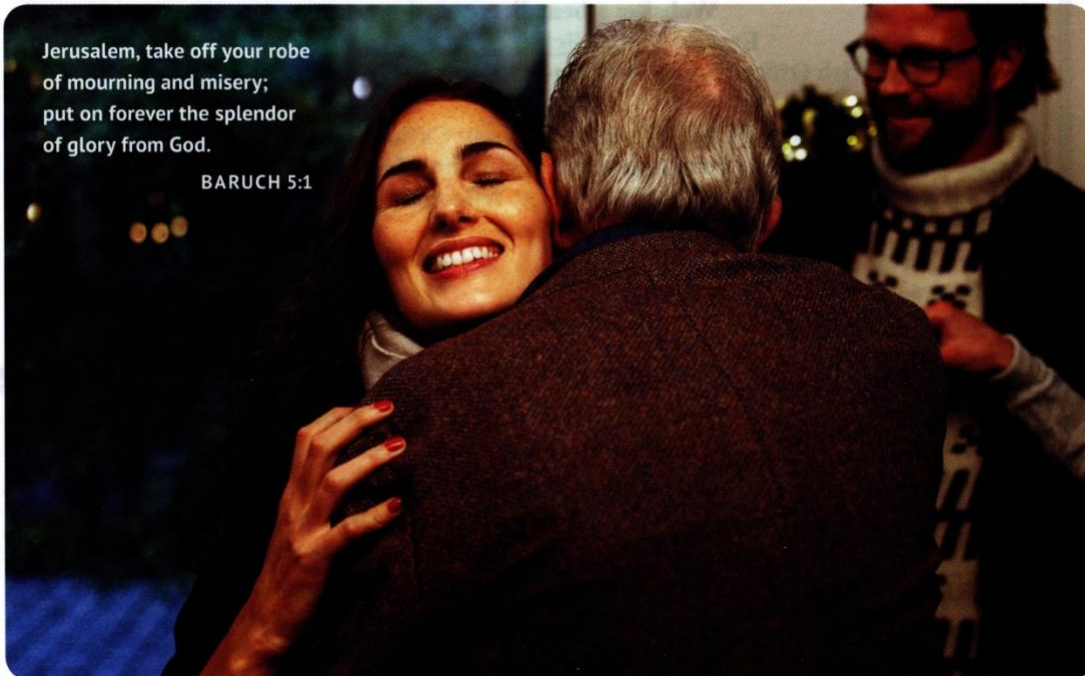




Jerusalem, take off your robe
of mourning and misery;
put on forever the splendor
of glory from God.

BARUCH 5:1



Coming Home

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Coming home can take place in many varied ways. Sometimes it's at the end of a long day when we come home to where we can be ourselves without any pretensions. Sometimes it's going back to the neighborhood we grew up in, to the old haunts that remind us of the dreams we had and how they now seem tucked in every niche. Sometimes coming home is what happens after many wanderings, after we've sown our oats and harvested little and now have nowhere else to go. That too is a coming home, back to where it all began, back to where we dare to hope that life might begin again.

All of this is how the Hebrew people found themselves coming home to Jerusalem after eighty years of exile, coming back to start anew with the hope that their God would once again be proud of them, back to where they could be as God intended them to be. All of that is what we do when we decide we will try to be the sort of person we'd always hoped to become. It's when we attempt a second effort at making a marriage work, or a job productive, or maybe simply putting the pieces of our lives back in some sort of order. It's all about coming back home to God's dream for us, a kind of second Advent, when God comes into our lives and is born once again. ●

Reflect

Have you wandered too far from the values of your true home? Can you find your way back?

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 8, 2024

For expectant mothers:

That the Lord will provide for all their needs
and prepare them to welcome their children with joy.

MASS SCHEDULE

INTENTIONS

12/7	Saturday	5:00pm	+ Robin & George VanPelt
12/8	Sunday	8:00am	Leslie Brown
		11:00am	For the Parishioners
12/9	Monday	12:15pm	+ Nick Menzzento
12/10	Tuesday	12:15pm	DePaoli Family
12/11	Wednesday	12:15pm	Room at the Inn
12/12	Thursday	NO MASS	
12/13	Friday	12:15pm	Intentions of Father Duc
12/14	Saturday	5:00pm	Frank Kauder
12/15	Sunday	8:00am	The Raul Garcia Family
		11:00am	For the Parishioners

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	\$ 4,944.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 878.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 301.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 660.00

THANK YOU!

MINISTER SCHEDULE: DECEMBER 14 and 15

<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>E.M.</u>	<u>ALTER SERVERS</u>	<u>CANTOR</u>
<u>5 pm</u>	Kim Garcia	Danielle Hayes	Emily, Gloria	Tom Garcia
<u>8 pm</u>	David Kolosieke	Geoff Stephany	Raul, Mary, Jose	
<u>11 am</u>	Bunny Stuart	Bill McCutcheon	Eva	Choir

REFLECTION



Good stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the Psalmist, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!"

LEAVE A LEGACY

Your employer may help you pass on your Catholic heritage. Many companies match gifts made to endowments. That means your gift may be worth more than you think! Ask your employer if they have a matching gift program.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

What can I do today for someone whom the world regards as lowly?



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 IS HERE! "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.



OUR PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER is TODAY! See you at 3 p.m. for a delicious dinner, raffles, door prizes and fellowship.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION will be celebrated Monday, December 9, this year. **It is a Holy Day of Obligation.** Masses will be at 12:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

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

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

Trudy Menzzentto (12/8), Thomas Halsey (12/8), Robert Nutt (12/10),
Linda McLendon (12/11), Gino Colamarino (12/11)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday	Dec. 8	Christmas Dinner – 3:00 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pick up the bulletin for more information
Monday	Dec. 9	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of our Blessed Virgin Mary (a holy day of obligation) Mass # 1 at 12 p.m. Mass # 2 at 6 p.m.
Wednesday	Dec. 18	Advent Reconciliation Service from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. *** NO confessions afterwards
Saturday	Dec. 21	Clean 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.
Wednesday	Dec. 25	CHRISTMAS MASS at 10:00 a.m.
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">• A vigil Mass at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 31• Mass of a day at 12:00.p.m.

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



December 8, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Second Sunday of Advent

Bar 5:1-9 | Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 | Lk 3:1-6

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

On this second Sunday of Advent, when the hustle and bustle of the season is already upon us, I find Paul's words in his Letter to the Philippians very comforting. He says he is confident "that the one who began a good work in [us] will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." Jesus will continue to be our Advocate and our Rock until the day he comes again. Yes, these are comforting words, indeed. But we know that being a disciple of Christ requires our cooperation and our daily assent to doing God's will. How do we know God's will for us? In his letter, Paul goes on to pray that our love may continue to increase in knowledge and perception "to discern what is of value." In other words, if we are going to be able to choose what is good, we must be able to recognize it and then focus on it.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

This is where "the voice of one crying out in the wilderness" speaks to us during this season in which we prepare for Christ's coming. It is a season of hope and anticipation, but it also must be a season of preparation. In today's Gospel, the proclamation of John the Baptist takes center stage; he proclaims a "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" and says to "prepare the way of the Lord." These words do not suggest passivity - waiting patiently for the Lord to come. They suggest action: Repent. Prepare. Make straight his paths. Today let us consider how we can prepare for the Lord's coming in our own lives. God has made us *good*, and he wants to bring that goodness to completion. As we continue in this Advent season, let us stay focused on recognizing and choosing "what is of value" in our lives so that we are able to truly rejoice that the Lord draws near.

SING

*Dear Savior, haste
Come, come to earth
Dispel the night and show your face
And bid us hail the dawn of grace*

Dear Padre,

If Christmas is on December 25, why is the Immaculate Conception on December 8, rather than sometime in March?

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception asserts that Mary was free of the stain of original sin from the time she was conceived in her mother's womb. Jesus was also free of the stain of original sin and his conception by Mary is referred to as the Incarnation of Christ. Mary's Immaculate Conception is often confused for Christ's Incarnation.

In the Church's liturgical calendar, Mary's conception is celebrated on December 8; her birthday is celebrated exactly nine months later on September 8. Likewise, Christ's conception is celebrated on March 25 on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord; his birthday is celebrated exactly nine months later on December 25.

Mary's Immaculate Conception was celebrated many centuries before Pope Pius IX defined it as dogma on December 8, 1854: "The doctrine that maintains that the Blessed Virgin Mary in the first instant of her conception, by a unique grace and privilege granted to her by Almighty God, in consideration of the merits of Jesus Christ the Savior of mankind, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore must be firmly and constantly believed by all the faithful" (*Ineffabilis Deus*). In fact, eight years before, in 1846, the bishops of the United States had already adopted the Immaculate Conception as the patronal feast for Catholics in this country.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION BY PHILIP VEIT (1830) RENATA SEMAKOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 9 <i>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Gn 3:9–15, 20 Eph 1:3–6, 11–12 Lk 1:26–38	December 10 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 40:1–11 Mt 18:12–14	December 11 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 40:25–31 Mt 11:28–30	December 12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> Zec 2:14–17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab Lk 1:26–38 or Lk 1:39–47	December 13 <i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i> Is 48:17–19 Mt 11:16–19	December 14 <i>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i> Sir 48:1–4, 9–11 Mt 17:9a, 10–13	December 15 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Zep 3:14–18a Phil 4:4–7 Lk 3:10–18



YARA NARDI / CNS

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

By calling us to conversion, John urges us to go “beyond” where we presently are; to go beyond what our instincts tell us... Let us ask for the grace to believe that with God things really do change, that he will banish our fears, heal our wounds... Let us ask for the grace of hope...

HOMILY, ATHENS, DECEMBER 5, 2021