

Benedictine Spirituality: Syllabus for Deacon School, Year 1, 2020, 7-9 PM

PURPOSE: Begin the diaconal journey by integrating into prayer and practice the Benedictine Spirituality which undergirds Anglicanism in general and The Book of Common Prayer in particular.

HOPES & EXPECTATIONS for class preparations & final projects:

- As you read The Rev. Jane Tomaine's St. Benedict's Toolbox: The Nuts and Bolts of Everyday Living (*hereafter SB's Toolbox*) **create your "Toolbox"** for diaconal ministry— (1) **annotate** the book with focus on cultivating "tools" for deepening your spirituality; (2) **document** "tools" in a life-giving way for you in your '**prayer journal**' and begin to apply these tools in your life of prayer and ministry. (note: Appendix 88-90) (3) **talk about** your process – insights, inquiries, growing edges – with your supervising priest, with your spiritual director, **or** with a "spiritual friend" who is accompanying you on this diaconal journey. We'll also share with each other in our monthly class discussions. (4) By the end of Year 1 **create your own** one page "**Rule of Life**."
- **(1) Read & study** The Book of Common Prayer, Church Publishing, 1979 (*hereafter BCP*), BOTH analytically (head - *content focus*) AND spiritually (soul-*nurture & challenge focus*). Respectful of the "lens of worship" you have cultivated as a mature Christian, now intentionally cultivate a "diaconal lens" for knowing and appreciating the BCP. **(2) talk about** your process – insights, inquiries, growing edges – with your supervising priest, with your spiritual director, **or** with a "spiritual friend" who is accompanying you on this diaconal journey. We'll also share with each other in our monthly class discussions.
- **Select** one of the books listed at the end of this document, or suggest & get O.K.'d an alternate book on prayer, Benedictine spirituality, and/ or connecting prayer practice with living into our baptismal promises. For our final class, **(1)** both report on this book to our group, as if you were communicating with your parish, and **(2)** invite 'your parish' to read the book and join either a book group, adult forum, or some other offering:
 - **Option A: Write** a 'book review' (approximately 250-300 words) & an invitation for the book group, adult forum, or other offering for your church newsletter.
 - **Options B or C:** Either **Speak** a '2-4 minute' introduction or **Show** a '2-3 minute video' & handout an invitation for the book group, adult forum or other offering.NOTE: Email or provide hard copies of your work for the last gathering (depending on whether we're meeting in person or by Zoom).

Session #1 May 1, 2020 St. James – Bozeman

Preparation:

- **Read** The Rev. Jane Tomaine's St. Benedict's Toolbox: The Nuts and Bolts of Everyday Living (*SB's Toolbox*) Preface pp. vii-xv; 'Guide ...& Introduction' pp. 1-22; and Part 1, p.23, chapter 1 & Interlude pp. 24- 40. **Work on** your toolbox.

- Book of Common Prayer (BCP) **Study** services of Baptism & Confirmation, CLOSELY READ Baptismal Covenant. What connections can you make to SB's Toolbox ?

Class work:

- **Discuss** SB's Toolbox analytically (head - *content focus*) & spiritually (soul – *nurture focus*)
- **Share** your “Toolbox” & experience with the class.
- **Relate** chapter 1 of SB's Toolbox to BCP services of Baptism & Confirmation, esp. Baptismal Covenant

Session #2 June 5, 2020 *Either Zoom or I'll join you in Billings*

Preparation:

- **Read** SB's Toolbox chap. 2, pp. 41-56 & handout on **Lectio Divina**
- Continue to **work on** your “Toolbox” – (1) **annotating** SB's Toolbox with focus on cultivating “tools” for deepening your spirituality; (2) **document** “tools” in a life-giving way for you in your ‘prayer journal’ and begin to **apply tools** in your prayer life.
- BCP **Review** “The Daily Office—Rites I & II,” **thumb through** The Psalter, or Psalms of David” and **become acquainted with** “The Lectionary” for Sunday readings and the “Daily Office Lectionary.” **Research** “Revised Common Lectionary” & discover what it is and how it is used today.

Class work:

- **Discuss** SB's Toolbox reading analytically & spiritually.
- **Share** your “Toolbox” & experience with the class. (**Lectio Divina**)
- Relate SB's Toolbox, chapter 2 to BCP Daily Offices, the Psalter and Sunday Sabbath and Daily readings.

Session #3 July 17, 2020 Zoom

Preparation:

- **Read** SB's Toolbox Part II, pp. 57-58; chap.s 3 & 4, pp. 59-93.
- Continue to **work on** your “Toolbox.”
- In the BCP **become familiar** with The Great Litany & The Collects (Traditional & Contemporary); **read** The Catechism; and **thumb through** the “Historical Documents of the Church” – with a focus on “The Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral 1886, 1888.” **Research** the terms ‘ecumenism/ ecumenical’ & ‘interfaith / interreligious’ – and know the difference between them.

Class work:

- **Discuss** SB's Toolbox reading analytically & spiritually.
- **Share** your “Toolbox” & experience with the class.
- **Relate** chapters 3 & 4 of SB's Toolbox to The Great Litany, The Collects, the Catechism, & “Historical Documents of the Church.”
- **Discuss** “The Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral 1886, 1888” & its relevance to ecumenical &/or interfaith relationships you have with other houses of worship in your community.

Session #4 August 28, 2020 Zoom

Preparation:

- **Read** SB's Toolbox chapter 5, pp. 94-120; Part III, p. 21; Chapter 6, pp.122-143 & handout on Centering Prayer.
- Continue to **work on** your "Toolbox" . . .
- BCP Review Pastoral Offices . . . with a special focus on "Ministration at the Time of Death" & "Burial of the Dead" (both Rites I & II).

Class work:

- **Discuss** SB's Toolbox reading analytically & spiritually.
- **Share** your "Toolbox" & experience with the class. (If you do Centering Prayer share.)
- **Relate** SB's Toolbox, chapters 5 & 6 to "The Daily Office" (session #2) and the Pastoral Offices . . . with a special focus on "Ministration at the Time of Death" & "Burial of the Dead."

Session #5 September 11, 2020 St. Peter's — Helena

Preparation:

- **Read** SB's Toolbox chapters 7-8 pp. 144-180.
- Continue to **work on** your "Toolbox" . . .
- In the BCP review "The Holy Eucharist" with a focus on "a Penitential Order" (preceding the service) & on confession (within the service), the Prayers of the People & the Peace.

Class work:

- **Discuss** reading SB's Toolbox reading analytically & spiritually.
- **Share** your "Toolbox" & experience with the class. (Include 'Confession')
- **Relate** SB's Toolbox, chapters 7 & 8 to The Holy Eucharist – esp. confession & prayers.

Session #6 October 2, 2020 St. James — Bozeman

Preparation:

- Read SB's Toolbox chapter 9, pp. 181-205 and Interlude, pp.205-207.
- Continue to **work on** your "Toolbox" . . . **CREATE** draft 1 of your Rule of Life.
- In the BCP Review "Episcopal Services" (focusing on the Ordination of a Deacon) & "Prayers & Thanksgivings" ... consider work/life balance, power of prayer

Class work:

- **Discuss** reading SB's Toolbox reading analytically & spiritually.
- **Share** your "Toolbox" & experience with the class. (prayer)
- Relate chapter 9 to "Ordination of a Deacon" & "Prayers & Thanksgivings"

Session #7 November 6, 2020 St. Peter's — Helena

Preparation:

- **Read** SB's Toolbox chapters 10, 11, & 12.
- Using "Appendix A" continue to **work on** your "Toolbox" & **CREATE** draft 2 of your Rule of Life.
- Using "Appendix B" continue work on your Book presentation

Class work:

- **Discuss** reading SB's Toolbox reading analytically & spiritually.

- **Share** your “Toolbox” & experience with the class. **Talk about** all or part of draft 2 of your Rule of Life
- **Share** about your Book Presentation preparation.

Session #8 December 4, 2020 Either St. James – Dillon or Zoom

Preparation:

- Inspired by your study of Benedictine spirituality and the BCP, **finish writing** and **make copies** of (or email ahead for a Zoom class) your *final* draft of your Rule of Life.
 - Finish your preparation on your Book Presentation. Remember:
For our final class, **(1)** both report on this book to our group, as if you were communicating with your parish, and **(2)** invite members of ‘your parish’ to read the book and join either a book group, adult forum, or some other offering:
 - Option A: Write a ‘book review’ (approximately 250-300 words) & an invitation for the book group, adult forum, or other offering for your church newsletter.
 - Options B or C: Either **Speak** a ‘2-4 minute’ introduction or **Show** a ‘2-3 minute video’ & handout an invitation for the book group, adult forum or other offering.
- NOTE: Email or provide hard copies of your work for the last gathering (depending on whether we’re meeting in person or by Zoom).

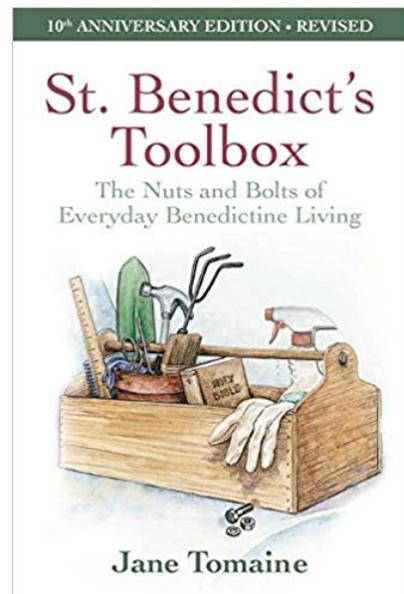
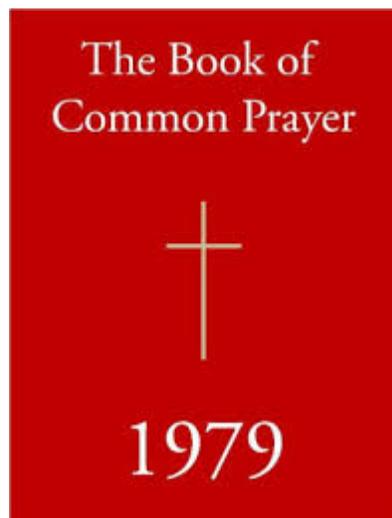
Class work:

- **Present** your one-page Rule of Life to the class.
- **Present** your Book Presentation offering.

Required Texts for Benedictine Spirituality:

The Book of Common Prayer, Church Publishing, 1979

St. Benedict’s Toolbox, Jane Tomaine – 10th Anniversary Edition-Revised, Morehouse Pub., © 2005, 2015



Select one of the following books, or request an alternate book

on prayer, Benedictine spirituality, The Book of Common Prayer, and/ or connecting prayer practice with living into our baptismal promises.

For our final class, [1] both report on this book to our group, as if you were communicating with your parish, and [2] invite them to read the book and join a book group, adult forum or other format. (See SB's Toolbox, Appendix B for ideas.)

- Write a 'book review' (approximately 250-300 words) for your church newsletter & an invitation describing the book group or adult forum.
- Either Speak a '2-4 minute' introduction or Show a '2-3 minute video' & handout an invitation for the book group, adult forum, or other kind of gathering.

NOTE: Email or provide hard copies (depending on whether we're meeting in person or by Zoom).

The following books all cover one or more of the following: Prayer, connecting prayer practice with living into our baptismal promises, Benedictine spirituality, and The Book of Common Prayer. ... You are also welcome to make alternate selections with Rev. Valerie's O.K..

- Joan Chittister's A Spirituality for the 21st Century: the Rule of Benedict
- Esther de Waal's Seeking God: the Way of St. Benedict has a few different covers.
- Joan Chittister's Wisdom Distilled from the Daily
- Margaret Guenther's (The New Church's Teaching Series, vol. 4) The Practice of Prayer
- Jeffrey Lee's Opening the Prayer Book
- C.K. Robertson's The Book of Common Prayer: A Spiritual Treasure Chest – Selections Annotated and Explained

