

View from the Bridge

St Benedict Lodge & Chapel
56630 North Bank Rd
McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413
541-822-3572 www.sblodge.opwest.org
Mass: Saturday 5 pm Sunday 9:30 am
Weekdays 8 am

Fall 2022



It seemed like summer would never end, until it did. It has been an eventful spring and summer, with retreats, family reunions and major projects getting underway.

The September Retreat for Women

I was very excited as the September retreat approached. My old friend, Jeremy Miller was coming from Philadelphia to be our presenter, as he had been very successful in some earlier retreats. He was to present material from his recent book, "It's About Eternal Life After All". However, on the day of the retreat, we were informed by our electric company that we were facing similar weather

conditions that caused the Holiday Farm fire in 2022. To prevent another catastrophic wildfire, they would be shutting off all power until conditions changed beginning at 5 pm.

We phoned all of the participants to warn them and give them the option to cancel. To our surprise, virtually all said, “We are coming anyway!” and we picked up two more in the process. The weather cooperated, the power came back on after dinner on Saturday, and it was a very successful retreat for all concerned.

St Benedict Cemetery



Our cemetery for the ashes of our members has gathered interest over the last year. The people who have chosen plots hired a gardener to clean up the area above the headstones. They have also created a foundation to pay for the upkeep. It's quite lovely now, and if interest keeps growing expansion plans are in place.

Projects

Our work repairing the A-frame beams is proceeding nicely. We are over halfway finished replacing the rotting wood and covering the exposed beams with a metal sheath to protect it from moisture and fire. Work will resume in the spring after the rains.



We have added two hard working people to our staff to take care of housekeeping and maintenance. The facility is looking much better and neglected areas are getting long needed attention.

We put in a dry well to handle the excess water runoff from the main lodge. We recently had a major rainstorm of several inches, and it handled the water just fine.

The water temperature in our ancient, oil-fired water boiler, which handles most of the showers, dropped this summer. It needed a new thermostat, which required a nationwide search for a part. One was eventually located and replaced, and the boiler is now working again. This old boiler is going to eventually need replacing since parts are virtually nonexistent.

Other work done this summer included repairs to the tractor, upgrading our watering system, brush and weed removal, refurbishing tank-free toilets, and computer and printer replacement. We replaced all of the smoke and CO2 detectors with 10-year units.

We are also in the process of improving security by replacing and repairing doors and door hardware.

Winter work will involve refurbishing the dorm rooms, starting with the decades old paint.

In Other News

We were featured in a very nice article in the August 5, 2022 Catholic Sentinel. (www.catholic sentinel.org) They featured the high school groups that come here for retreats. There was also a nice history as well.

More people have been taking advantage of our cabins and bungalows in order to have private retreats. A few peaceful days in God's handiwork do wonders for the soul!



There are many challenges to running a place like St Benedict's. The nearest town of significance is 60 miles away. Online shopping has made a great difference in keeping our facility supplied and equipped, but if something breaks down and needs immediate parts or replacement, then it is a 120 mile round trip to town, and you better get everything you need in one trip.

The distance makes it difficult to find contractors willing to make the drive, and all charge for travel. We have been blessed to find good contractors who have been doing outstanding work in helping us keep this special place running.

We are also blessed by having such wonderful parishioners, guests, friends, and supporters. Their support is what keeps us going!

” The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quiet, alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature. As long as this exists, and it certainly always will, I know that then there will always be comfort for every sorrow, whatever the circumstances may be. And I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles.”

--Anne Frank

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!

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