



February 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

“ *The Lord is kind and merciful.* ”

~ Ps 103

“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

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

Monday, 2/24
8:15 am | Mass

Tuesday, 2/25
8:15 am | Mass
6:30 pm | Bible Study

Wednesday, 2/26
8:15 am | Mass
5:30 pm | Finance Council
7 pm | Parish Rosary

Thursday, 2/27
8:15 am | Mass
9 am | Legion Mary
6 pm | Adult Choir

Friday, 2/28
8:15 am | Mass
5 pm | Confession

Saturday, 3/1
8 am | Confession
10 am | Women's Spirituality
5 pm | Mass

Mass Intentions

Sunday, 2/23/2025

7 am | Charles Perdue †
9 am | Hans Olsson †
11 am | Rita Rodrigoe †
1 pm | Dcn. Doug Davaz †
5 pm | Mike Johnsen (lvg)

M 2/24 | Giselle Alcasid †
Tu 2/25 | Giselle Alcasid †
W 2/26 | Donna Rubino †

Th 2/27 | Steve Long (lvg)
F 2/28 | Jeff Westfall †
Sat 3/1 | John Smith †

Sunday, 3/2/2025

7 am | Giselle Alcasid †
9 am | Ray Bechtold †
11 am | Marito Roque †
1 pm | Parishioners
5 pm | Jon Novenski (lvg)

Liturgy & Administration

Scripture Readings

Monday: Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 2/24 5/Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 2/25 27-28, 39-40/Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: Sir 4:11-19/Ps 119:165, 168, 2/26 171, 172, 174, 175/Mk 9:38-40

Thursday: Sir 5:1-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6/ 2/27 Mk 9:41-50

Friday: Sir 6:5-17/Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 2/28 27, 34, 35/Mk 10:1-12

Saturday: Sir 17:1-15/Ps 103:13-14, 15- 3/1 16, 17-18/Mk 10:13-16

Sunday: Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 3/2 15-16/1 Cor 15:54-58/ Lk 6:39-45

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

Jesus' message today is one of radical generosity and abundant mercy, and it scandalized the people of his time. It shook them to their core. It should do the same for us. Are we ready to live as Jesus lived? Are we ready to offer love in the face of hate?

©LPi

Parish Staff

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

Parochial Vicar - Fr. Augustine Acheme, VC x 306
fraugustine@stbenedict.org

Parish Manager - Agustin Vizcarra, x 304
avizcarra@stbenedict.org

Children's Formation - Sr. Delia Obenza, OP x 307
srdelia@stbenedict.org

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

Contact the Parish Office at 480.961.1610

Deacon - J. C. Gonzalez x 300
dcngonzalez@stbenedict.org

Deacon - Ed Winkelbauer x 300
dcned@stbenedict.org

Dir. Evangelization/Formation - Sr. Liza Sulit, OP x 308
srliza@stbenedict.org

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

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

Youth/Campus Ministry - Erin Fish x 303
efish@stbenedict.org

Scripture Reflection

Love Your Enemies

Today's Gospel (Luke 6:27-38) presents one of the most radical teachings of Jesus: *"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."* This command is difficult to live out, yet it is at the heart of Christian discipleship. Jesus calls us to a love that goes beyond human instinct- a love that mirrors the boundless mercy of God.

We see an example of this in the first reading (1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23), where David has the perfect opportunity to take revenge on King Saul, who has been hunting him down. Yet, David chooses mercy over vengeance, refusing to harm *"the Lord's anointed."* He recognizes that justice belongs to God, not man. His act of restraint and mercy foreshadows Jesus' teaching that love must be unconditional and not based on how others treat us.

The Gospel takes this further by challenging us not just to refrain from harming our enemies but to actively do good for them. Jesus asks us to offer the other cheek, to give freely without expecting return, and to lend generously. This is not weakness- it is strength rooted in faith. It is a love that refuses to be dictated by hatred or resentment. It is the love of Christ on the cross, who prayed, *"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."* (Luke 23:34).

Paul's message in 1 Corinthians (15:45-49) reminds us that as followers of Christ, we are called to bear the image of the *"heavenly man."* Just as Christ's love is radical and self-giving, so too must ours be. Loving those who love us is easy, but Jesus asks for something greater- to love as God loves. The reward is not just earthly peace but a transformation of our hearts, making us true children of the Most High.

This Gospel challenges us to examine our own hearts. Are we holding onto resentment? Do we judge and condemn others easily? Jesus' words remind us that *"the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."* If we want to receive mercy, we must first extend it. True Christian love is not about fairness- it is about grace. It is a call to reflect God's mercy in a world that often chooses retaliation over forgiveness.

As we reflect on these readings, may we have the courage to love beyond human limits, to forgive as we have been forgiven, and to trust that God's justice is greater than our own. Let us ask for the grace to love as Christ loves- freely, mercifully, and without condition.

Fr. Augustine Acheme, VC

Current Events and More

**Ash Wednesday, March 5
Mass/Service Schedule**

Mass with Ashes:

6:30 am, 8:15 am, 5 pm, 7 pm (Bi-lingual)

Service with Ashes:

12 Noon

Welcoming Sunday

Next weekend, after the Sunday 9 am Mass, you are invited to come to Welcoming Sunday in the Narthex at the back of the church. Here you can mingle with our Priests, members of the Pastoral Council, Staff and new parishioners. Refreshments will be available.

Church Grounds Clean Up!

Save the date for the next Church Grounds Clean Up! Bring your gardening supplies and show up at the church on **Saturday, March 1** at 6 am. We are going to trim trees and bushes and spruce up the church grounds. All are welcome to come and help!

Ministry Contacts

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

Charity and Development Appeal

*"Love your enemies and do good to them,
and lend expecting nothing back"*
(Luke 6:35)



We've all faced times of trouble in our lives, and having someone to walk alongside us in difficult seasons makes all the difference. Through the Charity and Development Appeal (CDA), you walk alongside the elderly and vulnerable, those without a home or a meal, pregnant mothers and so many others! When we give to those we never meet by supporting the Charity and Development Appeal, we are answering Christ's call to *"lend expecting nothing back"* (Luke 6:35). Through your generosity, our brothers and sisters in need have someone to turn to, and they are met with the hope and joy of Christ.

Make your gift to the CDA today! www.give.dphx.org

CDA Totals

Goals: \$97,274 and 240 Donors
So far.....Contributions: \$30,423 (31%)
Donors: 87 (36%)



When & Where:
Saturday, April 26,
10am-12pm
St. John Bosco Catholic School
multipurpose room

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Faith Formation and More

Happenings in Children and Youth Faith Formation

Sunday, Feb 23

NO Liturgy of the Word With Children

CGS

Teen Sac. Prep.

EPIC

Tuesday, Feb 25

JAM

JOF

Sunday, March 2

Liturgy of the Word With Children

CGS

Teen Sac. Prep.

EPIC

Tuesday, March 4

JAM

JOF



Parish Lenten Retreat

Join us for a 3-Day Lenten Retreat **March 20-22, 2025** with Fr. Stephen Maria Lopez, OP. Fr. Stephen will be facilitating our retreat by taking us on a spiritual Lenten journey. Here is the schedule for the 3 days:

Day 1, Thursday, March 20 at 6:30-8 pm

“Journey Through the Desert” Talk

Day 2, Friday, March 21 at 6:30-8 pm

“Journey to Calvary” - Talk and Open Forum

Day 3, Saturday, March 22 beginning at 9 am

“Journey to Heaven” Talk

12 pm - Lunch Provided

2-3:30 pm - Confession/Spiritual Direction

5 pm - Mass

RSVP with Amy in the office, **480.961.1610 ext. 300.**

Sign ups are being taken for the Rooted Retreat, **March 28-30** in Prescott! All expenses are included...transportation, meals, room and retreat for \$95 each. Join us for a weekend of spiritual renewal, prayer, and connection. Scan the QR code or contact Erin Fish in the parish office to reserve your place now. Only 20 spots available. Sponsorships are welcome!

Gala

Save the date for our next Gala on **Saturday, May 3** at the Marriott from 6 pm to 9:30 pm. We are sure to have glitz and glamor as well as a sumptuous meal and a lot of fun with raffles and auctions We hope you will come!

Pastoral Care

Please remember in your prayers **Marie Louise Graller** who died recently. We pray that her family and friends will feel God's healing embrace through the prayers and support of our faith community.

Ministries & More

Knights of Columbus

"I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High." (Psalm 9:2-3)

Events: Parish Picnic on **Sunday, February 23** from 12:30 to 3:30. We'll be flipping the burgers!

State Raffle is happening...someone will win \$10,000! Get you tickets from a Knight...\$5 each, 6 for \$20. We had a \$1,000 winner here last year!

Join online to become a Knight of Columbus at 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

St. Vincent de Paul



In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us the challenge to "Love your enemies...Give to everyone who asks of you...Do to others as you would have them do to you...Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." Please be merciful by donating any of the following:

- Crackers
- Protein Bars
- Fruit Snacks
- Applesauce
- Cookies
- Snack Bars

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

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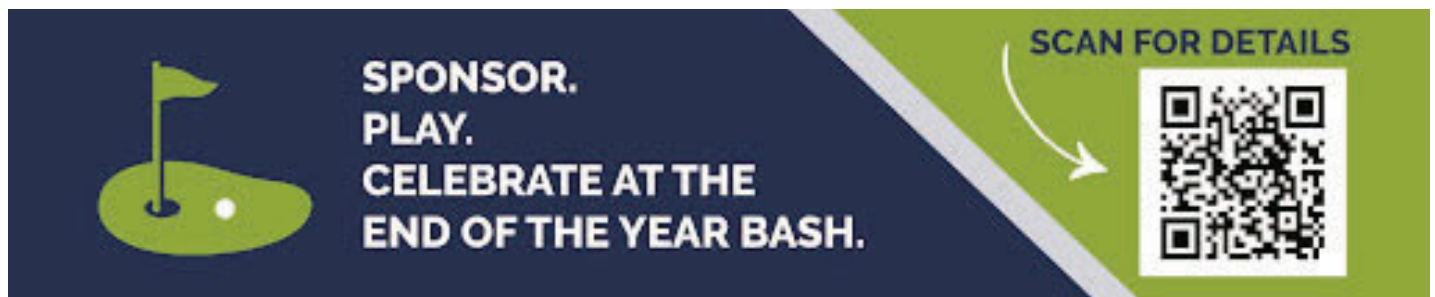
Dear Parishioners,

Help us drive Birdies Fore Bosco to success! We're actively seeking sponsors and donors to support our event. Check out our sponsorship packages at www.sjbosco.org/golf for more information. Know someone who might be interested in sponsoring or donating? Or if you'd like to help drive sponsors, please contact Mike Castro at 480-636-0405. Your support makes a difference!

Thank you!

Jamie Bescak, M.Ed., Principal

480.219.4848



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, ceiling fans, chandeliers, or old model TVs; however, working refrigerators and freezers will be accepted.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Gayle at 480.773.5300 or rummagesale@stbenedict.org.

