

From the Gospel of Luke 24 we read—

“With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other,

**“We’re not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?”**

- Sisters and brothers, this morning—let us walk with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, as they encounter the Lord *in the Word and in “the breaking of the bread.”*

- The days of Jesus’ suffering and death have taken a toll upon them...quite similar to the past six weeks for all of us.

- Like the disciples, **we remain in a quandary as to WHY** is this happening to us? And not just to us here in the United States, but a global pandemic that has encompassed the earth.

Regardless of our background—age or gender, race or ethnicity, religious affiliation, education, political leanings, or economic portfolio...**we are in this together?** Can I get an Amen?

The two disciples were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus, roughly a 7 mile journey as Jesus joins them on the way. They are discussing about the events of the past few days.

During the course of their conversation, he begins to explain the Scriptures to them...including the events of the past few days—**his suffering, crucifixion and resurrection.**

As they arrived at Emmaus, Jesus pretends to be going farther, but they press him to stay with them and join them for supper.

**Taking bread...**He said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. **With that their eyes were opened and they recognized Him in the breaking of the Bread.**

As Jesus began explaining the Scriptures to the disciples, he began to unlock the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven to them.

As a result they were able to come to terms with the **“TRUTH”** that was wrapped in mystery.....namely the suffering, death and resurrection of the Lord.

For the Emmaus disciples and we their 21st century counterparts, we are beginning to understand what the **Passover of the Lord** is all about! **Revelation** is the ability “to come to the truth” precisely because God makes it known to us.

While **understanding**, ONE of the seven fold gifts of the Holy Spirit, helps us to comprehend with spiritual insight the depths of what it means for us to come together for Eucharist.

The **“gift of understanding”** is a spiritual gift that unlocks many of the mysteries of LIFE for us.

For the person of FAITH—what is required is the gift of Faith that we rely on trusting what God says is true. Simply put: it means that **we believe first, and understand later.**

St. Augustine of Hippo, North Africa writes—“Faith is to believe what you do NOT see. The reward of Faith is **to see what you believe!** Jesus explained to the disciples what the implications of being a disciple is all about.

For us 21st Century witnesses to the Resurrection our common experience of a deadly virus is recognizing the reality that God is with us in this time of sickness, suffering and death.

As we unite our lives with His, we too come to recognize that Jesus is the ultimate Gift of Bread come down from heaven. As He chooses to **be both the Victim and the Priest.**

For those two disciples: their eyes were opened when he took Bread...blessed it....and broke it....and gave it to them to eat. The veil of unknowing was lifted and **they recognized that it is JESUS!**

Church, how blessed are we from the sanctuary to our dining room tables, as we re—discover the presence of the Lord in the breaking of the Bread with ONE another.

You know that we are simply blessed beyond all imagining that God so loved us that on the night before he died **gave us Himself in Word and Sacrament in the Eucharist....the Mass....the Sacred Liturgy!**

**Eucharist** is FOOD for the human journey to God that not only satisfies but strengthens us for the rough roads ahead...and with God’s help and that of science and medicine, family and faith communities, we believe that we will see a CURE soon!

**We might ask ourselves:** do we recognize the presence of the Lord at the Altar and within the Church community?

And what about around the kitchen table within the faces of **our FAMILY?**

Also in our streets among the **homeless poor**, and in **struggling countries** who cry out for **MERCY?**

Remember the disciples in their amazement upon encountering the Lord on the road as they began shouting out -

**“We’re not our HEARTS burning within us, while He spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?”**

- For me personally, these words of testimony speak loud and clear of how much we miss being together in our churches to worship and praise the Lord!

- The **“image of burning hearts”** speaks to our love for God and for one another....and so this temporary isolation period for us Friars from our church—families is liken to the emptiness of a shepherd being without his flock.

- Church—**“do your hearts burn on fire?”** as you encounter Christ in sacrament? in mystery? in living presence? in relationships? and in communion with one another?

- Church—**“do you miss your ministries of welcome**, proclamation, song and instrumentation as you desire to come back together in the near future to worship and to praise the Lord as **the Body of Christ?**

In the words of our founder, Francis of Assisi:

“Brothers and sisters, **while we have time** let us do good, **for up until now we have done but little.”**

P.S. **REMEMBER, the Poor**, who are the face of Christ.

and take care of our **Mother the Earth!**

May the Lord help us to see what is ours to do

and have the courage to do it!

## St. Benedict the Moor Church



### Our Mission

St. Benedict the Moor is an historic Catholic - Christian Community that celebrates its African - American heritage and welcomes cultural diversity. Join us at the Table of the Eucharist as sisters and brothers in the Lord. We are committed to grow and diversify the Church through the new evangelization, family, catechesis, young adult ministry and outreach to the poor. In the spirit of the prophet Joshua, we can say:

**“As for me and my household; we will serve the Lord.”**

May 3, 2020

### Fourth Sunday of Easter

**“The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.”**

### St Benedict the Moor Parish

Sunday Mass: 10:30 am  
Daily Masses: Mon.-Fri. 7:30 am  
Friday: Adoration follows Mass  
Saturday: 8 am

Holy Days of Obligation:  
Mass: 7:30 am & 6:30 pm  
(Exceptions will be posted)  
Penance: Saturday 8:30-9:30am  
Anytime upon request.

Emergencies:  
Please call Fr.Noel  
or the office anytime  
410-818-8149  
706- 323-8300

### Pastor

Fr. Noel Danielewicz, OFM Conv.  
tau1226@gmail.com  
410-818-8149

### Staff

Administrative Assistant  
Deborah Thompson

Director of Religious Education  
Gail Buffong  
706-536-8468

Director of Outreach  
Beverly Casimier

Music Ministry  
Mary Beth Kozee/Joe Saulsbury

### Office Hours:

Pastor: Monday-Thursday 10-4 pm  
Secretary: Monday 10-2 pm  
Tuesday 1-5 pm  
Wednesday /Thursday 10-4 pm

### E-mail Address

stbenedict07@knology.net  
Phone: 706- 323-8300  
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### Website

stbenedictthemoorcolumbus.org  
**Church**

2930 Thomas Street  
Columbus, GA 31906

**Community Hall/Office**  
2935 9th St.

Columbus GA 31906

## Meditation

The daily news leaves us frightened and scared about the state of the world in these weeks and months of COVID—19. Pope Francis reminds us **to turn to God to help conquer our fear and anxiety.** Throughout our nation and around the world there is so much suffering and a lot of fear. This fear includes the elderly who are alone in nursing homes or hospitals, or in their own homes, and don't know what will happen next.

The fear of those who don't have regular jobs and are thinking about to feed their children. The fear of civil servants at this moment who are working to keep society functioning, but fearful that they too may get sick! Sisters and brothers, we pray to the Lord Jesus, that He might help us to trust and to tolerate and conquer these fears.

Pope Francis reminds us in his Easter Message—"Urbi et Orbi" that is from the City to the World may Jesus our Passover, **grant strength and hope to doctors and nurses, who everywhere offer a witness of care and love for our neighbors, to the point of exhaustion and at risk to their own health.**

Above all, our Holy Father cautions us that **this is not a time for indifference,** because the whole world is suffering and needs to be united in facing the pandemic. May the risen Jesus grant hope to all the poor, to those living on the fringes of society, that they may not be abandoned. Sisters and brothers, may we be about ceasing the opportunity to reach out and do good for others as we break through the cycle of suffering and radiate the compassion of Christ to all we meet as sister or brother.

With the culmination of the season of Lent it is time to return your **rice bowls** to the Church. It would be most practical to please count your Lenten Gift for the poor and needy of the world and simply **write a check to St. Benedict the Moor** and note in the bottom left—corner: RICE BOWL. May the Lord Jesus continue to bless your generosity for the least of your sisters and brothers, as we see the face of Christ in the poor.

## Evening Rosary

Sisters and brothers, we invite you and your families and friends to join us **nightly at 8 PM** for the recitation of the Rosary for an end to COVID—19. Beginning on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> we will be using a **local conference call number: 706 - 894 - 9969.**

## Live—Stream Mass

**On Sunday mornings at 10 AM,** please join us on live—stream for the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist with Friar Bob and myself based out of Our Lady of Lourdes here in Columbus, Georgia at

<https://www.ololcolga.com/live> PDF

## Mailed Bulletins

Weekly bulletins are being sent to all those on our mailing list. If you know of someone who is not receiving one, please send in their name and address by calling the Office and leaving a message at 706 -- 323 -- 8300.

## Emergency

Anyone needing emergency help at a time of sickness or crisis, please call Friar Noel directly on his cell at 410 - 818 -- 8149. Also, if you simply need to talk don't hesitate to call.

## Address of Johnathan Veal

Johnathan T. Veal  
10609 W. Pima Street  
Tolleson, Arizona 85353

There will be a Memorial Mass for our sister, Mrs. Annie Veal in the near future.

## Rice Bowls

If you haven't as yet made your contribution for the Lenten Rice Bowl, kindly do so with a separate check designating in the left hand corner: for RICE BOWL 2020. In the name of our sisters and brothers, who benefit from it from around the world may we hear their cry and acknowledge their need.

## Friary Schedule

8:30 AM - 9:15 AM Morning Prayer,  
Liturgy of the Hours, & Meditation  
9:15 AM Breakfast  
Time for Ministry  
5:00 PM Evening Prayer  
5:30 PM Supper  
7:30 PM Eucharist  
8:00 PM Conference—Rosary

## Family and Friends Mailing List

Sisters and brothers, as we prepare to compile a data—base for St. Benedict the Moor Church Community, we need your help. Our hope is to gather the names, addresses, e-mails of our families and friends, who have been apart of us in their youth or in their adult years and have moved because of job opportunities or retirement.

Please complete the handout in the bulletin and return it to the Church Office with your tithes. We will be using this time to begin the work of church—development by looking beyond to wherever our family lives. I'm looking for **volunteers** interested in working with communications. Whatever your skill sets, we will put them to use **to achieve our mission: to grow the Church!**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
TO YOU!



Christine Dawson	May 5
Ruby Rumley	May 11
Willie Lawrence	May 12
Kimara Dexter	May 16
Julian Rodriguez	May 18
Lillian Humber	May 19
LaFini Mosby	May 19
Major Nettles	May 21
Natalie Taylor	May 27
Cheryl Jackson	May 31

## IN OUR PRAYERS

*Our sick list is for parishioners, family and friends in need of prayer. Please keep our list current by calling the office to add or remove a name.*

Sr. Agnes, fsma	Ida Ruth Lane
Sr. Delores Anne, cssf	Mittie Lewis
Helen Bell	Friar Julio Martinez
Amanda Cole	Fr. Jeremiah McCarthy
Mik Cole	Delores McLeod
Robert Cole	Denvey Nelson
Robert Dozier	Sr. Norberta, fsma
Bertha Gibbs	Cordell Parker
Yvonne Gilberti	Gwendolyn Parker
Friar Vincent Gluc	Anna Perez
Elizabeth Grey	Debra Pough
Willie Hicks	Evelyn Pough
Ginnette Hughes	Marcus Ransom
Clarence Johnson	Friar Andy Santamauro
Donald Julien	Lydia Sliva
Paul Julien	Madeline Smith
Elvia King	Dorothy Stewart
Michael King	Friar Jude Winkler
Jerry Korona	

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

Sunday, May 3, 2020  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
**Community of St. Benedict the Moor**  
Monday, May 4, 2020  
Easter Week  
**France and Jean—Louis Staudenmann**  
Tuesday, May 5, 2020  
Easter Weekday  
**+John Danielewicz, osf (Birthday)**  
Wednesday, May 6, 2020  
Easter Weekday  
**healing for Frances Mullins**  
Thursday, May 7, 2020  
Easter Weekday  
**+Sophie Archacki**  
Friday, May 8, 2020  
Easter Weekday  
**+Johnnye Coleman**  
Saturday, May 9, 2020  
Easter Weekday  
**Mom—Jennie & Play—Mom Betty Allen**



Mass Intentions can be offered for family and friends both living and deceased. The stipend is \$10 for the support of the Franciscan Friars.

**This week all scheduled Masses are being celebrated at Franciscan Martyrs Friary.**