



2025-2026 Annual Report

St. Benedict Catholic Church is a welcoming and vibrant family of believers located in the Phoenix community of Ahwatukee in Arizona. We are a Catholic faith community that recognizes the presence of God in all through love and service.





Pastor's Address

Dear Friends,



It is with great joy and gratitude that I present to you the Annual Pastoral and Finance Report for St. Benedict Catholic Church and St. John Bosco Catholic School for the fiscal year 2025-2026. God has been faithful to us and we must respond to His Gracious benevolence with thankful hearts. You, our beloved Parishioners, have been amazing in actively building the Kingdom of God in our faith community and for this I am very grateful.



We are immensely grateful to Frs. James Aboyi and Augustine Acheme who began the fiscal year with us, then handed over to Fr. Emmanuel and I a thriving faith community built of solid foundations. The tremendous growth and progress we have made within the fiscal year under review is a direct result of your cooperation with them to hand on the baton of the heavenly race to us. We are grateful that, with your unwavering support, our Parish has witnessed a noticeable upsurge in active participation of parishioners in liturgical activities. The number of registered parishioners has increased significantly from 2,500 families to 3,202 families. This past year, we achieved unprecedented attendance at First Friday Adoration and Benediction which now has vespers. We witnessed a renewed zeal and commitment to service in the various ministries in our parish with the addition of four new ministries to our increasing list of ministries that serve the parish community. This year also marked the much needed transformation of the 5:00 pm Mass on Sunday to a Teen and Young Adult Mass that is growing at a stable rate. In addition, we recorded an increase in Mass attendance and growth in the Hispanic Ministry of our parish.



With your kind and generous increase in giving, our parish has been able to not only be up-to-date in paying the interest accruing from our mortgage, but we have also made progress at chipping away at the principal. This year, we received \$133,421 from the 4th Sunday Mortgage Support collection, all of which was paid towards the loan principal. One other area I would remain grateful to everyone at St. Benedict is in the noticeable increase in giving to the Via Christi Society (\$25,270) which has trained the priests working in our parish. Although our parish ended the year in a slight deficit of \$14,981.88, we are extremely grateful that given the circumstances under which the budget was implemented, we did far better than expected. This can be attributed to your generosity and in managing our operational expenses.





It has been a glorious tale at St. John Bosco, our Catholic School, where we recorded significant accomplishments. During this fiscal year, St John Bosco was deservedly designated a Blue Ribbon School and, as one of our students described it, “we are the best school in the nation.” This accomplishment would not have been remotely possible without the hard work and sacrifice of all members - our incredible Principal Mrs. Jamie Bescak, the faculty and staff, our amazing students, committed parents and the prayers and support of our parish community. As I introduce this report, St. John Bosco has hit a record 481 students in a school year during which we shall celebrate 25 years of service to faith and community. We look forward in hope for greater accomplishments to the glory of God.

As we express our gratitude to God for all these blessings, we must not forget to thank our amazing staff who have made tremendous sacrifices to keep our Parish afloat. The staff have twice had to work without a Parish Manager who is absolutely essential for the smooth operation of the Parish. During such times, members of staff came together to fill in effectively for our lack, and supply our needs. To all the staff I say thank you most sincerely, as your Pastor I would not trade you for any other team. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our Finance and Pastoral councils who have been instrumental in everything we do at St Benedict. I thank again the Principal, faculty and staff of St. John Bosco for their commitment to duty, I thank our Deacons for their sacrifice and service, I thank the various ministries for giving back talent and time to God through service to the Church and I thank every one of you beloved Parishioners, for your faith in God, love of your Church and communion with one another. As we journey with the Lord in another fiscal year, I pray that we may receive even greater blessings and graces, and may we witness more ardently to the Gospel values by sharing with and caring for each other.

Please be kind and may God bless you.

Rev. Manasseh Iorchir, V.C.
Pastor

The Parish at a Glance

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19)



3,202 Families



16 Catechists



39 Baptisms



50 Confirmations



52 First Holy Communions



4 Weddings

Pastoral Care in Numbers



149 Healing Mass Anointing



114 Sick-Calls/Anointing



19 Funerals



520 Home-Bound Visits & 3,900 Mass
Attendance at Senior Housing
Communities

Ministries and Outreach



32 Active Ministries



Over 400 Volunteers



VBS

78 Children and over 30 Youth
and Adult Volunteers

St Vincent de Paul

The St. Vincent de Paul Society puts faith into action by feeding, clothing, housing and healing those in need. St. Benedict Catholic Church is fortunate to have an on-site food pantry that served over 1700 people within our parish boundaries last year. Our Conference also provided 237 bags of food during our Thanksgiving event, coordinated sponsors for 30 families during our Adopt-A-Family program, and participated in an evening meal service at our downtown dining room. The support of our parish and school community makes all this important work possible. Thank you for your kindness.

116	Home Visits
3,271	Volunteer Hours
1,845	Bags Distributed
\$41,964	Value of Food Distributed
\$87,315	Shelter Assistance Provided
\$28,103	Utilities & Transportation Assistance
\$134,646	Total Donations <i>(includes SVDP Partners)</i>

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus assists our parish priests, empowers Catholic men to live their faith at home, in their parish, at work and in their community, while engaging in charitable works to benefit the less fortunate. The Knights actively emphasize the principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism in its activities. We also provide financial protection and support for members and their families. The Knights provide Catholic inspired leadership and continuing education to our members and their families about the Catholic faith and with opportunities to show that leadership by identifying opportunities at St. Benedict in support of our priests and our parish congregation.

Fundraising:

\$14,500	Total Funds Donated
95	Coats Donated
3	Parish Blood Drives
2	Food Drives
1	CPR Training
1	Family Adopted at Christmas
2	Family Promise Host events
4	Adopt-a-street clean ups

Recipients of Donations:

\$7,800	St. Vincent de Paul
\$1,000	St. Benedict Mortgage Collection
\$1,000	Hand of Christ Uganda Mission
\$1,000	Epiphany Chapel Project Camp.
\$500	Via Christi Society
\$400	Family Promise
\$831	AZ Rosary Celebration
\$500	St. John Bosco Gala
\$400	Eleni's Promise
\$500	Chandler Gilbert Arc
\$500	American Wheelchair Mission
\$500	Andre House
\$500	St. Joseph's Youth Camp
\$500	Christ Child Society
\$500	Maggie's Place
\$500	Mana House
\$500	Ryan House
\$500	Suzy Foundation
\$271	Awards to Various Youth Activities

Parish Financials

Income Statement Fiscal Year Ended June 2026:		Actual	Budget
Total Revenue		\$1,407,544	\$1,688,100
Offertory Income (Cash, Checks, Online Giving)		\$1,006,607	\$930,000
Other Income (Fundraising, Gift Shop, Other Donations)		\$400,937	\$758,100
Total Expenses (Personnel, Facilities, Depreciation, Events, Gift Shop, Diocesan Assessments, Interest Expense)		<u>\$1,422,526</u>	<u>\$1,497,557</u>
Net Income (Deficit)		(\$14,982)	\$190,543
Capital Spend		\$3,622	\$30,000
Mortgage:			
Church Construction Loan		\$4,500,000	
Loan Balance on June 30,2026		\$4,056,762	
Principal Payment		\$258, 596	
Paid from Monthly 2nd Collection		\$133,421	
Paid from Operating Funds (Scheduled Payments)		\$125,175	
Interest Payment		<u>\$176,304</u>	
Loan Payments during FY 2025-2026:		\$434,900	

Diocesan Appeals and Special Collections:				
Charity and Development Appeal (CDA)			Special Collections	
	Actual	Goal	Church in Africa	\$872
			Church in Latin America	\$280
Total Raised	\$111,141	\$99,844	Catholic Missions	\$300
Number of Donors	241	225	Catholic Relief Services	\$990
			Catholic University	\$126
			Communications	\$506
Missions Appeal:			Retirement Fund Priests/Religious	\$656
Via Christi Society	\$25,270		Holy Land	\$1,861
			Mission Sunday	\$305
			Native Am & Black Mission	\$236
			Peter's Pence	\$400

St. John Bosco Catholic School

The 2025–2026 school year was another remarkable year of growth, achievement, and faith-filled community at St. John Bosco Catholic School. Guided by our mission and strengthened by the support of our families, faculty, staff, parish, and community, SJB continued to thrive academically, spiritually, and operationally.

Enrollment & School Community

- Enrollment continued to grow throughout the school year, reaching **458 students**.
- SJB continued to maintain an **exceptionally high student retention rate**, reflecting the strength and stability of our school community.
- Our school continued to benefit from the **high retention of our dedicated and talented faculty and staff**, providing consistency and a strong foundation for our students.

Awards & Recognition

- St. John Bosco Catholic School was named a **2025 National Blue Ribbon School**, the **only private school in Arizona** to receive this prestigious national recognition in 2025.
- SJB was also recognized as an **Arizona Blue Ribbon School**, becoming the **first private school to receive both National and Arizona Blue Ribbon recognition in 2025**.
- In the *Best of Ahwatukee* awards, SJB received top honors for:
 - **Best Preschool**
 - **Best Principal**
- SJB was also named **Reader Recommended** for:
 - **Best Private School**
 - **Best Place to Work**
 - **Sandra Heffron** was recognized as **Reader Recommended – Best Middle School Teacher**.
 - **Seth Tyler** was recognized as **Reader Recommended – Best Elementary School Teacher**.

Academic Excellence

- Our students continued to demonstrate outstanding academic achievement on the **Iowa Assessment**, consistently performing well above national averages in the **85th percentile**.
- When compared with other Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Phoenix, **SJB ranked among the top five schools in grades 1–8**.
- Our **8th-grade students ranked #1 in the Diocese**, further demonstrating SJB's commitment to academic excellence and preparing students for success in high school and beyond.

Faith, Service & Outreach

- Faith remained at the heart of the SJB experience as students participated in **weekly Mass, prayer, retreats, sacramental preparation, service opportunities, and other faith-filled traditions** throughout the year.
- SJB introduced a new schoolwide service initiative, **Dollars for Dreams: Building Brighter Futures in Nigeria**, providing our students with another meaningful opportunity to live our mission through service to others.

Facilities & Technology Improvements

- Through careful stewardship and the generosity of our school community, numerous campus and technology improvements were completed during the 2025–2026 school year:
- New and upgraded water fountains and refill stations
- Renovated PE restrooms
- Repainting of the green wrought-iron fencing surrounding the school, including exterior trim and doors
- MPR painting and new Schoolwide Learning Expectation (SLE) banners
- New misting system for the Preschool playground
- Replacement of two air-conditioning units
- Installation of new Sensi thermostats schoolwide
- New shade structure over the lower court
- New swing set with an attached shade structure
- New Gaga Ball pits
- Updated Android module boxes to support classroom technology
- Launch of the Rosco Welcome Hub, a custom visitor sign-in website/app created specifically for SJB by Mr. Macdonald to enhance our visitor management process

St. John Bosco Catholic School (cont.)

Community & Traditions

Our school community continued to celebrate the traditions that make SJB such a special place. Our beautiful campus served as a gathering place for many beloved events, including:

- Back-to-School Family Mass & Ice Cream Social
- Bosco Gala
- School and Parish Harvest Fest
- Running with Rosco
- “Christmas on 48th Street” Christmas Program
- Catholic Schools Week
- Father-Daughter Dance
- Mother-Son Kickball
- Birdies Fore Bosco Golf Tournament & End-of-Year Bosco Bash
- Began meeting with parents for “Coffee with the Pastor & Principal”

These events strengthened the partnership among our **school, parish, and families** while building community and supporting the mission of St. John Bosco Catholic School.

Fundraising & Stewardship

- The Bosco Gala raised approximately \$156,000.
- Running with Rosco raised approximately \$52,200.
- Birdies Fore Bosco raised approximately \$26,000.
- The generosity of our families, parishioners, sponsors, and community partners made all of the facility and technology improvements listed above possible and allowed us to continue investing directly in the educational experience of our students.

The accomplishments of the 2025–2026 school year reflect the continued growth of St. John Bosco Catholic School and the unwavering support of our faculty, staff, parents, parishioners, and greater community. We are deeply grateful for the many ways our parish continues to pray for, support, and partner with our school.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to providing a nurturing, faith-filled environment where **Catholic identity, academic excellence, service, and the development of the whole child** remain at the heart of our mission.

With gratitude,

Jamie Bescak, M.Ed.

Principal

St. John Bosco Catholic School

School Financials

Fiscal Year Ended June 2026:

	Actual	Budget
Total Revenue (Tuition, Fundraising, Club & Activity Fees)	\$4,085,009	\$3,891,097
Total Expenses (Personnel, Facilities, Depreciation, Fundraising Expense, Club & Activity Expense)	<u>\$3,956,066</u>	<u>\$3,889,723</u>
Net Income	\$128,943	\$1,374
Capital Spend	\$416,549	\$382,360