May 24, 2020

The Ascension of the Lord

“He was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.”
~ Acts 1:9

Parish Mission Statement

We are a vibrant and welcoming Catholic faith community that recognizes God’s presence in all through our love and service.

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.

Upcoming Events

For a complete calendar of events, please visit stbenedict.org/calendar

Monday, 5/25
Memorial Day Holiday (Office Closed)
8:15 am | Mass

Tuesday, 5/26
8:15 am | Mass

Wednesday, 5/27
8:15 am | Mass

Office Hours

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

Mass Schedule

Weekends: Saturday 5 pm
Sunday 9 and 11 am
Weekdays: M - F 8:15 am

Reconciliation
Sat 3:30-4:30 pm, in Church

Mass Intentions

Sunday, 5/24/2020
9 am | People of the Parish
11 am | Betty Swearingen †
Genny Anthony †

M 5/25 | Darlene Sumptner (living)
Tu 5/26 | Daniela Fimbres (living)
W 5/27 | Nathan Smack †
Th 5/28 | Hortensia Arvizu †
F 5/29 | Dennis Lecaine †
Sat 5/30 | Thomas Baumgartner (living)
**Liturgy & Administration**

**Scripture Readings**

*For This Week*

**Monday:** Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 5/25 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Jn 16:29-33

**Tuesday:** Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 5/26 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a

**Wednesday:** Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 5/27 33-36ab; Jn 17:11b-19

**Thursday:** Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Jn 17:20-26

**Friday:** Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 5/29 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19

**Saturday:** Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; 5/30 Ps 11:4, 5, 7; Jn 21:20-25

**Sunday:** Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 5/31 29-31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

(Pentecost Sunday)

**Presider Schedule***

*the Week of
May 25-31*

- **Monday** 8:15 am - Fr. James
- **Tuesday** 8:15 am - Fr. Wilfred
- **Wednesday** 8:15 am - Fr. James
- **Thursday** 8:15 am - Fr. Wilfred
- **Friday** 8:15 am - Fr. Wilfred
- **Saturday** 5 pm - Fr. Wilfred
- **Sunday** 9 am - Fr. James
  11 am - Fr. James
  5 pm - Fr. Wilfred

*Please note: this schedule is subject to change without notice.

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**Parish Contributions**

*Regular Contributions - Week of May 11-17, 2020*

- **Weekly Plate - Actual:** $6,212
- **Weekly Plate - Budget:** $9,200

*Last week of the month includes Faith Direct online giving totals.

**LIVING our FAITH | BUILDING our HOME**

*As of April 2020*

- Campaign Pledges: $3,548,859
- Collected Campaign Pledges: $2,072,509
Dear Parishioners,

I was so delighted to see many of you during Masses last weekend. I am grateful for everyone who was able to participate online or in-person. I thank you all for your patience and understanding during the whole period of this crisis. My special thanks to the parish staff and volunteers who helped with the liturgical planning and services.

This past weekend, as I stood on the Altar during Mass, the image that came to my mind from the Bible was the experience of the Israelites returning back from exile (Nehemiah 8:1-9). On returning back from exile, the priest, Ezra, gathered the people and read the Scriptures to them from morning until evening. All the people stood, raised their hands and praised God, then they knelt down and wept upon hearing the Scriptures for the first time after so many years in exile. In a similar way, I saw how most of us were moved to tears of joy during the Mass for now being able to participate fully in the Eucharistic celebration as a community after nearly two months. What a memorable Homecoming for all of us!

This weekend we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, 40 days after the Resurrection. One analogy that can be used to drive home the meaning of “ascension” is that of a relay race. The most critical moment in a relay race is the passing of the baton from one runner to another. More than any other part of the race, that moment often determines if the race is won or lost. On this day, more than 2,000 years ago, Jesus passed the baton of responsibility to his apostles, commissioning them to complete the work he had begun. Today, that same mission is entrusted to every one of us too; we have been handed the baton. We are called and sent by Jesus to preach the Good News and bring the peace and love of God to everyone in our lives.

Thank you and remain blessed,

Fr. James

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Parish Staff

Pastor - Fr. James Aboyi, VC  Ext. 302  fraboyi@stbenedict.org
Deacon - Ed Winkelbauer  Ext. 300  dcned@stbenedict.org
Dir. Faith Formation - Sr. Colleen Braun  Ext. 308  srcollen@stbenedict.org
Children’s Formation - Heather Mooney  Ext. 303  hmooney@stbenedict.org
Coord. Liturgy - Luis Rodriguez  Ext. 311  lrodriguez@stbenedict.org
Parochial Vicar - Fr. Wilfred Yinah, VC  Ext. 306  fryinah@stbenedict.org
Office Manager - Mary Jane Livens  Ext. 304  mlivens@stbenedict.org
Dir. Music - Nick Garza  Ext. 312  ngarza@stbenedict.org
Youth Ministry - David Rees  Ext. 307  drees@stbenedict.org
Admin. Assistant - Amy Fletcher  Ext. 300  afletcher@stbenedict.org
Welcome Back!
St. Benedict is now celebrating Masses with limited seating capacity and social distancing protocols.

Daily Mass: Monday - Friday at 8:15 am
Weekend Masses: Saturday at 5 pm,
Sunday at 9 am and 11 am

We will continue to live-stream most of the Masses on YouTube/Facebook. (Note: the Sunday 11 am Mass will NOT be livestreamed.)

Seating is limited and social distancing is observed. Face coverings, use of hand sanitizer, and reception of Communion in the hand are highly recommended. Communion after Masses for the Saturday 5 pm, and the Sunday 9 am ONLY. Remember that the dispensation from the Bishop is still in place.

Call for Catechists
Do you feel called to work with children or teens? Are you interested in making a difference in a child's faith life?

We hope to resume all parish religious education programs this Fall and are inviting new adults to share in the joy of being a Catechist or Aide. Lesson materials are provided. Different levels of time commitment are available, and no experience is required - just an open heart and a love for Jesus!

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Heather Mooney at 480.961.1610 ext. 303 or email hmooney@stbenedict.org

Liturgy of the Word for Children AT HOME

In this week's Gospel, Jesus promises to be with his disciples forever as he tells them to go make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:16-20). Jesus was returning to his Father and he knew his friends would be feeling lost without him. Has someone you cared about ever gone away? How did it feel? One way we can keep a person alive in our hearts is through sharing stories about their life. This is essentially what Jesus was asking of his disciples: to go out into the world and share the Good News of Christ with others. Think of a time when you had something exciting to share. You may have been bursting with joy and as you spoke, others could feel your excitement; your energy was so contagious that it caused others to then tell their friends. In the same way, once we are baptized, we too are called by God to go forth and make disciples of others by the way we live our lives and share the story of Jesus. And knowing that Jesus promised to be with us makes it even better.

For more on the Mass Readings each week, visit Magnificat online free through May! https://us.magnificat.net/home/magnifikid
“Unleashed” Summer Series

“Hopelessness” is a very real thing. When our hearts lose hope, we can feel overwhelmed, trapped, or that there will be no “happy ending” to the story of our lives. However, we are called to remember that God wants to take a heart that is discouraged, broken, and hurting and fill it with new hope in Him.

In June, the Youth Ministry programs of St. Benedict and Corpus Christi will join together to host weekly ZOOM meetings on the virtue of hope. Come join JAM and EPIC as we discuss what hope is, how hope can be misplaced, how to bring hope to others, and finally, where hope leads us.

Our ZOOM gatherings for JAM (middle school students, incoming 6th grade - incoming 8th grade) will take place every Tuesday night in June from 7 pm to 8 pm.

Our ZOOM gatherings for EPIC (high school students, incoming 9th grade - outgoing 12th grade) will take place every Thursday night in June from 7 pm to 8 pm.

For more information on our gatherings and to RSVP, contact, David Rees, drees@stbenedict.org

Verse to Remember - May 24

“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” - Acts 1:8

To be a witness means to give an example of the principles you live by. Jesus calls us, each and every day, to live as His witnesses and to share the faith with others by the ways in which we live. Today, set an example before others and show them what it means to be a follower of Christ.

Song of the Week

By David Rees

“From the Inside Out” by Hillsong UNITED

“Everlasting, your light will shine when all else fades. Never-ending, your glory goes beyond all fame. And the cry of my heart, is to bring you praise, from the inside out, Lord my soul cries out.”

So many things in the world come and go. However, the glory of God lasts forever. Take some time today to cry out to God, sharing with Him the deepest desires of your heart.

Vacation Bible School Cancelled

After careful consideration regarding the safety of the children amid this Covid-19 pandemic, Corpus Christi and St. Benedict have cancelled VBS for this year. Notification and refunds will be made to those who had already registered.

Steubenville West Cancelled

The Steubenville West conference has been cancelled. Life Teen felt that their conference, scheduled for July 17-19, was too big of an event to secure the safety and well-being of participants, given the current state of COVID-19. Questions? Please contact David Rees.
Current Events & More

“They Received the Holy Spirit.”
The Blessed Virgin Mary intercedes for your faithfulness to the vocation to which the Spirit is leading you. If you think God may be offering you the grace of serving Him and His people as a priest or in the consecrated life, please contact the Vocation Office at 602.354.2005 or dphx.org/vocations.

Pastoral Care
Please remember in your prayers Nathan Smack who died recently. We pray that his family and friends will feel God’s healing embrace through the prayers and support of our faith community.

Knights of Columbus
Here is some information about the parish blood drive we had last weekend.

- Goal: 33 successful donations.
- Number of Successful Donations: 47.

Therefore, we were able to reach 121% of our goal, and save up to 141 lives! Thank you to everyone who participated and to our fellow Knights for coordinating this effort.

Our members make all the Knights’ charities possible—now and in the future. Membership in the K of C makes men better Catholics, better husbands, better fathers and citizens. To sign up to be a Knight, go to www.kofc.org/joinus

Vivat Jesus!
Doug Gasser
Grand Knight #12246
480.270.2370
douggasser2@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul
This past week our SVdP Chapter was notified that the facility in downtown Phoenix is in desperate need of athletic shoes and men’s jeans for the homeless.

Instead of food this week, we welcome any new or gently-worn athletic shoes and men’s jeans. Please place your donation in the wooden SVdP bin located outside of the entrance to the church and thank you for your help!

Water Drive
Thank you for your donations of bottled water for the homeless and less fortunate at the St. Vincent de Paul dining room in Mesa! Since temperatures have been creeping up, so has the need for water.

If you would like to help, please bring your donation of 12-16 oz. bottles of water to the parish lobby anytime between 9 am and 3 pm, Monday through Friday. Thank you for your help!

Marriage Encounter
On the Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend, learn a communication technique that will help you talk about all topics without conflict. Sign up and attend one of the upcoming Weekends throughout Arizona. Early registration is highly recommended.

For more information, visit our website at www.wwmearizona.com
Update on Family Promise Program
Because of the Covid-19 requirements in place, this summer we will NOT be hosting families at St. John Bosco School, but we have been asked to provide meals and grocery items for the week of Sunday, June 21 through Sunday, June 28. Food donations/dinner volunteers will meet in the SJB parking lot at 5:30 each evening, and the Host Coordinator will transport all food/grocery items to the Day Center where the families will be staying. Tracy Ryan, the Coordinator for our parish, plans to email a volunteer request soon. Please consider helping these families during the pandemic. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Tracy Ryan at tracyryan18@cox.net

Email and Text Alert
Please be aware that some parishioners are receiving emails and text messages that suggest Fr. James or Fr. Wilfred are requesting a favor. These are “spam” and should be immediately deleted. Our priests would never send an email or a text asking for a favor. Unfortunately, we have no way to restrict or stop these emails or texts. Thank you for your understanding.

Memorial Day and the Summertime Morning Mass
The office will be closed Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day. Mass will still be celebrated at 8:15 am. Also, this summer, the daily morning Mass will remain in the church for better live-streaming.

Saint Philip Neri (1515-1595)
Feast Day, May 26
In a shop near the Vatican, a group of Americans laughed as the shopkeeper showed off his fluent English and latest souvenir, a key ring whose papal portrait, when pressed, activated a recorded blessing. Through the shop window, two clerics scowled disapproval. The shopkeeper grunted, “They’re a very somber order who’ve left the Church. I recognize them.” “By their long robes?” an American asked. “Many in Rome wear robes,” replied the shopkeeper. “It’s their long faces!” When Philip Neri arrived in sixteenth-century Rome, there was reason to be somber. Swiss Guards had been massacred on Saint Peter’s steps defending the pope. Parts of Europe were abandoning the Church. But Philip resolved to be an “apostle of joy,” drawing especially the young to Christ—and frequent confession and Communion—by his sincere interest in their problems, prayerful example, and gentle humor. His “Oratory,” a movement as well as a place, provided recreation and devotion in a joyful atmosphere of companionship, service, and liturgy. Philip Neri challenges each of us to begin improving Church and world by changing ourselves with unfailing joy.

— Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

“God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord!”
~ Psalm 47
A man wakes up after sleeping under an ADVERTISED blanket, on an ADVERTISED mattress and pulls off ADVERTISED pajamas, bathes in an ADVERTISED shower, shaves with an ADVERTISED razor, brushes his teeth with ADVERTISED toothpaste, washes with ADVERTISED soap, puts on ADVERTISED clothes, drinks a cup of ADVERTISED coffee, goes to work in an ADVERTISED car and then ... refuses to ADVERTISE believing it doesn't pay. Later if business is poor he ADVERTISES it for sale. Why is it?
**Thank You From Mrs. Petitti**

We made it! YOU made it! Not only did we complete the 2019-2020 school year, but we did it effectively despite the peculiarities forced by COVID-19. Students, teachers, and parents -- especially parents -- deserve high praise for adjusting so quickly to the virtual classroom while maintaining their households and keeping other responsibilities intact.

I am indebted to so many people for another successful year of learning and spiritual growth at St. John Bosco Catholic School. I am blessed to be part of such a supportive community and parish, especially for the way everyone jumped in to transition to remote learning on such short notice. Mr. Macdonald dropped everything to transfigure the network to online learning; the teachers went through urgent, rigorous training and barely skipped a beat with their lessons. And Fr. James swiftly assembled his staff to live-stream the school Mass on Fridays to keep our spirituality at the forefront of our minds, where it should be.

Stay connected with us over the summer for school updates. We fully expect to resume our normal on-campus curriculum on August 12; however, if we’ve learned anything from the past few months, it is to expect change, remain vigilant, and be flexible. Until then, let’s all pray hard for an end to this pandemic and a return to normalcy.

Blessings,

Mrs. Petitti

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**SCRIP Online Ordering**

We are pleased to announce that the Scrip Office is rolling out a new online ordering system through Formstack so you can purchase scrip cards directly from our office. Place your order by going to [https://sjb.formstack.com/forms/scrip](https://sjb.formstack.com/forms/scrip), choose the cards you wish to purchase, and enter your credit card information.

Online orders will be filled on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Pick up your cards in the school’s front office Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm, and Friday 7:30 am to 1 pm. Please keep in mind that this is a brand new way of sales and we are still working out the kinks. Also, scrip cards are subject to availability. If we are out of a specific card from your order, the Scrip Office will reach out to you directly.

Since we are unable to have open window hours, this is a great way to purchase your scrip and continue to support your school! You are also encouraged to keep purchasing electronic scrip through [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com). Feel free to email the Scrip Office at [sjbscrip@sjbosco.org](mailto:sjbscrip@sjbosco.org) with any questions.

[www.sjbosco.org](http://www.sjbosco.org)