

March 30, 2025  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

“ **Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.** ”  
 ~ Ps 34

“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, 3/31</b> 8:15 am   Mass 7 pm   Hispanic Ministry Mission (3 days)	<b>Tuesday, 4/1</b> 8:15 am   Mass 6:15 pm   JAM/JOF 6:30 pm   Ministry Leaders' Meeting	<b>Wednesday, 4/2</b> 8:15 am   Mass 6 pm   Children's Choir
<b>Thursday, 4/3</b> 8:15 am   Mass 9 am   Legion Mary 6 pm   Adult Choir	<b>Friday, 4/4</b> 8:15 am   Mass 9 am   Adoration 5 pm   Confession 6 pm   Stations (Eng) 7 pm   Stations (Sp)	<b>Saturday, 4/5</b> 8 am   Confession 10 am   Women's Spirituality 5 pm   Mass

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

<b>Sunday, 3/30/2025</b> 7 am   Paul Timmerman (Ivg) 9 am   Margaret McDermott (Ivg) 11 am   Theresa Cuprak † 1 pm   Marie L. Graller † 5 pm   Julito Alcasid †	Th 4/3   Margaret Hewett † F 4/4   Cyrus Goldhair † Sat 4/5   Lynnette Barr †
<b>M 3/31   Don Donquinones †</b> Tu 4/1   Manuela Aguilar † W 4/2   Cheryle Bechtold †	<b>Sunday, 4/6/2025</b> 7 am   Marie L. Graller † 9 am   Ernesto Lee † 11 am   Robert Webster † 1 pm   Robert Webster † 5 pm   Hedwig Wenker †

## Liturgy & Administration

### Scripture Readings

<b>Monday:</b>	Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 3/31 11-12a, 13b/Jn 4:43-54
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 4/1 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd- 4/2 14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30
<b>Thursday:</b>	Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 4/3 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47
<b>Friday:</b>	Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 4/4 19-20, 21, 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
<b>Saturday:</b>	Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc- 4/5 10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53
<b>Sunday:</b>	Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-6 (3)/ 4/6 Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11

### 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

The Prodigal Son doesn't dare ask for the honor of being called his Father's son again. All he wants is to be close to his Father, to be cared for. But his Father surprises him with his mercy, as God surprises us. He offers more than just forgiveness. He offers redemption.

©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)

## Scripture Reflection

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### The Father's Embrace

The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32) is one of the most profound depictions of God's mercy. It speaks of rebellion, repentance, and the overwhelming love of a father who never stops waiting for his lost child to return. This parable is not just about one wayward son- it is about all of us. The younger son, impatient and restless, demands his inheritance and leaves, squandering everything in reckless living. Eventually, he finds himself in misery, longing for the food given to pigs. In this broken state, he realizes the depth of his mistakes and resolves to return home, hoping only to be treated as a servant. This moment of self-awareness is key- he does not try to justify his actions but acknowledges his failure and turns back.

The father's reaction is extraordinary. While the son is still a long way off, the father sees him and runs to embrace him. This is not the reaction of someone demanding explanations or repayment- it is pure love, ready to restore rather than condemn. Before the son can even finish his rehearsed apology, the father orders a robe, a ring, and a feast. The son is not just forgiven; he is reinstated to full sonship. This is the heart of God's mercy- His love is not measured, nor does He wait for us to prove ourselves worthy. He rejoices in our return.

Yet, the parable does not end there. The older son, upon seeing the celebration, is filled with resentment. He has been faithful, obedient, and yet, in his heart, he does not understand the father's love. He sees himself as a servant rather than as a beloved son, believing that love must be earned. The father gently corrects him: *"My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours."* This reminds us that God's mercy does not diminish His justice. His love is abundant and not a competition- there is no loss in rejoicing over another's redemption.

The first reading (Joshua 5:9-12) speaks of a new beginning for Israel as they enter the Promised Land. They no longer rely on manna but on the fruits of the land. This mirrors the prodigal son's journey- moving from spiritual famine to abundance upon returning to the father.

St. Paul's words (2 Corinthians 5:17-21) sum up the message of the Gospel: *"Whoever is in Christ is a new creation."* God is constantly inviting us to reconciliation. Whether we relate more to the prodigal son or the older brother, the Father calls us to step into His embrace, leaving behind pride, fear, and resentment. This Lent, let us not hesitate to return to Him, for His mercy is always greater than our sins.

Fr. Augustine Acheme, VC





## Current Events and More

### The Pastoral Council Needs You!

Would you like to get more involved with the parish? The Parish Pastoral Council will have 2 openings (3-year terms) effective **July 1, 2025**. Please consider helping in this consultative body to assist the Pastor in discerning how the parish can best serve the mission of the church. Your role in this leadership ministry would include planning, attending activities in the parish, priority-setting and visioning. Application forms can be found at [stbenedict.org/pastoral-council](http://stbenedict.org/pastoral-council) on our website. Please submit your completed application to Agustin Vizcarra at [avizcarra@stbenedict.org](mailto:avizcarra@stbenedict.org). Applications will be accepted through Sunday, May 4, 2025, with service beginning in July.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration this week will be on **Friday, April 4** between the hours of **9 am and 6 pm** in the St. Benedict Chapel. All are welcome to come by and spend some time with the Lord.

You can also sign up for a specific time slot at <http://signup.com/go/pukbjk>. Signing up allows us to make sure that all the time slots are covered.



### 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)

### EPIC High Schoolers on Retreat

Please pray for the teens on retreat this weekend in Prescott. Pray that they have a weekend of spiritual renewal, prayer and connection with our Lord and one another.

### Divine Mercy Novena

The Sunday after Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday. To prepare for this, we have a 9-day Novena beginning at 11 am on Good Friday, April 18. *"I desire that during these nine days you bring souls to the fountain of My mercy, that they may draw there from strength and refreshment and whatever grace they have need of in the hardships of life, and especially at the hour of death"* (St. Faustina Diary, 1209).



In His revelations to St. Faustina, Our Lord asked for a special prayer and meditation on His Passion each afternoon at the three-o'clock hour, the hour that recalls His death on the cross. In addition, there are Extraordinary Graces promised by Jesus, and a Plenary Indulgence decreed by St. Pope John Paul II. In her *Diary*, St. Faustina records a special promise given to her by Jesus (699), and in three places she records our Lord's promises of specific, extraordinary graces (1109).

Please join the Divine Mercy prayer group on **Good Friday, April 18**, at 11 am in the St. Benedict Chapel for the first day of the Novena. Each day afterwards the Novena will be said at 3 pm in the St. Benedict Chapel, up to and including Divine Mercy Sunday on April 27.

"Merciful Jesus, I trust in You!"

For more information contact Letty at [tish@alcasid.com](mailto:tish@alcasid.com)

### 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 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 to 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!

## Faith Formation and More

### Happenings in Children and Youth Faith Formation

March 28-30

*Youth Ministry Retreat in Prescott*

**Sunday, March 30**

*Liturgy of the Word With Children  
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*

**Tuesday, April 1**

JAM

JOF

**Sunday, April 6**

*Liturgy of the Word With Children  
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
Teen Sacrament Prep  
EPIC*

**Tuesday, April 8**

JAM

JOF

## Easter Triduum



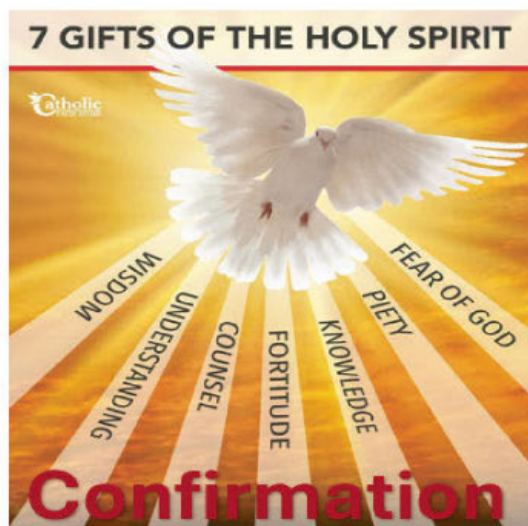
### Come to the Triduum (Trih-doo-um)

The summit of the Liturgical Year is the Easter Triduum -- from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery. The single celebration of the Triduum marks the end of the Lenten season, and leads to the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord.

The liturgical services that take place during the Triduum are the Mass of the Lord's Supper (7 pm on Holy Thursday), the Good Friday service (7 pm on Good Friday), the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord (Vigil on Holy Saturday at 8 pm), and the Easter Sunday Masses in English at 7 am, 9 am, 11 am, and a Spanish Mass at 1 pm.

### Welcoming Sunday

You are invited to Welcoming Sunday next weekend on April 6, where you can mix and mingle with our priests, Staff and new parishioners in the Narthex at the back of the church. Refreshments will be available.



**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

Thanks to all who helped make this year's Memorial Golf Tournament a success on Saturday!

Just a reminder that the State Raffle tickets are for sale after Masses or ask a Knight. \$5 for each ticket, \$20 for a book of five, and six books for \$100. We are hoping to have the \$10,000 winner from St. Benedict Church! Also, remember that the money is donated from the Knights to our St. Vincent de Paul Council here at the church to help provide for our neighbors in need for rental assistance, utilities, gas and food.

Thank you!

Vivat Jesus,

John Garrity, Grand Knight

Fr. Bob Binta Council # 12246

[jgarrity43@aol.com](mailto:jgarrity43@aol.com)

### St. Vincent de Paul



In today's Gospel, the prodigal son repents and finds mercy in the heart of his father. Know that your penance during Lent can give the poor the grace of finding the merciful heart of God the Father. Please consider donating any of the following for this week's needs in the onsite pantry:

- Cereal
- Granola Bars
- Crackers
- Cookies
- Graham Crackers
- Juice Boxes

Thank you for your help. 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</p> <p><b>(480) 626-9295</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.juanasrestaurant.com">www.juanasrestaurant.com</a></p>	<p>16611 S. 40th St. Ste 110 • Phoenix <b>(602) 805-8525</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.mechamortho.com">www.mechamortho.com</a></p>						
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### A Note From The SJB Principal



Dear Parishioners,

Encourage your friends, family, golf buddies, and SJB alumni to participate in what's sure to be an un-FORE-gettable afternoon. Register to play before the event is sold out! <https://sjbosco.org/golf>

Joyful blessings,

Jamie Bescak, M.Ed.

St. John Bosco Catholic School

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## Comunidad Hispana Misionera

### LA VOZ DEL PASTOR:

\*\*El Abrazo del Padre\*\*

La Parábola del Hijo Pródigo (Lucas 15:1-3, 11-32) es una de las representaciones más profundas de la misericordia de Dios. Habla de la rebeldía, el arrepentimiento y el amor desbordante de un Padre que nunca deja de esperar el regreso de su hijo perdido. Esta parábola no trata solo de un hijo descarriado, sino de todos nosotros.

El hijo menor, impaciente e inquieto, exige su herencia y se marcha, malgastándolo todo en una vida desenfadada. Finalmente, se encuentra en la miseria, anhelando la comida que se les da a los cerdos. En ese estado de desesperación, se da cuenta de la profundidad de sus errores y decide regresar a casa, esperando ser tratado solo como un sirviente. Este momento de autoconciencia es clave: no trata de justificar sus acciones, sino que reconoce su fracaso y decide volver.

La reacción del padre es extraordinaria. Mientras el hijo aún está lejos, el padre lo ve y corre a abrazarlo. Esta no es la reacción de alguien que exige explicaciones o reembolsos; es amor puro, dispuesto a restaurar en lugar de condenar. Antes de que el hijo pueda terminar su disculpa ensayada, el padre ordena traerle un manto, un anillo y preparar un banquete. El hijo no solo es perdonado; es restaurado a su plena condición de hijo. Este es el corazón de la misericordia de Dios: Su amor no tiene medida, ni espera a que demos ser dignos. Él se regocija en nuestro regreso.

Sin embargo, la parábola no termina ahí. El hijo mayor, al ver la celebración, se llena de resentimiento. Ha sido fiel, obediente y, sin embargo, en su corazón no comprende el amor del padre. Se ve a sí mismo más como un sirviente que como un hijo amado, creyendo que el amor debe ganarse. El padre lo corrige con ternura: "Hijo mío, tú siempre estás conmigo, y todo lo mío es tuyo." Esto nos recuerda que la misericordia de Dios no disminuye Su justicia. Su amor es abundante y no es una competencia; no hay pérdida en regocijarse por la redención de otro.

La primera lectura (Josué 5:9-12) habla de un nuevo comienzo para Israel al entrar en la Tierra Prometida. Ya no dependían del maná, sino de los frutos de la tierra. Esto refleja el viaje del hijo pródigo: pasar de la hambruna espiritual a la abundancia al regresar al padre.

Las palabras de San Pablo (2 Corintios 5:17-21) resumen el mensaje del Evangelio: "El que está en Cristo es una nueva creación." Dios nos invita constantemente a la reconciliación. Ya sea que nos identifiquemos más con el hijo pródigo o con el hermano mayor, el Padre nos llama a entrar en Su abrazo, dejando atrás el orgullo, el miedo y el resentimiento. Esta Cuaresma, no dudemos en volver a Él, porque Su misericordia es siempre más grande que nuestros pecados.

Padre Augustine Acheme, VC

**Católico**  
Vive y Defiende tu fe

Has escuchado alguna vez que...

- No importa en cuál iglesia estar
- Que no es bíblico confesarse y bautizar a los niños
- Que los católicos somos idólatras
- No es necesario ir a Misa
- El "papa" no está en la Biblia
- María no fue Virgen y tuvo más hijos

Y no has sabido responder

¡Asesinaron a miles y miles de bebés esperando a estar bautizados!

*¡No te lo Pense!*

Día: Lunes 31 de marzo a miércoles 2 de Abril (3 noches)  
Invita: St. Benedict catholic church  
16223 S 48th St, Phoenix, AZ 85048  
Hora: 7:00 pm a 9:00 pm  
Info: (480) 981-1610

### 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 Via Crucis en español se llevará a cabo todos los viernes de cuaresma a las 7:30 PM.