

# Saint Bernard Church



## November 20, 2022 Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe

### 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

**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

I came upon this story recently----found it to be ‘heartwarming’. There is a bit of controversy about its authorship. It had been attributed to Katherine Hepburn and then there were a rash of internet stories that denied it was from her childhood. They offered all kinds of ‘fact check’ information. I really didn’t get into the battle over authorship. Perhaps you have heard the story before----or maybe the story about the story (the authorship question!). In any event, as we approach Thanksgiving, I thought it might be story you would enjoy.

*“Once when I was a teenager, my father and I were standing in line to buy tickets for the circus. Finally, there was only one other family between us and the ticket counter. The family made a big impression on me. There were eight children, all probably under the age of 12. The way they were dressed, you could tell they didn’t have a lot of money, but their clothes were neat and clean.*

*The children were well behaved, all of them standing in line, two-by-two behind their parents, holding hands. They were excitedly jabbering about the clowns, animals and the acts they would be seeing that night. By their excitement you could sense they had never been to the circus before. It would be a highlight of their lives. The father and mother were at the head of the pack standing proud as could be. The mother was holding her husband’s hand, looking up at him as if to say, “you’re my knight in shining armor.” He was smiling and enjoying seeing his family happy.*

*The ticket lady asked the man how many tickets he wanted? He proudly responded, “I’d like to buy eight children’s tickets and two adult tickets, so I can take my family to the circus. The ticket lady stated the price. The man’s wife let go of his hand, her head dropped, the man’s lip began to quiver. Then he leaned a little closer and asked, “How much did you say?” The ticket lady again stated the price. The man didn’t have enough money. How was he supposed to turn and tell his eight kids that he didn’t have enough money to take them to the circus?*

*Seeing what was going on, my dad reached into his pocket, pulled out a \$20 bill, and then dropped it to the ground. (We were not wealthy in any sense of the word.) My father bent down, picked up the \$20 bill, tapped the man on the shoulder and said, “Excuse me, sir, this fell out of your pocket.” The man understood what was going on. He wasn’t begging for a handout but certainly appreciated the help in a desperate, heartbreaking and embarrassing situation. He looked straight into my dad’s eyes, took my dad’s hand in both of his, squeezed tightly onto the \$20 bill, and with his lip quivering and a tear streaming down his cheek, he replied; “Thank you, thank you, sir. This really means a lot to me and my family.”*

*My father and I went back to our car and drove home. The \$20 that my dad gave away is what we were going to buy our tickets with. Although we didn’t get to see the circus that night, we both felt a joy inside that was far greater than seeing the circus could ever provide.*

*That day I learned the value to Give.*

When I read this story I realized that so much of the giving you do as parishioners of this parish is ‘anonymous’----you bring in food each week for the NK Food Pantry; you pick ‘tags’ from the Giving Tree at Christmas; you respond generously when we had the “Souper-Bowl” collection of cans of soup; you bring in ‘baby items’ for the Baby Shower; you regularly bring in various items for the Emmanuel House (homeless shelter in Providence). You never see the recipient of your generosity. And yet, there is a ‘real person’ on the other side of your gift----a person in need whose day, week, month, year, whole life----was made just a bit better by your gift. They (mostly) don’t have the opportunity to say, ‘thank you’ (although the agencies will often express their gratitude) ----but, in their name, the names of those who will have more to eat, warm clothes to wear, etc., I say, “Thank You!”

“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers (*or sisters*) of mine, you did for me.”

Happy Thanksgiving!

--Fr. Gaffney

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



# Mass Intentions

**MONDAY, November 21**

8:00 AM – *Ann Kosak*  
by her family

**TUESDAY, November 22**

8:00 AM – *Innocents of Abortion*

**WEDNESDAY, November 23**

8:00 AM – *Buck Reis*  
by Jane Viera

**THURSDAY, November 24**

8:30 AM – *Thanksgiving Mass*

**FRIDAY, November 25**

8:00 AM – *Holy Souls of Purgatory*

## WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY, November 26**

5:00 PM – *Donald Barker*  
by his wife

**SUNDAY, November 27**

7:00 AM – *Raymond, Louis & Donald Theroux*  
by their family

8:30 AM – *Teresa Trabucco & Maria Douglas*  
by their family

10:30 AM – *Elda & Vito Coppa*  
by their family

Congratulations to  
Brianna Byam and Matthew Repetto  
who were united in the Sacrament of  
Holy Matrimony on November 11, 2022



Coffee and Donuts after the 10:30 AM  
Mass Last Sunday.  
All are Welcome !

## Thanksgiving Day Mass



Please join us on Thanksgiving Day for Mass at 8:30 a.m. In a year when there have been so many challenges and difficulties we pause to recall God's blessings, as well.



### Parish Support

	November 6 , 2022	2021
Basket	\$7,068.00	\$10,589.00
ACH	\$3,120.00	\$2,860.00
	November 13 , 2022	2021
Basket	\$8,374.00	\$6,580.00
ACH	\$2,257.00	\$2,640.00
YTD	\$201,490.00	\$198,107.00

Remember St. Bernard Church in your will and estate planning. Thank you.

### Annual Collection

Letters have been mailed to all registered households in the parish. (We have extra copies of the mailing if you did not receive it for some reason) We are grateful for your generous support of this "annual" collection in the past and look forward to your support this year. This collection literally enables us to pay our bills. It is our hope that every family will be able to contribute to the collection. Thank you to those who have already sent in their donation. The collection continues till the end of the calendar year.

### Emmanuel House Homeless Shelter

We are always in need of new socks, bath towels, and backpacks, twin-sized bedding, etc. Drop off items in the Church gathering space or at the Parish Center.

### Thanksgiving Food Drive and Gift Card Drive

**Non perishable food:** On a weekly basis many of you generously bring in non perishable food items that are brought to the North Kingstown Food Pantry. Thank you! We invite all parishioners to take part in our 'Thanksgiving Food Drive' with donations of non-perishable items. (such as: cereal; baked beans; canned vegetables; hearty soups; pasta; tomato sauce; hamburger-helper; rice-a-roni).

**Food Store Gift Cards:** We use the money from the "Poor Box" to purchase \$25 gift cards that we distribute on a regular basis to those who call the parish office who are in need of assistance. We have experienced an increase in requests for gift cards in recent months. If you would like to donate a food gift card (\$25 denomination)----please put them in an envelope marked 'Thanksgiving Gift Card'. Your donation will help those in need.



### Monsignor Clarke School Christmas Festival Sunday, December 4, 2022 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

- ❖ 70 + Vendors and Artists
- ❖ Gifts for Everyone on Your List
  - ❖ Kids Games and Crafts
  - ❖ Lunch and Snacks
  - ❖ Raffles
- ❖ Santa & Mrs. Claus

### Young at Heart December Luncheon

Tuesday, December 13, 2022 (sign in at 11:30 AM)

Menu: To Be Determined

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$14.00 per person.      Cash: \_\_\_\_\_      Check \_\_\_\_\_      (Made out to St. Bernard)

**Please respond by Tuesday, December 6, 2022.**

## **Faith Formation**

### **GOSPEL WEEKLIES PROGRAM**

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

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

Class today: 11/20.  
Next in person class: 12/4

**\*\* Return completed assignments to next in-person class**

### **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAM**

*Grades 2, 8, 9*

Next in person class: 12/11/2022

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.

## **Grief Support Group.**

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. Please contact the parish office by phone or e-mail to let us know if you want to be part of the group.

## **The Music Corner** **Calling All Youth Singers!!!!**

It is time for our Children and Teens to start singing again. We will be having both children and teens sing for our 4pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals will be in the parish center for 4 Tuesdays starting November 29th, from 5-5:45pm. Open to ages 6 and up.

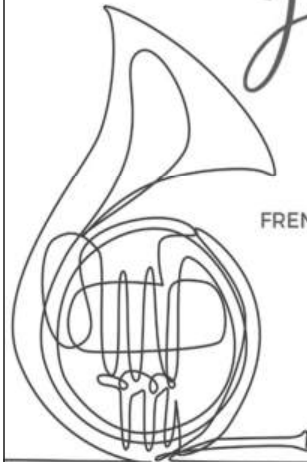
Please email [alison.shea72@gmail.com](mailto:alison.shea72@gmail.com) if your interested or have any questions.



## **WARWICK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

EST. 1966

# Joyeux Noel



FRENCH CLASSICAL & HOLIDAY WORKS

SUNDAY - December 4

3:00pm

St. Bernard Church  
Tower Hill Road  
North Kingstown

[WSOri.org](http://WSOri.org)

## **Quilt Winner**

Congratulations to Eleanor & Ray Vallee, winners of the 2022 scholarship quilt. Thank you all who continue supporting the Scholarship Fund and a special thank you to ladies who made this year's gorgeous yellow and blue quilt possible; Kathy Biron, Bette Beaucaire, Dyann Casala, Susan Charbonneau, Peg Fitzpatrick, Loretta Krebel, Gail Palladino and Karen Walsh.

## **The Giving Tree**

The Giving Tree is up this weekend, November 19th—20th. All you need to do is take a tag and fulfill the suggested gift. The tag should be attached to the gift and placed under the tree by **Sunday December 10th**. For some individuals it will be their only gift so we need time to process them well before Christmas. If you cannot, for any reason, fulfill the suggested item, 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 at 295-0387 or email: [sbc.pa@verizon.net](mailto:sbc.pa@verizon.net).



# Thanksgiving

## CELEBRATION & SERVICE

For Americans, Thanksgiving is a special day to be celebrated on the last Thursday of November. In fact, families get together on Thanksgiving more often than on any other holiday, including Christmas!

Thanksgiving is not a strictly a religious holiday, and although the Church has never had a feast dedicated to thanksgiving—likely because thanksgiving is already an integral part of all liturgical celebration—the U.S. Bishops encourage Catholics to celebrate it with a eucharistic celebration. After all, the word *eucharist* comes from the Greek word, *eukaristein*, which means thanksgiving.

Our sacramental celebration is called *Eucharist* to remind us that our basic human relationship to God is a response to God's gifts. Everything that we have is God's gift so in our ritual we celebrate the gift of God's own presence in the gathered assembly, in the reading of God's Word that we hear, in the consecrated bread and wine that are Christ's body and blood, and in the person of the priest who presides during the celebration.

Our celebration is also called *Mass*, from the final Latin words of sending, "*Ite missa est*," meaning "Go, you are sent." As we finish our communal prayer we are reminded that we are all sent to discover and proclaim God's presence in all the many different situations of our daily lives.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us that "Believing in God, the only One, and loving God with all our being has enormous consequences for our whole life" (#222). Then it adds that this includes "living in thanksgiving: if God is the only One, everything we are and have comes from God: 'What have you that you did not receive?' (1 Cor 4:7) and 'What shall I render to the Lord for all his bounty to me?'" (Ps 116:12) (#224).

Thanksgiving should not only be celebrated with a deep sense of prayer, gratitude and joy, but the celebration this day should lead us to remember that our lives are a continual thanksgiving through our daily activities, all of which should give glory to God, especially the celebration of the Eucharist.

## Thanksgiving & Service

Although our eucharistic focus is on Jesus' continuing presence with us in the bread and cup, as in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, we often neglect the account in John's Gospel except on Holy Thursday. John reveals the significance of the community meal not from the bread and cup, which are not even mentioned, but from Jesus' enacted sign of service: washing the feet of the disciples.

Footwashing was not part of the Passover ritual but a common gesture that for John exemplifies the deepest meaning of eucharist—giving oneself in loving service for others. In the biblical world, sandals protected the bottom of the foot but did not keep dirt away. So a customary sign of hospitality upon entering a house was for a servant to wash the guest's feet. Thus, when Jesus assumes the servant's role instead of the master's, what would normally be considered undignified and humiliating becomes a positive sign of his love for his disciples and a lesson for them to imitate. "I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do" (Jn 13:15).

Jesus' example of a life of service is not limited to the Last Supper, and footwashing is only a single example that prompts us to be alert to the many ways that we might serve others as Jesus would do. Perhaps we can discover other examples of service from Jesus imaginative description of the final judgement of all the nations (Mt 25: 31-46). (Note that although we almost always apply this passage to individuals, which is not a bad thing to do, it is nations not individuals who are being judged here. So how might our nation fare according to Jesus' criteria?)

Jesus points out how service might be rendered to various persons in need: those who are hungry, thirsty, outcasts and foreigners, lacking clothing, sick, imprisoned. But Jesus' most startling point is that he is present in these needy people in a hidden way. This also reminds us that Jesus is not just present for us in the eucharistic bread and wine, but also in those we deal with during the rest of the week.

When we are looking for opportunities for service, as with footwashing, we must not limit the opportunities for humble service. People hunger and thirst for many different things besides water and food—dignity, respect, recognition and being called by name, appreciation, equality, good neighbors, freedom and justice—and many are sick and imprisoned by more than germs and locks.

### A Thanksgiving Day Prayer

Lord, we thank you for the goodness of our people and for the spirit of justice that fills this nation. We thank you for the beauty and fullness of the land and the challenge of the cities. We thank you for our work and our rest, for one another, and for our homes. Accept our thanksgiving on this day. We pray and give thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

—*Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*

## JESUS: OUR MODEL OF COMPASSION & JUSTICE

In his words and actions, Jesus offers us a model to follow for our service. Responding to others' needs has two dimensions: compassion and justice. Jesus is often described in the Gospels as having "pity" on the hungry crowds, the sick, the suffering and the grieving. For us pity usually means to feel sorry for someone. But the Greek word for what Jesus feels is much closer to our sense of compassion—a strong emotional reaction felt deep within (as we would say in our "guts") in response to someone else's misery or suffering.

**Compassion** focuses on aiding the victims of social evil to provide more immediate assistance to those who are poor, hungry, in need food, clothes and shelter, visits to the sick and imprisoned. Acting with compassion means performing the charitable actions that our tradition calls the corporal works of mercy (see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #2447).

**Justice** focuses on changing the structures of society to conform more closely with Jesus' vision of rightly ordered relationships (what biblical justice describes). Working for justice begins in the heart, but social justice takes the efforts of communities of reflection and action banding together to use their power effectively for social transformation. Since the institutions of society are so complex, the structural evil embedded in them is also complex. This evil is so tenacious and insidious that it cannot be eradicated by a single individual. Consequently, working for social justice almost always involves joining with others in an organization to change the societal structures that conceal social sin. (see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1929–1948).

