

# Saint Bernard Church



## September 24, 2017 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Rev. John E. Unsworth, Pastor**  
Rev. Charles Maher, Weekend Assistant  
Rev. Albino Barrera, OP, Weekend Assistant

**Pastoral Assistant:** Angelo Giacchi  
**Administrative Assistant:** Michael Saunders  
**Elementary Faith Formation:** Dawn Masterson  
**Rel. Ed. Office Manager:** Deborah Fortin  
**Music Director:** Alison Shea

### Mass Schedules

#### Weekends

Saturday Vigil ~ 5:00 PM

#### Sundays

7:00 AM      8:30 AM      10:30 AM

#### Weekdays

8:00 AM Monday through Friday

**Address:** 275 Tower Hill Road  
North Kingstown, RI 02852  
**Phone :** 401-295-0387  
**E-mail:** [sbc.bus@verizon.net](mailto:sbc.bus@verizon.net)  
**Web:** [www.stbernardnk.org](http://www.stbernardnk.org)  
**Hours:** Monday - Thursday  
9:00 AM ~ 4:00 PM

**Baptism:** Please call Angelo at the Parish Center for information about scheduling and preparation.

**Communion to the Sick:** Please notify us of those sick and in need of Communion at home.

**Marriage:** Please call 10 months in advance.

**Holy Orders:** Tel: 401-831-8011  
[www.catholicpriest.com](http://www.catholicpriest.com)

**Project Rachel:** Post abortion counseling  
Tel: 401-421-7833, ext. 118

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturdays 4:00 PM ~ 4:30 PM

### Eucharistic Adoration

Following Tuesday's 8:00 AM Mass  
until 11:30 AM

### Family Faith Formation Program

This family based program provides parishioners of all ages opportunities for learning, growing and living our Faith through common experiences, age-specific learning and interactive sharing and is designed for families with children in grades 1 through 7. Our Confirmation Program accepts students in grades 8 and 9, but any high school student is welcome. For information contact [sbc.reled@verizon.net](mailto:sbc.reled@verizon.net).

## *How Will Our Parish Prepare For The Future?*



My niece and her family relocated some years ago to Kansas City because of her husband's new job. They quickly joined a Catholic Parish in Lakewood, Kansas so that they could enroll their two daughters in the parish school. When they met with the pastor, he explained to them that this parish was a "tithing" parish which practiced stewardship. This meant that they were expected to make a financial commitment to the parish equal to 10% of their combined annual income. Translated this means that people who are registered in that parish, who make a combined annual income of \$60,000 for example, would make a weekly contribution of \$115.00. Of this contribution, he explained, 60% goes to the support of the parish, 20% goes to diocesan Catholic Charities (there are no second collections) and 20% goes to other charities the parish supports. There are no fundraisers in the parish, all events are social and are held in the newly renovated parish hall. The church and school are newly constructed and are paid for. Then came the good news – for those who support the parish at this level, there is no tuition charged for the school. Those who do not belong to the parish or who do not tithe are charged \$6,500 a year for tuition.

This sounds like a wonderful system, and it is, but tithing only works if a majority of parishioners choose to do it. This system of financial support for Catholic parishes has never worked well here in New England. Our roots are in an immigrant church where people donated their time and built these great parishes on bake sales and long hours of hard work donated in service to the parish. We do not, like our Protestant brothers and sisters, have a tradition of making a financial commitment to our church and we have not educated our people into the value of sacrificial giving.

The result is this: fewer people today have the time to volunteer at their parish, leaving the parish to pay for services it never had to pay for before. We have to hire contractors to do repair work and a parish staff is paid (with benefits) to do much of the work that volunteers used to do for free. And today, even if people do volunteer, there are new laws in place which put us at risk for law suits if people do not have criminal background checks and insurance coverage to protect us against liability.

I am not foolish enough to believe that St. Bernard's will become a tithing parish overnight, but I can tell you that, after our Increased Giving Appeal of 2013 we saw a significant increase in the level of giving from a large percentage of our parishioners. However, in just 4 years we have seen that increase shrink to levels of giving that are lower than what parishioners were giving before the appeal. The challenges we will continue to face, not the least of which is the large parish debt (\$2.9 million), will indeed be difficult. However, this challenge can be met if we continue to be as generous and supportive of our parish and remember to be grateful to God for all He has given to us. In the coming weeks we will share with you our Annual Financial Report and you will be able to see first-hand how the decrease in attendance and contributions is affecting our parish. May the God, who is never outdone in generosity, bless you for yours.

*Fr. Jack*

### **ST. BERNARD PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Over the last few weeks we have been announcing the formation of our New Pastoral Council, a Board that will meet 4 times each year and whose membership will help us to plan for the pastoral needs of the Parish. We are looking for 2 At-Large members who would like to serve for a 2 year term. If you are interested, simply call the parish office (295-0387) and give your name. At the 10:30 AM Mass on Sunday, October 1 the two names will be drawn by lottery to determine the 2 new members. (for a full description of the new Council and its membership, go to our web site, [www.stbernardnk.org](http://www.stbernardnk.org) and look for the Parish Bulletin of September 10<sup>th</sup>).



## Mass Intentions

### **MONDAY, September 25:**

8:00 AM – *Dolly Absi & Domenic Columbo*  
by their sister

### **TUESDAY, September 26:**

8:00 AM – *Richard Tomlinson*  
3rd Anniversary by his wife Norma LaSalle

### **WEDNESDAY, September 27:**

8:00 AM – *Deceased of the Parish*

### **THURSDAY, September 28**

8:00 AM – *Deceased of the Parish*

### **FRIDAY September 29:**

8:00 AM – *Deceased of the Parish*

### **WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

### **SATURDAY, September 30:**

5:00 PM – *Frank Tanner*  
1st Anniversary by his family

### **SUNDAY, October 1:**

7:00 AM - *John R Wright*  
23rd Anniversary by his wife and family

8:30 AM - *Dr Robert Curran*  
by Dr. Frank Connor

10:30 AM – *John & Harriett Unsworth*  
& *Eric Gouveia*  
by their family

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children between the ages of 4 and 11 are welcome to join us each week for the Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 10:30 Mass. Children are dismissed to the Gathering Space for the readings and a "child friendly" homily. They return to their families at collection.

## National Tour Of Padre Pio's Relics

Catholics in Rhode Island have a rare opportunity to view relics of the renowned 20<sup>th</sup> century mystic and healer, Saint Padre Pio of Pietrelcina – better known as Padre Pio – at St. Thomas More Church in Narragansett, on Sunday, October 1, 2017. The event is the last New England stop of a national tour to commemorate the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Padre Pio's birth, and the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his canonization. Relics will be on display for veneration from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM. The event is free and open to the public and will be live simulcast (10:00 AM – 6:00 PM EST) at <https://livestream.com/STM/PadrePio> and on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/StThomasMoreRI/>. Please make note that parking will only be at Narragansett High School, 245 S. Pier Rd, Narragansett with free trolley service to the church.



**BECOMING**  
**CATHOLIC-**  
**BEING CATHOLIC**  
We will soon be starting our  
2017-2018 RCIA program.

We invite you to contact the office if you or some adult you know would like to complete their initiation into full membership in the church by receiving Baptism, First Communion or Confirmation. Come and see!

## Diocese to Host Annual Red Mass

The annual Red Mass will be held on Wednesday, October 5, at 5:30 pm at Holy Ghost Church in Providence, with Auxiliary Bishop Robert C. Evans as the main celebrant. The Red Mass is held annually for those who work in judiciary and other areas of public service in Rhode Island. Father John Connaughton, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Bridgeport, will be the guest homilist.

During the Mass, the Bishop requests guidance from the Holy Spirit for all who seek justice, and offers the opportunity to reflect on what Catholics believe is the God-given power and responsibility of all in the legal profession. All are welcome to attend this special celebration. The Mass is sponsored by the St. Thomas More Society, a not-for-profit, national public interest law firm dedicated to restoring respect in law for life, family, and religious liberty.

## Announcements

<u>Upcoming Meetings</u>		
<b>Wed 9/27</b>	<b>Cub Scout Pack Meeting</b> , Parish Hall	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>9/30</b>	<b>First Communion 1 &amp; 2 Class</b> , Parish Center	<b>8:45AM</b>
<b>10/1</b>	<b>Middle Grades, 3, 4, 5 Children's Mass Class</b> , Parish Center	<b>8:30 AM 9:30 AM</b>

### Respect Life Month begins with Life Chain Sunday

The 1st Sunday in October is traditionally the beginning of Respect Month. We encourage participation in our local Life Chains from 2—3 PM for a time of prayer to end abortion peacefully. Together, we can make a difference and turn darkness into light. For more information and locations of Life Chains in the Diocese of Providence, contact Carol Owens at 421-7833 x 218.

### 13th Annual Human Life Guild Day

This year's event will be held on Saturday, September 30, 9:00 AM—2:30 PM. At SS Rose & Clement parish in Warwick. Bishop Thomas J. Tobin will be the main celebrant and Rev. Timothy D. Reilly, Chancellor, will be the homilist for the 9:00 AM Mass. Following the Mass there will be a reception with the Bishop in the parish center with a conference that will include educational talks reflecting life-based issues, an overview of diocesan pastoral care programs available for women and men, and opportunities to become involved in diocesan programs. All are invited to attend the Mass but pre-registration is required for the conference that will follow and the cost is \$25.00 per person. Deadline to register is September 25. Call Carol Owens at 401-421-7833 x 218.

### Online Giving

We offer an online option that complements our offering envelope use. By signing up to give your weekly offertory and special collections online, you will help the parish more accurately forecast our finances and plan more strategically. Online Giving is a safe, secure and dependable means of income for the parish. Visit [stbernardnk.org](http://stbernardnk.org), click on "Support your Parish" and follow the link to OSV, Online Giving.

<u>Parish Support</u>		
	<u>September 10, 2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b>Basket</b>	<b>\$7,341.50</b>	<b>\$7,434.00</b>
<b>ACH</b>	<b>\$2,322.00</b>	<b>\$2,682.50</b>
	<u>September 17, 2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b>Basket</b>	<b>\$6,289.50</b>	<b>\$7,288.00</b>
<b>ACH</b>	<b>\$2,457.00</b>	<b>\$2,367.50</b>
<b>YTD</b>	<b>\$108,430.50</b>	<b>\$107,030.12</b>

### Sr. Priest Retirement Fund

Thank you for your generous support of last week's second collection to benefit the Senior Priest Retirement Fund that benefits those clergy in our diocese who have reached retirement age. Despite 'retirement' many priests continue to provide pastoral care to the faithful through celebrating Masses, visiting hospitals, and nursing homes, volunteering in schools and fulfilling many other duties in continued service to the Lord and the faithful. If you forgot to make a donation and would like to support this fund that provides modest resources for priests in their retirement years, please visit [www.srpriest.org](http://www.srpriest.org) to make an online donation using a secure server or mail your offering to Sr. Priest Retirement Fund, Office of Stewardship & Development, One Cathedral Square, Providence, RI. 02903. Thank you for your support of this critical effort to provide for senior priests in their retirement years—years many priests continue to spend very active in ministry.

### We Welcome New Parishioners

If you are new to the area and would like to register in the parish, please visit us at [www.stbernardnk.org](http://www.stbernardnk.org) or call the parish office at 295-0387. There is a lot to get involved in here and we would love to have you join us.



**Faith Formation Program**  
**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

Religious Education Schedules

**First Communion 1 & 2: (Grades 1 & 2)**

**First Class:** September 30<sup>th</sup> 9:00am - 11:00am in the Parish Center (8:45am arrival time)

**Grades 3,4,5:**

**First Class:** October 1<sup>st</sup> 8:30am-Children's Mass-9:30 -11:30am Class in the Parish Center

**Grades 6 & 7 & Confirmation 1 & 2: Grades 8 & 9**

**First Full Class** October 22<sup>nd</sup> 5pm in the Parish Center. Concluding with a Mass at 6:30pm which all students must attend.

If you have not yet registered please do so as soon as possible. Detailed information about our programs, registration forms, and schedules can be found on our website: [www.stbernardnk.org/faith-formation](http://www.stbernardnk.org/faith-formation), in the gathering space in the back of the church and the Parish Center. Completed forms can be mailed, dropped off at the Parish Center or placed in the collection basket at Mass.

**Confirmation Candidates for 2017:**

**Confirmation Retreat:** October 1<sup>st</sup> 12:30-5:00pm in the Parish Center

**Confirmation Rehearsal:** October 16<sup>th</sup> 6:30-7:30pm in the Church

**Confirmation:** October 21<sup>st</sup> 11:00am in the Church



**St Bernard's Flu Clinic**

Get Your Flu Shot

Sunday, October 8  
8:00 AM—12:00 PM  
Parish Hall

**The NK Food Pantry**

***For September the Pantry needs:***

Hearty Soups, Cereals - Please no Cheerios or Corn Flakes, Saltine type crackers, Cake & Brownie Mixes, Pancake Syrup, Condiments (ketchup, mustard & relish), & Toothpaste, Shampoo, & Razors

**Divorced? Separated?**

The Office of Life and Family will offer the "Funding Hope" Program at St. Pius Church, 44 Elm St., Westerly, RI., Wednesday evenings, 7:00 PM—8:30 PM, October 11 through December 13, except November 1st and 22nd.

The meetings will be held in the conference room on the right side of the altar. This free support group embraces our Catholic faith and provides a peaceful place for sharing, healing, and for discussion topics related to separation/divorce. Registration, contact: Peter A. Magnotta at 401-421-7833, x 217.

**Haunted Labyrinth 2017**

September 29, 30- October 1, 6-8, 13-15, 20-22 and 27-31

Open 7:00-10pm and Admission \$12.00

Rejoice in Hope Youth Center, 804 Dyer Avenue, Cranston, RI

943-8686 or [www.hauntedlabyrinth.com](http://www.hauntedlabyrinth.com)

Rain or Shine/Indoor Waiting

Proceeds to benefit Rejoice in Hope Youth Center

**(Please bring this ad with you and receive \$1.00 off)**

Thank you for supporting Catholic Youth Ministry!

**Catholic Women's Conference**

**The Lord Is My Strength**  
**In Him My Heart Trusts**

**Saturday, October 7, 2017**  
**8:30 AM to 2:00 PM**

**Featuring Lisa Cotter and Allison Gingras**

The day begins with Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Evans and will include inspiring dynamic and encouraging talks, live music, prayer, swag bags, morning coffee and lunch. The Women's Conference will be held at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul. For more information and to register, please visit [www.discovercatholicfaith.org/womens-conference](http://www.discovercatholicfaith.org/womens-conference), or call the Diocesan Office of Faith Formation at 401-278-4646.