

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

Spring 2022



Moving Forward

The time of the virus has been a real challenge for St. Benedict's. Our usual weekend Masses would only have five or seven people on Saturday evening, and thirteen for the Sunday morning Mass. Many of the larger retreats had to cancel and this reduced our income. This has been about a two-year stint. Most of the family gatherings and AA retreats canceled.

Fortunately, Jesuit High School developed some excellent patterns of safe social distancing and hygienic practices around meals that allowed them to continue with most of their encounters. Marist was also careful and continued their retreats.

After a time, we had an increase in people using the cabins during the week just to get away from the tension of the pandemic.

Now we are slowly and carefully opening up to our more traditional schedule. As a result, our income dipped a bit, but we have been able to make it. I also think that the fire two years ago reduced the numbers at our Masses on the weekends. We look forward to building back our normal schedule for retreats and worship opportunities. We thank those who have been so supportive during this difficult time, and a special thank you to those who gave extra.



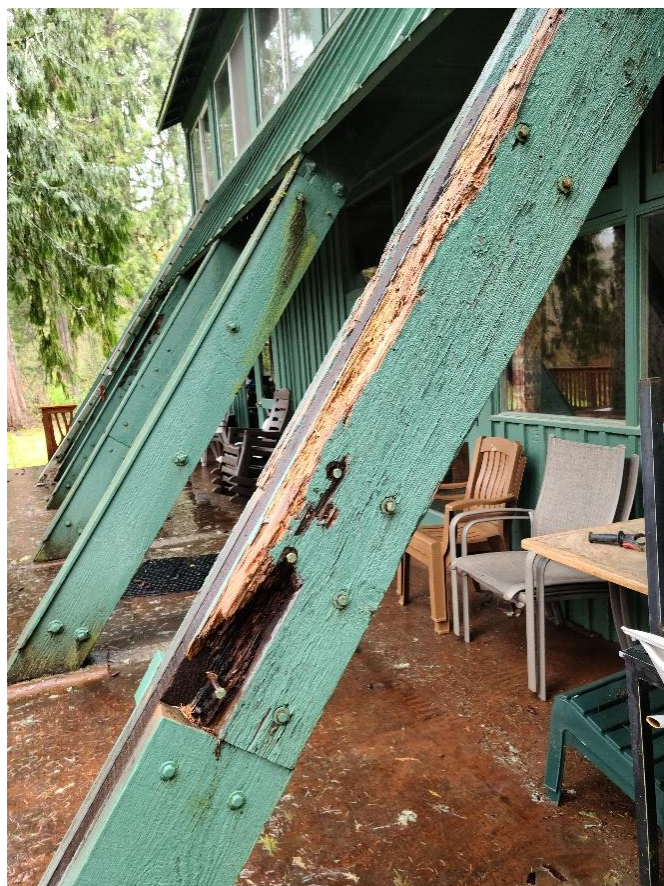
Father David Geib has recently moved into retirement at the Provincial House in Oakland. Coming to St. Benedict's in 2011, he has been a source of service and friendship to all of our visitors. We express our thanks for his service and ask God's blessing on him in this new phase of his life.



Although we are in the midst of a drought, this winter has been closer to normal than we have seen in a while. Attendees to our Holy Week retreat braved winter weather in mid-April. This was on Wednesday before Easter.

Since the fire, we have been running St Benedict with a nominal staff and volunteer workers. This has not been a sustainable formula for keeping up with such a big place! We recently hired some new people in housekeeping, grounds, and buildings.

There are many things in need of repair and maintenance, here are a few:



The exposed A frame beams in the dormitories are in need of work. All need to be inspected, some will need to be replaced, and all will be getting a metal sleeve to protect to wood from the elements, as well as provide protection from fire.

An architect provided us with plans for this project and contractors have been contacted to submit bids.

The wooden deck behind the residence is in dire need of a fresh coat of paint and the concrete deck overlooking the river needs to be resealed.

The dormitory rooms are long overdue for a fresh coat of paint and window shades.

All our smoke detectors are close to their expiration date. We have ordered new Smoke detectors as well as CO2 detectors.

We will be working on our trail system as well. There are collapsed bridges and many signs to be replaced.

Something we are not lacking in, however, is an abundance of God's natural creation. We are grateful every day that we live and work in such a wonderful place!

” 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



Our cabins are becoming popular for personal retreats.

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: _____