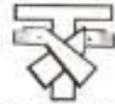




Fr. Noel Danielewicz
OFM Conv.
tau1226@gmail.com
410-818-8149



Fourth Sunday of Lent

“Moses lifted the serpent in the desert, so must
the Son of Man be lifted up!”

Sisters and brothers,
May the Lord give you peace!

There are two major themes running through our first reading from 2 Chronicles and they are **wrath and mercy /exile and liberation**. Israel is sent into exile because of the stubbornness and hard-heartedness of its princes and priests. The people refused to live in the ways of the Lord and kept on breaking their Covenant relationship with God.

God sent prophets, but they ignored and refused to change their ways. So the Lord gave them up into the hands of their enemies. However, God would not give up on his people and sent King Cyrus of Persia and brought them back to their homeland. The theme of conversion, change of heart, change of lifestyle is continuous and persistent in the Word of God and calls people of every age to turn away from sin and turn to GOD!

As we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, we rejoice at reaching the mid—point of our Lenten journey. The psalmist expresses the desire for God and the need to be steadfast in our resolve to keep our relationship with God on solid ground. The psalmist says: **“Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!”** Imagine loosing your ability to speak, if you broke the promise to love the Lord, whose love is unconditional, always open to forgive, and ready to extend mercy. **Hesed** is the love from which God loves us without limitation.

From the Gospel of John, Jesus said—“*Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.*” God instructed Moses to fashion a molten serpent and attach it to a pole. As the Israelites gazed upon the serpent, they were healed from the bites of the seraph snakes and were restored to full health.

This image has become the sign of the medical community that brought healing in a time of near death. When we look upon Jesus, hanging from **the CROSS**, we too, find forgiveness from our sins and healing from our infirmities as well. St. Paul reminds us, “that **Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom**. But we preach Christ—

crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and an absurdity to Gentiles.”

Sisters and brothers, where are we, where am I on my journey....my camino ...pilgrimage towards God? Am I still asking God for more signs? Am I resistant to changing my heart? Am I afraid to confront SIN and turn to God? Am I progressing or regressing in my quest for holiness? Am I waxing or waning in the practice of charity? What would Francis say? What would Jesus do?

Francis feared that after his conversion when he was in sin, that he would be lured by the gangs in Assisi that he ran with....**“the Sons of Babylon.”** He understood our human frailty quite well as he anguished over his own behavioral weaknesses. Sisters and brothers, this is our life and **God’s amazing grace is sufficient to transform us.** Amen! Too many people, think that they are able to chart themselves on the path to the kingdom by themselves. They are sorely misled by the heresy of Pelagianism.

In the spirit of Sts. Paul and Francis, we place our confidence and reliance on the grace of God who is LOVE! Paul reminds us in Phillippians 4:13—**“I can do all things in HIM who strengthens me!”**

Let us continue to pray for one another, as we heal in body, mind and spirit and begin to rejoice in knowing God is within us and everything will be alright! Relying on your continued prayers for wellness.

Your brother, fr. Noel

St. Benedict the Moor Church

4th Sunday OF LENT

“Whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.” - Jn 3:21

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 14, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

“Let my tongue be silenced,
if ever I forget you!”

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
Fax: 706- 324-2641
Website
stbenedictthemoorcolumbus.org
Church

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

Pastoral Concerns

Sisters and brothers, please continue to pray for me during this time of recuperation post-- surgery. May the Lord bless you for your steadfast support and love.

Worship and Prayer Schedule

Our weekly schedule for prayer:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday a Service of the Word and Communion begins at 12 noon.
Tuesday and Thursday a Service of the Word and Communion begins at 11:00 AM.

Stations of the Cross are celebrated every Friday morning after the Service of the Word at 12 Noon and Friday evenings at 6:30 PM.

The Rosary is prayed on Monday thru Thursday at 8 PM by dialing 706-894-9969. On Sunday a Liturgy of the Word is held with the Sunday scriptures & homily.

Rice Bowls—Have you fed your Rice—Bowl lately?

Sacrament of Penance is available every Monday at 7PM during Adoration at St. Anne's.

Annual Catholic Appeal we need everyone's pledge as we work to meet our Goal of \$16,550 as part of the Diocese of Savannah.

Kitchen Renovation—we have received a very generous donation of \$3,000 from Joseph & Elizabeth Migliora, cousins of mine towards our Kitchen Reno. May the Lord keep on blessing our extended family members.

Feast of St. Joseph, spouse of the Virgin Mary is celebrated on Friday, March 19th. This 10th century feast grew as Joseph in 1870 was declared by the Patron Saint of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX. He was named "Guardian of the Redeemer" in 1989 by Pope John Paul II and is the patron saint of fathers, carpenters, and workers. St. Joseph is also the patron of Austria, Belgium, Bohemia, Canada, Mexico, Peru and South Vietnam. Finally, Joseph is the Patron Saint of a Happy Death. St. Joseph pray for us!

Thank you

You are truly a blessing. Yes, definitely for the concerns and care of our loved ones and the community as well. Thank you for your support!
The family of Sonsia Richerson

Save the Date

Lace up your sneakers and register to participate in the Sprint Into Spring 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run, hosted by the St. Anne-Pacelli Catholic School Vikings Booster Club! In order to be guaranteed a race t-shirt, please register for the race online by April 5, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. Online registration closes April 14, 2021.

Race Registration Fees

5K - \$25; 1 Mile Fun Run - \$15

Proceeds from this event support St. Anne-Pacelli Catholic School's middle and high school athletic programs. Sponsorship opportunities are available at \$750, \$500, \$250 and \$100 levels. If you are interested in sponsoring the Sprint Into Spring 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run, please complete your sponsorship online. You may also email St. Anne-Pacelli Catholic School Director of Advancement Tiffany Shreve at tshreve@sasphs.net for more information.

Stewardship

Weekly Finance Report: March 7

Offertory: \$4240.00 (Online \$2256.00)
Utilities: \$357.00 (Online \$110.00)
Kitchen Reno: \$3335.00
Church Repair: \$100.00 (Online \$110.00)
Flowers: \$300.00
Poor Box: (Online \$100.00)

Our online giving has been updated to a new and easier to use platform. Online donations allow you to stay up-to-date and continue your support.

Please go to <https://osvhub.com/stbenedictthemoorcolumbus/funds> to contribute.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

READING 1 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23

In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD's temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem. Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy. Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects. Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power. All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah: "Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled." In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of mouth and in writing: "Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!"

READING 2 Eph 2:4-10

Brothers and sisters:
God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ — by grace you have been saved —, raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.

GOSPEL Jn 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus:
"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

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	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	