ST. BENEDICT PARISH AND PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The Steward

FEBRUARY 5, 2017 | THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Light shines through the darkness for the upright.
-- Psalm 112:4

Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth." Matthew 5:13

Daniel Hughes, *Director of Religious Education*

What does it mean to be the salt of the earth? Salt serves a dual purpose, especially in the time of Jesus. Salt would have been highly prized as the only way to preserve meat or fish in the climate of the middle-east. However, it was also used for flavor as we use it now. Followers of Christ are called to preserve the world. We are called to preserve the world from a society steeped in sin. Every day I see how our Catechists, volunteers, parishioners, teachers, pastoral staff, and administrators are preserving. As they teach, guide, mentor, protect, and care for all of the children and people in our parish that they are preserving. We are all preserving something very special here at St. Ben's. Our final count for our Religious Education program is 320 children, with 132 making their First Communion and 48 making their Confirmation this year! We have 8 Candidates and Catechumens going through our RCIA program this year, and we are working to grow our Children's Liturgy of the Word, and Baptismal Prep. program. All of these ministries are being preserved and I am honored to be supporting these Catechists with their work.

However, being the salt of the earth is also enhancing the lives of others as believers in Christ, just as salt enhances the flavor of food.

We enhance each other's lives as we stay together in our St. Ben's family and continue to grow in faith and love so we can better serve Christ. We use the phrase "Salt of the earth" sometimes and don't usually think about exactly what it means. We usually just think that it means he or she is a great person. But, it really does mean so much more. It is someone who has really and truly enhanced our lives. We can lose the saltiness if we fail to hear the call to follow Christ.

In this Gospel Christ also says, "You are the light of the world." In this we are called as Christians to be the light in the darkness. We are to illustrate the goodness in the world by our good deeds, showing and being a witness for Christ by example. One of my favorite lines that refers to this is from Saint Francis of Assisi. He said, "Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words when necessary." The people I admire the most as followers of Christ are not those who speak about it the most, or know the most about theology, it is those who follow the calling to do good deeds and be the light of the world for humanity.

There is certainly no shortage of salt or light here at St. Ben's! I am almost at my 6 month mark as an employee on the pastoral staff and it has been a whirlwind of a year. I was very lucky to end up at a parish that is so vibrant and has so much vitality. I have been supported so well by the entire St. Ben's family since I have been here. There have been several times I have felt overwhelmed by the level of commitment everyone has to their ministries, the parish, the school, and the entire community. Thank you all for being the "salt of the earth" and "the light of the world" for me!

ST. BENEDICT PARISH & PREPARATORY SCHOOL
2215 W. IRVING PARK ROAD CHICAGO, IL 60618 WWW.STBENEDICT.COM

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF

Annual Catholic Appeal 2017

Many of our parishioners have probably already received a mailing from Cardinal Cupich asking that you make a pledge to the 2017 Annual Catholic Appeal. Please respond generously.

The appeal supports both parish and Archdiocesan ministries. In addition, the appeal is also one of the largest philanthropic sources of financial support for Catholic schools in the archdiocese. The appeal also funds services that are of great help to other ministries offered here in our parish.

This year, the theme of the Appeal is "Love Your Neighbor As Yourself." We have all received God's love. By financially supporting the ministries and services funded by the ACA, we help to extend God's love to many, many others.

As you review the mailing from Cardinal Cupich, please note the ministries and services funded by the appeal, including the ones that directly support the work of our parish. Then please give generously. Please note: When our parish reaches its goal of $48,090 in paid pledges, we will receive 100% of the additional funds for continued heating upgrades to our parish plant. This goal represents 6% of our offertory income. For the past two years, our goal was lessened by 50% in 2015 and by 25% in 2016 because of our participation in To Teach Who Christ Is campaign, which is tied into our Forward In Our Faith campaign.

Because of your immense generosity over the last several years, the following special programs and projects were completed:

2013 appeal – Debt Reduction
2014 appeal – Youth ministry program and new parish youth minister
2015 appeal – Heating upgrades including thermostatic controls
2016 appeal - Heating upgrades including condensation pumps
2017 appeal –we will continue to make energy-efficient upgrades to our aged heating plant.

On the weekend of February 18 and 19, our parish will participate in the "in-pew" appeal process.
Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Statement of Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, on the Executive Order on Refugees and Migrants - January 29, 2017

This weekend proved to be a dark moment in U.S. history. The executive order to turn away refugees and to close our nation to those, particularly Muslims, fleeing violence, oppression and persecution is contrary to both Catholic and American values. Have we not repeated the disastrous decisions of those in the past who turned away other people fleeing violence, leaving certain ethnicities and religions marginalized and excluded? We Catholics know that history well, for, like others, we have been on the other side of such decisions.

These actions impose a sweeping and immediate halt on migrants and refugees from several countries, people who are suffering, fleeing for their lives. Their design and implementation have been rushed, chaotic, cruel and oblivious to the realities that will produce enduring security for the United States. They have left people holding valid visas and other proper documents detained in our airports, sent back to the places some were fleeing or not allowed to board planes headed here. Only at the eleventh hour did a federal judge intervene to suspend this unjust action.

We are told this is not the "Muslim ban" that had been proposed during the presidential campaign, but these actions focus on Muslim-majority countries. They make an exception for Christians and non-Muslim minorities, but not for Muslims refugees fleeing for their lives. Ironically, this ban does not include the home country of 15 of the 19 September 11 hijackers. Yet, people from Iraq, even those who assisted our military in a destructive war, are excluded.

The United States has a long history of welcoming refugees who are fleeing for their lives and Catholic organizations have helped to resettle many families, men, women, and children, from around the globe. Many of our priests, religious and laypeople have accompanied newcomers precisely to assist them in this process. Because of our history of aiding in refugee and migrant settlement for decades, we know the very lengthy and thorough vetting process they must face before they are admitted to our country. We have seen initial fear turn into a generous willingness of local communities to accept and integrate refugees. Here in Chicago generations of migrants have found a new home. We are better for it.

The world is watching as we abandon our commitments to American values. These actions give aid and comfort to those who would destroy our way of life. They lower our estimation in the eyes of the many peoples who want to know America as a defender of human rights and religious liberty, not a nation that targets religious populations and then shuts its doors on them.

It is time to put aside fear and join together to recover who we are and what we represent to a world badly in need of hope and solidarity. "If we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportunities, let us provide opportunities." Pope Francis issued these challenging words to Congress in 2015, and followed with a warning that should haunt us as we come to terms with the events of the weekend: "The yardstick we use for others will be the yardstick which time will use for us."

Music for February 5,2017

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Entrance
585 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
836 Gather Us In (sun 6:30pm)

Gloria
Missalette p. 10

Daily Readings
1121

Responsorial Psalm
right

Offertory
734 As A Fire Is Meant for Burning

Holy, Holy, Holy
Missalette p.75

Memorial Acclamation
Missalette p 81

Great Amen
Misalette p. 85

Lamb of God
381

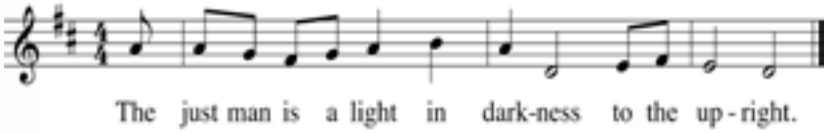
Communion Antiphon
right

Communion Song
924 Bread of Life, Cup of Blessing
935 Draw Near (Sun. 6:30pm)

Recessional
This Little Light of Mine
right Lead Me, Lord (Sun. 6:30pm)

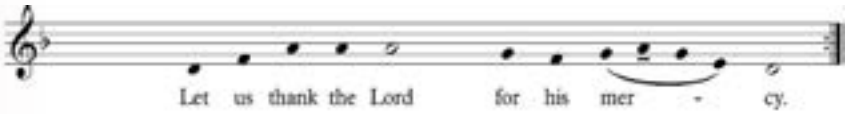
This week, there will be a 2nd collection for **LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR** immediately following Communion. Thank you for your generosity.

Responsorial Psalm



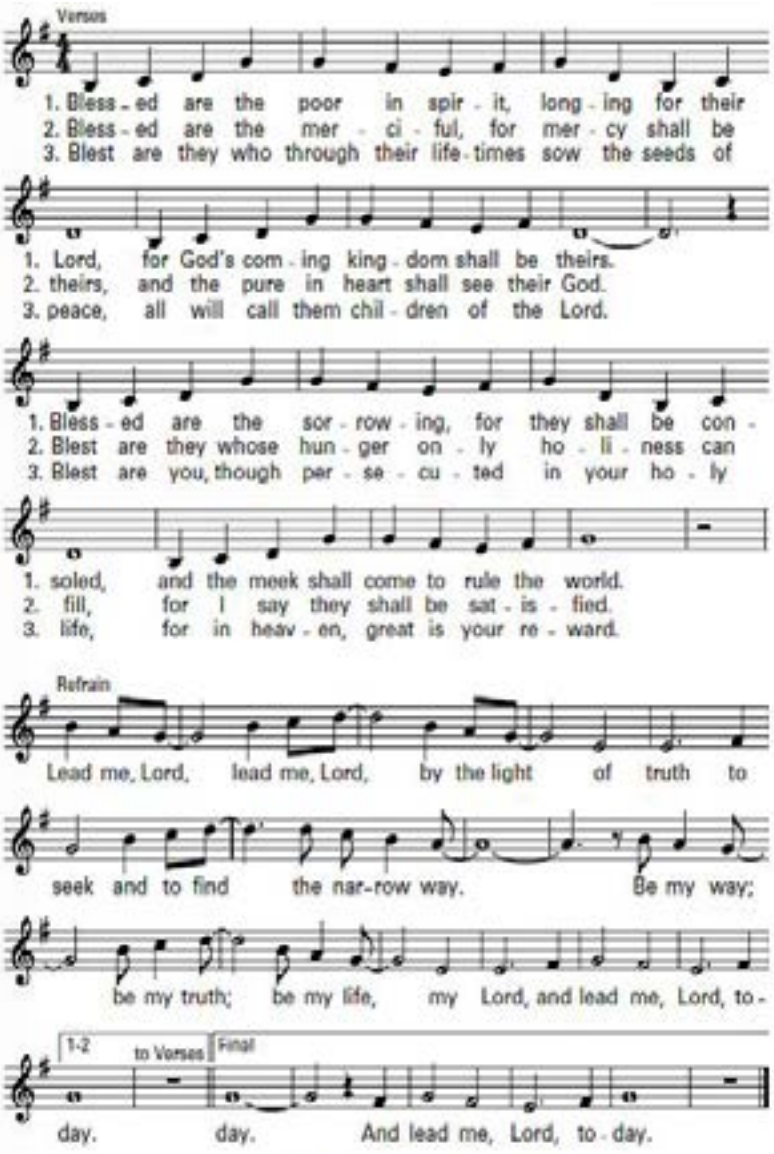
Text: *The Revised Grail Psalms*, © 2010, Conception Abbey and The Grail, admin. by GIA Publications, Inc.; refrain tr. © 1969, ICEL
Music: Michel Guimont, © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.

Communion Antiphon



Antiphon Text: © 2010 ICEL
Music: © Jeremy J. Kiolbassa

Recessional - Lead Me, Lord



Text: Based on Matthew 5:3-12; 7:7, 13; John 14:6.
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DEEPENING OUR FAITH

Head and Heart Discipleship

For the past year, this page has focused on all the ways that we grow closer to Jesus on our journey of faith. As we, at St. Benedict, have had a more intentional and specific focus on growing as disciples of Jesus, our Catechetical Commission and Spiritual Life Commission articulated that sometimes we grow closer to Jesus because of what we learn (Head) and sometimes we grow closer to Jesus because of our prayer, retreat experience, mission or some encounter (Heart). So not only will we hightlight the ways that we learn (Head) about Jesus in our Catechetical Conversations, we will also hightlight the ways we experience Jesus (Heart).

1 Spiritual Life Gatherings

Please mark your calendars now and join your friends and community in what will be beautiful faith-filled gatherings. All are welcome and feel free to bring something to share in one of our Spiritual gatherings. Who knows where the Spirit will take us...

February	Lenten Small Faith Sharings *See form below*
March	St. Joseph Table
March 26th – 28th	St. Benedict and St. Andrew Parish Mission
April	Lent Reconciliation
April 1st and 2nd	Christ Renews His Parish
April 10th – 15th	Holy Week

2 Catechetical Conversations

Beginning at 7PM in the Church

February 13th *The Center of our Faith is the Eucharist* Open to all, especially for those families whose children are celebrating First Eucharist

March 20th *Family Life night* How do we talk to our children about the dignity of Human Life and all the conversations that proceed form there?

April 3rd *It takes a Village* We are all called to make our parish the safest, most secure place possible. Come hear how that is happening every day!

Lenten Small Faith Groups

ST. BENEDICT PARISH smallFAITHGROUPS

Please circle the day of week and time that would best work for you! You will receive a confirmation email or phone call to confirm details. The hope, for the sake of the group, is that you would be able to make as many of the sessions as possible! We will fill the groups with no more than eight participants, on a first come first basis. Please drop off this form at the Rectory or in the collection basket. Thank you!

Best Day of the Week *(please circle)* **Best Time:**_____

SU / M / T / W / TH / F / S

Please drop off at the Rectory by February 20th.

Name_____

Phone_____

Email_____

3

Save the Date: Lenten Parish Mission "Your Story, Our Story"

Finding Belonging in the Church through story (See page 11).

Sunday, March 26 6:30PM
Monday, March 27 6:30PM
Tuesday, March 28 6:30PM

Youth Ministry

February 12
5:00-6:30pm

Indoor Scavenger Hunt-

Re-scheduled due to SuperBowl Sunday. Beginning in the Rectory (2215 Irving Park Rd.)
The evening will start in the rectory and continue with an indoor scavenger hunt requiring participants to solve puzzles and search for clues. Get a team of 4 friends together and join in the fun.

March 10 5:00pm-8:30pm

Feed My Starving Children

We will leave St. Ben's at 5:00 in the church bus to travel to FMSC in Schaumburg. We will return by 8:30. Our packing time is from 6:00-7:30. Join Youth Ministry as we pack Manna Packs for our brothers and sisters who are hungry.

March 18/19

Lenten Food Fast

Join Youth Ministry as we fast for 30 hours (drinking water and Gatorade) to raise awareness about World Hunger and be in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who wake up hungry and go to bed hungry every day. More information will follow.
Call Ms McMillan at 773-509-3841 or email kmcmillan@stbenedict.com for more information or to ask questions.

Young Adult Ministry

Tuesday, February 7, 6:30-8:30pm

Young Catholic Professionals' 1st Anniversary Celebration

Celebrate YCP Chicago's (http://www.ycpchicago.org) one year anniversary with drinks and heavy appetizers on Tuesday, February 7th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Narcissus Room on Macy's on State St. Jeff Schiefelbein, YCP National Board Member, will be the featured speaker, and the suggested donation is $20.00. Register online at bit.ly/YCP2717. Cocktail attire is suggested.

Sunday, February 26, 7:30pm

Wine & Cheese Social

Join us for our monthly Wine and Cheese Social on Sunday, February 26th immediately after the 6:30pm Mass as we informally gather in the church basement to enjoy snacks, drinks, and fellowship.

Senior Ministry

February 22nd

Senior Breakfast at Dappers

on Addison. Bus will leave from the front of church after the 8:30 Mass or meet us there around 9:30.
All are welcome.

Mark your Calendars for these Parish Ministry Events!

Join the St. Benedict Parish Baptismal Preparation Team!

We are now inviting couples to join our new Baptismal Preparation Team. Please join us in this new ministry! Contact Jesus Reyes at mgarcia19661@gmail.com or 210-388-1774 for more information.

Catechetical Conversations Are Coming Up, Beginning at 7 pm in the Church

February 13th is *The Center of Our Life is the Eucharist* open to all, especially for those familieswhose children are celebrating First Eucharist. March 20th is Family Life Night: How do we talk to our children about the dignity of Human Life and all the conversations that proceed from there. April 3rd: It Takes a Village - We are all called to make our parish the safest, most secure place possible. Come hear how that is happening every day!

Classroom Projects For Religious Education

Towards the end of February we will be doing some classroom projects in our Religious Ed. classes. These will be auctioned off at the Mass and Gala this year! Don't worry if you can't make it, you will be able to bid from home.

Service Hour Opportunity

Our Children's Liturgy of the Word Ministry is looking for helpers for our 9:00 am Mass and 10:30 a.m. Mass for 8th grade through High School. This is a great way to get some service hours done while having fun with the younger kids! Contact Daniel Hughes, the Director of Catechesis at 773-509-3830 or dhughes@st.benedict.com.

JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS:

March 10: Feed My Starving Children 5:00pm-8:30pm

We will leave St. Ben's at 5:00 in the church bus to travel to FMSC in Schaumburg. We will return by 8:30. Our packing time is from 6:00-7:30. Join Youth Ministry as we pack Manna Packs for our brothers and sisters who are hungry.

March 18/19: 30 Hour Fast

World Hunger is a real problem. This Lent, spend 30 hours raising awareness about hunger and the effects of being malnourished by living in solidarity with the hungry and fasting for 30 hours. Youth Ministry participants will fast to raise awareness and raise money to support those who are hungry in our communities and throughout the world. **Come find out more at the Information Night on February 12th at 6:15pm in the rectory. *See below for more information.***

February 12: Indoor Scavenger Hunt 5:00-6:30pm

Beginning in the Rectory (2215 Irving Park Rd.)
The evening will start in the rectory and continue with an indoor scavenger hunt requiring participants to solve puzzles and search for clues. Get a team of 4 friends together and join in the fun.

CALL MS MCMILLAN AT 773-509-3841 OR EMAIL KMCMILLAN@STBENEDICT.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ASK QUESTIONS.

WE NEED YOU! 8th graders thru Seniors

Do you want to do something about World Hunger? Are you looking for a way to answer your call to discipleship and serve others? Youth Ministry at St. Ben's is offering you a chance to radically participate in raising awareness and raising money to fight against World Hunger. We will be collaborating with St. Edwards Parishes and participating in the 30 Hour Food Fast.

Come to an information meeting at 6:15 on February 12th in the rectory. (Parents we will be drinking liquids and Gatorade. Please come to the meeting also, if you have questions)

Matthew 25:40 ... 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK!

Still Accepting Pre-K and Elementary Applications for the 2016-17 School Year

For more information or a preschool or kindergarten application, contact Janet Gallagher, Director of Admissions Grades K-5 at jgallagher@stbenedict.com or 773-509-3814.

HUMAN CONCERNS
Connection Corner

Are you looking for work, childcare, housing, music lessons etc? Or perhaps you have an apartment for rent, are available to provide child or senior care, give lessons etc.? If you are interested in getting the word out to fellow parishioners then please send a brief (1-2 lines) ad to Elaine Lindia at: elindia@stbenedict.com and we will run the ad for 2 bulletins. Please note that St. Benedict is not endorsing any individuals listed here.

The Human Concerns Commission

"Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and one another." Who We Are: We are Christianity in Action by ministering to those among us with spiritual, physical, social and economic needs, and to those experiencing lack and loss. We promote education, advocacy and action as prescribed in the message of the Gospel.

Next meeting: Tuesday February 7th at 7 PM in the Rectory.
If you would like to participate or learn more about our ministries, please contact Elaine Lindia at (773)588-6484, ext. 5101 or via e-mail at elindia@stbenedict.com.

Common Food Pantry Collection

We are grateful for all those who have shared their generosity towards the Common Food Pantry. Food drop-off weekends are always the 3rd weekend of the month. The next drop-off weekend is February 18th & 19th.
Please note: Non-perishable Food and personal care items are always welcome but please do not include any recyclables with your donation such as paper and plastic bags. Thank you!

DONATION TOTALS:
12/20 **127.5 lbs** of food | 12/30 **20.10 lbs** of food
1/10/17 **29.10 lbs** of food | 1/11/17 **136.30 lbs** of food

Zumba Update!

The Health Committee here at St. Benedict is pleased to announce some new Zumba class offerings! On Wednesdays, from 7:00 to 8:00 pm, we now offer "Strong by Zumba," a new high intensity interval training class synced to music. On Saturdays, at 11:10 to 11:50 am, we now offer "Zumba Gold for Seniors." Check out our web site for more details!

Easter Dinner Ministry Opportunity

Do you like to host or plan parties? Do you have a heart for serving the poor or feeding the hungry? Then the Easter Dinner ministry is right for you! Three times a year – on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and Easter – our community hosts "Holy Day" dinners. We offer not only a hot, delicious meal but fellowship and fun for anyone who does not want to spend the holidays alone. We are incredibly grateful for the generosity and hard work of all our parishioners who help make these events happen. However, there are a few individuals who help coordinate and run these dinners. Please prayerfully consider being part of the planning and organizing of our Easter Dinner ministry to help make this year's feast possible! If you are interested, please contact Elaine Lindia at 773-509-3806 or elindia@stbenedict.com. Thank you!

Peace and Justice Survey

The Peace and Justice Committee created a survey to help us understand issues of greatest concern to our parishioners and ways of engaging our parish in the important work of peace and justice. If you did not receive an e-mail with the survey, please contact Elaine Lindia at elindia@stbenedict.com or at (773) 509-3806. A paper copy of the survey is also available for those that do not wish to participate via e-mail. Thank you!

Stewardship Reflection: *Stewardship is putting our faith in action through the use of the gifts given to us by God. It is becoming a true disciple of Jesus Christ. The Lord did not want us to be passive in our approach to living. He wants more from us than just being quietly holy. Remember that stewardship is a call from God to recognize that all of our blessings and talents have been given to us for a purpose. As baptized Catholics it is our obligation to share these gifts willingly in order to serve the Church and our parish community. As we have pointed out many times, stewardship is much more than financial support. It is, as stated, putting our faith in to action with the key word there being "action." In that way we can become, also as stated, a true disciple of the Lord. In today's Gospel reading from the Book of Matthew Jesus calls us salt and then light. He tells us, for example, that we are the light of the world, reflecting His light. Specifically He says to those who choose to be His disciple, "Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand." St. Teresa of Calcutta once said, "To keep a lamp burning you have to keep putting oil in it." If we see ourselves as lamps as Jesus told us we should be, we need to keep the oil in it, and that requires action on our part.*

Events & Parish Life

SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES TO CELEBRATE OUR CHURCH'S 100TH BIRTHDAY:

Cornerstone Red Carpet Party
March 31, 2017

100th Birthday Mass & Gala
April 22, 2017

Cornerstone Red Carpet Party, Friday, March 31, 2017
Happy Birthday to Us - Save the Date!

Over the next 14 months we will be celebrating the 100th birthday of our Parish Church. While Mass was actually celebrated beginning back in 1902, the construction of the current Church actually began with the laying of the Cornerstone - the 1st block/brick on March 31, 1917. We will hold the first of many celebrations Friday, March 31, 2017 to commemorate this historic birthday. Please join us for a celebration outside of the Church starting at 5 pm with music, food and pictures followed by 7 pm Stations of the Cross. Hope to see you there!

Special Event! Readings of Orginal Stories by North Center Satellite Writer's Workshop

Where: Book Cellar, 4736 N. Lincoln Avenue
When: Wednesday, February 15th at 7PM
Free Admission - All are welcome!
You are invited to hear wonderful stories... Some heartwarming... Some funny... Written and read by seasoned neighborhood writers in collaboration between North Center Satellite Senior Center and the Book Cellar.

Readers include: Laurie Barretto, Rosemary Cellini, Cardi Fleck, Marsha Fogle, Lillie Gylling, Michelle Hansen, Barb Howard, Elaine Kramer, Joan Mulcahy, Mickey Nuccio, John Ragir, Dorothy Soltys and Tery Veras.

Any questions call Suzy at Book Cellar: 773-293-2665

St. Benedict Women's Book Club Next Meeting - Feb 16th

The Saint Benedict Women's Book Club welcomes registered parishioners to the next meeting on February 16 at 7 PM in the Pine Room of the Rectory where we will discuss *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead. Please contact Kathy Sanchez at Kthlsan@aol.com for further information.

Sunday Giving

Sunday Collection

"In Pew" Sunday Stewardship (Jan. 29)	$ 6,009.41
GiveCentral Stewardship (through Jan. 29)	$ 6,046.00
Total weekly collection	$ 12,055.41

Total weekly goal	$ 13,750.00
Fiscal year collection(to-date)	$ 417,237.45
Fiscal year goal (to-date)	$ 426,250.00
Surplus (Under)	$ (9,012.55)
Christmas Collection (to-date) including GiveCentral	$ 57,042.12
Christmas Collection Goal	$ 62,000.00

Sign-up today for secure automated giving to St. Benedict Parish and Preparatory School. Simply go to www.GiveCentral.org to start giving by selecting St. Benedict Church - Chicago, or you may also donate by visiting the link on our parish and school website. If you need assistance signing up or have questions about the program, contact our Director of Finance, Geoff Pautsch, at (773) 588-6484 x5109. Thank you for your remarkable generosity to the parish.

Ordinary Annual Appeals (2016-2017)

The Annual Catholic Appeal 2016 Campaign Results - as of January 20 Report

Goal:	$ 35,676.72
Pledged:	$ 97,076.50
Paid:	$ 88,876.50
Parish rebate (to-date)	$ 53,199.78

Note: The parish will receive a rebate for any amount paid over the parish goal. Reports are updated monthly and received at the parish on the 20th of each month.

Annual School Fund The Annual School Fund (formerly known as Fund Our Future) is our annual advisory board led parent appeal targeted to cover the difference between the cost of tuition and the actual cost to educate a student. 100% of this appeal goes directly to our parish school. The 2016-17 appeal was a great success! 224 SBPS school families have donated and pledged over $122,888 to-date. That's over 80% toward our goal of $150,000 to help bridge the gap between tuition and the actual cost to educate a child at St. Benedict Prep. Thank you to all families who have made a gift!

Extraordinary Appeal 2015-2020

Forward In Our Faith: Our capital campaign continues to be extremely successful, with overwhelming donations. If you haven't done so already and you wish to make a contribution or a pledge to this campaign, please speak to Father Jason. The tuck pointing and roofing project on the church is just about complete!

Pledged (to-date)	$ 4,700,021.00
Goal	$ 6,200,000.00
Income: Gifts and Donations	$ 1,955,750.59
Income: Interest	$ 8,333.02
Income: Gifts made in the past 2 weeks	$ 1,993.50
Expense: CCS Consulting	$ (198,000.00)
Expense: Our Lady of the Snows Endow.	$ (20,000.00)
Expense: WJE Structural Report	$ (41,500.00)
Expense: To Teach Who Christ Is	$ (79,200.00)
Expense: materials, events, postage, fees	$ (26,734.91)
Expense: WJE (Church project)	$ (9,495.00)
Expense: Mortenson Roofing (Payouts)	$ (1,072,484.10)
Balance: January 29, 2017	**$ 516,669.60**

Savings and Restricted Funds

Build Our Future: Used for parish projects that aren't initially planned for in the budget. The income comes from 10% of all parish fundraising. Fall Fundraising consists of Oktoberfest, HSA events, High School Parent Network sale, and Fright Walk.

Balance (July 1, 2016)	$ 59,122.84
Interest	$ 113.58
10% BenFest	$ 6,100.00
10% Fall Fundraising	$ 17,100.00
Balance (December 31, 2016)	$ 82,562.33

New Family Fee: As new families come to our school, they are inheriting the capital work recently accomplished. Fund are used for the various school projects.

Balance (July 1, 2016)	$ 103,971.85
New Family Fee Collection	$ 48,079.59
Interest	$ 62.47
Balance (December 31, 2016)	$ 152,113.91

Family investment for School Year 2013-14: $ 81,565.83
Family investment for School Year 2014-15: $52,844.60
Family Investment for School Year 2015-16: $ 51,481.57
Family Investment for School Year 2016-17 (to-date): $48,079.59

Parish Educational Endowment Account: Our endowment has topped $150,000! Three years ago, our parish started its first educational endowment account to help fund scholarships and to help foster new scholarships. The principal in this account is never used, but rather invested at the hands of the archdiocesan endowment office. The earnings generated from this investment is then used for school or religious education scholarships. (Reconciled quarterly—last reconciled on December 31, 2016).

Balance (July 1, 2016)	$ 126,116.07
Income: Bell Tower Open and Let's Dance	$ 10,913.16
Income: Gifts	$ 11,515.00
Income: Investment (December 31 loss)	$ 616.31
	$ 152,353.63
Total Parish Savings: (Reconciled Quarterly)	**$387,029.87**

TODAY! Little Sisters of the Poor Visit to St. Benedict Parish on Feb 4th and 5th

On this coming weekend, February 4th and 5th, 2017, the Little Sisters of the Poor will be visting our Parish. This is one of over 180 homes operated by the Little Sisters of the Poor in 31 countries throughout the world. Your support will enable them to continue their mission of caring for the elderly poor in a spirit of joy and dignity. Any assistance you are able to give will be deeply appreciated. Blessings! To learn more about their apostolate, please go to www.littlesistersofthepoorchicago.org.

REFLECT Weekend - February 17-19
Mid-life Singles (mid-30s to 50s)

Looking to start 2017 off with a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Then register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House, Mundelein, IL (in the northern suburbs), on Feb 17-19, 2017. Take a chance and get involved... this is one New Year's resolution you won't regret! Cost is $197 for meals and a single room. Call (312) 532-8286, e-mail reflect.chicagoland@gmail.com, or visit www.ReflectRetreat.com for details.

Donation Made to SPRED

Your generous donations during our "Tootsie Roll Drive" allowed us to present a $1,000 check to SPRED – the organization ministering to Catholics with intellectual disabilities. Your donations help fund SPRED's annual operating budget and they are very grateful for your continued support.

Are you looking for a way to volunteer your time and talent? Visit our website at http://www.saintbensknights.com to learn more about opportunities through the St Benedict's Council.

"Your Story, Our Story"

Finding belonging in the Church through story.

Save the date for the

Saint Andrew and Saint Benedict

Lenten Parish Mission

Sunday, March 26, 6:30pm
Monday, March 27, 6:30pm
Tuesday, March 28, 6:30pm

Presented by Dr. Timone Davis who teaches theology at the Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University. She is a leading academic and speaker on Catholic theology and engagement of the Church with culture. She will be using her depth of experience as a storyteller and academic to inspire our communities to see how our personal stories participate in the story of God's great redemptive plan through Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual Dream Group

In this group we learn to become like a container of sacred space as a group to provide a secure connection between the individual's inner world and the outer world. This ongoing group will meet on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7 pm until 9 pm in the basement of the rectory in the small meeting room.

Next Session Date: 2/6
Free will offering to St. Benedict Church: $5
Contact Rachel at rachelwinborn@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

COMING UP AT ST. BEN'S

FEBRUARY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 Mass at 7:30AM, 9AM, 10:30AM, 12PM, and 6:30PM Church **Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast After all Morning Masses Beaven Hall** Parish Library Open after 7:30 AM, 9AM, 10:30AM and 12PM Masses Parish Library HSA Open Gym 12:30PM Ackerman Center	**6** Daily Morning Mass 8:30AM Church Children's Choir Rehearseal 4PM Choir Area, Church Teen Instrumental Rehearsal 5:30PM Choir Area, Church Zumba 7PM Heidenreich Hall RCIA 7PM SPRED Room Boy Scout Meeting 7PM Beaven Hall Spiritual Dream Group 7PM Sm Meeting Rm Parish Life Comm. Meeting 7PM Pine Rm Ravenswood Orchestra Rehearsal 7:30PM SS LIbrary	**7** Daily Morning Mass 8:30AM Church Cub Scouts Webelos II 7PM Church Basement Webelos 1 Den Meeting 7PM Beaven Hall Human Concerns Commission 7PM Pine Room	**8** Daily Morning Mass 8:30AM Church Teen Choir Rehearsal 5:30PM Choir Area, Church Zumba 7PM Cafeteria Adult Choir Rehearsal 7PM Choir, Area, Church Women Faith Sharing 7PM Pine Room Facilities Committee Meeting 7PM Meeting Room AA Meeting 8PM Church Basement	**9** Daily Morning Mass 8:30AM Church 2nd Grade Brownies 3PM Beaven Hall SPRED 6PM Room 243 - Band Rm Wolf Scout Meeting 6:30PM Beaven Hall Weight Watchers 7PM Church Basement Peace and Justice Committee 7PM Pine Room	**10** Daily Morning Mass 8:30AM Church Karate 3:15PM Room 143 Yoga Room (green)	**11** Bitty Basketball 8AM Ackerman Center Daily Morning Mass 8:30AM Church Zumba 10AM Cafeteria Senior Zumba 11AM Cafeteria Reconciliation 11AM - Church Mass at 5PM Church Parent Night Out 6PM Gym Retrouvaille Meeting 6:30PM Beaven Hall
12 Mass at 7:30AM, Family Masses at 9AM and 10:30AM, 12PM, and 6:30PM Church Family Mass Hospitality after 9AM and 10:30AM Masses Beaven Hall Baptism Preparation 11:30AM Church Basement K of C Officers Meeting 12PM Sewing Room HSA Open Gym 12:30PM Ackerman Center	**13** Daily Morning Mass 8:30AM Church 4th, 5th & 6th Grade Girl Scouts 3PM Beaven Hall Children's Choir Rehearseal 4PM Choir Area, Church Tiger Cub Scout Den Meeting 6PM Church Basement Teen Instrumental Rehearsal 5:30PM Choir Area, Church Zumba 7PM Heidenreich Hall RCIA 7PM SPRED Room Boy Scout Meeting 7PM Beaven Hall Ravenswood Orchestra Rehearsal 7:30PM SS LIbrary Catechetical Conversation - *The Center of our Lives is the Eucharist* 7PM Church	**14** Daily Morning Mass 8:30AM Church Cub Scouts Webelos II 7PM Church Basement Webelos 1 Den Meeting 7PM Beaven Hall	**15** Daily Morning Mass 8:30AM Church 1st Grade Daisy Scouts 3PM Beaven Hall Teen Choir Rehearsal 5:30PM Choir Area, Church Zumba 7PM Cafeteria Adult Choir Rehearsal 7PM Choir, Area, Church K of C General Council Meeting 7:30PM Sewing Room AA Meeting 8PM Church Basement	**16** Daily Morning Mass 8:30AM Church SPRED 6PM Room 243 - Band Rm St. Benedict Womens Book Club 7PM Pine Room Weight Watchers 7PM Church Basement	**17** Daily Morning Mass 8:30AM Church	**18** Bitty Basketball 8AM Ackerman Center Daily Morning Mass 8:30AM Church Zumba 10AM Cafeteria Senior Zumba 11AM Cafeteria Reconciliation 11AM - Church Welcoming Weekend Mass at 5PM Church

Upcoming 2nd Collections

Sharing Parish
Sun Feb 12th

Forward in Our Faith and Annual Catholic Appeal
Sun Feb 19th

Ash Wednesday
Wed Mar 1st

Central & Eastern Europe
Sun Mar 5th

Holy Days of Obligation 2017

Notice the new "6:30 am" Mass for our Holy Days of obligation during the week.

Ash Wednesday Wed Mar 1st 6:30am, 8:30 am, 2:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm

Easter Sunday Sun April 16th
Extended Sunday Schedule *(No 6:30PM Mass)*

Ascension Sun May 28th
Sunday Schedule

Pentecost Sun June 4th
Sunday Schedule

Holy Trinity Sun June 11th
Sunday Schedule

Body and Blood of Christ Sun June 18th
Sunday Schedule

In Our Prayers

Please Pray for Healing. *Please call Elaine Lindia at 773 588-6484, ext. 5101 to add your name or the name of an immediate family member forwhom you would like the parish to pray for healing.*

Jane Abrahamson
Russell Altizer
Joe Babbo
Lila Bandy
Raven Barron
Dawn Bedel
Deacon Phil Bertolani
Audrey Bickel
Dolores Bielski
Maureen Black
Debora Boyce
Karen Breen
Raymond Brefeld
Natalie Brown
Teresita Bugasto
Yvonne Carter
Ricardo Cataylo
Eugene Caulfield
Colleen Claffey
Sue Coston
Chris Coulon
Susan Cronin
Paul Davis
Richard Davis
Frances DeVine
Susan Duffy
Louise Efrosinis
Sue Fahey
Pamela Fasel
John Fishburn
Mary Flatley
Sally Gilger
Gloria Goerner
Sandra Gould
Helen Greene
Joyce Guccione
Rita Gumler
Eleanor Haberkamp
Robert Hallis
Sharon Hayes
Elise Herald
Eleanor Herkert
Nolan Hey
Dan Hickey
Kay Hojnowski
Frank Horvath
Art Hundreiser
Karen Iacovelli
Alfredo Iannece
Irving Irons
Dorothy Jacob
Marilyn Jerger
Mike Kain
Bunny Kelly
Barbara Kucera
Leslie Kufner
Maryanne Kufner
Corazon Litorja
Encarnacion Lucio
Juliette Lyng
Violeta S. Magnabijon
James Maltezos
Benecio Martinez
Amy Mateo
Benjamin Mazzone
Gerardo Mazzone
Verna McFadden
Charlotte McHugh
Kevin Miller
Mattie Morales
Lily Moran
Patrick Morris
Elaine Nelson
Eileen Neumann
Judi Newbold
Jim Noesen
Joseph Olson
Lori Ott
Robert Ott
Vikki Pagan
Teopista Pellerin
Mary Phillips
Christine Pietschmann
Kathleen Pietschmann
Catherine Polster
Frank Pudlo
Rowan Quinain, Sr.
Theresa Raatz
Gloria C. Recede
Daanish Rizwan
Mary Ann (Kattner) Rupp
Martha Ruscheinski
Marilyn Samp
Denise Schilz
Joseph Sepeczi
Alison Serafini
Lisa Sherbondy
Frank Somogyi
Mary Speciale
Nancy Sternik
Jim Strzalka
Christine Sylvano
Jean Tashiro
Luka Tomasicyk
Rose Ann Vargas
Sofia Vitale
Laura Van Zandt
Helene Wieland
Hubert Yamane
Marvin Zelkin
Irene Zuponeck

Baptisms

Paul Matthew, *son of Daniel and Christine Kennedy*

Wedding Banns

II - Molly Zurek and Paul Kennedy

Our Armed Forces

Please pray for the safe return of all men and women in the armed forces - especially those in our parish family.

Nicholas Bednarz
Joe Butler
Christian Morales Canas
Kevin Cronin
Michael De Quattro
Christopher Haire
Neal Knudsvig
Ivan Morales
David Murcio
Scott Murray
Kirk Perisin
Kevin Powers
Leigh Anne Swafford
Marco Vallejo

Masses for the Week

First Saturday, February 4 - *Weekday*
8:30 am Cardinal Francis George
5:00 pm Thomas Thacker - *Fr. Jason and the St. Benedict Parish Community*
Mary Lou Kestler - *Gumler Family*
Betty Horvath Gabor - *Kim Dudak & Desiree Udvary*

Sunday, February 5 - *Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
7:30 am Cardinal Francis George
9:00 am Pat Stephenson - *The Lynch Family*
Mary Lou Kestler - *St. Benedict Ladies Society*
10:30 am Donald Benedict - *Maggie & Ed Reelfs*
Mary Lou Kestler - *Laela Skaer*
Special Intention for Dan McGrath - *Padmanabhan Family*
12:00pm Meghan Anne O'Doherty - *Fr. Jason and the St. Benedict Parish Community*
Raymond Kurth, Jr. - *Gerry and Gloria Ottesen*
Mary Lou Kestler - *Anne Hoellich*
6:30pm John T. Suh - *Fr. Jason and the St. Benedict Parish Community*

Monday, February 6 - *Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs*
8:30 am Ricardo and Paula Pingul - *Aurea Macaspac*
Gregorio and Marciana Macaspac - *Aurea Macaspac*
Dominado, Rosalina, and Benjamin Pingul - *Aurea Macaspac*

Tuesday, February 7 - *Weekday*
8:30 am Anthony Rebello - *Ramona Mendes and Family*

Wednesday, February 8 - *Saint Jermone Emiliani; Saint Josephine Bakhita, Virgin*
8:30 am Mark Anthony M. Baylon - *Jorge and Aurora Cortes*

Thursday, February 9 - *Weekday*
8:30 am Regner Nucup - *Friend*

Friday, February 10 - *Saint Scholastica, Virgin*
8:30 am Resl Neumann - Friend

Saturday, February 11 - *Our Lady of Lourdes, BVM*
8:30 am Cardinal Francis George
5:00 pm John Vincent Meehan - *Kathleen Lydon*
Dean Scholtes - *Pietschmann Family*

Sunday, February 12 - *Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
7:30 am John Colletta - *Fr. Jason and the St. Benedict Parish Community*
9:00 am Raymond, Kurth, Jr. - *Ken and Pat Woodhouse*
Mary Lou Kestler - *St. Benedict Ladies Society*
Special Intention for William Johnson - *Agnes Firek*
10:30 am Donald Benedict - *St. Benedict R.E. Catechists and Students*
12:00pm Henry Wirth - *Geldmyer Family*
Dorothy Kavanagh - *Joe and Kathy Minneci*
6:30pm Kevin O'Malley, Sr. - *Margaret Mary Lawlor*

Parish Information

Come Home to St. Ben's!

If you are visiting, we hope you enjoy your stay. We're glad you decided to join us in this celebration. If you are new to the St. Ben's community, welcome home! To become a registered parishioner, complete a Registration Form online at http://parish.stbenedict.com/becoming-a-parishioner/. One of our Ministers of Hospitality will be glad to assist you. If you are a former parishioner or a graduate of our schools, we are glad to see you back home. We hope you will return often. Contact Joe Accardi, Mission Advancement Officer at jaccardi@stbenedict.com.

Our weekly bulletin, The Steward, tells you about parish life. Submissions for the bulletin are generally due by Friday at 9 am of the week previous to publication. Electronic submissions are preferred via e-mail to bulletin@stbenedict.com. Flyers should be submitted in camera-ready format and will be used if space permits.

If you would like to receive our online weekly newsletter-"The Block", please contact the rectory to be placed on our emailing list.

If you have any questions, please call the rectory at (773) 588-6484. We look forward to hearing from you.

St. Benedict Parish and Preparatory School

ST. BENEDICT PARISH
Rectory: 2215 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, IL 60618
Phone: (773) 588-6484
Fax: (773) 588-4927
Email: www.stbenedict.com
Rectory hours: 8:30 AM – 8:00 PM (Monday-Thursday),
8:30 AM – 6:00 PM (Friday),
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Saturday),
9:00 AM – 1:30 PM (Sunday)

PASTORAL STAFF
Rev. Jason A. Malave, Pastor, ext. 5106, jmalave@stbenedict.com
Rev. Robert Beaven, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Robert Pajor, Assoc. Pastor, ext. 5103, rpajor@stbenedict.com
Elaine Lindia, Pastoral Associate, ext. 5101 elindia@stbenedict.com
Monsignor Richard Hynes, Resident
David Reyes, Deacon, ext. 5110, dreyes@stbenedict.com
Jeremy Kiolbassa, Director of Music Ministry, ext. 5107, jkiolbassa@stbenedict.com
Sr. Helen Marie Kling, D.C., Pastoral Assistant, ext. 5105, hkling@stbenedict.com
Daniel Hughes, Director of Catechesis, ext. 1271, dhughes@stbenedict.com
Kim McMillan, Director of Youth Ministry, ext. 5108, kmcmillan@stbenedict.com
Coordinator of the Kateri Center, ext. 7000,

PARISH SUPPORT STAFF
Geoff Pautsch, Director of Finance, ext. 5109, gpautsch@stbenedict.com
Ellen Roberts, Parish Manager, ext. 5104, eroberts@stbenedict.com
Barbara Schneider, Accounting Manager, ext. 5114, bschneider@stbenedict.com
Maria Tubay, Director of Communications ext. 2351, mtubay@stbenedict.com
Christine Clardy, Parish Office Assistant, ext. 5113, cclardy@stbenedict.com

ST. BENEDICT PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Rachel Gemo, Head of Parish School, (773) 463-6797, ext. 1220, rgemo@stbenedict.com
Joe Accardi, Mission Advancement Officer, ext. 2355, jaccardi@stbenedict.com

Early Childhood (PK-K)
Phone: (773) 588-7851
3901 N. Bell Ave, Chicago, IL 60618
Rachel Waldron, Head of Early Childhood, ext. 1380, rwaldron@stbenedict.com

Elementary School (1-5)
Phone: (773) 463-6797
3920 N. Leavitt, Chicago, IL 60618
Nancy Feely, Head of Elementary School, ext. 1101, nfeely@stbenedict.com

Secondary School (6-12)
Phone: (773) 539-0066
3900 N. Leavitt, Chicago, IL 60618
Erika Mickelburgh, Head of Secondary School, ext. 1253, emickelburgh@stbenedict.com

THE COMMISSIONS OF ST. BENEDICT PARISH
If you are interested in learning more about or joining one of the many ministries at St. Benedict Parish or would like to volunteer time or talent, please call the rectory or contact the following person(s):
Parish Council Chair: Karen Cholipski
Financial Council Chair: TBD
School Board Chair: Eileen Blake
Catechetical Commission: Daniel Hughes and Kim McMillan
Education Commission: Rachel Gemo, Rachel Waldron, Nancy Feely, or Erika Mickelburgh
Human Concerns Commission: Elaine Lindia
Parish Life Commission: Fr. Robert Pajor
Spiritual Life Commission: Fr. Jason Malave, Sr. Helen Kling, D.C. and Jeremy Kiolbassa

MASSES AND SERVICES
Sunday Eucharist: 5PM Saturday 7:30AM, 9AM, 10:30AM, 12 NOON, and 6:30PM Sunday
Weekday Eucharist: 8:30AM Monday – Saturday
Holy Day Eucharist: 8:30AM & 7PM
Family Mass: Monthly
Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help: Tuesdays 9AM
Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament: First Friday of each month, 9AM – 2PM, in church.
Baptisms: Scheduled on all Sundays at 1:30PM; on the fourth Sunday at one of the Masses. Parents must be registered parishioners. Baptism preparation class is required, usually before the birth of the child.
Reconciliation: Saturdays, 11AM - 12 NOON; seasonal celebrations, as posted; by appointment in the rectory.
Weddings: Arrange with a priest at least four months in advance. Participation in marriage preparation is essential. Monthly information meeting held on the 4th Monday at 7PM.
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): For unbaptized persons or baptized persons interested in learning more about the Catholic faith and the process of becoming a Catholic. Call the rectory.
Religious Education: Arrangements should be made for the religious education of children attending public schools with the Director of Catechesis.
Handicapped Accessibility: An elevator is available for all Sunday Masses. Enter the church through the East door. Please call the rectory for weekday availability.
Homebound: Call the rectory to arrange communion in home for those unable to attend Mass.
Mass Intentions: Mass intentions may be requested for someone who is living or deceased, or to commemorate a birthday, special anniversary, or the anniversary of a loved one's death. Please call the rectory.

Having Difficulty Dealing with our Stressful World?

The Holbrook Counseling Center of Catholic Charities provides counseling services at St. Matthias Parish. Cheryl Joseph-Lukz, MA, LCPC is the therapist at St. Matthias. Cheryl is a Licensed Clinical Counselor, and she has worked with individuals, couples and families for over 20 years. Whether you're having problems with personal relationships, work situations or are just feeling unhappy, "stuck", or unfulfilled, we're here for you. We are in network with BC/BS PPO. Please call (312) 655-7725.

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