



**ST. BENEDICT'S EPISCOPAL**  
DIOCESE OF SOUTHEAST FLORIDA - ANGLICAN COMMUNION  
7801 N.W. 5TH STREET • PLANTATION, FL 33324  
PHONE: 954-473-6578 • WWW.SAINTBENEDICTS.ORG

**CHURCH**

*We welcome you in the name of the Lord!*

The Very Reverend Albert R. Cutié, Rector  
Parish Office e-mail - [parishoffice@saintbenedicts.org](mailto:parishoffice@saintbenedicts.org)

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Year A – Revised Common Lectionary / Daily Office Year One  
December 10 and 11, 2016

**Weekend Schedule**

**Saturday:** Holy Eucharist Rite II – 6:00 pm

**Sunday:** Morning Prayer - 7:45 am

Holy Eucharist Rite I – 8:00 am

Eucharist Rite II – 10:00 am

**Weekday Eucharist/Prayer in Community**

Tuesday: Intercessory Prayer Group – 8:00 am

Tuesday: Holy Eucharist - 8:30 am

Wednesday: Holy Eucharist/Healing Service – 7:00 pm

Thursday: Holy Eucharist – 8:30 am

**Order of Service - Holy Eucharist: 6:00 pm and 10:00 am (BCP 355) – 8:00 am (BCP 323)**

**The Collect**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD**

**Psalm 146:4-9 *Lauda, anima mea***

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \*whose hope is in the LORD their God;  
5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \*who keeps his promise for ever;  
6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*and food to those who hunger.  
7 The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; \*  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
8 The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger; \*  
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.  
9 The LORD shall reign for ever, \*your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

**The Epistle: James 5:7-10**

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD**

**+The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (11:2-11)**

**All: GLORY TO YOU, LORD CHRIST**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord. **ALL: PRAISE TO YOU, LORD CHRIST**

**Sermon/Homily: 6:00 pm Saturday, 8:00 am and 10:00 am Sunday:**

The Very Reverend Albert R. Cutié, Rector

**Prayers of the People: 6:00 pm & 10:00 am: Form I; 8:00 am (BCP 328)**

**Blessings for anniversaries and birthdays and the laying on of hands for healing**

**The Great Thanksgiving: 6:00 pm and 10:00 am (BCP 361); 8:00 am (BCP 333)**

**Post Communion Prayer: BCP, 365 (8:00 am BCP, 339)**

**Sending out the Lay Eucharistic Visitors**

**Celebrant:** N. (and N.) we send you out to share Communion this week with (names).

**Celebrant:** May those who receive it from you be strengthened and encouraged in the community we have together in our Lord Jesus Christ. **People: Amen.**

### **YOU ARE GREATER THAN the BAPTIST**

John languishes in prison knowing his death will come soon at the hands of Herod Antipas. He had spent all his adult years awaiting the coming of the savior. Now he wondered: could Jesus of Nazareth be the one? John must know before he dies, and so this soon-to-be martyr sends messengers to ask Jesus that fateful question. Jesus responds not with claims of greatness nor power, not with words or boasting but with actions. Judge me by my actions in support of the needy! Jesus goes on to praise John as the greatest born of nature, but less than we of the kingdom of God who are born of grace. Indeed, in the spirit of Christmas, we, who know he is our savior, commit ourselves to be willing to give our lives like John for the people in our lives. So we become another John, even another Christ. - *Norm Carroll*

## **COMING UP @ ST. BENEDICT'S**



**December 24<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Eve Children's Mass and Pageant at **6:00 pm**  
**December 25<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Day Holy Eucharist at **8:00 am (Rite I)**,  
Choral Concert at 9:30 am and Christmas Day Mass at **10:00 am**.

**December 31<sup>st</sup>** New Year's Eve Mass will be at **6:00 pm** this year, as we are honoring our regular weekend schedule.  
**Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>** we will have our regular service times **8:00 AM** and **10:00AM**.

**There will be a Memorial Service and Requiem Eucharist on Monday, December 12th at 11:00 am at St. Benedict's for the repose of the soul of Brandon Deshaies. This will be a time when the parish family can support and come together to express their sympathy to Fr. Bob, Deborah and family.**

**The Greening of the Church has been postponed** until the 4th Sunday in Advent, December 18<sup>th</sup> during the 10:00 am service.

**JOIN US FOR WINTER WONDERLAND 2016 this Sunday, December 11, 2016** immediately following the 10:00 am service. We will have a spectacular winter event complete with activities for the children, activities for the adults, a DUNK TANK and much more! The cost is \$5.00 for all activities and a snow-cone. Additional cost for food such as curried and baked chicken, hot dogs, etc. will be available. Please come out and join us. The proceeds for this will go toward scholarships for our graduating Seniors.

**God calls us to generosity... Don't forget to fill out your Pledge Cards for your annual PLEDGE to the parish.** Everyone is being asked to "step up in faith" and increase their generous giving... Nothing is impossible with God and we are certain all will respond with faith and love to this appeal. Your church really needs you!

**Coping with Grief and Loss during the Holidays - A Journey towards Healing and Love. Sunday, December 17, after 10am Service in the St. Mary's Chapel.** The people of St. Benedicts and our friends and families have experienced great loss this year. Please join me next Sunday to discover a safe space to handle the emotional, physical and spiritual feelings of grief. Meet and receive understanding and support from others who have experienced major losses. Get the tools you need to handle the losses of loved ones, a job, a relationship, a pet, to manage a move or major changes in your life. Led by Deacon Deb McLaughlin, a Certified Bereavement Support Group Facilitator and Admission Liaison with Vitas Healthcare.

**Faith in Music Ministry:** *Tuesdays 9:30 AM. We will be studying Bach's Cantatas 116-118.*

**Adult Ed and Theological Reflection: Called to be Magi** - The original magi brought gifts, and so we bring our gifts to him. Come Monday at 7 PM to the chapel to discuss this magnificent story and our role in it.

**It's time to register for the Diocesan Youth Christmas Ball on December 17th!** The Broward Deanery is planning to have transportation as we did last year. Once you have registered, please let me know if you/your group will need transportation. I need to know by December 10th so we can determine whether we need a bus or a cargo van. Also, please note the information about adults attending. Any adult at the dance must have completed Safeguarding. Contact Pam Sahdev.

**If you are interested in serving as a Chalice Bearer** or wish to know more about what we do, there will be a meeting on Sunday January the 8th after the 10 am service for 1 hour. Chalice Bearers help serve the holy sacraments at communion. They also help with the service. You must be 16 and confirmed to be a Chalice Bearer. Acolytes can come if they are 15, but cannot serve until they are 16 and confirmed. If you have any other questions about serving, you can ask Jon Farley; as well as, Dennis Kelly at 6 pm, Christine Clifford at 8 am, Winston Plummer at 10 am, and Hazel Mitchell at 10 am. They are the Masters of Ceremonies of each service. Also, if you have any questions about acolytes, you can ask, Hazel Mitchell or me. If you have any questions about the Chalice Bearer workshop, please call or email me at [Joncandy@comcast.net](mailto:Joncandy@comcast.net) or 954-474-4730. Jon Farley, Head of Altar Ministries.

**December's MISSION OF THE MONTH is "Friends of the Good Shepherd".** This mission is located in Western Jamaica, providing financial, physical, and moral support for their Clients. They also attempt to meet the educational and healthcare needs of the disadvantaged. In the future, we will be honoring this mission in the month of July in order to be able to participate timely in their annual toy drive.

**UTO Corner 2016:** Many Thanks to everyone for your kind donations. UTO Ingathering Sunday was beautiful because you took the time to PRAY and to GIVE. Thank you to Father Albert and Archdeacon Bruttell for blessing the donations last week. We will continue to receive your donations until **Sunday, December 18, 2016.**

#### **Spiritual Thought for the Week:**

#### **Our offerings to God for December 3 and 4, 2016 - Thank you for your generosity!**

Operating Fund: \$12,024

Building Fund: \$ 3,851

Total: \$15,875

#### **A Special Message from your priest: PLEASE READ AND PRAY ABOUT IT**

Dear parish family:

How has God blessed me? What portion of my blessings am I called to offer to God as a sign of my faith and gratitude? These are important questions that only you can answer... Christmas is the season of giving. I need this December to be a month of spontaneous, big gifts. Some have already responded and I say, "Thank you for your generosity". Yet, the majority are still waiting... *On December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM we will have a special financial meeting* to address our ongoing and very significant short-fall in pledging. Yet, even if our pledging was perfect – 100% - Year-end gifts are still part of almost every church's life. And they make a huge difference and most churches and other non-profit entities rely on these gifts to carry out their work.

**If every pledging member makes a special ONE-TIME Christmas gift to the Lord – a sacrificial offering of faith and love - we will be in much better shape as we end the year.** The truth is that we are behind in giving and pledging. Please take it to prayer and do what you can to make a YEAR-END gift to the Lord Jesus and the ministry of St. Benedict's. Thank you!

Wishing all of you a holy Advent and blessed Christmas,

**Father Albert**