



Saint Benedict's Episcopal Church
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20 and 21, 2025 | 6pm, 8am, 10am

*Welcome to Saint Benedict's Episcopal Church, a church that feels like family! We are glad to have you worship with us today. If you are a newcomer, please complete a Welcome Card and place it in the offering plate so we can extend our welcome beyond this service. Additional information about Saint Benedict's and our ministries may be found online at www.saintbenedicts.org. The people's responses can be found in **BOLD**. The music for the service is taken from The Hymnal 1982 (H-1982) and Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS). Let us prepare our hearts to celebrate in Word and Sacrament, the Risen Lord.*

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Rite I of The Holy Eucharist begins on **page 323** of the Book of Common Prayer - and Rite II begins **on page 355**.

Processional Hymn

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

Hymnal 59

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

"God Is Near"

*Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.*

During Advent we remember God's faithfulness shown to us.

Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.

During Advent we remember God's humility set before us.

Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.

During Advent we remember God's commands, spoken to us.

Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.

During Advent we remember God's incredible love shared with us.

Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.

Candle Lighting

Today, we light the **fourth candle** as a call to faithful obedience to the ways of God. As we continue our Advent journey let us hear what God has spoken, believe what God has promised, accept what God has revealed, and obey what God has commanded.

*Listen to the angels, hear the message they bring;
Telling the news of a coming King;
Filling the world with hope and good cheer.
Jesus Emmanuel, God is near!*

Prayer

Gracious Lord, open our eyes to the wonders you have done, open our ears to the promises you have spoken, and open our hearts that we might become the people you have called us to be. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Opening Acclamation

The people standing, the Celebrant says

+Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever.

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Kyrie for Advent Season (*Haugen*)

Celebrant Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison

People *Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*

The Collect for the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you. ***(8 am)** And with thy spirit.

Celebrant 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 WORD OF GOD

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

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. *People* **Thanks be to God.**

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

(10am - Chanted by the Choir)

- 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.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

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. People* **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

Thy Word

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path**

**When I feel afraid
Think I've lost my way
Still you're there right beside me
And nothing will I fear
As long as you are near
Please be near me to the end**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path**

+The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Matthew 1: 18-25

People **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.

People **Praise to you Lord Christ**

Sermon

Father Albert Cutié, Rector

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People (Form I)

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the
Lord, saying **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the
Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray
to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who
remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of Saint Benedict and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God. **To thee, O Lord our God.**

We pray for our partner churches, St. Michael and All Angels in Madagascar, and our missionary Jacky.

Today in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we remember the Anglican Church in Burundi.

We pray for those celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries this week...

Confession of Sin

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you. *(8 am): And with thy spirit.**

Announcements by the Rector

*An offering is now taken for the work of the parish. Please be generous – We count on your support all year!
Feel free to make a secure donation ONLINE www.saintbenedicts.org and go to “Online giving “or give by clicking on the QR CODE below... God bless you for your generous support!*



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|---------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Offertory Hymn (6pm, 8am) | Lo, he comes, with clouds descending | Hymnal 58 |
| Offertory Anthem (Choir - 10am) | “We Look for The Star” | |
| Doxology | Praise God from whom all blessings flow | Old Hundredth |

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below:
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen!*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

| | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| <i>Celebrant</i> | The Lord be with you. | |
| All | And also with you. | *(8 am) And with thy spirit. |
| All | We lift them up to the Lord. | *(8 am) We lift them up unto the Lord. |
| <i>Celebrant</i> | Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. | |
| All | It is right to give him thanks and praise. | *(8 am) It is meet and right so to do. |

Preface

Sanctus

The Lord's Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte (1895-1964)

Fraction Anthem at the Breaking of the Bread

Douglas Major (b. 1953)



Agnus Dei

David Hurd

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us Thy peace.

Prayer of Humble Access **(8 am – optional at 6 pm and 10 am)*

All We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Communion Hymn

In remembrance of me

LEVAS 149

The Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**(8 am Rite I)*

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

+The Blessing

Recessional Hymn

Come we that love the Lord

LEVAS 12

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Alleluia Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



WELCOME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10am Service

Seafarers House/Ship Activities

Ship Visit | Wednesday, December 24 | 10am

Please Contact Allan at 954.682.4130 for additional information and how to volunteer



*thank
you*

Saidie Lawrence and Geraldine Baldie wish to express their sincere gratitude to their parish family for all of the support and condolences they received upon the death of their sister, Adeltha Ranglin.

LAST WEEK'S OFFERING TO GOD

Operating \$11,407

Building Maintenance \$2,337

Total \$13,744

Thank you for your dedication to your parish, and may God bless you for your generosity.

To sign up for ONLINE GIVING please visit our website and select the "Giving" tab. www.saintbenedicts.org



CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2025

Christmas Eve and Midnight Mass, December 24th

6pm Christmas Eve Mass with Live Petting Zoo and Children's Pageant
(Petting Zoo begins at 5pm - All children and families are welcome!)

10pm Traditional "Midnight Mass" begins with a Christmas Music Concert

Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25th

10am Christmas Day Mass (English/Spanish)

The First Sunday after Christmas December 27th and 28th

Saturday 6pm

Sunday Holy Eucharist at 8am, 10am and 12pm (*español*)

New Year's Eve Service, Wednesday, December 31st

Holy Name of Jesus/New Year's Blessing

Holy Eucharist at 8pm

OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Oh God of Love, you have brought together from many nations the people of our parish family of Saint Benedict's. We thank you for the countless gifts which your Holy Spirit bestowed upon this community of faith. We pray for the success of our Capital Campaign: May this be a time of generous and sacrificial giving, so that we may all work together to build an enduring legacy of faith for future generations. We ask this in the most Holy Name of Jesus Christ our Lord.



SAINT BENEDICT'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DIOCESE OF SOUTHEAST FLORIDA – ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Our mission is to know Christ's love, and to make it known

Weekly Worship Schedule

SATURDAYS

9:30 AM Yoga in the Sanctuary

6:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II (*"Dog-friendly" Service*)

SUNDAYS

8:00 AM (*Rite I*), 10:00 AM (*Rite II*), 12:00 PM (*Misa en español*) Holy Eucharist

MONDAYS

Bible Study 7:00 PM

TUESDAYS

Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM

WEDNESDAYS

Healing Mass and Litany 7:00 PM

THURSDAYS

Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM

FRIDAY

Bible Study 9:00 AM

The Reverend Albert R. Cutié, Rector

The Reverend Debra McLaughlin, Deacon

Ms. Linda Schlepp-Gray, Parish Administrator

Mr. Ashworth Matthews, Organist and Choirmaster

7801 NW 5th Street, Plantation, FL 33324 • PHONE: 954-473-6578

PARISH EMAIL: parishoffice@saintbenedicts.org

VISIT US ON OUR WEBSITE: www.saintbenedicts.org