

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



In today's Gospel, James and John ask Jesus if they could sit at his right and at his left when he comes into his glory. Like many of the Jews of that day, these two brothers were expecting a political / military Messiah through whom God would defeat their enemies, conquer the world, and establish a reign of justice and peace (that's what they meant when they talked about Jesus coming into his glory).

The seats on either side of the royal throne were places of honor that the king reserved for the prime minister and the prince successor. Those who sat in these seats were in a very powerful position because, unlike everyone else who had to request a special audience with the king and perhaps wait days or weeks for the opportunity to talk with him, the prime minister and the prince successor just had to lean over and whisper in the king's ear. So we can conclude that James' and John's request to sit at Jesus' right and left was nothing less than a bold attempt to gain power by trying to get Jesus to ensure that they would occupy the places of honor when Jesus, the Messiah, established his kingdom. There are two explanations why James and John thought they deserved special treatment.

Scripture scholars believe James and John were probably par of Jesus' inner circle of disciples because whenever the Gospels list the twelve apostles, they always name Peter first, and then James and John second and third. It seems as if Jesus favored these three apostles and even allowed them to witness events the other apostles did not (or example the Transfiguration and when Jesus brought a little girl back to life).

According to three of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke), James and John were fishing with their father Zebedee and the hired hands when Jesus called them to be his disciples. Zebedee's fishing business must have been providing him with a comfortable living if he was able to employ his own sons, but others as well. Since James and John were from a more financially prosperous family than most people, including the other apostles, they may have thought that they were better and deserved special and preferable treatment or honors.

Tradition tells us that all of the apostles were martyred except John. But today's Gospel ends with Jesus predicting that John, too, would die for his faith. Was John a martyr or did he live to a ripe old age? No one know for sure.

The apostles experienced petty jealousies and they competed for Jesus' attention and approval. Jesus told them not to worry about who was the greatest but to focus on serving others. Who or whom is God calling you to serve?

As I am writing this, the priests of the Diocese of Oakland are preparing to gather for their Fall Clergy Study Day / Mini-convocation (this Monday to Wednesday) and the focus is on how priests working in the diocese are called to journey together, alongside with their staffs, in order to provide quality ministry with our East Bay Catholic communities. This three-day mini convocation will take place both at San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville, and at St. Isidore Parish in Danville. Joining me for the Tuesday parish staff session at St. Isidore will be Dionne Cola (Pastoral Associate), Dr. Chiquita Tuttle (Parish Pastoral Council Chair), Ofelia Wanzo (CCD Director), and Deacon Ron Tutson, Parishes are allowed four staff members to accompany the pastor.

There are so many things that divide us as priests and parishes in the East Bay. Many of us are defined by the events which dictated the life of the church over the past 50 years, such as the Second Vatican Council, the election and papacy of John Paul II, and perhaps now the papacy of Francis. As priests in the East Bay, we are also defined by where we were born and raised, and where we received our theological training. Added to this dynamic is the

particular characteristic that distinguishes St. Benedict from other Catholic parishes in the East Bay - namely our African American identity, which we share with St. Columba and St. Patrick, also in Oakland. Folks here at St. Benedict have been blessed by having the best of both worlds. Previous pastors such as Fathers Bill Kennedy, Paul Vassar, Jay Matthews, and today myself, are native Berkeley/Oakland folks, born and raised, and all of us trained and educated at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. Fr. Vince Cotter, who has joined us in his retirement, is a native of San Francisco, and was ordained as a Salesian, but joined the Diocese of Oakland some years later.

St. Benedict has also been graced by the presence and ministry of Fathers Bert Aronyu, Benedict Ehinack, Sylvester Odirunde, and Aris Martin, who bring a global perspective to our parish, and they enrich the preaching and sacramental life of the Catholic community in the East Bay.

As people are drawn to the Bay Area from all over the world, priests from throughout the globe are also attracted to the Bay Area, and in particular the East Bay, due to its educational opportunities, gentle climate, and a diverse, progressive and hospitable populace.

The influx of foreign-born priests has not been without issue. Throughout the diocese, I hear complaints about parishioners unable to understand their priests, or that cultural issues around the treatment of women and clericalism can make such situations problematic. But for the most part, and in the overwhelming majority of parishes in the diocese, the diverse presence of clergy has been a positive experience.

This is an opportunity to know the many priests of the diocese, most of whom are foreign-born, and ordained after 1995. They tend to be fairly conservative theologically and politically, which often leads to much disagreement. However, the intent of the mini-convocation is to find ways that we can bond together as priests and staffs working in East Bay parishes.

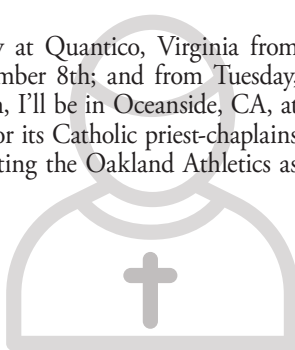
As in years past, the small-group discussions at these clergy gatherings will focus on practical ways that we can connect fraternally, through mutual respect, understanding, acceptance, inter-parish cooperation, trust, sharing scarce resources, sensing the needs of our Catholic faithful and how we need to respond as clergy, in collaboration with parish staffs.

Many of us who were trained in the post-Vatican II church have worked for a more inclusive church, one where the talents of laity, particularly women, are nurtured and affirmed. Influenced by Jesus' universal call to a lived faith, and aware of the East Bay's uniquely expansive vision of inclusivity and justice, we continue to strive for that here in the Diocese of Oakland, and I hope that we continue to those ends here at St. Benedict, building on the work done by my predecessors, especially Fathers Jay Matthews and Paul Vassar.

Congratulations to Deacon Ron Tutson, who will be celebrating his 10th Anniversary of Ordination to the Diaconate on All Saints Day, November 1st. It is a joy and a blessing to work with him and have his gifts and ministry here at St. Benedict!

As a heads up, I'll be at the FBI Academy at Quantico, Virginia from Thursday, October 25th to Thursday, November 8th; and from Tuesday, November 13th to Thursday, November 15th, I'll be in Oceanside, CA, at the Major League Baseball's annual retreat for its Catholic priest-chaplains from throughout the MLB - I'll be representing the Oakland Athletics as their priest-chaplain.

God bless,
Fr. Jayson Landeza



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ROSARY OF OUR LADY

Each Sunday during the month of October, we will pray the rosary at 8:10 am (before the 8:30 am Mass).

ALL SAINTS DAY

Thursday, November 1st. Masses at 8:00 and 6:00 pm.

ALL SOULS ENVELOPES

Friday, November 2nd – Mass at 7:30 am.

As we celebrate the Feast of All Saints and the Commemoration of All Souls, we are reminded that throughout the month of November we remember all those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, and are experiencing eternal life in Christ. Please use the All Souls offering envelopes on the table at the back of the church to remember love ones, and there will be a Book of the Dead near our picture shrine so that others may be able to place names in that book. Please start bringing pictures of your beloved dead (no 8x10 please) to be placed on the table as well.

FAITH , HOPE LOVE

You are cordially invited to an afternoon of learning and recognition for our community who have been infected and affected by Breast Cancer . We are hosting a Pink Table Talk during October Breast Cancer Awareness Month!

We will have a presentation on the subject, provide resource materials, as well as hearing the voices of survivors and their healing process. We hope that you will take time after the 11:00am mass on October 28th to join us for important medical messages about a disease that is impacting African American women in increasingly higher numbers. We welcome anyone who wants to learn more about prevention and the journey involved in healing.

This mini forum is hosted by the Pastoral Planning Council in keeping with our Healthy Lifestyles goals and challenges.

Father Jayson Landeza **Ms. Dionne Cola** **Chiquita T. Tuttle, PhD**
Pastor *Associate Pastor* *Chair, Pastoral Council*

SEARCHING?

Take some time out this week to ask if Spirit is calling you to a ministry and decide which one it will be. We need your talents and your time. On next Sunday we will be holding our Ministry Sign-Up Sunday. There will be tables set up with representatives from ministries in the Church to answer your questions, sign you up and get you started. Some of those ministries will be: Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Alter Servers, Ushers, Choir Voices, Youth Group members, Knights, Ladies, St. Vincent de Paul Volunteers, Environment Committee, Facilities Clean-up and Repairs Volunteers. We look forward to your stewardship commitment.

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARY

of the Assumption proudly announces its 16th Annual Gospel Jazz Mass celebration on Saturday, October 27th, at 5:30 p.m. The Mass features a Combined Gospel Choir from our Black Catholic church communities, and a sparkling array of the Bay Area's finest in Jazz Musicians! Come one and all, bring your family and friends, and let our spirits be lifted together! All are welcome in the House of the Lord!

ATTENTION!

Beginning this Sunday, October 14th, after 8:30am and 11:00am Masses, we will hold a sale of religious handcrafts and souvenirs at the back of the church. Please take this special opportunity to support beautiful work and mission of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth Convent by purchasing the items of devotion. Please read the flyer posted on the bulletin board at the back inside doors of the church for more information.

CONTINUED SUPPORT

Just a reminder folks: You can continue to support our fundraising efforts. If you enjoyed our wine tasting event and found one you especially liked, please continue to order and enjoy as the Church will receive a percentage of the purchase price which then goes to our maintenance fund. Thank you for your support.

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!

ATTENTION ST. BENEDICT PARISHIONERS!

Important Information about St. Benedict's Electronic Newsletter

Have you been receiving emails from St. Benedict Parish? If not, we want to be sure we have your correct and current email address so that you don't miss out on current Parish news and activities. When you have a moment we'd appreciate your sending a quick email to SaintBenedictCrh@aol.com with your full name and email address. Also, be sure to check your SPAM folder just in case the messages have been going there instead of your INBOX. The St. Benedict Communications Team thanks you for your attention to this matter.

RIP

Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Fabio Guillion. Please remember his family in your prayers.

Funeral Service: Sat, October 27, 2018
11:00 am, St. Benedict Church

Repast: Parish Hall

MASS INTENTIONS

2018 MASS INTENTIONS

The parish office is accepting Mass Intentions for 2018. 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.

Sunday	October 21	8:30 am	Percy Amos, Jr. +
		11:00 am	Rev. James V. Matthews BIRTHDAY
Monday	October 22	7:30 am	For The People
Wednesday	October 24	7:30 am	
Friday	October 26	7:30 am	
Saturday	October 27	4:30 pm	Doralee Santi + Charlotte Santi +

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. Request for prayers will be listed in the bulletin for one month and extended upon request.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Betty Kennedy-Tapscott Anita Recania
Kalene Parker Laura Scotlan

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS WILL BE LISTED IN THE BULLETIN FOR ONE MONTH AND EXTENDED UPON REQUEST.

CHURCH SUPPORT

Collection: October 14, 2018 **\$3,485.55**
Other Collection: The Catholic Voice **\$ 475.10**

100" CLUB

Beginning Balance **\$9,025.32**
Total Income for September 2018 **\$ 788.01**
Total Expense for September 2018 **\$ 762.32**
Ending Balance as of September 30, 2018 **\$9,051.11**

PENNY HARVEST

Ending Balance as of September 30, 2018 **\$1,296.68**

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.

LECTORS/EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

OCTOBER 27/28, 2018

There is a practice and faith sharing session for these Lectors:
Tuesday at 7:00 PM in the Rectory.

4:30 PM	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
H. Santi	M. Souplet	M. Trevigne
L. Palmeri	G. Johnson	J. Wilson
		W. Sykes-Bush (EM)

SECOND COLLECTION

World Mission Sunday – This Weekend
Saint Vincent de Paul – Next Weekend



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

Ms. Dionne Cola
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Rev. Paul Vassar
CLERGY SUPPLY

Rev. Vincent Cotter
IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Aris Martin, SVD
IN RESIDENCE

Mr. Rufus Fisher
BUILDING FACILITIES
MANAGER

Dr. Chiquita Tuttle
PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIR

Miss Ariana Catherine
YOUTH MINISTER

MASS TIMES

SATURDAY.....4:30 pm
VIGIL MASS

SUNDAY8:30 & 11:00 am
GOSPEL MASS

MON, WED, & FRI.....7:30 am
8:00 AM ON HOLIDAYS

CONFESSION

SATURDAY.....3:45-4:15 am
OR BY APPOINTMENT

BAPTISM
INSTRUCTION OF PARENTS REQUIRED

MARRIAGE
6 MONTHS ADVANCED NOTICE REQUIRED

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

We recommend using Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services (CFCS):
HOLY SEPULCHRE, ST. MARY'S AND ST. JOSEPH CEMETERIES

Contact CFCS/Cooper's Chapel at
510.362.0424 or
www.cfcsoakland.org



ST. BENEDICT WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday, October 21		
8:30 am	Sunday Mass	Church
11:00 am	Sunday Gospel Mass	Church
9:30 am – 11:00 am	RCIA Class	Rectory
9:30 am – 10:45 am	Faith Formation Classes	Center
Monday, October 22		
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Wellness Group	Hall
Tuesday, October 23		
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Wellness Group	Hall
Wednesday, October 24		
9:00 am – 11:00 am	SVDP – Distribution of Food Bags	Hall
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Wellness Group	Hall
Thursday, October 25		
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Cursillo Fourth Day	Center
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Church
Friday, October 26		
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Line Dancing Class	Hall
Saturday, October 27		
4:30 pm	Saturday Vigil Mass	Church



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Dr. Chiquita Tuttle
CHAIR/FACILITATOR

Dionne Cola
VICE CHAIR
ASSISTANT FACILITATOR

Leonard Pete
MEETING RECORDER

MEMEBERS

Ariana Catherine	Linda Smith
Sidney Fernandes	Jaylynn St. Julian
Jules Garibaldi	Tara Sykes
Romel Lucas	Ofelia Wanzo



CHOIR'S CORNER

What's going on??

Interested in joining any of the Choirs? Please feel free to contact

Leonard Pete
MUSIC DIRECTOR

510.917.2390
thevoicesofstbenedicts@yahoo.com

Or just join us at Choir Rehearsal on Thursdays at 6:00pm.

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



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.