

Benediction Weekly

December 11, 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.

Christmas Concert Today at 5pm



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Choir, in collaboration with the guest soloists and Cuesta Chamber Choir singers will present the "**Christmas Oratorio**" by Camille Saint-Saëns and Christmas Carol Sing-along, followed by a Potluck supper. All are welcome, with or without a dish to pass! The concert features: Jennifer Sayer, harp; Katya Gotsdiner-McMahan, organ; Jumi Kim, conductor. Free will offering. 1344 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo.

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
- 12:30 pm – Lunch Bunch at Celia's Garden Café
- 1:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Monday, Dec 12

- 7:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, Dec 13

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

Wednesday, Dec 14

- 10:00 am – Intercessory Prayer Circle
- 2:30 pm – EarthCare Meeting
- 7:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Dec 15

- 10:00 am – Hollister Institute: Isaiah the Poet
- 6:00 pm – Parish Council Meeting
- 7:00 pm – Drop-in Dream Group

Saturday, Dec 17

- 9:00 am – Instrument Rehearsal
- 10:00 am – Choir Rehearsal
- 3:00 pm – Christmas Carol Concert

Sunday, Dec 18

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



St. Benedict's Christmas Carol Concert Saturday at 3pm

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.

Presiding Bishop to speak at Winter Conference

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will make his first visit to our Diocese on Saturday, January 7 from 9:30am to 3 pm in Salinas at our Winter Conference. There's no charge to attend, but all must bring their own lunch. Each congregation is responsible for getting a head count of those attending to the diocesan office by December 20. See bulletin board.

If you are interested in going, please let Caro+ know as soon as possible. Carpooling is encouraged.

Christmas Poinsettia donations may be made using the envelopes near the usher's table. Print clearly the wording of your dedication. Suggested contribution \$10.



Bishop Mary will be here 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. Dr. Caroline Hall; Preacher: The Rev. Donna Ross; Deacon: The Rev. Sharon Dalrymple; Eucharistic Ministers: Michael Lucas & Judy Schloss; Lectors: Rob Ross & Ann Lucas; Ushers: Marie Moore & Rod Morse; Greeter: Ken Kenyon; Altar Guild: Sarah Chesebro & Stef Shuman; Flowers: Alice Welchert; Coffee Hour Hosts: Barbara Schippers & Diana Hammerlund; Tellers: Stef Shuman & June Wright; Prayer Team Intercessor: Judy Schloss; 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.

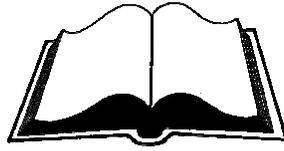
VESPER AND CONVERSATION 5:30 pm Tuesdays. Vespers service using varying liturgies, followed by potluck supper.

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.

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 12 – 16

Monday	Isaiah 2:2
Tuesday	Isaiah 2:3
Wednesday	Isaiah 2:4
Thursday	Isaiah 2:5
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.



**Community Christmas Carol Singing
(and Mulled Cider Quaffing)**

3pm Tuesday, December 20 at the Abundance Shop

Christmas at St. Benedict's



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 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.

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.

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

Holy Eucharist, followed by Brunch.

Q: "Who is my neighbor?"

A: "Homeless people of all ages -- children, adults and the elderly."

St. Benedict's members have traditionally made special donations to the clients of Prado Day Center during the holidays. One way you can provide immediate help to our neighbors who are cold and hungry is to give gift cards that can be used for food, clothing and other items (such as cards Food for Less or Target). If you want to remember our neighbors in this way please contact Alice Welchert. She will see that cards, money or checks get to the right place. You can also provide after school activities for homeless children by writing a check to the SLO County Parks and Recreation Department.

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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