

**Lots of BITS and lots of attached things as well,
So read and open pray tell!**

A Bit of a Mass Schedule!

This Weekend

Friday, March 29 – 8:30am

6:00pm – Confession

7:00pm – Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 30 – 5:30pm (4:30pm, Confession)

Sunday, March 31 – 8:30am and 11:00am

Week of April 1

Tuesday, April 2 – 5:30pm

Wednesday, April 3 – 5:30pm

Thursday, April 4 – 5:30pm

Friday, April 5 – 8:30am

6:00pm – Confession

7:00pm – Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 6 – 5:30pm (4:30pm, Confession)

Sunday, April 7 – 8:30am and 11:00am

LENT

Attached, you will find Fr. Tony's Lenten letter as well as the "Schedule for LENT, 2019".

Stations of the Cross, Confessions

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed on the Fridays of Lent at 7:00pm in the church. Confessions will be heard beforehand at 6:00pm.

Virginia March for Life

On **Wednesday, April 3**, a Virginia March for Life will take place. Bishop Barry Knestout will be celebrating Mass at 9:00am at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. A rally will take place at the state capitol at 11:00am, followed by a march.

Fr. Tony will be walking from St. Benedict's to the Convention Center for Mass. Parishioners are welcome to join him. Departure time is 7:30am sharp from St. Benedict's Church.

Lenten Fish Fry

There will be one more Friday Lenten Supper – the ever popular FISH FRY. This will be held Friday, **April 5** from 5:30 to 6:30pm and served in Saint Anselm Hall. The fabulous groups hosting the Fish Fry suppers are the Knights of Columbus and Lilies of the Holy Trinity. Please see the attached flyer for more details! **Mark your calendar!!! The next one is Friday, April 5!!**

Lenten Concert

On **Sunday, April 7 at 7:00pm**, the parish will host a Lenten concert featuring the Richmond Concert Chorale, the Richmond-based period instrument ensemble Jefferson Baroque, and musicians from Saint Benedict. The concert will feature Dieterich Buxtehude's Lenten oratorio *Membra Jesu Nostri* (The Limbs of Our Jesus.) Written in 1680, this piece is Buxtehude's largest work. It is comprised of seven separate cantatas with biblical and sacred texts as a devotion to the body of the crucified Christ. Following the concert, a reception will be held in the Parish Center. A free-will offering will be taken up to support the musical ensembles.

40 Days for Life- Spring Campaign

The 40 Days for Life Spring Campaign continues!! Christians throughout Richmond are invited to take part in the international 40 Days for Life effort through **April 14** which dedicates 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion in our city. After the March for Life on Wednesday, April 3rd, please join the Novena for Life sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #11533. The Novena begins Friday, April 5 and ends April 13. Please use the Marian prayer cards that will be distributed at Church this weekend. Pray for Life at home, in Church or at the abortion Center at Boulevard and Grove. Specifically, this Friday, April 5 and Saturday, April 13, parishioners of Saint Benedict Church are invited to pray an hour between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. at this Center. Please sign up for your hour by going to www.40daysforlife.com/Richmond or contact Cindy

Tompkins at cindy.m.tompkins@gmail.com or Jim Disney at jkdisney@verizon.net . Flyer Attached for more information.

Baby Bottle Campaign

In order to promote a culture of life, the parish Divine Mercy Cenacle group and the Knights of Columbus are sponsoring the annual Baby Bottle Campaign. Baby bottles will be collected on the weekend of **April 13-14** (Palm Sunday).

Throughout Lent, fill the bottles with currency, coins, and checks (made out to PRC). Our gifts will benefit the Pregnancy Resource Center of Metropolitan Richmond.

Divine Mercy Chaplet

During Lent, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy will be prayed 10 minutes before weekend Masses. This devotion originated in a vision of Our Lord to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska (1905–1938), a religious of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. The Divine Mercy Chaplet is an intercessory prayer that extends the offering of the Eucharist, and is therefore an excellent preparation for Mass. Please bring a Rosary with you, as the Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed using those beads. There will be pamphlets available that contain the prayers used in the Chaplet.

Extra Confessions

In an effort to make the Sacrament of Penance more available during Lent, confessions will be heard on Fridays from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. The Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 7:00pm.

Palm Sunday

April 13–14, is Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, which marks the beginning of Holy Week. There will be a procession from Mary garden on Sheppard Street to the church at the Sunday 11:00am Mass only. While palms will be distributed at the other Masses, this will take place in the narthex and nave of the church. (Liturgical law allows the procession at only the principal Mass on Palm Sunday.) Given the procession at the 11:00am Mass, you are kindly asked to

arrive early. Ushers will be on hand to direct traffic, in order to protect the safety of all involved, and to ensure the orderly and reverent celebration. Since the Passion is read on Palm Sunday, the Mass will take longer than normal. Therefore, it is imperative to begin on time.

Altar Server Training

A training session for altar servers will take place on **Saturday, April 6, 2019 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.*

Saint Benedict Festival Choir – Easter Sunday 2019

The next appearance of the Saint Benedict Festival Choir is slated to be on **Easter Sunday, April 21st**, at the **11:00 a.m.** Mass. Parishioners, friends, and family of various ages are welcome to join. IF we have enough singers, the Festival Choir will gather to sing the Hallelujah Chorus from G.F. Handel's Messiah during Easter Sunday Mass. This year, we will be joined by a string ensemble from the studio of parishioner and teacher Loretta McCray.

In order to participate, please:

- Send an email to our Choirmaster and Organist, Joel S. Kumro (jkumro@saintbenedictparish.org) indicating your interest. (You will receive a copy of the music and links to audio recordings of your part.)
- Review the music and listen to the audio recordings as you need.
- Attend AT LEAST two of three rehearsals prior to Easter Sunday. (Please attend all three if possible.)
- Attend a brief warmup and logistic briefing at 10:15 a.m. on Easter Sunday. (Singers who are not already in the parish choir will return to their pews. They will return to the choir loft, taking their places to sing after the homily.)

Rehearsals are as follows:

- Sunday, April 7th, 12:30–1:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 14th, 12:30–1:00 p.m. (or as soon as Palm Sunday Mass is finished.)

–Wednesday, April 17th, 6:30–7:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact Joel S. Kumro, Choirmaster and Organist, at atjkumro@saintbenedictparish.org or 804-254-8810 x112

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.

Lily of the Holy Trinity Women's Society

Lily of the Holy Trinity Meeting

The Lily of the Holy Trinity Women's Society invites all women of the Parish 18 years and older to join them for food, fun, fellowship and discussion of Parish Activities. They meet in the Parish Center on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Their next meeting is **Sunday, April 14, 2019 at 12:30 PM**. They look forward to seeing you there.

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.

“Honor Our Mothers”

Lily of the Holy Trinity Women's Society Mother's Day 2019 Project

Rose stems for Our Lady's Altar, hanging baskets, and flowers and herbs which have an association with the Virgin Mary will be sold on a pre-paid basis. Watch for information on creating a Mary Garden, and the respite found not only in spending peaceful times in the garden, but also the contemplative moments of designing the garden and working with the soil and plants. **Sales will start March 30/31.** Payments can be made by cash, check, or credit card; or by electronic order form and sending in order with check payment to church office. Electronic ordering is considered pending until payment is received. Plant pick up scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, May 11. Proceeds from this sale will be used towards an early October 2019 all-parish women's presentation. Questions, please contact Elizabeth Chenery, echenery05@gmail.com . See attached flyer for more information.

Religious Education

Religious Education K-12

Religious Education for grades Kindergarten through 5 will NOT be meeting this week, April 3rd, due to public school spring break.

Edge Middle School Youth Ministry and The Rule High School Youth Ministry WILL resume on April 3rd. 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.

All will continue as normal next week, April 10th.

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 Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist on April 9. 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.

April Theology on Tap

Monday, April 1st

We are excited to welcome Mrs. Pamela Pilch as we talk about Righteous Anger vs. Sinful Anger: No Fooling! and how we can Follow the Gospels when Answering the Call to Activism. **Doors open at 6:30 PM.** Please purchase food and beverages by 7:15 PM with **talk to start at 7:30 PM.**

Anger communicates information, motivates us, and has physical and mental consequences. The Atlantic magazine's February 2019 feature article identified anger as "the dominant emotion in our politics and personal lives." Mrs. Pamela Pilch will use her experiences in the world of law, midwifery, career counseling, and voice coaching to show how we can follow the Gospels when hearing the call to Act Against an Injustice, whether it be marching, picketing, blogging, or even just verbally correcting someone (i.e "instruct the ignorant"). She will identify key points of when anger stops acting to identify and correct an injustice and starts

acting in forms of self-preservation and self-promotion. Join us for this Mid-Lenten and preparation for Holy Week as we seek God's Goodness while contemplating this emotion that is so frequently misunderstood!

Mrs. Pamela Pilch, O.P. is a Catholic lawyer, voice coach, career counselor, midwife, women's natural health educator and longtime activist in the field of maternal/ child health. She has extensive experience in non-profit and advocacy work for many years. She draws upon her experiences in the highly contentious realms of law, women's healthcare, and religion to not only further her understanding of the world but to also deepen her relationship with the suffering Christ. She is a member of the Birth Rights Bar Association, the Virginia Midwives Alliance and a fully promised member of the Dominican Laity of the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapter in Charlottesville. She resides in Richmond with her husband and three sons.

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 <https://www.facebook.com/events/2030455360408530/>

Tolle Lege – The Foundations of Spiritual Discernment

Our Tolle Lege book study series will continue on April 11th at 6:30pm. Participants go out to eat at a local restaurant after.

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. Materials will be read at Tolle Lege so no need to read prior to coming.

Vacation Bible School

Save the date! Vacation Bible School will be taking place **July 29 through August 2 from 9:00am to 12:00Noon**. A theme and registration will be coming later in Spring.

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. **In keeping with the penitential spirit during Lent, there will be no Saturday night hospitality and only coffee and juice will be served on Sundays.**

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. As you prepare for taxes, as you review your letter, if 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) should have been received this past week.

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.

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..

Did you hear about the new corduroy pillows?

You should have; they are making headlines!

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