

Catholic Area Parishes

St. Francis, St. Bridget, St. Malachy, Sacred Heart, Visitation Oratory

Fr. Bill Sprigler, Pastor

Fr. Samuel Perez, Parochial Administrator

Christine Pinto, Director of Faith Formation

Address: 508 13th Street North, Benson, MN 56215

Website: www.catholicareaparishes.org

E-mail: stfran@embarqmail.com

Murdock Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursdays 8:00 am – noon, 1-4 pm (Darlene & Fr. Sam)

Wednesdays & Fridays 8:00 am – noon, 1-4 pm (Fr. Sam)

Area Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:00 am - Noon, 1:00-3:30 pm

Friday: 8 am - noon

Area Office: 320-842-4271

Fax Number: 320-843-2264

Murdock Office: 320-875-2451

Home Phone:

Father Bill Sprigler Cell # 320-314-2566

Father Samuel Perez: Office 320-875-2451

Home 320-875-2246

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Monday, March 1	8:00 am	MURDOCK	++	John & Anne Kennedy
Tuesday, March 2	8:00 am	MURDOCK	+	Pat Krattenmaker
	8:30 am	BENSON	+	Rosalie Lucking
	6:00 pm	DANVERS		John & Elaine Carruth
Wednesday, March 3	8:00 am	MURDOCK	+	Jack Clarke
	8:30 am	DEGRAFF	+	Mary Laughlin
Thursday, March 4	8:00 am	MURDOCK	+	Jack Shekleton
	8:30 am	BENSON	+	Bill Mitteness
Friday, March 5	10:30 am	GOLDEN LIVING	+	Ray Schaaf
	8:00 am	MURDOCK		For our Priests
	8:30 am	CLONTARF		For our Priests
	7:00 pm	BENSON		For our Priests
	7:00 pm	DEGRAFF		For our Priests
Weekend Masses:				
Saturday, March 6	8:30 am	MURDOCK	+	Vi Rand
	4:00 pm	CLONTARF		For the People
	5:30 pm	BENSON	+	Nettie Wagner
Sunday, March 7	8:00 am	DEGRAFF	++	David & Bill Collins
	9:00 am	MURDOCK		For the People
	9:30 am	BENSON	+	Tom Connolly

During March, St. Malachy & St. Bridget trade Mass times.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, March 6, 3:00 pm in Benson; Sunday, March 7, 8:00 am in Murdock

- * **Marriage Preparation:** Please contact Area Office at least six months ahead of time to plan and prepare for your wedding.
 - * **Baptism:** classes will be offered on the second Tuesday of every month at 7 PM. Location will be flexible. Please call area office for registration at 842-4271. Call area office for location. Parents who have previously baptized children are encouraged to schedule as well.
 - * **RCIA:** Anyone interested in **joining the Catholic Church** please call Jack Wagner at 842-9693 or the Area Office for fall registration.
 - * **Registration/Moving:** To register in a parish or if moving, call Area Office at 842-4271 or Murdock office at 875-2451.
 - * **Spiritual Care for shut-ins:** feel free to call the area office about inquiries about a shut-in you would like to have a priest visit. Benson area call 842-4271 and Murdock area contact 875-2451.
- Catholic Charities-** offering personal, marriage, family and pregnancy counseling 1-800-670-5163.

A Vocation View

This is my beloved Son, hear him. Take some time to hear the beloved Son speaking to you. What does he say? (Luke 9:28-36)

DAILY SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 28	The Holy Rosary will be prayed at 8:30 am at Sacred Heart Church The Holy Rosary will be prayed at 9 am at St. Francis Church
Monday, March 1	7:00 pm Rosary in Benson intention is for God's love and peace in families
Tuesday, March 2	Stations of the Cross following 6 pm Mass in Danvers
Wednesday, March 3	5:30 pm St. Francis Administrative Council meeting 7:00 pm GIFT Presentation Night. Topic tonight is Holy Orders with speaker Deacon Steve Pareja. He was ordained in June 2006 and has completed his Masters of Arts in Pastoral Ministry from St. John's University, School of Theology Seminary in Collegeville, MN. he currently serves at St. Francis Xavier parish in Sartell, MN. He and his wife, Donna, have been married since 1990 and have 2 children. Deacon Steve also works full-time as the Director of Radiology at a hospital in Princeton, MN. Meal begins serving at 6 pm. Students in grades 9-11 along with parents/sponsors should be in church at 7 pm. Students in grades 1-8 should be in their classrooms at 7 pm.
Thursday, March 4	7 pm Area Social Concerns meeting in St. Francis Gathering Space
Friday, March 5	Stations of the Cross in Murdock following 8:00 am Mass Stations of the Cross in Clontarf following 8:30 am Mass Stations of the Cross following 7:00 pm Mass in Benson Stations of the Cross following 7:00 pm Mass in DeGraff
Saturday, March 6	The Holy Rosary will be prayed at 5 pm at St. Francis Church
Sunday, March 7	The Holy Rosary will be prayed at 8:30 am at Sacred Heart Church The Holy Rosary will be prayed at 9 am at St. Francis Church

In the interest of having sacred silence before Mass or if the musicians need to introduce new music that will be coming up, please complete the praying of the Holy Rosary 15 minutes before Mass is scheduled to begin.

Upcoming events and celebrations:

Roman Missal Catechesis – Second Sunday of Lent

Our readings today speak of listening. Interspersed within the Mass are times of silence, opportunities to listen. These periods are essential as the Word and the Eucharist feed us. It may be difficult at times to enter into this silence. In the liturgy, as in daily life, we need to allow ourselves to rest and to be quiet regardless of the distractions we may encounter within us or around us. Let us take advantage of the quietness of the Lenten liturgy to grow in our ability to listen.

Operation Rice Bowl – Catholic Relief Services – Second Week of Lent – The Transfiguration

Jesus' transfiguration was a moment of hope for the disciples, giving them the strength to endure the future sacrifices they would make as they formed the early Church. As we continue our journey with Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl, let us be mindful that our Lenten sacrifices help to give hope to our brothers and sisters in need.

MISSION OF LOVE VALENTINE PROJECT

You are invited to participate in the **Mission of Love Valentine Project** which helps many very poor families in San Lucas Toliman, our Diocesan Mission in Guatemala. This gift of love results in some families eating well when otherwise they would have had very little to eat for some days. Please look for Valentines in envelopes in the pews. You are invited to participate by signing the Valentine with your first name and enclosing your \$2 Valentine gift. The Valentines will be given to needy children, handicapped and widowed persons. They will exchange it for corn, rice, beans and school supplies. Many thanks for your support!

BAM – Benson Area Ministry Center upcoming events:

Saturday, February 27 – Remaliah at 8 pm (view MySpace to hear their sample songs)

BAM Center is a ministry of Youth for Christ and is committed to providing positive opportunities for our youth. Visit us at www.bamcenter.weebly.com. We are seeking adult volunteers and local artists to perform. We are open from 8-11 pm on Friday and Saturday nights and located at 1309 Pacific in downtown Benson. For more info call Bart @ 843-3487 or Todd at 320-808-1237.

St. Bridget's Parish will be hosting a pork loin dinner and raffle to be held on Saturday, February 27th

from 5- 8 pm at the Benson VFW. Menu includes: pork loin, salad, baked potato, applesauce, bread, beverage, ice cream. \$8.00 for adults, \$4 for children 12 & under. Raffle prizes: 42" plasma TV, 5 - \$100 cash prizes, 2 - \$50 cash prizes, 4-\$25 cash prizes. Tickets are \$10 and available by contacting Jon Connelly, Tom Clemen, Arne Suter or also at the DeGraff Liquor Store. **Catholic Aid Association will make a MATCHING GRANT of up to \$500.**

SACRED HEART CHOIR

The next date for the choir to sing is Sunday, March 7. Please come by 8:00 for practice! We sing at 9:00 Mass. Future dates: AREA choir practice – Wednesday, March 31 7:00 pm

AREA choir – Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 3

Regular choir – Easter Sunday, April 4

AREA choir – Confirmation Sunday, April 11

Regular choir – Sunday, May 2

Please put these on your calendar!

Willmar Area Knights of Columbus will host a Lenten Fish Fry – all you can eat – on Friday, March 5th & Friday, March 19th from 4:30-7:30 pm at St. Mary's Parish Center in Willmar. Advance tickets are \$8, at door \$9. Ages 3-11 are \$4 and \$5. Tickets available at St. Mary's Church and Conway, Deuth & Schmiesing

MINNESOTA FOOD SHARE

Remember the hungry during the March Campaign. We will be collecting food and cash donations for the local food shelf throughout March. Grocery carts for your donations will be available in each of the parishes. Children make up 42% of persons served by the food shelf. 100% of the food and money donated goes directly back to the people in Swift County. Corporate sponsors match our donations at a rate of 15¢ per every dollar or pound donated. The following items are needed: Canned fruit & vegetables, elbow macaroni, personal care products, laundry detergent, peanut butter, hamburger helper, toothbrush & paste, dish soap, mac & cheese, pancake mix & syrup, cereal, soups, spam, tuna, chicken, money. Monetary donations can be made to the Swift County Food Shelf, Hwy 12 East, PO Box 321, Benson, MN 56215.



St. Bridget's Altar & Rosary will be having a brunch and program after Mass on Sunday, March 14th for St. Patrick's Day. Groups A, B & D will serve.

St. Francis Family Groups booklets for 2010 are available in the back of church. A Family Groups meeting will be held on Monday, March 15th at 7:30 pm in the St. Francis School basement. This meeting is for all captains and co-captains and any other interested parishioners. When your captain or co-captain calls, please be willing to help and/or donate. Dues are \$10 and \$5 for social action. You can send dues now to Sandie Nordaune at 620 7th St. No, Benson, MN 56215. Thank you!

The Diocesan Chrism Mass will be held on Thursday, March 18th at 7 pm at St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye. Confirmation students are encouraged to attend this event if at all possible. It is a beautiful service and a great learning experience for all.

St. Francis Parish is in need of more cantors for weekend Masses. If you love to sing and are interested in this ministry, please call the area office. Thank you.

Daffodil Days in Swift County will be March 16-19th. Volunteers will be selling Daffodils at the following locations: Appleton Meat Center, Do-Mats and Super Value in Benson on afternoon of March 17th and all day on March 18-19. Dollars raised through Daffodil Days provide the American Cancer Society with much-needed funds to save lives through prevention, early detection and research.

A Day of Recollection

Fr. Sam will be conducting a Day of Recollection at Sacred Heart Church on Saturday, March 20th. It will begin at 8:30 am with Mass and continue with talks, Rosary, confession and adoration. All are welcome and confirmation students are encouraged to attend as well to explore the day in preparation for Easter.

The Youth at Sacred Heart are preparing a fish fry on Friday, March 26. The administrative council will host a Bingo at 6 pm. Cost of the meal is \$8.00 which includes fish, baked potato, cole slaw, dinner roll, dessert, and a beverage. Take-outs will be available, and proceeds of the meal go to support youth activities at Sacred Heart. Mark your calendars and come join in food, fellowship and fun.

Our parishes are in need of more Eucharistic Ministers to the homebound. This ministry is very rewarding and very much appreciated by our homebound. Some people need the ministry on a temporary basis such as when recovering from surgery or illness or during the winter months when it is more difficult to get out. If you are interested in helping out with this ministry, please call the Area Office for more information. For those of you that are currently bringing communion to someone at home, please inform the office so that we know who is being taken care of and what your schedule is. This will also help us in planning for these needs. Thank you.

In the back of your church, you will notice a poster with photos and addresses of our parishioners serving in the armed forces. Please pick up an address and send them a note of thanks. It is very much appreciated.

Habitat for Humanity of West Central Minnesota is seeking a family to purchase a home in Benson. Interested families must complete an application and meet Habitat guidelines. For more information and how to apply, call 320-231-2704 or toll free 1-877-926-6424.



Can you play the piano? St. Francis is looking for a parishioner who would be willing to play the piano and/or organ at some of the Masses, even if it is only once or twice a month. Please contact the parish office if you are willing to help with this music ministry.

Sacred Heart CCW news: Betty Meier will be our new Sunshine Lady. If you know of someone who should receive a card from CCW, please call Betty at 875-2871.

Ministry of Praise

We are looking for new Ministers of Praise during Lent. This is a good ministry for senior citizens or those who are homebound. There are no meetings or dues. This is a prayer ministry. You will receive a letter each month asking for your prayers or praise. If you are interested in the ministry, please contact Pat Walsh (843-2226), Arlene Clemen (843-5358), Joan Gorres (875-2841), Gerta Bouta (843-4549) or the Area Office at 842-4271. There will be a commissioning of new ministers of praise sometime after Easter.

Riverbend TEC (Together Encountering Christ) Retreat Schedule 2009-2010

Riverbend TEC seeks to strengthen the love for Christ among the youth and adults of today. Participants of TEC must be at least 16 years old or a junior in high school. Contact the Area Office if interested. Cost is \$60.

March 20-22, 2010	New Ulm
June 26-28, 2010	Bird Island
July 31-August 2, 2010	Winsted

**Reflections for the weekly readings are part of this bulletin. This publication is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #2129.*

OUR WEEKLY OFFERING

St. Francis - Benson

Adult	\$2,904.00
Student	\$40.70
Loose Plate	\$464.00
DUF	\$25.00
Fuel	\$115.00
Danvers Oratory	\$85.00
Black & Indian	\$130.00

Total \$3,763.70

Sacred Heart - Murdock

Adult	\$1,151.00
Student	\$9.50
Loose	\$380.60
Total	\$1,541.10

St. Malachy - Clontarf

Adult	\$567.00
Student	\$2.00
Loose Plate	\$121.00

Total \$690.00

St. Bridget - DeGraff

Adult	\$715.00
Student	\$5.00
Loose	\$117.00
DUF	\$1.00

Total \$838.00

Thank You for Your Support!!

Where Are We At?

Fiscal Year July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

	Year-to-date Collection (Adult, Student, Loose)	Year-to-date Budget for Collection	Annual Budget
St. Malachy	\$33,399.02	\$34,174.42	\$52,267.00
St. Francis	\$115,593.57	\$103,658.52	\$155,539.00
Sacred Heart	\$57,139.81	\$56,671.54	\$86,674.00
St. Bridget	\$38,074.86	\$26,512.86	\$40,549.00