Please remember that during this difficult time we will be offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass each day. Although we cannot offer a public Mass, we will be offering our Masses privately and live-streaming them daily to our website (parish.stbenedict.com) and Facebook page. You can access it live or view it later. Please give us a call if you have any thoughts or suggestions, or if you have Mass intentions or someone you would like us to pray for. Thank You for your continued support and prayers.

# ST. BENEDICT PARISH AND PREPARATORY SCHOOL

MAY 24, 2020 | THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

He was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. -Acts 1:9

Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.



### BY LOUIE KARAGIANNES, DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY

2020, the year the earth stood still, will forever be remembered by those that survived it. I can still remember

where I was when I was told to stay home and not return to work. That I was being asked to please refrain from entertainment or explore any pleasure outside the safety of my home. For a while I debated in my head the seriousness of the demands by our heads of state; should I have more faith in God to think that I shouldn't be afraid to venture out? Is it silly to think that God would allow for me to

FOLLOW US ON

become sick by sacrificing my time to come and worship him in his home? As a lover of history, I think back to heroes like George Washington who led an army of men in a devastating war during the smallpox epidemic that killed one in three that it infected. Without their sacrifice, we may never have become a free nation. My frustration would continue as I try to deal with the fact that my wedding in September is in jeopardy of being canceled, a time where I was looking forward to creating a bond that will last till death being postponed because of this order to be at home. My honeymoon was going to be the first time I ventured outside of this wonderful country to experience Rome, Barcelona, Pisa, Florence, and Naples. I had plans to go with the 8th grade to Washington D.C., which is normally what I would be writing to you about on this lovely Sunday sharing. I could continue, but I digress because I think you get the picture. Being younger and inexperienced in some life lessons. I feel invincible and untouchable and just want to believe that this is silliness and that nothing should stop me in being allowed to give up these dreams this year. I mean, nothing has ever stopped me before from chasing my dreams, why should I start now?

Eventually however, I began to see God present in my daily life again. I saw my home parish of St. Demetrios in Libertyville jump from Sunday service and struggling collections, to becoming a successful online driving force bringing all kinds of content to millions of people online; which was never possible during the status quo. I saw St. Ben's become a beacon of possibilities in an online school environment, as well as, successfully launch the Gala online. Lastly, I have seen people connect with one another as a family by bringing that central bond where we are not worried about being late for this or having to go to that. All the extracurricular activities, the jobs, the chores, the nonsense that gets in the way of a wholesome family meal, family game night,

and connectedness which mankind cherished since its conception. The family is the home and likeness of Christ in the church, we have forgotten this and continue to see the family disintegrate in this country. God however has blessed us with an opportunity to correct it. Even though work has been busier than ever with launching the online platform, assisting in technology communications and education logistics; the time I save in everyday nonsense like commuting has allowed me to spend time with my family, see my future in-laws, spend time outdoors and enjoy God's creation, and restore some peace and humility in my heart.

As Americans we always focus on the here and now, constantly moving and never stopping to enjoy the little things. We refuse to accept inconvenience in our lives. I think that God has given us an opportunity to see his actions, presence, and our purpose by forcing us to remain at home. Take this opportunity wherever you are and no matter what life is throwing at you to remember that there are always people there that love you. Show them that you love them too! Take a breath and get some exercise outside, enjoy what God has given us in his blessed creation. Take this time to learn and connect with God, read his scripture, say your prayers and thank Him for life. Don't let life hold you down through work and obligations, enjoy this break and find God where you can. In the words of my childhood hero and favorite Chicagoan:

"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop to look around once in a while, you could miss it." – Ferris Bueller



# First and foremost, all we can say is "WOW" to the SUCCESS of the 2020 VIRTUAL GALA!

When we started planning for the 2020 Gala, we were excited to be returning to the beautiful space at Rockwell on the River. We learned from feedback from the 2019 Gala and were preparing for a fantastic 2020 Gala, celebrating again as a community, when COVID19 started. With the Social Distancing in effect, we spent time as a committee discussing the best way to approach the new reality and what it meant for our fundraising goals. As you are all aware, the dollars raised from this annual event heavily support the St. Benedict school operating budget, particularly our amazing teachers and administrative staff. As such, we knew the event had to move forward in some capacity. We had 3 weeks to plan, coordinate and pull off something that St. Ben's had never done before - a virtual Gala. It is testament to the amazing administrative staff and the committee members that we were able to create this event in such a short time. There are so many people to thank, but first and foremost hats off to the staff at St. Ben's. Not only were they already dealing with pivoting from an in person learning platform to e-learning, we asked them to help us in creating another virtual event and they rose to the occasion.

Specifically, the success of this event would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the following:

Father Steve Kanonik Rachel Gemo Joe Accardi Jean Hybinette Jazel Gabriel Jeremy Kiolbassa Maria Tubay Erico Ramirez Rachel Waldron

Mary Deletioglu Janet Gallagher Ben Mazzone

Thank you also goes to all those that donated to both the silent and live auction, purchased tickets and supported our teachers through teacher tickets...your generosity truly made a difference. We had far fewer auction items to offer this year as a result of the pandemic and ticket sales were able to bridge that gap. The teachers also did a fabulous job with reinventing their treats and marketing them with videos! Thank you also to all of our sponsors, without whom the evening would not have been possible. Finally, none of this would have been possible without the time and energy of our committee. Thank you all for your tireless commitment to a great cause!

### And now for what you have all been waiting for...the numbers.

What a great evening it turned out to be and we are so thankful and blessed to be part of such an amazing community! The evening and the week leading up to it exceeded our expectations in so many ways. There were so many moments that evening that warmed our hearts and brought tears to our eyes. We knew we were part of a special community but Saturday night showed us just how special it truly is. Our goal for the Gala this year was to raise \$150,000 for the operating budget and \$30,000 for Fund A Need.

We knew these goals were lofty especially in light of the hurdle not being in person presented but we did it! Our numbers are not final as more donations are coming in, but so far we have raised \$225,000 net of expenses and our contribution to the Build Our Future Fund.

Specifically, \$160k for the operating budget and \$65k for Fund A Need. Unbelievable!

As a committee, thank you again. We were blessed to be a part of planning and executing this years' event and look forward to when we can all be together again to celebrate as a community...in person.

God Bless.

Your 2020 Virtual Blue Ribbon Gala Co-Chairs, Laura Burns, Isabelle Ryan, and Linda Wolf

## EDUCATION

### **E-LEARNING SUCCESS**

St. Benedict Prep has received rave reviews for the implementation of the virtual e-learning program. The weekly schedules include virtual office hours, a daily physical education period, and a weekly virtual all-school Mass. Students are sustaining community in a virtual environment and learning important lessons about resiliency, cooperation, and social responsibility. In a recent parent survey, St. Benedict Prep received a 93% approval rating. Congratulations to faculty and staff for this positive vote of confidence.

Thank you for doing a great job getting the school through the pandemic. The faculty and the staff are on top of this transition and the hard work shows in the results. Very much appreciated.

Ms. Tarris "hit the ground running" with eLearning! She was quick to master the technology. extremely organized and timely with lesson planning, and is incredibly responsive to parent emails, kid's

questions, etc.

We are so grateful for everything you

and your team are doing

for the students!

It is amazing to be part of this community!



Thank you MS teachers!

Thanks to the entire 2nd grade team (including steam, library, art, music teachers!) for keeping the kids engaged, interested in learning new things, and providing families with a sense of stability during the school week! We love our teachers and SBPS staff! SEPS Parent, 2nd Grady

-SBPS Parent, Grades 4 & 7

I. BENEDICT



REPARATORY SCHOOL



The Ascension of the Lord



We could not be happier to be a part of St Ben's through this challenging time. Our teachers are unbelievable and we are so lucky to have them! - SBPS Parent Grades PK, 3 & 5

We are so grateful for everything you and your team are doing for the students! It's amazing to be part of this community! - SBPS Parent Grades 3 & 5

The whole St Ben's team is amazing and we cannot express our gratitude enough for the amazing efforts in e-learning, and keeping us all centered with a sense of calm in prayer and faith during these uncertain times. THANK YOU!

SBPS Parent, 5th Grade

St. Ben's is doing an amazing job with e-learning! We have been able to accomplish so much with the guidance of their teachers. Having taught in a classroom myself, I know that what you are all doing is not an easy feat. Thank you so much! -SBPS Caregiver, Grades PK, 1 and 2 Thank you for all that you've done to make the leap to e-learning. It's truly incredible all that has been accomplished the last few weeks. We are so blessed to have all of you at St. Ben's!

ST BENEDICT

SBPS Parent, Grades 1 and 4

Mrs. Christy has gone above and beyond in her live engagement, and even dropped off treats to students mailboxes with a kind note. This is above and beyond. We appreciate her.

SBPS Parent, Preschool

I just wanted to say THANK YOU for all the work you and the teachers are doing for our kids. Honestly, you're doing God's work! I am so impressed with the organization, the caliber of work, and face to face time you are providing for our kids. As a teacher, I understand what an undertaking it is. We can't thank you enough! -SBPS Parent, Grade 2

ST. BENEDICT

PREPARATORY SCHOO

# Proud to be a 2019 National Blue Ribbon School!

PPLY

DAY!

ST. BENEDICT

# **CONNECTION** CORNER PREPARATORY SCHOOL

2bd/1bth apartment available June 1st \$1650/month In the St Ben's area, no pets or smokers. For more information contact Maribel Selva 773 616 6743.



Zoom Meetings **Monday Nights** at 8pm

Youth Ministry is hosting a Zoom meeting every Monday night at 8PM. Please email Mrs. McMillan at kmcmillan@stbenedict.com for the link.

# 773-509-3814

www.stbenedict.com

### HUMAN CONCERNS AND OUTREACH



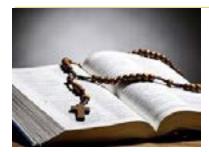


### **CRS RICE BOWL UPDATE**

Thank you to all who participated in CRS Rice Bowl with us throughout Lent! Given the realities of COVID-19 and that we are unable to physically collect CRS Rice Bowls, you can submit your CRS Rice Bowl gift on line by visiting crsricebowl.org., by phone (1-877-435-7277) or mail:

Catholic Relief Services CRS Rice Bowl P.O. Box 17090 Baltimore, Maryland 21297-0303

During this difficult time, every contribution will help those most in need in your community and around the world. No matter how you choose to give, 25% of your donation comes back to the Archdiocese of Chicago to support our local grants, which fund vital hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. Thanks in advance for your generosity!



### **VIRTUAL GROUP OFFERINGS**

All are welcome to join our group that meets Monday to Friday at 10 am to say the Rosary as well as the group that meets 10 am on Sundays to reflect on the upcoming readings for the following Sunday. These meetings are a wonderful way to pray and be together with others in our faith community until we can meet again safely in person. For more information on how to join on line, please contact me at elindia@stbenedict.com or at (773)509-3806.

### **PRAY WITH YOUR IMAGINATION**

St. Ignatius was convinced that God can speak to us surely through our imagination as through our thoughts and memories. In the Ignatian tradition, praying with the imagination is called contemplation. Ignatian contemplation is especially suited for the Gospels. As you visualize the events in the gospels, you pay attention to the sounds, tastes, smells and feelings of the events. You use your imagination to dig deeper into the stories so that God can communicate with you in a personal way. If you are interested in learning more about imaginative prayer and being part of a group where you can experience it through guided meditation, please contact me at elindia@stbenedict.com or at (773)509-3806.



# STEWARDSHIP

### **SUNDAY GIVING**

### Recent Sunday Giving (Mailed-in and GiveCentral) since the COVID-19 "shelter-in-place"

Amount received for Sunday, April 19: Amount received for Sunday, April 26: Amount received for Sunday, May 3: Amount received for Sunday, May 10: Amount received for Sunday, May 17: 10,040.33 (76% of goal) \$9,589.67 (73% of goal) \$12,599.00 (95% of goal) \$12,411.00 (94% of goal) \$11,956.33 (91% of goal)

\$13.250.00

Weekly goal: Average amount received per Sunday since COVID-19 "shelter-in-place"

\$11,204.41 (85% of Sunday Offertory goal)

### **Forward in Our Faith**

Gifts received last week:	\$2,002.50
Total:	\$4,188,647.99

Our parish is very grateful for the many parishioners and friends of our parish who have continued and increased their generosity over the past few months. So many faithful parishioners continue to turn in their envelopes to the rectory office or have made donations using GiveCentral. Your generosity has allowed the parish to continue paying its employees, maintain our facilities and provide outreach opportunities during this historic time. Thank you to all those who have made sacrifices to make this possible.

The parish been very strategic in lowering our overhead expenses in an effort to be good stewards of the gifts that we receive. Again, thank you for your generosity to St. Benedict Parish. You and your loved ones continue to be in our daily prayers.

# WITH Central

Sign-up today for secure automated giving to St. Benedict Parish and Preparatory School. Simply go to www. GiveCentral.org to start giving by selecting St. Benedict Church - Chicago, or you may also donate by visiting the link on our parish and school website. If you need assistance signing up or have questions about the program, contact our Parish Database Manager, Christine Clardy, at (773) 588-6484 x5113 or cclardy@stbenedict.com or our Director of Finance. Geoff Pautsch. at x5109 or at gpautsch@stbenedict.com. Thank you for your remarkable generosity to the parish.

### **STEWARDHIP REFLECTION**

Our first reading is from the Book of Acts. In fact, it is the beginning of that Book. Acts was written by St. Luke. It is a continuation of his Gospel in many ways. We do not learn that much about Luke from the New Testament. Most historians agree that he was a doctor; he was a Gentile; and he was a companion of St. Paul.

Acts is basically the continuation of Jesus' work as described in the Gospels. In effect it describes how the Good News traveled from Jerusalem to Rome. Our readings today are filled with reminders that Jesus' work is not completed. He commissioned His followers to continue it after His Ascension into Heaven. Among those commissioned so to speak is each of us.

Among those commissioned so to speak is each of us. The Lord's work continues from that day to today. However, for it to continue and for the love He shared and displayed to be the factor it needs to be in our parish and in the Church and in the world it is reliant upon us.

It was St. Teresa of Avila who wrote, "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are His Body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."



# IN OUR PRAYERS

# Masses for the Week

Saturday, May 23 - Easter Weekday Special Intention for Leda Wildner - Lucy Consing

Sunday, May 24 - The Ascension of the Lord Marina C. Barrientos - The Barrientos and Kramer Families Ernesto and Celerina Canciller -The Canciller Family

Monday, May 25 - Easter Weekday; St. Bede the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church; St. Gregory VII, Pope; St. Mary Magdalene de'Pazzi, Virgin

Tuesday, May 26 - St. Philip Neri, Priest

Jeanne and Bob Theis - The Theis Family Marina C. Barrientos - The Barrientos and Kramer Families

Wednesday, May 27 - Easter Weekday; St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop

**Thursday, May 28 - Easter Weekday** Victor Goite, Nicholas Goite, and Abe Dela Cruz - *Gloria Liza Goite* 

Friday, May 29 - Easter Weekday Lena Nutini - Lucy Consing

Saturday, May 30 - Easter Weekday

Sunday, May 31 - Pentecost Sunday Dennis Prah - Family Bob Kawell - The Theis Family Special Intention for Christine Murphy - D. Schmookler Deceased Members and Benefactors of the St. Vincent de Paul Society



Please call Elaine Lindia at (773) 509-3806 to add your name or the name of an immediate family member for whom you would like the parish to pray for healing. The name of the person will appear for 2 months unless otherwise instructed at the time the request is made.

> **Ricardo Cataylo** Dradyne Robyne Eudeikis **Michael Gollehon** Kelley Halper **Gladys Hunter** Emma Irizarry Lynne Kattner Judie Magsayo Fermina Pereja **Christine Pietschmann** Kathleen Pietschmann Rowan Quinain, Sr. **Christopher Randell Gloria Recede Ellen Roberts** Toni Tortorella Leda Wildner



# PARISH INFORMATION

### **COME HOME TO ST. BEN'S!**

If you are visiting, we hope you enjoy your stay. We're glad you decided to join us in this celebration. If you are new to the St. Ben's community, welcome home! To become a registered parishioner, complete a Registration Form online at http://parish.stbenedict.com/becoming-a-parishioner/. One of our Ministers of Hospitality will be glad to assist you. If you are a former parishioner or a graduate of our schools, we are glad to see you back home. We hope you will return often. Contact Joe Accardi, Director of Alumni Relations at jaccardi@ stbenedict.com.

Our weekly bulletin, The Steward, tells you about parish life. Submissions for the bulletin are generally due by Friday at 9 am of the week previous to publication. Electronic submissions are preferred via e-mail to bulletin@stbenedict.com. Flyers should be submitted in camera-ready format and will be used if space permits.

If you would like to receive our online weekly newsletter-"The Block", please contact the rectory to be placed on our emailing list. If you have any questions, please call the rectory at (773) 588-6484. We look forward to hearing from you.

### ST. BENEDICT PARISH AND PREPARATORY SCHOOL

#### **ST. BENEDICT PARISH**

Rectory: 2215 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, IL 60618 **Phone:** (773) 588-6484 **Fax:** (773) 588-4927 **Email:** www.stbenedict.com **Rectory hours:** 8:30 AM – 8:00 PM (Monday-Thursday), 9:30 AM – 6:00 PM (Friday), 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Saturday), 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM (Sunday)

#### PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Stephen Kanonik, Pastor, ext. 5106, skanonik@stbenedict.com Rev. Robert Beaven, Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert Pajor, Assoc. Pastor, ext. 5103, rpajor@stbenedict.com Rev. Thomas Refermat, Assoc. Pastor, ext 5205, trefermat@stbenedict.com Elaine Lindia, Pastoral Associate, ext. 5101 elindia@stbenedict.com David Reyes, Deacon, ext. 5105, dreves@stbenedict.com Jeremy Kiolbassa, Director of Music and Liturgy, ext. 5107, jkiolbassa@stbenedict.com Daniel Hughes, Director of Catechesis, ext. 1271, dhughes@stbenedict.com Kim McMillan, Director of Youth Ministry, ext. 5108, kmcmillan@stbenedict.com Jody Roy, Coordinator of the Kateri Center, ext. 7000, jroy@stbenedict.com

#### PARISH SUPPORT STAFF

Geoff Pautsch, Director of Finance, ext. 5109, gpautsch@stbenedict.com Ellen Roberts, Parish Manager, ext. 5104, eroberts@stbenedict.com Maria Tubay, Director of Communications ext. 2351, mtubay@stbenedict.com Christine Clardy, Parish Database and Compliance Manager ext. 5113, cclardy@stbenedict.com

# ST. BENEDICT PREPARATORY SCHOOL

**Early Childhood (Preschool) Phone:** (773) 588-7851 3901 N. Bell Ave, Chicago, IL 60618

Lower School(K-3) Phone: (773) 463-6797 3920 N. Leavitt, Chicago, IL 60618

**Upper School (4-8) Phone:** (773) 539-0066 3900 N. Leavitt, Chicago, IL 60618

Rachel Gemo, Head of Parish School (PK-8), ext. 1220, rgemo@stbenedict.com

Rachel Waldron, Head of Lower School, ext. 1101, rwaldron@stbenedict.com

Mary Deletioglu, Head of Upper School, ext. 1253, mdeletioglu@stbenedict.com

#### THE COMMISSIONS OF ST. BENEDICT PARISH

If you are interested in learning more about or joining one of the many ministries at St. Benedict Parish or would like to volunteer time or talent, please call the rectory or contact the following person(s): Parish Council Chair: Karen Cholipski Finance Council Chair: Chris Graff School Board Co-Chairs: Megan Biggam and Elizabeth Zakaras **Catechetical Commission:** Daniel Hughes and Kim McMillan Education Commission: Rachel Gemo, Rachel Waldron, or Mary Deletioglu **Human Concerns Commission:** Elaine Lindia Parish Life Commission: Fr. Robert Paior **Spiritual Life Commission:** Fr. Stephen Kanonik and Jeremy Kiolbassa

### MASSES AND SERVICES

Sunday Eucharist: 5PM Saturday 7:30AM, 9AM(Choral Mass), 10:30AM (Family-Centered), 12 NOON, and 6:30PM Sunday Weekday Eucharist: 8:30AM Monday – Saturday Holy Day Eucharist: 6:30AM, 8:30AM and 7PM

**Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help:** Tuesdays 9AM

**Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament:** First Friday of each month, 9AM – 12PM, in church. **Baptisms:** Scheduled on all Sundays at 1:30PM; on the fourth Sunday at one of the Masses. Baptism preparation class is required. **Reconciliation:** Saturdays, 11AM -12 NOON; seasonal celebrations, as posted; by appointment in the rectory.

**Weddings:** Arrange with a priest at least four months in advance. Participation in marriage preparation is essential. Please call the rectory.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** (**RCIA**): For unbaptized persons or baptized persons interested in learning more about the Catholic faith and the process of becoming a Catholic. Call the rectory.

**Religious Education:** Arrangements should be made for the religious education of children attending public schools with the Director of Catechesis.

Handicapped Accessibility: An elevator is available for all Sunday Masses. Enter the church through the East door. Please call the rectory for weekday availability. Homebound: Call the rectory to arrange communion in home for those unable to attend Mass.

**Mass Intentions:** Mass intentions may be requested for someone who is living or deceased, or to commemorate a birthday, special anniversary, or the anniversary of a loved one's death. Please call the rectory.





### HAVING DIFFICULTY DEALING WITH OUR STRESSFUL WORLD?

The Holbrook Counseling Center of Catholic Charities provides counseling services at St. Matthias Parish. Cheryl Joseph-Lukz, MA, LCPC is the therapist at St. Matthias. Cheryl is a Licensed Clinical Counselor, and she has worked with individuals, couples and families for over 20 years. Whether you're having problems with personal relationships, work situations or are just feeling unhappy, "stuck", or unfulfilled, we're here for you. We are in network with BC/BS

### VIOLENCE IN YOUR HOME? GET HELP.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE 24/7

1-877-863-6338 CHICAGO

1-800-799-7233 NATIONAL



2114 W. Irving Park Rd.