

Saint Bernard Church



December 3, 2017 First Sunday of Advent

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
Web: 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

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.

ADVENT

A Season of Hope



Advent is a word that means “coming” or “arrival”. Advent is a time to remember how people thousands of years ago waited for Jesus to be born. Many people use an *Advent Wreath* to help them wait. The candles on the wreath help mark the passing of time. They also remind us that Jesus came to be the light of the world and to light our lives with His love.

Originally the Advent Wreath might have been a cart wheel with greens and decorated with lights used by the sun worshipping tribes of Europe. To appease their “hidden” god during the darkest winter days they took a wheel from their cart, sacrificing, as it were, its use, while they pondered about the blessings of light and life and implored the sun god to return to them.

The Christians preparing for their feast of the “Light of Life” – the Nativity of the Savior – found this wheel an appropriate means of remembering the years of waiting for the Savior. Adding one light for each of the four Sundays in Advent, they think about the darkness after the Fall (of man in the garden of Eden) and the growing hope of salvation nourished by the prophets and fulfilled in the birth of Jesus – the Light of the world.

The wreath, without beginning and end, stands for eternity; the greens, for life and growth; the four candles represent the ages of waiting in darkness, each candle adding more light until we reach the celebration of the Nativity – the Birth of Light.

Advent also marks a new beginning to the Church’s Liturgical year and a good time to share with you some of my reflections as we begin this time of “watching and waiting” for the Lord.

First of all, I am very grateful to many of you who have written me and have sent me your prayers and good wishes as I begin 3 months of radiation therapy. It will continue through the month of February, but your thoughts, kind words and prayers are a great source of strength for me. As you can see, I am getting on just fine, and except for being a bit tired at times, I am doing very well.

Next, we have some problems with the Church building to deal with. The lighting system in the Church has had some major problems which, because of finances, we are not able to fix at this time. However, to improve the lighting for Christmas, we are replacing bulbs and ballasts which have burnt out at a cost of about \$3,000. Also, as many of you now know, the keyboard piano/organ we have been using for the past 17 years has played its last tune. I am sure you agree that we should replace it with something worthy of our beautiful church, but until we do, we are considering renting a quality instrument to get us through the Christmas Season.

Finally, our newly formed Pastoral Council has had its first meeting. In this Bulletin we are providing you with a brief summary of that meeting and what has so far been accomplished. I am ever grateful to so many of you who help so much. May your Advent be fruitful and joyful.

Fr. Jack

BLESSING THE ADVENT WREATH

On the First Sunday of Advent it is customary to bless the family’s Advent Wreath. Here is a prayer you can use for your family’s wreath:

Let us pray:

The earth, O Lord, rejoices in these days, and Your Church overflows with joy before Your Son, the Lord, who draws near as a radiant light to shine upon those who sit in the darkness of ignorance, sorrow and sin. Now as we begin the time of preparation for Your Son’s coming, we ask, O Lord, that as this wreath grows in splendor with the increase of its candles’ light, so You will illumine us with the splendor of Him, who, coming as the light of the world, will scatter all darkness, for He lives and reigns forever and ever. AMEN.



Mass Intentions

MONDAY, Decemebr 4:

8:00 AM – *Deceased of the Parish*

TUESDAY, December 5:

8:00 AM – *Richard Grabowski*
5th Anniversary by his family

WEDNESDAY, December 6:

8:00 AM – *Maria & Joseph Cerilli*
Birthday Remembrance by Alberta Miller

THURSDAY, December 7

8:00 AM – *Rita & Peter Fitzpatrick*
by their family

FRIDAY December 8: Immaculate Conception

8:00 AM – *Deceased of the Parish*
7:00 PM—*Deceased of the Parish*

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, December 9

5:00 PM – *Philip Valliere*
by his daughter Paula

SUNDAY, December 10:

7:00 AM - *Maurice & Patricia LaFreniere*
by their children

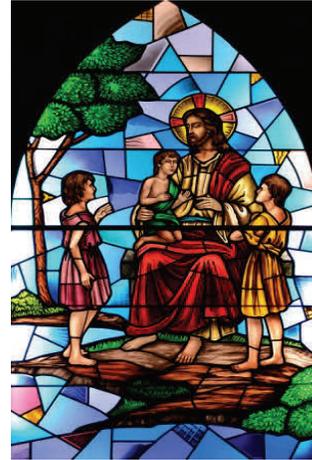
8:30 AM - *Adele Conticello*

4th Anniversary by her family

10:30 AM – *Sally Vadenais*

by her family

6:30 PM—**Religious Education Youth Mass**



ANNUAL COLLECTION

This past week a copy of the Annual Parish Financial Report was mailed to all of our active parishioners along with an appeal for our **Annual Collection**. This is the single most important collection of the year because it helps us meet the many needs we have which are not funded by the regular Sunday Collections. Please be as generous as your means allow, and we ask in a special way that those who do not contribute regularly to the support of the parish might consider using this as an opportunity to make at least one annual gift to your parish and donations will be accepted until December 31st. A more detailed version of the Finance Report is available on the Parish Web Site and you are always welcome to call the office with any questions you might have.



St. Bernard's Family Christmas Party

Sunday, December 17th from 4 PM to 7 PM in the Parish Hall

Our newly formed **Community Outreach Committee**, a group of enthusiastic parishioners have offered to host a Parish Family Christmas Party. This event will have a nominal entrance fee and is intended for ALL our parishioners – families with children, young adults and high school students and the more “seasoned” members of the Parish. There will be a variety of activities for all ages including a Christmas Carol Sing-along, plenty of refreshments and a “Secret Santa Shop” for the little ones. Please set this date aside and plan to spend at least part of that evening with us so that our Parish Family can celebrate together these great days of Christmas Cheer.



The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

December 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses are celebrated at 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM

Announcements

<u>Upcoming Meetings</u>		
Sun 12/3	Middle Grades: 3, 4, 5 Children's Mass Class, Parish Center	8:30 AM 9:30 AM
Mon 12/4	Finance Council, Small Meeting Room	6:30 PM
	Family Christmas Party Commit- tee, Large Conference Room	7:00 PM
Wed 12/6	Children Choir, Large Meeting Room	5:30 PM
	Cub Scouts, Parish Hall	6:00 PM
	Teen Choir, Large Meeting Room	6:15 PM
Thu 12/7	Adult Choir Large Meeting Room	6:45 PM
Sun 12/10	Grades 6 & 7 (Pre-Confirmation)	5:00 PM
	Grades 8 & 9 (Confirmation 1&2)	5:00 PM

The Empty Manager

The Diocese of Providence Office of Life and Family Ministry and R.I. Right to Life will be co-sponsoring a prayerful event on Saturday, December 16 from 10 – 11:00 AM at Planned Parenthood, 175 Broad Street, Providence. We will be caroling and praying in the peaceful vigil as we continue our efforts to create awareness of the abortion industry in our state and our country. Abortion hurts two people: the mom and the baby! Call 421-7833 x 218 for more information or to RSVP.

Annual Coat Drive

Please drop off your **GOOD, USED COATS** at the Church or Parish Office to be distributed to those in need. For more information or to help, please contact the Parish Office at 295-0387.

Parish Support

	<u>November 19, 2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Basket	\$7,149.50	\$7,885.00
ACH	\$2,193.00	\$1,737.50
	<u>November 26, 2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Basket	\$6,786.50	\$6,704.50
ACH	\$1,583.00	\$1,337.50
YTD	\$206,184.50	\$200,137.97



Holiday Food Drive

The Holidays are a time of plenty for some and a time of need for others. Let us remember those who do not have enough and who struggle to feed their families during these festive days. Please bring to Church non-perishable food items so that we can share them with those in need. All donations will help support the North Kingstown Food Pantry.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Elderly religious need your help. There are more than 32,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests living in the United States. Through prayer, love, sacrifice, they established Catholic schools, hospitals, and more. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left a shortage in retirement funding. Your gift helps their religious communities furnish necessities such as medications and nursing care. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. The second collection next weekend will be for the support of our retired religious. * Please be generous *

Faith Formation Program
SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Weather related Class Cancellations!

Please log on to www.turnto10.com, the local TV/
Radio Channels and our website
www.stbernardnk.org for updates

Religious Education Schedules

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

Next Class: January 6th 9:00am - 11:00am in the Parish Center (8:45am arrival time)

Save the Date:

Sunday 12/24/2017, 4:00 PM Mass
Christmas Eve Vigil Mass "Live Nativity Pageant"
More details to be sent to families via email.

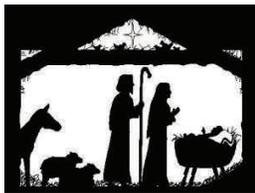
Grades 3,4,5:

Class TODAY December 3rd
8:30am-Children's Mass-9:30-11:30am Class in the Parish Center
Next Class: January 7th

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

Next Class: December 10th 5pm in the Parish Center. Concluding with a Mass at 6:30pm which all students must attend.

Reminder: Confirmation Candidates are required to sign in to record their attendance at weekly Mass in the book located in the gathering space. If you attend Mass at a different church, please return a signed bulletin to the Parish Center on a regular basis.



Christmas Vigil Mass

Christmas Eve
Children's Mass
Live Nativity Pageant
December 24, 2017 at 4pm

For those children who have been assigned a role in the Pageant:

There will be a REHEARSAL on Tuesday Dec. 19 at 6:00 pm in the Church. We will be fitting costumes, rehearsing parts, and practicing the readings. Please arrive on time.



Thank You for fulfilling a gift tag. Due to the time it takes Santa's elves to sort, check, bag and distribute the gifts, we ask that you wrap or bag the gift, attach the tag and return it to the Church by December 18, unless otherwise noted on the tag. For some individuals it will be their only gift so we need time to process them well before Christmas. If you find you cannot, for any reason, fulfill your item, please return the tag to the tree or the Parish Office as soon as possible.

Circle of Prayer

The Circle of Prayer has been in our parish for the last 17 years. It has been very comforting and many prayers have been answered. I am restarting the Circle of Prayer, however the computer the information was on crashed. I have lost all contacts. If you are interested in receiving the Circle of Prayer by email, please contact me at angel55288@verizon.net. I will reply back to you with all the information you need. I would ask all of you to continue to pray for all those in the Circle of Prayer. Thank You. Gerry Grabowski.

Sunday Community Dinners

The Sunday Community Dinners are held weekly at First Baptist Church of Wickford, 44 Main Street. Dinners are served at 12:30 p.m. and are open to all, **FREE**. St. Bernard's will be providing the meal December 10th. If you would like to help, please call Chris Kosak at 294-2885 or the Parish Center at 295-0387.

Emmanuel House
Homeless Shelter

We are always in need of **new socks, bath towels, and backpacks, twin-sized bedding, hats, gloves, and cans of coffee, etc.** Drop off items at the Parish Center or contact the office at 295-0387 for more information.