



# St. Benedict Catholic Church

*“where all are welcome”*

St. Benedict Catholic Church | [www.stbenedict.org](http://www.stbenedict.org)  
16223 S 48th St. Phoenix, AZ 85048 | 480.961.1610

St. John Bosco Catholic School | [www.sjbosco.org](http://www.sjbosco.org)  
16035 S 48th St. Phoenix, AZ 85048 | 480.219.4848

January 7, 2024

## The Epiphany of the Lord

“ Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. ”

~ Ps 72

### 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](http://stbenedict.org/calendar)

**Monday, 1/8**  
8:15am | Mass

**Tuesday, 1/9**  
8:15 am | Mass

**Wednesday, 1/10**  
8:15 am | Mass  
6 pm | Youth Choir

**Thursday, 1/11**  
8:15 am | Mass  
6 pm | Adult Choir  
6 pm | Knights of Columbus

**Friday, 1/12**  
8:15 am | Mass  
5 pm | Confessions

**Saturday, 1/13**  
8 am | Confessions  
9:30 am | Baptism Class  
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, 1/7/2024

7 am | Gabi Flores (Ivg)  
9 am | Dorothy Rodarte †  
11 am | Pete Sterkowitz †  
5 pm | Yoshiro Minomo †

F 1/12 | Christiana Iorchir †  
Sa 1/13 | John & Eleanor Plisga †

#### Sunday, 1/14/2024

M 1/8 | Ann Lou Courtney †  
Tu 1/9 | Loretta Becka †  
W 1/10 | Jim Winkelbauer †  
Th 1/11 | Joseph Martorano †

7 am | Parishioners  
9 am | Eugene Laatsch †  
11 am | Linda Barkyoub (Ivg)  
5 pm | Margaret McDermott (Ivg)

## Liturgy & Administration

### Scripture Readings

**Monday:** Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 1/8 5-6; 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11  
*(The Baptism of the Lord)*

**Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-7, 1/9 8abcd; Mk 1:21-28

**Wednesday:** 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 1/10 7-8a, 8b-10; Mk 1:29-39

**Thursday:** 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 1/11 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45

**Friday:** 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-1/12 19; Mk 2:1-12

**Saturday:** 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19/ 10 1a; 1/13 Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17

**Sunday:** 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 1/14 7-10; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

### Parish Contributions

*A special thank you to those who are faithfully contributing*

Regular Contributions for  
**November 2023**

**Actual: \$ 63,830\***

**Budget: \$ 78,352**

*\* Realm*

*Online: \$ 40,194*

*Cash/Check: \$ 23,636*

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

### Construction Project

*December 15, 2023*

**TOTAL COST: \$9,142,918\***

Total Expenses

**Paid To Date: \$7,324,794**

Remaining

**Balance of Cost: \$1,818,124**

**TOTAL AMOUNT AVAILABLE**

(Cash on Hand &

Line of Credit): **\$1,502,984\*\***

Additional Funds

**Need to Raise: \$315,141**



### Live the Liturgy Inspiration for the Week

Though the Magi did not know where the star of Bethlehem would lead, they trusted that God would be with them along the way. Let us all embrace that same faith as we go about the journey God has planned for us this year.

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\* Includes building permits not previously included, change orders and fluctuating costs of FF&E.

\*\* The 'Cash on Hand' is what we still have available to use from our \$4.5 million outstanding loan.



### Parish Staff

Pastor - Fr. James Aboyi, VC x 302  
[fraboyi@stbenedict.org](mailto:fraboyi@stbenedict.org)

Parochial Vicar - Fr. Manasseh Iorchir, VC x 306  
[frmanasseh@stbenedict.org](mailto:frmanasseh@stbenedict.org)

Office Manager - Mary Jane Livens x 304  
[mlivens@stbenedict.org](mailto:mlivens@stbenedict.org)

Children's Formation - Heather Mooney x 308  
[hmooney@stbenedict.org](mailto:hmooney@stbenedict.org)

Front Office/Admin. Asst. - Amy Fletcher x 300  
[afletcher@stbenedict.org](mailto:afletcher@stbenedict.org)

Deacon - Ed Winkelbauer x 300  
[dcned@stbenedict.org](mailto:dcned@stbenedict.org)

Dir. Evangelization/Formation - Sr. Ruth de la Cruz, OP x 303  
[srruth@stbenedict.org](mailto:srruth@stbenedict.org)

Dir. Music/Liturgy - Phil Arkfeld x 311  
[parkfeld@stbenedict.org](mailto:parkfeld@stbenedict.org)

Stewardship/Engagement - Maryola Fabilena x 309  
[mfabilena@stbenedict.org](mailto:mfabilena@stbenedict.org)

Youth/Campus Ministry - Sr. Delia Obenza, OP x 307  
[srdelia@stbenedict.org](mailto:srdelia@stbenedict.org)

Contact the Parish Office at 480.961.1610

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## *A Reflection by Fr. Manasseh*

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### **“WE SAW HIS STAR AT ITS RISING AND HAVE COME TO DO HIM HOMAGE.”**

“Epiphany,” as used in the Liturgy, refers to the self-manifestation of God to His people. Prior to the birth of Christ, the Jews, who were the first to enjoy a covenant relationship with God, believed that God was exclusively theirs and very distant even to the people with whom He made a covenant. As far as they were concerned, Yahweh was Israel’s God and all who desired a relationship with Him were required to adhere to Jewish rituals. He was also an almighty distant power who controlled their people’s lives through strict obedience to His laws. So awesome and distant was God that even his name could not be called. He lived in Heaven and those who wanted to communicate with Him needed ritual cleansing to be able to approach His sanctuary. The Epiphany presents to the Jews, and to the entire world, a “new revelation” of who God is. God is for all, Jews and Gentiles alike, and He has chosen to be Emmanuel (God with us) to dwell among finite beings in order to graciously lend us His infinity and afford us the opportunity to participate in His immortality. This self-manifestation took place at the visit of the Magi to the newly born Messiah.

Matthew’s Gospel describes the Magi as wisemen from the east who arrived in Jerusalem and inquired from Herod where “the newborn King of the Jews” was born. By their own admission, they saw “His star” at its rising and they, gentile nobles from distant lands, had come to do Him homage. After finding out from Jewish religious authorities and experts in tradition about the specific location of the Messiah’s birth, Herod sent them on to Bethlehem with the instruction to return to him after finding the Child. The “wisemen” had abandoned the “rising star” -- an instrument with which God had led them from their homeland to the gates of Jerusalem. Matthew does not suggest that the star stopped moving when they arrived in Jerusalem. Instead, they resorted to “seeking counsel with men,” and by doing so, they put the life of the promised Redeemer and the salvation of the world at risk. This is what happens when we take a break from relying on Divine Revelation for guidance and turn to beautifully crafted yet mundane ideas as aids to navigate the turbulent waves of life. The Word of God, Sacred Tradition and the Magisterium (the teaching office of the Church) has never ceased being an assured compass for those who truly desire a right relationship with God and their neighbor. God’s love is constant; we are solely responsible for putting our salvation at risk when we drift away from Him because we have chosen seemingly more rational but worldly ideas over and above His will as made known to us in Divine Revelation.

The Magi reconnected with the star and offered prophetic gifts of gold (the Royal metal, an appropriate gift for a King), frankincense (highlighting Christ’s priesthood and Divinity) and myrrh (a prophetic allusion to His salvific death). As we receive God’s revelation of Himself by dwelling among us for all people, may we be generous enough to offer Him gifts of our wills and intellects, gifts of ourselves so that through us, Christ will continue to conquer the darkness of sin and evil in our world. May we also hasten to reconcile with, and return to, God’s never failing will whenever we realize that we have not been faithful to His guidance.

Please be kind and may God bless you.

Happy New Year!

Fr. Manasseh

## Current Events and More

### Welcoming Sunday This Weekend

This weekend, **January 7** after the Sunday 9 am Mass, you are invited to come to Welcoming Sunday where you can mix and mingle with our priests, members of the Pastoral Council, Staff and new parishioners in the St. John Bosco School courtyard. Refreshments will be available. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Ornament Update

As of January 2, the gifts generated from the Christmas ornament donations totalled \$9,052. This will help close the funding gap of our construction project and the parish operating expenses. Many thanks to everyone who participated!



### Dedication Update

Thank you all for your prayers and patience! We have a date for the Dedication Rites and Mass for our new church! Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, January 20** at 5 pm. The 3-hour ceremony will begin with prayer at our current place of worship, the St. John Bosco MPR/Courtyard, and will be followed by a procession to the church. Please join us in praying we obtain the Certificate of Occupancy to allow us to come together and celebrate this special occasion.



### Free Catholic Movies and More

Where is there a great place to enjoy a wealth of resources for our Catholic faith in a variety of media? At **FORMED.org**! It's easy and free to use as a St. Benedict Church gift to you:

1. Visit **FORMED.org** and click "Sign Up" at the top
2. Enter "85048" and select St. Benedict
3. Enter your name and email address

Now you're ready to start exploring!



### BINGO Night Changed

The date for the next BINGO Night has changed! Save the date for **Friday, January 26** from 6-8 pm in the St. John Bosco multipurpose room. It's sure to be a fun evening for all ages! We'll have pizza, baked goods, lots of BINGO and over 100 prizes! RSVP on the parish website.

By the way, we are always looking for prizes, so if you have gift cards or new items you are not using, donate them as BINGO prizes.

For more information or to donate prizes, email [events@stbenedict.org](mailto:events@stbenedict.org).

### Save the Date: Parish Picnic Sunday, February 20, 12:30 to 3 pm

Let's plan to attend the St. Benedict Parish Picnic at Desert Breeze Park and enjoy a day of food, fun and getting together with our fellow parishioners! Lawn games, music and more! Free hotdogs and hamburgers that our Knights of Columbus will grill up for us. Bring your own picnic blankets and chairs to relax. RSVP soon!

If you would like to volunteer at this special event, please contact Lani at [events@stbenedict.org](mailto:events@stbenedict.org)

### Email and Text Alert

Some parishioners are receiving emails and text messages that suggest our priests, deacon or staff are requesting a favor or a gift. These are "spam" and should be immediately deleted. We would never send an email or text for these reasons. Unfortunately, we have no way to restrict or stop these emails or texts. Thank you for your understanding.

### Pastoral Care

Please remember in your prayers **Marie Holden** (mother of Greg Holden) and **Darel Williams** (husband of Michele Edison) who died recently. We pray that their families and friends will feel God's healing embrace through the prayers and support of our faith community.

## Faith Formation and More

### Happenings in Children and Youth Faith Formation

#### Sunday, Jan 7

*Liturgy of the Word with Children*

#### Tuesday, Jan 9

**NO Classes**

#### Sunday, Jan 14

*Liturgy of the Word with Children*

EPIC

#### Tuesday, Jan 16

JAM

*Journey of Faith*

#### Sunday, Jan 21

*Liturgy of the Word with Children*

*Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*

EPIC

### 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](mailto:hmooney@stbenedict.org)

### Baptism Class

The next Baptism Class at St. Benedict for parents and Godparents is on **Saturday, January 13** from 9:30 am to 11:30 am in the St. Benedict Conference Room (Annex 1). (Restrooms available at the school.) To RSVP, contact Sr. Ruth at [srruth@stbenedict.org](mailto:srruth@stbenedict.org).

### A Family House Blessing Activity for the New Year

New Years is the perfect time to gather your family together to ask God's blessing on your home and protection for all who live and visit within it. It is an invitation for Jesus to remain at the center of every home.

The Blessing can be done simply by using chalk to write over the door:

**20 + C + M + B + 24**

(The 20 + 24 represents the year and the C, M, B are twofold: They are the first initials of the three Magi, but also initials for the Latin blessing, *Christus mansionem benedicat*, meaning "Christ bless this house.")

Finally, offer the following prayer:

*Oh blessed Lord, visit this home with the gladness of your presence.*

*Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch.*

*May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you. Guide, comfort and strengthen us in peace, Oh Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.*





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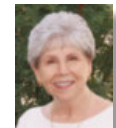


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## A Note From The SJB Principal



Dear Parishioners,

Happy Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord! Now it's time to take down the Christmas decorations!

The children are back on campus and settling into the school routine once again. We are gearing up for a lively Catholic Schools Week later this month and all the fun events associated with it. Although we've been enrolling new students throughout the fall and winter, Catholic Schools Week is when we invite the public in earnest to see our beautiful campus and learn all about what makes SJB a great choice for Catholic education.

Please make it a point to stop by our Open House on Wednesday, January 31, 5-7 pm and enjoy a campus tour.

Joyful Blessings,

Jamie Bescak, M.Ed., Principal

480.219.4848



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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.