



Fr. Noel Danielewicz
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Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord

Dear sisters and brothers in the Lord,
*Wade in the water,
Wade in the water, children.
Wade in the water,
God's gonna trouble the water.*

From the words of the spiritual, you and I are called **to WADE**, yes WADE in the waters of life and let God trouble the waters. As God troubled the waters of the Jordan, all humanity was made aware of Jesus' public ministry. As Jesus entered the Jordan, **He made holy the waters** of our Baptism. As God's Spirit troubles the waters of our lives, we are called to follow Christ in **passionate discipleship!**

Today, Christ enters the Jordan to wash away the sin of the world. John the Baptist testifies that this is why he has come: *"Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world."* Today, a servant lays his hand on the Lord, a man lays his hand on God, John lays his hand on Christ, not to forgive but **to receive forgiveness.**

Today Church, the psalmist prophesied: "The voice of the Lord is heard above the waters. What does this voice say? *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*" Today, the Holy Spirit hovers over the waters in the likeness of a dove. Recall, that it was a **dove** that was the sign to Noah that the flood had disappeared from the face of the earth; so today is to reveal that the world's shipwreck is at an end forever.

The Baptism of the Lord concludes the Christmas Season for us. For the **believer**, for the **seeker**, for the **searcher** the Baptism of the Lord is an **"epiphany,"** as God reveals more about his SON with whom he is well pleased. Upon entering the Jordan, Jesus makes all of humanity aware of **his public ministry as the MESSIAH!**

Fr. Ronald Rolheiser author and scholar, says that "we need to be alert to the underlying image here of **Jesus physically breaking the waters.**" It is similar to when a child breaks through the waters of its mother's womb—**Jesus' baptism is an image of birth!** As his head breaks through the water he is being born into a new consciousness, that of **knowing His own blessedness.**

Sisters and brothers, as the spirit of God troubles the waters of our baptismal lives, you and I look at life through the **eyes of both being chosen and blessed!** As we gather together for this solemnity of the Lord's Baptism, it is the spirit of the Lord who will churn the waters of our lives as we open ourselves to rebirth and renewal as the Church—family of Saint Benedict the Moor.

You and I both, are called to move from spiritual complacency to becoming set on fire by the Spirit of the Lord: **to do the Mission of Jesus in the name of Jesus!** How can we creatively do what is ours to do from home, on site, or on line as we answer GOD: **"Whom will I send? Send me!"** Two and a half years ago, in August 2018...we pledged ourselves with the prophet Joshua: **"As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord!"** At the beginning of a New Year, how do you take personal accountability for that resolution...that pledge of Faith.

Write your pledge of service to the Lord and to the Church of St. Benedict of what your GIFT to the Christ Child will be this year. And then place it in the **Treasure Chest** in our sanctuary. There are so many people that we can go to from our own family and friends, who have expressed interest in the Church, or who may have left the Church. When was the last time that you actually invited someone to worship with us?

Please call me at the Church and share your vision, your strategies and let's begin to roll up our sleeves and get down and **do the main mission of the Church** that is **EVANGELIZATION!** Let us begin to harness our talents, skills, passion and expertise as we collaboratively work to GROW our Church—Family with God's help.

In the words of St. Francis: *"While we have time, let us do good. For up until now we have done but little!"*
**Your brother—pastor,
Friar Noel**

Stewardship

Weekly Finance Report: January 1-3

Offertory: \$3134.00 (Online \$410.00)
Solemnity of Mary: \$734
Kitchen Reno: \$380.00
Church Repair: \$25.00
Christmas: \$100.00
Black and Indian Mission: \$50.00
Utilities: \$145.00 (Online \$50.00)

Online donations allow you to stay up-to-date and continue your support. Please go to www.stbenedictthemoor.org to contribute.

St. Benedict the Moor Church



...suddenly the heavens were opened
to Him and He saw the Spirit of God
descending like a dove...
Matthew 3:16

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."

January 10, 2021

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

"The Lord will bless his people with peace."

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

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

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Church

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Pastoral Concerns

Thank-You to the **Choir and our music ministers** for your leading us in song and praise during the Christmas Season. Your role in leading the congregation in song is essential to good liturgical worship. Special thanks to Mary Beth Kozee, Rhonda Savoy, and the Dawson Family Trio.

Special thanks to the hard work our **Outreach Ministry** performed in gathering and preparing 72 Christmas Bags of food and serving 86 take-out Christmas Dinners. Accolades to Beverly Casimier, Director; and staff Andrea Lane, Joyce Watson, Ves Casimier, Carleton Pearson, Keith Woodcock, Shirley Dexter and all those who made contributions to make this ministry possible.

To all of our un-sung heroes in the congregation, who have been most generous during the present pandemic in their **stewardship responsibility** of keeping the Church financially going. To God be the glory, the praise and your blessing! These are trying fiscal times as we have not been able to have any fundraising take place this past year (2020). Let us collectively think of new ways in which we can supplement the Offertory collection for 2021.

Update on Marcus Ransom, who is currently living at Four County Health and Rehabilitation. His mom, Joyce Washington says that he is eating on his own and gaining some weight. Marcus hopes to return home sometime this year. Drop him a note at:

Mr. Marcus Ransom
Four County Health & Rehabilitation
124 Overby drive
Richland, Georgia 31825

Friar Cristofar Fernandez sends Christmas greetings to the community, especially to the Outreach Team. He volunteered working at our ministry site as a candidate and he is now a professed Friar in vows continuing his formation in Silvers Springs, Maryland. Take some time and drop him a note of encouragement. His address is:

Friar Cristofar Fernandez, OFM Conv.
St. Bonaventure Friary
10400 Lorain Avenue
Silver Springs, Maryland 20901

Last month we acknowledged the college graduation of **Jonathan Justo** from Valdosta State University as he completed his degree in Criminal Justice Pre-Law. If you haven't congratulated him yet, his address is:

Jonathan Justo
3960 Poseidon Way
Indialantic, Florida, 32903

Sisters and brothers, if there are any special events in your life and in the life of your family, please let me know and we will do our part in communicating the good news of how we are doing as a Church—family and keep the need to support one another on the way.

Many thanks, Friar Noel

Mass Intentions

Baptism of the Lord

Sunday, January 10, 2021 10:30 AM
St. Benedict Church—Family
Dennis Vershowsky, OFS health/Covid-19

Monday, January 11, 2021 12 Noon
+Sister Ramona, cssf

Tuesday, January 12, 2021 12 Noon
Paul Danielewicz' birthday

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 12 Noon
+ Martha Hamilton

Thursday, January 14, 2021 12 Noon
+Loyal Evans

Friday, January 15, 2021 12 Noon
+June Wright

Saturday, January 16, 2021 8:00 AM
+Francis Danielewicz

Mass intentions are scheduled throughout the year for a particular occasion. We ask for a two week notice in scheduling. The ordinary stipend is ten dollars for the support of the Franciscan Friars.

Special Collection

Today, our parish will take up the annual **National Black and Indian Mission Collection**. Our support of this collection helps build the Church in African American, Native American, and Alaska Native communities from coast to coast. Schools, parish religious education programs, and diocesan ministries depend on your generosity to help them spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ! You can help meet unmet needs with a generous contribution today.

Baptism of the Lord

READING 1 Is 42:1-4, 6-7

Thus says the LORD:

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. a bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching. I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

RESPONSORIAL

R. (11b) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Give to the LORD, you sons of God,
give to the LORD glory and praise,
Give to the LORD the glory due his name;
adore the LORD in holy attire.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters,
the LORD, over vast waters.
The voice of the LORD is mighty;
the voice of the LORD is majestic.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

The God of glory thunders,
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

The LORD is enthroned above the flood;
the LORD is enthroned as king forever.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

READING 2 Acts 10:34-38

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered in the house of Cornelius, saying: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."

GOSPEL Mt 3:13-17

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Altar Flowers 2021

Sponsoring the altar flowers is a beautiful way to honor loved ones, or to mark a special life event: welcoming a new life, birthdays, the anniversary of a wedding, baptism, confirmation, in memory of a loved one, or simply in thanksgiving for life's many blessings. Select the date for your dedication and sign the form at the entrance of the Church or call the Church office. Currently, the suggested donation for Altar Flowers is \$100.

In Our Prayers

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
Christine Dawson	Cordell Parker
Robert Dozier	Gwendolyn Parker
Carl English	Debra Pough
Stephanie Findlay	Evelyn Pough
Fuellen Family	Joe Ravalese
Yvonne Gilberti	Marcus Ransom
Elizabeth Grey	Lydia Sliva
Ginnette Hughes	Madeline Smith
Clarence Johnson	Donnie Tarvin
Donald Julien	Emi Talbert
Paul Julien	Dorothy Washington
Jamaya Kennedy	Friar Jude Winkler
Michael King	
Earl King	