

First Sunday Of Lent



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 **Ed Wassell**

February 22, 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



Nourishing our souls with the spiritual gifts from God

In today's Gospel, Jesus is led by the Holy Spirit into the desert. There he would have to pass a severe test and prove himself. The Holy Spirit inspired Jesus to pray and fast to strengthen His soul. Consequently, Jesus was able to beat Satan at every turn. This was despite Satan's cunning and deceit. The temptations were about pleasure and satisfaction, adulation and praise, wealth and power. The answers of Jesus teach us that we cannot live a fully human life by feeding only our bodies. We must also nourish our souls with the spiritual gifts from God. Our egos will never be satisfied with all the praise and notoriety that come with success and accomplishment. And all the wealth and power anyone can possess is worthless – unless we serve God with it and use it in Godly ways!

Rite of Sending: This weekend we celebrate the end of the period of the "Catechumenate" and begin the period of "Purification and Enlightenment" with the OCIA and Children's Catechumenate. We proudly send our catechumen and candidates for full communion to our Archbishop, to be joined by hundreds of the same from other parishes. Archbishop Bellisario will declare the catechumens "The Elect." Please pray for all who are journeying into the Catholic Church at the Great Easter Vigil! -- *Fr. Tom*

Welcome to Saint Benedict Parish

Monday 2/23	Tuesday 2/24	Wednesday 2/25	Thursday 2/26	Friday 2/27	Saturday 2/28	Sunday 3/01
Mass 9am: Ruth Leary ROS <i>Parish Office Closed</i> Adoration 10am - 10pm Legion of Mary 6-7pm OCIA 6:30	Mass 9am: Jerry Reller ROS Adoration 10am-10pm Video Series The Search & Discussion 9:30am Reconciliation Service 7pm	Masses 9am: 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	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	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
tilly@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
khs@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 02/22

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

Sunday 03/01

Genesis 12:1-4
 2Timothy 1:8-10
 Matthew 17:1-9

The Traveling Madonna

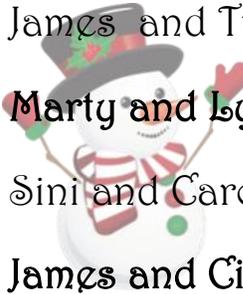
Please say a rosary each day she is in your home.
 Thank you for welcoming the Lord's mother.
 Questions call **the office 907-243-2195**

⇒ Celebrations:



February Anniversaries

- Jim and Sally Seeley 02/23/63
- Bruce and Frances Numma 02/11/89
- Jose and Anne 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 Cigra Aloysius 02/24/24



“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, 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 for 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:

	Week 32	YTD
Offertory Income	\$ 11,339.20	\$ 407,634.28
Other Income	\$ 1,348.00	\$ 85,272.32
	\$ 12,687.20	\$ 492,906.60

Expenses: (avg. wk. \$17,162.20)
 YTD Expenses: \$ 518,143.72

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 5 Parish Outreach donations
- * There were 1 Special Collection donations
- * There were 2 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 unknown 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 Goblowsky
 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).



⇒ Principal's Update:

Many thanks to all of those who came out to support our Lumen Luau on Friday! It was a smashing success! The numbers are still being tallied, but suffice to say, our community showed up in force to raise money for our school! And had a great time doing it! Smiles and laughter all around! For those who were not able to attend, check out this amazing video from C+L Creative which captures the essence of our school community (while highlighting the need for more space): <https://vimeo.com/1162920757/0ef4ab85f8> Awesome isn't it? Many thanks to parents Clay and Laura Butcher for putting it all together!

We wish our junior high volleyball teams good luck as they compete in their final jamboree/championship on Friday evening. And the same to our basketball teams as they compete against Seward on Saturday.

May everyone have a blessed and wonderful extended weekend!

Blessings, Brian



⇒ Campus Minister:

The Retreat was GREAT! For those that sent students, please ask them about it. Get their insights. The Sisters were very engaging speakers that always seemed to have a "flock" around them. I have been blessed to spend time with several sisters from their order and am always amazed at the level of sheer joy they bring to every situation.

The Beauty of the camp did not disappoint, as the students were blessed with stunning views. That was one of my favorite parts, where the students would just stand and admire God's handywork.

Adoration went long.... Yeah, you read that correctly. Adoration went long! Why? Because I am pretty sure that close to 100% of the students and adults took advantage of going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation! Yeah, you read that correctly. Close to 100%!

Our 11th Grade Class is heading out on retreat next month, so pray for them.

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

Mark Roy

Family of the Month

Patrick Danielson Family



Patriotic Rosary– 03/02 and 03/16 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 **Mark Roy** - Mark has re-joined the Knights of Columbus here at St Benedicts after not being very active. Since then he has jumped right in and has been helping out at events like Young Lives dinners - preparing the Christmas Children's mass lights as well as just lending a helping hand

Family of the Month We chose the **Patrick Danielson Family** - Patrick and Noel have been very vibrant members of our parish family and also the Samoan community - From singing in our church choir and helping in a number of our programs from parish socials to Young Lives dinners as well as prayerful in the rosary. We are glad to count this strong family in our parish.

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!!



40 Cans in 40 days!

Mother Teresa once said, *"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."*

Many of our neighbors are experiencing hunger and food insecurity – **1 in 6** Alaskans and **1 in 4** Alaskan children.

During this Lenten Season we only ask for a donation of **40 cans** to help Catholic Social Services help our neighbors!

Please bring them to the table in the Parish Hall!



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 cecistanley2013@icloud.com.



ARCHDIOCESE OF ANCHORAGE-JUNEAU
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

First Sunday of Lent
February 22, 2026

Invitation to Pray for Vocations during Lent

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we begin this Lenten season, I invite you to join me in praying for vocations. We need more priests to serve our 50 parishes, missions, and ministries. While this challenge remains our reality, the positive news is that we have good priests serving us.

As we pray for vocations this Lenten season, let us take a moment to reflect on the great gifts our Lord has given us with our priests, deacons, and sisters.

Last May, I ordained Father Ed Burke to the priesthood from Our Lady of the Angels Parish in Kenai. We have 2 seminarians at Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon. Our seminarians, Daniel Kemper and Samuel Snively, are from Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Anchorage and Sacred Heart Parish in Wasilla, respectively. There are 7 permanent deacon candidates halfway through their five-year education and formation program.

We have 13 archdiocesan priests ministering full-time; 5 are of retirement age but remain in full-time ministry by their choice. There are 8 priests from the Dominican, Vincentian, and Oblates of Mary Immaculate provinces in the USA serving in the archdiocese. And God has gifted us with 12 international priests from dioceses and religious communities in Korea, India, and the Philippines, representing one-third of our full-time priests.

In total, there are 37 priests in full-time ministry, including 1 chaplain serving in the U.S. Air Force, and 9 retired priests, some ministering part-time, residing in and outside of Alaska. There are 29 deacons, of whom 5 are retired; 21 sisters from 5 religious communities; 2 seminarians; and 7 permanent deacon candidates.

The archdiocese is redoubling its efforts to recruit vocation candidates. More information is forthcoming on how we will do that. As we begin this Lenten season, I invite all of us to pray, fast, give alms, and make sacrifices, praying for vocations.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Andrew E. Bellisario, C.M.
Archbishop of Anchorage-Juneau



**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 5th @ 7:00PM

Location TBD

We will be discussing the first half of, ‘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

Bread and Wine

“Bread and wine are ambiguous, both in life and in the Eucharist. On one hand, bread is perhaps our primary symbol for food, health, nourishment, and community. Few things speak as wonderfully about life as does the smell of fresh bread, yet there is another story to bread. Bread is made of kernels of wheat that had to be crushed in their individuality to become something communal, flour, which then had to endure fire to be baked into the substance that gives off the smell of life.

Wine too speaks in this double way: On the one hand, it is a festive drink, perhaps our foremost symbol for celebration. Wine has nothing to do with basic nourishment or necessity. Wine speaks of friendship, community, celebration, joy, recreation, victory. We celebrate everything with wine. Like bread, wine has another side: Individual grapes are crushed and their very blood becomes the substance out of which ferments this warm, festive drink. No wonder Jesus chose it to represent his blood.

It is helpful to keep this ambiguity in mind whenever we participate in the Eucharist. Bread and wine are held up to be blessed by God and to become the flesh and blood of Christ, and they are held up precisely in their ambiguity.

On the one hand they represent everything in life and in the world that is healthy, young, beautiful, bursting with energy, and full of color. They represent the goodness of this earth, the joy of human achievements, celebration, festivity, and all that is contained in that original blessing when, God looked at the earth and pronounced it good. The Eucharist too gives off the smell of fresh bread. The Eucharist also holds up, in sacrifice, all that is being crushed, broken, and baked by violence. The wine, fittingly, is also blood. At the Eucharist, we hold up both, the world’s health and its achievements along with its depressions and failures and ask God to be with us in both. In John’s Gospel, water becomes wine and wine becomes blood and blood and water both eventually flow out of the pierced side of Jesus. That happens too in the Eucharist, and it happens in our lives. The task is to hold them both in our hands, as happens at Eucharist, and then offer them up to God.”

Adapted from (<https://ronrolheiser.com/bread-and-wine>)

Questions:

1. What are your thoughts on this explanation of the Eucharist?
2. How does this change/enrich your understanding of the Eucharist?
3. Were you aware of this explanation before reading this article?

Challenge:

Share this description with another.

Quote:

“Do you realize that Jesus is there in the tabernacle expressly for you - for you alone? He burns with the desire to come into your heart...go without fear to receive the Jesus of peace and love...”

~ Saint Therese of Lisieux

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

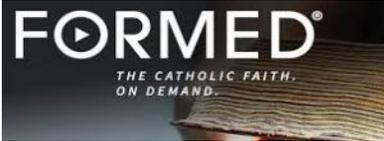
Eucharistic Adoration

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.

Upcoming Events

02/25 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

Macklen Bell

Macklen is in charge! Come and enjoy games and have snacks with him!

Feb
25
2026



Wednesday 7-9 pm

Relics

What is a relic? Why do we use them in veneration? We also have more space to play today! Come and join us!

Mar
4
2026



Wednesday 7-9 pm

Taize Prayer

What is this method? Founded by monks, this style of prayer is sweeping the heart of people all over the world!

Mar
11
2026

Pray for us!

#Youth Corner

02/25 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

