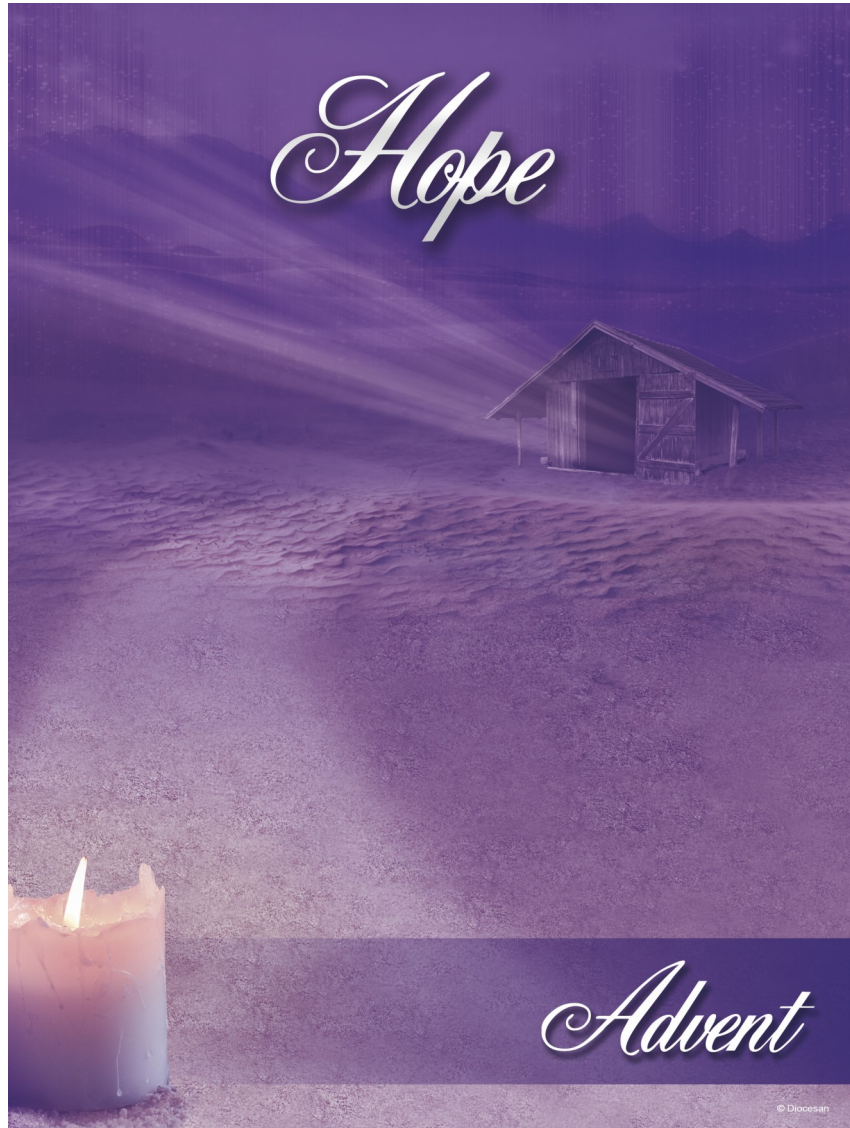


# Saint Benedict Church

PO Box 447 · 100 Main Street · Carrolltown, PA · 15722 · [www.saintbenedictschurch.com](http://www.saintbenedictschurch.com)



## Parish Office Hours:

Monday thru Thursday:  
9 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm  
Office closed on Friday

Parish Office ..... 814-344-6548  
Parish Fax ..... 814-344-8656  
School Office ..... 814-344-6512  
School Fax ..... 814-344-8530  
Church Hall ..... 814-344-8770

## Pastoral Staff

*Father Michael J. Gabler, O.S.B.* ..... *Pastor*  
*Lois Bridgman* ..... *Secretary*  
*Brother Michael J. Miller, O.S.B.*  
*Annette Kelly* ..... *Director of Religious Education and  
Christian Initiation*  
*Jeannine M. Cymbor* ..... *Business Manager*  
*Adam Orosz* ..... *Maintenance*  
*Jeffrey Maucieri* ..... *Principal*

### Mission Statement

We, the members of Saint Benedict Parish, in union with our Pastoral staff, our Bishop, and our Holy Father, and together with the Church of Altoona-Johnstown, commit ourselves to the building up of the Kingdom of God in our personal lives, within our families, within our Faith Community, and in society as a whole. We join with one another in prayer and public worship, in the practice of gracious hospitality, and in works of charity and mutual support. Mindful of the Lord's care and loving concern for our common welfare, and with profound Faith and great hope, we strive to accomplish the tasks at hand and to meet the challenges of the future so that in all things God may be glorified.

The first parish in the United States established by the Benedictine Order

First Sunday of



# Mass Schedule



Advent



Altar Servers



Eucharistic Ministers



Lectors

**Sunday, December 1, First Sunday of Advent**

- 8:00 a.m. Living and Deceased Members of the Holy Name and Altar Rosary Societies
- 10:00 a.m. For our Parish Family
- 1:00 p.m. Anointing Mass

**Monday, December 2, Advent Weekday**

- 8:00 a.m. +John F. Kelly
- 6:30 p.m. American Cassinese Congregation

**Tuesday, December 3, Saint Francis Xavier**

- 8:00 a.m. +Don and Diane Paronish

**Wednesday, December 4, Advent Weekday**

- 8:00 a.m. Deceased members of the Airhart/Switzer Families

**Thursday, December 5, Advent Weekday**

- 8:15 a.m. +Henry Carpinello

**Friday, December 6, Advent Weekday**

- 8:00 a.m. Sacred Heart League

**Saturday, December 7, Saint Ambrose**

- 4:00 p.m. +Betty Lou Crilly

**Sunday, December 8, Second Sunday of Advent**

- 8:00 a.m. +William and Louise Fox
- 10:00 a.m. For our Parish Family

**Monday, December 2, 8:00 a.m.**

S. Gregory

**6:30 p.m.**

B. Fox

**Tuesday, December 3, 8:00 a.m.**

M. Lieb

**Wednesday, December 4, 8:00 a.m.**

M.C. Hoover

**Thursday, December 5, 8:15 a.m.**

SBS Children's Mass

**Friday, December 6, 8:00 a.m.**

M. Farabaugh

**Saturday, December 7, 4:00 p.m.**

- R. Kirsch P.J. Stevens
- E. Lamb S. Cronan

B.A. Bensor

**Sunday, December 8, 8:00 a.m.**

- J. Deckard G. Yeckley
- R. Deckard M. Drahnak

S. Gregory

**10:00 a.m.**

- K. Shaffer R. Hoover
- J. Hoover L. Bridgman
- H. Shaffer R. McGowan

F. Sutton

## Advent Reflections

The four weeks of Advent prepare us to celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation; God became human to bring us out of the darkness into His eternal light. During Advent, liturgy stresses not only penance, but also hope, light, joy, and surrender.

**1st Sunday of Advent—HOPE**

Jesus is our hope. Hope believes that the best is yet to come. "Christ is in you, the hope of glory. It is He whom we proclaim." (Colossians 1:27-28) As Saint Clement of Alexandria wrote, "If you do not hope, you will not find what is beyond your hopes."



## Christmas Flower Donations



Each Christmas many visitors and friends come to celebrate Mass and see the beautiful decorations at Saint Benedict's. This year will be no exception. To enhance the beauty of our Church, we are now accepting donations for the purchase of poinsettias. An envelope is available in your collection packet.

## Decorating the Church

We will be decorating the Church with the Nativity scene, Christmas trees and evergreens in the window sills, Sunday, December 15. Those who are interested in assisting with this holiday endeavor are asked to meet in the Sanctuary at 11 a.m.



## Anointing Mass This Sunday

Many Catholics are uncomfortable with the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. The old "Last Rites" name conveyed a fearful tone. The name change was intended to help us to see the healing nature of this Sacrament. We are urged to use it when in need of healing of both soul and body.

As the Church prepares to celebrate the Birth of our Lord, our Parish will offer an **Anointing Mass in the Church this Sunday, December 1st, at 1 p.m.** If you, or someone you care about is sick, dealing with the problems that come with aging, facing surgery, or struggling with mental or emotional problems, please come and share with us the Lord's healing and strength. A reception will follow in the Church hall.

## Christmas Concert




We will have a Christmas Concert in the Church on Tuesday, December 17th at 7 p.m., featuring the Northern Cambria Community Band. A good will offering will be accepted; all donations will benefit the Organ Fund.

## Oplatky (Christmas Wafers)

"Oplatky" or Christmas wafers, are imprinted with a scene of the birth of Jesus. Everyone at the table then shares and eats the oplatky with honey. They remind the family of the unleavened bread of the Passover supper. Oplatky, a centuries old custom, is the word "oblatum" from the Latin "Holy Bread." This ritual is observed in many countries, and in many American homes. Oplatky will be available in the Parish Office.






*This week the votive candle will burn in front of the statue of Saint Joseph the Carpenter In Birthday Remembrance for Andy Farabaugh From his brother Ted and sister Cecelia*

*Flowers Adorning the Altar this weekend In Loving Memory of Joyce Fox From Barry Fox, Sr.*



**Pastor's Reflection**


Preparations for Christmas don't include shipping, decorating and cooking. It involves repentance, conversion and sacrifice. Jesus sacrificed everything for us; there is not a grace He hasn't given us for our salvation. Advent is a time to practice imitating Him.



Peace,  
Father Michael

**Journey to Bethlehem**

Friday, December 6th - 7 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 8 p.m., and 8:30 p.m. at Saint Francis University, Loretto (start at the SFU Science Center).



Four performances of the journey Mary and Joseph took to Bethlehem. This new SFU tradition will be performed by members of the SFU community. This is a mix of indoor and outdoor prayer service with live animals, prayer and music. Donations of canned foods and goodwill offerings will be collected for the Dorothy Day Center.

**Families and the Gospel**

**December 1, 2024 First Sunday of Advent, (Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36)**

At this time of the year we are very conscious of our family as we make preparations for Christmas. Today's gospel warns us not to be consumed by all the consumer activity. This Advent appreciate the gift of people in your life. The best gift this season might be your appreciation of others. ("A Family Perspective" by Bud Ozar)

**Stewardship Reflections**

We have arrived at the powerful season of Advent, a season to prepare with awe and gratitude for the Feast of the Incarnation of Jesus, born to us as Savior and Brother. A season to prepare for His return at the end of time. It is also a moment to remind ourselves that our individual judgement day is coming too - the moment when we will be called to give an account for all the love God has shown us and the gifts He has given us during our lifetime.

God reveals His perfect and infinite love for us most visibly in His son, Jesus Christ. A steward makes God's love visible by imitating Jesus... Stewardship is the response of the disciple to God's unconditional love for us. Stewards bask in the wonder and awe of God's love', from *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship*. In other words, Advent is a steward's season!

Get ready Christian stewards! He's coming! Let us prepare with awe and wonder.

**From other parishes and organizations...**

**Stuff the Truck and Food Drive:** Saturday, December 7, at Lacue Chevrolet, 1003 4th Ave, Patton from 12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Local Cub Scouts will collect food donations for a local food pantry. All unwrapped toys and food donations can be dropped off at Lacue's now through December 7th. Hope Fire Company will distribute the toys December 14th. \*\* All residents in need are encouraged to contact Hope Fire Company.\*\*

**Salvation Army Kettle Drive:** will run through the beginning of January. Any individual or group interested in manning the kettle can schedule a date through Ron Boland, 814-761-7019. This is a great way to prepare for Christmas, by helping those who are in need.


**Franciscan Living Nativity:** Help the Franciscan Friars, TOR celebrate their 100th Year Jubilee by joining us on the campus of St. Bernardine Monastery (768 Monastery Rd, Hollidaysburg) on Saturday, Dec 14th at 4 p.m. to be part of our own children's Living Nativity. There will be a Nativity service followed by refreshments and a chance for a visit and photo with Santa! The Friars Nook Gift Shop will be open until 6 p.m.

**Grief Support Group:** Sponsored by 365 Hospice; Wednesday, January 8, 2025, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Saint Benedict Church, Carrolltown, in the Boniface Wimmer Room. This is open for people of all ages. For more information or to register, please contact Diane McCall, 814-270-4571 or email: [diane.mccall@365hospice.com](mailto:diane.mccall@365hospice.com).

**Holy Name Advent Service:** All are invited to a special evening of prayer, story, and song at Holy Name Church in Ebensburg, Monday, December 16. In the midst of this busy season, here is an opportunity to pause and direct our minds and hearts to the coming of Jesus Christ, our Messiah. The service will feature preludes by Serendipity at 6:45, followed by the cantata "Emmanuel, God with Us". Light refreshments will be served in the Narthex following the service.

**Advent Giving Tree**

The Advent Giving Tree will be set up near the Sanctuary next weekend. Parishioners are invited to purchase a gift or gift card for a nursing home resident, home bound parishioner, child, or family in need. Those who would like to participate are asked to: 1. Select a tag from the tree; 2. Purchase a gift or gift card, as noted on the tag; 3. Return the gift or gift card with the tag to the tree, to the collection basket (for gift cards), or to the parish office by **Saturday, December 14th**. Thank you!



**Sponsor of the Week**

We wish to thank **Hite Equipment Rental, 814-344-2625**, for sponsoring an ad in our bulletin. Please patronize our advertisers; as they make the bulletin possible. If interested in advertising in the bulletin call Tony Melchiorre at 717-421-3242.

## Prayer Chain



Prayer is an important part of our Catholic Faith. In an effort for our Parish Family to respond to the prayer requests of our members and friends, Parishioners have the opportunity to be part of a prayer chain. If you have a prayer request, please call the Parish Office at 344-6548. **Names will remain on the**

**prayer chain unless we hear otherwise from the one who requested the prayer. Names will be updated annually in January.** Our prayers

have been requested for the following: Jackie Adams, Vickie Baran, Russel Bard, Sabbath Beach, Caryle Bearer, Dorothy Bearer, Michael Behe, Dick Bender, Judy Bender, Dan Bilko, Fred Burgeson, Kurta Cady, Joe Caretti, Tim Caretti, Evan Cicero, John Contorchick, Chip Dotts, Mary Dumm, Maddox and Paxtyn Eckenrode, Neta and Harry Elder, Clare Falconi, Dan Farabaugh, Mike Farabaugh, Shannon Farabaugh, Vera Farabaugh, Barbara Fasoli, Olivia Ferguson, Jr. Gailey, Jane Gruffius, Anthony Gwizdak, Eva Hart, Irene Haycisak, Mary Catherine Hoover, Chuck Horn, Tom Jackson Sr., Richard Karlheim, Cheryl Keith, Larry Kibler, Patty Kibler, Doug Kieffer, Ava Koehle, Jason Koshinski, Mike Kovall, Dave Kuhar, Larry Lamont, Bob Lapenna, John Lechene, Robert Letavish, Bob Miller, Brother Michael Miller, Camilla Miller, Theresa Miller, Chuck Mitchell, Odessa Morris, Jesse Murphy, Beverley Owens, Jody Panczak, Dorothy Penrod, Kevin Penrod, Norman Polites, Norman Polites Jr., Maddox Raptosh, Sam Reed, Andy Ropp, Jim Ropp, Adam Schaeffer, Special Intentions (23), Susan Snyder, Debbie Stephenson, Edward Stevens, Jackie Stevens, Patrick J. Stevens, Joseph Thomas, Cindy Vallery, Benedicta Veneskey, Sara Weber, and Richard Zalznock.

## Bingo on Tuesday



Doors Open @ 5 p.m.; Kitchen opens @ 5:30 p.m.  
Early Birds @ 6:30 p.m.; Regular Games to follow

- Admissions \$16 (18 cards)
- Kitty - \$?
- Jackpot - Straight line only
- Instant tickets
- \$50 end of the month drawing (Must be present to win)
- Refreshments (hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza, homemade goodies)
- Full Card - ? numbers \$?
- All Nighter - \$?

The more that play — the more we pay. Extras are available.  
Regular games starting at \$30 a game and up.

## CARD PARTY THURSDAY DECEMBER 5



M/M Harry Vargo, M/M Chad Venesky, M/M Robert Veneskey, M/M John Venesky, M/M Mark Veneskey, M/M Matthew Venesky, Ms. Ashley Venslosky, M/M Ed Venslosky, Mrs. Barbara Vermeulin, Mrs. Carolyn Vermeulin, Mr. Emil Vermeulin, Mrs. Elaine Vescovi, M/M Ken Vescovi, M/M Tim Vescovi, M/M Jack Petre

**This week is The First Sunday of Advent, beginning a new Church year, and a "new" Gospel is opened for our reflection during the coming year.** The Catholic liturgy provides a three-year cycle of reading for the major feasts and seasons of the year.

The Sunday Gospels are generally taken from Matthew during year A, from Mark during year B, and from Luke during year C. Portions of the Gospel of John are read each year (especially during year B, because Mark's gospel is so short). In our daily prayer we should try to follow the Sunday readings as well as the spirit of the changing seasons.

## The Week Ahead

### SUNDAY

- Masses 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.
- CCD Classes

### MONDAY

- Monthly Communion Calls
- Confessions 7 p.m.

### TUESDAY

- Holy Hour after Mass; followed by Adoration; Benediction at 3:55 p.m.
- Monthly Communion Calls
- Scrip sold 8-10 a.m., Church Hall
- Bingo, early birds 6:30 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

- Monthly Communion Calls
- Scrip sold 8-10 a.m., Church Hall

### THURSDAY

- Scrip sold 9-10 a.m., Church Hall
- Card Party 7 p.m., Church Hall

### FRIDAY

- First Friday Mass 8 a.m., followed by Devotions and Confession
- Scrip sold 8-10 a.m., Church Hall
- Pick up Nut Rolls, 4-6 p.m., Church Hall

### SATURDAY

- First Saturday Mass and Devotions, 8 a.m.
- Confessions, 2 p.m. Church; Mass 4 p.m.

### SUNDAY

- Masses 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.
- CCD Classes



**One of the strongest symbols of Advent** is an evergreen wreath holding four candles. The circular wreath is a sign of God's loving care, which has no ending. The evergreen branches suggest the faithfulness of God, which is always alive and fresh.

During the first week of Advent, a single candle is lighted during daily prayers. Two candles are lighted during the second week, then three, and finally four. In this way the light gradually increases as we move toward the coming of Jesus, the Light of the world.

According to tradition, three candles are purple, while the candle for the third Sunday is a bright rose color. It is meant to lift our spirits, just as the liturgy for that day tells us to rejoice (*Gaudete* in Latin)!

The wreath should be somewhat large and placed in a prominent place. It can be decorated with ribbons or symbols, but it should retain its simplicity and beauty. It might even be hung by wide ribbons from the ceiling, calling to mind a royal crown, or a victory wreath, or even the wheel of time.

The use of candles during the darkest and coldest days of the year is an ancient custom adopted in the sixth century by European Christians. The Jewish people have a similar tradition. Even as we light candles on our Advent wreath, they will be lighting the candles on their menorahs in celebration of Hanukkah, the festival of lights.