

[Elizabeth said to Mary,] "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

LUKE 1:45

Feeling Our Way

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Most of the time we find ourselves backing our way into the will of God, or maybe even feeling our way into it. There are times when the will of God is quite clear: Should I lie or tell the truth? Should I steal or not? Most often, however, the will of God is not so clear. Too often it becomes a question of how to negotiate an aspect of life that's been handed to us, often a reality we cannot escape. It may be an unwanted divorce, or a son or daughter in a questionable relationship, or an illness that dismantles one's life plans. On the one hand, it is not as if God hands out scripts that we are expected to live by. On the other hand, God is part of all that unfolds. Somewhere in the midst of that is the will of God, which is another way of saying somehow you and I need to negotiate what we never chose, but is now served up by life. Or is it served up by God? Or by our own doing? Or all of that? That's what I mean when I say we feel our way into the will of God.

It is what Jesus sorted out in the desert when he was tempted, "I come to do your will, O God." It is Elizabeth's story of an unexpected pregnancy in her old age. It is Mary saying "Yes" to an uncharted path. Living God's will seems mostly to be a sorting process. ●

Reflect

Have you responded with a whole-hearted "Yes" to God's will for you?

Saint Benedict Catholic Church

336-272-0303

Website: stbenedictgreensboro.net

Email: 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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2024

For married couples who long to welcome a child into their family:
May the coming of the Christ Child bring hope and peace.

MASS SCHEDULE

INTENTIONS

12/21	Saturday	5:00pm	For the Parishioners
12/22	Sunday	8:00am	The Duong Family
		11:00am	John & Bunny Stuart Family
12/23	Monday	12:15pm	+ John B. Maier
12/24	CHRISTMAS EVE	6:00pm	For the Parishioners
		11:30pm	For the Parishioners
12/25	CHRISTMAS DAY	10:00am	For the Parishioners
12/26	Thursday	NO MASS	
12/27	Friday	NO MASS	
12/28	Saturday	5:00pm	+ George & Robin VanPelt
12/29	Sunday	8:00am	For the Parishioners
		11:00am	The McGrath 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

\$ 3,601.00

THANK YOU!

MINISTER SCHEDULE: DECEMBER 28 and 29

<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>E.M.</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>	<u>CANTOR</u>
5 pm	Bob Nutt	Cindy Nutt	Emily, Gloria	Myra Vazquez
8 pm	Linda McLendon	David Kolosieke	Raul, Mary, Jose	
11 am	Pat Nolan	Laura Rosic	Ava	Choir

REFLECTION



The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.

LEAVE A LEGACY

As Christian stewards, we share the responsibility of making our Church a true community of faith and a vibrant source of service to the larger community. That includes providing financial support for today's needs – and building a firm financial foundation for tomorrow.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

What do I need to do in order to discern Jesus' presence in someone I've just met? In a friend? In someone I disagree with?



PARISH NEWS



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.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN MEMORY/HONOR OF...



*** All Deceased Parishioners of St. Benedict Catholic Church

*** All Benefactors of St. Benedict Catholic Church



***Those in the military

+ Don & Bea Clark
Doris Saffer
+ Souls in Purgatory
Confirmation students
+ Joseph D. O'Neill
+ Arline B. O'Neill
+ Margaret Davis
+ John & Janice
Watterson
+ Fred & Gert Rankel
+ Yiyun Wang
+ Eryin Ding
+ John P. Watterson II
+ Santiago Vazquez
+ Maria Colamarino

+ Anthony Vazquez
+ Alan Pagan
+ Haydee Pereira
+ George VanPelt
+ Robin VanPelt
+ Sabina Hagerstrom
+ Luciana DeCarli
+ Angela DeCarli
+ Angelo DeCarli
+ Roy Hagerstrom
+ Higginbotham Family
+ Ray Family
+ Ralph Lepore
+ Cook Family

+ Fantigrossi Family
Wilde Family
Menzzentto &
Scheidelman
Families
Masson Family-
Living & Deceased
Dancausse Family-
Living and Deceased
+ Roberto & Laude
Diaz
Novotny Family
+ Bob Forrest
Bernadine Novanty

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

- 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)
- A vigil Mass at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31
 - Mass of the day at 12:00 p.m.

Faith Formation

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

*** There will be no Faith Formation on December 29. Classes will resume on January 5. ***



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

John Kanode (12/21), Karen Collings (12/23),

Ashile Mensah (12/25), Gabriel Garcia-Delgado (12/27)

MERRY CHRISTMAS



December 22, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mi 5:1-4a | Heb 10:5-10 | Lk 1:39-45

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

Ask a child, “Where is God?” and you’ll likely receive a variety of responses: “in heaven,” “in church,” “everywhere” and “in my heart” are all conceivable answers from a child’s lips. But the one we most easily write off as silly or sentimental is one that the saints would urge us to revisit more seriously: God is indeed “in my heart” – that is, he is present in our souls! This is true not only when we receive him in Holy Communion, and not only because he is “everywhere,” but because we possess *sanctifying grace*. Grace is *divine life* – God’s life – and if we are “in a state of grace” (that is, we have brought any mortal sins to confession), we have this life within us! Our model for becoming aware of this wonderful gift is our Blessed Mother, whose example in today’s Gospel teaches us to love, reverence, and obey God within us. Setting out “in haste” to serve her aged cousin, Mary carried God in her womb. We can imagine the love and joy with which she carried him. At every moment, God is present in us, too (not physically, but by grace) and we should strive to recognize and love him who has made our hearts his dwelling place.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The events of today’s Gospel suggest that Jesus’ presence in Mary is not *for* Mary alone. Prompted by love, she made the arduous journey to visit Elizabeth – itself an act of charity. But Mary brought more than her services and support to Elizabeth during a potentially difficult pregnancy; she brought God himself! Mary was so conscious of God within her that even her words, flowing from a heart burning with his love, carried a special power; at Mary’s greeting, Elizabeth was “filled with the Holy Spirit” and John the Baptist “leaped for joy.” As we become increasingly aware of God dwelling in our souls, we, too, become “Christ-bearers” to others. By being lovingly attentive to our Divine Guest, our words and actions become means by which he can act on the hearts of those we encounter each day.

SING

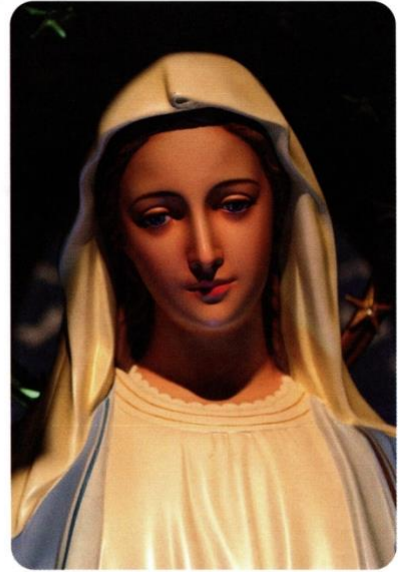
*O come, divine Messiah!
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph
And sadness flee away*

Dear Padre,

Where does the Hail Mary prayer come from?

The Hail Mary owes its origin to the rosary. The traditional story of the rosary was that Mary herself appeared to St. Dominic in the twelfth century and gave him the rosary with the promise that if he spread devotion to the rosary, his religious order would flourish. In the twelfth century, religious orders recited together the 150 psalms as a way to mark the hours of the day and the days of the week. In order to pray the psalms, though, people had to know how to read. People who didn't know how to read wanted to share in the practice, so the rosary, or praying on beads, began as a parallel prayer practice. It was a way that illiterate people could remember the Lord and his Mother throughout the day.

The first rosaries consisted of a string of 150 beads, and, much as we do now, a person would pass over each bead after saying a prayer, usually the Our Father. Later, people added the Archangel Gabriel's greeting—"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee"—and later still, Elizabeth's prayer we hear in today's Gospel—"Blessed art thou among women." Finally this prayer was added in the sixteenth century: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death." ●



IMAGOLATE/SUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 23 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Lk 1:57-66	December 24 <i>Advent Weekday</i> 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Lk 1:67-79	December 25 <i>Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)</i> Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14	December 26 <i>St. Stephen, First Martyr</i> Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22	December 27 <i>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i> 1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a, 2-8	December 28 <i>Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i> 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Mt 2:13-18	December 29 <i>Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i> Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 Lk 2:41-52

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



YARA NARDI / CNS

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Do I move forward with hope...? We can also ask for...the grace of a healthy sense of humor: it does so much good.... The first act of charity we can do for our neighbors is to offer them a serene and smiling face. It is bringing the joy of Jesus to them, as Mary did with Elizabeth.

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 19, 2021