

# View from the Bridge

St Benedict Lodge & Chapel

56630 North Bank Rd

McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413

541-822-3572 [www.stbenedictretreat@gmail.com](mailto:www.stbenedictretreat@gmail.com)

Mass: Saturday 5 pm Sunday 9:30 am

Weekdays 8 am

## Spring 2023



### The Holy Week Retreat

This year we had 19 participants and some of them had joined us two or three times before. Several brave souls even volunteered to have their feet washed. Starting Holy Thursday we repeat all the Monastic prayers, and chants that the Dominicans do each year in all our communities. It's wonderful to hear the lamentations and special chants that we do during the three days. Hearing again the beautiful music and giving yourself to the drama of the three days is a wonderful way to prepare for Easter. This is especially true as over the years the chants and lamentations become more familiar.

On Good Friday we had our usual Holy Week Stations of the Cross. The dogs joined us and individuals took turns carrying the Cross as we marched through the forest up to the view of the Three Sisters.

On Easter Sunday a number of former parishioners joined us for Mass and Easter Brunch. It was too rainy for an outdoor Easter Egg Hunt, so it took place in the Main Lodge. It was a joyful gathering. Several participants in the retreat expressed how deeply they were moved, and their spirits enriched.

### **A Long Winter**



Winter has been reluctant to leave us this year, giving us an ample rain and snowfall including this April shower.

It has also teamed up with gravity to drop a couple of trees on some structures. One tree fell across the road and took out a section of a neighbor's fence and mailbox. Another crushed a footbridge along the Riverwalk trail.





Before the winter hit, we were able to replace about half the A-frame beams and cover them with a metal sheath. This is a major expense that we hope to finish this summer.

While snow and rain have been inundating the place, we have kept our staff of 2 busy indoors. The present paint indoors harkens back to a more colorful decade. Chips, stains, and outdated color schemes scream for attention. We have painted the restrooms and

have started on the dorm rooms. We will continue until drier weather allows us work on our never-ending outdoor projects.

We've refurbished our rec room games, replaced a freezer, organized storage, repaired and tuned up our kitchen stoves and ovens, repaired our gas fireplaces, cleared fallen trees, improved drainage, cleared brush, repaired blinds, made several dump runs, and fixed leaky plumbing.

The furniture in the main lodge has seen better days. Most of it was donated in the distant past. We will be seeking bargains and donated replacements.

The dorm room wall heaters began failing this winter. Since they were well past their recommended life spans, we decided to replace them all, which we have been doing at a rate of about 10 a week.

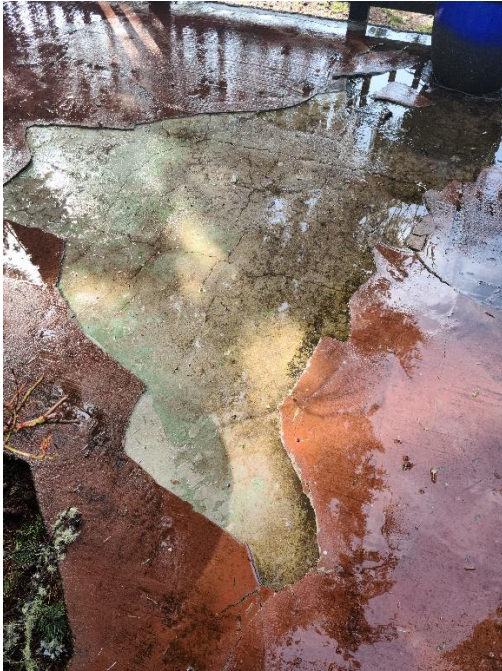
We have begun a long overdue upgrade of our website. It will be a work in progress, so keep visiting. <https://sblodge.opwest.org/>

It seems like every week, there is a new "Thing we need to fix/replace". We will be focusing over the next few years on reviving this aging facility. The list of projects is ever growing.

Our project list this summer is going to keep us busy. The big deck overlooking the river has a "slip resistant" surface which is slippery when wet and



is breaking apart. We will be removing it in preparation for a future resurfacing. Wooden decks and railings will all be getting sanded and stained as well as other outdoor surfaces.



Thanks to generous donations and an uptick in business we have been able to keep our staff and contractors busy making much needed improvements. Your help is much appreciated!

“Look and listen to the sound of the river. If you listen carefully, you will be rewarded with more wisdom and insight than from any of the thousands of my sermons preached over the lifetime of my priesthood.” --- Fr. Tom Deman OP

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*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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