

Benediction Weekly

December 24, 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.



Healing Service Next Sunday

There will be a time for special prayers for healing and for the laying-on of hands and anointing with holy oil during the 10:30 service next week. St. Benedict's regularly has such a service on 5th Sundays. On other Sundays a member of the Healing Prayer Team is available for private prayers after the service.

Coming up at St. Benedict's

(at the church unless otherwise specified)

TODAY

- 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

Sunday, Dec 31

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

Monday, Jan 1

- 5:00 pm – Community Dinner at Trinity UMC

Saturday, Jan 6

- 6:30 pm – Epiphany Star Party



Epiphany Star Party

Sat, January 6
at 6:30 pm

We'll welcome the Magi to the crèche, crown the Epiphany Kings or Queens, 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.

Please join us. All are welcome!

Los Osos Community Dinner

On Monday, January 1st, it is St. Benedict's turn to host the Community Dinner at Trinity United Methodist Church in Los Osos. There are sign-up sheets at coffee hour for food and servers. These free dinners bless guests who need help putting food on the family table and all of those who hunger for community.

Climate Change as Spiritual Crisis: An Invitation to a New Contemplative Practice

In this time of wars and unprecedented challenge to the planet from human-induced climate change, how will humans integrate the teachings about the awesome universe in a way that empowers our joy and compassion? Artists M. C. Richards and Ullrich Javier Lemus offer a Way and series of practices that moves the heart and awakens us to the Blessed Being who resides in us all and whether that eternal spark be called the "Cosmic Christ" or the "Buddha Nature" or the "Image of God."

Many people are familiar with the devotional practice of praying the "Stations of the Cross." Spiritual theologian Matthew Fox challenges believers and non-believers alike to develop a new practice based on very ancient teachings and the new cosmology: The Stations of the Cosmic Christ. These are the images that line the sanctuary at present. The icons will be here in Los Osos until the end of January.

You are invited to explore the Stations in greater depth by coming to a Retreat morning on January 13 9:30-12:30am led by Rev. Barry Turner.

The church will be open for public viewing on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 12:00am; Saturday: 10 am – 2 pm (except Dec 27 thru 30.) Sunday: Noon – 2 pm and at other times by appointment.



*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 requests: Hot instant cereal, paper bowls & spoons. For gift cards and donations, see Alice W.

California Wildfire Assistance

Deacon Susan Arnold of St. Barnabas' A.G. writes...

The Thomas Fire in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties has caused the mandatory and voluntary evacuation of thousands of residents. There are many still staying in evacuations centers. The Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles and Episcopal Relief and Development are coordinating with the Episcopal Churches in these areas. We have the opportunity to be of help as well. Besides donating \$\$ to ERD at <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/press-and-resources/press-releases/2017-press-releases/california-wildfires>, we are close enough to offer temporary housing for evacuees and animals. ***If you would like to open your home for temporary housing or you have land space for animals*** or for questions, please contact Deacon Susan via email or by phone: dcnsusan.st.barnabas@gmail.com 805-550-2907.

New Tax Laws and 2017 Donations

Now that the tax reform bill is about to become law, it is time to begin planning ahead for 2018 and beyond. As reported in the Wall Street Journal and other sources, due to the pending limits on deductions for state and local taxes for taxpayers who itemize, charitable contributions made before December 31 may be more beneficial in 2017 than in subsequent years.

Please contact your financial or tax advisor to determine if you might benefit from:

- Making additional charitable contributions to your parish or favorite Episcopal Charity in 2017
 - Donating appreciated securities
 - Creating a Donor-advised Fund with the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) to receive the full tax deduction in 2017, with the opportunity to make grants to your favorite charities in the future
- Please contact us for more information at giving@episcopalfoundation.org

Episcopal Church Foundation: www.episcopalfoundation.org

News News

The Benediction, our bi-monthly newsletter, is mailed and emailed to parishioners and interested visitors every two months. This publication includes information on upcoming events and reports on past activities. Our next issue for Jan/Feb will be out the first week of January.

The Benediction Weekly, our weekly announcement sheet, (this sheet) is emailed to parishioners and interested visitors each Monday, along with links to the Sunday sermon, a recap of the calendar for the week, and the list of ongoing prayer requests from our Bidding Book.

If you are not receiving these publications and would like to be added to either distribution list, please let Danna know at the church office: office@stbenslososos.org or Stef at stefshuman@sbcglobal.net

Alternatively, you may access past newsletters Ben Weeklys and sermons directly from our website: www.stbenslososos.org.

And don't forget to follow us on Facebook, for more info, video, photos, and feedback: www.facebook.com/stbenslososos

**The church office will only be open one day this week, Tuesday, Dec. 26.
The Rector will be taking the week off for family time.**

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.
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