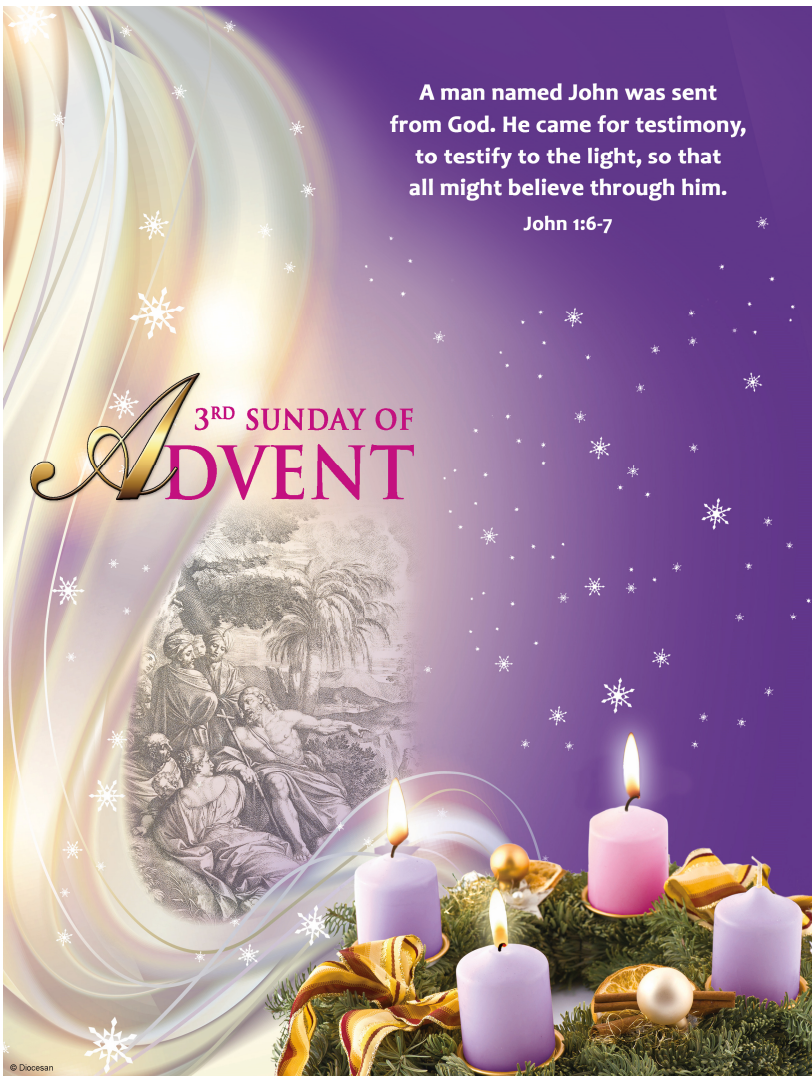


Saint Benedict Church

100 Main Street • Carrolltown, PA • 15722 • www.saintbenedictschurch.com



Parish Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday:
9 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm
Office closed on Thursday

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

Pastoral Staff

<i>Father Jude W. Brady, O.S.B.</i>	<i>Pastor</i>
<i>Lois Bridgman</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Brother Michael J. Miller, O.S.B.</i>	
<i>Deacon Benton M. Clift</i>	<i>Deacon</i>
<i>Suzanne M. Bills</i>	<i>Director of Religious Education and Christian Initiation</i>
<i>Jeannine M. Cymbor</i>	<i>Business Manager</i>
<i>Denise N. Bailey</i>	<i>Choir Director and Organist</i>
<i>Jim Mohler</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>
<i>Jeffrey Maucieri</i>	<i>Principal</i>

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

Mass Schedule

Third Sunday of



Advent

Sunday, December 17, Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Living and Deceased Members of the
Raymond and Pearl Weber Family
10:00 a.m. For our Parish Family

Monday, December 18, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. + Barbara Holtz

Tuesday, December 19, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. +Anna Kuhnley

Wednesday, December 20, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. +Barbara Ertter (Anniversary)

Thursday, December 21, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. +Lois Shero (Anniversary)

Friday, December 22, Advent Weekday

8:15 a.m. +Margaret Snyder

Saturday, December 23, Advent Weekday

4:00 p.m. +James Cunningham

Sunday, December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Private Intention
10:00 a.m. For our Parish Family

Sunday, December 24, Vigil of Christmas

6:00 p.m. Private Intention
8:30 p.m. Private Intention
(St. Joseph's Hart Sleeping Place)

Monday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord

12:00 a.m. For our Parish Family
9:00 a.m. Private Intention
11:00 a.m. Private Intention

3rd Sunday of Advent—JOY

Joy is the simplest form of gratitude. St. Paul said, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything." (Philippians 4:4-5) Called Gaudete from the Latin word meaning "rejoice", this Sunday's Liturgy breaks from the somber mood of penance and reintroduces joy. We await the coming of the Lord with glad anticipation and try to be sensitive to the needs of others.



"Keep Christ in Christmas" Cards



The Father Peter Lemke Council of The Knights of Columbus will be selling beautiful "Keep Christ in Christmas" religious Christmas cards in the Narthex after all Masses during the Advent Season. Help promote the true meaning of Christmas and support our parish Knights in all the good work they do for the parish and community by purchasing your Christmas cards through the Knights.



Altar Servers



Eucharistic Ministers



LECTORS

Monday, December 18, 8:00 a.m.

Blaine Farabaugh R. Cunningham
Marshall Farabaugh

Tuesday, December 19, 8:00 a.m.

Seth Cunningham J. Farabaugh
Luke Behe

Wednesday, December 20, 8:00 a.m.

Lauren Behe R. Hoover
Ricky Kirsch

Thursday, December 21, 8:00 a.m.

Leah Behe S. Cronan
Cameron Drahnak

Friday, December 22, 8:15 a.m.

J. Gaul P. Kelly
C. Serafin

Saturday, December 23, 4:00 p.m.

K. Schall	P.J. Stevens	L. Stephens	S. Cronan
L. Behe	B.A. Bensor	S. Gray	J. Stevens
L. Behe	O. Cronan		

Sunday, December 24, 8:00 a.m.

A. Farabaugh	J.R. Schall	G. Veneskey	E. Shoemaker
E. Farabaugh	M.A. Schall	M. Drahnak	E. Cunningham
C. Drahnak	G. Shoemaker		

10:00 a.m.

M. Wholaver	R. McGowan	D. Fox	P. Kelly
L. Wholaver	J. Kronick	F. Sutton	M. Farabaugh
K. Duman	B. Fox		
	L. Bridgman		

6:00 p.m., Vigil of Christmas

M. Behe	L. Bridgman	B.A. Bensor	N. Behe
E. Behe	R. Bridgman	J. Kline	J. Busch
E. Behe	S. Gray		

Monday, December 25, Midnight, Nativity of the Lord

N. Nihart	C. Farabaugh	J.R. Schall	M.C. Hoover
A. Lallemand	R. McGowan	R. Hoover	S. Gregory
K. Schall	G. Shoemaker		
	T. Lallemand		

9:00 a.m.

N. Witham	K. Colberg	B. Westrick	M. Farabaugh
L. Behe	G. Veneskey	R. Witham	F. Sutton
L. Behe	R. Cunningham		

11:00 a.m.

L. Lamb	M. Drahnak	P. Kelly	C.L. Bills
C. Lamb	G. Yeckley	D. Fox	M. Ryan
C. Drahnak	B. Fox		



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 in your collection packet for this purpose.

Decorating the Church

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





*This week the votive candle will burn
in front of the statue of
Saint Joseph the Carpenter
In Loving Memory of
Dan Bilko
By Ann Bilko*

Pastor's Reflection

Today we see John the Baptist declaring that he is the voice in the desert preparing all of us for the coming of the Christ. All of us are called to follow the Baptist's example by living out our Catholic Faith. We are all called to become evangelizers of our precious gift of faith by word and example.



Peace,
Father Jude

Families and the Gospel

Today's gospel reports "there is one among you whom you do not recognize." It is hard to believe Christ is present in a family with crazy schedules, suppers that start too late and end too early, cars that don't start, misunderstandings, frustrations, piles of laundry, unmatched socks and stretched food budgets. The list is endless. The words spoken at mass, "The Lord is with you," are not a hope, they are a fact.

Marriage Matters

You are both Imperfect.

As you travel this journey called marriage remember that you and your spouse are both imperfect. No matter how hard you try to love each other you will never be able to fully satisfy each other's need for love. How tolerant are you of your spouse's imperfections? John Bosio—Happy Together: the Catholic Blueprint for a Loving Marriage, © 2008) (Quote 50 of 52)



Stewardship Reflections

How do we respond to St. Paul's challenge to give thanks to God in all circumstances? With an attitude of gratitude Christian stewards give their time, talents, and treasure in response to an internal need to give in thanks for God's blessings, and not because someone has a need to receive. Like the rose candles of the Advent Wreath may we "shine on" as we share our blessings in cheerfulness and joy.

Parish Breakfast This Sunday

We will have the Parish breakfast in the Church hall this Sunday, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. The menu features eggs, bacon, sausage, ham, home fries, pancakes or toast, french toast, juice, and coffee. The cost is \$8 for adults; \$3 for children 6 to 12; children 5 years and under, free. Take-outs are available.



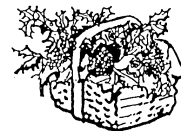
Angels and Shepherds



Kindergarten through 4th grade children are invited to participate in our 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass on Sunday, December 24. The children are to dress as either an Angel or a Shepherd. All Angels and Shepherds are to meet in the Boniface Wimmer Room at 5:30 p.m.



*Flowers Adorning the Altar
this weekend
In Loving Memory of
Mike Reed
From Connie Reed*



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. The cost is \$2 for four wafers.

Altar Server Training



Children of our Parish who are in the 4th grade and up are invited to minister as Altar Servers. Servers function at Mass, Stations of the Cross and other Liturgies. Those who are interested in this ministry are invited to attend four training sessions which will be held in the Church from 9 to 10 a.m. on Saturdays, starting January 20, 27, February 3, and 10. The servers will be inducted at the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, February 18.

Congratulations!

We wish to send a heartfelt congratulations to Alan, Jr. and Carol Yeager as their son, Br. Vincent Yeager, T.O.R., was ordained Deacon on December 9, 2017.



Announcing

Parish Trip

St. Benedict's Church is sponsoring a trip to Medjugorje and Dubrovnik from May 31 through June 10, 2018. The cost per person is \$2,898 (double occupancy). It promises to be a beautiful spiritual experience as well as a most enjoyable time by all who come along. Any questions please contact Nancy Vargo at 344-8706.



Winter Solstice

On the shortest day of the year the weakened sun seems to stand still (which is the meaning of the word "solstice"), but we know that from now the hours of sunlight will begin to lengthen. At this time we remember that Jesus, the light of the world is coming soon!

Passing the solstice does not guarantee that our weather will suddenly turn warm nor our days turn bright. There will be many weeks of struggle with mittens and colds and gloomy days before the "newborn" sun chases away winter for another year.

In the same way, our fears and sorrows will not disappear as soon as we pray. But we are encouraged, even on the coldest, darkest days by the knowledge that Jesus, our Savior, is near; God's promise of help is trustworthy; the outcome of our struggle is sure.



Sponsor of the Week

We wish to thank **Cambria Collision, 814-344-6000**, for sponsoring an ad in our bulletin. Please patronize our advertisers; as they make the bulletin possible.



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.** Our prayers have been requested for the following:

Denise Bailey, Ed Bearer, Elizabeth Bearer, Dorothy Bechel, Bernard Beck, Michael Behe, David Bender, Judy Bender, Betty Ann Bensor, Msgr. Harold Biller, Mary Bogus, James Campbell, David Ceschini, Joe and Mary Ciccotelli, Nixon Cicero, John Contorchik, Millie Cunningham, Thomas Deckard, Derrick Deyarmin, Clare Anne Dumm, Kevin Eckenrode, Rebecca Eckenrode, Neta Elder, Jimmy Ertter, III, Clare Falconi, Ed Farabaugh, Lynn Farabaugh, Barbara Fasoli, George Ferris, Sr., Brian Ford, Denise Fox, Gitta Gagne, Thom Gagne, Agnes Gailey, Betty Glass, Beth Ann Gormish, Shaw Graffius, Maurita Grimes, Charlotte Gwizdak, Kay Haggerty, Irene Haycisak, Barbara Henry, Clare Hoffman, Raneé Horn, Betty Lou Huber, Brynlee Jacoby, Diane Jodon, Louise Julick, Bernadine Kelly, Betty Kelly, Jeff Kelly, Jim Kelly, Cynthia Kemper, Jimmy Kirsch, James J. Kline, Catherine Lieb, Ann Link, Charles Lutak, Bill Lutz, Mary Jo Malloy, Pauline Maurer, Thelma McNulty, Francis Mecurio, Cindy Miklos, Paula Mitchell, Kieran Moore, Theresa Moore, Ann Morealli, Virginia Morealli, Odessa Morris, Ricky Myers, Karen Needham, Trevor Nihart, Helen Paige, Viola Panaro, Katie Pardon, Dulcie Perry, Jacob Peterson, Judith Peterson, Steve Price, Charlene Quist, Maddox Raptosh, Ken and Eva Rasmussen, Frances Reed, Michelle Romagna, John Roush, Marcus SanGregorio, Matthew Sclesky, Ryan Shafer, Lucas Shank, William Shank, Mark Sharbaugh, Deborah Smith, Gary Sowers, Special Intentions (34), Jodi Stevens, Ronald Stevens, Dorothy and Earl Strittmatter, Edward Venslosky, Denny Weakland, Dorothy Weaver, Dean Weber, Sara Weber, Carrie Westover, Jim Westrick, Joyce Westrick, Gabriel Weyandt, Emmitt Whited, Richard Whited, Janine Wilson, Carol (Owens) Woodward, Jackie Wright, Brenda Yeckley, and Theresa Yeckley.

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY

-Parish Breakfast, Church hall, 8 a.m. to 12 noon
-Scrip sold after all weekend Masses
-CCD Classes: School Gr 7—11, 8:45 to 9:45 Gr K-6, 11 a.m. to Noon
-Assemble and decorate Nativity and Parish Christmas trees, 11 a.m.

MONDAY

-Scrip sold in Church hall 8 to 10 a.m.

TUESDAY

-Scrip sold in Church hall 8 to 10 a.m.
-Eucharistic Adoration after 8 a.m. Mass; Holy Hour, 10:30 a.m.
-Mass, St. Benedict Manor, 1 p.m.
-Bingo, early birds, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

-Scrip sold in Church hall 8 to 10 a.m.

THURSDAY

-Scrip sold in Church hall 8 to 10 a.m.
-SBS Early Dismissal, 11:30 a.m.
-SBS Christmas Vacation, no school from December 22-31
-Card Party, 7 p.m., Church hall

FRIDAY

-Mass 8:15 a.m.

SATURDAY

-Confessions, 2 p.m., Church

SUNDAY

-Scrip sold after all weekend Masses
-No CCD

-Vigil of Christmas

-Shepherds and Angels meet in the Boniface Wimmer Room, 5:30 p.m.
-Children's Christmas Eve Mass, 6 p.m.
-Mass at St. Joe's 8:30 p.m.

MONDAY CHRISTMAS—The Birth of Our Lord

Christmas Masses, Midnight, 9 a.m., and 11 a.m.

Church Support — December 10, 2017

Offertory	7302.00
Immaculate Conception	2980.00
Christmas	795.00
Church Improvements	712.00
Retired Fund for Religious	680.00
Christmas Flowers	392.00
School Support	212.00
Solemnity of Mary	177.00
Tree of Life	30.00
Adopt-a-Student	20.00
Catholic Charities	15.00

Bingo on Tuesday

Doors Open @ 5 p.m.; Kitchen opens @ 5:30 p.m.

Early Birds @ 6:30 p.m.; Regular Games to follow

- Admission \$15 — Includes 20 Regular Games
- Kitty—\$32+
 - Circle 7 – 27 numbers for \$180
- Jackpot - Straight line only
 - Full Card – 51 numbers \$525
- Instant tickets
 - All Nighter - \$0+
- \$50 end of the month drawing (Must be present to win)
- Refreshments (hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza, homemade goodies)

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

Card Party Thursday December 21 All Volunteer Party



If you can help with your time, small gifts, a dozen cookies, or monetary donations to help cover the meal cost, please contact Pat Kelly at 948-7656

From other parishes and organizations...

Breakfast, St. Nicholas Parish invites you to their breakfast on Sunday, December 17, from 6:30 a.m. till 12 Noon in the Church Hall, 203 St. Henry Street, Nicktown. The price for adults is \$8, Children 5 –12 is \$4, children under 4 are free.

Christmas at the Basilica Concert on Wednesday December 27 at 7 p.m. in the basilica! **Act I** will feature the La Bella Musica String Quartet and the St. Michael School Choir offering Christmas carols and anthems. **Act II** will feature the Basilica Choir singing a cantata entitled "*Sing Joy to all the World.*" A free will offering will be taken. Enjoy the music and the beauty of our basilica during the Christmas Season!

Gabriel Project: The Holy Name Gabriel Project is a Pro-Life movement offering parish-based pastoral care to women in a crisis pregnancy. It is the goal of the Gabriel Project to help such women with all their practical needs, as well as offering them unconditional love in an apostolate of friendship throughout their pregnancy. For more information about the Gabriel Project, please call 814-472-5249 or 472-8814.

Children's Christmas Party The Carrolltown Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Post 506 will host a Children's Christmas Party on Sunday December 17, 2017 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm. in the Upstairs of the Carrolltown American Legion. The party is free and open to the public, you do not have to be a Legion member for your child to attend. Party will include lunch, gifts, and a visit from Santa.