

February 16, 2025  
**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

“ **Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.** ”  
 ~ Ps 1

“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

**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.

**Office Hours** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Mass Schedule** \_\_\_\_\_

Sat 5 pm, Sun 7, 9, 11 am, 1 pm (Spanish), 5 pm  
 Weekdays Mon-Thurs, Chapel: 8:15 am  
 Weekdays on Fri 8:15 am, Church

**Reconciliation** \_\_\_\_\_

Fri 5-6 pm, Sat 8-9 am

**Upcoming Events** \_\_\_\_\_

For a complete calendar of events, please visit [stbenedict.org/calendar](http://stbenedict.org/calendar)

<b>Monday, 2/17</b> <b>President's Day/Holiday</b> Office Closed 8:15 am   Mass	<b>Tuesday, 2/18</b> 8:15 am   Mass	<b>Wednesday, 2/19</b> 8:15 am   Mass 6 pm   Children's Choir
<b>Thursday, 2/20</b> 8:15 am   Mass 9 am   Legion Mary 6 pm   Adult Choir	<b>Friday, 2/21</b> 8:15 am   Mass 5 pm   Confession	<b>Saturday, 2/22</b> 8 am   Confession 5 pm   Mass

**Mass Intentions** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Sunday, 2/16/2025</b> 7 am   Sonia Aguilar (lvg) 9 am   Linda Kruse † 11 am   Paul & Linda Sroka † 1 pm   Parishioners 5 pm   Aaron Dorney †	Th 2/20   Yvette Gallagher (lvg) F 2/21   Kristin Jackson (lvg) Sat 2/22   Ben & Evelyn Korczyk †
M 2/17   Jason Ruiz (lvg) Tu 2/18   Seamus McDermott † W 2/19   J.D. Pickett †	<b>Sunday, 2/23/2025</b> 7 am   Charles Perdue † 9 am   Hans Olsson † 11 am   Rita Rodrigoe † 1 pm   Parishioners 5 pm   Mike Johnsen (lvg)

## Liturgy & Administration

### Scripture Readings

<b>Monday:</b>	Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1, 8, 2/17 16bc-17, 20-21/Mk 8:11-13
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1a, 2/18 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9c-10/Mk 8:14-21
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Ps 116:12- 2/19 13, 14-15, 18-19/Mk 8:22-26
<b>Thursday:</b>	Gn 9:1-13/Ps 102:16-18, 19- 2/20 21, 29, 22-23/Mk 8:27-33
<b>Friday:</b>	Gn 11:1-9/Ps 33:10-11, 12-13, 2/21 14-15/Mk 8:34-9:1
<b>Saturday:</b>	1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/ 2/22 Mt 16:13-19 <i>(The Chair of St. Peter, Apostle)</i>
<b>Sunday:</b>	1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/ 2/23 1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38

### Parish Contributions

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

Regular Contributions for  
**January 2025**

**Actual: \$ 67,822\***

**Budget: \$ 87,500**

*\* Realm*

Online: \$ 41,247

Cash/Check: \$ 26,575

*(Contributions are recorded on a monthly basis per fiscal year July 1, '24 to June 30, '25)*

### Debt Reduction

Jan 31, 2025

Church Construction Loan:	\$4,500,000
Current Loan Balance:	\$4,414,098
Monthly Mortgage Payment:	\$21,076
Fiscal YTD Principal Paid:	\$53,232
Fiscal YTD Interest Paid:	\$108,625



### Live the Liturgy

Too many of us make the mistake of expecting prosperity here on Earth as a reward for following Christ. But Jesus is very clear: sorrow and hardship are a part of life. But when we offer these sufferings to Christ, they become transformed. They become blessed. And so do we.

©LPi

### Parish Staff

Pastor - Fr. James Aboyi, VC x 302  
[fraboyi@stbenedict.org](mailto:fraboyi@stbenedict.org)  
Parochial Vicar - Fr. Augustine Acheme, VC x 306  
[fraugustine@stbenedict.org](mailto:fraugustine@stbenedict.org)  
Parish Manager - Agustin Vizcarra, x 304  
[avizcarra@stbenedict.org](mailto:avizcarra@stbenedict.org)  
Children's Formation - Sr. Delia Obenza, OP x 307  
[srdelia@stbenedict.org](mailto:srdelia@stbenedict.org)  
Front Office/Admin. Asst. - Amy Fletcher x 300  
[afletcher@stbenedict.org](mailto:afletcher@stbenedict.org)  
Contact the Parish Office at 480.961.1610

Deacon - J. C. Gonzalez x 300  
[dcngonzalez@stbenedict.org](mailto:dcngonzalez@stbenedict.org)  
Deacon - Ed Winkelbauer x 300  
[dcned@stbenedict.org](mailto:dcned@stbenedict.org)  
Dir. Evangelization/Formation - Sr. Liza Sulit, OP x 308  
[srliza@stbenedict.org](mailto:srliza@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 - Erin Fish x 303  
[efish@stbenedict.org](mailto:efish@stbenedict.org)

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## Scripture Reflection

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### Blessed Are Those Who Trust in the Lord

In today's readings, we encounter a contrast between two ways of living: one rooted in trust in human strength and another founded on trust in God. The prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 17:5-8) vividly illustrates this contrast: *"Cursed is the one who trusts in human beings, who seeks his strength in flesh, whose heart turns away from the Lord."* Such a person is like a barren bush in the desert, isolated and lifeless. In contrast, *"Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord."* This person is like a tree planted beside water, resilient and fruitful even in times of drought.

This imagery speaks to the reality of our spiritual lives. When we place our trust solely in human wisdom, power, or wealth, we inevitably find ourselves in spiritual desolation. Human plans and ambitions, while important, cannot be the foundation of our security. The person who trusts in God, however, remains steadfast even amid trials. This does not mean that life will be without hardships, but it assures us that God's grace sustains us through every challenge.

Jesus deepens this message in today's Gospel (Luke 6:17, 20-26), where He proclaims the Beatitudes in what is sometimes called the "Sermon on the Plain." *"Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours."* This is not just about material poverty but a disposition of the heart—a deep reliance on God rather than on worldly status. Likewise, those who hunger, weep, or are persecuted for Christ's sake are called blessed because their suffering will be redeemed in God's kingdom. Conversely, Jesus warns against trusting in fleeting riches, comfort, and human praise: *"Woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation."*

The second reading from 1 Corinthians (15:12, 16-20) reminds us of the ultimate reason for our trust: the resurrection of Christ. If our hope in Christ were limited to this life, we would be the most pitiable of people. But because Christ is risen, we are assured of eternal life, reinforcing that true security lies in God alone.

Today's readings call us to examine where we place our trust. Are we relying on human strength and temporary successes, or are we rooted in the Lord? The world may promise stability in wealth, status, or approval, but these can fade. True blessedness comes from surrendering to God's will and trusting that He is our refuge, our provider, and our hope. Like the tree planted beside the waters, may we remain steadfast in faith, drawing nourishment from the living water that is Christ Himself.

Fr. Augustine Acheme, VC

## Current Events and More

**SUNDAY – FEB  
23rd  
12:30 – 3:00  
DESERT BREEZE  
PARK**



**RSVP now on  
the Parish  
website!**

**JOIN US for the Parish Picnic!**

**IT'S FREE!**

**Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Dessert, Games, Raffle  
Baskets and everyone's favorite Lip Sync Battle!**

Sunday, February 23, 2025 12:30 - 3:00 at Desert Breeze Park  
660 N. Desert Breeze Blvd East, Chandler, AZ 85226  
Chandler, AZ 85226 (South side of Park, enter off Chandler Blvd)

Questions or to volunteer email Lani at [events@stbenedict.org](mailto:events@stbenedict.org)

## Rummage Sale

Thank you for your donations! We are now in the process of accepting and storing items in Annex 2.

We accept small appliances, books, furniture, CDs, DVDs, electronics, jewelry, housewares, clothes, bedding, games, tools, toys, holiday decor, etc.

We cannot accept any car seats or large appliances such as dishwashers, stoves, or old model TVs; however, working refrigerators and freezers will be accepted.

Also needed are many volunteers!

For more information, contact Gayle at **480.773.5300** or [rummagesale@stbenedict.org](mailto:rummagesale@stbenedict.org).

## Ministry Contacts

Audio-Visual... Scott, [av@stbenedict.org](mailto:av@stbenedict.org)  
 Altar Servers... Ken, [dken-1@hotmail.com](mailto:dken-1@hotmail.com)  
 Altar Society... Sr. Liza, [srliza@stbenedict.org](mailto:srliza@stbenedict.org)  
 Baptisms... Sr. Liza, [srliza@stbenedict.org](mailto:srliza@stbenedict.org)  
 EMHCs... Russ, [rustlespencer@gmail.com](mailto:rustlespencer@gmail.com)  
 Events/Helping Hands... Lani, [events@stbenedict.org](mailto:events@stbenedict.org)  
 Finance Council... Karen, [karenmains@msn.com](mailto:karenmains@msn.com)  
 Gift Shop... Lisa, [lhattula@outlook.com](mailto:lhattula@outlook.com)  
 Hospitality... David, [davidjschenach@gmail.com](mailto:davidjschenach@gmail.com)  
 Knights of Columbus... John, [jgarrity43@aol.com](mailto:jgarrity43@aol.com)  
 Lectors... Melissa, [melissa729@gmail.com](mailto:melissa729@gmail.com)  
 Legion of Mary... Heidi Hill, [stblom@stbenedict.org](mailto:stblom@stbenedict.org)  
 Music/Choir... Phil A., 480.961.1610 ext. 311  
 Pastoral Care... Kathy, [kathy.mccluskey@cox.net](mailto:kathy.mccluskey@cox.net)  
 Pastoral Council... Russ, [pastoralcouncil@stbenedict.org](mailto:pastoralcouncil@stbenedict.org)  
 Porters of St. Joseph... security@stbenedict.org  
 Refugee Resettlement... Dave, [zabordave@gmail.com](mailto:zabordave@gmail.com)  
 Sacristans... Larry, [zbarblary@gmail.com](mailto:zbarblary@gmail.com)  
 St. Vincent de Paul... Phil W., 480.961.1610 ext. 315  
 Women's Spirituality... Nora, [nmphilips@cox.net](mailto:nmphilips@cox.net)

## Charity and Development Appeal



Jesus has just healed numerous people in the Sermon on the Mount, "...of their diseases" and "everyone in the crowd sought to touch him because power came forth from him and healed them all." (Luke 6:18-19). It's the beginning of a ministry full of tender and compassionate miracles that reveal Christ's infinite mercy. He restores sight to the blind, raises the dead, cures lepers so they can return to society, makes the lame walk again. He heals them all.

When He begins to preach, He continues to convey His concern for the lowly as He elevates the poor, hungry, weeping, and hated. We can continue His mission through our own treatment for those in need, through support of the Charity & Development Appeal. Please prayerfully consider making your gift today! [www.give.dphx.org](http://www.give.dphx.org)

## Ash Wednesday, March 5 Mass/Service Schedule

Mass with Ashes:

6:30 am, 8:15 am, 5 pm, 7 pm

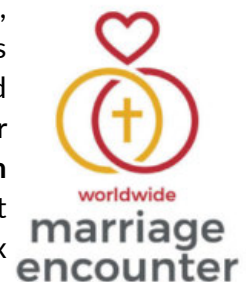
Service with Ashes:

12 Noon

## Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness in your life and marriage. Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience the weekend of **March 8/9** at the Mt. Claret Retreat Center (4633 N. 54th St., Phoenix 85018). Early registration is highly recommended.

For more information visit [www.marizona.com](http://www.marizona.com) or call **520.661.3644**.





Faith Formation and More

Happenings in Children and Youth Faith Formation

Sunday, Feb 16
Children's Mass at 9 am
NO Liturgy of the Word With Children
NO R.E. Classes or Teen Sac. Prep.

Tuesday, Feb 18
NO JAM
NO JOF

Sunday, Feb 23
Liturgy of the Word With Children
CGS
Teen Sac. Prep.
NO EPIC

Tuesday, Feb 25
JAM
JOF

Saint Benedict Youth Ministry
HIGH SCHOOL ROOTED RETREAT
PRESCOTT, AZ
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\$95
QR code
For any questions or concerns, please contact Erin Fish at efish@stbenedict.org

Hey, high school teens! Sign ups are now being taken for the Rooted Retreat, March 28-30 in Prescott! Join us for a weekend of spiritual renewal, prayer, and connection.

From Palms to Ashes

Bring in last year's palms to be burned and prepared for this year's Ash Wednesday observance. Palms may be brought to the church anytime until February 28 to be burned the following weekend.



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## Ministries & More

### Knights of Columbus

Congratulations to Luis Acosta and family on being nominated as the Family of the Month. Also to Forest Cooper and Joe Schmitz on becoming Knights of the Month.

**Events:** Parish Picnic on **Sunday, February 23**, from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Come and man the barbecue.

Parish Rosary on **Wednesday, February 26** at 7 pm in the Chapel.

Ash Wednesday, **March 5**. Masses at 6:30 am, 8:15 am, 5 pm and 7 pm. Service with ashes at noon. Join online to become a Knight of Columbus at [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus) and enter "Council 12246" and code "blessedmcgivney".

Vivat Jesus,  
John Garrity, Grand Knight  
Fr. Bob Binta Council # 12246  
[jgarrity43@aol.com](mailto:jgarrity43@aol.com)

### St. Vincent de Paul



In the Gospel this weekend, Jesus gives us the blessings of serving the poor, hungry and weeping people, for you will then rejoice and leap for joy. Choosing to help those who are suffering will fill your heart with the blessing of Jesus. Please consider donating the following to help our neighbors:

- Beef Stew
- Taco Kits
- Pasta Sauce
- Refried Beans
- Juice
- Kleenex

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

**(602) 441-2744**

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## A Note From The SJB Principal

Dear Parishioners,

As we conclude our spring Parent-Teacher Conferences, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to parents, teachers, and staff for your ongoing support and involvement in our school community. This season has provided us with an exceptional opportunity to collaborate closely with both parents and teachers, ensuring that we effectively address the needs of every learner. With only three months left in the school year, it is exciting to anticipate the continued learning and growth that lies ahead.

At St. John Bosco Catholic School, we hold a firm belief that parents are the first and most influential educators in a child’s life. Our mission is to build upon the strong moral values and spiritual foundation taught at home by integrating these principles into every aspect of our educational environment. We are committed to nurturing the whole child—academically, socially, and spiritually—while upholding the cherished values that guide our community.

In partnership with our dedicated faculty, staff, and valued parents, we embrace the mission of our patron saint, St. John Bosco, as we work together to shape our future leaders. Our shared goal is to ensure that the remaining months of this school year are both memorable and enriching for every student. Together, we strive to finish strong, celebrating the remarkable growth and accomplishments of each learner along the way.

It is through our collective efforts that we continue to create a nurturing and inspiring environment for our children.

Joyful Blessings,

Jamie Bescak, M.Ed., Principal

480.219.4848

A promotional graphic for St. John Bosco Catholic School. It features four students in school uniforms standing in front of a green metal gate. A white circular badge in the upper right corner says "2025-26 APPLICATIONS OPEN". The text "Preschool-8th grade" is written in large white letters across the bottom. Below that, it says "We are a faith community dedicated to academic excellence and inspire children to follow their dreams!". At the bottom, the school logo, name, website "www.sjbbosco.org/admissions", and phone number "480-219-4848" are listed.