



Historic St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church
441 E. Broad St., Savannah, Ga 31401

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February 21, 2021
First Sunday of Lent, Year B

Rev. Romanus Obiora Ezeugwu, MSP, Pastor
Shirley West, Admin Secretary
Bea Betworth, Accounts Secretary
Sharon Carson, Supt. of Religious Education
Dianne Williams, Parish Council Chairperson
Carl Hayes, Finance Chairperson
Jerome Grayson, Bldg/Maintenance

Please remember to follow our Parish Covid-19 safety guidelines:

- 1. Please read carefully the Covid-19 information provided at the entrance of the church.**
- 2. For your protection and for the safety of others, masks are highly recommended at Mass.**
- 3. Sanitizer is available for use at the entrance of the church. Please use it before coming into the church. There is also a sanitizer bottle in each pew.**
- 4. There is social distancing seating arrangement. Please it is critical that you follow the directions of the Ushers.**
- 5. Please observe social distancing also when leaving the church. Please do not socialize outside the church. Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people. Do not gather in groups.**

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

Forty days from now we will find ourselves at the foot of the cross. How can we prepare ourselves for this? Jesus' words at the beginning of his ministry are apt: "Repent and believe in the gospel." Let us ask ourselves how we have sinned. Let us feel remorse for those times we have fallen short. Let us resolve to turn back to God and live out the gospel in our day-to-day lives. Let us find ourselves able to approach the cross forty days from today with profound gratitude for what our Lord has done for us.

Mass Intentions:

8:00am: For Joelle Hamilton in celebration of her 18th birthday (02/18).

***offered by her grandparents, Joseph & Mary Alicia Carter.**

8:00am: For the repose of the soul Mr. Frankie Brown on the anniversary of his passing (02/22/75). *offered by his wife and children.

9:30am: For Jayden Jones in honor of his 16th birthday (02/16).

***offered by Ruth & Kimberly Simmons.**

(Prelude, Intro, Hymn, Penitential Act)

Gloria

Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you; we bless you; we adore you; we glorify you; we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; You are seated at the right hand of the father, have mercy on us. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, With the Holy Spirit, In the glory of God the Father, Amen.

First Reading: A reading from the Book of Genesis 9:8-15.

God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you: all the birds, and the various tame and wild animals that were with you and came out of the ark. I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to devastate the

earth". God added: "This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come, of the covenant between me and you and every living creature with you: I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the covenant I have made between me and you and all living beings, so that the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings".

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

[Psalm 25:4-9.]

Response: Yours ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Second Reading: A reading from the 1st letter of St. Peter 3:18-22.

Beloved: Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit. In it he also went to preach to the spirits in prison, who had once been disobedient while God patiently waited in the days of Noah during the building of the ark, in which a few persons, eight in all, were saved through water. This prefigured baptism, which saves you now. It is not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ALL STAND

One does not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

GOSPEL:

✠ A reading from the gospel of St. Mark 1:12-15.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee

proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel".

The Gospel of the Lord.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, **of all things visible and invisible. I believe** in one Lord Jesus Christ, **the only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages**, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, **consubstantial with the Father**; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: **(At the words that follow, all bow)** and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. **(end bow)**. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, **he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day, 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. **I believe** in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. **who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets. I believe** in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. **I confess** one baptism for the forgiveness of sins, **and I look forward to** the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

STEADFAST IN FAITH (ACA)

Thank you for all who have pledged and/or contributed to the 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal! No gift is too small or too large and every gift is important. Thank you for your generosity.

*Parish Giving
February 14, 2021*

Offertory	\$ 4786.00
Deanery Schools	\$ 35.00
Parish Bus	\$ 30.00

"Thank You for Your Generosity"



Please Pray for our Sick & Homebound

Michael Allen, Joe Battle, Henry Blount, M. Marie Blue, Carmen Broussard, William & Odessa Bryant, James Cain, Shawn Chaney, Anne Chappell, Josefa Citizen, Lillian Dilworth, Morris Elliott, Juanita Fields, Anthony Hall, Laura Harris, Jessica Jackson, Charlotte Jenkins, Cleveon Johnson, Margaret Jones, Bobby Locke, Michelle Lovewine, Margie McNeal, Dawud Patterson, Adriene Perry, Sr., Adriene Perry, Jr., Janice Quinn, Marilee Short, Lucille Singleton, Inez Walthour, Frankie Washington, Jeanette Westley Margaret Weston, Deveira Wiggins, Louise Wiggins, Nathaniel Wiggins, Arlene Wiley, Ellen Williams, Tandra Williams, Yvonne Williams, Crystal Williams, Narvia Williams, Julie Porter-Winfrey.

2021 STATIONS of the CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held every
Friday at 6:00pm

Make this service a part of your Lenten journey!

February 26 – Parish Council and Finance Council

March 5 – Extraordinary Ministers
of the Holy Eucharist and
CCD teachers

March 12 – AMSP, Lectors

March 19 – New Horizons and Traveling Moors

March 26 – CCW and Friends of SBM

April 2 – Legion of Mary and Choirs

**For our Lenten Station of the Cross,
please take note of the following:**

- 1) Unlike before, we are not going to walk around from Station to Station; we shall remain at our social distancing seating arrangement position while we turn towards each Station.
 - 2) Only the Cross bearer will walk from Station to Station.
 - 3) Only two people will lead us at the Stations of the Cross: one person at the Pulpit and the other at the Announcers' stand.
 - 4) We have photocopied the Stations of the Cross pamphlet for everyone to have a personal copy. Please leave your own copy in your car so that you don't forget it at home when coming for the Stations of the Cross.
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LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE
Penance services will be held on Wednesday
March 17, 2021 at 6:00pm.

RECONCILIATION WEDNESDAYS

Throughout the Savannah Deanery, many of the parishes in the Deanery will be having extra time for Confessions and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Priests of the Savannah Deanery have decided to do this so as to add extra emphasis to the importance of receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Season of Lent. Beginning February 24th, the schedule is as follows:

The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist – 4:00-5:00 PM
Resurrection of Our Lord – 5:00 – 6:00 PM
Sacred Heart – 4:30 – 5:30 PM
St. Anne, Richmond Hill – 6:00-6:45 PM
St. Benedict the Moor – 5:00-6:00 PM
St. Boniface, Springfield – 5:30-6:30 PM
St. James – 6:00 – 7:00 PM
St. Michael's, Tybee Island – 4:30 – 5:30 PM

Holy Hour for Vocations

The St. John Vianney Vocations Ministry of Savannah will be celebrating a special Holy Hour on Sunday March 7, 2021 from 3:00 – 4:00 PM at Resurrection of Our Lord Church at 112 Fell St, Savannah. Deacon Hosea Bennett will be the presider. You are welcome to join us in person or via Zoom. Here's the Zoom link. You will not need a password. Just click and join!

PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Two conditions for the kingdom - repent and believe:

As soon as John the Baptist had finished his ministry, Jesus began his in Galilee, his home district. John's enemies had sought to silence him, but the Gospel cannot be silenced. Jesus proclaimed that the time of restoration proclaimed by the prophets was now being fulfilled in his very person and that the kingdom of God was at hand. What is the kingdom of God? The word "kingdom" means something more than a territory or an area of land. It literally means "sovereignty" or "reign" and the power to "rule" and exercise authority. The prophets announced that God would establish a kingdom not just for one nation or people but for the whole world. God sent us his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, not to establish an earthly kingdom but to bring us into his heavenly kingdom - a kingdom

ruled by justice, truth, peace, and holiness. The kingdom of God is the central theme of Jesus' mission. It's the core of his Gospel message.

In announcing the good news of the Gospel Jesus gave two explicit things each of us must do in order to receive the kingdom of God: repent and believe. Repent means to turn away from sin and wrong-doing in order to follow God's way of love, truth, and moral goodness. Repentance means to change - to change my way of thinking, my attitude, my disposition, and the way I choose to live my life - so that the Lord Jesus can be the Master and Ruler of my heart, mind, and will. Whatever stands in the way of God's will and plan for my life must be surrendered to him. When we submit to God's rule in our lives and believe in the Gospel message the Lord Jesus gives us the grace and power to live a new way of life as citizens of his kingdom. He gives us grace to renounce the kingdom of darkness ruled by pride, sin, and Satan, the father of lies (John 8:44). Repentance is the first step to surrendering my will and my life to God.

To believe is to take Jesus at his word and to recognize that God loved us so much that he sent his only begotten Son to free us from bondage to sin and harmful desires. God made the supreme sacrifice of his Son on the cross to bring us back to a relationship of peace, friendship, and unity with our Father in heaven. He is our Father, and he wants us to live in joy and freedom as his beloved sons and daughters. God loved us first and he invites us in love to surrender our lives to him. Do you believe in the Gospel - the good news of Jesus Christ - and in the power of the Holy Spirit who transforms each one of us into the likeness of Christ?

Your Pineapple for the week:

Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them (John 14:23).