

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Some words and thoughts about this weekend's Gospel from Mark 13:24-32. Today's Gospel is an example of apocalyptic writing, a special type of literature that uses symbolic language and deals with both a specific historical situation as well as the end of time. For instance, some biblical scholars believe the words in today's Gospel describe what happened when the Romans captured Jerusalem in 70 A.D. But many people also think this reading refers to the end of the world.

Because enemies were usually persecuting the intended audience, the authors of apocalyptic writings used symbolic language to give hope without risking increase persecution should the writing fall into the wrong hands. For instance, if the author simply tries to encourage people to persevere by saying the king will one day die and his oppressive tactics will end, there was a possibility the king may intercept this writing and persecute his subjects even more because of it. However, if the author writes that the lion (the king) with 10 horns (symbolizing power) will one day be slain, the king will not know what this means and will probably dismiss it as just gibberish.

The author of the words in today's Gospel reading addresses early Christians whom the Romans were persecuting and killing because of their faith in the risen Lord. Mark tells him that even though they have to endure many terrifying ordeals (The reference to the sun and the moon being darkened is symbolic apocalyptic language for trials and tribulations) they should remain faithful to Jesus who promises to save them. Mark quotes Jesus as saying that even if heaven and earth pass away, he will still fulfill his promise to be with them in their time of need.

We have to remember that authors of apocalyptic literature wrote to give hope, not to instill fear. The message of apocalyptic writings is that no matter how bad the situation becomes, God will intervene in history and will vindicate those who remain faithful to him. So anyone who uses apocalyptic writings like the book of Revelation to scare us is either deliberately misusing Scripture or really does not understand it.

According to New Testament apocalyptic writings, those who believe in Jesus have nothing to fear because he is more powerful than anything else. All we need to do is put our faith and trust in him and he'll take care of the rest. Do we trust the Lord enough to do that or we tend to rely on our own power and abilities?

I am writing this from the Mission San Luis Rey Retreat Center in Oceanside, 30 minutes north of San Diego. I'm here for a retreat with Catholic priests assigned to working with Major League Baseball (MLB) teams. As many of you know, on any given Sunday during the summer, I'm making a mad dash out the church after the 8:30 AM Mass to make it to the Oakland Coliseum for the 9:30 AM Mass with the Oakland A's, something I was asked to do due to our close proximity to the Coliseum.

Putting trust and faith in God has been the task of many of our fellow Californians ever since the mass shootings in Thousand Oaks a couple of weeks ago, and for the utter devastation that has afflicted our neighbors to the north in Butte County and those to

the south in Ventura County as a result of massive fires. Many of us, unless you lived through the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire or have had your house burned down, can't fully imagine the tremendous loss that many of these folks have experienced. Like many of you, I am rendered speechless upon viewing the reports from the devastated areas and listening to harrowing tales from fire survivors. We also know that this type of fire event could very well happen again in Oakland, particularly with our urban-wildland interface. Many of us would live in a possibly affected, so the survivors' stories are even more compelling. Of course, we remember and honor all those who perished in the shooting and the fires here in California, and we do the best we can to support their loved one in this time of tragic loss.

I wrote a check for a \$1000 from the parish's charity fund (the former Mother of Peace Orphanage monies) to the American Red Cross with specific instructions that it be directed to Disaster Relief. As a member of the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross of the Bay Area, and as a member of the Board's Disaster Committee, I will probably be making my way up to Butte County within the next few weeks to assist in the sheltering and recovery process.

This weekend is the annual Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) collection. This collection assists local community organizations with addressing various issues to improve livelihoods of our neighbors. Oakland Community Organizations, to which we are a member congregation, receives CCHD funding. Please be generous.

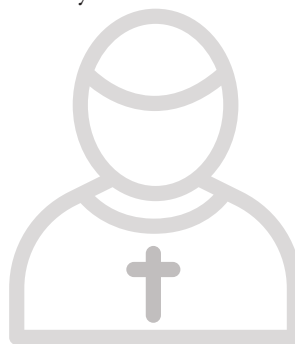
I'm guessing that many of you are now reading former First Lady Michelle Obama's new book, just released this week. I preordered it from Amazon Kindle, and I can't put it down. I love that she is so relatable, and her very humble roots and phenomenal story is so compelling. Many of us can relate with her in so many levels - I love that Mrs. Obama grew up in a two-bedroom apartment (as I did), and that she listened to the same kind of music growing up. I'm looking forward to enjoying the rest of her book!

Just a reminder that our Thanksgiving Day Mass is this Thursday at 9:00 AM. I'll make sure the heat is on in the church!

Thank you again to Betty Kennedy Tapscott and the Liturgical Environment Committee for their work in preparing us for the month of November, when we remember our beloved deceased. May those who have gone before us, marked with the Sign of Faith, rest in the peace of everlasting life.

Don't forget - Parish Pastoral Council Town Hall meeting, immediately following the 11:00 AM Mass today!

God bless,
Fr. Jayson Landeza



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENTION!

Please start taking your pictures from the All Souls Table. The weekend of November 24th & 25th. Thank you

THANKSGIVING DAY

On Thanksgiving Day, November 22nd, we will celebrate Mass at 9:00 am. Please bring the bread and wine you will serve for your Thanksgiving meal to be blessed during Mass. After Mass, there will be an Open House at the Parish Center. All parishioners are welcome. The Mass on Friday, November 23rd will be celebrated at 8:00 am.

RCIA (RITES OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS)

Purpose: An opportunity for anyone interested in learning about the Catholic faith. We welcome all. The program provides your materials.

Format: conversations around the dining table in the rectory. Time: Sundays, from 9:45 to 10:50 am
If you have not received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation, then on Holy Saturday, you are ready to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. Any and all Catholics, practicing or not, are welcomed to the conversations around the table.

Blessings, Deacon Ron and Beverly Ervin

CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE

Please join us as we kick-off the Holiday Season with a Christmas Dinner Dance on Saturday, December 1, 2018 at 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM in the Parish Hall. Hosted by The Voices of St. Benedict. Music by: DJ & Music Director, Mr. Leonard Pete. Donation: \$20 (\$25 at the Door). Food included ~ Drinks for Purchase. For Tickets or more info, contact Leonard Pete (510) 917-2390 ~ mrleonardpete@yahoo.com. Attire: Dress to Impress.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

If anyone has an announcement to be published in our weekly parish bulletin, it is due to the parish office on Wednesdays before 4:00 pm. Please submit your announcement to the parish office at this email address: saintbenedictcrh@aol.com. Thank you.

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Is Spirit calling you to a ministry? Listen closely and decide which one it will be and make the commitment. Your Church family humbly request the pleasure of your time and talent to be shared in any of the following ministries: Lectors, Eucharistic ministers, Alter Servers, Ushers, Choir Voices, Youth Group Members, Knights, Ladies, St. Vincent de Paul Volunteers, Environment Committee, Facilities Clean-up and Repair Volunteers, or start a new ministry. We look forward to your stewardship commitment.

THE WELLNESS NEW GROUP!!

The Wellness Group will be on Thanksgiving vacation on the week of November 18th. There will be no classes during this week. We will begin meeting again on Monday, November 26th.

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL, BERKELEY, IS CELEBRATING ITS 155TH ANNIVERSARY

St Mary's will host its annual Open House on Sunday, December 2 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. The event will feature workshops on academics, financial aid, athletics, and programs unique to Saint Mary's. All sixth, seventh, and eighth grade families interested in learning more about attending Saint Mary's College High School are welcome! <http://www.saintmaryschs.org/>

HOLIDAY TRADITION - SWING AND SOUL - LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

Sunday, December 16, 2018, 4:00 pm, Paramount Theater, Oakland

Michael Morgan's inspired, multi-varied musical bash takes its inspiration this year from the soul of Nina Simon and the boogie-woogie of Fats Domino. Special guests abound in this annual rollicking holiday party.

Tickets: Online - oaklandsymphony.org Phone: 510-444-0802, Box Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 9pm-4 pm.

Group rate (discount) for 10 or more tickets ordered at the same time.

CALLING ALL WOMEN!

Looking for a way to celebrate Advent?

Magnificat SOTI, a Ministry for Catholic Women invite all to join them at their Prayer Breakfast, December 8, 2018 9:30 -1:30. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day of obligation. Mass will be celebrated at 9:30, followed by the breakfast. Crowne Plaza 45 John Glenn Drive, Concord, CA. Please join us for a morning of Praise, Prayer, and Inspiration from our speaker Father Matthew Spencer! Starting out in a career in software engineering, it wasn't long before Fr. Spencer answered the call of the Holy Spirit and entered the seminary of the Oblates of St. Joseph. He now serves as the host of "St. Joseph's Workshop" on Immaculate Heart Media/Relevant Radio. Men are always welcome to attend! Tickets are \$33/\$40 after December 1st. For more information: <https://magnificat-ministry.net/chapters/chapter-states-a-d/ca-walnut-creek/> Email Magnificatsotirsvp@gmail.com for reservations or call Kim Sullivan at 925-683-8220 for any questions.

RIP

Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Valentina Regacho. Please remember her family in your prayers.

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	November 18	8:30 am	For The People
		11:00 am	Anita Recania (L)
Monday	November 19	7:30 am	
Wednesday	November 21	7:30 am	
Thursday	November 22	9:00 am	
Friday	November 23	8:00 am	
Saturday	November 24	4:30 pm	

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

Alvin Clement Anita Recania
Kalene Parker Laura Scotlan

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

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS:

Frederick and Rachele Cunningham and Family
Kendra Lewis and Family
Selimoni Mikaele Percival, Jr. and Family

CHURCH SUPPORT

Collection: October 21, 2018 **\$3,806.04**
Other Collection: 100 Club **\$ 146.00**

100" CLUB

Beginning Balance **\$9,051.11**
Total Income for October 2018 **\$651.00**
Ending Balance as of October 31, 2018 **\$9,702.11**

PENNY HARVEST

Ending Balance as of October 31, 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

NOV. 22, 2018 – THANKSGIVING DAY – 9:00 AM

D. Cola J. Grant

NOVEMBER 3/4, 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
K. Webster	G. Johnson	M. Nubie
J. Souplet	M. Souplet	S. Gressel
A. Ricks (EM)	J. Matthews (EM)	L. Brown-Parker (EM)
		C. Hadnot (EM)

SECOND COLLECTION

Catholic Campaign for Human Development – 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

SUNDAY 8:30

..... 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, November 18		
8:30 am	Sunday Mass	Church
11:00 am	Sunday Gospel Mass	Church
9:45 am – 10:50 am	RCIA Class	Rectory
9:30 am – 10:45 am	Faith Formation Classes	Center
12:30 pm	Parish Meeting	Hall
Monday, November 19		
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Church
Tuesday, November 20		
Wednesday, November 21		
Thursday, November 22		
9:00 am	Thanksgiving Mass	Church
After Mass	Open House	
Friday, November 23		
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Line Dancing Class	Hall
Saturday, November 24		
	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.