



Saint Bernard of Clairvaux Parish

Rev. Alfred J. Lampron
Administrator

PARISH OFFICE:

446 Mount Hope Road • Wharton, NJ 07885

Main Office: (973)627-0066 • Fax: (973)627-3631

Peter Helmer, *Administrative Assistant*

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

INFANT BAPTISM

Kevin & Sandy Hayes 973-328-6552

**GRADE SCHOOL & JR. HIGH SCHOOL
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Sr. Thomasine Smith, S.C.C. 973-366-0184

MUSIC MINISTERS

Kathleen Carey 973-366-1703

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Joan Moran 973-366-4974

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Raymond Dean 973-366-5874

FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

Collection every week
Lois Bateson 973-366-2066

PHYSICAL PLANT

Michael Hardy 973-366-8435

READERS

Marty Siebold 973-989-1240

USHERS

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Sunday: The Lord's Day, Vigil Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM
Daily Mass, Monday - Saturday, 8:30 AM

RECONCILIATION

Confessions every Saturday, 4:00-4:30 PM and also
at parishioners' convenience by appointment.

CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

Arrangements are usually made one year in advance
to properly prepare for marriage. Contact the Parish
Office for an appointment.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK

Contact Parish Office for pastoral visits in the hospital
or at home. Eucharist ministers are able to visit the
sick upon request. The Sacrament of the Sick can be
celebrated anytime there is a need.

PARISH REGISTRATION

Registration Forms are located in back of the church
or at the Parish Office. Please register so that we may
serve you better.

PARISH TRUSTEES

Cecile Cole
Raymond Dean

December 9, 2018 • Second Sunday of Advent



Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday December 9, 2018

Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 Mary Chodorowski

10:30 Joe Loverro

Monday December 10, 2018

8:30 Special Intention

Wednesday December 12, 2018

Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:30 Rita Jane Feeney

Thursday December 13, 2018

St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

8:30 Robert Privitera

Friday December 14, 2018

*St. John of the Cross, Priest and
Doctor of the Church*

8:30 People of the Parish

Saturday December 15, 2018

8:30 Lynn Connelly

5:00 Vallarsa Family

Sunday December 16, 2018

Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 Patricia Wall

10:30 Ruth and Emerson Siebold

The Inner Word

What's in your heart?

- Baruch proclaims that we will be remembered by God. Do I feel remembered? Do I feel led by God?
- Both Baruch and John the Baptist prophesy that every valley will be filled in to level ground. What are

the valleys in my life that need leveling? Am I willing to have the way prepared for God in my own life?

- Saint Paul prays that God will increase the love of the new believers in Philippi. In my own Advent preparation, what might I do to grow in love for the people I live with, work with, and worship with?

December 9, 2018

Second Sunday of Advent

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

There is nothing like a straightaway. I refer to a stretch of road that beckons a driver to wed the wheels to an accelerator in full power. "Pedal to the medal" as we say. I ought to know the truth of this because I live near a straightaway, and I have to use it often enough for travel, albeit with my eyes alert for amateur drag racers. For more drivers than I care to count, the speed limit signs are just ornaments. On temperate nights, with my bedroom windows open, I can hear the T-Rex roar of their engines even three blocks away. I imagine frightened nearby deer making U-turns away into a deeper retreat from the macadam madness.

The Scriptural straightway that forms part of John the Baptist's mission is of an entirely different order. It doesn't involve speed or noise or ignoring of the laws of speed and courtesy. Instead, his is a figurative royal highway paved for the feet of the Messiah, as He makes His entry into mission. Later on, it will be the road for pilgrims of faith who will

walk behind Him. Hopefully that includes all of us.

During this first half of Advent, before the Church retells us the wondrous tale of Christ's historical birth, she wants us to remain fully aware of His adult mission. As the Anointed One, the Savior of the world, His calling is actually more significant than His Bethlehem birth. We are involved with our baptismal obligation to carry out His mission twenty-one centuries later.

Surely there are obstacles on John's ideal straightaway. Some of them are of our own making. Others are Satan's projects. He above all does not want us ever to follow Jesus. Together, they slow down our progress. That very deceleration can be so pronounced and discouraging that we are tempted to take a detour away from Christ, and these days also from His Church.

What are these roadblocks? None other than temptations to selfishness and sin. Casting about looking for Easy Street as our route of choice through life. Admittedly, the spiritual straightaway is narrow and at times features potholes and faulty paving.

Advent is the season for "highway repair." Only afterwards can we really find our way back to the truth. Then we come to the simple stable scene and begin with a kind of rebirth.

The "detours" so many of us take throughout the year is a reason why "we need a little Christmas", as Auntie Mame sang. The great saving event of Christ's life, made available to us through the sacraments He established, and which endure through His Church's actions, are the only guaranteed way by which we will all arrive safely at our true home. Curves will straighten and detours avoided through God's saving grace. In the end, maybe it's best to get out of our imaginary "cars" altogether to complete our mission to others seeking truth. The reason: "People are guided to heaven more by footprints than by guideposts."

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

The prophet addresses Jerusalem with words of comfort. She can cease her mourning and rejoice, for her children are coming home to begin a new age of God's favor. A valley shall be filled for their trip.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6

Paul thanks God with joy for the people here have shared in the gospel through their conversion and their costly witnessing to the faith.

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist's call is to prepare the way for the Lord. As a result, John affects world history. There will be a new exodus led by Jesus as the new Moses, who will free the people from their slavery to sin.



As a community of believers, who trust in God's mercy, healing and strength, it is our duty to pray for those who are ill and infirm. The following parishioners or family members of our parishioners are in need of our prayers. We ask God to grant health and peace to: **Lois Bateson, Jean Birrell, the Budwick family, Barbara Dietrick, Linda Doshier, Anne and John Kunzweiler, Bernice Lawson, Noah Lorencovitz, Sara Maloney, James Matar, Nancy Orkin, Kathy Philips, Angela Rios, Bishop Frank Rodimer, Andy**

Secallus, Sister Thomasine Smith, Frances and Jim Spilman, Ralph Sutton, Rob Talmadge, Maureen Tuccio and Egle Soave Witcher.

First Friday Adoration

Everyone is invited to spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament in adoration each First Friday beginning after the 8:30 Mass until 6:00pm. There is a signup sheet in the church vestibule for each hour. Please join us on Friday, January 4, for this special prayer and devotion.

Support the Retirement Fund for the Religious. A donor writes, “your flyer touched my heart—seeing the retired religious, such memories surfaced.” Do you remember the sisters, brothers, or religious order priests who made a positive difference in your life? Today many are elderly and need assistance. Their religious communities struggle to meet retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Please give to next week’s second collection.

Advent, 2018

ADVENT GIVING TREE

Once again, our Advent Giving Tree gifts will be sent to the women and men serving in the military. Please take one or more tags and return them no later than Sunday, December 16. Please note that all the gifts and donations from our parish will be picked up at noon on the 16th. Monetary donations can be made so that phone cards, to be used in other

countries, can be purchased at Picatinny. You can give us cash or a check made out to Saint Bernard Church for purchase of the phone cards. Thank you for your generosity in bringing joy to our dedicated troops. We also pray for their safety and for peace during the Holy Season celebrating the Lord’s birth and always.

Advent Reconciliation Service

As faithful Catholics, our preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas should always include the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance. We should never neglect taking time to encounter our compassionate and forgiving God in this wonderful Sacrament. We desire God’s embrace of mercy for ourselves so that we will be more open and ready to forgive others, that all may know the true peace that comes from Jesus, our Emmanuel. As a parish, we will join with the people of St. Mary’s, Dover for a Communal Reconciliation Service to be held at Saint Mary’s on Tuesday, December 18th at 7:00p.m. I invite you to come as a family to spend some time in prayer and to be renewed in God’s love. Other times for individual confessions will be listed on the Christmas Schedule you will receive in the mail and in future bulletins.

The Bells of Christmas

As we return to singing the Gloria, our great hymn of praise to God, at our Christmas Masses, may our singing be vigorous and joyful. As we celebrate the birth of Christ and the gift of His peace on earth, we add the sound of bells to our voices. Children (of all ages) are invited to bring bells to church on Christmas and ring them during our singing of the Glory to God.

Christmas Flowers

It is time, once again, to request flower memorials for deceased loved ones or for any special intentions. These flowers will remain in the church throughout the Christmas Season. If you wish to make a donation as a memorial or family gift, please return the completed form (found below) to the parish office no later than **today Sunday, December 9th**. **Please print all information on the form.**

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

In Memory of: _____

OR

For the Special Intention of: _____

Given By: _____

Donation Amt: _____

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Monday,
December 24, 2018
5:00 P.M.

Christmas Day, Tuesday,
December 25, 2018
9:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M.

New Year's Eve, Monday,
December 31, 2018
5:00 P.M.

New Year's Day, Tuesday,
January 1, 2019
8:30 A.M.

RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE Advent Communal Penance Service

Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at
7:00 P.M.
(The Service will take place at St. Mary's, Dover)

Individual Confessions
Monday, December 17, 2018
9:30-10:00 A.M. and 7:00-8:00 P.M.
Saturday, December 22, 2018
4:00-4:30 P.M.

You can also call the rectory to set up an appointment.

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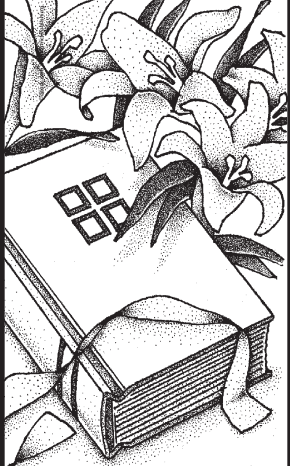
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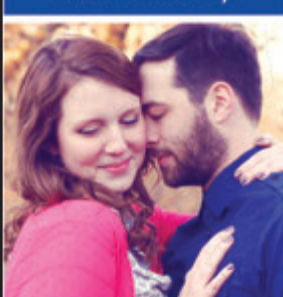


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