

Saint Bernard Church



December 17, 2023 Third Sunday of Advent

Rev. David F. Gaffney, Pastor

sbc.pastor@aol.com

Rev. John E. Unsworth, Pastor, Emeritus

Rev. Charles Maher, Weekday Assistant

Rev. Albino Barrera, OP Weekend Assistant

Pastoral Assistant: Angelo Giacchi
Business Manager: David Cote
Elementary Faith Formation: Dawn Masterson
Youth Faith Formation: Christina Pichette
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 (David)
sbc.pa@verizon.net (Angelo)

Web: www.stbernardnk.org

Hours: Mon - Tues: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Wednesday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Thursday & Friday: Closed

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

Eucharistic Adoration

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

Family Faith Formation Program

Our programs provide parishioners of all ages opportunities for learning, growing and living our Faith through common experiences, age-specific learning and interactive sharing. Please call the Parish Center for information regarding any of our programs or email:

First Communion Grade 2:
sbcreligiouseducation@gmail.com

Confirmation Grades 8 & 9: sbc.teenff@gmail.com

Gospel Weeklies Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7:
stbernardgospelweeklies@gmail.com

Ponderings

This past weekend we had the annual “Retirement Fund for Religious” collection. This collection, established in 1988 by the Catholic bishops of the United States is meant to address the significant lack of retirement funding for Catholic sisters, brothers and priests in religious orders. For most of their lives the elderly religious worked for little or no pay. In their younger years there were no 401K plans or pensions. Religious communities are financially responsible for the support and care of their members. Income, earnings and expenses are managed separately from the parish and diocesan structures of the Catholic Church.

Only 6 percent of the religious communities providing data to the National Religious Retirement

Office are adequately funded for retirement: 42% have twenty-five or fewer members. Many small communities struggle to care for elder members due to a lack of financial resources and personnel. Today, religious past the age of 70 outnumber religious younger than 70 by nearly three to one. There are 24,005 religious past the age of 70 living in the United States. In 2022, the average annual cost for their care was roughly \$55,500 per person; skilled nursing care averaged \$83,700 per person. Since 2009, the annual cost to support senior women and men religious has exceeded \$1 billion dollars. In 2022, 71% of the religious communities providing data to the National Religious Retirement Office had a median age of 70 or higher. The average annual Social Security benefit for a religious is \$7,679, whereas the average lay US beneficiary receives \$21,902.

How does the annual collection help? Each year, hundreds of US religious communities receive financial assistance made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious. Communities can use this funding for immediate retirement expenses or invest it for future needs. Since the first collection US Catholics have donated more than \$975 million. Since the collection began, almost \$843 million has been distributed to support the day-to-day care of elderly sisters, brothers and religious order priests. An additional \$102.6 million has been allocated toward self-help projects initiated by religious communities, including collaborative health-care facilities. In addition to direct financial assistance, proceeds from the annual collection underwrite educational programming services and resources that enable religious communities to evaluate and prepare for long term retirement needs.

In the Diocese of Providence, last year—2022, parishioners contributed \$169,748.63 to the collection. This money is pooled with the collections from all other dioceses in the United States. Disbursement of the financial assistance depends on the number of elderly in the particular religious community. For example, the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary received a total of \$297,718.38 in financial support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious. Note, that they actually received more than was collected in the diocese----due to the ‘pooling of contributions’ from around the country. There are parts of the country, particular dioceses where there is a greater concentration of elderly religious. In addition to the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, the Sisters of Mercy, the DeLaSalle Christian Brothers and our ‘local Sisters of the Cross and Passion’ would have a considerable number of elderly members.

We know that these religious men and women have selflessly served for decades without significant financial compensation. They are now facing escalating health care costs. The national collection in 2022 yielded \$27.6 million. Financial assistance was provided for the retirement needs of 297 US religious communities.

Sadly, with so many religious communities, there are very few new vocations. Some religious orders do have new members joining. In years past, the ‘new vocations----new sisters, brothers and religious order priests’ were there to earn an income and help provide for the senior members of the community. With fewer and fewer vocations----new members---that source of financial assistance was no longer available.

Pray for our elderly religious----in gratitude for their lifetime of service. Pray for vocations to the religious life. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this collection.

--Fr. Gaffney



Mass Intentions

MONDAY, December 18

8:00 AM – *Mary M. Silva*
by her family

TUESDAY, December 19

8:00 AM – *Innocents of Abortion*

WEDNESDAY, December 20

8:00 AM – *Thomas Rzemien*
by his family

THURSDAY, December 21

8:00 AM – *Benjamin Delaney*
by his family

FRIDAY, December 22

8:00 AM – *Fenwick Gardiner*
by his family

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, December 23

5:00 PM – *Adele Conticello*
10th Anniversary by her family

SUNDAY, December 24

7:00 AM – *Deceased of the parish*

8:30 AM – *Julia Buckley*
by her family

10:30 AM – *Kathleen Asher*
by her family



Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24:
4:00 PM & 6:00 PM

Monday, December 25:
7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM

Confession Times Added for the Week Before Christmas

Many people are accustomed to ‘going to confession’ before Christmas. We have added some additional times for this opportunity.

Saturday, December 16th we have added 3:00 – 4:00 pm (in addition to the usual 4:00-4:40 pm).

Monday, December 18th we have added 5:30 – 6:30 pm.

Tuesday, December 19th we have added 9:00 – 11:00 am (this is during our usual time of Eucharist Adoration).

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered in the Reconciliation Room where there is a choice of ‘going anonymously’ (kneeling behind a screen) or sitting ‘face to face’.



St. Bernard Church Celebrates 150 Years

1874—2024

MISSION 150

Watch for upcoming announcements of special events and programs for 2024!

We welcome families to bring their children—our youngest parishioners—in their strollers to Mass.

Parish Support

	December 3, 2023	2022
Basket	\$5,453.00	\$6,967.00
ACH	\$3,754.00	\$4,246.00
	December 10, 2023	2022
Basket	\$6,613.00	\$6,716.00
ACH	\$2,724.00	\$2,416.00
YTD	\$243,731.00	\$238,503.00

Annual Collection

Participation is its own goal. We are grateful for all who have sent in a contribution to our annual collection. Do you think we could get 100% participation? How about 75% or 50%? Are you able to participate? Any and all contributions are gratefully accepted. As of now 173 households have donated. Imagine what might be contributed if everyone of our 1,400 families participated. Your contribution is an important factor in maintaining our financial viability as a parish.

Grief Group

The schedule of meetings are:

Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30:

January 9, February 6, March 12,
April 16 ,May 14

If anyone would like more information about the group, please see Fr. Gaffney.

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is now ‘Tagless’! Thank You for taking all of the tags from our Giving Tree. You are very generous with this outreach project that helps so many families in our part of the state. You can still bring in a gift card to a local grocery store. Many families are in need of food at this time! Thank You!



Worship 101

Finding More Meaning in the Mass (An Adult Faith Formation program). The meetings will be on **Tuesdays at 7:00 PM**, in the parish hall. The schedule is:

January 16, January 30
February 13, February 27, March 19

Mission 150: Soup Dinner

Recognizing our ‘humble beginnings’ as a ‘mission church’ in 1874 and in conjunction with our “Soup-er Bowl” Outreach to help the Poor----we will have a “Soup Supper” on Saturday, January 27 after the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Please return the RSVP---so we have an accurate count. *A free will offering will be accepted.* Our collection of cans of soup will take place: January 1, 2024 through February 11, 2024 (Super Bowl Sunday). Thank you for your generosity as we reach out to those in need.

Family Name: _____

Number attending: _____

Faith Formation 2023-2024

Weather related Class Cancellations! Please go to <https://turnto10.com/> or the local TV/Radio Channels for updates

Gospel Weeklies Program

Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

In-person class schedule 9:25-10:25 am

Class Today: 12/17

Next Class: 1/21/24

** Return completed assignments to next in-person class

Sacramental Preparation Program

Grades 2, 8, 9

In-person class schedule: 9:30-10:45

Next Class: 1/7/2024

Grade 2 & 8 is expected to return each Gospel Weekly to the next in person class. This is so the lesson from the Gospel of the week is reviewed in a timely manner and the program stays on track.

For more detailed information, please refer to your Weekly News Family email.

World Mission Sunday

“Thank you very much for the generous World Mission Sunday contribution of \$1,273.00 for the people of St Bernard Parish. This money will assist over 1,111 mission dioceses and other parts of the Catholic Church in need. When our country was young, in 1822, the Diocese of Louisiana was one of the first beneficiaries of the work of Blessed Pauline Jaricot, the foundress of the Propagation of the Faith.”

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Francesco Francese
Director

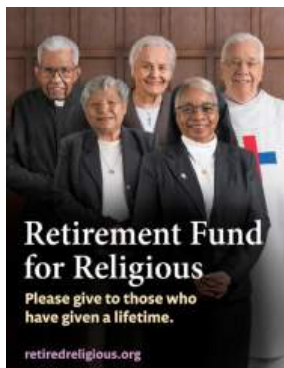
Landscape Improvement

A bed of rocks has been created around the perimeter of the church. This will help prevent the lawnmowers and weed whackers from causing damage to the lower wood panels and shingles of the church building. Thanks to the Gibbons family for overseeing and sponsoring this improvement.



Retirement Fund for Religious

Our women and men religious offer gratitude.



A sister shares, “I thank the Lord for all who give. I don’t think we would make it without them.” Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit retiredreligious.org



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