

“We are the Hands and Arms of Christ!”

Dear sisters and brothers,

May the peace of Christ be yours!

As we draw close to the end of the liturgical year, the Church takes a closer look to the harvest of time: the final fulfillment of the work that Jesus began in his life, death, and Resurrection.

The Church is the worthy spouse, the bride of Christ calling us to work together with Jesus for the healing of our nation and our world. We are now God’s, **beloved ONE**, who like the king’s wife in Proverbs, who is motivated by a heart that is in love with her Groom. **“The worthy wife”** reaches out with hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. She brings her husband good all the days of her life.” Is this not the MISSION of the Bride of Christ, the Church? As we are the hands and the arms of Christ in the world today! The author of Proverbs concludes: **“give her a reward of her labors and let her works praise her at the city gates.”**

Sisters and brothers, the word of God both challenges and convicts us to be **responsible stewards of the Mission of Jesus and that is to evangelize the world.** Too often in the past, we heard the summons to attend Mass and hence **the Sunday Catholic was born.** All that was expected was attendance...showing up and don’t forget your envelopes. With the onset of the Second Vatican Council we saw a wave of liturgical involvement with the participation of the laity in a variety of ministries that centered around the Eucharist. From ushers and greeters, to readers of the Word and Eucharistic Ministers, to pastoral care ministers and choir Members...there was an up surge in service. It branched off into faith formation with the rise of the RCIA, as catechists were trained and shared the Faith with children and adults as well.

The Church has always had an outreach to the poor from apostolic times. We at St. Benedict the Moor have a strong historic arm of the Church reaching out to the local poor and homeless within the community that surrounds us. Our Outreach Program of some 32 years has been a credible sign of witness to the Gospel of Matthew 25. Yet in the course of time, sickness and death has claimed many of these devoted ministers of social justice. The NEED has not gone away, but has heightened. We need new blood to step up to the plate and SERVE!

Yet in order to function and maintain all that is physical, we still need to address the call to stewardship as part of the Catholic—Christian lifestyle. The cost or repairs has radically increased to make the changes required by civil law and code that now face us. We are at the crossroads of moving forward in our desire to be the arms and the hands of the Lord Jesus. Having said that...have you ever thought of yourself as being an **ambassador of Christ?** We are those modern day disciples that are called to deliver the message of Jesus in the workplace, at the senior centers, and among family members.

The invitation to the feast of the Kingdom is more than attendance or simply showing up. We have work to do in the vineyard of the Lord. AMEN! If you have the gift to invite, to cook, to tell the story, to draw others to the HARVEST of the Kingdom step up!

Throughout the countryside of New England, there are old community cemeteries that put time and creative artistry on writing epitaphs on the monuments /the gravestones of those who have died. These epitaphs often capture the essence of the deceased person’s life and legacy. This custom also offers us the opportunity to reflect upon our own lives and consider what memories would we want to leave behind. What will others say about us and how will we be remembered?

Let’s take a trip to Burlington, Vermont to visit the grave of one of America’s famous poets....**Robert Frost.** Upon his family grave is a seven foot long capstone that reads: **“I had a lover’s quarrel with the world.”** I’ve always found this epitaph to be a springboard to life and living. What will others say about us? Will they acknowledge our God—given talents used for the good of others? Or have those very gifts been buried because we were too reluctant to share them? Did we/did I make a difference with my LIFE with the skills and talents the Lord blessed me with?

Matthew’s Gospel tells us of three investors and invites us to identify with them. Two investors who risked and gained and one person who was simply captured by fear, buried his talent lest he lose it. Too often, when people recall this parable, they equate the understanding of TALENT as synonymous with a large sum of money.

Let’s broaden our understanding of TALENT lest we run the risk of misunderstanding this parable. TALENT might be seen as *something of tremendous value as the “Gospel Message.”* Some scholars suggest that the **Parable of the Stewards** is an accusation against the Pharisees for their spiritual timidity. They knew the promise of the Good News, yet **chose to bury it in a Tomb of rules and regulations.**

While Jesus on the other hand, challenges us to **take risks, to invest our whole lives in the truth of the GOSPEL** and if necessary, risk all for the glory of God! Sisters and brothers, if we risk all for Christ and the GOSPEL, we will be rewarded with the promise of Eternal Life, as our good works will praise us at the city gates of the New and Eternal Jerusalem.

P.S. We still have TIME! As Francis would often say” brothers and sisters, **while we have time let us do good! For up until now, we have done but little!”** When teaching high school: I used a lot of signage throughout my classroom. Under the clock I quoted St. Teresa of Avila, the great Carmelite reformer: **“In a little time, it will be eternity!”** High School students even when gazing at the clock the quote gave them something to think about.

Well.....you still have TIME! Fnar Noel

St. Benedict the Moor Church

What will you do with what you’ve got?

The Parable
of the
Talents

Matthew 25:14-30

Our Mission

St. Benedict the Moor is a 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.”

November 15, 2020

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Blessed are those who fear the Lord.”

St Benedict the Moor Parish

Sunday Mass: 10:30 am
Daily Masses: Mon.-Fri. 12:00 noon
Saturday: 8 am
Holy Days of Obligation:
Mass: 12 noon & 6:30 pm
(Exceptions will be posted)
Sacrament of Penance: Divine Mercy
Room Saturday 8:30-9:30am
or by Appointment

Emergencies:
call Fr.Noel: 410-818-8149
Office: 706- 323-8300

Communications
Address: St. Benedict the Moor
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Columbus, Georgia 31906

Pastor

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Staff

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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-Friday 10-11:30 am
1:00-3:00 pm

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Church
2930 Thomas Street
Columbus, GA 31906
Community Hall/Office
2935 9th St.
Columbus GA 31906

Altar Flowers



Altar flowers this week are donated in memory of

Sharese Johnson
by Mary Johnson

Christmas Tree Sale



Knights of Columbus Christmas Tree Charitable Fund Raiser: The Knights of Columbus Council 1019 and Assembly 176 are selling Christmas Trees starting

on Black Friday, November 27th on the corner of Veterans Parkway and 13th Street. Profits will be used for local charities. They will be open weekdays from 4-7 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Please visit our lot and help local charities and keep Christ in Christmas!

Outreach Ministry

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

This week our Outreach Ministry will be serving our community a Thanksgiving dinner and providing bags with food for the holiday. If you would like to assist, contact the office.

Stewardship

Offering \$4761 (Online \$2125)
Kitchen Renovation \$1425
Altar Flowers \$200
Utilities \$80 (Online \$150)
Poor Box \$100
Southern Cross \$55

Black Catholic History Month

Father **Augustus Tolton** (1854-1897) He was born into slavery in Missouri. Ordained in Rome in 1886, Tolton was the first recognized Black American priest. Pastor of St. Monico in Chicago, Tolton became the spiritual leader of the 19th century National Black Catholic Congress movement.

Fr. **Charles Uncles** (1859-1933) Ordained in December 1891, Father Charles Randolph Uncles, a native of Baltimore, was the first black American ordained a Roman Catholic priest in the United States. He was one of the founders of the St. Joseph's Society of the Sacred Heart, formed to minister to the black community

Mass Intentions

10:30 AM Sunday, November 15, 2020
for St. Benedict The Moor Church—Family

12 Noon Monday, November 16, 2020
Saints Margaret & Gertrude

for +Alice Cote
12 Noon Tuesday, November 17, 2020
St. Elizabeth of Hungary/Patroness of the
Secular Franciscan Order

**for +Deceased Felician Sisters
of Our Lady of Hope Province**
(The Friars will be on Retreat from Tuesday afternoon
November 17 through Friday November 20th.
Please keep us in your prayers.)

Wednesday, November 18, 2020
Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter & Paul
for +San Trovarelli

Thursday, November 19, 2020
for the souls in Purgatory

Friday, November 20, 2020
for +Stanley Grzybowski
8:00 AM Saturday, November 21, 2020
**Presentation of the Virgin Mary
for Sr. Mary Victoria, cssf ~60th Jubilee of Vows**

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Next week our special collection will support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Forty million people in the United States live in poverty. This collection supports programs that empower people to identify and address the obstacles they face as they work to bring permanent and positive change to their communities. Learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at www.usccb.org/cchd/collection.

Thirty-third Sunday

READING 1 Prov 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and works with loving hands. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her a reward for her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

READING 2 1 Thes 5:1-6

Concerning times and seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need for anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night. When people are saying, "Peace and security," then sudden disaster comes upon them, like labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to overtake you like a thief. For all of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober.

GOSPEL Mt 25:14-30

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one --to each according to his ability. Then he went away. Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money. "After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, 'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' Then the

one who had received two talents also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, 'Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.' His master said to him in reply, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'"

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.

Fr. Noel Danielewicz	Elvia King
Sr. Agnes, fsma	Lenny Korona
Sr. Apollonia, cssf.	Ida Ruth Lane
Sr. Delores Anne, cssf	Elaine Layer
Helen Bell	Mittie Lewis
Amanda Cole	Delores McLeod
Mik Cole	Ruben Meinhofer & Fam.
Robert Cole	Denvey Nelson
Robert Dozier	Cordell Parker
Carl English	Gwendolyn Parker
Stephanie Findlay	Debra Pough
Yvonne Gilberti	Evelyn Pough
Elizabeth Grey	Marcus Ransom
Ginnette Hughes	Sr. Seraphine, cssf.
Clarence Johnson	Lydia Sliva
Donald Julien	Madeline Smith
Paul Julien	Donnie Tarvin
Jamaya Kennedy	Friar Jude Winkler
Michael King	
Earl King	