

## Third Sunday of Lent

### “Moses, the lawgiver/Jesus the Living Temple”

Sisters and brothers,  
May the Lord Give you Peace!

In today’s scriptural readings **the Will of God** is ingrained in our minds and hearts, and at the same time **HOLINESS** and sin are seen for their wide, sweeping effects upon the entire family of God’s people. Once again, we are on Mount Sinai with Moses, as he passes down the Decalogue, or the Ten Commandments as a sign of Covenant relationship with our God. God again, promises to be our God and we His people.

In 1957, Cecil de Mille produced his masterful production of the “**Ten Commandments.**” For many folks, it has been the framework of Exodus 20 as we are given the commandments of Sinai that speak of our relationship with God and with neighbor. The Ten Commandments originated as very short and negative statements: “Do not kill; do not commit adultery; do not lie; do not steal.” Both psychologically and spiritually, the decalogue reflects a strong simplicity, undistracted by trivialities and red tape, reducing all questions to a matter of life and death.

The Old Testament prophets—like Hosea in chapter 4 and Isaiah in chapter 1—put aside all small talk, legal politeness, and liturgical rubrics and see them as becoming **when the poor are starving and defenseless people are oppressed.** The intent of the Decalogue was more than simple conformity to legal observance. They reached into the heart of the assembly, into it’s memory of God’s rest, to it’s traditional teaching of only ONE GOD for all Israel. The Ten Commandments thereby supported an extensive family, as they united the ancestors with the living community and GOD was at the heart of all the people.

In this context, every strong family bond’s request became important. LOVE responds that way. At every moment of need everyone responded to brother and sister, father and mother. In fact, all of the commandments are addressed to adults. Not children, but men and women are taught to honor father and mother.

Note that the Gospel Jesus preaches is one of “**redemptive-suffering**” that calls us to unite our pain, hurt, sorrow, helplessness, feelings of abandonment to his own pain and suffering and they are no longer negative but become positive and life—transforming. Jesus does NOT preach what is popularly known as the “**prosperity gospel.**” There is no basis in scripture or biblical history that supports this.

The Lord does not lift the reality of sickness and pain suffering and death, but rather embodies it in the CROSS—our sign of being in solidarity with Jesus and with all who suffer. There is no immunity from this earthly reality, as Jesus does not remove illness and suffering from human experience, but transforms them and gives them new meaning.

Tomorrow, as I undergo surgery, I choose to embrace once again **the CROSS of surgery** and the pain that flows from it, as well as the healing and the wholeness that it brings. May my own personal experience be united with that of Jesus for chooses to shower upon the community of St. Benedict the Moor.

Turning to the Gospel of John chapter 2, we find Jesus **cleansing the TEMPLE** of buying and selling animals destined to be sacrificial offerings. The death of Jesus is announced very early in John’s Gospel in the context of community worship. Small things, like the selling of doves and chickens, became a matter of life and death. When Jesus spoke of destroying the Temple, his disciples re—membered afterwards that he was talking about the temple of His Body. Only after the resurrection, did his disciples recall that He had said this. With the eyes of the spirit and our hearts rooted in Jesus, we come to realize that “**the Commandments are life and resurrection for all of us!**”

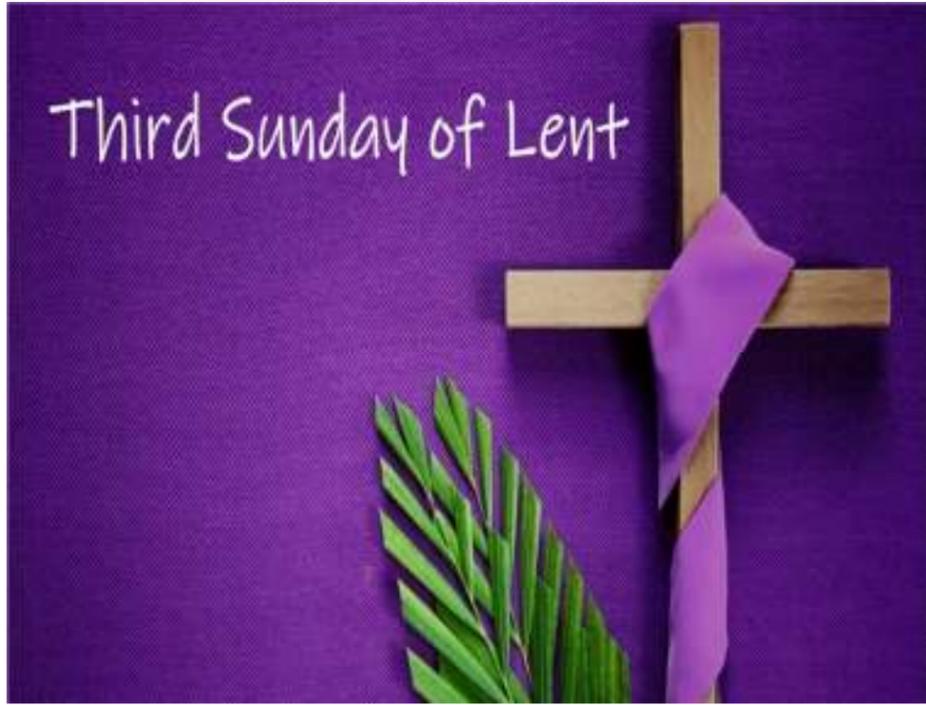
Church, I come before you in profound humility and seek your prayers and healing strength from Christ the Divine—Physician.  
Know my gratitude and love,  
Friar Noel

### Spring Forward

Daylight Saving Time Starts: **Sunday, March 14,** 2021 Daylight Saving Time starts on the second Sunday of March for the United States. Clocks are turned forward one hour from 2 am to 3 am. Clocks are changed forward one hour from local standard time to local daylight time.



## 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.”*

## March 7, 2021 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

“Lord, you have the words  
of everlasting life.”

### 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

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

## Pastoral Concerns

**In Memoriam:** For +**Marcus Ransom** who died on Sunday, February 28, 2021. May his soul rest in the peace of the Risen Christ!

**Fr. Noel's Surgery**—on Monday, March 8 he will be entering Piedmont Northside Hospital for the removal of a cancerous kidney. Barring any complications, he hopes to be home within 3-4 days.

**Annual Catholic Appeal**—as of March 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Benedict the Moor Church has pledged \$10,315 towards our GOAL of \$16,550. May the Lord continue to bless all those who have made their pledge and we encourage everyone else to please pray, decide and pledge your fair share. Together, as a Church-Family we will meet our responsibility as being part of the Diocese of Savannah. May God bless us all!

## Happy Birthday

Ashley Hightower	March 1
Andre Jackson	March 1
Mary E. Kozee	March 1
Joseph Saulsbury	March 6
Celia Mason-Ferguson	March 9
Desmond Parker	March 9
Brett Dawson	March 11
Robert Wright	March 17
Gladys Moses	March 19
Mark Evans Ngugi	March 19
Gladys Ford	March 21
Mary Johnson	March 21
Jacqueline Harris	March 22
Patricia Ngugi	March 22
Spurgeon Glenn	March 23
Mary Ellen Evans	March 27



## Worship and Prayer Schedule

Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> **Third Sunday of Lent**  
10:30 AM successful surgery for Friar Noel  
Intentions of St. Benedict the Moor Church

Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>  
Fr. Noel's surgery/Piedmont Northside Hospital  
12 Noon Communion Service

Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 AM Communion Service  
12 Noon Outreach Program

Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>  
12 Noon Communion Service

Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 AM Communion Service  
Outreach Ministry

Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>  
12 Noon Communion Service & Stations of the Cross  
6:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>  
No services today!

Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 AM **Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
Intentions of St. Benedict the Moor Church  
Health & Blessings for Joe Ravalese

Sunday—Thursday Liturgy/Rosary  
8:00PM 706-894-9969

## Stewardship

**Weekly Finance Report:** February 28  
Offeratory: \$2193.00 (Online \$250.00)  
Utilities: (Online \$50.00)  
Kitchen Reno: \$570.00  
Church Repair: \$115.00 (Online \$25.00)

**Online donations** allow you to stay up-to-date and continue your support. Please go to [www.stbenedictthemoor.org](http://www.stbenedictthemoor.org) to contribute.

## Third Sunday of Lent

### READING 1 Ex 20:1-17

In those days, God delivered all these commandments: "I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me. You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or worship them. For I, the LORD, your God, am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their fathers' wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation; but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation on the children of those who love me and keep my commandments. "You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain. For the LORD will not leave unpunished the one who takes his name in vain. "Remember to keep holy the sabbath day. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD, your God. No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter, or your male or female slave, or your beast, or by the alien who lives with you. In six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy. "Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you.

You shall not kill.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him."

### READING 2 1 Cor 1:22-25

Brothers and sisters:

Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

## GOSPEL Jn 2:13-25

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, *Zeal for your house will consume me.* At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken. While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.

## 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	Lydia Sliva
Elizabeth Grey	Madeline Smith
Ginnette Hughes	Emi Talbert
Cecelia Hyams	Friar Steven Tremier
Clarence Johnson	Dorothy Washington
Donald Julien	Friar Carl Zdancewicz
Paul Julien	