



ST. BENEDICT'S EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF SOUTHEAST FLORIDA - ANGLICAN COMMUNION
7801 N.W. 5TH STREET • PLANTATION, FL 33324
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CHURCH

We welcome you in the name of the Lord!

The Very Reverend Albert R. Cutié, Rector
Parish Office e-mail - parishoffice@saintbenedicts.org

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year A – Revised Common Lectionary / Daily Office Year One
December 17 and 18, 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

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

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

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 *Qui regis Israel*

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Epistle: Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The Word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD**

+The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (1:18-25)

All: GLORY TO YOU, LORD CHRIST

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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.**

ARE WE ALL LIKE MARY?

Today's gospel tells the story of the Virgin Mary's conceiving through the Holy Spirit. Traditionally, the Hebrews described the births of superior Judean leaders as deriving from barren women or those beyond menopause; for example, Isaac, Samson, or Samuel. However, Matthew's describing a VIRGIN giving birth presents the supreme compliment to the child. This is how he depicts the conception of Jesus. In reflecting on Christmas, we realize we are also celebrating the spiritual birth of Christ in us. Whether old or young, male or female, Christ would make each of us a new person: a living Christ in our circumstances. In this real spiritual sense, we become virginal, attempting to bring Christ again into our particular world. Every day of our lives, Christ seeks to live a new life in ours: especially so at Christmas. So, beyond the mere gift-giving and tree-trimming, listen and experience the herald angels singing in your life: "Glory to the new-born king" for he is about to be born in you. - *Norm Carroll*

COMING UP @ ST. BENEDICT'S

December 24th Christmas Eve Children's Mass and Pageant at **6:00 pm**

December 25th 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 31st New Year's Eve Mass will be at **6:00 pm** this year, as we are honoring our regular weekend schedule.

Sunday, January 1st we will have our regular service times **8:00 AM** and **10:00AM.**

The Sacramental Candle is given to the greater glory of God and in loving memory of Louis C. Thomas from Fran Thomas and family.

The Greening of the Church will take place during the 10:00 am service on Sunday, December 18th.

JOIN US FOR WINTER WONDERLAND 2016 this Sunday, December 18, 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!

Adult Ed and Theological Reflection: Monday Night Bible Experience will **not** meet until January 9 as we experience Christ's birth in us

Coping with Grief and Loss during the Holidays - A Journey towards Healing and Love. Sunday, December 18, 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.*

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 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: The UTO Ministry thanks you for your donations. This is the final week for receiving donations in order to send the check to The Diocese before December 31, 2016. The UTO Ministry wishes you a **Very Merry Christmas** and **Blessings in 2017!**

WORDS OF GRATITUDE: Father Bob, Deborah and family want to thank everyone who offered us their condolences and reassuring prayers, for those who attended the Memorial Service and for all those who took care of our needs. We are so grateful to Bishop Eaton, Father Albert and all those who were participants in the Mass. Thanks for the love that was shown to me and my family and for the kind remarks that people made about Bandon.

Our offerings to God for December 10 and 11, 2016 - Thank you for your generosity!

Operating Fund: \$10,797.09
Building Fund: \$ 2,861.00
Total: \$13,658.09

A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS/YEAR-END APPEAL

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 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 for your faithful generosity!

Father Albert