

The Love of Learning and the Desire for God.

- How can the Rule of Benedict (the 6th-century inspiration for the 16th century Book of Common Prayer) be a guidebook for parish and community life in a time when so many of our churches are in serious decline, where parishes are being closed or combined?
- How can Benedictine-Anglican spirituality help strengthen parish life as centres of prayer, learning, community and service?
- How can parish churches welcome seekers who have a deep and mostly unarticulated desire for God but are not able to connect their longing with what they normally see in a parish church?

The course will seek answers to these questions and engage students, both clergy and lay, in an imaginative design for a parish project.

Each participant should have access to a copy of Judith Suter, *St. Benedict's Rule; An Inclusive Translation* (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2021). Cost is \$19.50 at [Indigo](#), \$20.50 at [Amazon](#). ISBN 9780814688199, 8819

There is also an edition with daily commentary which would be helpful but more expensive: on sale at [Indigo](#) for \$32.95; [Amazon](#) \$36.00. ISBN 9780814688434

Each of the topics below begin with a quotation from St. Benedict

1. "A Little Rule for Beginners" – St. Benedict in the 21st Century
2. "The sleepy like to make excuses" – St. Benedict and the Book of Common Prayer
3. "Listen and attend with the ear of your heart" – Praying with Scripture (Lectio Divina)
4. "Guests should be received as Christ with all the courtesy of love" – Hospitality and Community
5. "Run while you have the light of life" – A Rule of Life for You
6. "Let them first pray together, so that they may associate in peace" – A Rule of Life for a Parish

Course dates

Thursdays 7:30-9:00pm

September 18th -October 23rd 2025

