

Portland Diocese of Maine ~ Catholic Appeal Week 15

As of this week, St. Benedict's Parish has raised **\$12,475** which brings us to 117% of our goal of **\$10,656.36** for the Annual Catholic Appeal.

Weekly Offertory

August 31st
Regular \$1434.21
Winter Operations \$ 251.00

September 7th
Regular \$1713.00
Heat & Electric \$ 465.10

September 14th
Regular
Capital Campaign

Capital Campaign

Capital Campaign Goal:\$200,000

Raised: \$55,634.81

Dispersed: -\$34,938.23

(for church roof scheduled for after VBS)

Balance: \$20,696.58

Thank you for your support!

Next CC project will be replacing the south set of stairs with an ADA Compliant ramp.

Removal of current ramp with a set of stairs.

Amount needed weekly to run the Parish = \$1278.85

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR GAZA

Dear God's, wonderful people due to the worsening situation in Gaza, the Portland Diocese is pleading with us to support the Catholic Relief services (CRS) for its outreach to victims of the situation. The Diocese has already contributed \$18,000 to CRS from a special mission fund and are offering the parishioners a chance to help as well with donations.

Please, can we count on your generosity?

Donations can be made at [Support.org/donate/holy land](https://support.org/donate/holyland).

Contact #1-877-Help-CRS.

or Mail:

Catholic Relief services, Holy land Response

PO. Box 5278

Tipton IA 52772-0517.

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Welcome to

ST. BENEDICT'S PARISH

PASTOR: REV. FR. SEFEMBIY JUSTIN

EMERGENCY NUMBER 765-4414 E-MAIL: SEFEMBIY.JUSTIN@PORTLANDDIOCESE.ORG



PASTOR'S CORNER - TABLE OF THE WORD

Theme: Look Up To The Cross For Salvation

Dear God's, Wonderful People,

The readings for the exultation of the Holy Cross invite us to contemplate the saving Mystery of the Cross, its place in God's Plan of Salvation, and its central role in the heart of our Christian faith. In the First reading from the Book of Numbers, we hear about the Israelites in the wilderness, suffering from serpents sent as a consequence of their unfaithfulness. Yet in their despair, God provides a means of healing through a brass serpent lifted up on a pole. Those who looked upon it were saved. This story reminds us that our own sinfulness can lead us into darkness , yet God, in his mercy always provides a way for healing and redemption. The Psalm continues with this Theme by inviting us to recall the mighty deeds of the Lord, urging us to remember his goodness and faithfulness. It is a call to keep our eyes fixed on the Lord who is our refuge and strength especially in our moments of temptations and suffering.

In the second reading from the letter to the Phillipians, St Paul presents us with the ultimate act of humility and love, the self-emptying of Christ. He who was in the form of God, took up our humanity, humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. It is through this act of love that He and the Cross are exalted. Here, we see that the path of glory leads through suffering and sacrifice. The cross becomes the symbol of Christ's triumph over sin and death, inviting us to share in that victory in the very words of Christ, by taking up our own crosses and following Him.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of His own being, "lifted up" on the cross. Just as the serpent lifted up on the pole in the desert provided salvation to those who looked upon it, so too does Jesus invite us to look upon him lifted up upon the wood of the cross. Looking at the bronze serpent saved the people of Israel from physical death, but looking up to Christ saves us from eternal death. The uplifted serpent was the only cure in the camp, just as Jesus is the only saviour for sinners in the world. No body could look at the bronze serpent for another person; each dying person had to look at it for himself or herself. The salvation Christ offers is personal and each of us must look to Christ by faith. By Christ's merits, suffering, symbolized by the cross, is no longer a sign of shame and defeat and humiliation but rather one of hope and love and victory, for through it, we find everlasting life. As we celebrate this feast, may we take a moment to reflect on our own crosses. What burdens do we carry? Join it(them) with Christ's, exalted on the cross and he will make it light. Happy Feast of the Exaltation of The Cross To everyone.

MAY GOD BLESS, PROTECT AND KEEP YOU. AMEN

St. Benedict's is a family-oriented community of faith, called through our baptism to give witness to trust, love, understanding, and patience. We are a family that is nourished by the sacraments, and led by the Spirit. Welcome to our Family!

SUMMER MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS 8:30 AM

FRIDAYS 9:00 AM

ADORATION & CONFESSION

8:00AM FRIDAYS OR BY APPOINTMENT

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

AFTER MASS UNTIL 3:00PM

COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

CALL DEACON DAN (207) 731-8111

FAITH FORMATION

ANNA ROBINSON (207) 267-0586

PARISH OFFICE

1063 BENEDICTA ROAD

P.O. BOX 27

BENEICTA, MAINE 04733

(207) 365-4294

LISA AMMERMAN, ADMIN. ASST.

LISAAMMERMAN@PORTLANDDIOCESE.ORG

OFFICE HOURS

TUES. 8:30-11:30 THURS. 8:30-11:30

FRI. 9:30-11:30

AFTER MASS ON SUNDAYS

OR BY APPOINTMENT 746-7960

STBENEDICTSMAINE.ORG

SEPTEMBER 14TH 2025 - THE EXHALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ~ YEAR C

TABLE OF THE EUCHARIST

Did you know?.....

Why Do We Genuflect?

Why Do We Genuflect ?


That it is because of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. That the Consecrated Host or Bread is usually kept in a special elevated place in the Sanctuary during out side of Mass called the Tabernacle. A light is always kept near it indication that Jesus Christ who is light of the word is fully and perpetually present in the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle . And for this, reason we ought to show absolute respect to this Sacrament by genuflecting or making a deep and profound bow from any of the isles towards the direction of the tabernacle before getting to our benches each time we enter the Church or each time we leave Church, a simple bow to the crucifix replaces the genuflection.

~Fr. Sefembiy Justin

HE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS:
SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 - JOHN 3:13-17

- For the Church, that the power of the cross may inspire many to dedicate their lives to God as priests and religious, following Christ’s example of love and sacrifice. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For those discerning their vocation, that they may find strength in the cross, embracing their unique call to serve God and His people. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For our parish, that we may support those called to a life of sacrifice and love, encouraging them to respond generously to God’s call. Let us pray to the Lord.

October
is
*Respect Life
Month*



The Diocese of Portland has Approved,
Granted Permission, and assigned the **Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi** from Cameroon in Africa, to our cluster for this year's **Mission appeals**. One of them shall be visiting all our Cluster Churches on the weekend of September 27/28 2025 to talk about their missionary activities and their various Charitable outreaches to the sick especially to Cardiac Patients, to orphans, the less educated, the disabled and the suffering in Africa. And then to do appeals for Assistance. Let us prepare ourselves to be kind, generous and charitable to support the effort of these sisters to put a smile on someone's face in Africa.

The Jubilee Prayer 2025

Father in Heaven, may the Faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

- We extend our condolences to any parishioner or visitor who is presently bereaved. Know of our fraternal and sisterly moral and spiritual support for the peaceful repose of your loved one and for the required strength of those mourning their deceased ones to bear their loss. May our strong faith in the resurrection of all believers console and strengthen you.
- Congratulations to all our parishioners and visitors celebrating their birth, marriage, vocation or any anniversary this week. We share in your anniversary joy and our prayers accompany you.
- We wish anyone travelling this week by air, land or sea travelling mercies and God’s protective guidance to and from our destination. Be still and know that God is in control.

In Memory of :

Joseph J. McAvoy
(09/10/1933—08/30/2021)

Wesley “Jim” Cunningham
(10/26/31 ~ 01/11/08)
Richard M Cunningham
(03/14/62 ~ 11/06/21)

Lovingly Remembered

Anders Staats Nielsen
07/07/2019

Basil & Margaret McAvoy
(8/5/1921 ~ 7/31/1969; 9/29/1923 ~ 12/30/2014)
Linda McAvoy Bouchard
(2/22/1945 ~ 1/6/1982)
Mary McAvoy Lowe
(10/15/1957 ~ 2/9/2005)
Anna McAvoy
(6/28/1964 ~ 7/30/2011)

Fred Lewis
(11/25/1897 ~ 7/05/1995)
Ethel Lewis
(5/12/1897 ~ 10/07/1981)
W. H. Lewis
(4/19/1923 ~ 03/28/2001)
Helen Lewis
(7/23/1926 ~ 10/19/2005)
Susan L Brooks
(8/01/1954 ~ 1/20/2009)

Lovingly Remembered

James C. (Buster) Guiggey
(4/8/1927 ~ 12/4/2010)

In Loving Memory Of

Lloyd E. Bryant (1928 ~ 1987)
Esther Grass Bryant (1931 ~ 1988)

In Loving Memory Of

Joseph P. Rush, Jr.
(11/02/1928 - 04/12/2013)
Jane M. Rush
(02/03/1930 - 09/02/2013)
Jacqueline M. Rush-Johnson
(05/04/1972 - 03/26/1996)
Francis H. Qualey
(5/22/1914 ~ 2/28/2000)
Margaret R. Qualey
(11/6/1919 ~ 5/01/2018)
Peter Qualey
(12/17/1948 ~ 09/07/2020)

In Loving Memor of:

Benedict Edward Cowan
May 2nd, 2025 -May 2nd, 2025)

Adam Rush
August 13th, 1989 - January 29th, 2016

In Loving Memory

Chris Marston
(9/18/1978 ~ 8/24/2018)
Aaron Marston
(04/04/1975~ 10/19/2022)

In Loving Memory Of:

Frank Duffy
(7/18/37 ~ 03/08/96)
Bobby Duffy
(3/21/72 ~ 10/08/93)

Arthur Qualey
(3/5/1916 ~ 10/24/2008)
Rita Qualey
(1/13/1924 ~ 9/4/ 2011)

Lovingly Remembered

Joan Filanowski
(5/26/1935 ~ 6/14/2000)

John J. Cummings
(8/23/1907 ~ 4/18/1993)
Lucile E. Cummings
(8/19/1908 ~ 3/15/2003)
Cecelia R. Cummings
(11/18/1933 ~ 2/18/2013)
Earl L. Cummings
(7/04/1929 ~ 3/10/2018)

Lovingly Remembered

Leo Joseph Crowe
(9/5/1935 ~ 1/8/2019)

In Loving Memory Of

Leo Crowe
(3/19/1893 ~ 12/17/1975)
Molly Crowe
(2/13/1900 ~ 11/18/1967)
Mary Crowe McDonough
(2/27/1937 ~ 9/28/2002)

In Memory of:

Robert Taylor
(12/13/1948 - 10/19/2023)
Charlene Taylor
(01/07/1943 ~ 02/20/2020)

In Loving Memory Of

Richard Rush
(01/02/1931—1/24/2024)
Celine Rush
(07/08/1936 ~ 11/04/2021)
Christopher Rush
(4/17/55 ~ 1/8/22)

In Loving Memory Of:

Robert Allen (10/13/46 ~ 10/18/21)
Andrew Allen (06/14/65 ~ 12/05/20)

Albert J. Qualey
(08/20/1923 ~ 06/11/2012)
Rowena Qualey
(9/22/1927 ~ 8/01/2017)

In Loving Memory

Martin Qualey
(2/16/1984 ~ 7/24/2017)

Edward Rush
(5/25/1920 ~ 10/17/2013)
Mary Rush
(12/04/1921 ~ 6/05/2005)

John W. Allen
(1912 ~ 1/02/2004)
Margaret L. Allen
(4/03/1924 ~ 11/19/2005)

Otis M. Hunt
(6/15/1936 ~ 5/30/1999)
Mary Ellen Hunt
(1/30/36 ~ 4/17/17)

“Oh Jesus, bless those living and dead, who have led me to the Holy Altar.”
A Remembrance of the Ordination to the Priesthood of

Rev. James Clifford Brown
(6/6/1936 ~ 4/6/1941)
Brother Benedict Brown, O.F.M.
(3/23/1891 ~ 7/18/1969)
Sons of St. Benedict’s Parish

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS: SEPTEMBER 14, 2025
"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life." (John 3:16)
Just as Christ selflessly gave Himself for the sake of humanity, you may be invited to reflect that profound love by dedicating your life to the service of others. Are you open to discerning whether God is calling you to share in this mission through a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life? Allow yourself to ponder the depth of this calling. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (207) 613-1091 or via email: vocations@portlanddiocese.org.

Food Sale

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20TH
at the Sherman Bandstand


Bake sale items welcome and appreciated!



Franciscan Catechetical Institute Trainings

The Diocese of Portland has just subscribed to a new outreach by the Catechetical Institute at Franciscan University of Steubenville. We are now able to offer online formation for every person in ministry – clergy, catechists, teachers, youth ministers, adult group leaders, volunteers, even (and especially) parents. It is free to all, with unlimited access. This program provides the most in-depth and faithful array of formative workshops ever created. With over 200 workshops available, we are now able to thoroughly train and spiritually nurture you in passing on the faith.

To register, visit <https://franciscanathome.com/diocese-portland-maine>
More information will be available soon on specific trainings.



Lend us your voices!

St. Benedict's own Youth Choir is looking for singers!

The Choir sings at the last Mass of every month, and rehearses weekly according to singers' schedules.

We believe God loves all voices and do not judge.

Join us!

Rosary in Honor of Our Lady of Fatima

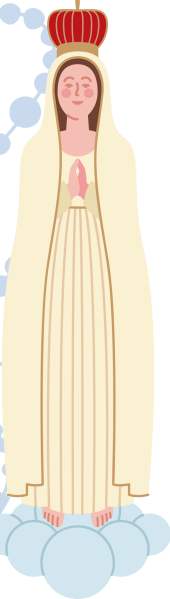
All are invited to pray the Rosary in honor of Our Lady of Fatima on

October 11 at noon
at St. Benedict's

THE ROSARY GATHERING WILL COMMEMORATE THE BLESSED MOTHER'S FINAL APPEARANCE TO THREE CHILDREN IN FATIMA, PORTUGAL, IN 1917.

We are looking for money counters to join the rotation.

Join this or any of our ministries. please contact the office or stop in after Mass!



Date	Lector	Extra-ordinary Minister of the Eucharist	Alter Server	Offertory Counters*	Greeters
Sept 14th	Lana	/Tom	Anna Q + David R	Andrew, Ken, Harold	Mona & Lana
Sept 21st	Earl	Anna Q	David	Deb, Betty, John	Mona & Lana
Sept 28th	Chris	Brenda	Rob	Rose, Rob & Cindy	Mona & Lana

Sacristans:
September - Chris
November - Mike
October - Pat

*3 Counters are required. Volunteers welcome!

Faith Formation News

It doesn't seem possible that summer 2025 has come to an end! What a beautiful summer we have had, full of many blessings! I have not seen most of you since VBS and am looking forward to re-connecting for Faith Formation this fall.

Faith Formation classes will begin
on Sunday, October 12, 2026
at 9:30AM
at the Parish Center.

(Winter Mass time of 10:30 will begin on Sunday, October 5).

October 19th - Class
October 26th - Class
November 2nd - Class
November 9th - NO Class (Anna will be away)



Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows

On September 15, the Catholic Church commemorates the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows, a day to reflect upon Mary's sorrows as the mother of Christ and how we can follow her example. Even though Mary experienced the pain of seeing her beloved son crucified, she never stopped trusting in God. Mary, in a unique way, willingly suffered alongside her Divine Son as he gave his life to save the world, and she felt the bitterness of his passion as only a mother can. Reflecting on the feast, Pope Francis said, "Mary, Mother of Sorrows, remains at the foot the cross. She simply stands there. She does not run away, or try to save herself, or find ways to alleviate her grief. Here is the proof of true compassion: to remain standing beneath the cross."

For more information:
<https://portlanddiocese.org/memorial-our-lady-sorrow>

St. Benedict's Community
Middle/High School Youth Group Schedule
2025-26
St. Benedict's Parish Center 6:00-7:30
Mass - 10:30 am Sunday

October 12
November 2
December 7
January 4
February 1
March 1
April 5
May 3
Vacation Bible School - June 22-26

Join us as we share food, friendship, and faith with community youth!





Auspice Maria
Episode 14
Living the Gospel in Daily Life



AUSPICE MARIA
Most Reverend James Ruggieri
Bishop of Portland

The Parish as a Center for Mission - Auspice Maria Ep. 15 with Bishop James Ruggieri
The Maine Catholic

This week's episode of the Auspice Maria podcast is now live!

"LIVING THE GOSPEL IN DAILY LIFE"
BISHOP RUGGIERI EXPLORES WHAT IT TRULY MEANS TO BE A MISSIONARY PARISH IN 2025. MOVING BEYOND THE WALLS OF BUILDINGS, HE REFLECTS ON THE PARISH AS A LIVING COMMUNITY OF FAITH, CALLED TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL, FOSTER ENCOUNTERS WITH CHRIST, AND BUILD THE KINGDOM OF GOD. DRAWING ON THE TEACHINGS OF VATICAN II AND CANON LAW, BISHOP RUGGIERI CHALLENGES US TO RECLAIM A VISION OF PARISH LIFE CENTERED ON MISSION, COMMUNION, AND SERVICE. ALL EPISODES OF OUR PODCASTS ARE AVAILABLE ON SPOTIFY, APPLE PODCASTS, AND YOUTUBE. ALL CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE AT: [HTTPS://PORTLANDDIOCESE.ORG/PODCAST](https://portlanddiocese.org/podcast)

A SINGLE SUNBEAM IS ENOUGH TO DRIVE AWAY MANY SHADOWS - ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

MASSES & INTENTIONS SEPTEMBER 7TH - SEPTEMBER 14TH

Saturday Sept 13th St. Martins at 4:00PM - Al Hughes 3rd Anniversary from Children & Grand Children

Sunday Sept 14th St. Benedict's 8:30AM- Arthur & Rita Qualey by Anna & Billy Robinson
St. Peter's 10:00AM- Rev George Pelletier 17th Anniversary By George, Judy & Michelle
St. Martin of Tours 12:30PM - The Marquis Family By: Bob and Family

Monday, September 15th: St. Peter's at 8:30AM – For the Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday, September 16th: St. Peter's at 4:30PM- Dawn Rossignol (22nd Anniversary) by George, Judy & Michelle

Wednesday, September 17th Father Justin's Day Off

Thursday, September 18th: St. Martin of Tours at 4:30PM – Robbie Faloon in Honor of his Birthday
by Patty & Berry Bryant.

Friday, September 19th: St. Benedict's at 9:00AM - Roy Rivers by Rose Rush

Saturday Sept 20th St. Martin of Tours at 4:00PM - Yvette Brown 4th Anniversary by Bruce and Julie

Sunday Sept 21st St. Benedict's 8:30AM- Aaron and Chris Marston By Lana & Billy Robinson
St. Peter's 10:00AM- Michael Provenzano by Huong Chasse
St. Martin of Tours 12:30PM - Katheleen Eyles Gray (2nd Anniversary) by Niece Sharon Darling & Family
We shall switch over Mass Times between St. Peter's Church and St. Benedict's Parish Church on the first weekend of October(October 4/5 2025). St. Peters will do Sunday 8:30 am while St. Benedict will do 10:30 am.

Weekly Readings and Observances of Saints' Days Will Keep You United with Christ Through His Words

Readings for the week of Sunday, September 14th - Sunday, September 21st

Sunday 9/14: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Nm 21:4b-9/Psil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

Monday 9/15: Our Lady of Sorrows 1 Tim 2:1-8/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Tuesday 9/16: Sts Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian 1 Tim 3:1-13/Lk 7:11-17

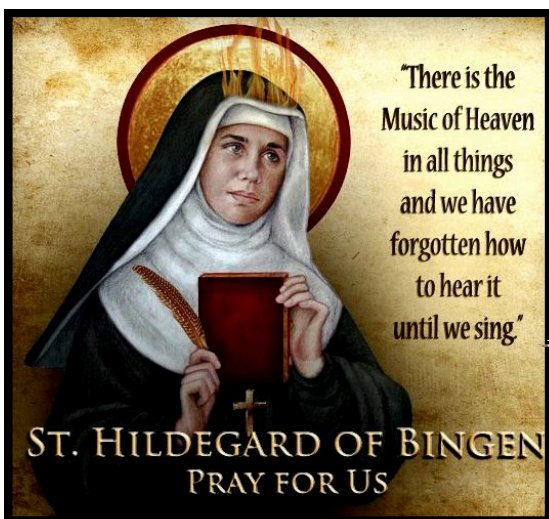
Wednesday 9/17: St Robert Bellarmine, St Hildegard of Bingen 1 Tim 3:14-16/Lk 7:31-35

Thursday 9/18: 1 Tim 4:12-16/Lk 7:36-50

Friday 9/19: St. Januarius 1 Tim 6:2c-12/Lk 8:1-3

Saturday 9/20: Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gon and Paul Chong Ha-sang 1 Tim 6:13-16/Lk 8:4-15

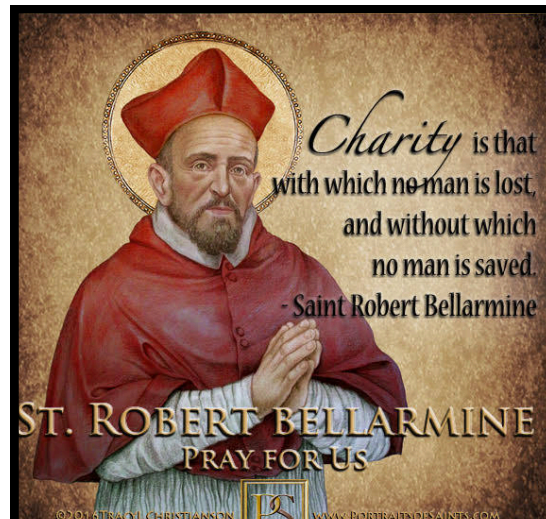
Sunday 9/21: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Am 8:4-7/1 Tim 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13



Prayer List

Danette Moody
Cathy Cyr Duffy
Riley Wheaton
Ryan Robinson
Beckham Willett
Janie Cummings
Irene Heath

Families Afflicted by Addiction
Our Men & Women
in the Service



St. Benedict's Faith Formation Newsletter 2025-26

Anna L. Robinson, Parish Catechetical Leader
annarobinson2014@gmail.com 267-0586



This year I will be teaching Sacramental Prep classes. At this time, we have two students in the program. Please contact me if there are any children interested in Sacramental prep at this time.



Grades 3, 4, 5 will be continuing the Pflaum Gospel Weekly Program, "Venture," This is a Lectionary Based Program with many supplemental resources connecting students with their Catholic Faith.



WE WILL CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE A YOUTH MASS ON THE LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH. STUDENTS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE MASS, I.E. GREETERS, LECTORS, GIFT BEARERS, USHERS, YOUTH CHOIR.



Middle/High School Youth Ministry will be led by Brittany Arbo. We will continue to meet on the first Sunday of every month, exploring and celebrating our Catholic faith as a community group, inviting all youth in the surrounding communities to join us!

YOUTH CHOIR WILL CONTINUE TO DO MASS THE LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH, LED BY CATHY POND EVANS. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN! WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN! CONTACT CATHY AT 267-0230 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON REHEARSAL TIMES, ETC.



OCIA (The Order of Christian Initiations of Teens and Adults) - Any teen or adult interested in joining the Catholic Church or learning more about the Catholic faith, should contact Anna for more information.



Vacation Bible School – We celebrated our thirty-first year of VBS at St. Benedict's with "Egypt – Joseph's Journey From Prison to Palace!" What a great week evangelizing and sharing our faith! Next year's VBS will be held June 22-26.

"Rainforest Falls – Exploring the Nature of God!"

Mark your calendars and hope to see you all there!

