

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, December 8

FEAST OF THE

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

9:00a.m. St. Benedict

Patrick Howell

4:30 – 5:10 p.m. St. Elizabeth

CONFESSIONS

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:30p.m. St. Elizabeth

Regina E. Wood

SUNDAY, December 9

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:15 a.m. St. Benedict

People of the Parish

8:30 a.m. St. Benedict

Rose Wood

11:15 a.m. St. Elizabeth

June Talbot

Tuesday, December 11

9:00a.m. FLC Chapel

COMMUNION SERVICE

Wednesday, December 12

9:00 a.m. St. Elizabeth

Dolores Fountain

Thursday, December 13

9:00a.m. FLC Chapel

Beatrice Waddy

Friday, December 14

9:00a.m. St. Elizabeth

Intentions of All Orphans

SATURDAY, December 15

4:30 – 5:10 p.m. ST. BENEDICT

CONFESSIONS

5:30p.m. ST. BENEDICT

People of the Parish

SUNDAY, December 9

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:15 a.m. St. Benedict

All Souls in Purgatory

8:30 a.m. St. Benedict

Donny Gallagher

11:15 a.m. St. Elizabeth

Virginia Blades

TABERNACLE LIGHT INTENTIONS

DECEMBER 8 – DECEMBER 21

St. Benedict Church:

St. Elizabeth Church:

In Honor of

Deacon Hal & Margaret Jopp

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT OF STEWARDSHIP BACK TO THE LORD

Weekend of December 1 & 2, 2018

Envelopes	\$ 4,737.00
Loose	\$ 696.61
TOTAL OFFERTORY	\$ 5,433.61
Weekly Budget	\$ 5,100.00
Surplus (Above Budget)	\$ 333.61
Christmas Flowers	\$ 1,216.00
Poor Box	\$ 247.00

A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



Celebrating Our Lady under the title of the Immaculate Conception provides us fodder for contemplation. Here we have a woman obedient to the requests of God who is free from the infirmity of sin; she only wants to live for the will of God. Remarkably, she was beholden to the promise of what our future

would be – alive in Christ. Her innocence and purity were the position from which she demonstrated heroic authenticity in following God's desire for his Son to be presented to the world as the Incarnate Word. It is our calling to seek her intercession and to renew ourselves in answering the call from God through Christ in the Spirit.

Let us renew ourselves by utilizing the opportunity presented to us this Wednesday evening at 7:00 P.M. at St. Benedict Church. Five priests will be available to offer the sacrament of Reconciliation (also called Confession and Penance) so we can live in the authentic fullness of Christ.

Honoring the blessed Virgin Mary this week under another of her titles, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, we will have a party after the Vigil Mass this Saturday, December 15th in our Parish Hall. I remind you if you intend to attend you must notify us either by signing up on the sign-up sheet at the entrances of one of our churches or by calling the office by Tuesday morning at 11:00 AM.

The Vigil Mass on Saturday, December 15th will be celebrated at **St. Benedict Church at 5:30 P.M.** and will reflect our Mexican-Catholic tradition. The homily will be delivered in two languages: English and Spanish; this will be a way to experience the diversity and breadth of our Catholic faith tradition. We ask Our Lady of the Americas to bless our faith community and allow us to see the beauty of the season of Advent as a way to embrace our neighbors and the second coming of Christ!

Let us live for Jesus and for Jesus to live in us!

Pax Christi,

Vy. Rev. John B. Gabage, V.F.

LITURGY

HOW IS CELEBRATING ADVENT DIFFERENT THAN CHRISTMAS?

We recently posed this question to parishioners using our Flocknote app. And, this was one parishioner's response to that question: *"During Advent, I wait for the birth of a baby. I check in with Mary, the expectant Mother, to see if she needs anything – like a prayer for someone who is having a rough time and doesn't know about the Great Event."*

There is inspiration in this parishioner's answer to the question. Just a simple thought and something that each of us can do during this holy season of waiting.



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE ~ THIS WEDNESDAY!

December 12 ~ 7pm ~ St. Benedict Church

Make plans to attend our parish Advent Penance Service with all the members of your family who are old enough to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In addition to Fr. Gabage, there will be four priests on hand from area parishes to assist with confessions.

EVANGELIZATION CORNER

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT A Guide to Keep Us Safe

If you've ever traveled to previously unknown places, you appreciate the importance of having a reliable guide. A good guide speaks the language, knows the lay of the land, and anticipates obstacles along the way. John the Baptist is such a guide for our Advent journey. He cautions us to prepare the way for deeper access to the divine mystery we approach in this season. John tells us that the right spirit for this encounter is repentance: a turning around, a fresh effort. Some of us may need to be forgiven. Others have some forgiving to do. Heed this guidance!

TRUSTEE ELECTIONS ~ In compliance with church and civil law, the election of parish trustees is to take place on the first Sunday of each year. Therefore, elections for trustees will take place on the weekend of January 6 & 7 in the sacristy after all masses. Current trustees are: **St. Elizabeth:** Paul Fountain and Kris Nelson and **St. Benedict:** Steve Fleegle and Kenny Wood. If you would like to nominate someone to fulfill the responsibility of parish Trustee other than those listed above, you will also have the opportunity to write-in your choice on the prepared ballot.

2019 CALENDARS are now available at the entrances of both churches.

Choose from two designs - Religious Art or Lighthearted. We thank Fleegle & Helfenbein Funeral Home, Greensboro and Moore Funeral Home, Denton, for their generous sponsorship of these calendars. Be sure to take a calendar or two in preparation for the New Year.

PARISH AND FAMILY LIFE

WE REMEMBER ♦ WE CELEBRATE ♦ WE BELIEVE

Congratulations to Brianna Dickerson and Patrick Milton on the birth of their daughter, **Adrianna Noel Milton**, on November 29th. She weighed 8 lbs., 9 oz. and was 22" long. Adrianna is the granddaughter of Sara & Larry Dickerson and the great-granddaughter of Nina Taylor.



ST. JUAN DIEGO/OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CELEBRATION

Our parishioners of Hispanic heritage will be hosting a celebration honoring St. Juan Diego (Feast Day: December 9) and Our Lady of Guadalupe (Feast Day: December 12) **NEXT SATURDAY, December 15th. The 5:30p.m. Mass will be celebrated at ST. BENEDICT CHURCH that evening followed by a GRANDE FIESTA in the Parish Hall.** The celebration will include delicious food, drinks, music and fun. Please sign up on the sheets posted at the entrance of either church if you plan to attend (or contact Lori at 410-634-2253 or LParks@beparish.com) by Tuesday, December 11th so that we can be sure to prepare enough food.

SODALITY NEWS



The Sodality will be preparing Cookie Tins for our local Catholic nursing home residents and homebound members of our parish. If you would like to donate cookies to assist them in this effort you may drop off your donations at the Parish Office THIS Tuesday, December 11th from 10am – 4:30pm or to the Parish Hall that evening at 7pm.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

WINTER COAT COLLECTION ~ As in year's past, the Knights of Columbus will be collecting new and gently used coats throughout the months of November and December for donation to the His Hope Haven Homeless Shelter and other area organizations who serve those in need. This year, they are also asking for new hats and gloves/mittens as well. Collection boxes for coats, hats/mittens/gloves can be found at the entrance of St. Elizabeth Church and the entrance of the Parish Hall. Please launder any used coats and be sure that they are in good condition. Thank you for your generous support of past efforts!

AROUND THE DIOCESE & COMMUNITY

Transportation Assistance Needed at St. Martin's House, Ridgely

St. Martin's House in Ridgely needs a person or persons to assist with various transportation needs:

- On weekdays from 7:30-8:30a.m. for transportation down the lane to buses
- On Tuesdays & Thursdays for a high school student who attends North Caroline HS who needs a ride to school in the morning at 7:30a.m. and from school back to St. Martin's at 3:30p.m.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Lori Parks at 410-634-2253.

"Behold the Gift" – A Live Nativity Pageant



The 14th Annual Live Nativity Pageant, "Behold the Gift", sponsored by the Ridgely-area churches, will be held on Saturday, December 22nd at 7:30pm next to the Ridgely Town Hall. The pageant includes the proclamation of the story of our Lord's birth accompanied by live re-enactment by costumed actors and animals. Christmas carols, led by the Pageant Choir

and musicians, are dispersed throughout the reading of scripture. The audience is encouraged to sing along. **While there are no speaking parts, adults and children are needed to fill the various roles (angels, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, Jesus, etc...)** Guitarists and singers are also needed. Practice dates will be on Monday, December 10th & Tuesday, December 18th at 7pm in our Parish Hall. If you and/or your children are interested in taking part or if you have any questions, please contact Mr. Toby Gearhart, at 410-739-7337.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

N.U.T.S (Neighbors United to Serve) THANK YOU

On behalf of Neighbors United to Serve (NUTS), we wish to thank you for your financial donations that benefitted our 2018 Thanksgiving Day meal distribution. With the generosity of you and other community members we were able to provide over 1,000 individual meals to families in Caroline County. Without your support and our wonderful volunteers of this mission, NUTS would not be able to do what we do in reaching out to those who, otherwise, may not have food on a day on which the rest of us give thanks. Your kindness and continued support do not go unnoticed. Thank you so very much again.

~ 2018 Volunteer Planning Committee with Neighbors United to Serve

A PAIR OF READING GLASSES IN A PURPLE CLOTH CASE WERE RECENTLY FOUND IN THE BARGAIN BEVERAGE PARKING LOT AFTER THE 11:15a.m. MASS. If they are yours, please contact the Parish Office.

LIFE IN THE PARISH FAMILY

Sunday, December 9

- 2nd Collection – Religious Retirement
- Hospitality provided by Knights - 9:30a.m. - Hall
- Rel. Ed./RCIA classes – 9:45-10:50 a.m.

Monday, December 10

- Advent Penance Service – 7p.m. – Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Easton MD
- Ecumenical Living Nativity Rehearsal – 7:00 p.m. - Hall

Tuesday, December 11

- Sodality Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Hall (Prepare Cookie Tins)
- Adult Bible Study – 7:00 p.m. – RR

Wednesday, December 12

- Communion Service – 10a.m. – Autumn Lakes NH
- Advent Penance Service – 7:00p.m. – St. Benedict Church

Thursday, December 13

- Adult Bible Study – 9:30a.m. – RR
- Mass – 3:00 p.m. - Homestead Manor Nursing Home
- Baptism Formation – 7:00 p.m. – RR

Friday, December 14

- Hall Set-Up for Grande Fiesta

Saturday, December 15

- Bambinelli Sunday – Blessing of Baby Jesus figurines from home nativities at Mass
- Confessions 4:30 p.m. – St. Benedict Church
- Mass – 5:30 p.m. – St. Benedict Church
- Grande Fiesta for St. Juan Diego/Our Lady of Guadalupe – 6:30 p.m. - Hall

Sunday, December 16

- Bambinelli Sunday – Blessing of Baby Jesus figurines from home nativities at all Masses
- 2nd Collection – Building Maintenance
- Hospitality provided by Knights - 9:30a.m. – Hall
- Becoming Dynamic Catholics Adult Faith Formation – 9:45a.m. – Hall
- Rel. Ed./RCIA classes – 9:45-10:50 a.m.
- Confirmation Prep. – 10:45-11:15 a.m.

REMEMBERING IN PRAYER THIS WEEK...

Patricia Brady ♦ Peggy Brittingham ♦ Jane Cade ♦ Joan Mollick ♦ Terry Franz ♦ Kathleen Green ♦ Patricia McWilliams ♦ Julia Seiler ♦ Helen Dill ♦ Cheryl Harris ♦ Judy Edmonston ♦ Edie Crank ♦ Patricia Freedman ♦ Sandy Keating ♦ Michael Alt ♦ Michael Keating ♦ Christina Jewell ♦ Debbye Jackson ♦ Kenny Winn ♦ Jessica Haddaway ♦ The Clegg Family ♦ Dot Bornhoeft ♦ Clark Johnson ♦ George Sinacourbe ♦ Fr. Bill Graney ♦ Ken & Carolyn Swain ♦ Janet Kibler ♦ Karen Coward ♦ Kelly Presnell ♦ John Vranich ♦ Ron Safchick ♦ Rita Miedl ♦ Nelson Owens ♦ Roy Dean ♦ Ed Centofante ♦ Fr. Mike Gallagher ♦ Heather Robuck ♦ Tobey McWilliams ♦ Rosemary Foracker ♦ Agnes Metzler ♦ Cynthia Makas ♦ Ernie Blazajak ♦ John Burbank

10th ANNUAL 5K RUN & WALK FOR THE "WELL" OF IT

Tuesday, January 1, 2019 at Hunter's Oak Golf Course, Queenstown MD
See today's bulletin or visit www.beparish.com for a registration form.

CHRISTMAS SCRIP CARD SALES

SCRIP Cards make great Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers. We have SCRIP cards available from a large variety of retailers such as restaurants, retail stores, gas stations, etc... To print an order form, visit www.beparish.com and be sure to place your order soon. Completed Order Forms, along with payment, should be sent to Marie Freeman in the Parish Office via mail (P.O. Box 459, Ridgely MD 21660) or via the collection basket at any mass (please place in envelope marked "SCRIP ORDER").

MORE AROUND THE DIOCESE & COMMUNITY

Old-Fashioned Carol Sing

Enjoy songs of the season on Sunday, December 9 at 3 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Shrine (Old Bohemia) with an Old-Fashioned Carol Sing featuring religious and secular music. Audience participation will be encouraged as the music ministers from St. Joseph Parish, Middletown perform a collection of beloved Christmas carols. Refreshments will be served following the concert. Tours of the historic facility, which is listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places, will be available one hour prior to the concert. There is no charge for the performance and refreshments, however, a free-will offering to the Old Bohemia Historical Society will be collected to help with the upkeep of the property. The shrine is considered the mother church of the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington and is located at 1699 Bohemia Church Road, Warwick, MD 21912. For additional information, call Marji at 302.328.4803.

Listen to the Catholic Forum podcast every week. A new program debuts every Sunday morning at www.cdow.org/Catholic-Forum, or search "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, or iHeartRadio podcasts. Next Sunday, December 9th, tune in to hear part two of Fr. Rich Jasper's four-part Advent series. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, links and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at www.facebook.com/catholicforum.

2020 CENSUS JOBS

The U.S. Census Bureau is seeking qualified office staff for 2020 Census operations in the local area.
Excellent Pay, Flexible Hours, Paid Training, Temporary Positions
Apply Online Today ... 2020census.gov/jobs or 855-JOB-2020 (855-562-2020)