

St. Benedict Catholic Church

"where all are welcome"

St. Benedict Catholic Church | www.stbenedict.org
16223 S 48th St. Phoenix, AZ 85048 | 480.961.1610

St. John Bosco Catholic School | www.sjbosco.org
16035 S 48th St. Phoenix, AZ 85048 | 480.219.4848

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent



“
**Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.**”

~ Ps 85

Parish Mission Statement

We are a vibrant and welcoming Catholic Church 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, 12/11
8:15 am | Mass

Tuesday, 12/12
Our Lady of Guadalupe
8:15 am | Mass
7 pm | Mass

Wednesday, 12/13
8:15 am | Mass
5 pm | Finance Council

Thursday, 12/14
8:15 am | Mass
6 pm | Knights of Columbus

Friday, 12/15
8:15 am | Mass
5 pm | Confessions

Saturday, 12/16
8 am | Confessions
10 am | "Coping with Grief During Holidays"
5 pm | Mass



Office Hours

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

Mass Schedule

Weekends at the St. John Bosco School MPR:
Saturday 5 pm, Sunday 7, 9, 11 am, 5 pm
Weekdays Mon-Thurs, St. Benedict Chapel: 8:15 am
Weekdays on Fri 8:15 am, St. John Bosco School MPR

Reconciliation

Fri 5-6 pm, Sat 8-9 am, St. Benedict Chapel

Mass Intentions

Sunday, 12/10/2023

7 am | Nunez Family †
9 am | Eugene Laatsch †
11 am | Christina Loh †
5 pm | Parishioners

Th 12/14 | Jennifer Mascola †
F 12/15 | Gerardo Aguilar (lvg)
Sa 12/16 | Ann Bayer †

Sunday, 12/17/2023

M 12/11 | Camille Alcasid (lvg)
Tu 12/12 |
8:15 am | Apolinar & Lucia Samin †
7 pm | Lynnette Barr †
W 12/13 | Socorro Slater †

7 am | Parishioners
9 am | Hans Olsson †
11 am | Mar Roque †
5 pm | Robert Francis Bauer †



Liturgy & Administration

Scripture Readings

Monday: 12/11 Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: 12/12 Zec 2:14-17; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38
(Our Lady of Guadalupe)

Wednesday: 12/13 Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
(St. Lucy)

Thursday: 12/14 Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9, 10-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
(St. John of the Cross)

Friday: 12/15 Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: 12/16 Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday: 12/17 Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b); 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Parish Contributions

A special thank you to those who are faithfully contributing

Regular Contributions for
October 2023

Actual: \$ 71,849*

Budget: \$ 78,352

** Realm*

Online: \$ 42,184

Cash/Check: \$ 29,665

(Contributions are recorded on a monthly basis per fiscal year July 1, '23 to June 30, '24)

Construction Project

October 31, 2023

TOTAL COST: \$8,939,249

Total Expenses

Paid To Date: \$6,687,725

Remaining

Balance of Cost: \$2,251,524

TOTAL AMOUNT

AVAILABLE

(Cash on Hand &

Line of Credit): \$2,115,553

Additional Funds

Need to Raise: \$135,971



Live the Liturgy Inspiration for the Week

Christ is making a journey
into each of our hearts this Advent.
Clear away whatever blocks his way.

Make straight the path.

Invite him in.

©LPi

Parish Staff

Pastor - Fr. James Aboyi, VC x 302
fraboyi@stbenedict.org

Parochial Vicar - Fr. Manasseh Iorchir, VC x 306
frmanasseh@stbenedict.org

Office Manager - Mary Jane Livens x 304
mlivens@stbenedict.org

Children's Formation - Heather Mooney x 308
hmooney@stbenedict.org

Front Office/Admin. Asst. - Amy Fletcher x 300
afletcher@stbenedict.org

Deacon - Ed Winkelbauer x 300
dcned@stbenedict.org

Dir. Evangelization/Formation - Sr. Ruth de la Cruz, OP x 303
sruth@stbenedict.org

Dir. Music/Liturgy - Phil Arkfeld x 311
parkfeld@stbenedict.org

Stewardship/Engagement - Maryola Fabilena x 309
mfabilena@stbenedict.org

Youth/Campus Ministry - Sr. Delia Obenza, OP x 307
srdelia@stbenedict.org

Contact the Parish Office at 480.961.1610



A Reflection by Fr. Manasseh

“PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD, MAKE STRAIGHT HIS PATHS.”

Apart from the Lord Jesus, Himself, and Mary, His blessed mother, no other New Testament protagonist gets more “individual airtime” like John the Baptist in the Liturgy of the Church. The Church celebrates both his nativity (June 24) and his martyrdom (August 29). He is also given special mention in the earthly life of Jesus, especially in His early life and at the beginning of Christ’s public ministry. John is presented as a close relative of Jesus who precedes Christ in earthly birth. Like Jesus, his birth is foretold and his name was predetermined by God via an Angel (Luke 1:13). He is credited with an encounter with Christ while both were in their mother’s womb (Luke 1:41); he baptized Christ and witnessed the beginning of His public ministry, and it was he who pointed Christ out to his disciples and called Him *“the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”* (John 1:29). Jesus Himself described John as the greatest of all the children born of women (Matthew 11:11). On the Second Sunday of Advent, we are introduced to this enigmatic Scriptural character.

In the First Reading, the Prophet Isaiah voices the promise of God that “a voice” shall cry out in the desert, requiring all people to prepare the way for the Lord. This voice shall demand that all make straight the way of the Lord, fill every valley, make low every mountain and make plain the rugged land before the glory of the Lord would be revealed. This clearly is a prophecy about the coming of John the Baptist who would precede the Messiah and act as his precursor, calling all to repentance and reconciliation with God.

The Gospel passage, which is taken from the beginning of Mark’s Gospel, indicates that John the Baptist is clearly the fulfillment of the Oracle of Isaiah who declared, *“behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way.”* He preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins and baptized people from the Judean countryside and the inhabitants of Jerusalem who came to him by the River Jordan where he was ministering. It is worth noting that Israel crossed the Jordan as they entered into the Promised Land. As the coming of the Messiah drew near, the Jordan once more was used to offer ritual washing as a declaration of intent to enter in the promised “Kingdom” that He would establish.

One striking thing about John was his humility. Not only did he dress, feed and act quite humbly, he also refused to take upon himself a name and ministry that was not allotted to him. He declared *“One mightier than I is coming after me...I have baptized you with water; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”* John affords us a lesson in humility. Humility is not necessarily a negative debasement of ourselves; it is an honest recognition of our true self which is perpetually in need of something other than ourselves to complete and place us at the threshold of self-realization and fulfillment. The person who is blessed with the virtue of humility realizes that, in spite of our giftedness, we are in constant need of God’s Grace to achieve self-realization. We may be gifted, even with unique and awesome spiritual gifts, but we need humility to discern that, without Christ and outside of His Holy will and Kingdom, we are mere empty vessels. No wonder, St. Augustine of Hippo said, *“Humility is the foundation of all other virtues; hence, in the soul in which this virtue does not exist there cannot be any other virtue except in mere appearance.”*

May the Season of Advent provide for us the opportunity for renewal through repentance and may we be granted the virtue of humility that we may recognize Christ when He comes.

Please be kind and may God bless you.

Fr. Manasseh



Current Events and More

Christmas Ornaments

We are very close, but will not be *home for Christmas* this year! Due to the lack of holding and storage space, we will not have an Angel Giving Tree but we hope to have it back next year.



This year, we have Christmas trees in the back of the MPR during the month of December adorned with beautiful ornaments. The ornaments have different dollar amounts as a suggested donation. All donations go towards closing the funding gap of our construction project and for parish operating expenses. We hope you can help and enjoy displaying the ornaments in your home.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

On **Tuesday, December 12**, we will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with a Bi-lingual Mass at 7 pm in the St. John Bosco School Multipurpose Room. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patron Saint of our Diocese and her feast day commemorates the appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Juan Diego in 1531. Join us!



Advent Penance Service

The Communal Advent Penance Service for St. Benedict will be on **Tuesday, December 19**, at 7 pm at the St. John Bosco School MPR and Courtyard. The evening will begin together in the MPR with prayer and an examination of conscience. Individual confessions will follow. Priests from our neighboring parishes will be available to hear confessions.

More parish schedules include:

Tues Dec 12, 7 pm ----- Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

Thurs Dec 14, 7 pm ----- Corpus Christi

Tues Dec 19, 7 pm ----- St. Benedict

Retirement Fund for the Religious

Tens of thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated their lives to sharing their faith. Generations of Catholics recall, with gratitude, their work in Catholic schools, hospitals, and social service agencies. Yet, years of ministering for little or no pay came at a price and now their religious communities lack adequate savings for retirement and eldercare.

Your gift this weekend to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide prescription medications, nursing care, and more. Envelopes are available at the back of the MPR. Thank you for your generosity!

“Coping With Grief During the Holidays”

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, please consider joining us to recognize the uniqueness of grief during the holidays. We will identify some coping mechanisms for grief and discuss the ways to assist children with their grief.

Join us on **Saturday, December 16**, from 10 am to 11:30 am in the St. Benedict Conference Room (Annex 1). Please RSVP at pastoralcare@stbenedict.org.

Scouts Gathering Mistletoe

Each year the Scouts of the parish head up to northern Arizona to collect mistletoe for their annual fundraiser that helps to pay for some of their activities and badges. Next weekend, be sure to stop by their table outside after Mass and pick up some mistletoe for your holiday decorating!



Fry's Rewards

Did you know that you can support St. Benedict simply by shopping at Fry's using your Fry's VIP Card? It does not cost you anything, but greatly benefits our parish!



Go to “My Account” (top right corner under your name), click on “Community Rewards” (on the right), and select “Parish of St. Benedict” as your choice, Organization Number PF507. Each quarter you will get a total of the amount donated...we thank you in advance!



Faith Formation and More

Happenings in Children and Youth Faith Formation

Sunday, Dec 10

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
EPIC

Tuesday, Dec 12

JAM
Journey of Faith

Sunday, Dec 17

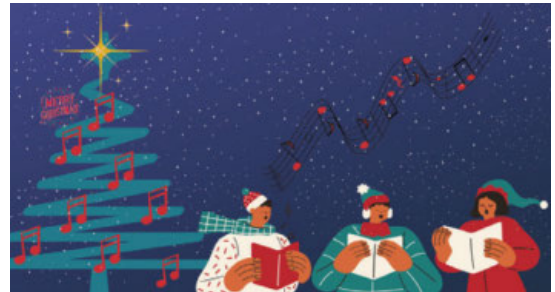
Liturgy of the Word with Children
NO Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
NO EPIC

Attention: Journey of Faith, JAM, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Families and EPIC Families

Hey parents and kids! Join us **Tuesday** evening, **December 12** for Christmas Caroling at Clearwater Assisted Living (formerly Generations) located around the corner from St. Benedict at 15815 S. 50th Street (on 50th St., just south of Chandler Blvd). Help us bring the warmth of our St. Benedict Faith Formation community to our senior neighbors and share the joy of the Advent Season!

Meet in the Clearwater parking lot between 5:15 and 5:25pm. Caroling from 5:30pm to 6:15pm in the Memory Care & main dining hall. After we sing, families can spend some time visiting with the residents and enjoying hot cocoa.

Contact Heather Mooney for details at hmooney@stbenedict.org.

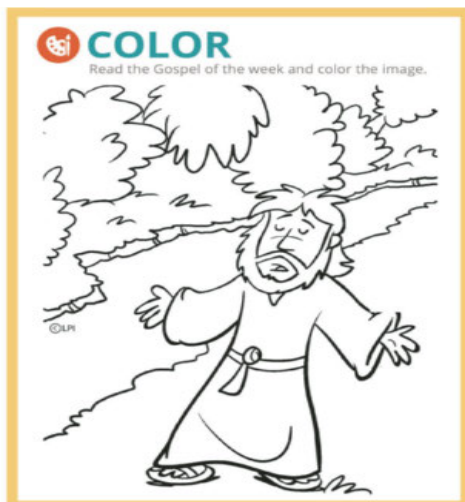


Children: We Need Your Help!

Would you like to be involved in the monthly Children's Mass?
Are you looking for a way to serve our St. Benedict community?

We are in need of additional children Lectors and Hospitality Ministers for the upcoming four Children's Masses in the Spring! Lectors proclaim the Word during Mass and Hospitality Ministers welcome parishioners, pass collection baskets, guide the Communion lines, and hand out bulletins after Mass. Training and support are provided!

Interested? Please contact Heather at hmooney@stbenedict.org



The Season of Advent

This time of year is often busy for families, filled with high expectations and long to-do lists. It is important to slow down and reflect upon the true meaning of Advent, as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. Some weekly questions for families to explore together during dinner, at bedtime, on a walk, or even individually in a journal are:

Week 1: How can we spread the hope of Christ in our community?

Week 2: What can we do this week to bring the love of Christ to someone in need?

Week 3: How can we share the joy and anticipation of Christ's coming with others?

Week 4: What areas in my life am I most in need of Christ's peace?



Ministries & More

Holiday Mass Schedule*

Fourth Sunday of Advent Schedule

Sat 5pm, Sun 7am, 9am, & 11am

Christmas Schedule:

Sun 4pm, 6pm, 8pm & 11pm

Mon 9 am & 11 am

* This year Christmas is on a Monday, which means there are changes to the weekend Mass schedule.

NOTE: When consecutive obligations occur on Saturday-Sunday or Sunday-Monday, the faithful must attend Mass twice to fulfill two separate obligations.

BINGO Night!

Save the date for BINGO on **Friday, January 19** from 6-8 pm in the St. John Bosco multipurpose room. Join us for a fun evening for all ages! We'll have pizza, baked goods, lots of BINGO and over 100 prizes!

We are always looking for prizes, so if you have gift cards or new items you are not using, or you get a Christmas gift that's not your style, donate them for BINGO prizes.

For more information or to donate prizes, email events@stbenedict.org.

Save the Date: Rummage Sale

Yes, we are going to have a Rummage Sale in 2024! Save the date of **March 9, 2024**. Remember to save your valuable rummage!

Ministry Contacts

Audio-Visual... Scott, av@stbenedict.org
 Altar Servers... Ken, dken-1@hotmail.com
 Art & Env... Cathy, cathytempleton_1@cox.net
 Baptisms... Sr. Ruth, srruth@stbenedict.org
 EMHCs... Russ, rustlespencer@gmail.com
 Events/Helping Hands... Lani, events@stbenedict.org
 Finance Council... Debbie, dsmith@stbenedict.org
 Hospitality... Karen, karenmains@msn.com
 Knights of Columbus... Isauro, 480.748.1449

St. Vincent de Paul



Thank you so much for your continued support of the onsite pantry here at St. Benedict. Here are a few items that are currently needed:

- Canned Fruit
- Jelly/Jam
- Juice Boxes
- Snacks
- Mayonnaise
- Feminine Hygiene

If you are in need St. Vincent de Paul assistance or information, call the parish office at **480.961.1610 ext. 315**.

Save the Date: Parish Picnic Sunday, February 18, 12:30 to 3 pm

It's going to be a beautiful day to be at the park! Plan to attend this year's event at Desert Breeze Park for a wonderful day of food, fun and getting together with our parishioners! Lawn games, music and more! Enjoy a free lunch of hotdogs and hamburgers that our Knights of Columbus will grill up for us. Bring your own picnic blankets and chairs to relax.

If you would like to volunteer at this special event, please contact Lani at events@stbenedict.org



Lectors... Michele, micheleedison@aol.com
 Linens... Mary Jane, 480.961.1610 ext. 304
 Music/Choir... Phil A., 480.961.1610 ext. 311
 Pastoral Care... Kathy, kathy.mccluskey@cox.net
 Pastoral Council... Russ, pastoralcouncil@stbenedict.org
 Refugee Resettlement... Dave, zabor@cox.net
 Sacristans... Bette, blaatsch69@gmail.com
 St. Vincent de Paul... Phil W., 480.961.1610 ext. 315
 Walking With Moms... Rama, selena91907@hotmail.com
 Women's Spirituality... Nora, nmphillips@cox.net

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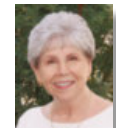


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A Note From The SJB Principal



As a Catholic school, the spirit of Advent is evident in every corner – from statues and nativity scenes to adorned prayer gardens and artistic displays. Our weekly Monday morning gatherings in the courtyard, led by Campus Ambassadors and Student Council, immerse us in Advent prayers and songs, serving as a clear reminder that Jesus is the focal point of this festive season.

As we approach the second half of the academic year, our students have just concluded benchmark testing before the holiday break. Students in grades K-2 underwent DIBELS assessments in reading and math, while those in grades 3-8 tackled MAP assessments covering math, reading, ELA, and science. These evaluations not only gauge current achievements but also offer valuable insights for teachers to shape their lessons in the coming months.

Continued wishes for a joyous Advent!

Joyful Blessings,

Jamie Bescak, M.Ed., Principal

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Due to the high demand for enrollment spots for the 2024-2025 school year, we are NOW accepting applications for those new to SJB in 2024-2025.