



St. Benedict Catholic Church



Parish House:
11625 Falcon Highway, Falcon, Colorado 80831
719/495-1426 www.stbenedictfalcon.org

D e c e m b e r 4 , 2 0 1 1
Second Sunday of Advent

Our Parish Mission

To be a welcoming Catholic parish reaching out to those who are searching for a Community of faith.

To strengthen the spiritual life of all by witnessing the gospel, passing on our Catholic beliefs, and serving those in need.

Welcome Newcomers/Visitors

We invite you to register by completing the blue Registration form, found on the information table just outside of the worship area.

Sacramental preparation

Baptisms: Contact Deacon Lynn at 495-1426 to schedule a Preparation Seminar.
marriages: Please call the Parish House at least 12 months before the wedding date to begin preparation.

Anointing the Sick: Contact Parish House, or in case of emergency call Holy Apostles Parish, 597-4249.

Office Hours

Regular business hours at the Parish House are Tuesday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Deacon Lynn is on call at any time at 237-6677. The Blessed Sacrament Chapel, in the Parish House is available during business hours for prayer and reflection. Meeting rooms are also available for parish use.

Mass Cancellations

To find out if Mass is cancelled due to severe weather, please call the parish phone number, 495-1426, or visit our parish web site, www.stbenedictfalcon.org

Prepare the way of the Lord

In today's Gospel we are provided with the opening passages of the Gospel According to Mark. In it we hear the Old Testament prediction of John the Baptist - "A voice of one crying out in the desert; Prepare the way of the Lord." Preaching a message that one mightier than he was coming, John baptized the people "as they acknowledged their sins.

Advent provides us with a time to reflect on how we accept Jesus into our daily lives. It is a time of joyful anticipation of the Christmas celebration of his birth, and of his purpose in becoming as one of us – our redemption and salvation.

The four weeks of Advent is our time for soul-preparation; acknowledgement of all that separate us from the Lord. It is the proper time for sacramental Reconciliation.

-Deacon Lynn

Mass Schedule

Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Sunday at the Patriot Learning Cntr (the old "Falcon Middle School") 11990 Swingline Road

Reconciliation

Available every Sunday at 8 a.m. Parish Rosary, Each Wednesday, 10 a.m. at the Parish House

Mass Intention

This Mass is being offered for the intentions of the people of St. Benedict Parish

Offertory/Attendance

November 27 \$1,914 /174
Offertory Validators
December:
Pedro Gonzalez, Phil Hoyle

Today's Readings

December 4, 2011
Is 40:1-5, 9-11
2 Pt 3:8-14
Gospel Mk 1:1-8

Next Sunday's Readings

December 11, 2011
Is 61:1-2a, 10-11
1 Thes 5:16-24
Gospel Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Readings for the Week:

Mon: Is 35:1-10, Lk 5:17-26
Tues: Is 40:1-11, Mt 18:12-14
Wed: Is 40:25-31, Mt 11:28-30
Thurs: Gn 3:9-15, 20, Eph 1:3-6, 11-12, Lk 1:26-38
Fri: Is 48:17-19, Mt 11:16-19
Sat: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11, Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Parish News and Events

November 2011, Offertory

1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday	5th Sunday
\$1986	\$2401.90	\$2232.40	\$1,914.00	

For detailed information on our parish financials, go to the Finance Council page on the St. Benedict web site.

The new Translation of the Mass prayers

To assist everyone with the new translation of the prayers used during Mass, a Prayers and Responses “pew card” will be placed on every seat in our worship space. The actual word changes in the prayers are in bold print. At the end of Mass, everyone is asked to pass the cards to the center isle so that they can be more easily pickup for use next Sunday.

A Parish Town Hall Meetings – Today, the first of 3 Sundays

The Parish Development Steering Committee, in conjunction with the Pastoral and Finance Council, is calling a Town Hall Meeting for after Mass this morning. This meeting, in the cafeteria, will be to present and discuss our proposal to the Bishop to purchase property in the immediate Falcon area. A detailed PowerPoint presentation will be made with an opportunity for questions and answers about the plan.

The following Sundays, Dec. 11th & 18th, we will continue a parish wide dialogue about the proposal, and questions and concerns raised by everyone. We don't want to leave anyone out; especially our R. E. Catechist who almost every week spend their time teaching our children after Mass. You don't want to miss it. Your input is needed and important!

Eswatini Jewelry Sale Dec 4th

There will be a sale of handmade jewelry after Mass today, Dec 4th. The purchase of this clay jewelry helps provide a sustainable income for women from informal settlements in Swaziland, Africa. The project was established by the Salesian Missions and all proceeds will go directly back to the families in Swaziland. Please stop by and pick up a Christmas gift or two. Any purchase will go a long way to help these women provide for their families.

St Benedict's Women's Group is selling a ornament depicting the St Benedict medal, our parish namesake. We are asking for a \$10 donation and the profit will be split between the building fund and the women's group. The ornament will make a wonderful keepsake of our parish. Thanks for your financial support.

Faith Conversations

Several couple in the parish have recently been meeting to listen to audio recording by some of the best Catholic speakers in the country. They use their time together to deepen fuller understanding of the faith by discussing what they learn. These couples would like to invite all the adults in the parish to join in the Faith Conversation sessions.

To make it possible for moms and dads to attend without the need a sitter

From the pages of the **Catechism of the Catholic Church** can be found each week at the bottom of the back page of this Bulletin. This week's topic is:
John the Baptist

Advent Penance 2011

St. Francis, Dec 5 at 7 pm
Holy Apostles, Dec 7 at 6:30 pm
OLP, Dec 14 at 7 pm
Divine Redeemer, Dec 15 at 7 pm
(Parish)
St. Peter's, Dec 20 at 6 pm
St. Gabriel's, Dec 21 at 7 pm

Parish Calendar

December 4
*Second Sunday of Advent
Children's Participatory Mass*

December 6
*Prayer Shawl Ladies Meeting,
6:30p, PH*

December 7
Wednesday Rosary, 10a, PH

December 8
*Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Choir Practice, 7p, Parish House*

December 11
*Third Sunday of Advent
Parish Town Hall Meeting following
Mass, PLC Cafeteria*

December 13
Pastoral Council Meeting, 7p, PH

December 14
*Wednesday Rosary, 10a, PH
Knights of Columbus Monthly
Meeting, 7p, Parish House*

Parish News and Events

House Blessing

If you would like to have your home blessed, call Deacon Lynn at the Parish House, 495-1426

A Transition from Gathering/Welcoming to a Time of Quiet Preparation

Five to ten minutes before the beginning of Mass, the Altar Servers will be asked to light the candles on the altar. We are invited to use this symbol as a call to settle ourselves in the worship space and join in a few minutes of quiet just before we begin the celebration of the Eucharist.

Pastoral Council Meetings

All parishioners are invited to attend these meetings and participate in the discussions. These meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm.



for the kids, they have been alternating their gatherings – one Tuesday the guys meet, the next Tuesday the ladies meet. Right now the gathering are in a room at the Falcon Library, Highway 24 and Meridian.

If you might be interested in hearing the best in current Catholic teachings (the Sacraments, apologetics, and faith questions you have always wanted to know about) contact Kim Dolan at 495-8233.

R.C.I.A. (The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

Would you like to become Catholic? Would you just like to understand the Catholic Church a little better. As a baptized Catholic, would you like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? Then RCIA is for you.

In January, St. Benedict will host a series of information session for those interested in going through the RCIA process. No obligation, no commitment necessary. Come with your questions and concerns. Catholic answers provided free of charge.

Thanksgiving Baskets

As continuing evidence that St. Benedict Parish makes a difference in people's lives – we were able to provide all the fixin's so that 30 families in the Falcon area were able to have a real Thanksgiving Dinner around the family table. This was made possible both by the weekly Offertory Collection and special anonymous donations. May the continued blessing of God rest on all who worked on this project for the parish.

The St. Benedict Parish Job Line

Are you looking for work? Are you, or your employer, looking for dedicate employees to fill positions at your business? If so, call the St. Benedict Job Line – (719) 495-1426.

Our parish tries to link those in need of a job with those hiring. Call and simply give your contact information and what you are looking for. In turn, we will provide that information to those might be able to fill your need.

If you are not in either of these categories, please share the St. Benedict Job Line number with somebody you know who is.

Saturday Al-Anon Meetings

Are you troubled by someone's drinking? Is your life affected by someone else's drinking? Find strength and hope by attending an Al-Anon meeting for friends and family of drinkers. Meeting each Saturday at 9AM - St Benedict Parish House – 11625 Falcon Hwy, Falcon CO 80831 Or call Michelle at 499-3427 or Mike at 229-6304

The Use of Kneelers: Use/Return

When we have Mass in the gym, it is optional to stand during the Eucharistic prayers because we don't have pews with kneelers. Realizing that some would like to kneel in reverence during this part of the Mass, the Champlin family has made up a bunch of cloth covered foam kneelers for everyone's use. The kneelers will be near the corner by the holy water table before Mass. Please use and return as you need.

Father Paul's Ponderings

Second Sunday of Advent

Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God!
Here comes with power the Lord God who rules by his strong arm!

A few days ago I read this startling news:

A South Carolina cancer center that gave Santa Claus the boot has reversed its decision, but said they will ban any Christmas decorations that are religious in nature - including the Nativity. The Hollings Cancer Center in Charleston, SC, created a firestorm of yuletide controversy after they told a volunteer that he would not be allowed to dress up as Santa Claus, according to Fox News. Their Santa ban lasted about two days before they reversed course. "Perhaps we stumbled here," Hollings spokeswoman Vicky Agnew said. "We are very well aware that Santa is not a religious figure, but we are a state institution and we wanted to tone down the overt commercial and any religious aspects to it."

I have a hard time accepting that this story and many like it happens in our nation. How is it possible for these anti-Christ events to happen? And I wonder how long we American Christians will remain so passive. What would happen, for example, if patients and their families, with Hollings Cancer Center employees were to rise up and remind the establishment that Santa is a religious figure in history who dedicated his life to Christ, who provided for several young poor women, saving them from prostitution? What would happen if all Christians of all denominations were to rise up and hold their elected officials accountable? Why are we afraid of a minority in our nation who fail to respect our Christian roots?

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God!
Here comes with power the Lord God who rules by his strong arm!

Religious Education (RE) / Youth

K-2nd Grade: Patriot Learning Center, will take place 10 minutes after the end of Mass for 1 hour.

3rd-7th grade: Parish House, will start 20 minutes after the end of mass for 1 hour.

Confirmation: Parish House, will start 20 minutes after the end of mass for 1 hour.

Once again, in addition to religious holidays, we will parallel the District 49 schedule of school breaks. Tuition for these classes is \$40.00 per child, with a maximum of \$100.00 per family.

Dec. 4: Childrens Participatory Mass

Dec. 18: No Class, Christmas Break

Dec. 25: No Class, Christmas Break

Jan. 1: No Class



On-Going Diocesan Events

Young Adult Sunday Night Mass

Young adults are welcome to come and celebrate Mass at St. Dominic Catholic Church, in Security, every 4th Sunday of the month at 7 pm. Come meet other Young Adults from around the diocese. For more information, contact Kathy Bull at 866-6448, bull@diocs.org.

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap meets the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at TGI Friday's, in Colorado Springs. For more information, contact Kathy Bull at 719-866-6448 or kbull@diocs.org.



Colorado's Catholic Radio Station

KFEL – 970AM

Authentic Catholic teachings and inspirational radio programming.

News from the Diocese

Next Week's Second Collection – Retirement Fund for Religious

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Bishops of the United States are appealing to Catholics across the nation to contribute to a special collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious on December 10/11, 2011. In 2010, while visiting a senior-care facility, our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI noted, "Indeed, the provision of care for the elderly should be considered not so much an act of generosity as the repayment of a debt of gratitude." This collection gives us an opportunity to honor and thank thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests for their faithful service.

Today, many religious communities struggle to care for their elderly members. Sky-rocketing health-care costs and decreased income make it increasingly difficult to provide necessary medications, nursing care, and basic services.

I recognize this is but one of numerous worthy causes in need of support and that many in our own community face financial difficulties. I ask you simply to give what you can. In thanksgiving for all that senior religious have done, please join me in supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious and in praying for God's continued blessing on our nation's elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

Sincerely yours in Christ

Most Reverend Michael J. Sheridan
Bishop of Colorado Springs

Working to promote vocations....

The Serra Club is a group of men and women who pray and work for vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life. Our local club is very active. They are looking for more members to assist in their good work. If you are interested in being a part of this important apostolate, please call Dave O'Keefe at 447.1999 for more information.

Catholic Singles (age 35-60)

We will be going to the Le Fuselier Winery in Canon City on Saturday, Dec. 17th. Enjoy stories about the wines and winery while sampling different wines, cheese and snacks. We will carpool from Colorado Springs. Want to help others over the Holiday Season? Come join us in serving breakfast at the Marian House on Sunday, Dec. 18th. For more information call Mary Jean at 719-291-2053

Do You Have a Special Place in Your Heart for Babies?

Catholic Charities of Central Colorado has an opening for an individual/family to provide temporary, volunteer Cradle Care for babies when parents have yet to choose an adoptive family or need time to make their decision. Licensing is required and training is provided. Call 866-6535 to learn more about the requirements of this special ministry.

Courage Support Group

Courage is a support group for persons with same-sex attractions who wish to live the natural-law value of chastity as the Catholic Church understands it. This support includes prayer, networking, chaste friendship, and good role modeling. Anyone who is interested in joining may contact Fr. Larry Brennan, St. Peter Church, 719-481-3511, or Fr. Mark Zacker, Corpus Christi Church, 719-633-1457.

Parish Contacts

Parish Director:

Deacon Lynn C. Sherman
495-1426 or 237-6677
DeaconLynn@qwestoffice.net

Canonical Pastor:

Father Paul Wicker
597-4249 x15
frpaul@holypostles.org

Pastoral Council Members**Chairperson:**

Joe Gustofson
jcgustofson@hotmail.com

Vice-Chair:

Bill Champlin
wchampli@gmail.com

Recording Secretary:

Jeff Klimek
JKlimek@pbsj.com

Members:

Dee & Kevin Klein
deeklein@q.com

Peggy Thies
Peggy.thies.ctr@peterson.af.mil

Jan Pizzi
Jan111vac@aol.com

Aurora Sebestyen
aurorasebestyen@yahoo.com

Ron & Roberta Comfort
campsarents@technologyassure.com

Tammy & Jeff Specht
jtspecht@elpasotel.net

Altar Servers:

- 1) Steve Kilma 494-1307
srttdsj@q.com
- 2) Angelo Pinterpe 494-8099
pinterpeka@msn.com

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

Ron Stark 683-8182
starkgrandpa@elpasotel.net

Elementary R. E. (K-2):

Karen Pinterpe 494-8099
pinterpeka@msn.com

Eucharistic Adoration

Louise Silvas 683-5035

Religious Education (3-8):

Julie Dalton 260-7599
jldalton@falconbroadband.net

Facilities:

Joe Gustofson 440-5801
jcgustofson@hotmail.com

Faith Formation:

Dr. Harriet Bauer 262-9222
hebauer13@msn.com

Finance Council:

Doug Burrer 495-8271
huntedakota@yahoo.com

Health Ministry:

OPEN

Hospitality:

Patti and Norm Lefebvre 495-8255
mom4101@aol.com

Knights of Columbus:

Pedro Gonzalez 719-641-5631s
pedro80919@yahoo.com

Music Ministry

OPEN

Outreach:

Shelley Paur 238-7737
sdpaur@elpasotel.net

Parish Registrar:

Marge Vaga 495-6956
mvaga@msn.com

Proclaimers:

Maria Force 683-2393
rosebud47@pcisys.net

Respect for Life:

Nicole Meier 445-2334
christophermeier@live.com

Sacristan/Liturgy:

Mary Preston 683-2178
MadeinCo1@aol.com

St. Ben Teen:

David Dalton 260-7599
dwdaltongang@gmail.com

Ushers:

Steve Klima 494-1307
srttdsj@q.com

Web Master:

Ron Comfort 303-877-9914
comfortr@technologyassure.com

Women's Group:

Diane Jakus 640-8936

Bulletin Submission Requests:

nonaclarke@gmail.com
Due Wednesday 10am prior to Sun.

From the pages of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

John the Baptist

Art. 717 "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John." John was "filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb" by Christ himself, who the Virgin Mary had just conceived by the Holy Spirit. Mary's visitation to Elizabeth thus became a visit from God to his people.

Art. 718 John is "Elijah [who] must come." The fire of the Spirit dwells in him and makes him the forerunner of the coming Lord. In John, the precursor, the Holy Spirit completes the work of "[making] ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Art. 720 Finally, with John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit begins the restoration to man of "the divine likeness," prefiguring what he would achieve with and in Christ. John's baptism was for repentance; baptism in water and the Spirit will be a new birth.

[For more information of this topic, see also Art. 719]

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Protect us against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host—by the Divine Power of God—cast into hell, Satan and all the evil spirits, who roam throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

