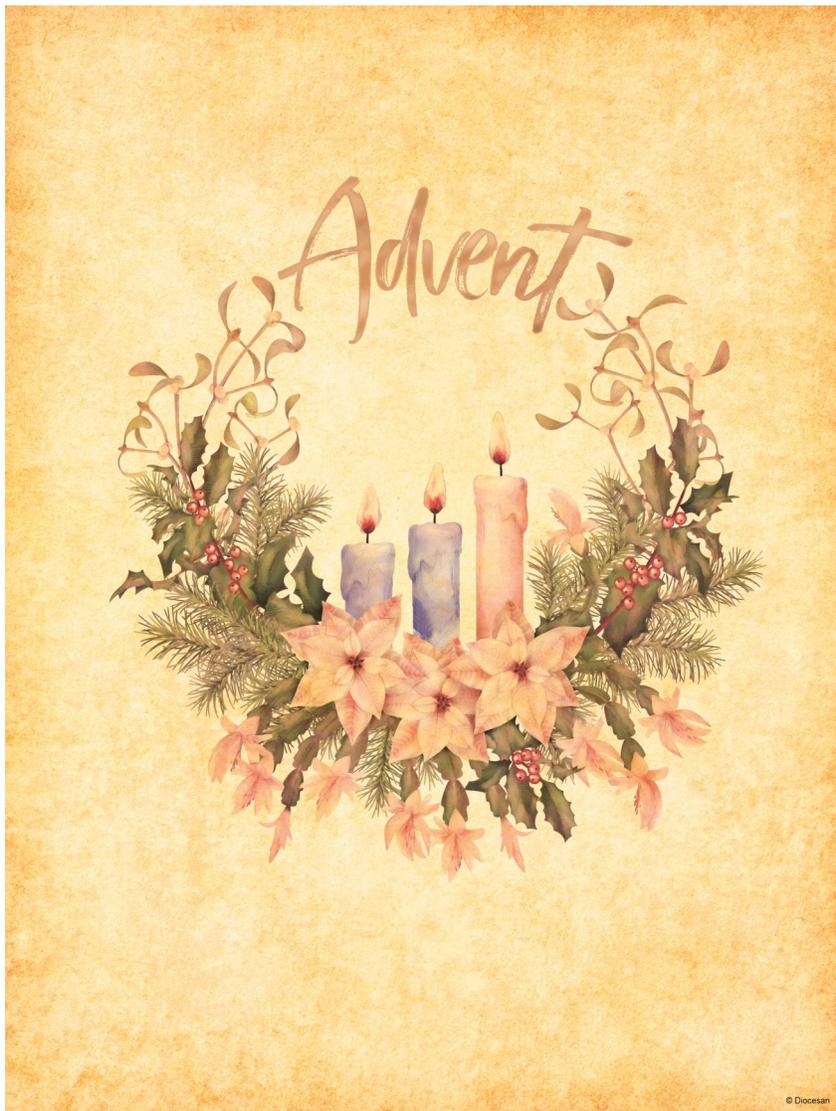


Saint Benedict Church

PO Box 447 · 100 Main Street · Carrolltown, PA · 15722 · 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

Third Sunday of



Sunday, December 14, Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. +Marilyn Shoup
10:00 a.m. For our Parish Family

Monday, December 15, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. +William and Louise Fox
6:30 p.m. +Odessa Morris

Tuesday, December 16, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. +Bernice Albright

Wednesday, December 17, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. +Francis Ligda

Thursday, December 18, Advent Weekday

8:15 a.m. +Living and Deceased Members of the Hal and Dolores Hoover Family

Friday, December 19, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. +Arthur Cunningham

Saturday, December 20, Advent Weekday

4:00 p.m. +James and Maria Baldacchino

Sunday, December 21, Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. +Kyle Senko
10:00 a.m. For our Parish Family



Monday, December 15, 8:00 a.m.

S. Gregory

6:30 p.m.

B. Fox

Tuesday, December 16, 8:00 a.m.

S. Cronan

Wednesday, December 17, 8:00 a.m.

M.C. Hoover

Thursday, December 18, 8:15 a.m.

SBS Children's Mass

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

M. Farabaugh

Saturday, December 20, 4:00 p.m.

Grt. Farabaugh R. Boland
S. Fisanick S. Cronan

J. Stevens

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

H. Shaffer M. Drahnak
K. Shaffer K. Colberg
Z. Shaffer

G. Yahner

10:00 a.m.

R. Eckenrode R. McGowan
E. Eckenrode R. Bridgman
J. Hoover L. Bridgman

M. Farabaugh

Decorating the Church



We will be decorating the Church with the Nativity scene, Christmas trees and evergreens in the window sills, Sunday, December 14. Those who are interested in assisting with this holiday endeavor are asked to meet in the Sanctuary at 11 a.m. All help is greatly appreciated!

Advent Giving Tree

If you have not returned your Advent Giving Tree donation, please drop it off at the parish office as soon as possible. Many thanks for helping brighten the Christmas holiday for those who may be struggling this season. May God bless you for your thoughtfulness toward others.

Parish Breakfast Next Sunday

The Parish breakfast is next Sunday, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, in the Church Hall. The menu features eggs, bacon, sausage, ham, home fries, pancakes or toast, french toast, juice, and coffee. The price of the breakfast for adults is \$12; \$6 for children 6 to 12; children 5 years and under, free. Take-outs are available. All take-outs are \$12.



Adult Faith Formation

Sunday at 9 and 11 a.m. in the Boniface Wimmer Room. Jesus Prays. Throughout the Scriptures, Jesus takes time to pray. Jesus prayed before he healed, after he healed, before he spoke, after he spoke, before he ate, and before he suffered. Jesus sought intimacy with his Father, an intimacy that is achieved in prayer. If this intimacy was necessary for Jesus, how much more necessary is it for every person?

Confessions/Penance Service

Fr. Michael will hear Confessions on Monday, December 15 at 7 p.m. There will be a Penance Service on **Tuesday, December 23rd at 6 p.m.** here at St. Benedict Church. There will be several priests available to hear confessions. This is the only penance service available.

In Sympathy



Please remember in your prayers the soul of Lynn Luka, daughter of our Parishioner Virginia Price. May the angels lead you into paradise, may the martyrs come to welcome you, and take you to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem.

Advent Reflections

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.



Christmas Concerts

Christmas Concert, Tuesday, December 16 at 7 p.m., featuring the Northern Cambria Community Band. A good will offering will be accepted; all donations will benefit the Organ Fund.



Christmas Choral Concert, Sunday, December 28 at 3 p.m.



This week the votive candle will burn in front of the statue of Saint Joseph the Carpenter In Loving Memory of Elizabeth Kartheim From the Family

Flowers Adorning the Altar this weekend For the Living and Deceased Members of the Leo and Elizabeth Kartheim Family



Pastor's Reflection

St. James tells us to be patient concerning the ways of God. We cannot rush God, everything happens according to His plan for the salvation of souls. We can have confidence in this.



Peace,
Father Michael

Thanksgiving Special Results

Thank you to all who participated in our Thanksgiving Special Lottery ticket. Winners were as follows: November 23, #767 ticket unsold redraw November 28, #825 \$1000, winner from Ebensburg; November 24, #065, \$1000, winner from Carrolltown; November 25, #646, \$1000, winner from Carrolltown; November 26, #287, \$1000, winner from St. Benedict; November 27, #419, \$5000, winner from Carrolltown. Congratulations to all the winners! Thank you for your continued support of Saint Benedict Church.

Families and the Gospel

December 14, 2025: Third Sunday of Advent (Matthew 11:2-11)

The question put to Jesus in today's gospel is also put to us today: "Are you the one?" Are you the one who will give guidance to the children in your life or must they look to TV sitcoms, films, videos and music lyrics for direction? Are you the one? Will you be the one? ("A Family Perspective" by Bud Ozar)

Stewardship Reflections

Good news, Christian stewards - we are gaining ground on our Advent mountain climb and it is time to take a moment to rejoice in the Good News that our Savior will come again in triumph one day. Today's reading on the Gaudete ('Rejoice') Sunday are filled with reminders of God's final victory over suffering and injustice, and encouragement to remain steadfast in our mission to live as faith-filled disciples.

Our Gospel passage, from Matthew, connects the prophecy of Isaiah to the arrival of Jesus almost word for word. In this passage we find the imprisoned John the Baptist sending his disciples to ask Jesus if he is indeed the long-awaited Messiah. Jesus' reply is almost identical to Isaiah's prophetic words. He says, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised..." The Savior really has arrived just as promised! Yet that arrival was 700 years after Isaiah's prediction. God always fulfills his promises, but patience and firmness of heart are required as we await his perfect timing.

Let us rejoice in the knowledge that God has called us to enter this kingdom. Let us keep our hearts firmly fixed on this eternal goal and strive with all our might to give God and others the very best of ourselves in gratitude for such a privilege.



Angels and Shepherds

Kindergarten through 4th grade children are invited to participate in our 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass on Tuesday, 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 3:30 p.m.



Prayer Partners for 2nd Graders

On November 19th, sixteen Second Grade children of our Parish received God's grace as they celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time; and on Sunday, May 3rd, 2026, they will be nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist for the first time. We invite our Parishioners to select a child as their "Prayer Partner" and offer a prayer for him or her every day, until their first Holy Communion. If you wish to participate, please select a child from the names in the main vestibule, write your name and address on the information card provided at the display, and leave the card in the basket for our records. Then offer a prayer for the child everyday until May 3rd. Thanks for your support.

Lay Ecclesial Ministry Adult Enrichment

January 2026 Zoom Classes: The following classes are open to all:
Sacraments taught by Deacon Michael Russo, Thursdays 6-8:30 p.m. (8 weeks) beginning January 8. The cost is \$35 and a \$20 material cost fee that can be turned in with the Registration Form.
St. Paul Apostle to the Gentiles taught by Deacon Michael Russo via Zoom. Tuesdays from 6-8:30 p.m. (6 weeks) beginning January 6. The cost is \$35 and a \$20 material fee.
In-Person Class: Writings of John taught by Fr. Alan Thomas at St. Mary School in Hollidaysburg on Tuesdays from 6-8:30 p.m. (6 weeks) beginning January 6. The cost is \$35 and the book which is on the registration form can be purchased through Amazon.
Register: www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry, or contact Jessica at (814) 361-2000, or email: jgramling@dioceseaj.org. Deadline: Dec. 19.

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 is available in the Parish Office.

Sponsor of the Week

We wish to thank **Morchesky Auto-Truck & Trailer Sales, 814-344-8448**, 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 Michelle Stehman at 717-774-8833.

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: Denny Abrams, Dorothy Anna, Vickie Baran, Caryle Bearer, Dorothy Bearer, Katie Beckner, Michael Behe, Judy Bender, Ray Benjamin, Lyn Bills, Ben Bridgman, Fred Burgeson, Dustan Burkey, Joe Caretti, Tim Caretti, Peggy Cavallo, Evan Cicero, Joan Contorchick, John Contorchick, Maddox and Paxtyn Eckenrode, Neta and Harry Elder, Clare Falconi, Dan Farabaugh, Jane Farabaugh, Mike Farabaugh, Tim Farabaugh, Barbara Fasoli, Olivia Ferguson, Suzanne Ferrence, Frannie and Bill Findley, Jr. Gailey, Mary Kay Gallagher, Jane Graffius, Fred Gresco, Anthony Gwizdak, Eva Hart, Irene Haycisak, Jeanine Hite, Richard Hnatkovich, Charles Holder, Mary Catherine Hoover, Chuck Horn, Logan Horvath, Kendra Karabinos, Larry Kibler, Ava Koehle, Jason Koshinski, Louetta Kutchman, Bob Lapenna, Robert Letavish, Theodora McConnell, Brother Michael Miller, Camilla Miller, Chuck and Barb Mitchell, Paula Mitchell, Denny O'Shea, Jody Panczak, Dorothy Penrod, Kevin Penrod, Joanie Polites, Norman and Pauline Polites, Maddox Raptosh, Jim Ropp, Adam Schaeffer, Special Intentions (31), Susan Snyder, Mike Springer, Debbie Stephenson, Edward Stevens, Jackie Stevens, Jodi Stevens, Eric Stoltz, Joseph Thomas, Owen Thomas, Benedicta Veneskey, Sara Weber, Judy Westover, Sarah Wilson, and Brenda Yeckley.

Church Support - December 6, 7, & 8, 2025

Offertory	8458.75
Church Improvement	3782.00
Immaculate Conception	3001.00
Christmas	815.00
Christmas Flowers	664.00
Solemnity of Mary	265.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	205.00
Altar Fund	120.00
Organ Project	90.00
Adopt a Student	80.00
School Support	50.00
St. Vincent de Paul	20.00
Catholic Charities	5.00

Bingo on Tuesday



Doors Open @ 4 p.m.; Kitchen opens @ 5 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.

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY

- Masses 8 and 10 a.m.
- CCD Classes, School
- Return gifts/gift cards to the Giving Tree
- Decorate the Church, 11 a.m.
- No Soulcore

MONDAY

- Scrip sold 8-10 a.m., Church Hall
- Confessions 7 p.m.

TUESDAY

- Holy Hour after Mass; Adoration until 4 p.m.
- Scrip sold 8-10 a.m., Church Hall
- Bingo, early birds 6:30 p.m.
- Christmas Concert, Northern Cambria Community Band, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

- Scrip sold 8 - 10 a.m., Church Hall

THURSDAY

- SBS Children's Liturgy 8:15 a.m.
- Scrip sold 9 - 10 a.m., Church Hall
- OCIA Meeting 5:30 p.m., Boniface Wimmer Room
- Card Party 7 p.m., Church Hall

FRIDAY

- Scrip sold 8 -10 a.m., Church Hall

SATURDAY

- Confessions 2 p.m.; Mass 4 p.m.

SUNDAY

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

Card Party, Thursday December 18, 2025



Mr. Bryan Thomas, Mr. Chris Thomas, M/M Drew Thomas, M/M Eric Thomas, M/M Matthew Thomas, Miss Melody Thomas, M/M Ken Trinkley, Mrs. Tom Trybus, M/M Robert Valeria, Mr. Tom Vallery, M/M Harry Vargo, Miss Miranda Veneskey, M/M Robert Veneskey, M/M John Venesky, M/M Mark Venesky, M/M Matthew Venesky

From other parishes and organizations...

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.

Young Adult Group (18-39): All young adults (18-39) - regardless of their background - are invited to join us for faith, food, and fellowship. There is no cost to attend. Our next Theology on Tab is Wednesday December 17th at the Boulevard Grill at 6 p.m. with Deacon Candidate Wally Zapotoczny speaking on "A Church on Fire!" Fr. Canice McMullen O.S.B. and Fr. David Dodd, T.O.R. are already booked for 2026! For more information contact Geoffrey Stumpo at (814) 659-7415 or geoffstumpo@gmail.com.

Christmas Bake Sale: Queen of Peace Parish Center (600 Palmer Ave, Patton), Saturday, December 20, Doors open at 9 a.m. Christmas Cookies Platters & Trays, Cinnamon Rolls, Pumpkin Rolls, Fruit & Nut Rolls, Panettone and Various Breads, Brandied Fruit Cake, Yule Logs, 'Ole English Plum Pudding, Cheese Balls and more.