



St. Benedict's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

December 24, 2015

The Eve of The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Year C:

8 pm & 11 pm

CHRISTMAS



The Mission of St. Benedict's

St. Benedict's is a welcoming community sharing and spreading Christ's love through worship, education, fellowship and outreach.



Welcome to St. Benedict's on this holy night.

If you are visiting us for the first time, take a moment to look around you. Everyone in this room is “new” to St. Benedict’s, which was founded in 2008. As “newcomers” we are very aware of the importance of having a spiritual home along the journey. We hope you will consider joining us regularly along your own spiritual journey.

If you are new to the Episcopal Church, the celebration Eucharist is a work of all the people, this includes the singing, the prayers, and communion. Everyone is welcome to come forward to partake in Holy Communion. When you come forward for communion you will have one of two choices, either to receive the consecrated bread by putting your hands together in front of you, or crossing your hands over your chest. This latter posture will prompt one of the priests to give you a blessing in the name of God. If you choose to receive the bread, you may then continue to the Eucharistic minister to receive the consecrated wine. You may either sip directly from the chalice or dip the consecrated bread in the chalice. Please know that if you choose to remain in your pew and pray that is also acceptable form of participation, but please know you are welcome to come forward at communion.

To learn more about our wonderful community, please visit our website
www.mysaintb.org or email me: brian.sullivan@mysaintb.org.

Merry Christmas!!!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian" followed by a small cross symbol.

The Rev. Brian Sullivan

The Holy Eucharist

The Word

Choral Prelude 7:40

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ding! Dong Merrily on High | Traditional English Carol |
| Laudamus Te | A. Vivaldi |
| A Maiden Most Gentle | arr. Andrew Carter |
| Ave Maria | Camille Saint-Saens |
| Angels and Shepherds | Stephen Paulus |

Prelude 10:40 George Butler, cello

Processional Hymn 83 O Come, All Ye Faithful vs. 1-5

Opening Acclamation (*Standing*) BCP page 355
 Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.

Collect for Purity

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song of Praise: Hymn 96

Angels we have heard on high vs. 1, 2

Collect for the Day

BCP page 212

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
 Celebrant: Let us pray.
 O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Lesson (*Seated*)

Lector: A reading from the book of Isaiah (9:2-7)

The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
 on them light has shined.
 You have multiplied the nation,
 you have increased its joy;
 they rejoice before you
 as with joy at the harvest,
 as people exult when dividing plunder.
 For the yoke of their burden,
 and the bar across their shoulders,
 the rod of their oppressor,
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.
 For all the boots of the tramping warriors
 and all the garments rolled in blood
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
 authority rests upon his shoulders;
 and he is named
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 His authority shall grow continually,
 and there shall be endless peace
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.
 He will establish and uphold it
 with justice and with righteousness
 from this time onward and forevermore.
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm 96

BCP Page 725

Cantor: Sings first

Terrell Abney



Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

Congregation: Sing in response

Cantor:

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.

Congregation: Sing in response

Cantor:

- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.

Congregation: Sing in response

Cantor:

- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."

Congregation: Sing in response

Cantor:

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.

13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

Congregation: *Sing in response*

The Epistle

Lector: A reading from Titus (2:11-14)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sequence Hymn 81

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming vs. 1-2

*(Standing—please sing verses 1 and 2 during the Gospel Procession.
Then sign verses 3 and 4 after the gospel is read.)*

Gospel

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (2:1-20)

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and

saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Sermon

The Rev. Brian Sullivan

The Nicene Creed *(Standing)*

BCP page 358

Celebrant & People:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Leader: In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying,
Lord have mercy

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your Advent, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Rob, Keith and Don, our bishops, for all bishops, priests and deacons, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and trust may grow among all nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy

For those in positions of public trust, especially Barack our President and Nathan our Governor, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy

For this congregation, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy

For our Day School, for the ministry of the teachers and staff, and for the students and their families, and for their continued well-being, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers especially Martha and Allison Melton, Sickling Family, Jodi Johnson, Mark Hauser, Tommie Sue Roberts, Elissa Foster, Frankie Collett, John Oliver, Sarah Lowder, Annie Offen, Mary Solomon, Laura Wessels, Daniel Gilbert, Tom Schneider, Scott Beihl, for families, friends and neighbors, that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, especially Ray Smith, husband to

Wallis Smith, who would be celebrating their 56th wedding anniversary, and whom the altar flowers are given, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord have mercy

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

Lord have mercy

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Offertory

8:00 *A Child, My Choice*

Ronald Dirksen

11:00 *Ave Maria*

Bach-Gounod

Ms. Felicia Hernandez

Presentation Hymn 93 vs. 1 & 4

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving (Standing)

BCP page 367

Eucharistic Prayer B

The musical notation is arranged in four systems, each with a staff and lyrics below. The first system is for the Celebrant and People, with lyrics: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second system is for the Celebrant and People, with lyrics: "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third system is for the Celebrant, with lyrics: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth system is for the People, with lyrics: "It is right to give God thanks and praise."

Celebrant: It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth, Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus S130 Holy, holy, holy *The Hymnal, front section*
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the

calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Memorial Acclamation

BCP page 368

Celebrant: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Blessed Mary, Blessed Joseph and Blessed Benedict, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.


A-men.

The Lord's Prayer

BCP page 364

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

(After the Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread, a period of silence is kept.)

Fraction Anthem S154 Christ Our Passover

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Communion of the People - (All those who are baptized are invited to receive Communion; the ushers will direct you. If you do not want to receive communion but would like to receive a blessing, please come forward and cross your arms over your chest. If you would like to receive Communion at your seat please let an usher know.)

8:00 pm

Communion Hymns 78, 89, 115

11:00 pm

Communion Music George Butler, cello

Postcommunion Prayer (standing)

BCP page 365

Celebrant: Let us pray
**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Candle Lighting

Candles will be handed to you by the ushers.

The Blessing

Priest: The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.
People: Amen

The Dismissal

BCP page 366

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People: Thanks be to God.

Processional Hymn 111 Silent Night

(kneeling, sing the processional hymn. Choir remains and bell tolls at the end. Leave in silence.)

Sunday Schedule

- 8:00am* Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 8:45am The Choir of St. Benedict's rehearsal
- 9:00am Bagels & Coffee
- 9:30am* Sunday school
- 10:30am* Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with Choir
- 10:30am Children's Chapel
- 1:00pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II, En español

*Nursery open for children age three and younger.
 Sunday school classes for children and youth meet
 September—May.

To find out more, please use the helpful links
 below to peruse our website, learn more about our
 programs and ministries, and discover more about this
 community of faith.

- **Website:** www.mysaintb.org
- **Ministries of the Church**
<http://tiny.cc/ministriespage>
- **From the Rector's Desk:**
tiny.cc/fromtherectorsdesk
 A weekly email from Fr. Brian sent to the
 parish that helps get your week started and
 gives an overview of the week to come.
- **A Glimpse Within:**
tiny.cc/aglimpsewithin
 A podcast Fr. Brian Sullivan and Fr. Stuart
 Higginbotham publish that discusses their lives
 as priests. What they think about? What they
 see? How they do their job?
- **Facebook:** [mysaintb](https://www.facebook.com/mysaintb)
- **Twitter:** [@mysaintb](https://twitter.com/mysaintb)

Ways to Give

- Cash or Check
 may be placed in the
 offering plate
- Online PayPal — *scan this
 image on your smart phone*
- Bill pay through your bank
- Stock



From the Finance Committee:

The end of the year is near. Remember to
 complete your current year's stewardship
 pledge and your capital pledge.
 Statements will be on your dashboard
 late January. If you have any questions, please
 contact Betsy@MySaintB.org.

My St. B's Dashboard Access for Members

<http://tiny.cc/stbsdashboard>



ACS Church
 Life app



Scan image
 with your
 smart phone

Mark Your Calendar:

February 17—March 16, 2016
Wednesday Night Lenten Speaker Series:
Living Compass
 Soup Dinner: 6:00 pm
 Speaker: 6:30 pm

February 21—March 20, 2016
Sunday Morning Forum—9:30 am:
Science & Religion Discussion from Wed night
 Coffee and Bagels: 9:00 am

CHURCH CLERGY

The Rev. Brian Sullivan, Rector (brian@mysaintb.org)
 The Rev. Ramon Betances, Vicar of the Hispanic Ministry
 (ramon@mysaintb.org)
 The Rev. Bronson Bryant, Priest Associate (Retired)
 (bransonb@bellsouth.net)

CHURCH STAFF

Betsy Shuford, Parish Admin (betsy@mysaintb.org)
 Courtney Vaughn, Dir. of Children's Ministries and Registrar
 (courtney@mysaintb.org)
 Hayley Tyler, Youth Director (hayley@mysaintb.org)
 Carol Kirshner, Church Web Administrator (carol@mysaintb.org)
 Lynn Swanson, Music Director (lynn@mysaintb.org)
 Niccole Winney, Student Intern
 Kate Chastain, Choral Scholar
 Rachel Oliver, Children's Choir Accompanist
 Karen Sawyer, Seminarian

SCHOOL

Rick Betts, Head of School and Principal (r.betts@stbs.org)
 Anne Shamanski, Assistant Head of School (a.shamanski@stbs.org)
 The Rev. Wendy Porter Cade, Chaplain (w.cade@stbs.org)
 Kevin Waycaster, Business Manager (k.waycaster@stbs.org)
 Phyllis Ortega, Receptionist (p.ortega@stbs.org)

PATH TO SHINE

Deacon Lesley-Ann Drake, Dir. of Path To Shine
 (lesleyann@pathtoshine.org)
 Sandy Meier, St. Benedict's Sunday Program Coordinator
 (lynn_meier@hotmail.com)
 Jim Ell & Ellen Mauzy, St. Benedict's Monday Program Coordinator
 (jell7@hotmail.com & emauzy@att.net)

Vestry—Class of 2015

Tom O'Connor, Sr Warden, Building and Grounds
 (TEOConno@gapac.com)
 Saralee Parker (texslt67@gmail.com)
 Kathryn Folk, clerk (katpierce@bellsouth.net)
 Peggy Kessler, Worship (pgkessler1@gmail.com)

Vestry—Class of 2016

Nick Loadholtes, Jr. Warden, Building & Grounds
 (nloadholtes@gmail.com)
 Robin Cahill-Roberts, Finance (rlr1217@aol.com)
 Ron Wilson, Mission & Outreach,
 Liaison for Music (ron.golf@att.net)
 Gil Morgan, Adult Formation (gil@propellerinvestments.com)

Vestry—Class of 2017

Jose Betances, Spanish Ministry (josebetances19@gmail.com)
 Kate Wiley, Stewardship (katewiley26@aol.com)
 Alex Massie, Liaison for Children & Youth (alexjmassie@yahoo.com)
 Davis Loftin, Parish Activities (dkloftin@gmail.com)

Treasurer

David Oliver, Treasurer (docu91@yahoo.com)