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## First Sunday of Lent

“Repent & Believe in the Gospel!”

Sisters and Brothers,

“May the Lord give you PEACE!”

From the book of Genesis, we read that God said to Noah and his sons, “*See I am now establishing my Covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you.*”

The story of Noah reminds us that it is God’s nature **to save** NOT to destroy! God gave the **RAINBOW** as a sign and reminder of his **COVENANT** that he would uphold forever. A sign for all ages between God and us of the **loving and redeeming relationship** that has been *sealed in the blood of the Lamb*, Jesus our Lord!

Church architecture has incorporated the bow of the ship, if we but look up at the ceiling and flip it upside down in our mind, it has the contour of the **ARK of Noah** or the **BARK of Peter**. Jesus himself is the **CAPTAIN** of the ship called Church. The Holy Spirit is our **navigator**, and we are **the CREW** as we journey together along the sea of life. As in nature, so on the human journey the waters of life are a mixture of movement. Sometimes, we travel on calm and serene water, while other times the seas of life are turbulent and threatening.

As we journey with Jesus in Mark’s GOSPEL, we are led with HIM into the desert for forty days. **The desert** is an arid space that can be for us **a contemplative space for communion with our God**. However, Mark notes that both we and Jesus are not alone. It is here that Satan tempted the Lord and do we think that we might be free of his grappling force? Not likely. But there are also angels to minister to Jesus and to us! There is a whole world community called CHURCH that journeys together with us as we take time to **RETREAT**, to change—up our schedule, to take some time and get away. Perhaps, a good word **METANOIA**, Greek in origin.... can be a helpful mantra for us to help lead us through our Lenten Journey towards Easter Transformation. **Metanoia** means to get to the essence of our existence as Catholic—Christians and open-up ourselves to **a change of heart and lifestyle**.

Jesus’ message from the oldest Gospel which is Mark has a clear and urgent call for each of us:

**“This is the time of fulfillment.  
The Kingdom of God is at hand.  
Repent, and believe in the Gospel!”**

This is the TIME...**the Kairos—moment** in which we live, and at every moment we exist...especially, in this time of the pandemic crisis that has affected our 21<sup>st</sup> century world. It’s real! And so is the presence of God, as we listen and be still to the Spirit of the Lord speaking to our hearts.

AMEN—Church! **Grace is built upon nature**. Hopefully, we have come to the realization that we are NOT able to do everything by ourselves. Amen! If we don’t accept it in FAITH....may the gift of our human NATURE speak truth to us in the flesh! We need others. We need God!

**PRAYER** is our sacred time with GOD as we enter into the Lenten Season with our sacred ancestors the desert fathers and mothers. Like “**Anthony of Egypt**” and “**Abba LOT and Abba Joseph.**”

**FASTING** is an important Lenten practice that we begin to fast from eating too much....that makes us heavy and sluggish; that causes us to live in solidarity with the poor; that can give us physical and spiritual energy on the things of the Lord; that we can share what we would have spent by placing that money in our **RICE BOWL** for those who are suffering from malnutrition and hunger.

**ALMSGIVING** is taking a closer look at life and at the quality of life of those who are homeless, those who have become evicted, those who are simply in need of basics like a hot meal. Spend some time at **our OUTREACH MINISTRY** and encounter the face of Christ in the sisters and brothers who are part of our local church—family.

Sisters and brothers, as we begin to enter this first week of Lent, consider something **physical**, something **spiritual**, and something that is **relational** to do for your Lenten journey to Easter transformation. May God who is troubling the waters of life at this time, offer us shelter and protection **aboard the Ark of the Church that is Kingdom—bound!**

For Lent 2021, I plan to offer any pain and discomfort from surgery for new growth and new life here at St. Benedict. May this time of healing mercy be blessed in the invitation of Jesus **to repent and to believe in the Gospel!**

If not now....then when?  
Your brother, Friar Noel



First Sunday in Lent

## St. Benedict the Moor Church



### 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.”**

February 21, 2021

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

“Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.”

### 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  
2935 9th Street  
Columbus, Georgia 31906

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



## Pastoral Concerns

**Welcome Home!** Sisters and brothers, we are truly blessed to return to our Church sanctuary after the December 10<sup>th</sup> Fire. This has been an exercise in patient—waiting, collaborative planning with contractors, and the generosity of our members in helping move, give of time and financial contributions toward our Church Restoration. Special thanks to the following—

Beto Contractors  
Servpro: Fire & Water Cleanup & Restoration  
Alexander Electric Company

May the Lord continue to bless our efforts in restoring and updating our Church with measures taken for human safety along with elegant simplicity towards our sacred space. To God be the glory and the honor and the praise!

### Pledge Cards: Annual Catholic Appeal

Please forward your pledge cards this year for ACA to the Church Office as we take the initial Step of pledging the amount we plan to give towards the Annual Catholic Appeal in 2021.

### Progress Report:

As of 2-23-21 we have received 15 pledges from Family-units amounting to \$8630.00. May the Lord bless each and every family/person that has given from their heart and means. Our Church Goal for 2021 is: \$16, 550.

### Lenten Observance: options to consider...

Celebrating Daily Eucharist/Mass  
The Sacrament of Penance is a must....  
Stations of the Cross on Friday/12noon following Mass and 6:30PM  
Bringing Communion to our Seniors.  
Helping out at Outreach: Tues./Thurs.  
Gardening....Church / Hall

**Thank—You Jordyn!** A very special and heartfelt thanks to Jordyn Dawson for her Black History Month Presentation -“A Black Catholic in America: racism, education and comfortability.” You are a blessing to our entire community for your passion and love for your African American culture and the causes of social justice.

**Welcome** to Friar Nick Romeo who has been visiting with us this past week. He serves as our vocation minister for the Franciscan Friars Conventual. A native of Baltimore, Maryland, it's his first time in Columbus and experiencing the Catholic community of St. Benedict the Moor, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Anne and St. Anne-Pacelli High School. Welcome Brother Nick!

## Mass Intentions

<b>First Sunday of Lent</b> <i>Sunday, February 21, 2021</i>	10:30 AM
St. Benedict the Moor Church—Family my aunt +Helena Danilewicz of Racewo, Poland	
<b>Monday, February 22, 2021</b> <b>Chair of St. Peter</b> +Tomorro Tutti Eason	12:00 Noon
<b>Tuesday, February 23, 2021</b> <b>St. Polycarp, Bishop &amp; Martyr</b> +Gerry Espiritu	11:00 AM
<b>Wednesday, February 24, 2021</b> <b>Wednesday of Lent</b> +Elena King	12:00 Noon
<b>Thursday, February 25, 2021</b> <b>Thursday of Lent</b> +Vernicia Gaslin	11:00 AM
<b>Friday, February 26, 2021</b> <b>Friday of Lent</b> +Concella Morgan	12:00 Noon
<b>Saturday, February 27, 2021</b> <b>Saturday of Lent</b> Sr. Mary Romuald, CSSF	8:00 AM

## Stewardship

**Weekly Finance Report:** February 14  
Offeratory: \$2458.00 (Online \$250.00)  
Utilities: \$15.00 (Online \$50.00)  
Eastern Europe: \$25.00  
Kitchen Reno: \$80.00  
Church Repair: (Online \$200.00)

## Special Collection

*Thank you for your contributions last week to the collection for the **Church in Central and Eastern Europe**. These funds help to restore the Church and build the future in more than 25 countries. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give. Visit [www.usccb.org/ccee](http://www.usccb.org/ccee) to learn more.*

## First Sunday of Lent

### READING 1 Gn 9:8-15

God said to Noah and to his sons with him: “See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you: all the birds, and the various tame and wild animals that were with you and came out of the ark. I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth.” God added: “This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come, of the covenant between me and you and every living creature with you: I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the covenant I have made between me and you and all living beings, so that the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings.”

### RESPONSORIAL

**R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;  
teach me your paths,  
Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my savior.

**R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,  
and your love are from of old.  
In your kindness remember me,  
because of your goodness, O LORD.

**R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

Good and upright is the LORD,  
thus he shows sinners the way.  
He guides the humble to justice,  
and he teaches the humble his way.

**R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

### READING 2 1 Pt 3:18-22

Beloved: Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit. In it he also went to preach to the spirits in prison, who had once been disobedient while God patiently waited in the days of Noah during the building of the ark, in which a few persons, eight in all, were saved through water.

This prefigured baptism, which saves you now. It is not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

### GOSPEL Mk 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

## In Our Prayers

Fr. Noel Danielewicz	Michael King
Sr. Agnes, fsma	Earl King
Sr. Apollonia, cssf.	Elvia King
Sr. Delores Anne, cssf	Lenny Korona
Helen Bell	Ida Ruth Lane
Amanda Cole	Mittie Lewis
Mik Cole	Delores McLeod
Robert Cole	Ruben Meinhofer & Fam.
Helena Danielewicz	Denvey Nelson
Ola Danielewicz	Major Nettles
Christine Dawson	Cordell Parker
Robert Dozier	Gwendolyn Parker
Carl English	Debra Pough
Stephanie Findlay	Evelyn Pough
Fluellen Family	Joe Ravalese
Yvonne Gilberti	Marcus Ransom
Elizabeth Grey	Sonsia Richerson
Ginnette Hughes	Lydia Sliva
Cecelia Hyams	Madeline Smith
Clarence Johnson	Emi Talbert
Donald Julien	Friar Steven Tremier
Paul Julien	Dorothy Washington
	Friar Carl Zdancewicz