

ATTENTION LECTORS

Please pick up your **2016 Workbook** that has your name on it in the Sacristy after Mass.

ST. BENEDICT'S MARDI GRAS DANCE

Our annual fundraising event takes place on Saturday, February 6, 2016, 6-10pm at the Parish Hall. Music by Jorge Watson. Food will be sold (Red Beans, Rice, Links and Potato Salad). Full Bar. For ticket information, please call Dolores Miller at 510-638-7263. **No tickets sold at the door.**



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

Camille Tompkins, 510-419-1081, ctompkins@oakdiocese.org. Pentecost 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.

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, email newsletter@olgcv.org, or visit www.olgcv.org. Watch the trailer & learn more at www.DivineMercyDrama.com

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 26, 27 & 28, 2016, call (510) 276-4118, email Oakland@RetroCA.com or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

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

www.saintbenedictoakland.com

follow us on facebook



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

Fr. Jayson Landeza

PASTOR

Mr. Ron Tutson

DEACON

Fr. Paul Vassar

CLERGY SUPPLY

Mrs. Davina Cabrera

SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER

Mr. Leonard Pete

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Mrs. Ofelia Wanzo

CCD DIRECTOR

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:



A wedding feast is a biblical symbol for the reign of God, so the Old Testament sometimes pictures God as a groom and the people of Israel as his beloved bride. John may have had this imagery in mind when he wrote about the events and today's Gospel from Chapter 2, versus 1-12.

In the story, there are six stone jars of water that were used for ceremonial washings, each with the capacity of about 20 gallons. Some very strict Jews followed a religious law requiring them to wash their hands in a certain way before they ate. With their fingers pointed upwards, they poured water over their hands and let it drip down to their wrists. Then, with fingers pointing downward, they poured water so that it ran from their wrists to the tips of the fingers. They repeated this ritual before each course of the meal because they believed it was an outward sign of holiness. Hands not cleansed in this way were ritually unclean.

Because wine was both a symbol of joy and an important part of every meal in first century Palestine, the bride and the groom must have been pretty embarrassed when they ran out of wine. Jesus may have been at least partially responsible for this shortage if he brought some of his uninvited apostles to the party with him. This would explain why Mary, herself a guest, was so concerned about the shortage of wine.

The six water jars may stand for the special covenant relationship the Jewish people enjoyed with God. Since the number seven was symbolic of perfection, six jars of water meant the covenant was not perfect and have to be transformed by Jesus into an ideal relationship with God in the long-awaited reign.

Although the mother of Jesus is a prominent figure in the story, John the evangelist never calls her by name in the entire Gospel. At the wedding (and as he hangs on the cross), Jesus simply calls her "Woman," an address which sounds disrespectful to us because there is no precise English translation for the Greek word the Gospel uses here. We may also translate this word as "madam" or "lady" but these titles are much too impersonal.

Finally, John never uses the word "miracles" in his Gospel but prefers "signs" instead. Today's reading ends when he says the water turned into wine was the first signs Jesus performed. John records only seven signs in his Gospel.

We usually see pictures of a serious Jesus but today's Gospel tells us he also went to parties and he

undoubtedly had fun at them. We may even assume Jesus and his apostles joked around and teased each other as they traveled from town to town. Today, ask Jesus to teach us how to be a more joyful Christian.

This weekend we remember as a country the life, contributions, and sacrifice of Dr. Martin Luther King. Words can't begin to describe the phenomenal changes that took place under his prophetic leadership. Most of us remember his profound impact on the way race was and is perceived in our country. Dr. King truly exemplified nonviolent resistance to a corrupt and racist society. We honor his work and his life by being witnesses to his faith and ours by living a life of truth, justice, equality, and peace.

One of the many legacies that the work of Dr. King left us is the election of President Barack Obama. Many of us who watched last week's Stated the Union address were elated and proud of the accomplishments achieved under his presidency. Many of us also noted the particular rancor and hatred directed towards him by a fairly small but quite vocal portion of our country who have not quite gotten used to having an African-American as our president. Their voices have become more strident and vitriolic over the past few years. I pray that we will fight ardently and resist that hatred by electing officials that reject such bigotry and prejudice.

St. Benedict begins our annual Black History Month, which extends from this weekend to before the beginning of our Lenten Season on Ash Wednesday, February 10th. We have a number of our St. Benedict parishioners who will be speaking as part of our series. Please come to honor and remember our Black heritage.

Don't forget to have your picture taken for our parish pictorial directory. Today is the final day! Please have your picture taken at the parish center after all of the Masses this weekend!

Thanks to all who assisted our Liturgical Environment Committee in taking down our Christmas decorations this past week!

Don't forget our Mardi Gras, scheduled for Saturday, February 6th!

Blessings,
Father Jayson



BLACK HISTORY MONTH INTRODUCTION

Thanks to our new Workbooks for Lectors, for giving us the perfect introduction for this year's Black History Celebration.

It said that the author of Deuteronomy thought memory and identity to be one.

There can be no such thing as a "people" without "memory."

History must be kept alive in memory if it is to bind us together and fuel our imaginations.

It is what was done in history that draws us together to celebrate and enable us to live together in confidence and hope.

Although this referred to religion and ancient text, it holds true for us and our African American History as well.

The rich cultural legacy of ritual actions, speech, dress, etc., needs to be, and has been, repeated by each successive generation.

Those of us repeating the actions, the rituals and speech want to remember those who lived the stories described and thus experience a kinship that makes us one with those ancestors.

As we have all probably experienced, in the ritual telling of a story, the tellers, the hearers, and the players in the original events are brought together in the present.

Hence it is the reason we celebrate each year; to remember, to relive, to honor, to experience kinship, and spur our young people on in the positiveness of their rich ancestral legacy.

This year three members of the CREW, our young adult group, met and put together the events to take place during the Sundays of BHM. With Fr. Jayson's blessings, they invited speakers, mostly young adults, from our own congregation to participate. The theme highlighted is: **"We Are Then And Now."**

Active CREW Members: Ariana Catherine, Denise Kees, Leonard Pete

Presenters: January 24thSteven Egbonimali
January 31stDorgan McDade
.....Brianna Morris
February 7thRay Leon

ANNOUNCEMENTS



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

The office will be closed on Monday, January 18th in observance of the holiday. The Mass on Monday will be at 8:00 am.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 17	8:30 a.m.	Raymond August†
	11:00 a.m.	David Moa†
Monday, January 18	8:00 a.m.	Ray Cronin†
Wednesday, January 20	7:30 a.m.	Ray Cronin†
Friday, January 22	7:30 a.m.	For The People
Saturday, January 23	4:30 p.m.	Kendrick (Jerry) Miller†

CHURCH SUPPORT

Collection:	January 10, 2016	\$3,440.50
Other Collection:	"100" Club	\$42.00

"100" CLUB

Beginning Balance	\$8,542.09
Total Income for December 2015	\$377.00
Total Expense for December 2015	\$600.00
Ending balance as of December 31, 2015	\$8,319.09

PENNY HARVEST

Ending Balance as of December 31, 2015	\$912.03
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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 23/24, 2016

4:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
A. Swayne	L. Bornor #	B. Kennedy-Tapscott #
J. Moore	J. Grant	S. Gressel
	J. Matthews *	Lucia Watson *
		J. LaFitte-Tutson *

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
SEMINARY - THIS WEEK
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL - NEXT WEEK