

# THE MIRACLES OF ST. BENEDICT

## (3) Out of Solitude and Back Again

[adapted by Deacon Roy Goetz, from [The Dialogues, Book II](#) by [St. Gregory the Great](#)]



Even though Benedict kept to himself, word of his holiness spread throughout the countryside. One day, an entire community of monks came to visit him. (Tradition holds that they were from [Vicovaro](#).) Their abbot had recently died, and they wanted Benedict to take his place. He refused their request, saying that they would find his way of life too strict. But they persisted and finally Benedict agreed to be their abbot. The monks soon began to grumble and complain among themselves that Benedict's standards of prayer and discipline were too much for them. They resented his leadership and conspired to do away with him by poisoning his wine. At meal time, the monks presented the wine to Benedict for his blessing. As he made the [Sign of the Cross](#) over the pitcher of poisoned wine, it shattered as if struck by a stone. Unshaken, Benedict gathered the community and said, "May God have mercy on you. Why did you conspire to do this? Did I not tell you that my way of life would not harmonize with yours?" Benedict left that place to return to his life of solitude.

Windows—*St. Benedict Church, Subiaco, Arkansas, USA*

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