



PARISH STAFF

Fr. Jayson Landeza
Pastor

Fr. Bert Aronyu
Fr. Benedict B. Ehinack
In Residence

Mr. Ron Tutson
Deacon

Mrs. Divina Cabrera
Secretary/Bookkeeper

Mr. Leonard Pete
Music Director

Mrs. Ofelia Wanzo
CCD Director

Mr. Rufus Fisher
Plant Manager

Mr. Clifford Ologbosele
Parish Council President

Miss Ariana Catherine
Youth Minister

SUNDAY LITURGY

8:30, 11:00 A.M.
Saturday: 4:30 P.M.

WEEKDAY LITURGY

7:30 A.M.
Monday • Wednesday • Friday

HOLY DAYS

8:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sundays: 9:45 - 10:45 A.M.

RECONCILIATION (Confession)

3:45 - 4:15 P.M. Saturday
other times by appointment

BAPTISM

Instruction of parents required

MARRIAGE

6 month advance notice required

THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

Of The Diocese Of Oakland

HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY
510-581-2488

ST. MARY'S CEMETERY
510-654-0936

ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY
510-223-1265

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

As the people of God who are loved by the Father, being saved by the Son, and strengthened and endowed with the gifts of the Spirit for the service of the Lord, and of all here at St. Benedict, we resolve in the spirit of christian unity and cooperation to use our gifts and talents in building-up the Kingdom of God in East Oakland.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:



Epiphany means “manifestation or appearance.” In Greek mythology, this word describes a time when a god appeared among human beings. So it’s appropriate that we use the term for Jesus’ appearance in our world.

Matthews gospel is the only one containing the popular story about the Wise Men who follow a star to Bethlehem his search of a newborn King. Finding the place for Jesus and his parents are staying, they pay homage and give the child gifts of gold frankincense and myrrh. The rich symbolism in the story deserves our close attention.

The Star: Ancient people believed a new star appeared in the sky each time a child was born. Consequently, when they spotted an extra bright star, they concluded someone important had been born, someone who would outshine everyone else. This was certainly true of Jesus.

Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh: A loyal subject who had an audience with the king not approach him empty-handed but brought gifts to show appreciation for receiving such a great honor. Failing to do so would have been a breach of etiquette. Because a gift should reflect the importance of the person who receives it, only the best and most expensive gifts (like gold, frankincense, and myrrh) were good enough for a king. Gold, the most precious of metals, was especially valuable because it was so rare. Frankincense and myrrh, on the other hand, were perfumes only the rich could afford because merchants had to import them from distant lands.

Bethlehem: many Jewish people thought the Messiah would come from Bethlehem, the city King David came from, because the Messiah was to be one of David’s descendants. Like David, the Messiah would be a military and political leader who would bring peace and prosperity.

The Wise Men: The words “magi” and “magician” (the one who has secret knowledge) both come from the Greek word “magoi” a word that originally referred to the educated priestly class in Persia but later described any knowledgeable individual. Because “magoi” had nothing to do with royalty, it’s best we not refer to Jesus visitors as Kings but as Wise Men. Being from the East (areas like Arabia and Mesopotamia), these men were not Jewish. Matthew carefully chose all the

symbolic details to tell us Jesus was not just an important individual but also the Messiah-King whom many of the Jews were eagerly awaiting. Including the Gentile visitors may have been Matthews way of saying that the Messiah would be for all people, not just the Jews.

The three Wise Men gave the best gifts they could possibly give to the child Jesus. If Jesus were born today, what gift would you bring him?

I hope that you were able to bring in the New Year with faith and gratitude. As you counted the many blessings that marked 2015, I hope and pray that 2016 will be a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Many things taking place over the next few weeks: Martin Luther King Celebration; Black History Month, Ash Wednesday and the upcoming Lenten Season, our church’s annual spiritual retreat.

Next week: more thank you’s and expressions of gratitude for events that have transpired over the past few weeks.

Blessings and thank you!
Father Jayson



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Our next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday, January 5th at 7:00pm in Parish Center.

LINE DANCING CLASS

St. Benedict's Line Dancing class will resume on Fri., Jan. 8, 2016 at 1:00 PM.

PARISH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

For those who have not had their pictures taken already, photo sessions will take place on Saturdays after 12:00 noon on January 9th and 16th. Sunday photo sessions will take place after the 11:00 AM Mass on January 17th and 24th.

ST. BENEDICT'S MARDI GRAS DANCE

Our annual fundraising event takes place on Saturday, February 6, 2016. Please mark your calendars.

THE CATHOLIC VOICE 2016 JUBILEE OF MERCY ITALY PILGRIMAGE OCTOBER 20-29

Camille Tompkins, 510-419-1081, ctompkins@oakdiocese.org. Pentacost Tours, Inc., 800-713-9800 travel@pentecosttours.com. CatholicVoiceOakland.org. The Catholic Voice invites you to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy in Venice, Padua, Bologna, Florence, Siena, Assisi, and Rome. Celebrate Mass at some of the most beautiful basilicas in Italy, visit the treasures of Vatican City, and see Pope Francis during the Papal Audience. Join the 10-day pilgrimage to Italy to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy for \$3,999. Costs includes airfare, ground transportation, housing, and most breakfasts and dinners. **\$100 Early Bird Discount is available to those who register before December 23.** For brochures, contact Camille Tompkins, see above. For additional information and reservations, contact Pentecost Tours, Inc., see above.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND, (WWME)

Does the way you live your life and especially your marriage give praise and glory to God? Let God transform your marriage relationship. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are **February 26-28** or August 5-7. Early registration, 4 to 6 weeks out is highly recommended. For more information contact Ray & Roberta @ 916.806.4601 or Joe & Sue @ 925.680.7767 now or go to oaklandwwme.org Weekends are presented in the Pleasanton/Dublin area.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 3	8:30 a.m.	For The People
	11:00 a.m.	Ray Cronin†
Monday, January 4	7:30 a.m.	
Wednesday, January 6	7:30 a.m.	Rosalind Johnson
Friday, January 8	7:30 a.m.	
Saturday, January 9	4:30 p.m.	

CHURCH SUPPORT

"100" CLUB

Beginning Balance	\$7,177.91
Total Income for November 2015	\$1,364.18
Ending balance as of November 30, 2015	\$8,542.09

PENNY HARVEST

Ending Balance as of November 30, 2015	\$852.03
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Please remember to bring your pennies and drop them off by the altar before or after Mass. There's no need to wrap your pennies in a roll.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

LECTORS/EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

JANUARY 9/10, 2016

4:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
G. Green	L. Robertson	C. Dixon
J. Garibaldi	P. Johnson	W. Gullatt
		B. Foster *

SECOND COLLECTION "100" CLUB



A JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY EVENT

Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy, the moving, live production performed by actress Maria Vargo and directed by Leonardo Defilippis of Saint Luke Productions, will be presented at **Castro Valley Center for the Arts** on **Sunday, January 31 at 7:00 p.m.** The event is sponsored by Our Lady of Grace Church and School. Experience firsthand the life and message of Saint Faustina whose personal encounters with Jesus have inspired a world-wide devotion to Christ's Divine Mercy. This drama also brings audiences a riveting modern story that makes Divine Mercy remarkably relevant and urgent for our world today. The program is filled with all the elements of professional theater, runs 90 minutes, and is suitable for ages 13 and up. Admission is \$15 each; \$12 for seniors and youth 17 & under; or \$40 for families of 4. **For tickets and additional information**, contact Our Lady of Grace Church Office at [510-537-0806](tel:510-537-0806), email newsletter@olgcv.org, or visit www.olgcv.org. Watch the trailer & learn more at www.DivineMercyDrama.com

2016 MASS BOOK

The parish Office will be accepting Mass Intentions for the 2016 Mass Book. If you would like to offer a Mass for the (Living) Intentions of your family/friends, or for your deceased family members/friends, stop by the Parish Office during office hours. We will be happy to assist you.

YOUTH MINISTER

Keeping up with the wonderful spirit and energy of our recent retreat we are looking for individuals who are interested in being mentors or volunteers with our youth and young adult activities. If interested, sign ups are available in the back of the church. For any questions see Ariana Catherine.

Any young adults 21-40 interested in participating in various young adult activities and be mentors to the youth of the parish and parish community, please sign up in the back of the church. For any questions contact Ariana Catherine or Jennifer Fernandes.

ARE YOU A FAN OF ST. BENEDICT?

Well if you're a Facebook member, Like our Page! You can find us under the following title:

Fans of St. Benedict Church Oakland, CA

Make sure that you like our page as well as spread the word to many of your family and friends. This is a great way to keep up with the latest News and Updates with St. Benedict Church.

THE CHOIR'S CORNER

What's going on??

Interested in joining any of the Choirs?

Please feel free to contact Music Director, Leonard Pete.

Phone: 510-917-2390

Email: thevoicesofstbenedicts@yahoo.com

Or just join us at Choir Rehearsal on Thursdays at 6pm.

Are you on Facebook?

Like our page! We're titled **The VOICES of St. Benedict - Oakland, CA**

ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH? To request a *registration form*, please complete and drop in the offertory basket.

Have you moved? Had an information change?

Let us know by completing and returning.

We respect your privacy! This information is for St. Benedict Parish use only.

Name: _____

Phone # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Send Me A Registration Form

Change of Address Moving out of Parish

