

Fifth 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 in the Parish Hall.

Legion of Mary: Meets Mon. at **5:30pm**; call **Ed Wassell**

March 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



Death does not have the final say!

It is a human thing to grieve. It is natural of us to ask God or rather demand an answer from Him in the face of tragedy. Martha is dismayed that Jesus waited two days to come to the tomb of her brother, Lazarus. Rather than being annoyed or angry at her seeming lack of faith in comparison to her sister's, our Lord is moved by Mary's response - her tears of grief and perhaps even anger.

Our Lord knew that in the end, life would reign, joy would outweigh the sorrow, and yet He grieved before performing that great miracle. He grieved for His beloved friend decaying in the tomb. And He grieved for us, for all of humanity who must endure great trials, loss, abuse, injustice, as a result of our free will and fallenness - for us who, while on this earth, must fight hard and ceaselessly to believe in what cannot be seen, in a divine compassion we cannot fathom. He is grieving for the destruction that has been wrought by sin, death itself, which is not part of God's original plan. Save for sin, death has no place in our universe. Death no longer has the last say! As we mourn the death of loved ones, may we find comfort in our Lord's promise of eternal life! - Fr. Tom

Welcome to Saint Benedict Parish

Monday 3/23	Tuesday 3/24	Wednesday 3/25	Thursday 3/26	Friday 3/27	Saturday 3/28	Sunday 3/29 Palm Sunday!
Mass 9am: John Branham ROS <i>Parish Office Closed</i> Adoration 10am - 10pm Legion of Mary 6-7pm OCIA 6:30	Mass 9am: Wesley Nell ROS Adoration 10am-10pm Video Series The Search & Discussion 9:30am	Mass 9am: Active Military & Vets SI Adoration 10am-10pm Confessions 6pm Samoan Choir 6:30pm High School night 7pm Bible Study 7pm	Mass 9am: Ann Curro ROS Adoration 12pm-10pm 10:30 Choir Practice 7pm KofC Officers Meeting 6pm	Mass 9am: Anthony Mitchell SI Adoration 10am-10pm Jr. Legion 10am Kid Play 1pm Samoan Choir 7:45pm 5:30pm Children's Stations 6pm St. Martha's Grilled Cheese 7pm Stations of the Cross	Vigil Mass 5pm: Jack & Marge Stuhr ROS Confessions 3:45-4:45 Samoan Choir 6:30pm OCIA Day of Prayer Easter Vigil rehearsal 2pm	Masses 8:00am: Scott Estonila ROS 10:30am: John Lopetrone ROS 12:15pm: People of the Parish SI 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
lilly@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 **April 4th!**

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

Thank you to all who provide meals for

Clare House

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

⇒ Readings:

Sunday 03/22

Ezekiel 37:12-14
 Romans 8:8-11
 John 11:1-45

Sunday 03/29

Isaiah 50:4-7
 Philippians 2:6-11
 Matthew 26:14-27:66

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:



March Anniversaries

- Gary and DeLana Krzechik 03/28/18
- Gary and Roxanne Bucy 03/28/92
- John and Loretta Tibor 03/20/76
- Paul and Morgan Marinucci 03/30/19
- Petelo and Francis Afia 03/03/24
- PJ and China Larson 03/04/17
- Robert and Susan Oravec 03/12/69
- Rolando and Maria Repuya 03/22/97
- Ron and Kristen Beard 03/28/92
- Terry and JudyAnn Tutor 03/04/88
- Tom and Susan Corkran 03/30/85

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.” -Eph. 5:31

*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:

	<u>Week 37</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Offertory Income	\$ 13,542.60	\$ 448,043.28
Other Income	\$ 521.00	\$ 124,525.16
	<u>\$ 14,063.60</u>	<u>\$ 572,568.44</u>

Expenses: (avg. wk. \$17,162.20)
 YTD Expenses: **\$ 570,792.80**

Combined Parish and School

Total Income	\$2,176,370.13
Total Expense	\$1,795,438.43
	\$ 380,931.70

Our new fiscal year began 1 July

***Online Donation Income:**

- * There were 46 gifts made online
- * There were 0 Families new to online giving
- * There were 0 Maintenance Fund donations
- * There were 4 Parish Outreach donations
- * There were 2 Special Collection donations
- * There were 0 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
 Shirley Arnold
 Bea Freeman
 Waetjen Family
 Alicia Warren
 Fr. Tim Saur
 Rosemary Dunn
 Connie Budahl
 Danny Lee
 Franklin Ellenson

Son Pham (RIP)
 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
 John Mitchell (RIP)
 Deneen B. Bozeman

(To add or remove please call 243-2195).



⇒ Principal's Update:

We welcomed back most of our students from Spring Break and got right back into academic work! With only 8 weeks left in the semester, the end of the year will be here before we know it! We also announced the hiring of Mrs. Laura Whitford to assume Mrs. Kim Guzman's duties in the front office starting mid April!

Unfortunately neither of our high school basketball teams advanced to the ASAA State Championships over Spring Break. Competition in our Conference at the 2A level is keen and our boys and girls teams gave it an outstanding effort. Two teams within our conference went on to win the State championship (Seward girls and Ninilchik boys), so we have our work cut out for us in the future. I know our student athletes were deeply disappointed, especially our seniors from the Class of 2026, but they held their heads high throughout.

Please pray for our 11th grade students from the Class of 2027 as they go on their grade level retreat to St. Therese's Camp in Wasilla this weekend. Our rising seniors (where did time go?) will focus and reflect on "The Least of These" and the six Attributes of a Lumen Christi Graduate as they prepare to take leadership roles in the school for next academic year. They will also spend time together socially, in prayer, at Mass, and in Adoration. Many thanks to the parent volunteers who cook and chaperone to make this possible, as well as thanks to Mr. Berry, our awesome Campus Minister, who brings it all together!

Please pray also for our junior high Futsal team as they compete in an indoor soccer jamboree at Anchor Lutheran on Saturday!

Finally, after seven years on the job, our custodian/janitor, Romy Langanson, will be stepping away from his evening duties at the end of this school year. Romy, and his wife, Nora, have kept our school looking spic and span each day. After a full time job at Mears, Romy worked long hours here at Lumen Christi, long after everyone had gone home, to make sure the school was clean for the next day. I was particularly impressed by his dedication and commitment on the days when we had games late into the evening. He and Nora would wait patiently until all fans had left the gym and then quietly and professionally go in and make things look great. We will miss him and his wife greatly. Since we will need to continue janitorial services going forward, if you know of any company or individual who would like to be considered for this paid position, please let me know!

I hope you have a blessed and wonderful weekend!

Blessings.. Brian

KNIGHTS TABLE

Congratulations: February

Knight of the month

Ron Beard

Family of the Month

Deacon Dan Winters Family



Patriotic Rosary- 04/06 and 04/20 at 6:00 pm

K of C Council meeting - 04/08 at 7:00 pm

4th Degree meeting - 04/06 at 7:00 pm

Officer's meeting - 03/26 6pm

The Knight of the Month We chose **Ron Beard** - Ron has served as council recorder and has been very active with many of our council activities. He is taking the lead for the Lenten Fish Fry and has also helped with Young Lives, Special Olympics and many of the other parish activities, even ones that require 'coupons'.

Family of the Month We chose **Deacon Dan & Roxanna Winters** - Deacon Dan and Roxanna have been chosen as our family of the month and we are lucky to have them. We recognize the steadfastness of this couple and moving from years of service in Unalaska now to Anchorage to continue to do the good work of the church. We wish continued health and happiness to Deacon Dan and Roxanna and hope to hear more from them both.

WHAT IS GOING ON?

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

CLOSING MASS



CELEBRATED BY FR. JAMES MOORE, O.P.

PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS WELCOME!
COFFEE & DONUTS AFTER

SATURDAY MARCH 28 @ 7AM
AT HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC 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.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE
**CLOSING
MASS**



CELEBRATED
BY FR. JAMES
MOORE , O.P.

PEOPLE OF ALL
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COFFEE & DONUTS
AFTER

SATURDAY
MARCH 28 @ 7AM

AT HOLY CROSS
CATHOLIC CHURCH

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. Stay connected and informed as we continue to grow in faith and community together!

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!

- **Study Group on the Apostolic Exhortation Dilexi Te:** The Archdiocese of Anchorage-Juneau is offering a study group for the Apostolic Exhortation Dilexi Te. This book study will be offered during Lent for 5 sessions on Sundays or Wednesdays. You can pick the day of the week that works for you, all sessions will be on Zoom from 7:00-8:30 p.m. If you are interested please email jmichaelson@aoaj.org
- **Free Movie Night:** Join the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe for Movie night at the Lunney Center on March 21st at 7pm. Bring a blanket, pillow, comfortable chair and snacks to share while we watch the movie "David" a Family Friendly action movie for all ages.
- **Fish Fry Fundraiser:** Join St. Benedict Knights of Columbus on Friday March 13th at 6pm before Stations of the Cross.
- **Project Rachel Retreat:** Join this free and confidential retreat hosted by Project Rachel Ministry on Saturday March, 21st from 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- **Chrism Mass -** Chrism Mass will be at 7:00 p.m. on March 12th at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Jobs within the Archdiocese!

- **TEACH WITH PURPOSE!** For 30 years, Lumen Christi Catholic High School has been Anchorage's home for academic excellence and spiritual growth. Accredited by Cognia and serving grades 7–12, we empower students to think critically, act compassionately, and lead ethically. Our teachers are the heart of this mission—setting high standards and fostering personal responsibility in a supportive, orderly environment.
 - We are currently seeking highly qualified, full-time educators for the **2026–2027 school year** in the following departments:
 - ✦ **Language Arts / Social Studies and Theology**
 - ✦ **Math and Science**

As a core member of our faculty, candidates will lead five classes with one dedicated preparation period. They will take on the full role of instruction, grading, and preparation for classes which may span both Junior High (7–8) and High School (9–12) levels. Candidates will be expected to attend faculty meetings, professional development, and school in-service days.

Candidates who are practicing Catholics and who possess a state teaching certificate or ability to apply for one are preferred. To learn more about our school, visit www.lumenchristiak.org. For additional information or to apply, please send your resume and cover letter to **Principal Brian Ross** at ross@lumenchristiak.com.

- **Director of Faith Formation – Holy Cross:**

Holy Cross parish is looking to hire a Director of Faith Formation responsible for the development, supervision, and coordination of all evangelization programs in the parish, ensuring that the mission and vision of missionary discipleship is fulfilled, with a particular focus on the parish's children, youth, and young adults. The director is responsible also for coordinating the recruitment, training, support, and appreciation of ministry catechists.

This is a full-time paid position that reports directly to the Pastor. A successful candidate must be an active, practicing Catholic in full communion with the Church, have experience in education and training, as well as train-the-teacher methodologies, and have experience in recruitment, motivation, and recognition of others. An advanced degree in Catholic Religious Education/Administration, Evangelization, Religious Studies, Pastoral Theology, or related field is preferred; career experience in related field may be substituted. Three years ministry experience in a Catholic parochial or diocesan environment preferred. [Click here](#) to read the full job description. To apply, contact formation@holycrossalaska.net. For more information, visit the Holy Cross website: <https://www.holycrossalaska.net/apply>

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.

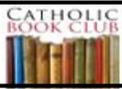
Bible Study



Meets the **2nd –4th or 5th. Wednesday's** of each month at 7pm

Our next Bible Study will be on Wednesday Mar 18th.

We meet in the school library at 7 PM.



Book Club

April 9th @ 7:00PM

Alicia Jones house

We will be discussing the last half of, 'No Greater Love...', by Edward Sri.

Coming Soon! St. Benedict Parish Lending Library –
Pick up a book to enjoy, leave a book to share.

Soon there will be a bookcase near the Adoration door entrance, where we plan to share books, publications, etc. that may be of interest to our Parish community and enrich our Catholic faith. Be on the lookout - more to come!

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, **March 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, April 9**

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



Food: TBD
Topic: TBD
Speaker: TBD

Few persons have understood the Eucharist as deeply as St. Augustine. His homilies on Eucharist are precious, especially for those given to newly baptized adults receiving the Eucharist for the first time. He tells them their sins are forgiven at the Eucharist.

The Eucharist is ultimate sacrament of reconciliation. It's the ancient water of cleansing, now turned into the new wine of reconciliation, purifying us to celebrate. How is this so?

In John's gospel, we have the miracle at Cana where Jesus changes water into wine. Too often we see this as a gesture of hospitality: The hosts ran out of wine, Jesus felt sorry for them, and changed six jugs of water into wine to spare them embarrassment. This interpretation however misses the main point. Scripture scholars tell us in the early chapters of John's Gospel there is a strong recurring theme of Jesus replacing the old with the new. That is the case here. He is replacing the old rite of cleansing with something new.

Understanding the significance of this miracle is that the particular jugs of water changed into wine by Jesus was the wash-water. Yes, the water used to ritually cleanse yourself when you entered a house. At the doors of Jewish houses were a series of water-jugs, usually six of them, which were kept filled with water. Upon entering a house, you were obliged to first stop and wash your hands and feet, both because they were usually covered with dust and you were obliged, ritually, to do this. By washing in this way, you made yourself "clean" so you could join the household and sit at table with them. What Jesus does at Cana is change this water, used for cleansing, into wine. He replaces the old rite of cleansing with something new – the Eucharist.

The Eucharist is therefore both the sacrament celebrating unity and the sacrament cleansing us for it. At the Eucharist our sins are forgiven because to touch Christ is to be healed, even of sin. And we touch Christ, physically, in the Eucharist. But if this is true, if our sins are forgiven in the Eucharist, where does that leave the Catholic sacrament of confession? Is there still a need for confession?

That we can have our sins forgiven by participating in the Eucharist in no way denigrates the need for private confession. The opposite. To touch the body of Christ is the greatest antidote to the rationalizing individualism that precisely tempts us away from explicit confession. A biblical text, the story of the woman who touches the hem of Jesus' garment, can be helpful in understanding this. In her encounter with Jesus, there are two moments of healing, the initial touch and an explicit, one-to-one conversation. Confession to a priest and forgiveness of sins through simply touching the body of Christ in the Eucharist are connected in the same way as that woman's explicit exchange with Jesus. However, as both scripture and Augustine assure us, when we stand around an altar at Eucharist and pray the Lord's Prayer, our sins are already forgiven.

Quote:

"Recognize in this bread what hung on the cross, and in this chalice what flowed from His side... Be what you see, and receive what you are."

~St. Augustine

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

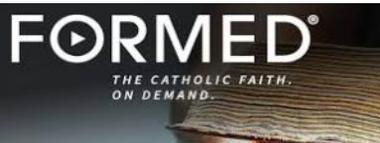
Eucharistic Adoration

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 Upper Room,
above the gym from 4:00-5:45**

Upcoming Events

03/25 High School Night 7pm!
04/06 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

Palms

We get palms every year. Why? What does that mean? What should we be doing with them?!

Mar
25
2026



Wednesday 7-9 pm

Holy Week

Why do we prepare in this way for a week? How should we be preparing? This and more!

Apr
1
2026



Wednesday 7-9 pm

Resurrection Party!

Everyone bring what you gave up for Lent! I will provide treats and drinks! Then we will break into games!

Apr
8
2026

Pray for us!

#Youth Corner

03/25 Youth Night

7-9pm

4/07 Jr. High Night!!

6-8pm

We Need Adult Volunteers!!



Check out our page at:

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

FB: St. Ben's Youth Ministry

Insta: @stbensyouthanc

