

**SAINT PETER CLAVER PILGRIMAGE**

Join the Knights of Peter Claver Intercouncils Courts of Northern California and the Catholic Voice in Cartagena, Columbia and Panama City, Panama on June 5 – June 12, 2017. \$3,149/pp\* includes round-trip airfare from SFO (other cities available – call for pricing), 5 star hotels, most breakfasts, lunches and welcome/farewell dinners, English-speaking tour escort, private air conditioned motor coach (\*per person based on double occupancy). Book now! Limited Seating! For more information and reservations contact: Sara O’Malley Szucs, 773-527-0123 or email [PeterClaver@GoDiplomat.com](mailto:PeterClaver@GoDiplomat.com).

**HOLIDAY TRADITION - LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER: MUSIC FROM THE ERA OF THE BLACK PANTHERS**

**Sunday, December 11, 2016 - 4:00 pm - Paramount Theater, Oakland**

2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Black Panthers, an important time in Oakland’s history. Oakland Symphony will pay homage by performing music from the time, including Motown classics, gospel, and protest music of the 60’s and 70’s. This non-traditional holiday tradition will feature Oakland Symphony Chorus, Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir, Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, alongside other guest choruses, and more! This concert is always a sellout. Get your tickets early for the best seat choices..Groups of 10 or more will receive a group discount. **Two ways to order tickets:** 1. Order By Phone - 510-444-0802 (Box Office Hours : Mon-Fri, 9:00am-4:00pm). 2. Order Online: oaklandsymphony.org

**SICK AND HOMEBOUND MINISTRY**

If you know of anyone in the parish who is sick and homebound who would like to receive communion at their home or if you know someone who is sick and is in need of prayers, please contact Divina Cabrera at the church office (510) 632-1847 or fill out one of the request forms at the back of the church. Request for prayers will be listed in the bulletin for one month and extended upon request.

**PLEASE JOIN US**

If you have stood as a visitor to our community before, and because you enjoyed being with us you continue to come, please, seriously consider registering with St. Benedict as your faith community. We would love to have you as a part of our family. Just fill out the registration form located on the back of this bulletin and drop it in the offertory basket. Thank you. God loves you and so do we.

*Please pray for:*

Juanita Estrellas  
Carl Johnson



(Will stay in the bulletin for one month)

**St. Benedict’s Weekly Events**

<b>Sunday, December 4</b>		
<b>Monday, December 5</b>	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Wellness Group Parish Hall
<b>Tuesday, December 6</b>	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Wellness Group Parish Hall
	6:30 pm	Parish Council Meeting Linda Palmeri’s Residence
<b>Wednesday, December 7</b>	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Wellness Group Parish Hall
<b>Thursday, December 8</b>	6:00 pm	Choir Practice Church
<b>Friday, December 9</b>	1:00 pm	Line Dancing Parish Hall
<b>Saturday, December 10</b>		

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

**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](mailto: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



**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 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

**PARISH STAFF**

**Mrs. Divina Cabrera**  
SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER

**Mr. Leonard Pete**  
MUSIC DIRECTOR

**Mrs. Ofelia Wanzo**  
CCD DIRECTOR

**Rev. Jayson Landeza**  
PASTOR

**Mr. Ron Tutson**  
DEACON

**Rev. Paul Vassar**  
CLERGY SUPPLY

**Fr. Sylvester Odurinde**  
IN RESIDENCE

**Mr. Rufus Fisher**  
PLANT MANAGER

**Mr. Clifford Ologbosele**  
PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

**Ms. Ariana Catherine**  
YOUTH MINISTER

**MASS TIMES**

**SATURDAY:**

4:30 PM (VIGIL MASS)

**SUNDAY:**

8:30 AM  
11:00 AM (GOSPEL MASS)

**MON, WED & FRI:**

7:30 AM (8:00AM ON HOLIDAYS)

**CONFESSION**

**SATURDAY:**

3:45 PM TO 4:15 PM

(OR BY APPOINTMENT)

**BAPTISM**

INSTRUCTION OF PARENTS REQUIRED

**MARRIAGE**

6 MONTHS ADVANCED NOTICE REQUIRED

**CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**

**HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY:**  
510.581.2488

**ST. MARY’S CEMETERY:**  
510.654.0936

**ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY:**  
510.223.1265

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:



In ancient times, when a king decided to travel through the land he ruled, he always sent his servants to prepare the way for him. These servants had two functions. First, they announced that the king was about to pass by so that people could line the streets for a glimpse of their ruler. The servants also prepare the way for the King's chariot, making sure the road was clear of all obstacles so the chariot would not have to stop unnecessarily.

Some of the Jews believed the Messiah was going to be a king, and like other kings, he was going to send his servant be for him to prepare his way. According to a Jewish belief based on Malachi 3:23-24, this servant was supposed to be the prophet Elijah.

In the first chapter of the second book of Kings, Elijah where is a hairy garment with a leather belt around his waist. Today's Gospel reading begins by describing John the Baptist as also been dressed this way. I drawing attention to the similar clothing worn by these two men and by quoting a verse about Elijah from the book of Isaiah, Matthew suggest that John was for filling the role of Elijah. John was announcing the coming of the Messiah and was preparing his way just as Elijah was supposed to.

John's message was that the Jews to prepare for the Messiah by reforming their lives. The Greek word for reform is *metanoia* and it refers to a complete change in a person's life. John was telling those who came out to hear him preach that admitting their sinfulness and saying they're sorry was not enough. There Metanoia must go beyond words and must extend to how they act.

In today's gospel, John singled out the Pharisees and the Sadducees for particularly harsh criticism because they took too much pride in being part of God's chosen people. Some of them believe that being a descendant of Abraham, the father of the Jews, guaranteed them a place of honor in God's kingdom. John warned that this was not necessarily true and that they could find themselves excluded from the kingdom unless their actions reflected their beliefs. They, too, needed to reform.

Is our belief in Jesus evident in how we live our lives? Identify one area in which we need to reform. Work on that area during this Advent season.

Last weekend we began our new liturgical year with this First Sunday of Advent. According to the teachings of the Catholic Church, as expressed by the United

States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Advent (from Latin meaning "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time and also to the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas. The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, focus particularly on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas).

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. An Advent calendar can help us to fully enter into the season with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare us spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ. Please stay tuned for more of such seasonal information to help increase our faith journey during this Advent Season.

The scripture readings for the new liturgical season will be taken from Year A, with the Gospel taken from the Book of Matthew. Our current Bible Study, led by Deacon Ron Tutson, has been focused on the Gospel of Matthew. I would encourage you to become more familiar with this book as the liturgical year progresses.

Thank you to Dionne Cola and Julie Hadnot for walking us through these past few weeks post-election. We are grateful for the faith-filled spirit which have characterized their messages.

Rest In Peace to the following St. Benedict parishioners who have died over the past couple of weeks - Ben Roberson, John Harris and Joe Johnson. May the healing presence of Christ be upon their family and friends during this difficult time.

Thanks to our St. Vincent de Paul Conference here at St. Benedict parish. They distributed over 225 Thanksgiving baskets, including a turkey, to needy families and individuals on the Tuesday before the holiday. They can use your help, I'm sure, as Christmas draws near. Please give them a hand if you are able.

We had the last of our Parish Pastoral Council discernment evenings on Monday evening, November 20th. Chuck Siebenand, the facilitator of the evening's process, gave me the list of those who completed the process, and recommended the listed names of those who discerned that evening. I will be praying over these names and discerning God's will for the parish and these individuals.

God bless,  
Father Jayson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and it is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass is at 8:00 am.

BECOME A PART OF CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Help us create a beautiful environment for the Christmas Season. Your gift of Poinsettias may be made in honor of, in memory of a love one, or simply as a gift. Please drop-off your Poinsettias on Saturday, December 17 through Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please call Betty Kennedy-Tapscott at 510-612-3176.

CHURCH DECORATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS

Volunteers are welcome to help decorate the church for Christmas on Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00am. Please call Betty Kennedy-Tapscott for more information

2016 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGIES

Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 pm – Christmas Caroling and Music  
12 midnight – Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY LITURGY

Sunday, December 25, 2016  
10:00 am Mass  
Monday, December 26, 2016  
8:00 am Mass

NEW YEAR'S DAY LITURGY

Sunday, January 1, 2017  
10:00 am Mass

2017 MASS BOOK

The parish office will be accepting Mass Intentions for the 2017 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.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, December 6, at 6:30 pm at Linda Palmeri's residence.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 4	8:30 a.m.	For The People
	11:00 a.m.	
Monday, December 5	7:30 a.m.	
Wednesday, December 7	7:30 a.m.	Lamar Larry†
Thursday, December 8	8:00 a.m.	The Casey Family The Barber Family
Friday, December 9	7:30 a.m.	
Saturday, December 10	4:30 p.m.	

CHURCH SUPPORT

"100" CLUB

Beginning Balance	\$535.26
Total Income for October 2016	\$554.59
<b>Ending balance as of October 31, 2016</b>	<b>\$1,089.85</b>

PENNY HARVEST

<b>Ending Balance as of October 31, 2016</b>	<b>\$1109.34</b>
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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

DECEMBER 10/11, 2016

<b>4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>
J. Soublet	C. Ologbolese	G. McCullough
J. Garibaldi	J. Outley	J. Smithson-Bell
		A. Swayne *

SECOND COLLECTION

"100" CLUB - THIS WEEKEND  
RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT - NEXT WEEKEND

