

# Benediction Weekly

## December 27, 2015

*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.*



**People's Kitchen this Saturday** – sign up to serve or provide food.  
**Potluck & Prado next Sunday** – bring a dish to share for lunch and donations of non-perishable food items to contribute to Prado Center.

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

### **TODAY**

8:00 am – Contemplative Communion Service  
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with music

### **Tuesday, Dec 29**

5:30 pm – Vespers & Potluck

### **Saturday, Jan 2**

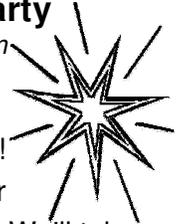
12 noon – People's Kitchen at Prado Day Center

### **Sunday, Jan 3**

No 8 am Service  
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with music  
Followed by Potluck Lunch  
*A-H Main dish; I-R Dessert; S-Z Salad & bread*

### **St. Ben's Epiphany Star Party**

Wednesday January 6<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 pm



It's Epiphany, Twelfth Day of Christmas, Old Christmas and an excuse for a party! Bring a dish to share and twigs from your Christmas decorations to burn in the fire. We'll take down all the church's decorations, bless the church's door with the mark of Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar, and crown the Kings or Queens of Epiphany. Take home your "star word" to bring a special focus to the New Year.

### **Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality, by Richard Rohr** *Thursday mornings at 10 am, starting January 14*

Our discussion of the themes in *Things Hidden* will be held at St. Benedict's Church at 10 o'clock on Thursday mornings in January, and online at <http://faithmatters.us/> Discussions begin January 14 and conclude March 17.

The author of *Things Hidden*, Franciscan priest Richard Rohr, is the founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is the author of numerous books, including *Falling Upward: Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* and *The Naked Now: Learning to See as the Mystics See*. Rohr writes,

"The development of consciousness is a gradual, lifelong process; it's not typically a straightforward journey. We may catch a glimpse of Divine Reality, but often it's too much for our small self, and so we recoil until great love, suffering, or contemplative practice help us surrender a bit more.

"We see this dance – three steps forward, two steps back – mirrored in sacred texts. Human authors at different levels of consciousness portray God in different ways. At times in most religious histories God has been described as violent, exclusive, and judgmental. It's easy to point the finger at other religions and forget our own religion's lower levels. For example, despite recent criticism, the Quran is not more violent than the Bible; our scriptures also hold many punitive, dualistic, and exclusionary passages. But also running throughout the world's sacred texts is the thread of God's desire for union, inclusivity, non-violence, forgiveness, mercy, and healing.

"At their most mature level, religions cultivate in their followers a deeper union with God, with each other, and with reality—or *what is*. The work of religion is to *re-ligio*—re-ligament or reunite what our egos and survival instincts have put asunder, namely a fundamental wholeness at the heart of everything

"My calling has been to retrieve and re-teach the wisdom that has been lost, ignored, or misunderstood within the Judeo Christian Tradition. Any truth that keeps recurring and gathers humanity's positive energy is called wisdom and most assuredly has to be from the One Holy Spirit."

Email [donnaross@charter.net](mailto:donnaross@charter.net) to register for the Thursday discussion group and/or to receive notification when new posts go up at <http://faithmatters.us/>

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

Celebrant: The Rev. Barry Turner; Deacon: The Rev. Sharon Dalrymple; Eucharistic Minister: Judy Schloss;  
Chalice: Stef Shuman; Lectors: Tom Pickering & Bob Pelfrey; Ushers: Steve Hirahara & Lisa Gonzalez;  
Greeter: Rob Ross; Altar Guild: Stef Shuman; Flowers: Lisa Gonzalez;  
Coffee Hour Hosts: Gigi Rivinus and Bill & Joan Hayes; Tellers: Francis Rivinus & Bryson McKelvey;  
Cantor: Alec Speck; Music: Ann Lucas; **Thank you all for your service!**



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

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

**NATURE ACADEMY** — Alternative  
Middle and High School program  
through Outside Now, a nonprofit  
educational organization dedicated to  
reconnecting people to the wonders of  
the natural world. Mon & Fri 830-330

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

**RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**  
On the last Sunday of each month, the  
loose plate offering is designated to this  
fund to help those in need.

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

**VESTRY / PARISH COUNCIL:**  
Maria Kelly, Sr. Warden  
Pam Bleisch, Jr. Warden  
John Cribb, Francis Rivinus,  
Lisa Gonzalez, Michael Lucas,  
Celeste Pennington, Anne Kanter,  
Elaine Goodman, Kathie West

**The Rector is on Vacation  
until January 2**

During her absence, please contact Celeste Pennington with pastoral care & prayer chain requests, 771-8974; for small building issues please contact Danna at the church office 528-0654; call Senior Warden Maria Kelly with all other church business, 423-5331. For counsel & spiritual care call any of the assisting clergy: Mary Elizabeth, 528-7497; Donna Ross, 235-5117; Barry Turner, 784-0670; or Sharon Dalrymple, (210) 422-8284.



**Lit Lovers' Book Club non-fiction selection for January:**

***Tinseltown: Murder, Morphine, and Madness at the Dawn of Hollywood***,  
by William J. Mann [Edgar Award winner for Best Fact Crime]

A true story recreated with the suspense of a novel, **Tinseltown** is the work of a storyteller at the peak of his powers—and the solution to a crime that has stumped detectives and historians for nearly a century.

By 1920, the movies had suddenly become America's new favorite pastime, and one of the nation's largest industries. Never before had a medium possessed such power to influence. Yet Hollywood's glittering ascendancy was threatened by a string of headline-grabbing tragedies—including the murder of William Desmond Taylor, the popular president of the Motion Picture Directors Association, a legendary crime that has remained unsolved until now.

In a fiendishly involving narrative, bestselling Hollywood chronicler William J. Mann draws on a rich host of sources, including recently released FBI files, to unpack the story of the enigmatic Taylor and the diverse cast that surrounded him—including three beautiful, ambitious actresses; a grasping stage mother; a devoted valet; and a gang of two-bit thugs, any of whom might have fired the fatal bullet. And the brilliant and ruthless moguls, Adolph Zukor and Marcus Loew, locked in a struggle for control of the industry and desperate to conceal the truth about the crime. Along the way, Mann brings to life a fascinating depiction of Los Angeles in the Roaring Twenties.

January 2016							Highlights
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
					1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	2 - People's Kitchen @ Prado Day Center
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	3 - "Potluck and Prado" at 1030 service
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	6 - 12 <sup>th</sup> Night: Epiphany Star Party, 6:30p
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	7 - Drop-in Dream Group, 7p
31							9 - Men's Breakfast @ Sea Pines Grill, 9a
<b>Weekly Events:</b>							9 - Saturday Evening Eucharist, 530p
Mondays + Fridays, Nature Acad 830a-330p							10 - Lunch Bunch @ Celia's Garden Café, 1230p
Tuesdays: Vespers 530p, Potluck 615p							13 - Intercessory Prayer Circle, 10a
Wednesdays: Choir Rehearsal 7p							13 - Green Group, 230p
Thursdays: "Things Hidden" 10a, begins Jan 14							14 - Hollister Inst: "Things Hidden," 10a
							16 - Harmony Hike - Monarch Butterfly Grove, 1245p
							21 - Drop-in Dream Group, 7p
							23 - Lit Lovers' Book Club, 1p @ Stef's
							23 - Ledward Kaapana Hawaiian Concert, 630p
							27 - Intercessory Prayer Circle, 10a
							31 - Annual Parish Meeting

**Giving in November - St. Ben's General Operating Fund - Thank you!!**

Nov Income: \$ 13,319	Monthly Income Budgeted: \$ 11,128	Difference: \$ 2,191 surplus
YTD Income: \$ 131,350	YTD Income Budgeted: \$ 122,403	Difference: \$ 8,947 surplus

**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. Sharon Dalrymple, (210) 422-8284. Call Celeste Pennington with pastoral care & prayer chain requests, 771-8974.

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