

Saint Bernard Church



December 11, 2022 Third 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

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

As we journey through Advent we contend with the ‘commercialization’ of Christmas. We have all had to ‘do battle’ with the materialism that can invade our spiritual preparation for this celebration of the Birth of Christ. Yes, gift giving is a great tradition! Who doesn’t enjoy receiving a gift a Christmas? Who doesn’t check their stocking hanging on the fireplace? What child doesn’t creep down the stairs in the middle of the night to see if ‘Santa’ has been to their house yet with his bag of toys?

Recently I read about a new phenomenon----it may be news to you----something else to contend with this season— “Revenge Shopping”. I made a reference to it during my homily on Thanksgiving Day and have since had a chance to read a bit more about it. One article I read defines the term, “Revenge shopping occurs when a customer who previously could not get access to certain goods or services for a period of time suddenly has access. It can also occur when customers have been deprived of other events or happenings.” The article goes on to explain that the term first appeared in early 2020 when luxury goods started to see huge surges in demand after the lockdown in China. The Guangzhou Hermes boutique flagship reported that it sold \$2.7 million worth of product on the first day of trading after the lockdown was lifted.

In some ways ‘revenge shopping’ is not new. There has always been ‘impulse purchasing’ after periods of deprivation. The difference is that that the surge today is on a much larger and wider scale because of the Covid-19 pandemic. During the ‘lockdown’ most people were worried about ‘essentials’ and not ‘extras’. There are those in the retail business who have a more nuanced assessment. They say that the higher numbers suggest a new respect for ‘stealth luxury’---a sense of well-made clothing as investments, safe from the finicky grasp of trends. The author states, “Luxury in general is on the rebound.”

In my first year of teaching high school, I taught one section of freshman social studies which included one semester of economics and one semester of civics. The economics class mostly dealt with ‘consumer economics’. One lesson I will always remember is ‘distinguishing needs from wants’. It is a basic determination. It is a question that we ask every time we go into a store or every time we sit down at our computer about to order something on-line. We ask ourselves, ‘do I need this?’ or ‘do I want this?’ There is a difference. I suspect that there is going to be some kind of collision this season of the ‘revenge shopping culture’ and the ‘increasing prices resulting from inflation’ reality we are all living with.

How difficult the decision for some in our community who are making decisions about those things that are needed----with the increasing costs----there are examples of those choosing between food or medicine or medicine and heat. Once again, I am proud of the response of our parish to those in need----with our Giving Tree and so many other donations of food, clothing, etc. that are made throughout the year.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas let us exchange gifts. Gift giving is important! Gift ‘receiving’ is also important! We can graciously receive the gifts given to us. And yet, we can also be mindful of the ‘commercialization’ of Christmas and its ideation in its latest form, ‘revenge shopping’. How important it is to be ‘self-aware’ when it comes to the way we are called to be good stewards of the resources we have been given---when it comes to the ways we will make purchases this year. (Shop local!)

We recall that the greatest of Christmas gifts came wrapped in swaddling clothes and was found lying in a manger---the tiny child of Bethlehem, born of the virgin Mary, Jesus----whom we anticipate even now, as Emmanuel—“God With Us”.

--Fr. Gaffney

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



Mass Intentions

MONDAY, December 12

8:00 AM – *Anthony DeRocco*
by his family

TUESDAY, December 13

8:00 AM – *Mary Kusmierz*
by her family

WEDNESDAY, December 14

8:00 AM – *John McGrath*
by his daughter

THURSDAY, December 15

8:00 AM – *Agnes McDade*
by her family

FRIDAY, December 16

8:00 AM – *Josephine Gaffney*

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, December 17

5:00 PM – *Stella Dabrowski*
by her family

SUNDAY, December 18

7:00 AM – *Vincent & Barbara Pellegrino*

8:30 AM – *Thomas Walsh*
by his family

10:30 AM – *Joshua Zalabowski.*
by his family

Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday December 24
4:00 PM and 6:00 PM

Sunday December 25
7:00 AM, 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

Visit with Santa, enjoy breakfast,
Arts & Crafts and Games

PANCAKES WITH SANTA

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 18, 2022
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

BREAKFAST INCLUDES:
Pancakes, juice, coffee, hot chocolate

Free will offering will be accepted!

St. Bernards Parish Hall
275 Towerhill Rd.
North Kingstown, RI 02852

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 17th we have added 3:00-4:00 pm. (in addition to the usual 4:00-4:30 pm.)

Monday, December 19th we have added 5:30-6:30 p.m.;

Tuesday, December 20th we have added 9:00-11:00 a.m. (this is during our usual time of Eucharistic 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'.

Parish Support

	November 27 , 2022	2021
Basket	\$5,249.00	\$6,638.00
ACH	\$2,156.00	\$2,145.00
	December 4 , 2022	2021
Basket	\$6,967.00	\$9,487.00
ACH	\$4,246.00	\$2,872.00
YTD	\$229,371.00	\$228,343.00

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

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 received. As of now approximately 172 households have made a donation. Imagine what might be contributed if every one of our 1400 families participated. Thank you for your participation! Your contribution is an important factor in maintaining our financial viability as a parish.

Maintenance Memo

We hope to keep the parish ‘up to date’ on any maintenance projects that are done on the property. We recently had the hot water heater replaced in the rectory at a cost of \$1,850. Thank you for your contributions to the Maintenance Collection.

Giving Tree Now “Tagless”!

Thank you for taking all of the tags from our Giving Tree. You are very generous with this outreach project that helps so many families in our part of the state. You can see from the photo that the tree is ‘bare’. The sign in front says, “Please bring in a ‘gift card’ to a local grocery store. Many families are in need of food at this time! Thank you!”

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.

Young Family Activities Committee

We are looking for adults/parents who would be willing to serve on an ‘advisory committee’ to plan activities: social/educational/spiritual in the parish. We have been introducing a number of new activities and would like to see which activities might have “family appeal”. A family pasta night? Games Night? Bingo Night? Please see Fr. Gaffney if you would like to be part of an advisory group.

Calendars for 2023

We are grateful to the Cranston-Murphy Funeral Home for their donation of our ‘religious calendars’ for 2023. Please take one per family. A religious calendar will provide you with information another type of calendar might not. For example, each day will tell you if there is a “Saint’s Feast Day”. It also shows you the “Liturgical Season” we are celebrating. The calendar may be a good ‘educational tool’ to learn more about our Church, our Sacraments and our Liturgical Year.



Faith Formation

GOSPEL WEEKLIES PROGRAM

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

In-person class schedule

9:30-10:30 am

Next in person class: 12/18

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

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAM

Grades 2, 8, 9

Class Today: 12/11/22

Next in person class: 1/8/2023

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.

We are looking for a few good:

**Innkeepers
Shepherds
Cows, Donkeys, Camels
And YOUTH CHOIR MEMBERS!**

**For the Christmas Eve
Family 4pm Mass**

If your child is interested & your family s attending that Mass, please fill out the Google Form on our Weekly News email or let Mrs. Masterson know ASAP!!

Poster Contest



The Knights of Columbus is hosting a poster contest for the youth of St. Bernard Church.

Theme:

Keep Christ in Christmas

There are three age divisions: 5-7 years old, 8-10 years old and 11-14 years old.

There will be one winner chosen from each division. Prizes will be awarded.

The judging team will be made up of members of the St. Francis Knights of Columbus Council, Father Gaffney and other members of St. Bernard Church. The due date to return the poster and the entry form to St. Bernard Church is December 18, 2022. See the Faith Formation office or Weekly News email for more details

