

BENE DICTUS

Saint Benedict Parish's Monthly Magazine

May 2026



WE ALL NEED MOM

Rediscovering the gift of a Heavenly Mother. — p. 9

THIS PAST MONTH

A look back at special moments from the Easter Vigil. — p. 5



THE BENE DICTUS

The Bene Dictus is a monthly magazine featuring stories about changed lives at Saint Benedict Parish.

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Cover Photo credit: John Rae

WHERE AM I?



Fr. David Bergeron, CC
Parish Administrator

This question reminds me of longer car rides when I was a child: “Are we there yet?”

More recently – or rather, about 15 years ago – the question of my location also left me somewhat dizzy, stirring a deeper concern about my identity. As a Deacon, I was preparing to go to Peru to learn Spanish so I could serve bilingually in Houston, Texas, as a new priest. But because another seminarian needed a specific type of formation available where I was living at the time, I was asked to leave earlier than expected.

I was not excited about moving so suddenly. I did not think this was good for my final preparation. I thought I knew better than my superiors. I was certainly not in the mood to be cheerful about the song I mentioned in my last article: “I like to move it, move it”.

The request for this geographical move shook me to the core and I started doubting the firm foundation of the title of my last article... “Who am I?”

Providentially, on the day I received this news, all the brothers were

gathering for Advent prayer and fellow-

ship. Afterward, before running to the snacks and pop, I asked a few of them to pray for me. Without my saying much, they had a prophetic sense that was deeply relevant to my comings and goings, geographically, but more so in the recesses of my heart.

They shared an image similar to the one of the beloved disciple John, resting his head on Jesus’ chest, receiving the peace that only He can give. This stirred in John the courage, unlike the other disciples, to follow Jesus all the way up to stand at the foot of the Cross with Mother Mary. More precisely, the image the brothers had for me was that of resting my head on the chest of Mary.

How beautiful is that? How childlike is this posture, not only in good times, but also in difficult times moments like the one I was going through then?

Since that experience of receiving peace through listening to her heart, I affectionately like to refer to her as Our Lady of the Way. Wherever I am on the planet, even if I were on the Moon or Mars, through her heart hidden in her treasure chest, I can find my way. With her heartbeats, I can find this treasure that is Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life. Alleluia!

If you feel that some forces outside of your control want to move you in a di-

rection you would prefer not to go to, you are in good company with Mother Mary. If, like Jesus, you feel you have no place to lay your head, go to her. Jesus is always close to Mary, and she can help us to connect to Him. If you feel homesick or lost, rest assured, God is with you wherever you are, however you feel.

In the end, this early move was a blessing, not primarily because I learned Spanish, but because I came to recognize the presence of God in my life through His Mother, covering me with her mantle of love, protection and peace.

Speaking of Spanish, here is a lesson that is more spiritual than linguistic. It is one of my favorite expressions. “Mi casa es tu casa”, which means: “my home is your home”. This is what our Good Lord tells us, as he prepared a home for us in Heaven.

Until we get there, in so many ways, we have no real permanent domicile, whether we live in the same house for decades, or like me, if we are ofte asked to move for different missions and circumstances. The challenging situation from my past helps me accompany others in their journey. I have seen many people benefit greatly from this simple prayer that I invite you to make.

This is what Mary did when she said yes to the plan of God, giving space to the Holy Spirit when the Angel appeared to her. She did not have everything figured out. She had questions with which she was wrestling and meditating in her heart, but still, she said yes to this new move.

I pray you have the grace to listen to her heart like I did, she will help you to make space for Jesus in your life and you will discover your deepest identity in God. Together:



“Jesus, mi casa es tu casa. Jesus, like Mother Mary welcomed you, my home is your home, the home of my heart is your home now and forever. Come Holy Spirit. Amen”

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EASTER VIGIL

PHOTOS BY MARCO ASTAN





SUNRISE PARK
INTER-FAITH GREEN CEMETERY



Located in Hatchet Lake, 10 minutes from the Armdale roundabout Sunrise Park Inter-Faith Green Cemetery is situated on a hill surrounded by forest, and a short stroll to the lake. Sunrise Park is a peaceful and quiet natural setting where birds and small wildlife often visit, and a much-loved peaceful final resting place to visit and pay tribute to those who have passed.

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WE ALL NEED MOM



Julia Yurchesyn
Bene Dictus Team

Having a personal relationship with God often begins with learning

more about God. Maybe we first learned about God through Sunday School, through family or friends, or through reading the Bible. But at some point we are called to move past knowing about God, to knowing Him. God created us for Himself, and He stops at nothing to reveal His heart and live in relationship with us.

In a similar way, I think it's easy for the Blessed Virgin Mary to remain a distant statue in the church, or an icon on the wall. We know she's holy, and we know she's good, but in our humanity it can seem that she's far, far away. Can someone who was conceived without sin be able to relate to our messiness? Is it possible for the perfect disciple to empathize with our brokenness?

As we grow from children into adults, perhaps the part of our hearts that needs "mom" is forgotten. Maybe we've grown so accustomed to handling our own responsibilities, doing all the right things, and building our own self-sufficiency that we believe we've outgrown our need for "mom".

But over and over again, Jesus reveals

our littleness in the scriptures: "Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it" (Luke 18:17). To be a "little child" is to be vulnerable; it means depending on our Heavenly Father for all our needs—physical, emotional, and spiritual. It also means recognizing the place in our hearts that longs for a mother's love, no matter our age and state-in-life.

Jesus knows that we need His Mom. While He was on the cross, He gave us His own mother:

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. (John 19: 26-30)

Regardless of how close we feel to Mary, we have each been entrusted to her as her child, and she has been given to us as our mother. Whenever we find ourselves lost, defeated, or stressed out, not only do we have God to turn to, but we also have a heavenly mother.

When we turn to our Blessed Mother, we can be confident that we're in good hands. Mary's deepest desire and mission is to lead us to God. If there is

ever a time in our lives that we feel separated from God, or we are too scared to approach Him, or we're just lost and confused, Mary is waiting to take us by the hand and lead us to her Son.

But it's so easy to know all of these things and more about Mary, perhaps even have a devotion to her, and still feel so far away.

Praying the rosary, making the act of Marian Consecration, and wearing a scapular or miraculous medal are just a few beautiful practices that are available to us. Meditating on Marian scriptures such as the Annunciation and the Wedding of Cana, and learning about the Marian apparitions, also allow us to build a relationship with our Heavenly Mother.

"Regardless of how close we feel to Mary, we have each been entrusted to her as her child, and she has been given to us as our mother."

However, perhaps the key to building a relationship with Mary is simply opening our hearts to her. Maybe the next step is to "[take] her into [our] own home[s]".

Opening our hearts to the Heavenly Mother can be difficult. Depending on our experiences with our earthly mothers, we might be reluctant to need a mom again. In the quiet of our hearts, the questions may arise: Will I be loved here? Will I be seen? Will I be accepted and understood?

Mary reveals God's love to us in a unique and magnificent way. Her tender, maternal heart echoes the truth that the Father is always singing over us: This is my beloved child, with whom I am well pleased.

In the month of Mary, let's take our Heavenly Mother into the homes of our hearts. Maybe that means praying the rosary—and maybe that also means sitting down with a cup of coffee and having a heart-to-heart with the Mother of God.

As we grow closer to Mary, may we recognize our own littleness and realize that no matter how old we get, we never outgrow our need for mom!



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MAY UPDATE

BY ROY MATEO & SARA LINERO

ASCENSION & PENTECOST PARTY

Register your family

We warmly invite every family to join us for our Family Party!

When: Saturday, May 16th!

Time: 1-3:30pm

Location: Auditorium

What can I bring? Finger foods



Enjoy an afternoon of faith, joy, and community as we mark this beautiful feast together. We hope to see you there!

You can sign up using the barcode to the right.



Ascension & Pentecost Party 2026

Vacation Bible School(VBS) @ Saint Benedict 2026

When?

Families choose **one** weekend to attend.
For Ages 5-11

Weekend 1: July 25, 26
Weekend 2: August 8, 9

Register here:



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Adopt-A-Prop

Want to help us prepare?
Sign-up for adopt a prop downstairs on the bulletin board.
Thank you!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To make this amazing event a success we will need 30 adult volunteers and 25 youth volunteers per weekend.

Areas of need: Heavens kitchen, decorating, group leaders, registration, greeters, tech crew, photography, videography and more!

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

Please demonstrate your interest by filling out this form.



VBS 2026 Volunteer Team Interest

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

ADORE: NIGHT OF PRAISE & WORSHIP - MAY 15

PENTECOST - MAY 24

