

# Benediction Weekly

## December 18, 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.*



### **Blue Christmas Service ~ Today at 5:00 pm**

For those who are sad during the Holiday season, St. Benedict's Church is again offering a simple non-denominational service which focuses on the hope and the comfort of the season. Participants are invited to stay for a soup supper and conversation after the service.

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

#### **TODAY**

8:00 am – Contemplative Communion Service  
9:15 am – Bible Study  
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist w/ music  
5:00 pm – Blue Christmas Service

#### **Tuesday, Dec 20**

3:00 pm – Carols & Cider at the Abundance Shop  
5:30 pm – Vespers, followed by potluck at 6:15

#### **Wednesday, Dec 21**

7:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal

#### **Saturday, Dec 24 CHRISTMAS EVE**

8:00 pm – Festival Christmas Eve Eucharist

#### **Sunday, Dec 25 CHRISTMAS DAY**

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist w/ music  
followed by Christmas Day Brunch



### **Christmas Gifts for Prado Clients**

Friends and members of St. Benedict's are invited to share their abundance with clients of the Prado Day Center -- from infants to elders. A VISA gift card or gift cards for stores such as Target, Food for Less, or The Grocery Outlet make a real difference to people who are cold and hungry. Checks can be written to SLO County Parks and Recreation Department with "after school programs for Prado kids" in the memo line. You may also write a check to CAPSLO with the memo: "Prado Xmas Wish List". You may give your donations to Alice Welchert.



**Today is the deadline for Christmas Poinsettia donations.** Print clearly the wording of your dedication on the contribution envelopes or checks. Place in offering plate.  
Suggested contribution \$10 each.

**Christmas Caroling and mulled cider** will be offered to the community this Tuesday at 3pm at the Abundance Shop.

**Diocesan Winter Conference** will be held January 7 in Salinas, featuring Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. If you will attend, please speak with Caro+ today. Details on our bulletin board.

**Bishop Mary** will be here at St. Ben's on January 15. If you want to be baptized, confirmed or received as an Episcopalian this is your opportunity. Please speak with Caro+.

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

Celebrant: The Rev. Donna Ross; Preacher: Dr. Caroline Hall; Deacon: The Rev. Sharon Dalrymple;  
Eucharistic Minister: Diana Hammerlund; Chalice Bearer: Alan Kiste; Lector: Ann Edwards;  
Ushers: Ron Thompson & Brian Spolarich; Greeter: Laura Thompson; Altar Guild: Stef Shuman; Flowers: Pamela Bleisch;  
Coffee Hour Hosts: Pat Stoneman & Ann Lucas; Tellers: Steve Cake & Mary Ellen Rico;  
Prayer Team Intercessor: Laura Thompson; Flute: Anne Kanter; Music Director: John Cribb.

***Thank you all for your service!***



**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. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, 10am.

**LITLOVERS' BOOK CLUB** - Discussion and fellowship. 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays 1pm in members' homes.

**LUNCH BUNCH** - lunchtime social gathering following church, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays at Celia's Garden Café.

**MEET ME IN MORRO** - lunchtime social gathering, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at varying restaurants in Morro Bay.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** - morning social gathering, 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays 9am at Sea Pines Golf Resort Grill.

**PEOPLE'S KITCHEN** - Providing and serving food at Prado Day Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of even-numbered months.

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

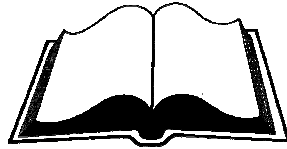
**VESPERS AND CONVERSATION** 5:30 pm Tuesdays. Vespers service using varying liturgies, followed by potluck supper.

#### **VESTRY / PARISH COUNCIL**

3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## **Lectio Divina with Isaiah**

*Lectio* is not Bible study, but a kind of prayer .  
*Lectio* is not learning *what the words means*,  
but listening for the *Word that gives meaning*.



#### **Lectio for December 19 – 23**

Monday	Isaiah 11:1-2
Tuesday	Isaiah 11:3-4
Wednesday	Isaiah 11:5-6
Thursday	Isaiah 11:7-8
Friday	Isaiah 11:9

**Read the passage slowly**, silently or aloud. Take a few minutes for silent reflection, and identify the words that speak to you.

**Read the passage a second time**, and listen to the text again. Ask yourself, "How does this speak to my life today?"

**Read the passage a third time**, and ask yourself, "What do I believe God wants me to be...or do? Is God inviting me to change in any way?"

**Conclude with prayer** (not a prayer of words, but a time of remaining open to the Spirit who speaks through the *lectio*).

**Make a record** of the thoughts, images, and insights that came in your time of prayer.

## **New Hollister Institute Class**

### **A RABBI LOOKS AT GOD** **God of Becoming and Relationship** **by Rabbi Bradley Artson**

**January 12, 19, 26 and February 2**



**To register for the discussions, contact Donna Ross at [donnaross@charter.net](mailto:donnaross@charter.net) \***

**Hollister discussions:** For several years, people from many faith traditions have been meeting weekly at St. Benedict's to discuss topics of common interest. All points of view are welcome, expected, and encouraged in these discussions.

**Starting January 12**, we'll be discussing a pioneering book on process theology, *God of Becoming and Relationship*, by Rabbi Bradley Artson. In past Hollister discussions we have touched on ideas from process theology; now we welcome Rabbi Artson's clear perspective, which adds so much to our understanding. To focus on the nature of God – instead of the differences between Jews and Christians – we're going to consider Jesus as a rabbi and teacher, along with other rabbis through the ages.

**Each week**, we'll prepare for the discussion by reading a few short chapters in Artson's book. When we meet, we'll share our own thoughts, reactions, and/or insights from the reading. Again, all points of view are welcome, expected, and encouraged in these Hollister discussions.

**We hope you'll consider joining us this January!**

\* When you register, you'll receive information on how to purchase the book, and a copy of the Introduction to get you started on your reading.

**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.

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