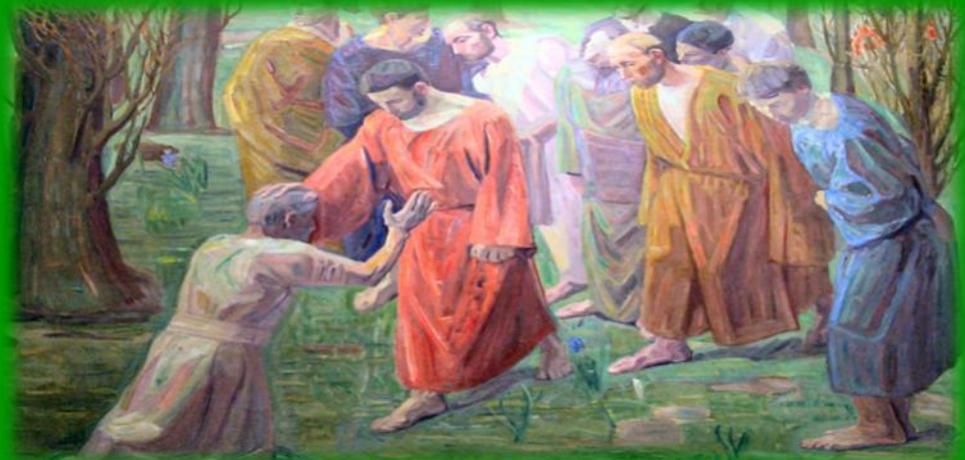


The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 8:00am,
10:30am, 12:15pm

Weekday Masses

Monday-Friday 9:00am

Adoration

Monday-Friday 10am-10pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesdays, 6pm-7pm
Sat. 3:45pm-4:45pm or by appointment



Parish Office

8110 Jewel Lake Rd
Anchorage, AK 99502

Phone: (907) 243-2195
Fax: (907) 243-0088

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday
10:00am -5:00pm

Web: www.stbenedictsak.com
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/stbenedictsak>
Email: parishsecretary@stbenedictsak.com



Lumen Christi Catholic School

Grades 7-12
8110 Jewel Lake Rd Bldg. D
Anchorage, AK 99502

Phone: (907) 245-9231

Office Hours: Monday-Friday
7:00am-3:00pm

Web: www.lumenchristiak.org

- Our Community at a Glance -

Prayer Chain: email Shirley Arnold at s_arnoldak@outlook.com

Outreach: Emergency food for those in need call **907-273-1596**

Clare House: 4th Tuesday each month; contact **Beth Waetjen @ 907-242-2384**

Archangel Attic: Open Tues.-Thurs. 12pm-3pm, and Fri. 10am-3pm, Sat. 10am-4pm, call **907-215-7079**. To volunteer call **Colleen: 354-4372** or **Mary: 868-3453**

Youth & Young adult Catechesis: call **Gabe O'Lena 907-215-7058**

Choir: See **Steve Ring** after Mass or email sring1316@outlook.com

Samoan Mass: 12:15 Mass, 1st Sunday of the Month

Filipino Mass: 12:15 Mass, 3rd Sunday of the Month

Hospitality Sundays: Coffee /donuts, after **8am-10:30am** Masses

Pancake Breakfast: Served **8am to 12:15pm** the 2nd Sunday of the month, **Oct - Apr**

Knights of Columbus: Meets 1st Wednesday at 7pm

Legion of Mary: Meets Mon. at **5:30pm**; call **Ursula @ 907-570-2163**

February 15, 2026

Mission and Core Values

Saint Benedict Parish is a community of Catholic, Christian stewards, working to live and preach the Word of God in thought, word and deed.

As a ministry of Saint Benedict Parish, Lumen Christi High School provides a rigorous Catholic education in a Christ-like environment. We are called to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to build community, and to serve our brothers and sisters.

We are united in our core values of living **Faith**, Celebrating **Family** and Achieving **Excellence!**



THOUGHTS FROM OUR PASTOR



The hard way leads to eternal life!

The First Reading relates that keeping God's Commandments is the only way to salvation. However, we all have a free will. We can choose to abide by these Commandments or not. If we keep them, we will possess the "water of life" now and in the future. If we do not, then the fury of fire will consume our souls and our lives. Adam and Eve chose the easy way, the attractive way, the pleasurable way, the selfish way. And they lost everything in doing so! Unfortunately, we continue to pay the same price whenever we sin in even the smallest way. In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus teaches that we must be better than the scribes and Pharisees. Most of them lived lives of duplicity. They kept every legality, but their minds, hearts, and lives were lacking in love, care, and concern for others. Consequently, Jesus reminds us that murder is wrong. But so are other things we do that hurt others and bring pain to them: like demeaning others, calling them names, and harboring hatred. Jesus teaches that adultery is always wrong; but so are the thoughts, desires, and behaviors that compromise the procreative act in any way. And, we must cut ourselves off from all other enticements as if they were an eye, or a hand, figuratively speaking. The choices are before us: the easy way now; or the hard way of self-denial that leads to eternal life! The Wisdom behind God's plan is not the wisdom of the world. Words to ponder as we prepare to enter the season of Lent. **Which way will I choose?** - Fr. Tom

Welcome to Saint Benedict Parish

Monday 2/16	Tuesday 2/17	Wednesday 2/18 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Thursday 2/19	Friday 2/20	Saturday 2/21	Sunday 2/23
Mass 9am: Ruth Leary ROS <i>Parish Office Closed</i> Adoration 10am - 10pm Legion of Mary 6-7pm OCIA 6:30 Patriotic Rosary 6pm	Mass 9am: Jerry Reller ROS Adoration 10am-10pm Video Series The Search & Discussion 9:30am Shrove Tuesday 5pm	Masses 7am: People of the Parish SI 9am: Danny Bacher ROS 1pm: School 5pm: Judy Stuhr ROS 7pm: Pete Mappala ROS Adoration 10am-10pm Confessions 6pm Samoan Choir 6:30pm High School night 7pm Bible Study 7pm	Masses 9am: Active Military & Vets SI Adoration 12pm-10pm 10:30 Choir Practice 7pm Blessed Among Women 7pm	Mass 9am: Tom Blake ROS Adoration 10am-10pm Jr. Legion 10am Kid Play 1pm Samoan Choir 6:30pm 5:30pm Children's Stations 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Stations of the Cross	Vigil Mass 5pm: Jim & Jane Branham ROS Confessions 3:45-4:45 Samoan Choir 6:30pm Rite of Sending 5pm Mass	Masses 8:00am: People of the Parish SI 10:30am: 12:15pm: Super Sunday Today! Check out our page at: https://www.stbenedictsak.com/65 FB: St. Ben's Youth Ministry Insta: @stbensyouthanc

Mass Intentions:

SI= *Special Intentions*

RTH= *Return to Health*

ROS= *Repose of Soul*

Saint Benedict Staff

Pastor

Fr. Tom Lilly
tlilly@stbenedictsak.com
 907-243-2195

Deacon

Deacon Daniel Winters

Business Manager

Jaimie Sultenfuss
jsultenfuss@stbenedictsak.com
 907-243-2195

Administrative Assistant

Katherine Mitchell
parishsecretary@stbenedictsak.com
 907-243-2195

Director of Music

Steve Ring
sring@stbenedictsak.com

Church Housekeeper

Elaine Potter

Evangelization and Catechesis

Youth and Young Adult Minister

Gabe O'Lena
golena@stbenedictsak.com
 907-215-7058

Super Sunday Faith Formation

John and Shelby Burger
burger@stbenedictsak.com

Lumen Christi School

Principal

Brian Ross
bross@lumenchristiak.com
 907-245-9231

Director of Advancement

Anne Gore
agore@lumenchristiak.com
 907-245-9231

Administrative Assistant

Kimberly Guzman
lchs@lumenchristiak.com
 907-245-9231

Sacramental Information

Parish Office 243-2195

- OCIA:** contact Office at 243-2195
- Baptism of infants:** celebrated either during Mass, after the 12:15 Mass on Sundays or at any other time approved by the Pastor. Parents are required to attend a baptismal preparation class prior to the baptism of the child.
- Weddings:** scheduled by meeting with the Pastor at least six months prior to the wedding date. Please call the office for more details.
- Funerals:** contact the parish office following a death and we will be pleased to assist you.
- Anointing of the Sick, or Communion to the Homebound:** Please call the parish office to request a visit.

Thank to all those who come and put together meals for ***Hope Soup Kitchen!***

Next date is Saturday **March 7th!**

Call **Andy Flores @ 907-887-4917**

Thank you to all who provide meals for ***Clare House***

Next dinner date is **February 24th!**

⇒ *Readings:*

Sunday 02/15

Sirach 15:15-20
 1Corinthians 2:6-10
 Matthew 5:17-37

Sunday 02/22

Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7
 Romans 5:12-19
 Matthew 4:1-11

The Traveling Madonna

Please say a rosary each day she is in your home.
 Thank you for welcoming the Lord's mother.
 Questions call **the office 907-243-2195**

⇒ Celebrations:

Once Upon
A Time...

February
Anniversaries

Jim and Sally Seeley	02/23/63
Bruce and Frances Numua	02/11/89
Jose and Aimee Pasao	02/14/08
Carl and Denise Kipke	02/05/11
Aaron and Dixie DeChant	02/13/13
Gabe and Megan O'Lea	02/13/15
James and Tricia Ledford	02/12/19
Marty and Lynn Goblowsky	02/23/19
Sini and Carol Felise	02/14/21
James and Cierra Aloysius	02/24/24

“For this cause shall a man
leave his father and moth-
er, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall

*May your marriage always bring glory to God, joy to one
another and blessings to your family f
or many generations to come.*

*May love and laughter fill your hearts and your home
for all at the days of your lives.*

*May you face every challenge hand-in-hand
and side-by-side*

*knowing that with God's grace, you'll conquer all obstacles
together. May the world be forever a better place because
the two of you fell in love. In Jesus' name, Amen*

⇒ Parish Financial Update:

⇒ Stewardship of Treasure:

	<u>Week 31</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Offertory Income	\$ 9,907.45	\$ 401,267.28
Other Income	\$ 637.00	\$ 69,254.32
	\$ 10,538.45	\$ 470,521.60

Expenses: (avg. wk. \$17,162.20)
YTD Expenses: \$ 471,332.96

Combined Parish and School

Total Income \$1,646,456.09
Total Expense \$1,524,411.07
\$ 122,045.02

Our new fiscal year began 1 July

***Online Donation Income:**

- * There were 44 gifts made online
- * There were 0 Families new to online giving
- * There were 0 Maintenance Fund donations
- * There were 2 Parish Outreach donations
- * There were 2 Special Collection donations
- * There were 1 Faith Formation donations

Dear Lord,

*Thank you for teaching me to be generous as
you have been generous with me.*

*Thank you for showing me that all I am and
have are gifts from you.*

*And that these gifts from you, Lord, are meant
to be shared. Show me the joys of generosity.*

*Help me to understand others, perhaps un-
known to me, depend on me for help.*

*Remind me that my world, my parish, needs
“Good Samaritans” to heal the wounds of our
times.*

Make me a gift to others in your name.

Amen.

Please Pray for:

Diane Peterson
Christina Del Rosario
Ann Curro
Bea Freeman
Waetjen Family
Alicia Warren
Fr. Tim Saur
Rosemary Dunn
Connie Budahl
Danny Lee
Franklin Ellenson

Son Pham
Hien Pham
Terry Tutor
Marty Goblowski
Jim and Sally Seeley
Fr. Rob Evenson
Sam Waetjen
Chloe Hernandez
Damon Carey
Gerry Rapp
Alicia Datuin
Mike & Bettye Smith

Pat Scott
Julie Allard
Bernie & Marian Simon
Kim Randolph
Will Davenport
Nicole Johnson
Jessica Randolph
Geneva Colon
Michele Waetjen
Denise Trefry
Richard Campbell
James Mitchell & sons

Fontaine Wilhelm
Theresa Dolan
Ofelia Domingo
Maipela Burns
Mike Keenan
Kevin Pfeiffer
Steve Taylor
Lara Krill
Joseph Mitchell
Dan Rollins
Ted & Agnes Mayac
Doris Clausen

Ellison Williamson
Jackie & Greg Kern
Paul Larson
Mary Dubois
Glen Allen
Virginia Aberle
Elizabeth Bastiani
Solita Balones
Mark Blumenthal
Deneen B. Bozeman
(To add or remove please

call 243-2195).



Lumen Christi School

Living Faith, Celebrating Family, and Achieving Excellence



⇒ Campus Minister:

I have been told more than once that I am a bit too competitive. Perhaps a wee bit too much..... I fully enjoy sports. In particular team sports. Determined people working together can accomplish amazing things! Watching teams that I coach realize they can do more together than alone is a beautiful thing.

However.

As the Campus Minister it pains me to see some of our students prioritize a sporting event over attending a retreat. I would offer that sports can bring joy in the short run, but an extremely small number of student athletes go on to play at a college level, and far fewer still at a professional level. Yep, staying active is important to a healthy life and will pay benefits as you age.

Here at Lumen, we have a strong sports program that many students enjoy. Either playing or attending. By design, the athletic department ensures that no athletics happen during retreats, and Teachers are highly encouraged to limit homework so the students focus on the retreat. Lumen prioritizes the eternal implications over the short term sporting events.

I would also offer that the retreats are one of the few times a grade level has time solely for them to be in community.

Retreats offer time for students to step away from the "norm" and immerse themselves in Mass, adoration, reflection and community.

I am blessed to be a part of EVERY retreat and each time a student enters with the "why do I have to do this?" attitude, but by the end..... They ALL have been moved by the experience. Yes, even your child.

Another idea is to enter that retreat with your student as a chaperone or assisting in the kitchen. Go to Mass with them. Go to Adoration with them. Reflect with them.

In God's Love,

Doug Berry

Archangel Attic

The holiday season is passing us up!

Each week, we are given more and more items to share with you.

Thank you for shopping with us.



KNIGHTS TABLE

Congratulations: February

Knight of the month
Kevin Thomas

Family of the Month
Iosefo Felise Family



Patriotic Rosary- 03/02 and 02/18 at 6:00 pm
K of C Council meeting - 03/04 at 7:00 pm
4th Degree meeting - 03/02 at 7:00 pm
Officer's meeting - 02/26 6pm

The Knight of the Month We chose Kevin Thomas - Kevin has been helping with many different things at St Benedicts, Often very helpful flipping pancakes and time spent guiding the Boy Scouts; assisting on projects at Saint Therese's Camp and in support most recently at the SOAK Polar Plunge.

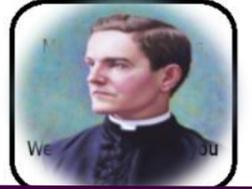
Family of the Month We chose the Iosefo and Maletina Felise family... For all the work done for the parish facilities - outside around the grounds (often without thinking they are getting noticed Fa'afetai). Also their grandchildren participate in liturgical ministries and help us celebrate the mass here.

WHAT IS GOING ON?

40 DAYS OF LENT
40 DAYS FOR LIFE!
prayer • fasting • public vigil
February 18 - March 29
St. Benedict will pray on Tuesdays.
Please sign up in the back of Church!!

JOIN US
BROTHER KNIGHTS OF OUR COUNCIL
invite you to join us in our joyful pursuit of our common ideals:
CHARITY
FRATERNITY
UNITY
PATRIOTISM

As we continue to celebrate Blessed Michael J. McGivney's Beatification, please enter the Promo Code **BLESSEDMCGIVNEY** to join online for free. Ask A Knight for more information or follow the QR code to join online - Please Enter St Benedict's Council #12290.



Catholic Daughters of the Americas



Have you been wondering who The Catholic Daughters of the Americas are? Would you like to know more about us?

CDA is one of the largest Catholic women's organizations established in 1903 by the Knights of Columbus. Our local court was chartered in at Holy Family parish in 1961. We are a spiritual, charitable, social and service group. We invite all Catholic women to join us as we plan this year's events. Our next meeting will be on **Monday, March 9th, 2026**, beginning **6:30pm** in the Church at St. Benedict's for Station of the Cross. Please join us. For more information contact cecstanley2013@icloud.com.



**40
DAYS
OF LENT**

**40 DAYS
FOR LIFE!**

prayer • fasting • public vigil

February 18 – March 29

Prayer warriors needed

7am to 8pm

Mondays through Saturdays

Learn more &
sign up for hours



<https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/anchorage>



ST. BENEDICT PARISH

FY2026 Quarter 2 Financial Report

December 31, 2025



Income	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Over (Under)
Income-Church			
Sunday Collections	\$ 328,929.32	\$ 325,000.02	\$ 3,929.30
Other Donations Total	\$ 36,155.00	\$ 27,375.04	\$ 8,779.96
Other Income Total	\$ 19,762.56	\$ 28,025.00	\$ (8,262.44)
Income Totals:	\$ 384,846.88	\$ 380,400.06	\$ 4,446.82
Income –School			
Fees/Tuition Income Totals	\$ 767,411.52	\$ 780,200.00	\$ (12,788.48)
Fundraising Total	\$ 106,965.32	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 11,965.32
Sports Total	\$ 26,398.68	\$ 36,500.00	\$ (10,101.32)
Sales Income	\$ 2,159.50	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,909.50
Archangel Attic	\$ 55,639.55	\$ 55,010.00	\$ 629.55
Tuition Discounts	\$ (30,038.88)	\$ (30,000.00)	\$ (38.88)
Other income total	\$ 23,610.44	\$ 19,300.00	\$ 4,310.44
Income Totals:	\$ 952,146.13	\$ 956,260.00	\$ (4,113.87)
Revenue Totals:	\$ 1,336,993.01	\$ 1,336,660.06	\$ 332.95
Expense –Church			
Personnel Expense Totals:	\$ 235,543.32	\$ 203,568.68	\$ (31,974.64)
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 16,023.85	\$ 5,375.01	\$ (10,648.84)
Utilities total	\$ 20,287.64	\$ 21,150.00	\$ 862.36
Diocesan Assessments	\$ 55,517.34	\$ 55,517.34	\$ 0.00
Bank Fees	\$ 5,002.93	\$ 2,500.02	\$ (2,502.91)
Other Operating Expenses Totals:	\$ 92,809.27	\$ 83,050.07	\$ (9,759.20)
Expense Totals:	\$ 425,184.35	\$ 371,161.12	\$ (54,023.23)
Expense –School			
Personnel Expense Totals	\$ 686,613.64	\$ 681,898.96	\$ (4,714.68)
Repair & Maint Total	\$ 84,737.25	\$ 85,700.00	\$ 962.75
Utilities Total	\$ 35,934.08	\$ 36,750.00	\$ 815.92
Sports Total	\$ 35,834.74	\$ 42,900.00	\$ 7,065.26
Other Expense total	\$ 136,372.77	\$ 126,477.96	\$ (9,894.81)
Expense Totals:	\$ 979,492.48	\$ 973,726.92	\$ (5,765.56)
Total Expenses	\$ 1,404,676.83	\$ 1,344,888.04	\$ (59,788.79)
Net Revenue (Loss)	\$ (67,683.82)	\$ (8,227.98)	\$ (59,455.84)

Financial Narrative For The 2nd Quarter of FY2025-2026

Thanks to the faithful and ongoing generosity of our parishioners, we are pleased to share our second-quarter financial update. We met our 2025 United in Mission goal of \$79,077.16 with \$116,770.00 pledged. Total revenue came in right on budget despite tuition being slightly down. Sunday offertory collections continue to meet our budgeted goals. We should continue to see reduced school supply expenses with most of this year's supplies having been purchased. However, we do anticipate increased school maintenance/repair expenses due to gym floor repairs. Overall, our expenses are over budget, with a large percentage due to personnel expenses associated with retirements. Our maintenance expenses are mostly over budget due to increased snow removal services and church boiler repairs. Despite a net loss for the 2nd quarter, we anticipate with the upcoming Lumen Luau Gala, we will see a strong 3rd quarter.

We continue to be blessed by your generosity and stewardship. Thank you and may God Bless you and all your families,
the Finance Committee

News around the Archdiocese of Anchorage!

Welcome to this week's Communication Email! Here's a look at the latest news, events, and updates from around our Archdiocese.



Upcoming events around the Archdiocese

Mark Your Calendars! We've got some great events coming up and hope you'll be there. Share the invite with others—it's always better together!

Mass for the Gift of Life – Please join Archbishop Bellisario Thursday, January 22nd for Mass where we will be praying for the legal protection of unborn children. The Mass will be at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe at 6:30 p.m.

- **Chrism Mass** - Chrism Mass will be at 7:00 p.m. on March 12th at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

We're hiring! Lumen Christi Catholic High School is seeking to hire a dynamic **Office Manager** to be the welcoming face and operational engine of our community.

The Office Manager works with the principal, teachers, and other staff members in the smooth, daily running of the school. Responsibilities include but are not limited to: daily attendance; answering phones; daily and weekly communication with parents; maintenance of confidential student records; ensuring compliance with Archdiocesan, State & Federal requirements; assisting the Principal on an as needed basis.

The successful candidate will be highly organized with an eye to detail; able to prioritize and multi-task throughout the day; have a warm and welcoming personality; possess excellent communication skills and be able to maintain strict student/parent confidentiality. The candidate must have knowledge of Google and Microsoft tools and software. Prior experience working in a school setting, practicing Catholic, and bilingual in Spanish is preferred but not required.

If you would like a full position description, please email lchs@lumenchristiak.com. If you are ready to submit your resume and cover letter, please submit those to: lchs@lumenchristiak.com AND bross@lumenchristiak.com



No matter how many years ago...
Abortion still hurts. Project Rachel.
Confidential. Healing.
Call 907-297-7781
projectrachelalaska@gmail.com

We are all

Called to *Serve*



In-kind Needs for CSS Programs

Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services

Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services (RAIS) provides a bridge for refugees (individuals who have had to flee their countries of origin due to the tragedies of persecution and war) and other new arrivals from their former life experiences to the new skills required for success in the United States. Through a focus on economic self-sufficiency, community integration, and a respect for unique cultures, history and traditions, RAIS creates an environment of compassion and encouragement for refugees to flourish.

- English Conversation Practice
- Family Mentor
- Health & Wellness Workshop Volunteer
- Older Refugees Mentor
- RAIS Meal Team Delivery Driver & Driver Assistants
- Volunteer Driver—RAIS Health Team
- Youth Mentor

2026 Lenten Food Drive



In 2025, St. Francis House Food Pantry provided essential food to **4,775 households.**

Made Possible by Volunteers

The pantry relies on volunteers who contributed over **4,145 hours** in 2025! Volunteers work at the pantry, and several have served for nearly 2 decades.



767,978 lbs. of food was distributed in 2025! That's equivalent to the weight of approximately **12 humpback whales!**



Who We Serve

SFH is open to anyone facing food insecurity and is often the first point of contact to connect to additional services at CSS. In addition to distributing food, the pantry also:

- Connects individuals to resources
- Distributes diapers and furniture
- Offers emergency cold weather gear
- Supplies household items

SFH Food Sources

The food distributed through St. Francis House Food Pantry comes from:

- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- Food Bank of Alaska
- Generous individuals
- Local grocery stores
- Schools
- Parishes
- Organizations

Prioritizing Fresh Produce

Fresh produce provides much-needed nutrition! In 2025, St. Francis House received almost **7,000 pounds** of produce through Grow Local, Give Local - our donor-funded campaign that purchases produces from local refugee or immigrant farmers to distribute at the pantry.

What We Need!

When shelves are fully stocked, a box includes...

- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Frozen protein
- Boxes of rice/pasta
- Canned proteins
- Ready to eat meals
- Shelf stable milk
- Fresh produce
- Loaves of bread
- Pastries



Drop Off Info:



Winter Gear Needs -- All our shelters have an ongoing need for winter gloves, hats, hand and foot warmers, winter jackets, socks, and boots. We can never have too many. They can be dropped off at specific shelters, or at Saint Francis House Food Pantry (at times they reach capacity and cannot accept donations temporarily). SFH drop-offs are from donations can be dropped off at 3710 E. 20th Ave. 1-4 pm Monday through Thursday and 9-4 Friday.

Pet Food Drive Many families rely on the comfort and companionship of their pets, and lately our St. Francis House Food Pantry has had a growing need for dog and cat food. If you feel called to give, we welcome donations of unopened or gently used bags of pet food.

Your generosity helps families keep their beloved pets fed, supported, and close — a small act of compassion that

Many **refugee clients** do not have snowpants and have articulated that they would like some. Seeking snowpants and snow boots drive in time for an event which will be the evening of the 24th. Drop off 9 am to 3 pm at 4135 San Roberto Ave. at the Welcome Center.

Donations for the 3rd Avenue Resource & Navigation Center are accepted Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM at the 3RNC, 1131 E. 3rd Ave. When dropping off items, please ask for Brian Andrews to ensure your donation is properly received.

- Hats Hot Hands
- Belts Reading Glasses
- Gloves



Adult Ed

TUESDAY MORNINGS

We are watching season 5 of The Chosen. Join us for coffee, pastries, an episode, and discussion after Mass.

Bible Study



Meets the **2nd –4th or 5th. Wednesday's** of each month at 7pm
Our next Bible Study will be on Wednesday Feb. 11th.
We meet in the school library at 7 PM.

Book Club



March 10th @ 7:00PM

Feel free to bring a snack or beverage to share if you'd like. We'll finish our discussion on 'Death Comes from the Archbishop' by Willa Cather, and review plan for next read, 'No Greater Love...', by Edward Sri, with further opportunity for video reflections/presentations during Wednesday Bible Study over the next several weeks. This will be a wonderful opportunity during Lent to collaborate w/both groups and dive deeper into Christ's Passion.

Contact Lynn Stuhr @ lstuhr18@gmail.com or 907-830-1627.

Women's ministry

Blessed Among Women



Our next gathering will be on Thursday evening at 7pm, **February 19th** in the Rectory.

This is a monthly gathering to seek a more profound understanding of what it means to be a woman of God through quarterly presentations by local speakers and spiritual teachings from Pope St John Paul II and female Saints (while sharing food and fellowship with other women).

Men's Ministry

Our next Meeting will be on **Thursday, March 12th**

We meet in the Parish Hall, for food, fellowship, and faith.



Food: TBD

Topic: TBD

Speaker: TBD

This Wednesday, February 18, is Ash Wednesday. We attend Mass, and receive ashes on our foreheads reminding us of our fragility as humans. As young children, this was the day we decided what we would give up—sacrifice—for 40 days as Jesus fasted in the desert for 40 days. We may have given up our favorite candy or soda in our early years progressing to giving up our special TV program/podcast or limiting our FB time during our teens. However, Lent is more than just “giving something up” and fasting from meat on Fridays.

Taking sacrifice in a different direction, we begin to consider giving of ourselves rather than refraining from something. Perhaps someone close to us (neighbor, grandparent, disabled friend) needs assistance in some way from shoveling the driveway, to needing a ride or would just enjoy your company. Do you have an extra hour or two a week to help?

Even closer to home, can we help with family matters? Offer to cook a meal a week for our parents, take over the laundry, or vacuum during the 40 days. As parents, we can plan a family day using ideas from the kids. Maybe a swimming party or skiing. Perhaps as a family, choose a different Mass each Sunday of Lent meeting new parishioners and hearing homilies from different priests and deacons.

In fact, Pope Francis challenges us to think about fasting as something more powerful than we normally contemplate it; rather as “learning to change our attitude towards others and all of creation, turning away from the temptation to ‘devour’ everything to satisfy our voracity and being ready to suffer for love, which can fill the emptiness of our hearts. Adapted from *(Message of the Holy Father Francis for Lent 2019, 26.02.2019)*

Primarily on Ash Wednesday, we receive ashes on our foreheads, symbolizing Christian repentance, mortality, and purification, marking the start of Lent. It is a public sign of sorrow for sins and a reminder that “you are dust, and to dust you shall return,” signifying humility before God and the need for salvation. The ashes, made from burned palm fronds, are applied in the shape of a cross, representing faith in Jesus Christ.

Ashes are also seen as a sign of repentance and deliverance from sin in Job 42:6 and Jonah 3:6; allowing us to see the connection of ashes to mourning and repentance which are strong qualities in the Bible.

Specifically, in Isaiah 61:3, ashes and oil on the head are connected with mourning and deliverance from mourning. Finally, ashes are also seen as a sign of repentance and deliverance from sin in Job 42:6 and Jonah 3:6. Thus we see that the connection of ashes to mourning and repentance important are in the Bible.

Questions:

1. What are your sacrifices for Lent?
2. What does attending Ash Wednesday Mass and receiving ashes mean to you?

Challenge:

Make a conscious effort to “sacrifice” something of yourself during the 40 days of Lent.

Quote:

“and said to him, ‘Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it.’ ”
~Ezekiel 9:4

OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

What is Catholicism? Are you curious?
Are you interested in joining the Catholic Church?
Do you feel you are on the outside looking in?
Would you like to know more about the Catholic Faith?
Maybe you were raised Catholic and have strayed?
Have you ever wondered, 'Why am I even doing this?'
Do you remember all the reasons of your faith,
the beauty of our faith?



**We meet, Monday evenings at 6:30pm
in the parish rectory!**

We would love to have you join us. Everyone is welcome!
Contact the office at 243-2195

Evangelization Ministry

What is Hallow?

Through prayer and meditation rooted in the Catholic faith, Hallow helps people find peace and grow in faith, every day. As the #1 prayer app in the world, Hallow provides a wide variety of audio-guided meditation, prayer challenges, mental health content, sleep stories, and sacred music. Users pray with Fr. Mike, Sr. Miriam, Jonathan Roumie, Mark Wahlberg, Immaculee Ilibagiza, Bishop Barron, + many others.

How do I access Hallow?

Everyone is invited to be a part of our parish community page. There, you can create a profile, add friends, share/respond to prayer intentions, and take part in prayer challenges with the parish.

The steps are simple:

- ◆ Download or open the Hallow app on your phone
- ◆ Join the parish page;
- ◆ Tap "Community" on the menu at the bottom of your screen > Select "Join a Church" > Search for your parish by name or zip code > Join the parish page.
- ◆ Start praying with your community!

Customer Support

If you have any issues getting someone set up on the app, please reach out to parishsupport@hallow.app. We have an incredibly talented support team that responds to parish partners with super high priority. We look forward to praying with you!

Men Needed!!

Men wanted for Prison Ministry in Anchorage to visit the imprisoned and bring them the Dismas Ministry Catholic Bible Study at the Anchorage Correctional Complex. Wed. evenings, 7pm, at Cook Inlet Pre Trial, and/or 12pm on Fri. at Anchorage Jail. About 1.5 hours per visit on a routine basis. No experience needed, just the desire to help these men come to Christ. An application and an evening Dept. of Corrections Chaplain's Office training would be required. Interested? Contact Herman Ellemberger at: hre814@gmail.com

Adoration

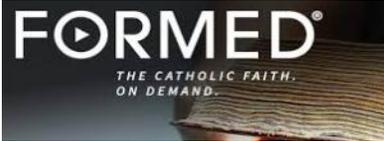
Eucharistic Adoration

Adoration is offered:
Monday—Friday 10:00AM-10:00PM

You are welcome to come in to pray during these times.

~ Call the office to get the code to the adoration door.
Call the office to sign up*

"Could you not watch one hour with me?" (Mt. 6:21; 26:40)



Visit Formed.org for great material on sacraments,

Devotions, saint movies and more!

- 1) go to www.formed.org,
- 2) click Sign Up
- 3) click I belong to a parish/organization
- 4) type in St. Benedict and look for our address (8110 Jewel Lake Rd. Anchorage, AK) and then enter your name and email!

Ascension Presents has awesome material and shorter videos on various Catholic Topics through YouTube and Facebook!



Pre-K thru Jr. High

12:00-1:30 Family free time in the gym & lunch!!
1:30-2:00 Super Sunday presentation for families
2:00-3:00 Class time for students and adults

**All families who attend the family formation time
are eligible for great door prizes!!
New games, new prizes!!!
Same great family faith formation!!!**

High School grades 9-11

We meet in the room above the gym from 4:00-5:45 PM.
Winter Retreat!

Upcoming Events

02/18 High School Night 7pm!
03/03 Jr. High Night 6pm



St. Andrew Bobola, S.J.
Patron of our E/C Team,
Pray for us.

UPCOMING *Youth Nights*



Wednesday 7-9 pm

St. Blaise

Candles and Blaise. Why do we use candles and bless throats on his feast? There are many saints, why do we celebrate only a couple? Join us and find out!

Feb
4

2026



Wednesday 7-9 pm

Identity in Christ

Christ calls us brothers and sisters. How does that work for us? What does that change in our lives?

Feb
11

2026



Wednesday 7-9 pm

English Hide and Seek

What does it mean to hide in England? How does that factor in our lives? Priest holes and murder! Come and learn with us!

Feb
18

2026

Pray for us!

#Youth Corner

02/18 Youth Night

7-9pm

3/03 Jr. High Night!!

We Need Adult Volunteers!! 6-8pm



Check out our page at:

<https://www.stbenedictsak.com/65>

FB: St. Ben's Youth Ministry

Insta: @stbensyouthanc

