Hospitality! Or, you can contact her at pmaehr@saintbenedictschool.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 iolery@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 November 25.**

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.

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..

How much room do you need to grow a fungus?
As mushroom as possible.

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