

Benediction Weekly

November 29, 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.



Spruce-up the Church!

All-Parish Workday this Saturday

It's time to clean, polish, sweep, and spiff up our church in preparation for the coming Holy Season. Please plan to join in! Come for an hour or as long as you can. 10 am till done.

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 Healing Service

Monday, Nov 30

8:30 am – Nature Academy

Tuesday, Dec 1

5:30 pm – Vespers
6:15 pm – Potluck

Wednesday, Dec 2

7:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Dec 3

10:00 am – Advent Lectio Divina
6:00 pm – Wilshire Hospice Light up a Life
7:00 pm – Drop-in Dream Group

Friday, Dec 4

8:30 am – Nature Academy

Saturday, Dec 5

9:00 am – Annual Church Spruce-up Workday
1:00 pm – Lit Lovers' Book Club at June Wright's
3:00 pm – Allan Hancock Christmas Concert

Sunday, Dec 6

No 8 am Service
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist, followed by potluck lunch
3:00 pm – Winterdance Celtic Christmas Celebration
3:00 pm – Advent Service of Lessons & Carols –
at St. Peter's, Morro Bay

JUST AHEAD:

Lectio Divina begins this Wednesday at St. Benedict's. An opportunity for contemplative reflection upon several of the scripture texts appointed for Advent will be offered on Dec. 3, 10 and 17 beginning at 10 am, led by the Rev. Donna Ross and the Rev. Barry Turner.

What Cheer? - a concert by the Allan Hancock College Singers. Saturday, December 5, 3pm at St. Benedict's. The festivity of the Christmas season, both sacred and secular, is celebrated in this program of choral music. The Allan Hancock Singers, under the direction of Ann Lucas, will be joined by several vocalists from the St Benedict Singers. Tickets are \$8, available in advance or at the door.

Advent Service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 6, 3:00 pm
at St. Peter's by-the-Sea, 545 Shasta Ave., Morro Bay
The Choir of St. Peter's, directed by Dr. Marti Lindholm Smith, with some additional singers from St. Benedict's, will again present the traditional succession of lessons leading up to the birth of Jesus, interspersed with choir anthems and congregational singing. A free will offering will be accepted. A reception follows in the parish hall.

Winterdance, a Celtic Christmas Celebration
Sunday, December 6, 3:00 pm at St. Benedict's
Music by the Celtic trio **Molly's Revenge**.
Tickets \$20 in advance, \$24 at the door.
brownpapertickets.com
Questions (805) 215-0306



Cash put in the offertory plates this morning will be designated for the Rector's Discretionary Fund to help those in the parish or the wider community in need of emergency assistance. Or you may write a check to St Benedict's with "RDF" in the memo line to make a special contribution to this fund. *Thank you!*

Potluck and Prado

Next Sunday, please plan to bring a dish to share at the potluck lunch and contributions of non-perishable food or other items for the Prado Day Center.

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

Celebrant: The Rev. Donna Ross; Preacher: The Rev. Barry Turner; Deacon: The Rev. Sharon Dalrymple;
Eucharistic Minister: Brian Spolarich; Chalice: Rob Ross; Lectors: Bryson McKelvey & Rob Ross;
Ushers: Alan Kiste & Esta Kandarian; Greeter: Steve Hirahara; Altar Guild: Judy Schloss; Flowers: Brian Spolarich;
Coffee Hour Hosts: Ron & Laura Thompson & Joan Ghilotti; Tellers: Katy Keeney & Mary Ellen Rico;
Music Director: John Cribb. **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. 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.

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, 1st
Saturday of odd-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.

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 First Sunday of Advent—Year C

Welcome to our parish. On the first Sunday in Advent, the liturgy is concerned with our preparation for the return of Christ at the end of time. The Gospel reading today is a portion of Jesus' words concerning that time. He tells us to see the events of history as signs of the approaching end and to recognize that end as the coming of our redemption.

The Old Testament reading today from the prophet Jeremiah looks forward to the time when God will fulfill the promise of a successor to David. The New Testament Christians understood the "righteous Branch" of David's line to be our Lord Jesus Christ.

The second reading is from Paul's first Thessalonian letter. His letters to that church were prompted by difficulties in that congregation due to their misunderstanding of the Lord's promise to return. In today's reading, Paul encourages the Thessalonians to see their ministry and mutual love as the way to prepare for the Lord's return.

There is an "already, but not yet" aspect to the New Testament's discussion of the Lord's return. God's kingdom is not limited to a time in the far off future; it began breaking into human history in Jesus' death and resurrection. The Lord comes to judge and to save in each moment in the life of his people. Above all, he is revealed in our encounter with him in the Eucharistic meal.

*From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year.
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December 2015							Highlights
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
		1	2	3	4	5	3 – Advent Lectio Divina, 10a
							3 – Drop-in Dream Group, 7p
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	5 – Church Spruce-Up Day, from 9a
							5 – Lit Lovers' Book Club, 1p
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	5 – Allan Hancock Christmas Concert, 3p
							6 – Potluck and Prado, 1030a
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	6 – Winterdance – Celtic Christmas, 3p
							9 – Intercessory Prayer Circle, 10a
27	28	29	30	31			10 – Advent Lectio Divina, 10a
							11 – Green Group, 3p
							12 – Men's Breakfast @ Sea Pines Grill, 9a
							12 – Saturday Evening Eucharist, 530p
							13 – Blue Christmas Service, 6p
							17 – Advent Lectio Divina, 10a
							17 – Drop-in Dream Group, 7p
							20 – St Benedict Singers Concert, 3p
							23 – Intercessory Prayer Circle, 10a
							24 – Carols Around the Crèche Family Service, 430p
							24 – Festive Christmas Eucharist, 8p
							25 – Contemplative Communion Service, 10a

Weekly Events:

**Mondays + Fridays, Nature Acad 830-330
(through Dec 18)**

Tuesdays: Vespers 530p, Potluck 615p

**Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays, 7p
(excepting Dec 30, and
with extra rehearsal Dec 19 9a)**

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

Oct Income: \$ 10,037
YTD Income: \$ 118,031

Monthly Income Budgeted: \$ 11,128
YTD Income Budgeted: \$111,113

Difference: \$ 1,091 shortage
Difference: \$ 6,918 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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