

View from the Bridge

St Benedict Lodge & Chapel

56630 North Bank Rd

McKenzie Bridge, OR 97488

541-822-3572 www.sblodge.opwest.org

Mass: Saturday 5 pm Sunday 9:30 am

Weekdays 8 am

Summer 2021

A YEAR OF CHALLENGES

The last year has provided two great challenges for St. Benedict's Lodge. First, there was the Labor Day fire, then the upsurge of the pandemic, and more recently the appearance of the new strain of the virus.

So far, we have survived. The fire was two miles west of us and the wind (82 miles per hour) pushed it toward Eugene. However, the wind knocked down 32 trees along the river walk path.

We have just recently sold the trees. The logger who harvested the trees is one of the most skillful handlers of heavy machinery, and did a beautiful job of clearing the downed trees. The area should be more beautiful than ever after some winter rains restore the greenery.



The virus was our greatest challenge and many groups had to be cancelled. But the Jesuit High School from Portland made special changes in their retreats and held six retreats. They reduced numbers to 30, reinstated social distancing, and with some other adjustments were able to continue what is an essential part of their high school program.

With the cancellations of the larger retreats, more people came to spend private time in our cabins. With all the tension from the pandemic, many found that they just needed some quiet time away from all the challenges of the past year.

Another challenge was that the fire destroyed the houses of many of our workers who provide the essential work for St. Benedict's. Our Office Manager, Sharon Sheets, lost her house as did several of our people who attend daily Mass and perform other important services for St. Benedict's.



Another special project was removing three white pine trees from next to the Bede cabin. The top of one these trees had been blown off by the wind and skidded off the roof of the Bede house, doing almost no damage. These trees had to be carefully removed in sections.

After two and a half years the repair on the deck continues. It was damaged by a heavy limb that was blown down by the heavy snowfall of February 2019. By removing 7 feet from the deck, we opened up a 12-foot space at the river's edge, giving us more space for quiet conversations and reading. I think the new guard rail has a nice look to it.



A high point for the year was the party held at the Rosebrook's cabin on August 15th, the Feast of the Assumption, with a very good crowd and wonderful food. A highlight was the announcement during vespers that the Phil Rosebrooks' granddaughter, Madeline, will be joining the Sisters of Life. It was a beautiful moment of praise and celebration!



In all of this we are most thankful to our regular worshippers who have been extraordinarily generous in their support during this difficult and uncertain time. We offer prayers of thankfulness for all the support from our regular worshipers and neighbors.

The St Benedict's Women's Retreat will be held this year September 10, 11, and 12. This year will feature Father Kieran Healy, the director of St Benedict's. The theme: Our religious response to the pandemic. He will explore the fundamental relationships of our lives, family, and friendships. He then would like to retrace how we relate to the Eucharist as we return to our normal religious observance. Call St Benedict's to reserve a space if you would like to attend 541-822-3572.

We wish to thank all of you once again for your continued support of this unique and beautiful ministry. It continues to be a real blessing to be a part of the spirit, hospitality, and joyful ministry of St Benedict's Lodge.



Your Donations help make St. Benedict's an even better retreat center and keep our ministry going. Any amount is appreciated. St. Benedict's survives by all those contributing. A few dollars each adds up!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount enclosed: _____