



St. Benedict's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

December 24, 2015

Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist with a "Paper Bag Pageant"

Year C

3 pm

CHRISTMAS



The Mission of St. Benedict's

St. Benedict's is a welcoming Christian community spreading God's love through worship, teaching, 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!!!



The Rev. Brian Sullivan

The nursery is open during the 3:00 pm Christmas Eve Service for children ages 3 and younger.

The Holy Eucharist

The Word

Voluntary O Come All Ye Faithful Rex Koury
Welcome Mr. Tim Young, Guest Organist

Processional Hymn 83 vs. 1, 2, 3, & 6
O Come all Ye Faithful

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

Collect for the Day BCP page 232
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 Nativity Story

This night is like no other night. It is a time to
dream and sing our way to Bethlehem. The
children will show us how to go.

The little town we seek sits in the hill country
some ten miles south of Jerusalem. For
thousands of years the houses have gathered
there on the hilltop like a family breaking bread.
“Bethlehem” means “House of Bread.”

In the center of the village is a small inn. On this
night it is over-flowing with people seeking sleep
and a place to eat. Behind the inn is a stable.
The stable is for animals – for the donkeys, cows
and sheep that people brought with them.

All is still and quiet in the little town.
~The animals come forward as all the people sing
verse one of the hymn “O Little Town of
Bethlehem”

Hymn 78 O Little Town of Bethlehem vs. 1

As night gathers, the last two travelers come
slowly up the road. Look, there is a young
woman about to be a mother. She is walking
with her husband. They are Joseph and Mary
from Nazareth! They have walked for six days to
come to this city where King David was born, so
long ago.

They have come, like so many others, because
the Roman emperor wants to count each one, so
he can take their money as a tax.

But it is late, and Mary is so weary. Where will
they sleep? There is no room in the inn. They
decide to sleep with animals.

~The Joseph and Mary figures are brought
forward as all the people sing verse one of the
hymn “Once in Royal’s David City”

Hymn 102 Once in Royal David’s City vs. 1

Stars brighten slowly in the sky. All creation
holds its breath. Suddenly, from the stable,
comes the cry of a newborn child! Mary gently
wraps the baby in a blanket and lays him in the
feed box that his father has filled with straw.

~The baby Jesus figure is brought forward and as
all the people sing verse one of the hymn “Away in
the Manger.”

Hymn 101 Away in a Manger vs. 1

In the hills outside Bethlehem, shepherds watch
their shadowy sheep. All at once, the dark is lost
in light, and in the midst of the light is something
even brighter: the faces of angels.

The fearful shepherds then hear music in the sky, and a voice says clearly, “Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by all people. Today in the City of David a Savior is born! He is Christ, the Lord.”

Then more angels appear, a whole heavenly host of them, praising God and singing: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all people, everywhere.”

The shepherds run with joy across the fields to Bethlehem to the barn behind the inn. There they find the Holy Family and creep forward, overwhelmed with mystery, to find Nativity itself in the center of all that love.

~The shepherds and angels come forward as all the people sing verse one of the hymn “Hark the Herald Angels Sing.”

Hymn 87 Hark the Herald Angels Sing vs. 1

So now, following the stars, we come, as people have come all through the ages, to bring our own gifts to this Child, God’s gift to us. Show us the way into the Mystery of Christmas, as we sing, for this night is holy and filled with overflowing silence.

~The stars come forward as all the people sing verse one of the hymn “Silent Night.”

Hymn 111 Silent Night vs. 1

Children’s Sermon The Rev. Brian Sullivan

The Children’s Creed *(Standing)*

(This creed is used in Children’s Chapel every Sunday.)

We believe in God above

We believe in Jesus’ love

We believe God’s Spirit too

Comes to teach us what to do

We believe that we should be

Kind and loving Lord like thee.

The Prayers of the People

(These prayers are used in Children’s Chapel every Sunday.)

Leader: With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord and respond by saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

Leader: For our Bishop, and for all clergy and people; let us pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For our President, for the leaders of the nations; let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For help in caring for the earth; let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those who are sick, or sad, or in trouble. Remembering 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.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all who have died; let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: That we may live our lives in faith and hope; let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: In the communion of all the saints; let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Peace

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

People: And also with you.

Offertory

Meditation on “Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming”
John Carter

Presentation Hymn 96

Angels We Have Heard on High vs. 1 & 4

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B (Standing) BCP page 361

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: 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 Holy, holy, holy (said in unison)
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

(Standing)

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.

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 *(said in unison)*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast Alleluia.

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.)

Communion Hymns: 109, 115, 89

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.***

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 U of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People: Amen

Processional Hymn 100 Joy to the World

The Dismissal

BCP page 366

Priest: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

Voluntary Joy to the World

Larry Wolz

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



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:
Discussion on Science & Religion
 Coffee and Bagels: 9:00 am

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/stbdsdashboard>



ACS Church
Life app



Scan image
with your
smart phone

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)
Nicole 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 & emaury@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)