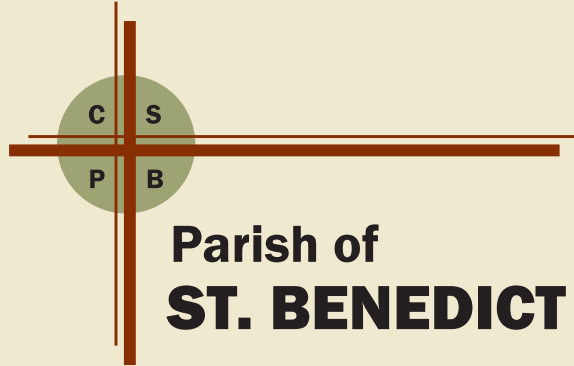


THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD  
DECEMBER 25, 2011

“THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS,  
AND THE DARKNESS HAS NOT OVERCOME IT.”

- JOHN 1:5



Parish of  
**ST. BENEDICT**

*“where all are welcome”*

16223 S. 48th Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85048

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**www.stbenedict.org**

*Parish Office:* 480.961.1610

*Fax:* 480.961.1794

*St. John Bosco Catholic School:* 480.219.4848

Monday- Thursday 9 am - 5 pm  
Friday 9 am - 3 pm  
Closed Daily 12 pm - 1 pm

**Schedule of Masses:**

*Weekends:*

Saturday 5 pm

Sunday 9 am, 11 am, 5 pm

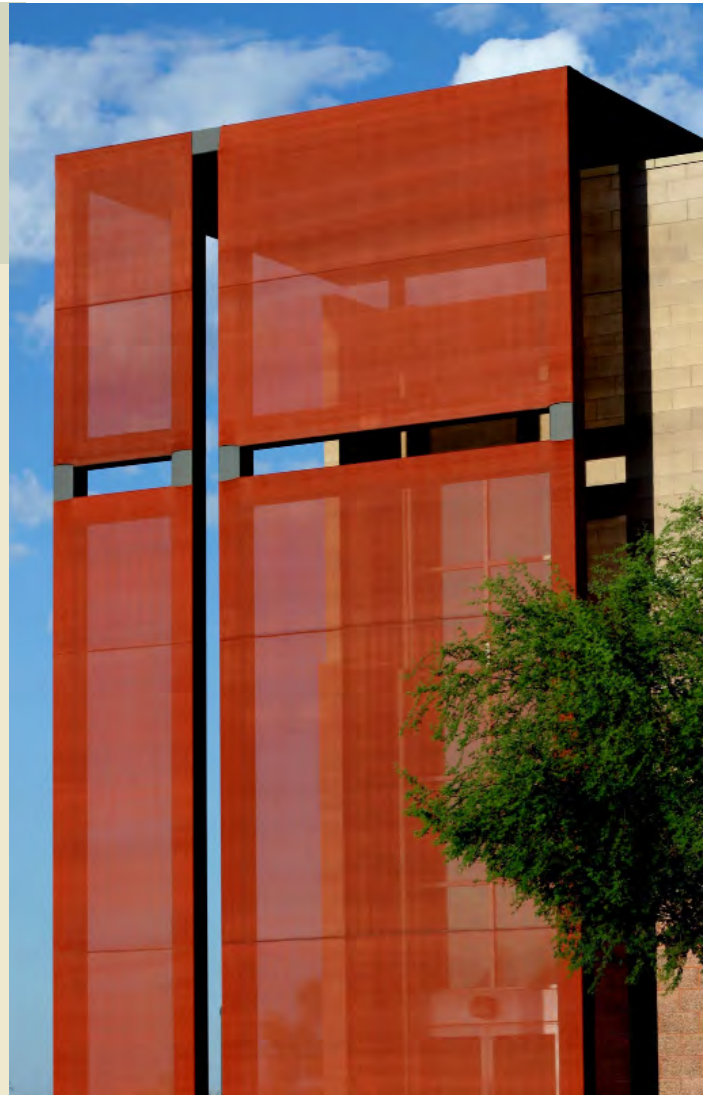
Spanish 1 pm (last Sunday of the month)

*Weekdays:*

Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 8:15 am

**Reconciliation:**

Saturday 3:30 pm or by appointment



**Parish Mission Statement**

*We are a Catholic faith community that recognizes God's presence in all and we respond with our lives.*

**Parish Vision Statement**

*Build the Kingdom of God, individually and communally, by fostering discipleship and thanksgiving through:*

- *the celebration of Eucharist and other sacraments*
- *prayer and lifelong Catholic formation*
- *service with and for one another and the greater community*

## OFFICE CLOSED

Please note that our office will be closed on **Monday, December 26 and January 2**. Also, the office will close at 1 pm on **Friday, December 23 and the week between Christmas and New Year's**. For emergencies requiring a priest, please call our emergency line at 480.961.1610 ext. 7. Thank you.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 12/25/2011

**Monday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22  
**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18  
**Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35  
**Friday:** Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40  
**Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18  
**Sunday:** Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

## PRESIDER SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

5 pm - Fr. Gary

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

9 pm - Fr. Gary

11 pm - Fr. Gary

5 pm - Fr. Joe Hennessy

“*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*”

- *Isaiah 7:14*

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, 12/25 • 9 am • People of the Parish

Monday, 12/26 • 8:15 am • Gerard Vinarosky †

Tuesday, 12/27 • 8:15 am • Clarence & Sylvia Vlcheck †

Wednesday, 12/28 • 8:15 am • George Doran †

Friday, 12/30 • 8:15 am • Gene Robertson Sr. †

Saturday, 12/31 • 5 pm • Bart Boyer †

Sunday, 1/1 • 9 am • People of the Parish  
 11 am • Manuel Justiniani Relatos †  
 5 pm • Anthony Loh & Cheah Siew Kim †

## CONTRIBUTIONS

December Collection (excludes online):

- Weekly	\$19,492
- Monthly	\$36,492

Debt Reduction:

- Weekly	\$1,599
- Monthly	\$5,719

Monthly Mortgage Payment: \$23,005

Loan Balance: \$2,056,291

Immaculate Conception: \$1,472

Retirement Fund - Priestst/Religious \$1,886

## ADORATION

The next First Friday Adoration will be held on **January 6 and 7**. Adoration begins at 2 pm on Friday and runs through the night until 9 am on Saturday morning. All are welcome to participate.

## A Message from the Pastor



Hey now,

Merry Christmas! What a time of rejoicing! Our journey through Advent has segued into the beautiful Christmas season that is filled with light and hope. It has been a busy time with all that preparing a way for the Lord, and making straight a pathway for our God. As we know sometimes those roads that we find ourselves on in our journey of faith are fairly easy to level out. However, it happens as well that those roads are filled with a good old Chicago break-your-axle pothole. It takes a little more elbow grease, but with our willingness and the grace of God we fill in those ruts quite well.

Now that all that work is completed hopefully we will take a little time to enjoy the fruits of our labor instead of rushing into the coming season and new year. Rather, may we still take some quiet time and relish in the peace that the Prince of Peace brings. While radio stations may not play Christmas carols after December 25, we can always pop in an 8-track (does anyone still actually have any of these), let that stylus gently waft down upon an album, or simply plug our iPod into its port and blast that tear-jerker, "Grandma got run over by a reindeer." Maybe also we will resist the temptation to stay away from the still-crowded stores and instead open up a new book, have a steaming cup of chai tea (with soymilk of course), and just be without doing.

After all we need to allow that energy to build and those muscles to heal for we have a great deal of work to do. Yes it may not be the same as in Advent, but just because we have journeyed into a new season it doesn't mean that our mission has changed. Now that we have again celebrated the birth of Christ into our hearts and through us into the world we need to ensure that others will not only hear the joyful proclamations, but will feel God's love. At this time of year, even with the many beautiful images that our Catholic tradition offers, I cannot help but be drawn to a quote from Mohandas Gandhi. With these simple words this man of non-violence and peace tells us of the power that the incarnation and birth of Jesus the Christ brings to the world.

"If Christians would really live according to the teachings of Christ, as found in the Bible, all of the world would be Christian today."

(First of all may Gandhi forgive me as I took the liberty to change his quote, but can imagine he just may agree with such a change. He used the word 'India' and I replaced it with the phrase 'the world.')

This may be hard to picture as we see the world deeply divided along racial, ethnic, sexist and religious lines (just to mention a few). However, Gandhi's quote speaks of the magnitude and awe that the birth of Jesus the Christ brought, and brings, to the world. The power comes not from a throne of judgment or authority, but from a crib made from an animal's water trough. The immensity of that love shines not from a transcendent God that is beyond the universe, but with the immanence of a God born one like us in all things but sin. The change that the child will come to preach is not from fear imposed upon another, but the simple invitation to live according to the teachings of our brother and Savior.

May this Christmas season be for you, your family, your friends, those you now call enemies, and those you have never met before a time that is filled with peace, hope, joy, unity and love. And may the birth of Christ that has changed our world yet again with His presence this day, change the world through us with the compassion of our newborn King.

In the Peace of our newborn Savior,  
Fr. Gary

## PARISH MISSION JANUARY 8-10

Please join us for a parish mission to start off the New Year! Fr. Pat Brennan will be coming to speak about the Evangelizing Parish, and trust us, he should know! He took his small parish, Holy Family in Chicago, to one with 140 ministries, all geared towards evangelization!

Fr. Pat Brennan, director, served for more than a decade as Director of the Office of Evangelization of the Archdiocese of Chicago.



Fr. Pat continued the emphasis on evangelization as pastor of Holy Family Catholic Community, Inverness, IL, creating a convergence model of ministry with eight divisions and 140 individual ministries all focused on evangelization. He has consulted on parish renewal strategies throughout the United States, as well as with dioceses in Canada, Ireland, Germany, Great Britain and Australia.

He is on the faculty of the Loyola Institute of Pastoral Studies, Chicago, Dominican University and several other academic institutions. Fr. Pat has authored more than 15 books, articles and audio series, including *The Mission Driven Parish* and *Re-Imaging the Parish*. He also produces *Horizons*, a weekly radio and cable TV program.

**L**oving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. *Amen*



## WHY MIDNIGHT MASS?

An old joke asks, "What time is Midnight Mass?" The answer is not really obvious, since Christmas is unique in having several distinct celebrations. The readings and prayers vary greatly from hour to hour. The Vigil Mass hinges on the family heritage of Jesus and his origins. The concept of "midnight" predates clock time, and really has to do with a celebration in the hours of darkness.

Years ago, it was not possible to receive Communion without fasting for a full day, so the late hour of this Mass made it possible for the people to receive. The first Mass after sunrise, the Mass at Dawn, was once known as "The Shepherds' Mass," and later Masses set aside stories of Jesus' birth to focus on the key to the day's celebration: John the Evangelist's majestic theology of Christ's identity as the Word made flesh, dwelling among us.

One feast, four separate Masses. Only monasteries manage the whole round. Parishioners typically take just one entry point into the mystery. Yet there is much to savor and celebrate in the coming of Christ into the world. Christmas is not a day, but a season. You still have two weeks to send those Christmas cards before you're officially late!

- James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

*“Be loving, be kind, be charitable.  
Connect, serve, and place  
God at the center of your life...”*

- Fr. Pat Brennan



## FAITH FORMATION

Sr. Colleen Braun • *Director*  
 Diane Orban • *Sacraments*  
 Patrick Mooney • *Youth Ministry*  
 Mary Ziebell • *Administrative Assistant*

### INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHURCH?

Have you been thinking about joining the Catholic Church? Have you been baptized in another Christian Tradition or have questions on what it would take to become Catholic? Inquiry, the first step in joining the Catholic Church gathers those interested to a place where they can find answers, and grow in their faith and spirituality. Entrance to the Inquiry process is open year round. When you are ready, we welcome you to join us on Sunday mornings from 10-11 am twice each month. We will meet in the conference room of St. John Bosco School. Contact Diane at [dorban@stbenedict.org](mailto:dorban@stbenedict.org) or 480.961.1610 ext. 303 for more information and to register.

### JOURNEY OF FAITH FOR FAMILIES

Recognizing that the family is the domestic Church and parents are the first and foremost teachers of the faith for their children we, at St. Benedict, are here to aid parents in this awesome task by offering catechesis for all levels of children and adults. The program for parents and their children from Preschool through Grade 5 begins with the scripture for the upcoming Sunday. Children are involved in age appropriate activities which bring home the message of the passage. Each one grows in their understanding of Scripture and of the teachings of our Church. The program is held on Tuesday nights from 6:15 to 7:45 pm at SJB. Registration is required.

*“Baptism is an outward expression of an inward faith.”*

*- Watchman Nee*

### SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

If you have a child in Second grade or older who would like to celebrate First Reconciliation during Lent, please contact Diane at 480.961.1610 ext. 303 or [dorban@stbenedict.org](mailto:dorban@stbenedict.org). Registration forms will be available in the lobby information center.



### BAPTISM PREPARATION

The next set of baptism preparation classes will be held on **Sunday, January 15 and 22** from 12:30-2 pm. Please register for these sessions prior to attending by contacting Diane at 480.961.1610 ext. 303 or [dorban@stbenedict.org](mailto:dorban@stbenedict.org).

Confirmation/First Holy Communion: facilitators of the groups and single families are invited to gather on **January 25** at 6 pm in Room 3 to plan for the Family Gathering on February 5. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

**SPRING SEMESTER DATES TO REMEMBER**

**January 15**  
*Youth Ministry*

**January 17**  
*Journey of Faith for Families*

**January 18**  
*Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*

### FF QUICK LINKS

[stbenedict.org/christian-formation/](http://stbenedict.org/christian-formation/)  
[stbenedict.org/sacraments/](http://stbenedict.org/sacraments/)

Young church, find us on Facebook at **St. Benedict YM**. We will keep you updated on upcoming events and dive deeper into our faith discussions.





## STUDENTS COLLECT PAJAMAS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

Over 320 sets of new pajamas were collected by students for “Jamma Jingles,” an annual pajama drive to benefit children this Christmas season. Magical Builders, a nonprofit organization in Scottsdale, sponsors the annual pajama drive. This is the third year that St. John Bosco students have participated in the Jamma Jingles pajama drive. Christy Frank, Executive Director, says “I am indeed grateful for the generosity shown by the St. John Bosco students and their families in collecting so many new pajamas for needy children. I know that the children would say “thank you” for thinking of us.” Magical Builders will distribute the pajamas to Catholic Charities, Central Arizona Shelter Services, Crisis Nursery, and Florence Crittenton – to name just a few.



*Displaying the hundreds of new pajamas collected for the Jamma Jingles PJ drive are St. John Bosco Catholic students: (front row, left to right) Simone L., Sloan S., Sadie L., Jack L., Collin D., and Bella G. Back row, left to right: Tyler D., Noah D., Heidi Davis (coordinator of the project), Roman D., and Michael L.*

## SAVE THE DATE JANUARY 29

At the heart of St. John Bosco Catholic School is the commitment to build a community where deep faith is formed and dynamic leaders are born. We focus on the development of the whole child by nurturing their spiritual, academic, moral, emotional and physical needs while providing for the overall well-being of each student. You are cordially invited to attend our Open House to speak with teachers, students and parents. Campus tours and enrollment information will be available. Stop by **Sunday, January 29** between 10 am and 12 pm and find out why we love our school and community!



## BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. GARY

Come join us as we continue the journey through the book of Acts. Mark your calendar now for the following Monday evenings at 6:45-7:45 pm in the worship space.

- January 23
- February 6
- March 5
- March 19

Please note that we will not have Bible Study on **January 9**, please join us for the parish mission with Fr. Pat Brennan.

**WHAT IS FAITH FORMATION?** Through the Catholic Church, God invites all people into a prayerful life of worship, continuous learning, intentional outreach, advocacy and service. At the parish of St. Benedict we offer many opportunities in our Faith Formation programs that help people develop and nurture their faith from preschool through adulthood. Each program offers catechesis to help us hear the Word of God, to honor the Good News of the risen Christ, to respond to the needs of the community and to reflect our diversity and culture as we discover together what it is like to be a loving and witnessing community.



## PARISH WISH LIST

All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth... Okay, the parish does not have 2 front teeth, but there are a few things some of the staff are wishing for. Below is a list of items that have been requested from various ministries that were unable to be included in our budget. If you plan to make an end-of-year gift please consider underwriting the purchase of one or more of the needed items below. Your gift would be very much appreciated.

1. \$150 Table storage carts. This will make life so much easier for all who use the tables for meetings and such. (2 requested)
2. \$200 Electric piano for recording music (MIDI controller)
3. \$500 Adobe Creative Suite with 1 license, for use in the Music, Administrative & Marketing Ministries. Who says church folks can't be creative.
4. \$500 Apple iPad2 for use with projection system during liturgy, so we can all sing along during mass.
5. \$500-800 Wireless microphone for Fr. Gary/Deacon, so we can all hear the Word of God more clearly.
6. \$350-\$400 Commercial vacuum cleaner for use in the worship space and office. Cleanliness is next to Godliness.
7. \$2000-\$3500 Large Nativity figures for the worship space. Currently our figures do not have all their fingers and toes...

If you would like to speak with someone regarding other end-of-year giving options, please feel free to call our Development Director, Suzanne. She can be reached in the office at 480.961.1610 ext 308 or at 602.818.4790.



## PAX CHRISTI

This is the time of year for beautiful worship services. But does Jesus want us to merely worship Him, or to follow Him? How can we best follow Him? His words and actions tell us much.

The Pax Christi group here at St. Benedict explores these issues along with the tradition of Christian nonviolence. Meetings are held monthly on the 4th Wednesday of every month, and always consist of prayer, study, and action. Everyone is welcome. Our next meeting is **Wednesday, December 28**, at 7 pm at the church. If you would like more information visit [www.paxchristiusa.org](http://www.paxchristiusa.org) or contact Dave at 480.889.4676.



## KNIGHTLY NEWS

**New Year's Eve Block Party** - Spend New Year's Eve with the Knights of Columbus. Sign up to help take tickets at the Tempe Block Party. This fundraiser supports Knights of Columbus Charities. Time slots are 4 to 8:30 pm and 8 to 12:30 pm. To sign up visit [bit.ly/vfbp06](http://bit.ly/vfbp06) or contact Dave at 480.628.7778 [david.carrera@cox.net](mailto:david.carrera@cox.net).

**Coats for Kids** - Thank you to all of the Knights who donated coats for the kids of clients at the St. Vincent de Paul Unger Dining Hall. Thanks to your generosity, many kids will have coats to keep them warm during these winter months.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

*www.stbenedict.org*

Office: 480.961.1610 • Fax: 480.961.1794  
After Hours Emergency: 480.961.1610 Ext. 7

**Father Gary Regula • Pastor**  
frgary@stbenedict.org • Ext. 305

**Jack Benware • Deacon**  
deaconjb@aol.com • Ext. 300

**Doug Davaz • Deacon**  
dcndoug@stbenedict.org • Ext. 300

Mary Jane Livens • Business Manager  
mlivens@stbenedict.org • Ext. 304

Sr. Colleen Braun • Director of Faith Formation  
srcolleen@stbenedict.org • Ext. 302

Nicki Myers • Administrative Assistant  
nmyers@stbenedict.org • Ext. 300

Mary Ziebell • Formation Assistant  
mziebell@stbenedict.org • Ext. 309

Patrick Mooney • Youth Ministry  
pmooney@stbenedict.org • Ext. 307

Diane Orban • Adult/Sacraments  
dorban@stbenedict.org • Ext. 303

Tyler Bartlett • Music Coordinator  
music@stbenedict.org • Ext. 311

Larry Kraus • Liturgy Coordinator  
lkraus@stbenedict.org • Ext. 301

Suzanne Percy • Director of Development  
spercy@stbenedict.org • Ext. 308

## St. John Bosco Catholic School

*www.sjbosco.org*

Shelley Conner • Principal  
480.219.4848

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2011

Merry Christmas!

- Christmas Day Mass - 9 am

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2011

- Office Closed

- St. Vincent de Paul - 6:30 pm (SJB Art room)

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2011

- Office Closes at 1 pm

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2011

- Office Closes at 1 pm
- Pax Christi - 7 pm

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2011

- Office Closes at 1 pm
- Choir Rehearsal - 7 pm

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2011

- Office Closes at 1 pm

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2011

- No Events

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2012

Happy New Year!

- Little Church - 9 am (SJB)
- Liturgy of the Word with Children - 9 am

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## BULLETIN ARTICLES

The submission deadline for bulletin articles is **9 am on Fridays two weeks prior to the print date**. Articles can be emailed to Nicki Myers at *nmyers@st.benedict.org*.

All articles submitted are subject to edits and are used at the discretion of St. Benedict staff.