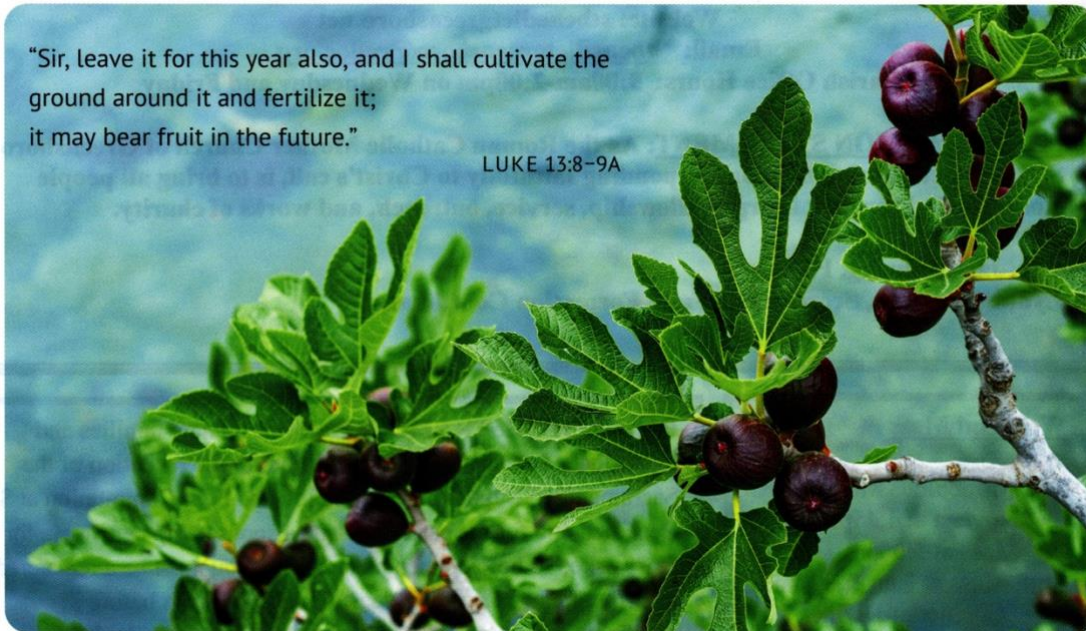




“Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future.”

LUKE 13:8–9A



A Gardener God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Charles Baudelaire was a French poet and essayist in the mid-1800s. He once observed that life is like a hospital in which each patient is possessed by the desire to change beds. In other words, he thought everyone seemed to think life would be so much better if only they had a different set of circumstances, a different job, a different marriage, a different place in life. Like trees, however, not everyone grows and matures at the same pace. There are forty-year-olds who still act and think like teenagers, and there are ten-year-olds who have an attitude toward life like that of an elder. Over time, we all grow into the lives we're given.

In this week's Parable of the Barren Fig Tree, some think God is like the owner who planted the tree, as

if God is impatient with us to begin bearing fruit and quick to uproot us if we fail. A case could be made, however, for God to be the gardener who patiently fertilizes and nurtures. In the beginning, it was God who had a garden called Eden, filled with all kinds of trees and plants among which God walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the evening. After the resurrection, it was Mary Magdalene who went looking for the body of Jesus and mistook him for the gardener. It is God who hovers over us, watering and nudging and nurturing, waiting until in God's good time, we begin to bear fruit. ●

Reflect

***What needs nurturing in my life,
and what needs weeding out?***

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 or in the hospital or a nursing home, and you'd like Communion brought to you/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 LENT
MARCH 23, 2025

For all Christians:

May we live out our baptismal call to proclaim the gospel
and be messengers of God's love for every human life.

MASS SCHEDULE

INTENTIONS

3/22	Saturday	5:00pm		For the Parishioners
3/23	Sunday	8:00am		Father Duc's intention
		11:00am	+	Anthony Vazquez
3/24	Monday	12:15pm		Parishioner's sister
3/25	Tuesday	12:15pm		Room at the Inn
3/26	Wednesday	12:15pm		In Thanksgiving for Life
3/27	Thursday	NO MASS		
3/28	Friday	12:15pm		Father Duc's intention
3/29	Saturday	5:00pm		Kimberly Oliver - health
3/30	Sunday	8:00am	+	Hilda Clark
		11:00am		For the Parishioners

+ denotes deceased

Keeping Our Military in Our Prayers

Khiem Villarin
Kharll Skyker 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

\$ 3,164.00

THANK YOU!

MINISTER SCHEDULE: MARCH 29 AND 30

<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>E.M.</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>	<u>CANTOR</u>
5 pm	Amy Nutt	Christine Nutt	Emily, Jelyssa	Tom Garcia
8 am	Julia Ray	Trudy Menzzentto	Raul, Mary, Jose	
11 am	Bunny Stuart	Laura Rosic	Ava	Choir

REFLECTION



The parable in today's Gospel clearly warns that we, like the fig tree, will be judged by our fruit. While God mercifully provides us with time and opportunity, let us give witness to our faith with deeds of kindness and generosity!

LEAVE A LEGACY

More and more Catholic families are making substantial gifts to parish endowments in memory of parents and other loved ones. Contact Gina Rhodes, diocesan Director of Planned Giving, at 704-370-3364 or gmrhodes@rcdoc.org to establish a memorial fund in the name of those special people.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

When do I get the feeling that my spiritual well has run dry? How do I reinvigorate myself spiritually?



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.** To date, 13 families have donated or pledged. Thank You!

REMEMBER YOUR SURVEY! Disciple Maker Index (DMI) surveys are 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. Thank you to those who have already responded.

JOB OPPORTUNITY St. Benedict's is looking for a parttime organist/pianist, mainly for the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. If interested, or know of someone who might qualify, please contact Father Duc at 336-272-0303 or Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org.

FAITH FORMATION



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

Next Sunday, March 30, Father Duc will hear the children's confessions during Faith Formation.

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

Anna Bagnoli (3/23), Margaretta D'Avella (3/24), Michelle Garrison (3/24),

Suzanne Raymond (3/25), Laura Rosic (3/26), Mary Nunez (3/27),

Arnold Jeffreys (3/27), Frances Oakes – 100 years old! (3/28)





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 23, 2025

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15 | 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 | Lk 13:1-9

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Meaningful human relationships rarely last if only one party makes an effort to maintain a connection. The same is true in our relationship with God. In the scene recorded in today's first reading – arguably one of human history's "Top Ten" most important events – God takes the initiative, but the encounter is two-sided. God causes the bush to burn and Moses approaches; God calls Moses and he responds, "Here I am!"; finally, Moses asks God his name and God reveals himself as "I am who am." Moses' cooperation with God throughout is essential for them to arrive at this monumental revelation which would allow Moses (and, by extension, all of the Israelites) to call upon God by name. Despite our many technological achievements, a free, generous, loving response to God's initiative is still the only "fruit" we can bear for him that he cannot procure himself. This is the fruit which the fig tree in Jesus' Gospel parable is meant to produce. If we truly desire and seek this relationship, God will reveal himself to us so that, no matter our stage or state of life, we can bear this fruit *even now*.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In his encounter with God, Moses exhibits an exemplary combination of boldness and humility which teaches us how we should approach our relationship with God. This is our "roadmap" which will help us fertilize the "ground" of our hearts. Consider Moses' bold, inquisitive spirit: "I must go over to look at this remarkable sight," and his prompt response to God's call: "Here I am!" Consider the audacity Moses must have had to ask God for his name. At the same time, however, consider his humility in removing the sandals from his feet and hiding his face before the majesty of God. The God who revealed himself to Moses is the same God who invites us into relationship with him. We can and should have Moses' boldness to ask God to teach us about himself. But we should also approach God with a spirit of reverence and awe. Our humility will be the fertile soil that God can use to make us his intimate friends and his representatives before others.

LISTEN

Sometimes we have habits or attitudes that prevent us from hearing God's voice. Like Moses removing his sandals, choose something you can forgo this week (for example, social media or music in the car) so that you can hear and respond to the Lord. Make sure you dedicate your extra quiet time to talking to God.

Dear Padre,

May I receive Communion if I'm divorced and haven't gotten an annulment?

Yes, you may. Divorce, in itself, is not an impediment to the reception of Communion. Divorce, although regrettable because of the many ramifications that may be part of the experience, is not in itself a sin. There are situations when divorce may be the most loving choice and make it possible for all parties involved to live the lives God is calling them to live.

Remarriage, when a person is not free to marry because of the presence of a previous bond, is an impediment to the reception of holy Communion. Although this situation is more and more common, it does not mean that the law of the Church, representative of the teaching of Jesus, can be set aside. As part of the process of healing from your divorce and moving on with your life, you may want to seek an annulment, particularly if you think you might want to marry again. The annulment process can often be healing and a source of great blessing. It also provides a rare opportunity to reflect on what was lost as a result of the original divorce and what can be learned as a way of moving forward and building a second marriage that is strong and life-giving.

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



STEVE LORESONE/SHUTTERSTOCK

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
March 24	March 25	March 26	March 27	March 28	March 29	March 30
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>The</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>
2 Kgs 5:1–15b	<i>Annunciation of the Lord</i>	Dt 4:1, 5–9	Jer 7:23–28	Hos 14:2–10	Hos 6:1–6	Jos 5:9a, 10–12
Lk 4:24–30	Is 7:10–14; 8:10	Mt 5:17–19	Lk 11:14–23	Mk 12:28–34	Lk 18:9–14	2 Cor 5:17–21
	Heb 10:4–10					Lk 15:1–3, 11–32
	Lk 1:26–38					



VATICAN MEDIA

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

I like to think that a nice name for God could be “the God of another possibility”.... [God] does not look at the achievements you have not yet reached, but the fruits you can still bear. He does not keep track of your shortcomings but encourages your potential. He does not dwell on your past, but confidently bets on your future.

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 20, 2022