

STRICTLY BENEDICT



PHOTO: JOHN RAE

p. 7.....
FALLING INTO PLACE 

p. 11.....
RECONCILIATION DRAMA 

SAINT BENEDICT PARISH

45 Radcliffe Drive
Halifax, Nova Scotia
902-443-0725

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday: 4pm
Sunday: 9am, 11:15am, 6pm

WEEKDAY MASS

Monday to Friday: 9am

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 3 - 3:45pm
Wednesday: 9:45 - 10:30am

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

Visit the Welcome Centre in the foyer
after Mass for more information!

CONTENTS

December 2018

FATHER SIMON SAYS

2 / 3 Time Warp Greetings | Advent Reloaded | Seasonal Hospitality
| Nothing Beats The Personal Invitation | A Few 'Stocking Stuffers'

ALPHA KIDS SAY...

4 What do the kids at Alpha know about Christmas?

EQUIPPED, BUT HOW?

5 "How do we use the tools we've been given?"

FALLING INTO PLACE

7 / 8 "We just randomly walked into the church to see what was going on."

ALPHA SUCCESS

9 / 10 Some facts and figures from another successful Alpha

RECONCILIATION DRAMA

11 Clear away anything between you and God this Advent

The Bene Dictus is your monthly magazine featuring stories about how Saint Benedict Parish forms disciples who joyfully live out the mission of Jesus Christ. It is available in print or in your email inbox.

The next issue of the Bene Dictus will be released on January 12th/13th.

On the cover:

An early morning photograph of the church.

SAINT BENEDICT PARISH CLERGY

Pastor: Fr. Simon Lobo, CC

Associate Pastor: Fr. Alex Colautti, CC

Episcopal Vicar for Parish Renewal: Fr. James Mallon

Intern Priest: Fr. John Farley

Permanent Deacon: Deacon David Viscount

FOLLOW US ONLINE



facebook.com/SaintBP



@SaintBP



livestream.com/SaintBenedictParish

1 saintbenedict.ca



BENE DICTUS - December 2018



FATHER SIMON SAYS...



Fr. Simon Lobo, CC
Pastor

TIME WARP GREETINGS

The beautiful magazine you are holding was published on December 8th, but if you are reading it for the first time and it happens to be December 24th, 25th, or any of the 12 days following that, on behalf of the clergy, the staff, and all of the parishioners, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas! If you are a guest to Saint Benedict, we are so delighted to have you with us during this season. May you experience a supernatural dose of hope, peace, joy, and love.

ADVENT RELOADED

For everyone else who is reading this in early December, happy Advent! It's meant to be a time of waiting and preparation, and these four weeks are a very sacred time in our Church calendar. Many of us get busy with shopping, baking, and decorating, which can be stressful. We hope that our Advent preaching series, **Prepare Him Room**, will let us take a deep breath and make space to receive Jesus in a new way this Christmas.

SEASONAL HOSPITALITY

We want to be a welcoming community every week of the year. However, we expect many guests during this season, so we want to be ready to welcome them. As in previous years, I invite our regular parishioners to see themselves as hosts to all who may be joining us for the first time, or the first time in a long time.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, please make an extra effort to park farther away from

continued on next page
saintbenedict.ca **2**



FATHER SIMON SAYS **continued**

the church to leave the best parking spaces open for our guests. Also, please squeeze into the pews to make room for others coming in after you. At the 7:30pm Mass on Christmas Eve, we will have overflow seating in the Auditorium downstairs where people can sit and follow the Mass on Livestream, complete with Communion. If you are a parishioner, it would be a beautiful Christmas gift to leave your pew for a guest.

NOTHING BEATS THE PERSONAL INVITATION

With everything written above, I do want to say thank you to everyone who is officially and unofficially on the hospitality team – which really is everyone. I constantly hear that visitors do experience something very welcoming when they walk through our doors.

In our parish Game Plan (our big picture strategy which you can see on page 14), the first icon represents an **Invitational Church**. This means that in addition to welcoming guests, we also want to be the kind of church that goes out and invites friends, family members, coworkers, and neighbours to come and experience Saint Benedict Parish (through Alpha, Mass, etc.). Christmas is a time when many people — even people who don't normally go to church — are open to giving it a shot. Please prayerfully consider who you will be inviting to Saint Benedict this Christmas.

Once again, we will be have **Christmas Unplugged**, a special family-friendly service at 4pm on December 24th. This is a fun, engaging, non-Mass experience designed specifically for those who don't normally

come to church. Please go out of your way to invite people to check out Christmas Unplugged, especially if they have younger children. A guy with a white beard might make an appearance!

A FEW 'STOCKING STUFFERS'

So many parishioners give generously year-round as a sign of their offering to God. From the bottom of my heart, thank you! I also want to add a pre-emptive thank you for all of your **financial giving** throughout December and at Christmas. Just a reminder that we rely on your regular weekend giving, and we also have a separate budget line for the Christmas collection. Thank you for giving so generously to both.

Members of the 11:15am Mass Choir will lead us in another **Gregorian Prayer Night** on Wednesday, December 19th at 7:30pm, with Eucharistic Adoration. At Saint Benedict, we are blessed to be able to worship God with a diversity of styles of music. Carve out one hour (7:30-8:30pm) in your schedule for a sacred, beautiful, and peaceful prayer time in the lead up to Christmas.

Back by (the pastor's) popular demand is another **Feed Father Simon** potluck on January 1st, 2019, following the 11:15am Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. This is a holy day of obligation in the Church, so after Mass let's all go downstairs and celebrate the New Year with a time of fellowship and food. Please bring some finger food to share with others, but note that food cannot be reheated in the kitchen.

We wait in joyful hope for the coming of the Saviour! 🕊

ALPHA KIDS SAY...



Susan LeRue
Bene Dictus Team

Lisa Sutherland has been leading the Alpha Children's Ministry for the last six years. She asked children attending the Children's Ministry at Evening Alpha on Friday nights some questions about Christmas.

Please keep in mind that some of these children are churchgoers, while others are not. Enjoy everyone!



Who do you think Jesus is?

- "He helps us. Gives us food." - Ananya (8)
- "He lives in the sky." - Vihaan (4)
- "Our Father and our King." - Alexandra (8)
- "He is the world." - Rebecca (6)
- "I think Jesus is the King of the World, and Jesus is my father." - Mezu (8)
- "The son of God." - Ivana (5)

Where do you think Jesus was born?

- "Albathem? Is that close?" - Liam (10)
- "I think Nazareth, in a stable with animals, in a hay bed. He was born there because they had to go through town and there was a census." - Nefemi (12)
- "In a hotel or a manger." - Ivana
- "Here in Halifax." - Gabriel (5)

Why do you think we celebrate Christmas?

- "To celebrate the birth of Jesus." - Liam
- "It's Jesus' birth and that night we make stuff for Santa." - Alexandra

Do you remember what gifts the baby Jesus received on his birthday?

- "Gold, amber, and... Diamonds?" - Liam
- "A king's hat?" - Mia (7)
- "Gold and jewels and... Wine?" - Mezu
- "Gold, and the other one was... Silver?" - Alexandra

If you could give the baby Jesus a present, what would it be?

- "I would give him worship, forgiveness... maybe a cradle? And on his first day of learning, I would give him a note that says, 'I love you' in his lunchbox." - Liam
- "I would give him a little note that says, 'Your Dad is the best'." - Mia
- "I would give him food... Cookies and milk." - Ananya
- "I would give him my best toy." - Ivana
- "A card that says, 'Dear Jesus, I wish you had a great day!'" - Vickie (5)
- "Love." - Rebecca
- "I would give him eternal life for his birthday." - Alexandra
- "A Rubik's cube." - Gabriel

What is the happiest part of Christmas for you?

- "Waiting for presents and church." - Liam
- "I don't really care about presents, I just care about Jesus. I like it when we have a little piece of bread and we share it." - Mia
- "No school." - Nefemi
- "My sparkly Christmas Tree." - Vickie
- "My Mom and Dad." - Ivana
- "Getting to celebrate Jesus' birthday, and every Christmas we would stay up super late and just have a party." - Alexandra

Thank you so much, Lisa. Your continued service to the Alpha Children's Ministry is such a blessing to our parish. 🙏

EQUIPPED, BUT HOW?



John Rae

Bene Dictus Team

In October, I attended the Assembly of the People of God.

My takeaway was that, as Christians, “we are equipped to bear fruit.” Like Adam and Eve, we are given the job to cultivate the environment in which God has placed us, so that, in that place, the fruit of God’s glory is manifested. Malcolm Muggeridge’s biography of Saint Mother Teresa, *Something Beautiful for God*, captures a literal example of this.

The follow up question then would be: With what tools are we equipped? How do we use the tools we’ve been given? What fruit are we to bear? The tools, and their use, can be considered the means, and the fruit, the ends.


When I was 12 years old, I received a Meccano train set for Christmas. It came complete with a steam engine that ran on methylated spirit. The set gave me all the ‘means’; the tools, nuts and bolts, girders, and an instruction book. At first it was great fun to just play with all the pieces, but until I actually disciplined myself to build one of the working models, as per the instruction book, I would never experience the full joy of that gift. The final stage was to fill the fuel reservoir with methylated spirit, light it, let the tongues of fire build up a head

of steam in the boiler and then watch the working model come to life.

If I hadn’t ventured out in faith and attempted to build the model, I would have missed so much. I suppose it would be like buying a recipe book only for the enjoyment of reading the recipes and never actually trying to bake anything.

One of the non-moral temptations for Christians is to expend our strength on what is non-productive. Of taking too much pleasure in playing with the ‘means’ of our faith and ignoring the ‘ends’. This is easy to do, because we live in a secular culture that sees pleasure (even spiritual pleasure) as an end in itself, and not as a byproduct of a life of faith.

The Sacraments of the Church give us the nuts and bolts of our faith. Jesus’ life in the Gospels gives us the literal expression of a person living at one with God and, as per Philippians 1:11, “May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.”

So this Christmas, let us make full use of the gift given to us by our Heavenly Father. 

**HALIFAX**
apartments.ca

1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Apartments

FIND A PLACE TO CALL HOME

 **Contact Kristi 902-401-6732**
halifaxapartments.ca

Make the **Green** Decision. **GO BOTTLELESS!** It's Environmentally Friendly, Economical and Hassle Free!



Contact us today for a **FREE** consultation 902-576-3062
www.alpinewater.ca



CHRISTMAS

at Saint Benedict Parish

MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve:

7:30pm & 11pm

Christmas Day:

9am & 11:15am

CHRISTMAS UNPLUGGED

Christmas Eve: 4pm

for more information, go to saintbenedict.ca/christmas



FALLING INTO PLACE



Peter Mallette
Bene Dictus Team

On June 29th, Govinda Talluri, his wife Manisha, and their two children, 8 year old Ananya and 4 year old Vihaan, took possession of their new apartment on Radcliffe Drive. They moved here from India, so it would be an understatement to say it was a big move considering the distance between Halifax and Hyderabad is more than 12,000 kilometres.

Back in Hyderabad, Govinda worked in senior management for the movie studio 20th Century Fox. The pay was very good, the work was challenging, but the hours were long, and Govinda secretly wanted more time for himself and his family with a dream of one day being an entrepreneur.

In May of 2017, the Talluri family travelled to Toronto to attend a family wedding. When they returned to Hyderabad, Govinda immediately started looking for job opportunities in Canada. As luck would have it, Nova Scotia was looking for people with marketing backgrounds. The couple applied for visas and within months they were making plans to relocate, but without a job for Govinda.

"I applied for about 60 jobs and only 4 companies responded. In India, I worked with some of the biggest media companies in the world, but the harsh reality was that in Canada, people weren't willing to take a chance on me," Govinda said.

They settled into their new neighbourhood, but it wasn't long before Manisha began having second thoughts. Their savings were

dwindling, she missed home, and the stress on the entire family was taking its toll.

"We had a small argument. I wanted time alone to think, so I put on my jacket to go for a long walk," Govinda said.

To his surprise, Manisha and the kids followed.

It was Friday, October 5th, about 6pm.

"As we were walking and talking, we took a wrong turn and ended up at Saint Benedict. There were cars in the parking lot, so we just randomly walked into the church to see what was going on."

What was going on was Week 3 of Alpha.

"There was a little girl who was about 10 years old who met us at the door of the St. Joseph Room. She told us that people come to Alpha to find answers to their questions. We were very impressed with her. She told us that our kids would be taken care of and invited us to go downstairs to the auditorium, so we did."

Within minutes, Govinda and Manisha found themselves registered for Alpha, eating a delicious meal with 200 other people and listening to a talk about why Jesus died.

"It was a wonderful coincidence," Govinda recalls.

Manisha adds, "Everything began falling into place."

The Talluris both have jobs now. Govinda is working with a property management company on the development of a marketing



strategy. Manisha, who has an extensive background in public relations, is now employed as an administrative assistant. But that's not the only thing that's changed since they started attending Alpha.

"We feel like someone is watching over us," Govinda says.

Manisha adds, "I feel that Alpha is helping me find my inner strength. The talk on healing was very emotional for me. It made me realize that my challenges in life are small compared to what some people are dealing with. And for the first time in my life I was prayed over. It was mesmerizing. I cried."

Manisha grew up in a non-Christian household. Govinda's parents are both Hindus. Now that Alpha has ended, the Talluris are making plans to attend Saint Benedict Parish with their children on a regular basis and have a desire to join a Connect Group.

"In our small group discussion several weeks ago, someone asked if there were any miracles in our lives," Govinda says. "Manisha and I realized that there are lots of them. It's a miracle we are here, and that we walked into the church that day." 🙏

NON-INVASIVE SUGAR TREND MONITOR
NO PRICK, NO PAIN, NO MESS

Are you struggling with Heart Disease, Blood Pressure, Diabetes, Stress, Weight Loss or Exercise? **ONE SIZE does not FIT ALL!**
Monitor, Record, Detect, Reverse, and Prevent

DANIELLE FENTON - SMARTLIFE SOLUTIONS SPECIALIST
Call today for your **FREE** assessment! 902 - 499 - 2333

HEALTHYGLOBALTECH.COM DFGLOBALTECH@GMAIL.COM INDEPENDENT DISTRIBUTOR

Patricia Arab
MLA Fairview - Clayton Park

3845 Joseph Howe Drive
Suite #203
Halifax, NS
B3L 4H9
902 329 8683
info@patriciaarab.ca

@PatriciaArab
PatriciaArabMLA

www.PatriciaArab.ca

ALPHA SUCCESS



To celebrate this Fall's Evening and Daytime Alpha sessions, here are some statistics that show how your prayers and invitations have changed lives!

The Alpha Celebration, which closes out each Alpha session, was held on December 7th.

...83% of everyone who signed up, 57 men and 70 women, completed Alpha.


...34% of Alpha guests were between 18-35 years old.

...60 people served at Alpha as team members.

...84 people from our parish's Alpha session came to the Weekend Away.



3A
RESTAURANT
Food & Drink



Brunch
Everyday 11am~4pm

902 457 6626
264 Bedford Hwy, Halifax
www.3Arestaurant.com

kw COMMERCIAL
ADVISORS®

Specializing in the sales
and leasing of office,
industrial, retail, multi-
family investment and
development land



Tom Gerard | 902-407-2489
kwcommercialhalifax.com

M.P. HALIFAX WEST

geoff
regan



Phone: 426-2217
geoff@geoffregan.ca
www.geoffregan.ca



T.J. Tracey
CREMATION AND BURIAL SPECIALISTS



Place your trust in us.

26 Esquire Lane, Bedford
(902) 835-4212 | www.tjtracey.com

- Halifax's only family-owned funeral home offering affordable burial & cremation plans.
- Appointments in the comfort of your own home.

AABEL FUELS
"We're Ready, Willing & Aabel"
462-8071



since 1934

THOMPSON'S
MOVING & STORAGE
a great move!

902-469-5100
www.thompsons-moving.ca



RECONCILIATION DRAMA



Matt Vaughan
Communications Coordinator

On Tuesday, December 11th at 7pm, we will have our Advent Reconciliation Drama.

I spoke with Judy Savoy, our Worship Arts Coordinator, to learn more about it.

Why put on a drama?

In the past, most churches had some kind of service that precedes the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It would consist of Scripture readings, prayers, perhaps a song or two, and a short homily. My background and experience is in the professional theatre, and I believe that a dramatic presentation has a greater impact on people. We are painting a picture, and a picture is worth a thousand words; it's probably why Jesus spoke in parables.

How long have you been involved in putting this together?

The first one was for Advent 2015, so this will be the fourth one. We also had a Lenten drama in 2017, and one planned this year, but a snow storm knocked out power. Pray for good weather in 2019!

What can parishioners expect when they come on December 11th?

At 6:15pm, we will dim the lights in the foyer and in the church. Soft instrumental music will be playing in the background, and candles will be set in different places in the church. Greeters will be at the doors to let people in, and the doors will be kept closed until the end of the night. This is to create an atmosphere of reverence and peace so that people can pray and prepare themselves to receive the Sacrament.

The drama begins at 7pm. We have two narrators who will read, an ensemble of young singers from The Rise Youth Ministry, a soloist, and a young girl taking on the role of a poor and lost child who comes to the Christ Child with nothing to give but her heart. We will have a few minutes to meditate on a series of reflections shown on the screens followed by prayers and ending with music. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will then be available at various stations. We will continue with soft background music until 9pm.

What feedback have you received in years past?

People tell me that they were moved deeply by the music, the reflections, and the words spoken, especially the monologues. I write the dramas, generally with a theme taken from a verse of Scripture, then I ask Dinah Simmons to read it and write reflections and prayers in keeping with the theme. She always comes up with the perfect words. Our pianist is very gifted, not just as a musician, but as someone who listens to the Lord and plays in the Spirit. Some said the drama helped them to really examine their own lives and to think about Advent in a deeper way. 🕯



Advent Reconciliation Drama

Tuesday, December 11th, 7pm

Day of Reconciliation

Wednesday, December 12th, 9:30am-5pm

Go to

saintbenedict.ca/calendar-events
to see what's coming up!



GREGORIAN PRAYER NIGHT

***WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER
19TH, 7:30PM***

*Enter more deeply into Advent with Eucharistic
Adoration and beautiful traditional music*



Connect Groups

Alpha Team



Ministry



Discipleship Groups



Alpha



Invitational Church



How Saint Benedict Parish
forms disciples who
joyfully live out the mission
of Jesus Christ

Worship



THE GAME PLAN

MADE IN CANADA
50th ANNIVERSARY
HERITAGE MEMORIALS LTD
1967 - 2017
Pauline Ouellette
1143 Bedford Hwy
902-835-8757
www.heritagememorials.com

www.takosushiramen.ca



902-405-8855

**TAKE OUT
AND DELIVERY**

480 Parkland Drive

Parkland
SHANNEX
CLAYTON PARK

Living
your best
life.

Book your FREE Lunch and Tour today!

For more information, visit
ParklandRetirementLiving.com.

118 Fairfax Dr., Halifax • 902.404.4042   

**Rafah DiCostanzo**
MLA - CLAYTON PARK WEST
278 Lacewood Drive Suite 303, B3M 3Y7 (902) 443 8318
Rafah@RafahDiCostanzo.com
[@RafahDiCostanzo](https://www.facebook.com/RafahDiCostanzo) [@RafahDiCostanzoNS](https://www.facebook.com/RafahDiCostanzoNS)



**How do you want
to be remembered?**

FREE Pre-Planning Kit
Call 902-453-1434



Atlantic Funeral Homes
Halifax Chapel
by Arbor Memorial

Arbor Memorial Inc.

PRINT 101
PRINT. SIGNAGE. DESIGN.

SPECIALIZING IN:
DIGITAL & OFFSET PRINTING
LARGE FORMAT
GRAPHIC DESIGN

902.442.4144 • print101.ca

PARISH STAFF TEAM

DARLENE BONANG (ex 0)
Office Administration
DarleneB@SaintBenedict.ca

CATHERINE GOULD (ex 27)
Discipleship Groups
CatherineG@SaintBenedict.ca

PAUL LANG (ex 41)
Audiovisual
PaulL@SaintBenedict.ca

PHIL MARMEN
Music Ministry
PhilM@SaintBenedict.ca

ROB MCDOWELL (ex 26)
Preaching Support
RobM@SaintBenedict.ca

TANYA NOYE (ex 28)
Alpha & Engagement
TanyaN@SaintBenedict.ca

RYAN ORLANDO (ex 40)
Facilities
RyanO@SaintBenedict.ca

LAURA O'ROURKE
Children's Ministry
LauraO@SaintBenedict.ca

COREY ROBINSON
Youth Ministry
CoreyR@SaintBenedict.ca

KATE ROBINSON (ex 29)
Mission Support Team Leader
KateR@SaintBenedict.ca

BILL SCOLLARD (ex 39)
Disciple Formation Team Leader
BillS@SaintBenedict.ca

FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES
Office@SaintBenedict.ca

DINAH SIMMONS (ex 24)
Worship & Sacraments
DinahS@SaintBenedict.ca

MATT VAUGHAN (ex 42)
Communications
MattV@SaintBenedict.ca

CHRIS YETMAN (ex 21)
Finance
ChrisYetman@SaintBenedict.ca

If you're interested in the sacraments of baptism or matrimony at Saint Benedict Parish, please note that in addition to preparation, we require that you get in touch with us a minimum of three months in advance of your hoped-for date for baptism and one year prior to your desired wedding date.

For information on baptisms, please email Carol:
baptisms@saintbenedict.ca.

For information on weddings, please email
Deacon David: **weddings@saintbenedict.ca.**


For information on preparation for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion, please email
PACT@saintbenedict.ca.

For information on becoming Catholic, please email
RCIA@saintbenedict.ca.

For funerals, please call the parish office (902-443-0725, and listen to the prompts) to be connected with our funeral ministry team.

FINANCIAL UPDATE - OCTOBER 2018

PARISH DEBT REDUCTION	REC'D	TOTAL	AVG/
ENVELOPES	139	\$4,058	\$29.19
PAR (PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCE)	62	\$3,262	see note
MORTGAGE BALANCE (AS OF MONTH END)		\$506,941	
INTEREST PAID (ON MORTGAGE)		\$1,866	
PRINCIPAL PAID (ON MORTGAGE)		\$9,572	
Principal payments include principal portion of monthly mortgage payment plus additional principal payments made from Parish Debt funds received.			
SUNDAY COLLECTIONS	REC'D	TOTAL	AVG/
ENVELOPES	1,288	\$34,453	\$26.75
PAR (PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCE)	405	\$53,882	see note
Note: PAR options include weekly, bi-weekly and monthly withdrawals; therefore a 'weekly' average is unavailable.			



**J.A. Snow
Funeral Home**

339 Lacewood Drive
Halifax, Nova Scotia
902-455-0531

Proud to serve the
Parish of Saint Benedict

A trusted name since 1883

WWW.JASnowFuneralHome.com



*Build a Relationship
with a child in need.*

\$37/month

Sponsor Today

1-800-776-6855
chalice.ca



VENTURA REALTY LTD
KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE WORKING FOR YOU

Marilisa Benigno
Realtor/Parishioner

902.830.1343
marilisa@venturarealty.ca
www.venturarealty.ca



30 Farnham Gate Road
902-406-7788

VACI PAINTING
QUALITY IS OUR ONLY PRIORITY™



Contact us today for a free estimate
902-332-3398 www.vacipainting.ca



Your Neighbourhood
Quality Seafood
& Live Lobster
Store
Since 1948
Best Fishes
For All

607 Bedford Hwy,
Halifax, NS
443-FISH (3474)

FishermansMarket.com

- Weekend Specials
- Gift Cards
- Platters
- Sushi Products