

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 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent



“ *My soul rejoices in my God.* ”

~ *Is 61:10b*

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, 12/18 8:15 am Mass	Tuesday, 12/19 8:15 am Mass 7 pm Advent Penance Service	Wednesday, 12/20 8:15 am Mass 6 pm Youth Choir
Thursday, 12/21 8:15 am Mass 6 pm Adult Choir	Friday, 12/22 8:15 am Mass 5 pm Confessions	Saturday, 12/23 8 am Confessions 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, 12/17/2023

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

F 12/22 | Bryan Fletcher (lvg)
Sa 12/23 | Alexia Harger (lvg)

Sunday, 12/24/2023

7 am | Parishioners
9 am | Eugene Laatsch †
11 am | Alexandra Wolf †
4 pm | Dominic Mastergeorge †
6 pm | James Wiedmaier †
8 pm | Christiana Iorchir †
11 pm | Eugenio Restelli †



Liturgy & Administration

Scripture Readings

Monday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 12/18 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-12/19 4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 12/20 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 12/21 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 12/22 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 12/23 8-9, 10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; 12/24 Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29 (2a); Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38
(Christmas Eve)

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

God sends a John the Baptist into every person's life – someone who prepares His way, who calls out His truth. Look for the John the Baptist in your life. Pray you can be this person for someone else.

©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. James

GAUDETE SUNDAY

Today is known as Gaudete Sunday, Gaudete is the Latin word for “rejoice.” Today, we light the rose-colored candle on our Advent Wreath, signifying our symbolic expression of joy. On this Gaudete or Rejoice Sunday. We are invited to reflect on the things that make us truly joyful. What makes us truly happy and joyful? Is it our work, family, faith, money, good health, sports, etc? We are also invited to even go beyond identifying the things that make us joyful during this Christmas Season to see how we can share our joy with those who are in need around us. The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas is a way of sharing our joy not only with those who are in need but those within our families.

In the First Reading, Prophet Isaiah describes his reasons for rejoicing in the Lord. We too can share with him in rejoicing that the Spirit of the Lord is upon us, that the Lord has anointed us, that the Lord has entrusted us with the opportunity to announce the Good News, to heal the broken-hearted and to set the captives free.

In our Second Reading, St. Paul reminds us to “rejoice always in all circumstances.” Our reasons to rejoice go beyond the need for physical health or protection from harm. It is the Joy of the Lord, the joy that the world cannot give us.

In the Gospel Reading, John the Baptist also rejoices that he was given the honor of announcing the arrival of Our Lord Jesus Christ. He saw the light of Jesus Christ, he testified to the Light, he pointed at the Light, and in doing so directed others to follow Christ.

The Scripture Readings this weekend invite us to reflect on the spiritual joy that marks our Christian faith. We should always rejoice because God has done great things for us! We are filled with joy for belonging to a loving and supportive community of faith, we rejoice for the gift of our families and friends, and the joy of knowing that our relationship with the Lord is secured. The Lord will always be with us in every circumstance we encounter. I pray that the Joy of the Lord will continue to be our strength (Nehemiah 8:10) as we go through this very challenging time.

Remain Blessed,

Fr. James



Current Events and 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.

Holiday Office Hours and More

The parish office will close at noon on **Thursday, December 21** and will remain closed until **Tuesday, January 2**. Please contact the office before Thursday to arrange any end-of-the-year contributions or questions about Sacraments, etc. For emergencies requiring a priest, please call **480.961.1610 ext. 317**. Wishing you all a very blessed Christmas Season!

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.

Crossed Arms in the Holy Communion Line

Some people cross their arms in the Holy Communion line signifying that the person is not properly disposed to receive Communion, for whatever reason, and wishes to receive a blessing instead. Possible reasons might be that the person is not Catholic, they are not in a state of grace, and the like. Please feel free to invite your non-Catholic Christmas Mass guests to come up to receive a blessing during Communion by crossing their arms in front of themselves.



Seating for Christmas Masses

To better accommodate our parishioners and guests, seats may **not** be saved prior to any of the Christmas Eve Masses, except for those Knights of Columbus directing traffic.

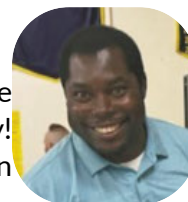
For Masses with high attendance, our Hospitality Ministers are instructed to fill empty seats as people arrive, ensuring that all seats are filled before asking those arriving to stand for Mass. We appreciate your help and ask that entire groups arrive together.

The gates will open at 3 pm for the 4 pm Christmas Eve Mass. For the remaining Masses (6 pm, 8 pm, and 11 pm) guests will be invited to enter after the completion of the previous Mass.

Thank you for your assistance and we look forward to celebrating this most special Feast Day with you!

Happy Birthday

This week we are excited to announce that Fr. Manasseh is having a birthday! Wish him a Happy Birthday on **Thursday, December 22!**



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. Be sure to stop by their table outside this weekend 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



Beginning This Week...

...all of the St. Benedict Children's Faith Formation & Youth Ministry programs are on break until mid-January. Wishing everyone a safe and joyful Advent and Christmas Season!

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 Mooney at hmooney@stbenedict.org

Giving Trees

Check out the Christmas Giving Trees in the back of the MPR 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.



REJOICE!

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday, meaning "rejoice" in Latin.

In today's Gospel, we hear John the Baptist witness to the coming of Christ who is Light for the world. Imagine being lost in a dark forest. If someone trustworthy offered you a light to help you see, would you accept it? And wouldn't you want to share that light with others who might also be in darkness? We become a witness when we share what we have experienced. These experiences become part of our story.

John the Baptist was preparing the way for Jesus, just as we are doing during Advent. He shared that the Savior they were seeking was already among them; they just did not yet recognize him. Indeed, Jesus has already come into the world as our Savior, however, sometimes it is hard for us to recognize His presence among us. This truly is a reason to rejoice: our salvation is already at hand! Name some people who help you recognize and believe in Jesus? Who in your life may need you to share the Light of Christ with them? As you pray together, thank God for the witnesses in your life who, like John the Baptist, lead you closer to Jesus.

Happy Advent to you! - Heather Mooney

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

Knights of Columbus

Announcements:

- Thanks to all Brother Knights and parishioners who helped provide coats for the "Coats For Kids" Program!

Events:

- Knights of Columbus meeting on **Thursday, December 14** at 6 pm in the St. Benedict Conference Room (Annex 1).
- Remember to come to the Parish Rosary that we will say on **Wednesday, December 27** at 7 pm in the St. Benedict Chapel (Annex 2).

Join online to become a Knight of Columbus at www.kofc.org/joinus and enter "Council 12246" and code "GKWAP".

Vivat Jesus,

Isauro Amaro, Grand Knight

Fr. Bob Binta Council # 12246

480.748.1449

grandknight@kofc12246.org

A Floral Offering

Please consider donating to the parish floral arrangements as we prepare for the long-awaited celebration of Christmas, and the dedication of our new church in January. Donate by using your envelope, check with "flowers" on the Memo line, or online in Realm. Thank you for helping to make our celebrations beautiful and memorable.

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:

- Flour (small)
- Baking Items
- Broth (Beef/Chicken)
- Chunky Soups
- Tomato Sauce
- Pasta Sauce

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

New Parishioners

- Sebastian Alcaraz
- Sally Montellano
- Laura Oldaker



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.

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, nmphilips@cox.net

Catholic Company


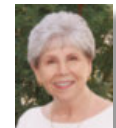


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HYGIENISTS:

Michele King RDH
Carmen Salaiz RDH
Daisy DeSalmones RDH






A Note From The SJB Principal



Dear Parishioners,

As you read this, our precious students and faculty are all snug at home with their families for a long-awaited Christmas Vacation. Our final week was filled with everything Advent, as would be expected on any authentic Catholic school campus.

In addition to the annual K-fifth-grade Christmas Program held in the festively decorated courtyard, our preschoolers presented their own enchanting performance to the sheer delight of their adoring parents and grandparents. And what would Advent be without a visit from St. Nick to fill those little shoes carefully placed outside the classroom? The school elves were also on hand for Santa's Workshop where K-third grade students "shopped" for gifts for their parents and/or siblings to tote them safely home in a secured shopping bag. The week ended with the annual Pancakes with Santa hosted by our PTO and Dads' Club, a year-end all-school Mass, a second-grade play about Our Lady of Guadalupe, and classroom parties put icing on the cake.

Wishing all of you a joyous final week of Advent!

Jamie Bescak, M.Ed., Principal

480.219.4848

