



March 23, 2025  
**Third Sunday of Lent**

“ **The Lord is kind and merciful.** ”  
 ~ Ps 103

“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, 3/24</b> 8:15 am   Mass 6:30 pm   Parish Information Night	<b>Tuesday, 3/25</b> 8:15 am   Mass 6:15 pm   JAM/JOF 6:30 pm   Bible Study	<b>Wednesday, 3/26</b> 8:15 am   Mass 6 pm   Children’s Choir 7 pm   Parish Rosary
<b>Thursday, 3/27</b> 8:15 am   Mass 9 am   Legion Mary 6 pm   Adult Choir	<b>Friday, 3/28</b> 8:15 am   Mass 5 pm   Confession 6 pm   Stations (Eng) 6:30 pm   Fish Dinner 7 pm   Stations (Sp)	<b>Saturday, 3/29</b> 8 am   Confession 9 am   First Reconciliation 5 pm   Mass

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

<b>Sunday, 3/23/2025</b> 7 am   Bunny Perrero † 9 am   Patricia Oluga † 11 am   Ron Sroka † 1 pm   Marie L. Graller † 5 pm   Joseph Jakubicek †	Th 3/27   Nina Dobrus † F 3/28   Jill Walker † Sat 3/29   Alexander Gil (lvg)
<b>M 3/24   Francisco Arvizu †</b> <b>Tu 3/25   Aaron Dorney †</b> <b>W 3/26   Apolinar &amp; Lucia Samin †</b>	<b>Sunday, 3/30/2025</b> 7 am   Paul Timmerman (lvg) 9 am   Margaret McDermott (lvg) 11 am   Theresa Cuprak † 1 pm   Marie L. Graller † 5 pm   Julito Alcasid †

## Liturgy & Administration

### Scripture Readings

**Monday:** 2 Kgs 5:1-15b/Ps 42:2, 3;  
3/24 43:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30

**Tuesday:** Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a,  
3/25 8b-9,10,11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38  
*(The Annunciation of the Lord)*

**Wednesday:** Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-  
3/26 16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19

**Thursday:** Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7,  
3/27 8-9/Lk 11:14-23

**Friday:** Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-9, 10-  
3/28 11ab, 14, 17/Mk 12:28-34

**Saturday:** Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19,  
3/29 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14

**Sunday:** Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-7/  
3/30 2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

### Parish Contributions

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

Regular Contributions for  
**February 2025**

**Actual: \$ 69,608\***

**Budget: \$ 87,500**

\* Realm

Online: \$ 40,706

Cash/Check: \$ 28,902

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

### Debt Reduction

Feb 28, 2025

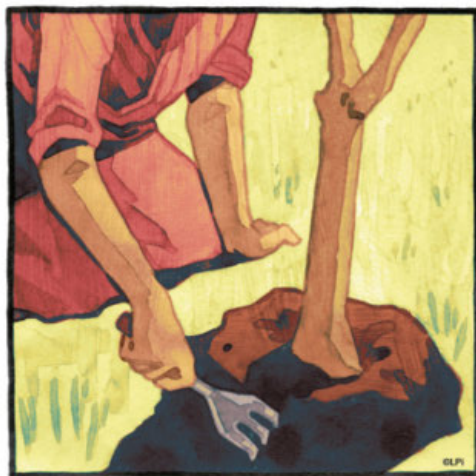
Church Construction Loan: \$4,500,000

Current Loan Balance: \$4,408,716

Monthly Mortgage Payment: \$21,088

Fiscal YTD Principal Paid: \$58,614

Fiscal YTD Interest Paid: \$124,331



### Live the Liturgy

Jesus Christ is the ever-vigilant gardener. He desires us to bloom, that we will do what we were created to do, that we will bear the fruit that God intended. Will we let him cultivate our ground and prune our imperfections?

Will we let him save us?

©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

### A Call to Repentance

Today's Gospel (Luke 13:1-9) presents a sobering message from Jesus: *"If you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!"* He addresses people who believed that tragic deaths were punishments for grave sin, challenging this notion and redirecting the focus inward. Instead of speculating about the guilt of others, Jesus urges self-examination and conversion. His words remind us that suffering is not necessarily a sign of divine punishment but that every moment of life is an opportunity for repentance. Jesus reinforces this message with the parable of the barren fig tree. The owner seeks fruit for three years but finds none. He orders the tree to be cut down, yet the gardener intercedes: *"Leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future."* This parable is a striking image of God's patience. He does not immediately condemn but gives time for renewal. However, this time is not endless- there is urgency in Jesus' words. God's mercy is abundant, but it calls for a response. The question is, are we bearing fruit? Are we truly living as disciples of Christ, or are we stagnant in faith?

The first reading (Exodus 3:1-15) recounts Moses' encounter with God in the burning bush. God reveals His name- *"I AM WHO AM"*- and His plan to deliver Israel from bondage. Like the fig tree, Israel had been given time to turn back to God. Moses' mission reflects God's ongoing call to His people: a call to freedom, renewal, and trust in His power.

St. Paul, in the second reading (1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12), warns that even those who have received God's grace are not automatically secure. The Israelites experienced divine blessings but still fell into sin. Paul urges humility: *"Whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall."* Lent is a time to acknowledge our need for God's mercy, to till the soil of our hearts, and allow His grace to transform us.

The fig tree still stands, the gardener is still at work, and the call to repentance remains open. What in our lives needs pruning? What areas require deeper conversion? Let us not take God's patience for granted but respond wholeheartedly, bearing fruit in faith, love, and righteousness.

Fr. Augustine Acheme, VC



## Current Events and More

### Mortgage Support Collection

St. Benedict Church will be taking a second collection this weekend, **March 22/23**, to support our mortgage payment plan. We kindly invite you to contribute to this effort by giving a little extra each month. Every contribution, big or small, brings us closer to paying down the debt. Mortgage Support Collection envelopes are in the pews and will be included in the envelopes you get in the mail. Thank you for your help.

### Pastoral Care

Please remember in your prayers **Christine Del Rincon, Pat Quinn, Norma Santos, Michael White** and **Robert Webster** 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.

### Marriage Encounter

Be transformed by Jesus' love. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter experiences are on June 21-22, 2025 in Tucson, August 23-24, 2025 in Tucson, and on October 25-26, 2025 in Phoenix. For more dates or to sign up, go to [wwme.org](http://wwme.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](mailto: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)

### Parish Information Night

Join us on **Monday, March 24** at 6:30 pm for a Parish Information Night! We will have guest speaker Bart Shea from Acanthus Senior Living to tell us about the senior living project on the property in back of the church. The presentation and Q&A will be at the St. John Bosco School multipurpose room. We hope to see you there!

### Lenten Penance Service

Come to the St. Benedict Lenten Penance Service on **Tuesday, April 8** at 7 pm. Please be prompt since the evening begins with a liturgical service and Act of Contrition. We will have a number of priests to hear confessions

### Stations of the Cross

The Lenten Stations of the Cross are held in the Church every Friday evening during Lent. Stations are at 6 pm (English) and (new time!) 7 pm (Spanish).

We also have a Fish Dinner beginning at 6:30 pm in Annex 3 ... tickets are on sale in the parish lobby from 5:40 pm until 6:40 pm. Dinner consists of 2 pieces of fish, corn tortillas, coleslaw, chips, water and a dessert for only \$10 per person. What a great opportunity for fellowship!

### Welcoming the Stranger

The St. Benedict Refugee Ministry consists of volunteers who teach English and the complex culture of the United States to refugees that are referred to us by the Catholic Charities Community Services.

After recently finishing our commitment with a beautiful family from Myanmar, we have now begun working with a family from Venezuela. They arrived before Christmas having spent the past eight years in a refugee camp in Columbia.

If you are interested in learning more about this ministry or would like to volunteer, contact Dave Zabor at **480.889.4676** or [zabordave@gmail.com](mailto:zabordave@gmail.com).



Faith Formation and More

Happenings in Children and Youth Faith Formation

Sunday, March 23
Liturgy of the Word With Children
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
Teen Sacrament Prep
EPIC

Tuesday, March 25
JAM
JOF

March 28-30
Youth Ministry Retreat

Sunday, March 30
Liturgy of the Word With Children
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Tuesday, April 1
JAM
JOF

Arriba's Mexican Grill Fun-raiser

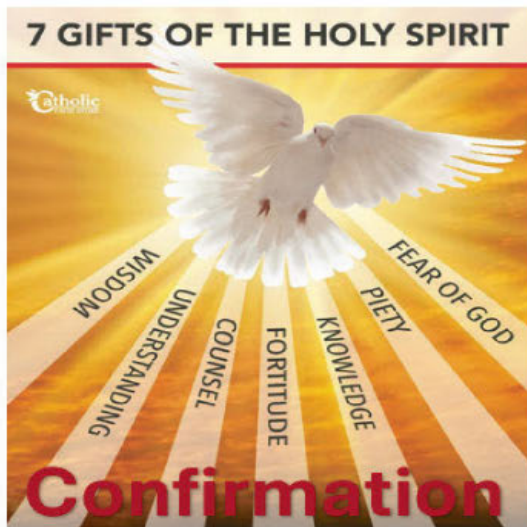
This Sunday, March 23, 12 pm to 4 pm, is the Arriba's Mexican Grill fundraiser, located at 4649 E. Chandler Blvd.)! You are invited to enjoy some festive Mexican food and fun to benefit St. Benedict Church. Arriba's will donate 20% of all dine-in food purchases between the hours of Noon and 4 pm. (Please mention to the server you are there for the fundraiser.) Bring your family and friends!

St. Benedict Gala

You are cordially invited to attend this festive evening on Saturday, May 3 from 6 pm to 9 pm at The Marriott Phoenix/Chandler (1600 S. Price Rd., Chandler 85286).

A cocktail hour and a plated dinner will be served. Raffle and Silent Auction items will be available along with musical entertainment. Individual tickets are \$75, and reserved tables for 10 are \$1,000. Purchase these here: https://m.biddingforgood.com/auctions/341793794

If you would like information on Corporate Sponsorships, please call Maryola at 480.961.1610, ext. 309, or email mfabilena@stbenedict.org.



Retreat: April 5, Saturday from 9:AM -11:30AM at SJB MPR

Practice with sponsor: April 24, Thursday at 6:30pm - church

Confirmation and First Communion Day: April 26, Saturday at 10:00AM

Ministries & More

## Knights of Columbus 16th Annual Memorial Golf Tournament

Join us on **Saturday, March 29** at the Dobson Ranch Golf Course. This year's Tournament is in memory of **Megan Elizabeth Holmes/Golembiewski**.

We are looking for Sponsors!

- COPPER - \$100
- SILVER - \$200
- GOLD - \$500



We are also in need of donations for Raffle Prizes: gift cards, golf equipment, etc. This is a GREAT OPPORTUNITY to advertise your business!

For more information, contact Isauro Amaro at [isauroamaro@yahoo.com](mailto:isauroamaro@yahoo.com)

## St. Vincent de Paul



In today's Gospel, Jesus is quite clear in his message, "bear fruit or be cut down." This Lent we are called to cultivate and fertilize our spiritual lives through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Please consider donating any of the following for this week's Lenten intention:

- Canned Meats
- Chef Boy R Dee items
- Rice
- Baking Mixes
- Sugar
- Flour

In February, we helped 68 families with 125 bags of food and \$6,868 in financial assistance. If you are in need of St. Vincent de Paul assistance or information, please call the parish office at **480.961.1610 ext. 315**.

<p><b>(602) 441-2744</b></p>  <p>4025 E Chandler Blvd., Suite 28, Phoenix, AZ 85048 <a href="http://www.parlordoughnuts.com/ahwatukee-az">www.parlordoughnuts.com/ahwatukee-az</a></p>	 <p>Mon. Fri. 11- 8:30pm <b>(480) 626-9295</b> <a href="http://www.juanasrestaurant.com">www.juanasrestaurant.com</a></p>	 <p>16611 S. 40th St. Ste 110 • Phoenix <b>(602) 805-8525</b> <a href="http://www.mechamortho.com">www.mechamortho.com</a></p> 							
<p>4025 E Chandler Blvd., Suite 28, Phoenix, AZ 85048 <a href="http://www.parlordoughnuts.com/ahwatukee-az">www.parlordoughnuts.com/ahwatukee-az</a></p>	 <p><b>Exceptional dental care for the whole family</b></p> <p>Come experience why our patients rate us 5 star reviews on Google!</p>	 <p>55+</p> <p><b>Encore Choral of Phoenix</b></p> <p>Tuesdays 4:30-6 p.m. At Horizon Church</p> <p>Learn More: </p>							
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### A Note From The SJB Principal

#### SPONSORS NEEDED!

We're still looking for more sponsors for this year's event! If you'd like to support Birdies Fore Bosco as a sponsor, SCAN the QR CODE in the ad to the right. You can also contact Mike Castro at 480.636.0405 or [birdiesforebosco@sjbosco.org](mailto:birdiesforebosco@sjbosco.org) for sponsorships or to get involved in the event. Thank you in advance!

Joyful Blessings,  
Jamie Bescak, M.Ed., Principal  
480.219.4848



## Comunidad Hispana Misionera

### LA VOZ DEL PASTOR:

Escúchale

En la montaña de la Transfiguración, Jesús revela su gloria a Pedro, Santiago y Juan. Mientras su rostro resplandece y sus vestiduras se vuelven de un blanco deslumbrante, Moisés y Elías aparecen a su lado, hablando de su inminente sufrimiento en Jerusalén. Entonces, desde la nube, la voz del Padre declara: «Este es mi Hijo elegido; escuchadle». (Lucas 9:35). Estas palabras, pronunciadas con majestad, encierran un profundo significado, no sólo para los apóstoles, sino para cada uno de nosotros en nuestro camino por la Cuaresma.

Los discípulos habían seguido a Jesús durante algún tiempo, pero aún les costaba entender su misión. La reacción de Pedro -ofreciéndose a construir tres tiendas- muestra el deseo de prolongar este momento glorioso. Pero la Transfiguración no pretendía ser una morada permanente; era un momento de revelación, que les preparaba para las pruebas que les aguardaban. Pronto, Jesús descendería de esta montaña y recorrería el camino del Calvario. La lección aquí es clara: la fe no consiste en quedarse en la cima de la montaña; consiste en seguir a Cristo incluso cuando el camino conduce al sufrimiento y al sacrificio.

En la primera lectura, Dios hace una alianza con Abram, prometiéndole una descendencia tan numerosa como las estrellas. Esta promesa requería confianza, pues Abram aún no podía ver su cumplimiento. Del mismo modo, la Transfiguración nos invita a confiar en el plan de Dios, incluso cuando escapa a nuestra comprensión. La segunda lectura de Filipenses nos recuerda que nuestra verdadera ciudadanía está en el cielo. La gloria que se ve en la montaña no es sólo para Cristo, sino para todos los que están unidos a Él. Él transformará nuestros cuerpos humildes para que sean como su propio cuerpo glorificado, recordándonos que el sufrimiento no es el final, sino el camino hacia la gloria.

El mandato del Padre - «Escuchadle»- nos llama a la obediencia. En un mundo lleno de voces, distracciones y ruido, ¿escuchamos de verdad a Cristo? ¿Oímos su voz en las Escrituras, en la oración, en la quietud de nuestros corazones? En esta Cuaresma, se nos invita a sintonizar con las distracciones del mundo y a escuchar más atentamente a Jesús.

Al continuar nuestro camino cuaresmal, recordemos que la Transfiguración fue un vislumbre de esperanza antes de la Pasión. Cuando nos enfrentemos a pruebas, dudas u oscuridad, aferrémonos a esta visión de la gloria de Cristo, confiando en que más allá de la cruz está la resurrección. Escuchémosle, sigámosle y dejemos que su luz transforme nuestros corazones.

P. Augustine Acheme, VC

### ANUNCIOS IMPORTANTES:

Les comunicamos que ya pueden llamar a la parroquia para solicitar bautismos, bodas, quinceañeras y funerales en español.

*Llamado benéfico y para el desarrollo*  
Los resultados de la Campaña de Caridad y Desarrollo siguen siendo muy buenos. Gracias a todos los que han participado y extendemos una invitación a de participar a aquellos que no lo han hecho. Para mas información vaya a [dphx.org/CDA](http://dphx.org/CDA).

### AVISOS:

- a) La próxima reunión del ministerio hispano será el Miércoles 26 de Marzo a las 7:00 de la noche. Sigamos avanzando y si no te has inscrito para servir te esperamos este día. Queremos crear más y nuevos grupos y ministerios.
- b) La primera Gran Misión cuaresmal será del 31 de Marzo al 2 de abril. ¡No vayas a faltar! Ve programándote e invitando a todos los que puedas pues va a ser de gran bendición.
- c) El Vía Crucis en español se llevará a cabo todos los viernes de cuaresma a las 7:00 PM.