

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



In today's Gospel, a blind beggar calls Jesus the Son of David. Since Jesus' father was Joseph, who is this other person that the blind man is talking about?

David who, according to the Bible, was both the shepherd boy and a skilled harpist, was a very important figure in the history of the Jewish people. He was the same David who used a slingshot to kill Goliath, the Philistine giant, and he later became the greatest king of the Jews.

As king, David first made Jerusalem the capital of the Jewish nation; then ordered the Ark of the Covenant (the chest in which the Jews kept the Ten Commandments) be brought there. At the time, the Jews housed the Ark (a visible sign of God's presence) in a special tent.

One of the things David did after becoming king was to build himself a palace of the finest materials, but it wasn't long before he began feeling a little guilty about living in luxury while the Ark of the covenant was in a tent. So David decided he would build a house for the Lord, the magnificent temple unequalled by any other building in the world. But in the dream God told the prophet Nathan that David should not carry out his plans. Instead, God would build a house (a dynasty) for David and would bless it with peace and prosperity. Also, God said one of David's descendants would occupy the throne forever.

At first, the Jews understood God promises to mean David's son would rule after him and his son's son would rule after that and so on. Historically, that did not prove to be true because one military power after another conquered the Jewish nation and executed the last of the Jewish kings.

Since God would not lie, the Jews reasoned they must have misunderstood what he meant and concluded that God's promises referred to a future descendent of David. They believed this descendent or Son of David would be the long awaited Messiah who would conquer the world and rule forever with peace and justice.

So when Bartimaeus calls Jesus "Son of David" instead of "Son of Joseph," he acknowledges that Jesus is the promised Messiah, the descendant of David through whom God would fulfill his promises.

Being unable to see is only one type of blindness. We can also be spiritually blind when we fail to see how God is working in our lives. Pray this week that we'll recognize the many ways the Lord has shown his love for us everyday.

I am writing this 30,000 feet over Nebraska, on my way to Reagan National Airport in Washington, DC, and then to the FBI Academy at Quantico, Virginia, where I am until November 8th. Twice a year, for two-week intervals, I serve as the visiting resident chaplain for the entire academy. It's work that supports our nation's premier law enforcement and intelligence agency, and a ministry that gives me much fulfillment.

This past Tuesday, lay ecclesial ministers, parish council chairs and parish staffs from throughout Catholic parishes in the East Bay gathered with the priests of the Diocese of Oakland to listen to Father James Mallon, a priest of the Archdiocese of Halifax, Nova Scotia (Canada), former pastor of St. Benedict Parish in Halifax, and the author of "Divine Renovation - From a Maintenance to a Missional Parish". This was part of a clergy mini-convocation held at San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville, although the process with parish staffs was held at St. Isidore parish in Danville.

Representing our St. Benedict parish was Dionne Cola (Pastoral Associate), Dr. Chiquita Tuttle (parish pastoral council chairperson); Ofelia Wanzo (children's faith formation); and Deacon Ron Tutson. Most pastors brought 3-4 parishioners, usually those in leadership positions.

The intent of the day was to listen to the exciting, challenging and transformative

vision of parish ministry presented by Fr. Mallon. He was such and enthusiastic and inspirational speaker, but it was the fruits of his labor at St. Benedict in Halifax that makes his story so compelling. The intent of his work is for a parish to be mission-driven, with a heart for bringing non-Catholics into the fold - essentially inviting a parish to be evangelicalistic in nature by using a program called "Alpha", enabling it to draw others interested in a deeper look at the Christian path to seek the information gained, and plugging folks into a warm and inclusive and faith-filled worshipping community.

The three-day gathering, with the day for parish staffs and their clergy, was definitely eye-opening. Fr. Mallon presented the hard facts of Catholic life these days, not just in the United States but throughout the world - declining church attendance; a shortage of those seeking ordained ministry; the on-going sexual abuse crisis and scandal; a loss of confidence in our society's institutions; the inviting lure of technology; church no longer a valued priority; and numerous other factors.

For Fr. Mallon, it's all about the mission, and how we are invited to transform the comfortable (a maintenance parish), in seeking Jesus' will for us by bringing in the lost and abandoned sheep, to a lived faith experience, however uncomfortable, one that truly becomes missionary in spirit and fact. It's all about our relationship with Jesus and making disciples, sharing our relationship with Jesus to those who would hear, and to become transformative (and being a catalyst of transformation) for the unchurched, those no longer attending (the fallen away), and our communities, and in turn becoming continually transformed by our faith as well.

One thing that I kept pointing out to our St. Benedict team was the uniquely African American identity that characterized our folks. It seemed as if we were the only distinctly African American parish group represented. That bear noting insofar as our parish identity is concerned, and how that element relates to our growing Latino populations within our community and neighborhood.

You'll be hearing more about our experience over the next few weeks. I'm hoping that those who attended from St. Benedict would be open to sharing what last Tuesday meant for them.

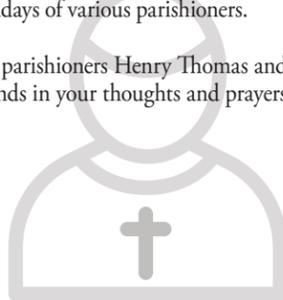
The other event that happened while the clergy and staffs were at St. Isidore, Danville was the release (by attorney Jeff Anderson and his law firm) of priests who have been credibly accused of sexual misconduct with minors. The names were, for the most part, the same ones listed on www.bishopaccountability.org website, with priests from religious orders mixed for good measure (and with some attempt by the plaintiffs bar to cast a wide net regarding accused perpetrators).

I was tipped off to the list and the subsequent press conference by folks within the survivors community, with whom I have journeyed with since 2002, and my work with the "No More Secrets" ministry to survivors of sexual abuse by Catholic priests. This is a story and sad tale that will continue to be a slow-moving disaster for the church, and a painful path of healing and justice for those who have experienced childhood sexual abuse by a Catholic priest.

Our very own Deacon Ron Tutson will be celebrating his 10th Anniversary of Ordination to the Diaconate this coming All Saints Day. We had a little gathering to celebrate this milestone last Wednesday evening at the rectory. We also honored Fr. Jay Matthews on his 70th, as well as the birthdays of various parishioners.

Over the past few weeks, we have lost long-time parishioners Henry Thomas and Fabio Guillion. Please keep their family and friends in your thoughts and prayers as they grieve the loss of their loved ones.

God bless,
Fr. Jayson Landeza



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL SAINTS DAY

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

ALL SOULS DAY

Friday November 2nd. Mass at 8:00 am.

ALL SOULS ENVELOPES

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.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, November 8th at 6:30 pm. in the Parish Center.

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 ~ mrleonarddpete@yahoo.com. Attire: Dress to Impress.

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.

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.

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 Henry Thomas. Please remember his 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 | October 28 | 8:30 am | Kendrick "Jerry" Miller + For The People |
| | | 11:00 am | |
| Monday | October 29 | 7:30 am | Elrita Larry 70th Birthday |
| Wednesday | October 31 | 7:30 am | |
| Thursday | November 1 | 8:00 am 6:00 pm | All Saints Day All Saints Day |
| Friday | November 2 | 8:00 am | All Souls Day |
| Saturday | November 3 | 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

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 21, 2018 | \$2,706.50 |
| Other Collection: | World Mission/Home Mission | \$ 388.88 |
| | The Catholic Voice | \$ 40.00 |

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

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 |
| A. Swayne | J. Grant | J. Smithson-Bell |
| J. Moore | L. Bornor (Lector) | C. Dixon |
| | A. West (EM) | O. Wanzo (EM) |
| | | W. Sykes-Bush (EM) |

SECOND COLLECTION

Saint Vincent de Paul – This Weekend
"100" Club – Next Weekend



ST. BENEDICT

CATHOLIC CHURCH, OAKLAND CALIFORNIA

2245 82ND AVENUE • OAKLAND CA 94605 • 510-632-1847 • EMAIL SAINTBENEDICTCRH@AOL.COM

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 28 | | |
| 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, October 29 | | |
| 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm | Wellness Group | Hall |
| 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm | Choir Rehearsal | Church |
| Tuesday, October 30 | | |
| 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm | Wellness Group | Hall |
| Wednesday, October 31 | | |
| 9:00 am – 11:00 am | SVDP – Distribution of Food Bags | Hall |
| 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm | Wellness Group | Hall |
| Thursday, November 1 | | |
| 8:00 am and 6:00 pm | Masses - All Saints Day | Church |
| Friday, November 2 | | |
| 8:00 am | Mass – All Souls Day | Church |
| 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Line Dancing Class | Hall |
| Saturday, November 3 | | |
| 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 |



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.



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.