

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Unlike the calendar year, which begins on January 1, the Church's liturgical year begins on the First Sunday of Advent. Each new church year uses a different set of Sunday scripture readings.

Most of the Gospel readings for the Sundays of the next 12 months will be from the Gospel according to Luke (liturgical Cycle C readings). So, let's begin this liturgical year by examining what we know about the author of this gospel.

Scripture scholars are certain the author of Luke's Gospel also wrote the Acts of the Apostles, a book about the early Church. But nowhere in either of these writings does the author tell us his name. Irenaeus, a bishop living at the end of the second century, was the first to identify the author as Luke, a companion of Paul.

Epistles attributed to Paul mention Luke three times and one of these passages calls him a physician, meaning he probably made salves and other medicines out of herbs and roots. Luke was not an apostle, so he was not an eyewitness to the events he records.

Scripture scholars believe Luke probably wrote his gospel around 85 C.E., and, like the Acts of the Apostles, he addresses it to a man called Theophilus, a name meaning "friend of God." Some biblical scholars suggest Theophilus may have been a wealthy nobleman who provided the papyrus scrolls (quite expensive in those days) on which Luke wrote the Gospel. But other scholars hypothesize he was not a real person at all but it was a character Luke created as a symbol of all Christians who believed in God.

Today's Gospel begins with Jesus talking about the end of the world (another example of the same apocalyptic writing style we found in the Gospel reading a couple weeks ago) and it warns us to remain watchful and pray constantly because the great day when Jesus will return will suddenly close in on us. We shouldn't be caught unprepared.

Most of us usually associate Advent with getting ready for the arrival of the baby Jesus, but that's not what this liturgical season is really all about. The soft and cuddly baby born in a manger has already come and gone. Today's Gospel tells us to be prepared for Jesus second coming, his arrival as the triumphant ruler of the universe. So, during Advent, Christians prepare our hearts for the return of the adult Christ.

Always remember the three-fold nature of Advent: 1) Prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas; 2) Prepare for the coming of Christ at the end of times, the second coming of Christ; 3) Prepare for the time when we will encounter Christ when we are taken from this world at our death.

Don't let Advent pass us by without taking some concrete steps to improve our relationship with the Lord. Pick a quiet time each day during which we will spend an extra few minutes in prayer. Do this faithfully and notice how it improves our relationship with God.

Just to let folks know, neither Fr. Paul nor I will be presiding at this week's 11:00 AM Sunday liturgy - we will both be at St. Columba parish for their 120th anniversary celebration. Fr. Vassar served as St. Columba pastor from 1981-1994, and from there was appointed the diocesan Vicar General under Bishop John Cummins. I was pastor at St. Columba from 1999 to 2009, and then went on a year-long sabbatical that took me all over the world for study and rest. Fr. Peter Osseh, a priest currently in residence at St. Jarlath parish in Oakland, is the scheduled presider for this Sunday's 11:00 AM Mass.

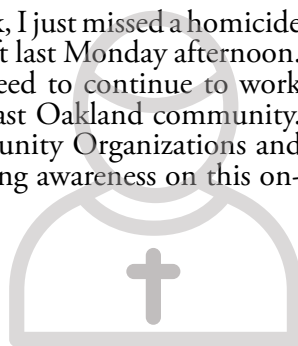
Thank you to Leonard Pete and our 11:00 AM Gospel Choir for hosting last night's parish Christmas party. As always, the music and dancing was superb, and the food delicious. The company was even more spectacular, as everyone was dressed in their finest. What a wonderful way to kick-off the holiday season. I had to split my time between there and the Annual Christmas Concert by the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir (OIGC) at the Paramount Theater - I am on the OIGC's Board of Advisors.

Like many of you, I was closely following last week's Mississippi run-off Senate election between Democrat Mike Espy and Republican Cindy Hyde-Smith. In listening to many of you, I share much of the same sentiments and frustrations surrounding the rise of such blatant acts of racism and how the current political climate has emboldened and legitimize bigotry to levels unseen in at least a generation. Hyde-Smith's comments on hanging and her apparent affection for the Confederate cause and history only reinforces a commonly-held belief that Mississippi remains a bastion of intolerance and retrograde practices that seek to disparage and oppress minorities of all kinds. Yet, being the reddest of states, Mississippi remains the poorest in the union, and heavily dependent on Federal assistance at a rate higher than all other states. Sadden over all of this, and aware that much need to be done to remedy the historic racism and bigotry still prevalent in our American society.

We can't ignore the crisis at the border - many of us remain transfixed at the images of children being tear-gassed by our Federal Border Agents. No one is asking for us to have open borders, but that we, as Americans and Christians, continue to respect and welcome those seeking refuge. At this time of the year, we retell the story of the Holy Family seeking refuge and fleeing from persecution, something that has its modern-day equivalence in our situation at the California-Mexico border. Pray and work for a just and merciful, faith-inspired solution to this immigration dilemma.

As I mentioned on Facebook last week, I just missed a homicide as I was driving on 73rd and Bancroft last Monday afternoon. This incident reminds us that we need to continue to work for violence reduction within our East Oakland community. We will work with Oakland Community Organizations and other entities to help with heightening awareness on this on-going issue in our midst.

God bless,
Fr. Jayson Landeza



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, December 6th at 6:30 pm in the rectory.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Saturday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and it is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass is at 9:00 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 loved one, or simply as a gift. Please drop-off your Poinsettias on Saturday, December 15th through Friday, December 21st. Please call Betty Kennedy-Tapscott at 510-612-3176.

CHURCH DECORATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS

Volunteers are welcome to help decorate the church for Christmas on Friday, December 21st at 10:00 am. Please call Betty Kennedy - Tapscott for more information.

2018 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Liturgies

Monday, December 24, 2018
11:00 pm - Christmas Caroling Music
12:00 midnight - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Liturgy

Tuesday, December 25, 2018
10:00 am

Wednesday, December 26, 2018

8:00 am

New Year's Day Liturgy

Tuesday, January 1, 2019
10:00 am

3RD BI-ANNUAL CHILDREN HOSPITAL DRIVE

Our KPC Ct./CN 336 kick-Off of the 3rd Bi-Annual Children Hospital Drive began Sunday, November 18th and will run to Sunday, December 16th, 2018. We humbly request your generous donation of all new items of: Stuff Animals/Toys, Socks for all ages, and an Assortment of Art Supplies suitable for Teen Patients, too! Advance thanks from the Ladies and Knights of Court/Council 336 domiciled here at St. Benedict, Oakland, CA. For questions, inquiries, and donations contact Chair Lady Lil Brown-Parker (510-206-9942) & Committee members Ladies: Wallita Sykes-Bush, Jewel Terrell, Theresa Gaudet, Madonna Billups, & Co-Chair/Poster Artist Lady Reese Fernandes!

ATTENTION!

The Wellness Group will be on holiday break from December 19th to January 7th, 2019.

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

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.

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, 9 pm-4 pm. Group rate (discount) for 10 or more tickets ordered at the same time.

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. Thank you. God loves you and so do we.

RIP

Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Anita Recania. Please remember her family in your prayers.

MASS INTENTIONS

2019 MASS INTENTIONS

The parish office is accepting Mass Intentions for 2019. If you would like to offer a Mass for the (Living) Intentions of your family/friends, or for your deceased family members/friends, please come to the parish office between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. Donation for a Mass is \$10.00. Thank you.

Sunday	December 2	8:30 am	Mele Percival – Birthday and 35 th Anniversary
Monday	December 3	11:00 am	Earline Gilbert †
Wednesday	December 5	7:30 am	Dalino Ricardo †
Friday	December 7	7:30 am	Lamar Larry †
Saturday	December 8	9:00 am	The Casey Family
		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

Eva Aguillard
Alvin Clement

Carl McCurtis
Kalene Parker
Laura Scotlan

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

SECOND COLLECTION

“100” Club - This Weekend

Religious Retirement - Next Weekend

CHURCH SUPPORT

Collection: November 25, 2018 **\$2,531.75**
Other Collection: “Saint Vincent de Paul” **\$1,269.00**

“100” CLUB

Beginning Balance **\$9,051.11**
Total Income for October 2018 **\$651.01**
Ending Balance as of October 31, 2018 **\$9,702.11**

PENNY HARVEST

Ending Balance as of October 31, 2018 **\$1,296.68**

Thank You For Your Generosity

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

DECEMBER 8/9, 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
I. Dees	A. West	L. Brown-Parker
B. Burns	J. Grant	R. Guillory
		O. Wanzo (EM)
		W. Sykes-Bush(EM)



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

Rev. Jayson Landeza
PASTOR

Rev. Paul Vassar
CLERGY SUPPLY

Mr. Rufus Fisher
BUILDING FACILITIES
MANAGER

Mr. Leonard Pete
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Mr. Ron Tutson
DEACON

Rev. Vincent Cotter
IN RESIDENCE

Dr. Chiquita Tuttle
PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIR

Mrs. Ofelia Wanzo
CCD DIRECTOR

Ms. Dionne Cola
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Rev. Aris Martin, SVD
IN RESIDENCE

Miss Ariana Catherine
YOUTH MINISTER

MASS TIMES

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

SUNDAY8:30 am

..... 11:00 am
GOSPEL MASS

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

CONFESSION

SATURDAY..... 3:45-4:15 pm
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, December 2		
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
Monday, December 3		
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Wellness Group	Hall
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Church
Tuesday, December 4		
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Wellness Group	Hall
Wednesday, December 5		
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Wellness Group	Hall
Thursday, December 6		
Friday, December 7		
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Line Dancing Class	Hall
Saturday, December 8		
9:00 am	Mass - Immaculate Conception	Church
4:30 pm	Saturday Vigil Mass	Church

PLEASE JOIN US!



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.