



Embrace the Darkness

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

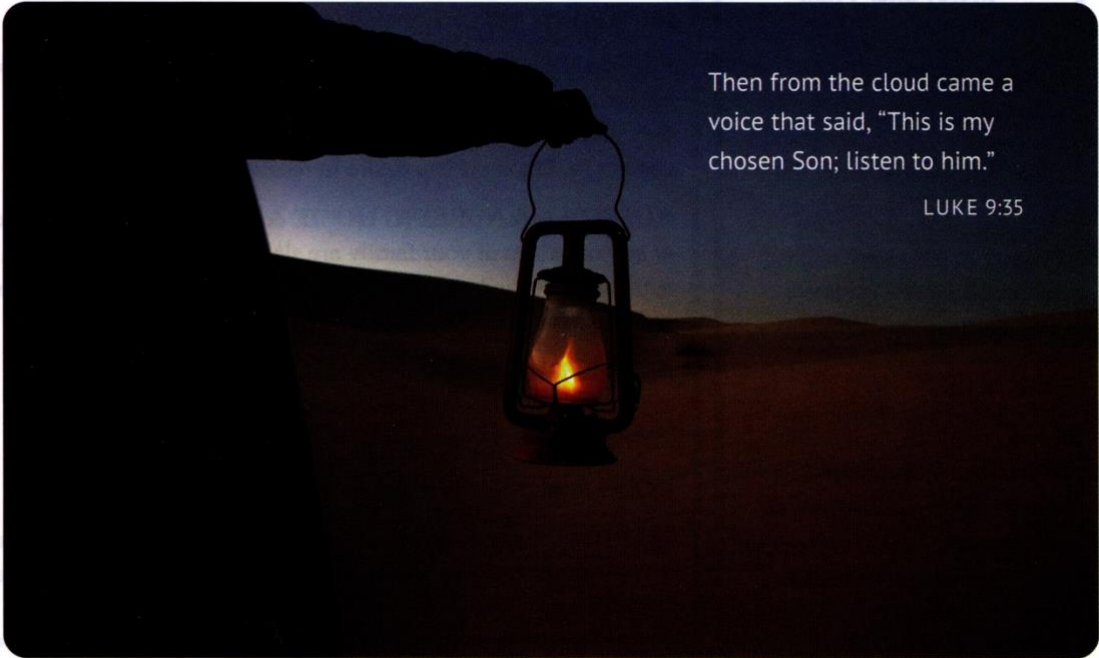
The darkness can be unsettling. As a child, my nightly bedtime ritual included checking beneath my bed as well as in the dark hall closet. One could never know what denizens of harm might be lurking there, hidden in the shadows. As adults, the darkness we fear is no longer what lies hidden about our home. Rather, the darkness we attempt to escape is the unknown forces that have the power to overturn our lives. It is the death of someone we love that plunges us into fear and loss, forcing us to somehow make our way, alone and unsure. It is the frightening medical diagnosis that has the ability to dismantle our planned future. It is the financial security that dissolves before our very eyes. In such darkness, we grope blindly to find our way.

The Book of Genesis notes that a trance came upon Abram, a terrifying darkness that enveloped him. The gospel relays how Peter, James, and John became frightened atop Mt. Tabor when they found themselves in a cloud that obscured their sight. Yet, the darkness became for each of them a place in which they came to know their God in a totally new way; it set them on a new path of faith. It is then that we, too, are forced to surrender trust in our own wisdom.

Unable to see clearly what is in store for us, we can only rely on a new path, trusting that we will be accompanied by our God. ●

Reflect

When has life's darkness brought me to a new and deeper faith in God?



Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him."

LUKE 9:35

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 LENT
MARCH 16, 2025

For adoptive fathers:

May they reflect God's constant, steady love
as they embrace their roles of guardian, father, and protector.

MASS SCHEDULE

INTENTIONS

3/15	Saturday	5:00pm		Roberta VanPelt - healing
3/16	Sunday	8:00am	+	Marjorie Brown
		11:00am		For the Parishioners
3/17	Monday	12:00pm	+	Barbara Nicke – funeral Mass
3/18	Tuesday	12:15pm		Tom & Jodi McDonough family
3/19	Wednesday	12:15pm		Room at the Inn
3/20	Thursday	NO MASS		
3/21	Friday	12:15pm		Alex McGrath - birthday
3/22	Saturday	5:00pm		For the Parishioners
3/23	Sunday	8:00am		Intention of Father Duc
		11:00am	+	Anthony Vazquez

+ denotes deceased

Keeping Our Military in Our Prayers

Khiem Villarin
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: Lynn Clay, Richard Collings, Virgil Dotson, Lupina Doyle, Janice Drasler, Martha Eakes, Tracy Edwards, Bonnie McIntyre, Kimberly Oliver, Barbara Parsons, George Pickett, Dan Popik, Cam Reitzel, Luke & Heather Robinson, Manny & Laura Rodrigues, Kim Snyder, Vivian Speetjens, Marvin Tomlin Jr., Teresa Thu Tran, Roberta VanPelt, Frank Williams, Wilson, Brian Wilson, Jean Wilson

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Weekly Offertory

\$ 3,791.00

THANK YOU!

MINISTER SCHEDULE: MARCH 22 AND 23

<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>E.M.</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>	<u>CANTOR</u>
5 pm	Christina Nutt	Amy Nutt	Emily, Gloria	Myra Vazquez
8 am	David Kolosieke	Raul Garcia	Raul, Mary, Jose	
11 am	Myra Vazquez	Bill McCutcheon	Ava	Choir

REFLECTION



Peter, James, and John wanted to build a "booth" for Jesus and just stay on the mountain where His transfiguration took place. But the Son of God, the Chosen One, knew that He must instead keep moving toward His Crucifixion. We, too, must rise from worship and do what we can to hasten the coming of the Kingdom.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Is there an angel in your home? A Life Estate Arrangement will allow you to donate your home to St. Benedict's, give you a tax deduction, and remain in your home as long as you wish. To learn more, contact Gina Rhodes at 704-370-3364 or gmrhodes@rcdoc.org.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

Looking at my Lenten journey as an exodus from sin and worldly values, what specifically is holding me captive and preventing a truly new life in the risen Lord?



PARISH NEWS

**DIOCESAN
SUPPORT
APPEAL** 2025

Reflecting God's Light

THE DIOCESAN SUPPORT APPEAL (DSA) 2025 is underway. This year's theme is "Reflecting God's Light". We are all called to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters both here in our parish and in the diocese. **The target for St. Benedict's is \$31,234.** Thank You!

DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX (DMI) SURVEYS are now available on-line at <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/d/x43ya6> or in a printed version in the church. Both versions are confidential and should be completed prior to April 8. It is important that St. Benedict's receives input from every parish family. Together we embrace Christ's vision for discipleship so our parish can thrive and be a place for others to grow together in faith. There have been 20 on-line, and 5 print responses so far. Thank you!



FAITH FORMATION

During Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross in the parish hall at the end of classes. All are welcome.

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



Daniel Salazar (3/16), Domenico Vicidomini (3/17), Katie Hamlin (3/20),

Aidan Sorbito-Alegado (3/21), Prince Gabriel Sorbito (3/21)

COMMUNITY NEWS

COMING SOON The Diocese of Charlotte's Catholic Charities 2025 Partners in Hope Dinner will be held on Thursday, March 27 at the Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem. Monsignor Anthony Marcaccio will be the recipient (posthumously) of the 2025 Bishop Curlin Partners in Hope Award. Although the event is complimentary, attendees will be invited to make a donation in support of Catholic Charities' many services. To become a sponsor, or a table captain, to register or for more information, please visit www.ccdoc.org/PIH or email partnersinhopecc@gmail.com.



LENTEN REGULATIONS

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday:

These are days of *Fast and Abstinence from meat*. There is a limit of one full meal on these days for all between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive.

Weekdays of Lent:

There is no obligation to fast. However, voluntary acts of self-denial are recommended.

Days of Abstinence: (All Fridays in Lent)

All who have reached the age of 14 are bound to totally abstain from meat.

LENTEN SCHEDULE AT ST. BENEDICT

Stations of the Cross:

Every Friday of Lent at 6 p.m.

Every Sunday in the parish hall following Faith Formation classes

Penance Service:

St. Benedict's TBA

STATIONS OF THE CROSS:



Telling the story of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus was an important part of the early Christian's experience. In the late fourth century, people began making pilgrimages to the Holy Land, where they would follow the path that Jesus took to Calvary. During the Middle Ages, when outbreaks of war made it impossible for people to travel to the Holy Land, people created a Via Dolorosa, or "Sorrowful Way," in their towns and villages. They erected paintings or sculptures depicting the Passion of Christ along a processional route or inside a church. By the mid-18th century, the number of stations was fixed at 14 and the devotion known as the Stations of the Cross, also called the Way of the Cross, became widespread.



March 16, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 15:5-12, 17-18 | Phil 3:17-4:1 | Lk 9:28b-36

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

As humans, we are often burdened with heavy crosses. Experiences of loss, lack, failure, and betrayal can riddle our existence, leaving us fatigued and with a weary question in our hearts: What is this all for? And then, we look up. We raise our gaze and see before us the transfigured face of Christ. Having taken on our human form, Jesus stands before us in radiant glory. As we take in the scene, our senses mingling somewhere between admiration and alarm, we remember the promise he made to us. The promise that we, too, will be made new. The promise that our bodies will also be redeemed, and our burdens will be relieved. And as we remember, we respond, like the disciples, "It is good that we are here." The life of discipleship, at times, can seem to require more than it rewards. But in these moments of intimate encounter, when we see glimpses of Jesus' beautiful face, he reminds us why we are here on this mountain: to love, to serve, and eventually to reap our eternal reward.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

We see why we are here on the mountain, but today's readings also reveal a weighty reality: before we are transformed, we must *climb* that mountain. The whole story of Jesus' life is this: before a promise is fulfilled, sacrifice is offered. Our human existence, without the mercy and mission given us by Christ, is empty. But taking up the cross of Christ and following him toward glory, we find our purpose. Earth is our pilgrimage, and our journey will most certainly be punctuated by peaks and valleys. But today, St. Paul reminds us in his Letter to the Philippians that we won't be carrying around these crosses forever. Though strapped with suffering for a time, we know our eternal destination: "Our citizenship is in heaven."

REFLECT

Lent is inherently a season of waiting for the fulfillment of a promise. In our own lives, we may be aching for transformation, perhaps for ourselves, or for another. Remember: God enters deeply into our lives, dwelling so intimately with us that he syncs his every breath with ours. Take the next week to think and pray about how the Lord may be asking you to be transformed. Pray today's Psalm each day, and "Wait for the Lord with courage."

Dear Padre,

Does the Church teach how we should dress to go to Mass? Maybe I'm just old-fashioned, but the way some people dress seems very disrespectful.

Church teaching, dogmas, doctrines, and creedal formulations are not the specific resources to consult in order to answer this question. It is properly a matter of discipline and practice, although the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* does direct that “bodily demeanor (gestures, clothing) ought to convey respect” (1387). There are many commentaries on what exactly “respect” might mean.

It would be very difficult to establish a universal dress code. The many different cultures, climates, and particular circumstances of a specific Catholic community make a dress code unmanageable. It seems that you judge the local practice not up to your standards. Your judgment may be correct, or you may have unreasonable expectations. There was a time when “Sunday best” was the established norm. In other communities, the expectation would be “business casual” as a bare minimum. Now, it seems standards and practices are very fluid and flexible. All of this being said, it is ultimately a pastoral concern, not doctrinal or dogmatic. Try not to allow how other people dress distract you from your purpose at Mass. While they may not look like you imagine they should, their prayer might be genuine and heartfelt. ●



BIRCHAGE / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

After the labors of each day, it will do us good not to switch off the light in the room without placing ourselves in the light of God.... Wonder at the boundless love of God, who never tires of us and has the power to transfigure our days, to give them a new meaning, a new, unexpected light.



ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 13, 2022

UNSPASH

Monday

March 17
Lenten Weekday
Dn 9:4b-10
Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday

March 18
Lenten Weekday
Is 1:10, 16-20
Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday

March 19
St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22
Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Thursday

March 20
Lenten Weekday
Jer 17:5-10
Lk 16:19-31

Friday

March 21
Lenten Weekday
Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday

March 22
Lenten Weekday
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday

March 23
Third Sunday of Lent
Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15
1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12
Lk 13:1-9

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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