



## The Light Side of the Dark

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**T**here's something to be said for kindness. Often when we say to ourselves that something is an act of godliness, it's when someone is kind, especially when it seems to come out of the blue. It's what John the Baptist seemed to be thinking when he said we would be baptized with the Holy Spirit and with the sort of passionate fire that warms and gives off light. Henry James, the British novelist, once said that three things were important in life—the first, be kind; the second, be kind; the third, be kind. Long before Henry James said it, St. Paul wrote to the Christian community in Philippi: “Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near” (Philippians 4:5). God's presence seems to be nearer when someone is kind.

It is curious how in the darkest moments of life, the light of kindness shines more brightly. Natural calamities seem to bring out kindness toward those who suffer. So too, at times of personal tragedies or disasters, when others are grieving the death of someone they love, as well as countless other times when people find themselves lost in the dark. Little wonder then how during this time of year when the days are shortest, and the nighttime dark is longest, that the days of Advent and Christmas seem to be laced with kindness for one another. Then the veil that hides God from our eyes grows thinner, and we catch glimpses of “God with us.” ●

### Reflect

***Have you made kindness  
a regular practice?***



**The peace of God that surpasses all understanding  
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.**

**PHILIPPIANS 4:7**

**Saint Benedict Catholic Church**

**336-272-0303**

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**Website: [stbenedictgreensboro.net](http://stbenedictgreensboro.net)**

**Email: [Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org](mailto:Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org)**

**Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-2:00pm on Wednesday and Friday**

**PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: As the Roman Catholic Mother Church of Greensboro, St. Benedict's Parish mission, responding faithfully to Christ's call, is to bring all people closer to God through liturgy, fellowship, service, outreach, and works of charity.**

**Rev. James Duong, Pastor**

**Lynne McGrath, Secretary & Faith Formation Coordinator**

**Weekend Mass**

**Sat.** Miraculous Medal

Novena at 4:45pm

Mass at 5:00pm

**Sun.** Mass at 8am & 11am

Chaplet of Divine

Mercy after 11am

Mass

**Confessions**

Weekdays before 12:15

Mass

Saturday 4 - 4:30pm

**Weekday Mass**

Rosary at 11:45am

Mass Monday - Friday

12:15pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

after Mass

**NO MASS on Thursday**

***Bulletin requests must be in***

***the Parish Office by noon***

***Wednesday, ten (10) days in***

***advance of the weekend of***

***publication.***

**PARISH REGISTRATION:** Welcome all new families and individuals. Membership is a condition for the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at St. Benedict, and for the parish to issue a sponsorship certificate for those asked to be sacramental sponsors. You must be a registered, contributing member for at least three (3) months before a certificate will be given. Registration forms are available in the parish office.

**SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** If you are seriously ill, going in for surgery or weak from old age, you may receive the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. Please contact Fr. Duong if you desire to receive this sacrament.

**HOSPITAL & NURSING HOME & SHUT-IN VISITS:** If you or any members of your family are sick and, in the hospital, or a nursing home, and you'd like Communion brought to them, please call the parish office.

**FAITH FORMATION:** All classes from pre-K to high school are on Sundays from **9:15-10:30am** in the parish hall. For more information call Lynne McGrath.

**RCIA:** Please call the parish office for more information.

**MARRIAGES:** Arrangements must be made with a priest/deacon at least six (6) months in advance. Call the parish office for more information.

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 15, 2024**

For unborn children:

That their human dignity will be recognized, respected, and protected  
by all from the moment of conception.

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**INTENTIONS**

12/14	Saturday	5:00pm	Frank Kauder
12/15	Sunday	8:00am	The Raul Garcia Family
		11:00am	For the Parishioners
12/16	Monday	12:15pm	Room at the Inn
12/17	Tuesday	12:15pm	Eric Hofer and the Family
12/18	Wednesday	12:15pm	Jeanne Scheidelman
12/19	Thursday	NO MASS	
12/20	Friday	12:15pm	For the living and the deceased members of Mumphrey family
12/21	Saturday	5:00pm	For the Parishioners
12/22	Sunday	8:00am	For the Duong Family
		11:00am	For John & Bunny Stuart Family

**Keeping Our Military in Our Prayers**

Kharll Skycer Villarin  
Sgt. W.R. Williams III  
Maj. Russel Henderson  
Sgt. Bryanna Spade  
Sgt. Kyle Spade  
April Ducote  
Aaron Gaither  
Phillip Kiniery  
Christopher Simmons  
Kris Guffey  
Jennifer Kmiecinski

**Sick and Shut-In**

Please remember our brothers and sisters  
in your prayers and at Mass: Carol Camp,  
Lynn Clay, Richard Collings, Virgil  
Dotson, Martha Eakes, Tracy Edwards,  
Bonnie McIntyre, Barbara Parsons,  
George Pickett, Dan Popik, Cam Reitzel,  
Luke & Heather Robinson, Manny &  
Laura Rodrigues, Kim Snyder, Vivian  
Speetjens, Marvin Tomlin Jr., Teresa Thu  
Tran, Frank Williams, Beth Wilson,  
Brian Wilson, Deborah Wilson, Jean  
Wilson

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

Weekly Offertory ....	\$ 3,449.00
Maintenance Fund ....	\$ 230.00
Thanksgiving ....	\$60.00
Christmas Flowers ....	\$155.00

**THANK YOU!**

## MINISTER SCHEDULE: DECEMBER 21 and 22

<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>E.M.</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>	<u>CANTOR</u>
5 pm	John Foley	Gloria Foley	Emily, Gloria	Christina Nutt
8 pm	Julia Ray	Trudy Menzzento	Raul, Mary, Jose	
11 am	Bill McCutcheon		Ava	Choir

## REFLECTION



Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."

### LEAVE A LEGACY

Put your life-long, hard-earned assets to work for the Lord. A gift, a planned sacrificial gift to the Lord, acknowledges that we are simply stewards of all which God has given us. We are managers of His blessings upon us. Just as we sacrificially give as good stewards throughout our lives, we give our final gift at the end of our lives here on earth.

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

What will help remind me to try to see the Lord in those in need?



# PARISH NEWS

**DIOCESAN  
SUPPORT  
APPEAL** 2024

**ONE** *Body in* **CHRIST**

**DSA 2024 - DIOCESAN SUPPORT APPEAL** We are now in the final month of the Diocesan Support Appeal campaign and *as of today 41 families have contributed*. We need each of you to help us reach our goal of \$28,753.00. Thank you.



**ADVENT 2024** "Advent has a two-fold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight". (*Universal Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar (henceforth, Universal Norms, 39)*)

**GIFT GIVING CHRISTMAS TREE** Saint Benedict parish is partnering with World Relief Triad to 'welcome the stranger' by helping with home setups, collecting household items needed during the resettlement process, and other efforts with local refugees. Again, we are dedicating our Giving Tree to collecting needed items as they start their new life in America. Please prayerfully consider taking one or more tags from the Giving Tree and placing the items under the tree by December 31.



**THIS WEEKEND** – December 14 and 15, we will have a second collection for the Religious Retirement Fund. Thank you for your generosity.



**ADVENT/CHRISTMAS DINNER** - *THANK YOU* to all those who made our Christmas Dinner a success – setting up, bringing food, cleaning up afterwards - and congratulations to those who won door prizes and raffle baskets! *THANKS* to the Ladies Group for organizing, and to the STEPHANY family for serving.



This week's altar flowers were donated by Roslyn Peterson. Thank you!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday	Dec. 18	Advent Reconciliation Service from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. *** NO confessions afterwards
Saturday	Dec. 21	Clean & decorate the church for Christmas - 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday	Dec. 24	CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS for Children at 6:00 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE MASS at 11:30 p.m. **** Christmas JOY sharing after Mass in the Old Rectory
Wednesday	Dec. 25	CHRISTMAS MASS at 10:00 a.m. **** No mass on Thursday & Friday
Sunday	Dec. 29	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Wednesday	Jan. 1	NEW YEAR The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (a holy day of obligation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A vigil Mass at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31</li><li>• Mass of a day at 12:00.p.m.</li></ul>

## Faith Formation



*Sunday School 2024-2025 for those age 3 through high school is from  
9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. every Sunday in the parish hall.*

To prepare for Christmas, Fr. Duc will offer confession for the students during class time this Advent.



This week we say **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to:

Alexia Lara-Garcia (12/12), Jose Cabrera (12/14),  
Fatima Espitia-Garcia (12/14), Nathaniel (Alex) Vicidomini (12/16),  
Ezra Garcia-Espitia (12/16), Katherine Whelan (12/18),  
Agela Bagnoli (12/18), Angela Miller (12/20)





December 15, 2024

## Third Sunday of Advent

Zep 3:14-18a | Phil 4:4-7 | Lk 3:10-18

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

### **GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE**

"I want to be a sanctuary lamp," Samantha, my childhood friend, once remarked. "To be the little flame that reminds everyone, 'God is here.'" In those short phrases, Samantha summarized not only her personal vocation, but also the all-important mission of St. John the Baptist. Like the candle burning before the tabernacle, St. John was not the long-awaited Messiah; his God-given task was to point others to Jesus. We hear this theme of St. John's message expressed repeatedly in today's readings: "The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst"; "Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!"; "one mightier than I is coming." God himself would soon be among them - indeed, he was already there. Although 2,000 years separate us from St. John the Baptist's ministry, the little flame still burns in the sanctuary to remind us that God has not only come, but he remains *in our midst*. This is cause for rejoicing: the same Jesus to whom John pointed is present among us in the Blessed Sacrament.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

Becoming more attuned and attentive to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist - that is, to God in our midst - entails embracing another part of St. John the Baptist's message. In today's Gospel, St. John counsels people from all walks of life to prepare for the coming Messiah by changing their lives. Only by turning away from sin and committing themselves to God will they be able to recognize and follow Christ when he comes. If we desire deeper faith in the Eucharist, our preparation must be similar: we ask God to show us the dusty corners of our souls which we have concealed from his merciful love. Then, confident in his willingness to forgive, we approach him in the sacrament of confession. This is his ardent desire: that, having come among us, he might forgive and heal us. Such is the meaning behind the consoling words of the Prophet Zephaniah in today's first reading: "He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love."

### **SING**

*O Christ, whom nations sigh for  
Whom priest and prophet long foretold  
Come break the captive fetters  
Redeem the long-lost fold*

# Dear Padre,

***My family, friends, and coworkers seem to be uncomfortable when I tell them that I've been praying for them. Should I just keep it to myself?***

There is nothing fundamentally wrong with telling people you have been praying for them. Most people are probably grateful for such care and support. But it can be a little tricky. If the person believes the praying is actually a judgment and not a blessing, it may provoke a less-than-grateful response. This is where honest discernment on your part is invited. Are you coming across as prayerfully concerned, or is there some criticism or judgment in what seems to be an innocent blessing? People are able to perceive the difference.

Another consideration—and this is not at all unusual as a response in the culture of today—is that some people are very defensive about any religious expressions and do not react favorably. Think, for example, about the different reactions to “Merry Christmas” or “Happy Holidays,” which can often provoke the familiar idiom “them’s fightin’ words.” My best advice is to keep praying for everyone, as no one truly understands or fully appreciates the power of prayer. That being said, temper your announcement when you suspect it will not be well received. This demonstrates a grateful and blessed heart, which is what you intend and hope for, after all. ●



MARY LONG / SHUTTERSTOCK

**Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org)**

## **Do you have a question for the Padre?**

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
December 16 <i>Advent Weekday</i>	December 17 <i>Advent Weekday</i>	December 18 <i>Advent Weekday</i>	December 19 <i>Advent Weekday</i>	December 20 <i>Advent Weekday</i>	December 21 <i>Advent Weekday</i>	December 22 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
Nm 24:2–7, 15–17a Mt 21:23–27	Gn 49:2, 8–10 Mt 1:1–17	Jer 23:5–8 Mt 1:18–25	Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a Lk 1:5–25	Is 7:10–14 Lk 1:26–38	Sg 2:8–14 or Zep 3:14–18a Lk 1:39–45	Mi 5:1–4a Heb 10:5–10 Lk 1:39–45



## **A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS**

***[The crowd asked John the Baptist,] “What shall we do?” By suggesting this question, the Gospel reminds us of something important: life has a task for us.... Each of us—let us not forget this—has a mission to accomplish. So, let us not be afraid to ask the Lord: what shall I do?***

**ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 12, 2021**