

## RETRouvaille

Marriage Help – Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program beginning with a weekend on February 24, 25, & 26, 2017, call (510) 276-4118, email [Oakland@RetroCA.com](mailto:Oakland@RetroCA.com) or visit the web site [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com)

## WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

Saturday, February 11, 2017, 11:00 a.m. at The Cathedral of Christ the Light. Bishop Barber invites all who are sick or ill, as well as family members, caregivers and healthcare providers, to observe this day with him and many priests, religious and laity from throughout the diocese. Please join us in this special opportunity to pray for healing and hope in this fragile population. This World Day of the Sick in Oakland will include:

- Mass
- Sacrament of anointing the sick
- Blessing of caregivers and healthcare providers
- Distribution of holy water from Lourdes, France
- Reception to follow mass

World Day of the Sick, initiated by Pope Saint John Paul II and held annually worldwide near the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, is a ministry of the Diocese of Oakland and Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ. No RSVP is necessary. For more information please visit [oakdiocese.org/WDS](http://oakdiocese.org/WDS).

## 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).

**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

## St. Benedict's Weekly Events

**Sunday, January 29**

**Monday, January 30**

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Wellness Group Parish Hall

**Tuesday, January 31**

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Wellness Group Parish Hall

**Wednesday, February 1**

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Wellness Group Parish Hall

**Thursday, February 2**

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal Church

**Friday, February 3**

1:00 pm Line Dancing Class Parish Hall

**Saturday, February 4**

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

## SOCIAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE

of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County  
c/o 306 Maverick Court, Lafayette, CA 94549

January 17, 2017

*Rev. Jayson Landeza, Pastor  
St. Benedict Parish  
2245 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94605-3407*

*Dear Jayson,*

*We felt so blessed to have St. Benedict's Choir yesterday at the Social Justice Alliance's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Celebration. They got rave reviews from the 400 people who attended. Not only are they awesome singers, but they are so generous with singing extra pieces with great joy.*

*This year for the first time we held it in the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church. It is large and beautiful, and your choir had more space and visibility than the last few years. It was heavenly.*

*Yesterday's title for the celebration was "Transforming Our Society: Dr. King's Tough Mind and Tender Heart." Father Kwame Assenyoh, our Keynote Speaker, chose it.*

*Congratulations, Jayson, on having such talented, generous, and friendly parishioners. And I know they love you. I'm hoping the choir will agree to sing at next year's event; and if they do, I hope you'll join them.*

*Fondly,  
Gwen  
Gwen Watson*

*A stipend will be mailed to the choir soon.*



## 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:



The oral traditions were the 613 man-made Jewish laws that explain the laws God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. These laws were supposed to be like a fence around the divine laws, protecting them from accidentally being violated. The oral traditions pertain to all parts of life and included everything from what foods could eaten to what was an acceptable sacrifice to God.

Some of the Jews believed the oral traditions were a blueprint to holiness. Following these laws guaranteed you were holy and not following them (even if you didn't know what they were) meant you were a sinner. This sort of reasoning put holiness out of the reach of the ordinary Jews. Most of them work long hours to feed their families and didn't have time to study the laws. Because they didn't know the laws, they couldn't follow them. Because they couldn't follow the laws, they couldn't be holy. So their sufferings and sorrows were the just punishments for their sinfulness, according to this way of thinking.

The rich were the only ones who had the time to learn all 613 laws. They believe their comfortable lifestyle was proof God was pleased with them. They thought God not only rewarded them for their holiness but also would give them the place of honor in the heavenly reign.

Jesus turns things around in today's Gospel. All the ones he says are blessed or holy are the ones people normally considered sinners. The poor who are sorrowing, or lonely, or persecuted are the ones who will be rewarded, not the rich and powerful. What's even more astonishing is that each reward Jesus mentions has something to do with the reign of God.

The Jews sometimes pictured the reign as a new promised land where God would "fill the hungry with good things" and where "the sorrowing would find comfort." Those who inherit this kingdom would "see God" and would be known as "children of God." So we understand that Jesus is saying in today's gospel that God will give the positions of honor in the heavenly reign to the poor and the powerless, not the rich.

Finally, Jesus tells us that simply following laws is not enough to please God. The beatitude about the single-hearted pertains to those who serve God because they want to and not because they want a reward. In Jesus' day, some people observed the laws because they wanted others to see how holy they were. They were looking for applause and were not single hearted.

Are we single hearted? Why do we obey the commandments? Are we looking for a reward (for

example, heaven, a good reputation, etc.)? Would we act differently if there wasn't a life after death?

For us here at St. Benedict, our Annual Black History Month begins next weekend. From then until the end of February, we will be hearing from various members of our St. Benedict family. As well, there will be weekly inserts with information and material highlighting the unique contributions of the African American community to our nation's life and history. This is indeed a time to thank God for the many gifts that have characterized the African American presence in our country.

One of those gifts to our local community is the work and presence of Congresswoman Barbara Lee, who serves as our representative to Congress, specifically in the House of Representatives, serving California's 13th Congressional District.

In the midst of last month's Ghost Ship Fire in the Fruitvale District, I was asked on-scene by Congresswoman Lee's field representative Tasion Kwamilele if I had received her invitation to represent District 13 as Barbara Lee's guest at the 65th Annual National Prayer Breakfast, held this Thursday, February 2nd. When I returned to the rectory that afternoon, there it was.

I accepted the invitation, and will be joined by Oakland clergy Rev. Ken Chambers (Westside Missionary Baptist Church) and Rabbi David Cooper (Kehilla Community Synagogue). I'm leaving on Monday afternoon and returning Friday afternoon. I am hoping to visit the African American Museum of History and Culture as well as the monument to Dr. Martin Luther King on the Capitol Mall.

I lived in Washington, DC, for four months during my sabbatical in 2009, so I am hoping to visit old friends and eat at some of my favorite places.

I also know that the president will be at the Prayer Breakfast on Thursday. I promise to be on my best behavior and will pray for him and his family.

God bless,  
Father Jayson

Please pray for:

Kenneth Greer  
Sally McDade



(Will stay in the bulletin for one month)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAINT BENEDICT MARDI GRAS DANCE

Our annual fundraising event takes place on Saturday, February 25 at 6:00 pm until 10:00 pm at the parish hall. For tickets and more details, please call Dolores Millet at 510-638-7263.



BIBLE STUDY

*The word of God is a seed. We need to nurture the ground of our lives to allow the seed to grow and bear fruit within us.*

Plan to attend our parish study of the Gospel of Mark beginning on February 01, 2017. We will meet for ten sessions on Wednesday evenings from 7 - 8:30 p.m. in the parish center. There is a fifteen-dollar (\$15.00) donation to cover study materials. Register by calling Divina at the Parish office (510-632-1847) or Ron at (510-633-4557) by January 25, 2017.

ATTENTION ALL CURILLISTAS

(Those who have gone through the Cursillo weekend). We need to know who you are. It doesn't matter where you celebrated your weekend. Please register your name on the sheet found on the table at the rear of the Church. Thank you.

COME WORSHIP AND CELEBRATE.

February is **Black History Month** and we will honor and celebrate our history on each Sunday in that month. **The theme for the month: WAKE UP!** Come and fellowship with us and represent the culture with your dress and cultural methods of energetic song and praise. Joined by our African and Tongan communities within our Church we will remember and bring forth Spirits of our heritage. The final Sunday will end the month with a cultural luncheon. We ask that you join us and bring a dish to share which represents your culture, (Your best recipe passed down from Grandma, Nana, Auntie or whoever, pull out those St. Benedict Cooks recipe books). **ALL ARE WELCOME.**

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.

A WELLNESS NEW YEAR TO ALL!!

Resolve to get well and be well this year. Join the St. Benedict Wellness Group on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays from 6 to 7 pm to make lifestyle changes that will help to improve your overall wellness. It's about preventative changes to insure quality of life. Feel better, look better, perform better everyday. Adding this year, Saturday morning walks. Join the wellness movement!

MASS INTENTIONS

|                       |            |                    |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Sunday, January 29    | 8:30 a.m.  | For The People     |
|                       | 11:00 a.m. |                    |
| Monday, January 30    | 7:30 a.m.  |                    |
| Wednesday, February 1 | 7:30 a.m.  |                    |
| Friday, February 3    | 7:30 a.m.  |                    |
| Saturday, February 4  | 4:30 p.m.  | Candelaria Bantay† |

CHURCH SUPPORT

|   |                         |                   |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Collection:                                   | <b>January 22, 2017</b> | \$2,486.70        |
| Other Collection:                             | "100" Club              | \$10.00           |
|   | Saint Vincent de Paul   | \$888.30          |
|   | <b>"100" CLUB</b>       |                   |
| Beginning Balance                             |                         | <b>\$1,690.80</b> |
| Total Income for December 2016                |                         | \$775.00          |
| <b>Ending balance as of December 31, 2016</b> |                         | <b>\$2,465.80</b> |
|   | <b>PENNY HARVEST</b>    |                   |
| <b>Ending Balance as of December 31, 2016</b> |                         | <b>\$1,109.34</b> |

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

FEBRUARY 4/5, 2017

|                  |                  |                   |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>4:30 p.m.</b> | <b>8:30 a.m.</b> | <b>11:00 a.m.</b> |
| D. Dixon         | J. Grant         | L. Dixon #        |
| L. Noriega       | G. Johnson       | R. Guillory       |
|                  |                  | C. Hadnot *       |
|                  |                  | G. McCullough *   |

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.

SECOND COLLECTION - NEXT WEEKEND  
"100" CLUB