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“The future is, most of all, in the hands of those people who recognize the other as a ‘you’ and themselves as part of an ‘us.’ We all need each other.”

- Pope Francis
WHAT IS "THE BENNIE BLESSING"?

The Bennie Blessing is your one-stop-shop for all things Campus Ministry. It is a monthly publication by students, for students with the goal of creating a centralized location for all faith related activities on campus. It includes information on upcoming events, faith resources, and short articles on living the Benedictine Value of the month.

CAMPUS MINISTRY IS HERE FOR YOU- HERE’S HOW

Returning to campus in a time of uncertainty

The long awaited day is finally here. After months of quarantine and isolation, we’re finally ready to return to campus life. Things are going to look a little different this year, but we at Campus Ministry want you to know we are here for you. Stay tuned for updates on events and gatherings, and do not be afraid to reach out. Feel free to contact Sister Sharon with any questions, or to schedule a virtual meeting.

snohner@csbsju.edu

AN UPDATE ON STUDENT MASS PROTOCOLS

YES, we're still having student Mass!

This year, Mass will be at 4:30pm in Escher Auditorium. To best protect the health and safety of our community, CSB will be adhering to social distancing requirements. Attendance in the auditorium will be limited, however, all Masses will be livestreamed through our CSB Campus Ministry Facebook or Instagram sites. This gives students the option of attending from their own rooms or in the overflow area in Gorecki B & C. Holy Communion will be distributed to the overflow area in Gorecki B & C. Unfortunately, we will not be able to open student Mass to faculty or community members until further notice. Please remember to use hand sanitizer and wear a facemask whenever you enter a public area.
What's new in CSB Campus Ministry?

INTER-FAITH LEADERSHIP TEAM (ILT)

This year we are launching a new team focused on interfaith dialogue, with the goal of meeting the spiritual development of every student on our campuses, regardless of their faith background. Drawing upon our Benedictine values of hospitality, respect for persons, community living, and listening, we seek to create a space and programming where all students feel heard, understood, respected, and encouraged in their faith. We hope you will join us as we seek to highlight and celebrate the rich religious diversity we have on our campus.

ALTERNATIVE BREAK EXPERIENCE (ABE)

Due to the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic, we are sad to announce the suspension of our ABE program for the 2020-2021 academic year. In order to ensure the health and safety of our students, and the populations we are privileged to partner with, we will not be sending out any groups this year. However, CSB Campus Ministry remains committed to the spirit of ABE and the promotion of its 5 Pillars of Community, Social Justice, Intentional Living, Reflection, and Learning. We will continue to incorporate these pillars in our programming this year, and into the future. Please contact us at abe@csbsju.edu if you have any questions.
COME VISIT JESUS AT THE NEW

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Blessed Sacrament Chapel

New Chapel in Regina Hall for Students
CSB Campus Ministry is thrilled to announce the opening of our first ever Blessed Sacrament chapel in a residence hall! The chapel will be open to students for prayer 24/7; all students are encouraged to take advantage of this incredible opportunity and spend time with Jesus here. As Catholics, we believe that the Eucharist consecrated at Mass truly becomes the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus Christ. This means that the Lord Himself will literally be dwelling in the tabernacle waiting to spend time with YOU. One of the best ways to grow closer to Christ is to spend time with Him. Let us begin our academic year by accepting His invitation to relationship, and going to rest in His presence!

Located in the
REGINA HALL BASEMENT
Down the stairs and to the right
## Happening this month...

### September 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</td>
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<td>Labor Day (Mass will be held)</td>
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<td>Mary Monday 4:30pm</td>
<td>Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel (Regional Hall Residence)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Student Mass 4:30pm</td>
<td>Escher Auditorium</td>
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<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Mary Monday 4:30pm</td>
<td>Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel (Regional Hall Residence)</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Student Mass 4:30pm</td>
<td>Escher Auditorium</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Student Mass 4:30pm</td>
<td>Escher Auditorium</td>
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<td>Black BJ Begins</td>
<td>Mary Monday 4:30pm</td>
<td>Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel (Regional Hall Residence)</td>
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<td>Welcome Back Mass on the Mall</td>
<td>NOTE: Opening Mass will take place outside, on the mall at 7:00pm. Due to social distancing requirements, mass attendance will be limited to 250 persons.</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Other Events</td>
<td>Stay tuned to CSB Campus Ministry’s social media and the bulletin board for updates to this calendar. We hope to increase our events and programming as it becomes safe to do so!</td>
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### MORE INFO

- Sacrament of Reconciliation Before Student Mass: Each week before student Mass, Fr. Michael will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 3:45-4:15 in the RACT (room 3RD).
- Welcome Back Mass on the Mall
- Other Events: Stay tuned to CSB Campus Ministry’s social media and the bulletin board for updates to this calendar. We hope to increase our events and programming as it becomes safe to do so!
Benedictine Values Reflection: Community Living

FROM THE CAMPUS

By: CSB Senior, Emily Kling

It is apparent from the very first word that we are inherently relational creatures. One needs only to marvel at a sprawling cityscape, the emergence of the internet or the inner workings of monastic life to realize the need for human connection. Hearkening back to the Garden of Eden, God knew that it was unfitting for Adam to be alone, so God created Eve and united the couple in charity.

The Benedictine value of Community Living is a pattern of life that acknowledges the significance of unity. In Vita Consecrata, Pope John Paul II refers to human persons as "architects and witnesses to the plan of unity" because we are created for and from the Blessed Trinity. Community living is divinely ordained and inspired, but God also invites our cooperation to bear eternal fruit. The diverse and varied gifts we possess are designed for communion because our gifts abound when they are generously shared. Living in communion begets mission and therefore implies a sense of shared responsibility for the full accomplishment of God's unifying mission in the world.

Our residence halls, classrooms, and campuses are meant to embody the earnest call and commitment of the Universal Church: to live in loving communion with God and neighbor no matter the circumstance.

The pandemic will posit unforeseen challenges to forging and sustaining communion, but it cannot extinguish the significance of our mission on this earthly pilgrimage toward Heaven. Ultimately, let us exercise the Benedictine value of Community Living by allowing the charity of God to bring our diversity into one bond through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit so that we may continue on our mission with renewed zeal and unity.
FROM THE OFFICE

By: CSB Interim President, Laurie Hamen

At Saint Ben’s and Saint John’s, the Benedictine Value of community living is central to who we are, and we are so pleased to be back together in community on campus this fall.

Community living is a joy. As I moved back to the College of Saint Benedict this summer to become the college’s 16th president, my steps were invigorated by the prospect of living in community with young women who are critical thinkers, courageous leaders, and passionate advocates. I was and am proud to serve a college for women, which graduates women with honed academic skills, with a full understanding of their rights, and with tools to dismantle systems of privilege and oppression in our world. I was and am eager to lead within a community guided by the Benedictine Values, and enhanced by the prayer, love, and mission of our Benedictine founders. It is never lost upon me that Jesus intentionally chose twelve with whom he shared his life and ministry. Community is central to who we are and what we accomplish.

At the same time, community living is also a demanding value. Any new student who shares a room with a stranger, any staff member who shares a home with a partner or a family, or any sister who shares a living space with the same friend for seven decades, knows that it can be challenging to live with others. It requires great intentionality and effort, calling us to place the needs of others ahead of our own wants.

As we move back onto campus together during a global pandemic, community living requires all of us to act in ways unique to our time to ensure the health and safety of others. Wearing a mask, social distancing, and practicing good hygiene: these are acts of community care and community living. It is ironic and challenging that our value of community living can sometimes require us to stay home, rather than gather together, to protect one another.

Further, community living calls each of us to respond intentionally to calls for anti-racism and justice in our world. A community that welcomes can also exclude. While some find a home at Saint Ben’s and Saint John’s, some among us do not feel truly welcomed or at home here. Many examples of hurt and exclusion were shared on social media over the summer, and it is the responsibility of our entire community to do better. Community living calls each community member to reach out, to seek to understand difference, to question their own assumptions and values, and to remake the fabric of the community as needed to erase systems of power and oppression woven within its very shape.

It is a particular joy to be at Saint Ben’s and to live in profound community as we challenge ourselves to learn at the highest level, together. I am delighted to welcome you into this community of learning and to join you in the joyful, demanding, and blessed work of building it.
The desire to be part of a welcoming COMMUNITY is one of the top reasons why students select the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University as their #1 college choice. In a recent conversation with our oldest alumna, Josephine (Jo) Terwey who graduated from CSB in 1939 and is alive and very well at 104 years of age, she wholeheartedly agreed that already from the earliest days at our college, community has always been at the heart of what makes CSB/SJU so special. However, as you listen to this “virtual” conversation between two returning CSB/SJU students, you will become aware that although what’s at the heart and center of community may be the same, something has changed that was not ever imagined possible less than a year ago. Today, because of COVID-19, all of us will be tested on how seriously we are concerned about what we claim is so near and dear to us- our community. Learn more about this by eves-dropping in on this virtual conversation: “Please don’t worry, Meg, you know I’ve always got your back.” This was Jeff’s sincere reply when Megan shared that as eager as she was to get back to school, she was apprehensive because of all she had read and heard about how easily the COVID virus can spread particularly if groups of people aren’t careful and/or think it can’t affect them. Megan responded to Jeff’s promise “to have her back,” with “That means a lot to me, Jeff. I just hope that everyone will feel that way. I would think that if we all did this for one another, the chances of keeping our community safe will be so much greater.” If I had been there, I might have added, “Maybe this is a new description of the meaning of community - that of caring for one another by making prudent choices rather than choices that risk spreading the COVID virus because I am just thinking about myself.” Although our Interim Presidents, Drs. Laurie Hamen and Eugene McAllister may not have used Jeff’s exact words, “I’ve always got your back,” I believe they implied this in their messages to the students (and to all of us.). Dr. Hamen’s message spoke of community as “both a joy and a demanding value that requires great intentionality and effort - calling us to place the needs of others ahead of our wants.” Dr. McAllister referred to the SJU community as “the brotherhood that exists among the Johnnies and charges each to not just keep each other safe but to actually ‘be heroic.’” As you make decisions about your commitment to the contract you signed before coming back to school this summer, always remember that the welfare of each member of this community as well as your own may be at stake in the choices you make. May each of us take seriously Benedict’s exhortation found in the Rule of St. Benedict in verse 7 of chapter 72: “No one is to pursue what s/he judges better for her/himself, but instead, what s/he judges better for someone else.” RB 72:7
GET INVOLVED!

Fill out this quick form to get involved in our ministries.

FOLLOW US!   📸   😊

Instagram: @csbcampusministry
Facebook: CSB Campus Ministry

CONTACT US!

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