

Saint Bernard Church



December 24, 2023 Fourth 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

A couple of weeks ago I was invited by the Vicar of St. Paul's (Episcopal) Church to a performance of Handel's Messiah, that they were hosting. It was performed by a group called "Ensemble Altera"---it was a wonderful performance. I enjoy this piece of music that is so often a part of this holiday season. The program notes provided the following information: "Few works have held such enduring sway over our collective imagination, especially in the English-speaking world, as George Frideric Handel's The Messiah. Since its Dublin debut in 1742, a huge success, it has been performed and enjoyed thousands of times the world over. Messiah is an *oratorio*, that is, a dramatic work for orchestra, chorus and soloists depicting a religious story".

The librettist was Charles Jennens who drew the 'script' from both the Old and New Testaments---depicting Jesus' birth, death and resurrection. The director of the Ensemble Altera had to decide which version of The Messiah to perform---Handel created nine different iterations of the work. In his debut performance in Dublin, it is likely that Handel employed a relatively small chamber orchestra and a choir of about 20. The Ensemble Altera has a similar size, and they use 'original instruments'.

There are many pieces of the oratorio that are familiar to most audiences. The one that stands out is the Halleluiahs Chorus. One of my favorite parts, however, is the passage from Isaiah that has these words, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

As we draw ever closer to the celebration of Christmas----this is what we are celebrating! A Son is given to us! Isaiah, the prophet, had foretold this wonderful event. And what of these particular titles?

"Wonderful" ----we are invited to rediscover the 'wonder' of Christmas. We can marvel that our God would take on our human flesh and be born in a manger, among the animals of the stable since there was no room at the inn. Take a few minutes to stare into your family's Christmas creche and experience this 'wonder'.

"Counsellor" ---we are invited to give thanks to the great 'counsel' given to us by our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ! He is the one who guides us, leads us, invites us----never forcing us, never coercing us. With a gentle voice he wishes to always lead us to a place of new life.

"The mighty God" ----the Creator of the World, the All-Powerful God----the "mighty God' becomes a tiny child---and act of humility. It is this quality of humility that Jesus will display throughout his public ministry. At the Last Supper he takes up the basin, the pitcher and towel and washes the disciples' feet---an act of humble service. He invites us to embrace humility, no matter how strong and mighty we might think we are.

"The Prince of Peace" ----this year, I spent more than a few minutes reflecting on this title for the child of Bethlehem. In a year where there is war in numerous places in our world, let us, then, continue to ask the Prince of Peace to bring that fragile gift of peace to our world. Throughout the course of human history there have been countless years when wars were being waged. Many of our ancestors have prayed precisely for what we pray for----Peace. We can be overwhelmed by the horrific nature of war and the many and varied ways that life is taken away---in death, in injuries, in loss of property, in relocating to safer places. In the face of war let us continue to pray for peace.

On behalf of the parish staff, and in my own name, I wish all of our families a truly Blessed and Merry Christmas----let us marvel again at the greatest given to us.... 'For unto us a child is born'.

--Fr. Gaffney



Mass Intentions

MONDAY, December 25

Deceased of the Parish

TUESDAY, December 26

8:00 AM – *William Arnold Jr.*
by his mother

WEDNESDAY, December 27

8:00 AM – *Special Intention*
by Women’s Bible Study

THURSDAY, December 28

8:00 AM – *Dementina Silva*
by her husband

FRIDAY, December 29

8:00 AM – *Holy Souls of Purgatory*

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, December 30

5:00 PM – *Joseph Palladino*
by his family

SUNDAY, December 31

7:00 AM – *George Coleman*
by the Ferriola family

8:30 AM – *Deceased of the parish*

10:30 AM – *Richard Collier, Jr.*
10th Anniversary by his family



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

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

Blessing for A Christmas Tree



God of all creation, we praise you for this tree which brings beauty and memories and the promise of life to our home.

May Your blessing be upon all who gather around this tree and all who keep the Christmas festival by its lights.

We wait for the coming of the Christ, the days of everlasting justice and of peace.

You are our God, living and reigning, forever and ever.
Amen.



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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 195 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.

Please Be Careful!

The winter is just getting started. Cold and snow will surely come. The area around St. Bernard Church is especially difficult to keep clear from ice in winter weather. Our church has been built facing the north and the sun never shines on our front entrance. What melts during the day, refreezes at night.

We always do our best to keep the walks clear, but it is never going to be perfect (unless we turn the building around to face the South), and so we ask you all, when it does snow please use extreme caution and good common sense when coming to church. Please be thoughtful of others and lend a hand to those who are in danger of falling (especially the elderly).

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

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.

Teen Life Ministry

St. Bernard, together with St. Francis de Sales Parish, is offering a new program called Teen Life Ministry. This ministry is open to any current middle school or high school students. This will be an opportunity for local teens to socialize, share their faith, and get involved in community service. The ministry will meet once a month throughout the school year on a Friday or Sunday evening. Meetings will be held at either St. Bernard's or St. Francis de Sales on a rotating basis. This will be an uplifting and fun ministry. No commitment is necessary. To sign up, or for more information, please contact Christina Pichette at

sbc.teenff@gmail.com

The next Teen Life Ministry gathering will take place at St. Francis de Sales parish center on Friday, January 19th from 6PM-7:30PM. For a list of all the upcoming dates, please refer to our website:

<https://www.stbernardnk.org/youth-ministry/>

The Visitation of the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe



Friday, January 5 through Wednesday, January 31
The Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be visiting our diocese in various parishes throughout Rhode Island from Friday, January 5 through Wednesday, January 31, 2024.

The image is an exact replica of the original image of Our Lady which She left on the Tilma of

St. Juan Diego in December 1531. The image is among four blessed at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico by the Rector of the Basilica, Msgr. Monroy, to bring conversions, reverence for life, sanctity of the family and solidarity of the Church in America. The Missionary Images are known to have been associated with many miracles and healings. The Image will be here at St. Bernard's on Tuesday, January 16 during adoration. The schedule and locations can be found by visiting the diocesan website at

<https://dioceseofprovidence.org/OLG>

Steubenville East 2024

Calling all high schoolers! In our ever-changing world, Jesus is the answer to the longing of our hearts for meaning, fulfillment, security, and love. Join hundreds of Catholic teens at Steubenville East in Springfield, MA on the weekend of July 26th-28th to be illuminated in the light of Christ. All rising freshmen in high school through rising freshmen in college are invited to attend this retreat with our group which features live music and dynamic speakers. We will be having two interest meetings which are open to students and a parent. The first will be at St. Francis de Sales following the January Teen Life meeting (1/19) from 7:30-8PM. The second will be on Sunday, January 28th following the 10:30AM Mass in the Parish Center. For more information contact Christina Pichette at

sbc.teenff@gmail.com



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