

Benediction Weekly

November 27, 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.



Spiff 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. We will also be emptying out the storage container. We need all hands on deck, so please plan to join in, for an hour or as long as you can. Work begins at 9:30. Lunch will be provided.

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

TODAY FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 8:00 am – Contemplative Communion Service
- 9:20 am – Bible Study
- 10:30 am – Holy Eucharist w/ music

Tuesday, Nov 29

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

Wednesday, Nov 30

- 7:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Dec 1

- 10:00 am – Hollister Institute: Isaiah the Poet
- 4:00 pm – Healing Ministry Meeting
- 7:00 pm – Drop-in Dream Group

Friday, Dec 2

- 7:00 pm – Hawaiian Christmas Concert

Saturday, Dec 3

- 9:30 am – Spiff the Church, all-parish workday
- 1:00 pm – Lit Lovers' Book Club at Cadigans'

Sunday, Dec 4

- No 8am service or Bible Study
- 10:30 am – Holy Eucharist w/ music
Followed by potluck lunch

Advent Lectio Divina begins this Thursday.

An opportunity for contemplative reflection upon several passages from Isaiah, paired with modern poets, will be offered on Dec. 1, 8 and 15 beginning at 10 am. Discussions led by the Rev. Donna Ross and the Rev. Barry Turner and Carol McPhee.

Potluck and Prado next Sunday

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.

Presiding Bishop's Visit to Diocese

The Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church USA, will be speaking in our diocese on January 7th in Salinas. Don't miss it.

Bishop Mary's Visitation to St. Benedict's

Our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Mary Gray-Reeves, will be making her official visit to our parish on January 15th. If you are interested in being Baptized, Confirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church, please speak with the Rector.

People's Kitchen

Beginning in 2017, St. Benedict's will be serving lunch at Prado on the first Saturday of **even**-numbered months, having switched our schedule with St. Peter's. The next date we will serve will be February 4.

Did you know? One of the advantages of grey hair is that you can donate to St Benedict's and save taxes at the same time! The IRS requires those of us who are over 70½ and have an IRA account to make a minimum annual withdrawing. You can now give up to \$100,000 per year from your IRA directly to St. Benedict's without paying any income tax on it. The donation must be made directly from your IRA account to St. Benedict's. It can be in the form of appreciated stock. For more information please ask Lisa Gonzalez.544-2895.

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 Ministers: Brian Spolarich & Alan Kiste;
Lectors: Janelle LaFond & Tom Pickering; Ushers: Michael Lucas & Ron Thompson; Greeter: Diana Hammerlund;
Altar Guild: Judy Schloss; Flowers: Laura Thompson; Coffee Hour Hosts: Joan Hayes & Margaret Fegan;
Tellers: Diana Hammerlund & Steve Cake; Prayer Team Intercessor: Celeste Pennington; 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. 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.

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. (Carol singing starts at 7:45)

☞ 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.



Poinsettias for Christmas

If you would like to honor a loved one by contributing for Christmas poinsettias, please use the contribution envelopes on the usher's table to indicate the wording of your dedication, such as:

In memory of...

In honor of...

In thanksgiving for...

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

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS AT ST. BENEDICT'S

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Hollister Inst. : Advent Lectio Divina
Dec 1, 8, + 15 at 10a

Choir Rehearsal:
Dec 7, 11, 14, 21 at 7p and Dec 17 at 10a

Vespers:
Tuesdays at 530p, followed by potluck

1 - Drop In Dream Group, 7p
2 - Hawaiian Holiday Concert, 7p
3 - Church Cleaning Work Day, from 930a
3 - Lit Lovers' Book Club, 1p
4 - Potluck and Prado, 1030a
9 - Healing Ministry Meeting, 4p
10 - Men's Breakfast @ Celia's Garden Café, 9a
10 - Saturday Evening Eucharist, 530p
14 - Intercessory Prayer Circle, 10a
14 - EarthCare Meeting, 230p
15 - Parish Council Meeting, 6p
15 - Drop-in Dream Group, 7p
17 - St Benedict Singers Christmas Concert, 3p
18 - Blue Christmas Service, 5p
24 - Christmas Eve Eucharist, 8p
25 - Christmas Day Eucharist, 1030a
Followed by Brunch

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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