

Saint Bernard Church



December 31, 2023 Feast of The Holy Family

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

We are on the verge of a New Year! Happy New Year! 2024 is a special year in the life of our parish. We are celebrating 150 years! St. Bernard Church began as a 'mission church' of Our Lady of Mercy, East Greenwich (which at the time was known as the Church of the Holy Name of Jesus). Rev. William Halligan, who was its pastor, often travelled to Wickford to celebrate in the homes of residents since there was no church nearby. The Catholic population of North Kingstown gradually increased as French-Canadian and Irish immigrants settled in the area to work in the mills and factories. In 1874, realizing that there was now a big enough Catholic community to support the church, Fr. Halligan purchased a half-acre of land for the construction of what became St. Bernard church. The presence of a Catholic population meant a new church was needed. And so, St. Bernard Church was built on the land purchased by Fr. Halligan and was dedicated by Bishop Thomas F. Hendricken, the first bishop of the Diocese of Providence, on July 4, 1875.

I started wondering what life was like 'back then' when Fr. Halligan came by 'horse and buggy' to Wickford to celebrate Mass. Our Lady of Mercy Church (which was at that time called the Church of the Holy Name of Jesus) is approximately seven miles from St. Bernard's. A horse and buggy could travel between 3-4 miles per hour. So----it would be approximately two hours of travel each way when Fr. Halligan came to celebrate Mass in the village. He would initially gather the people into homes to celebrate Mass----that is the origin of our parish!

Much was changing in the later half of the 19th century. Accelerating many changes was the Civil War (fought between 1861-1865). In the year 1874 the country was still recovering from that devastating war. At the time of the founding of our parish the majority of American still lived on farms (53% in 1870). Most spoke English as their first and only language, they worshiped in Protestant churches and revered the precepts passed down to them by their forebears of the Revolutionary War generation.

Since most people lived on farms, they ate what they could grow, wore clothes they could sew at home, and oriented their daily life around seasonal rhythms. Their houses were built along the same lines as those of their grandfathers, and they kept to their old customs when they moved to new locations. New technologies brought labor saving inventions such as sewing machines and cast-iron cooking stoves, improved transportation via railroads and steamboats, and better methods of preserving foods. The abundance of inexpensive goods such as printed cloth, dishes, cookware, farm implements and furniture raised the standard of living considerably.

Millions of immigrants from Europe found work in American factories, contributing to the creation of a class of urban wage-earners, including women and children. Though some women welcomed the new opportunity to earn money and some parents were happy to find a way in which their children could contribute to the family's income, factory work was arduous, poorly paid and dangerous.

A city-dwelling, working class family needed between \$500-\$600 per year for food, rent, clothing and fuel. Since the average unskilled laborer rarely earned more than \$300-\$400 per year, it became necessary for women and children to contribute to the family's income. Working class women often worked in the sewing trades or as domestic servants. Many also took work at home, such as doing laundry, plaiting straw for hats and fans. Farm families all had to work. It cost between \$500-\$750 to start a 150-acre farm. Throughout the nineteenth century most Americans had little cash, and farmers, domestic help and laborers alike all worked long hours, typically six day per week and ten hours per day.

Our ancestors here in the parish certainly had a life very different from ours in many ways----and yet, we share their faith in Jesus Christ; we belong to the Catholic Church; we celebrate the sacraments---and have done so in this village for 150 years!

--Fr. Gaffney

A Word of Thanks

I do appreciate the thoughtfulness of all the parishioners who send a card or give a gift to me at Christmas. With all of the other people and things you need to remember at this time of year I am grateful that you remember me!

---Fr. Gaffney



Mass Intentions

MONDAY, January 1

10:30 AM — Deceased of the Parish

TUESDAY, January 2

8:00 AM – *Daniel & Marie Mahoney*
by Jen & Ryan Bernard

WEDNESDAY, January 3

8:00 AM – *Gisele Bousquet*

THURSDAY, January 4

8:00 AM – *Melanie Josephson*

FRIDAY, January 5

8:00 AM – *Egidio Capobianco*

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, January 6

5:00 PM – *Charlie Tanguay*
by his family

SUNDAY, January 7

7:00 AM – *Gail McCann*
by Rita McCann

8:30 AM – *Mary C. Kusmierz*

10:30 AM – *Al Butler*
by his family



Pancakes
With
Santa

A Success!

Thank You

To our

Knights
Of
Columbus



Solemnity of Mary

Monday January 1, 2024
Mass at 10:30 AM
NO 8:00 AM Mass

St. Bernard Church

Celebrates 150 Years

1874—2024 : MISSION 150



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

Giving Tree

Thank you for your generous response to our Giving Tree outreach project. We estimate that we collected more than 600 gifts in addition to many, many gift cards. It was not unusual to see a gift tag attached not to just one gift, but two or more. For example, there were so many instances where “a pair of socks” was listed on the tag ---and the actual donation was “five pairs of socks”. In other words, you were more generous than what the ‘tag from the tree’ asked! Thanks to Nancy Delaney who coordinates this project. The agencies and the families they serve are so very grateful for your donations

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 203 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.

Our 'Young at Heart' Luncheon Prize Winners!



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

The Knights of Columbus Keep the Heat On Fundraiser

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank everyone for their support of the Bishop's "Keep the Heat On" Fundraiser! With your help, the Knights of Columbus donated \$750 for families in need in RI.

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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