

Saint Bernard Church



December 3, 2023 First 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

Advent is upon us! A new liturgical year begins. We celebrate four Sundays before December 25th and the celebration of Christmas. Advent this year, even with four weekends, is a bit short. Here are the four weekends of Advent:

First Sunday of Advent: Saturday, December 2/Sunday December 3

Second Sunday of Advent: Saturday, December 9/Sunday, December 10

Third Sunday of Advent: Saturday, December 16/Sunday, December 17

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Saturday, December 23/Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve is on Sunday December 24th-----“in the evening”.

Christmas Day is on Monday, December 25th.

So I can hear someone already asking the question—“If I go to Mass on Sunday morning, December 24th--- does that ‘count’ for Christmas? The answer: No.

Get ready----we’ll be spending a lot of time together during that December 23-25 period! Actually, if we take a few minutes to step back----we will realize that God is coming to spend time with us. During Advent, God accompanies us on a kind of journey to the celebration of Christmas. If I open my eyes, my ears and my heart I will see God bringing me on the journey. It is a journey with the Prophets of the Old Testament. It is a journey with John the Baptist. It is a journey with the Blessed Virgin Mary and Joseph. It is a journey to the manger. The season invokes expectation, longing, waiting and hope. The word ‘Advent’ comes from the Latin word, *adventus*, meaning ‘arrival’ or ‘coming.’ It speaks to us of the time the Jewish people waited for the Messiah to come. It speaks to us of the second coming of Christ.

The History of Advent: Originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas. Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany. During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer and fasting to prepare for the celebration. By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the ‘coming’ they had in mind was not Christ’s first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming as judge of the world. The Advent season was not explicitly linked to Christ’s first coming at Christmas until the Middle Ages.

Where did the Advent Wreath come from? The wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A Lutheran minister working at a mission for children created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. He placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. The red candles were lit on weekdays and the four white candles on Sundays. Eventually, the Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. The circle reminds us of God’s unending love and eternal life. Advent candles are nestled in the evergreen wreath.

What about the Advent Calendar? Among many traditions associated with Advent is the advent calendar. The popularity spread through the work of a German printer by the name of Gerhard Lang. Having grown up with a homemade calendar, Lang began designing cardboard Advent calendars around the turn of the century and, later in the 1920s, came up with the idea of cutting out little doors that could be open each day. Behind each door, a devotional picture or Bible verse was hidden.

I will conclude with a suggestion in answer to the question: What should I pray for during Advent? *Pray for attentiveness to what truly matters without being distracted by trivial things.*

--Fr. Gaffney



Mass Intentions

MONDAY, December 4

8:00 AM – *Tom Orsi*
by The Counters

TUESDAY, December 5

8:00 AM – *Theresa Conway*
by Jane Viera

WEDNESDAY, December 6

8:00 AM – *Julia Buckley*
by her family

THURSDAY, December 7

8:00 AM – *Mark Delaney*
by Nancy, Caroline & Nicole

FRIDAY, December 8: Immaculate Conception

8:00 AM – *Maureen Lynch*
by Mary
7:00 PM *Marsha Provost*
by her family

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, December 9

5:00 PM – *Susan Smith*
by her family

SUNDAY, December 10

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

8:30 AM – *Thomas ‘Tim’ Walsh*
by his family

10:30 AM – *Edward Pietras*
by his family



Immaculate Conception



Friday, December 8,
Holy Day
Masses will be celebrated
at 8:00 AM and at 7:00 PM.

There will be NO Noon
Mass.

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’.



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

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

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

Parish Support

	November 19, 2023	2022
Basket	\$7,633.00	\$6,593.00
ACH	\$3,109.00	\$2,670.00
	November 26, 2023	2022
Basket	\$6,011.00	\$5,249.00
ACH	\$2,604.00	\$2,156.00
YTD	\$225,187.00	\$218,158.00

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 121 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.

Youth Christmas Choir and Instrumentalists

The Youth choir will sing once again for our 4pm mass on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals will be in the parish center for 3 Tuesdays starting December 5th, from 5-5:45pm. Open to ages 6 through high school. Also looking for older teens who play an instrument who would be interested in playing during the Christmas season or at other times during the year. if you're interested or have any questions please email: alison.shea72@gmail.com.



Retirement Fund for Religious

You can help. "Religious are blessed to serve,"



says Dominican Father Bertrand Ebben, age 90. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious next week. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.

The Giving Tree

The tree is up. Please take a tag and fulfill the suggested gift. Attach the tag to the gift and place it under the tree by December 17, unless otherwise noted on the tag. For some individuals it will be their only gift. We need time to process them well before Christmas. If you cannot, for any reason, fulfill the request, please return the tag to the tree or the Parish Office as soon as possible. If your family, or any family you know, needs help with gifts this Christmas, please contact the parish center@ 401.295.0387 or email:

sbc.pa@verizon.net.

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:

December 12
January 16, January 30
February 13, February 27, March 19

Grief Group

The schedule of meetings are: (Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30):

December 5, January 9
February 6, March 12, April 16, May 14

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

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: 12/3

Next Class: 12/17

** 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: 12/10

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.

Men of St. Joseph



The Men of St. Joseph International is a Catholic association of men committed to Jesus Christ. Our monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, **December 6th at 7:00 PM** in the Parish Hall. New members are welcome. Please join us and strengthen your faith through study of scripture and fellowship with other catholic men.

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 here at St. Bernard's parish center on Friday, December 15th from 6PM-7:30PM. For a list of all the upcoming dates, please refer to our website: www.stbernardnk.org/faith-formation/youth-ministry

**St. Bernard Church and the
Knights of Columbus Council 2011 hosts**

PANCAKES WITH SANTA

**Sunday - December 17, 2023
10:30am-12pm**



**Visit with Santa,
Crafts and Games**

**Breakfast Includes:
pancakes, juice,
coffee,
hot chocolate**

Free offering will be accepted

Young at Heart December Luncheon

Monday, December 18 at Noon (sign in at 11:30 AM)

Menu: TBD

Name (s) _____

Cost: \$15.00 per person. (Please make out checks payable to St. Bernard)

Please respond by **Monday, December 11.**

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