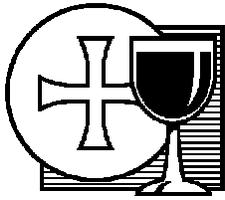


Benediction Weekly

December 4, 2016

St. Benedict's Church is an inclusive Christian community that celebrates the divine in all beings, and inspires spiritual growth through joyful sacramental worship, loving service, creative expression, thoughtful inquiry and commitment to social justice.



Evening Eucharist

this Saturday at 5:30

CALENDAR – This week at St. Benedict's: (at the church unless otherwise specified)

TODAY

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist w/ music
Followed by potluck lunch

Tuesday, Dec 6

5:30 pm – Vespers, followed by potluck at 6:15

Wednesday, Dec 7

7:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Dec 8

10:00 am – Hollister Institute: Isaiah the Poet

Friday, Dec 9

4:00 pm – Healing Ministry Meeting

Saturday, Dec 10

9:00 am – Men's Breakfast at Celia's Garden Café
5:30 pm – Saturday Evening Eucharist

Sunday, Dec 11

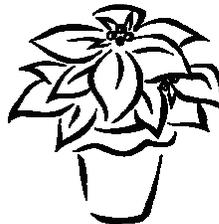
8:00 am – Contemplative Communion Service
9:15 am – Bible Study
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist w/ music
12:30 pm – Lunch Bunch at Celia's Garden Café
1:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Christmas Carol Concert

Come and enjoy Christmas music from six centuries sung by the St. Benedict Singers and friends, directed by John Cribb. There is no charge and everyone is welcome. This popular concert will include familiar carols arranged for the choir, as well as lesser known pieces from a range of composers, and several popular sing-alongs. The program lasts about an hour and will be followed by refreshments.

Saturday, December 17th at 3pm

Poinsettias for Christmas



If you would like to honor a loved one by contributing for Christmas poinsettias, you may use the envelopes on the usher's table to indicate the wording of your dedication (as in memory, thanksgiving, or honor.)

Please print clearly. Suggested contribution is \$10 each. Please place envelope in offering plate. Donors may take home poinsettias after Christmas Season.



There will be a service of Advent Lessons and Carols today at 5pm at St. James, Paso Robles, with help from members of St. Luke's, Atascadero. This traditional service tells the story of Jesus' birth through scripture and song, and is a wonderful way to start the Christmas season. The service will be followed by refreshments. St James' is located at 514 14th Street, Paso Robles.

Please turn in your pledge card, if you have not already done so. It is important for us to get an estimate of income for 2017 so we can budget for the fullest ministry possible. Extra blank cards are available at the ushers' station.

Serving God and the People of St. Benedict's this Week:

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall; Eucharistic Minister: Stef Shuman; Chalice Bearer: John Horsley;
Lectors: Lisa Gonzalez & Margaret Fegan; Ushers: Esta Kandarian & Connie Weldon; Greeter: Bobbie Shields; Altar Guild:
Pat Stoneman; Flowers: Bryson McKelvey; Potluck Hosts: Joan Ghilotti & Judy Schloss;
Tellers: Francis Rivinus & Judith Cadigan; Prayer Team Intercessor: Lisa Gonzalez; Cantor: Alan Kiste;
Music Director: John Cribb. **Thank you all for your service!**



**On-Going
Activities
at St. Ben's**

BIBLE STUDY - Come join us for Bible Study at 9:20 a.m. every Sunday except first Sundays.

DREAMS & SPIRITUALITY GROUP— First and third Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm.

EARTHCARE – A discussion/action group to formulate local solutions to environmental concerns. Second Wednesdays at 2:30 pm.

HEALING SERVICE – a time for prayers for healing at the 10:30 service on 5th Sundays.

HOLLISTER INSTITUTE – Opportunities for stimulating discussion and thoughtful exploration for everyone, whether or not they are members of a church. See website.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER CIRCLE— Prayers for the community and the world. 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 10am.

LITLOVERS' BOOK CLUB – Discussion and fellowship. 4th Saturdays 1pm in members' homes.

LUNCH BUNCH – lunchtime social gathering following church, 2nd Sundays at Celia's Garden Café.

MEET ME IN MORRO – lunchtime social gathering, 3rd Tuesdays at varying restaurants in Morro Bay.

MEN'S BREAKFAST – morning social gathering, 2nd Saturdays 9am at Sea Pines Golf Resort Grill.

PEOPLE'S KITCHEN – Providing and serving food at Prado Day Center, 1st Saturday of even-numbered months.

POTLUCK AND PRADO on the 1st Sunday of each month donations to Prado Day Center are collected, and potluck lunch follows 10:30 service.

VESPERS AND CONVERSATION 5:30 pm Tuesdays. Vespers service using varying liturgies, followed by potluck supper.

VESTRY / PARISH COUNCIL

3rd Thursdays at 6:30pm
Maria Kelly, Sr. Warden
Anne Kanter, Jr. Warden
John Cribb, Francis Rivinus,
Lisa Gonzalez, Barbara Schippers,
Kathie West, Esta Kandarian
Rod Morse and Ken Kenyon.

The Second Sunday of Advent—Year A

Welcome to our parish. This is the first of the two Advent Sundays in which John the Baptist is the dominant figure. John's ministry as the forerunner of the Messiah is introduced in today's gospel reading by his preaching: a stern call to repentance. John warns that neither reliance on the religious practices of the Pharisees and Sadducees nor descent from Abraham is of any use unless one turns around and repents.

The first reading is one of the visions of Isaiah. From the almost moribund family of Jesse (King David's father) a new shoot will appear, a new David. This Messiah will establish God's universal reign as a time of peace even extending to the natural world.

Paul's message in the second reading also reflects on the character of the Messiah's ministry as one for all peoples: Jews and Gentiles.

Advent calls all people, not just those who are religious, into relationship with God and with each other. Nevertheless, a key element in this new relationship is repentance, entering into the new Way of living brought through the dying and rising of Jesus.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*.
Copyright © 2007 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.



Preparing for Christmas at St. Benedict's

Please look for our sign-up board for the following services:

Blue Christmas Service ~ Sunday, December 18, 5:00 pm

For those who are sad during the Holiday season, St. Benedict's Church is again offering "Blue Christmas"—a simple non-denominational service providing an opportunity to focus on the hope and the comfort of the season. Participants are invited to stay for a soup supper and conversation after the service.

☞ Sign ups are needed for Altar Guild and people to make soups & host supper.

Festival Christmas Eve Eucharist ~ Saturday, December 24, 8:00pm

It's our most popular service of the year. Enjoy the magic of Christmas Eve carols, readings and the mystery of Holy Communion.

☞ Sign ups are needed for all service ministries.

Christmas Day Celebration ~ Sunday, December 25, 10:30 am

Holy Eucharist, followed by Brunch.

☞ Sign ups are needed for all service ministries. Brunch contributions needed.

Keeping in Touch during the Week. For counsel & spiritual care, please contact any of the clergy: The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall, 704-5826; The Rev. Mary Elizabeth Pratt-Horsley, 528-7497; The Rev. Donna Ross, 235-5117; The Rev. Barry Turner, 784-0670; or The Rev. Faye Hogan, 541-4595. Call Celeste Pennington with pastoral care & prayer chain requests, 771-8974.

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church - 2220 Snowy Egret Lane – PO Box 6877, Los Osos, CA 93412

office@stbenslosos.org Telephone: (805) 528-0654 www.stbenslosos.org