

Benediction Weekly

December 17, 2017

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 6:30pm

Whether it's illness, financial difficulties, the loss of a loved one, or simply finding oneself alone and away from family, Christmas can be a difficult season. In this short, simple, non-denominational service we honor both the Christmas story, and the feelings of loss, sadness and grief. All are welcome.

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

TODAY

- 8:00 am – Contemporary Communion Service
- 9:20 am – Bible Study
- 10:30 am – Holy Eucharist w/ music
- 6:30 pm – Blue Christmas Service

Tuesday, Dec 19

- 5:30 pm – Vespers, followed by potluck

Wednesday, Dec 20

- 10:00 pm – Intercessory Prayer Circle

Thursday, Dec 21

- 7:00 pm – Drop-in Dream Group

Sunday, Dec 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

- 8:00 am – Contemporary Communion Service
- 10:30 am – Service of Lessons & Carols
- 4:30 pm – Communion Around the Crèche
- 7:45 pm – Carol Sing
- 8:00 pm – Festival Eucharist

Monday, Dec 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

- 10:00 am – Quiet Communion

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.



Jan 1 Dinner: St. Ben's serves on the 1st Monday of ODD numbered months at the Community Dinner at Trinity UMC. We will next be serving on *January 1st* Please contact Barbara Hirahara to help: barbara.hirahara@gmail.com

Last Chance for Poinsettias Dedications

If you would like to honor a loved one by contributing for Christmas poinsettias, you may use the envelopes on the Sign-up board to indicate the wording of your dedication (as in memory, thanksgiving, or honor.) **Today is the last day** for Poinsettia dedications for inclusion in the service bulletins. Please print your dedication clearly on the contribution envelopes or checks and place them in the offering plate. Suggested contribution \$10 each.



Danna in the church office is working to increase the church's following on our Twitter account. She would appreciate Twitter users from the congregation to email their Twitter handle to: office@stbenslososos.org. Please consider following St. Ben's @StBens_LosOsos. Also, Facebook users are welcome to follow www.Facebook.com/StBensLosOsos to keep up on the latest happenings. Thank you!

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

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall; Deacon: Sharon Dalrymple; Eucharistic Minister: Michael Lucas; Chalice Bearer: Ann Edwards; Lector: Ann Lucas; Ushers: Esta Kandarian & Steve Hirahara; Altar Guild: Stef Shuman & Lorienne Schwenk; Flowers: Lisa Gonzalez; Coffee Hour Hosts: Maureen Titus & Judy Schloss; Tellers: Diana Hammerlund & Francis Rivinus; Intercessor: Celeste Pennington; Music Director: John Cribb



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

BIBLE STUDY – Sundays at 9:20 am

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. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 10am.

MEN'S BREAKFAST – morning social gathering, 2nd Saturdays 9am at Celia's Garden Café.

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 Sundays at 12:30pm
The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall, Rector
Anne Kanter, Sr. Warden,
Pamela Bleisch, Lisa Gonzalez,
Esta Kandarian, Barbara Schippers,
Francis Rivinus, Kathie West

December Prado special requests: Hot instant cereal, paper bowls & spoons. For gift cards and donations, see Alice Welchert.



Epiphany Star Party Saturday, January 6 at 6:30 pm

We'll welcome the Magi to the crèche, crown the Epiphany King and Queen, and also take down the Christmas decorations. Bring your favorite dish to share and a twig from your Christmas decorations to burn in our 12th Night fire.

For Such a Time as This: Sustainable Development Goals

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry reminds us to pray, fast and act this Advent and Christmas, in support of good policies that provide opportunities for and respect the dignity of people struggling with poverty.

This month, we focus on the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, which aim to end poverty and hunger, reduce inequalities, ensure quality education, create opportunities for decent work, care for creation, and promote a peaceful and just global community.



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

On December 21, join the Episcopal Public Policy Network and the Presiding Bishops of the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as we pray, fast and act.

During this Advent and Christmas, we focus on the praying aspect of this campaign, and encourage all to pray for the Sustainable Development Goals. Share on social media using #PrayFastAct and @TheEPPN. On the 21st, share which SDG matters most to you.

Pray for each of the goals using these prayers from the World Council of Churches: <http://bit.ly/SDGprayers> There you may find specific prayers for each goal:

- ❖ No poverty ❖ Zero hunger ❖ Good health and well-being ❖ Quality education ❖ Gender equality ❖ Clean water and sanitation ❖ Affordable and clean energy ❖ Decent work & economic growth ❖ Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure ❖ Reduced inequalities ❖ Sustainable cities and communities ❖ Responsible consumption and production ❖ Climate action ❖ Life below water ❖ Life on land ❖ Peace and justice, strong institutions ❖ Partnerships for the goals

Your Amazon Purchases Can Help St. Benedict's

When doing your Christmas shopping at Amazon.com, if you use the link from our website St. Ben's will receive 4 - 6% of the price of the items purchased. Using this link will not increase the cost to you or affect any rebates or sale prices you are entitled to receive from Amazon. It is very simple to use: just go to: <http://www.stbenslososos.org/support-us/> and click on the Amazon logo, which will take you directly to the normal Amazon web site. An easy way to do this is to "bookmark" the above web address as one of your favorites. *Thank you!*



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. 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.

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church - 2220 Snowy Egret Lane – PO Box 6877, Los Osos, CA 93412
office@stbenslososos.org Telephone: (805) 528-0654 www.stbenslososos.org