

# The Raven

St. Benedict

## Newsletter

July, August, September 2014



### Youth at Steubenville



**The Story of St. Benedict and the raven.** It is related by Saint Gregory the Great (+603) that in the wilderness Benedict fed a raven with a portion of his bread. When a jealous and wicked priest tried to kill Benedict with poisoned bread, Benedict coached the raven to take the deadly bread to a place where it could not harm another. The raven complied.



In April 2005 for Pope Benedict's first big Mass in St. Peter's Square to inaugurate his pontificate, and when people were still buzzing a bit about why he chose the name "Benedict," another interesting bird event occurred. ....I believe it was just after the sermon of the Mass, in a silent aftermath ... no choir singing, no organ playing, no one talking... **a raven flew out** from behind the Basilica, .... swooped in a couple of circles over where the altar was positioned, cawing loudly, and then disappeared from whence it came. Benedict chose the name "Benedict" in part because of the pivotal figure of **St. Benedict of Nursia**, whose monastic tradition played such an important role in the development of liturgical worship and in the preservation of Western civilization. St. Benedict is very often depicted with a raven in artistic representations. Posted on [29 June 2011](#) by [Fr. John Zuhlsdorf](#)

Members of the Sr. High youth group attended the Steubenville Atlanta Conference from July 11 – 14. The theme of the weekend was "God is." Youth were challenged to look at what kind of relationship they had with God. Over 3,000 youth heard Catholic speakers, musicians, attended Mass and spent time in prayer and Adoration to help them in answering this challenge. The weekend ended with a white-water rafting trip.

Here is what some youth had to say about their experience.

"I never really felt connected to God, like I had a personal relationship with Him. I heard others talk about their relationship and wondered why I did not feel this close connection. Was I not good enough? This weekend I felt God tell me I was good enough. I want to continue to work on my relationship with Him."

"During Adoration I saw the face of Jesus. It was like I was the only one there; He was looking straight at me."

"I went to reconciliation while I was at Steubenville. At home I never go, but there I felt called to go. It was the best feeling to pour it all out and let go of it. I do not know why I have avoided reconciliation for so long."

All St. Benedict youth are invited to participate in any event including youth groups, trips, service projects or social events that are offered to their grade level. By April Johnston



### St. Benedict News

St. Benedict Parish is preparing to offer, in designated office space, small religious items and sacramentals, along with some books and other items, that will provide for some of the spiritual needs of its parishioners. We are currently stocking our shelves and anticipate making the items available in the fall. By Fr. Dan

The parish has now extended its Extraordinary Minister Outreach ministry to any Catholic patient in Vibra Hospital and Rehab. Ministers will now bring Communion to any Catholic patient at Vibra. In addition, St. Benedict is coordinating with the chaplain at Roper Mount Pleasant Hospital toward the goal of bringing Communion to Catholic patients there as well. By Eileen Morini

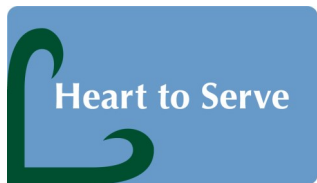


**Family of the Year**

Michael and Dawn O'Connor have been married for 19 years. They have three children: Michael, 17; Nicole, 15 and Jack, 10.


Michael is a 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Knight and has volunteered at Spaghetti Dinners and their Book Sale. Michael and Dawn volunteer their time at church and try to keep it family-oriented at the same time. They're Extraordinary Ministers, ushers, along with son Michael, and Hospitality Chairpersons, along with daughter Nicole. Michael and Dawn are also Baptism leaders and assist with the Somerby ministry. Dawn is a religious education teacher and Chairperson for Community Building. The couple volunteers at Meals on Wheels as well.

Hobbies include fishing, family time, more fishing, reading and even more fishing.



### With All Your Heart – Heart to Serve

Serve Saturday—The care and love of St. Benedict parish was on full display on Serve Saturday, March 29. This writer experienced that generosity first hand as the parish literally picked me up and moved

me to within two miles of the church. Teens, men, women, couples and even entire families packed and moved my things. Whoosh!! By the time I arrived at my new home, I found my cabinets lined, pantry filled and furniture placed. These amazing acts of grace and goodness profoundly moved and humbled me. I feel so blessed to be a new member of the St. Benedict family. My heartfelt thanks go to everyone who helped to make that possible. By BarbaraTuck 

**The Religious Education Program** at St. Benedict ended last year by sending \$1,990 to Food For the Poor. The children donated to the fundraiser by giving up treats and doing chores to earn money. The best part of the experience was watching our joyful givers. They were so excited to be able to help others. We ended our year 2013-2014 with 230 children in our program in Grades 1-8. In May our second grade class of 46 students celebrated First Communion. We also had 43 young men and women who celebrated Confirmation in November of 2013. We were blessed to be the last group confirmed by Bishop Thompson. He was a wonderful man, and we will miss him.

Registration for 2014-2015 is now ongoing. Classes are filling up, and we encourage families to register now. We are looking forward to another great year. We are planning service projects, workshops and other activities to help in the faith formation of our families.

Classes begin on Monday, September 8 for grades 1-8 and on Sunday, September 7 for Confirmation. Confirmation will be celebrated on Thursday, November 20 at 7PM.

Please contact Louise Henesy, DRE at [louise@stbenedictparish.org](mailto:louise@stbenedictparish.org) with any questions about the Religious Education Program at St. Benedict.

## Spotlight

### **Knight of the Year**

Jack Vax joined the Knights in 2008 and has since volunteered for most Council projects every year. Jack is currently Chairman of Operation Hope (Helping Other People Everyday). Last year, Jack worked on two Tootsie Roll projects and also successfully requested and received a \$1,000 grant from the WalMart Foundation.

Jack is a lector and serves on the Parish Finance Council. In Rotary, he's Chairman for

**Jack & Esther Vax**



CART (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust). He also volunteers for Meals on Wheels and ITN Charleston Trident.

Jack reads a book a week, and he and Esther love to travel.

### By the number Jan-June

Baptisms 10  
Weddings 5  
Newcomers 65