

# Saint Bernard Church



## December 18, 2022 Fourth 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

“Carol of the Bells” is a popular Christmas carol. The music is based on a four-note ostinato and is in 3/4 time signature, with the B-flat bell pealing in 6/8 time. It has a unique origin! The song is based on the Ukrainian folk chant called “Shchedryk” by composer Mykola Leontovych. The song title means “the little swallow” in English. This folk song is about a sparrow that flies into a home and sings to the family about the bountiful year that awaits them. It was not originally a Christmas tune, rather it is a song that celebrates New Year’s. It was first performed in Ukraine on the night of January 13, 1916. Although the date is 12 days after the New Year’s Day on the Gregorian calendar, the Orthodox churches in Ukraine used the Julian calendar. According to that calendar, January 13, 1916 was considered New Year’s Eve.

In the United States, “Shchedryk” was first performed on October 5, 1921 at Carnegie Hall by the Alexander Koshetz’s Ukrainian National Chorus. Peter J. Wilhousky was a popular composer and choral conductor at the time who was of Ukrainian ethnic origin. When he heard “Shchedryk” he decided to write new lyrics in English to accompany the song’s new melody in 1936. He rearranged the melody for orchestra with new lyrics for NBC radio network’s symphony orchestra, centered around the theme of bells because the melody reminded him of hand bells which begins, “Hark! How the bells.” It was first aired during the Great Depression. Its initial popularity stemmed from Wilhousky’s ability to reach a wide audience in his role as arranger for the NBC Symphony Orchestra. It is now strongly associated with Christmas because of its new lyrics, which reference bells, caroling and the line ‘merry, merry, merry Christmas. His song is what we know as the “Carol of the Bells”. As the name implies, it is about the sound of bells at Christmas time. The song attempts to bring hope to its listeners during the dark winter months. It is a song that can easily lift us up during this season of the year.

The original folk song version was composed during the atrocities of the First World War. Now, with another tragic war raging in Ukraine the song, now the “Carol of the Bells” might just be a song of hope and a prayer for those who desperately want an end to the fighting---for those longing to be re-united with loved ones.

### **Carol of the Bells**

Hark! How the bells  
Sweet silver bells  
All seem to say,  
‘Throw cares away.’  
Christmas is here  
Bringing good cheer  
To young and old  
Meek and the bold

Ding, dong, ding, dong  
That is their song  
With joyful ring  
All caroling  
One seems to hear  
Words of good cheer

From everywhere  
filling the air

Oh how they pound  
Raising the sound,  
O’er hill and dale,  
Telling the tale  
Gaily they ring  
While people sing  
Songs of good cheer  
Christmas is here  
Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas  
Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas

These few verses might help you recall the tune! It struck me that a folk tune from Ukraine that spoke of the hope of the New Year, has for many decades help raise our spirits at Christmas. Let us continue to pray that the Prince of Peace, Jesus, Emmanuel will inspire hearts the world over to work for peace----to end war, violence, terrorism and conflicts of all kinds. We long to hear “words of good cheer”.

--Fr. Gaffney

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



## Mass Intentions

**MONDAY, December 19**

8:00 AM – *Alice Leonard*  
by her family

**TUESDAY, December 20**

8:00 AM – *Bernard & Audrey Casey*  
by their family

**WEDNESDAY, December 21**

8:00 AM – *Benjamin Delaney*

**THURSDAY, December 22**

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

**FRIDAY, December 23**

8:00 AM – *Fenwick Gardiner*  
by his family

### WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY, December 24**

5:00 PM – *Deceased of the Parish*

**SUNDAY, December 25**

7:00 AM – *Deceased of the Parish*

8:30 AM – *Deceased of the Parish*

10:30 AM – *Deceased of the Parish*

### 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

### Blessing for A Christmas Tree



*God of all creation,  
we praise you for this tree  
which brings beauty  
and memories and  
the  
promise of life to our  
home.*

*May Your blessing be  
upon all who gather  
around this tree and  
all who keep the  
Christmas festival by  
its lights.*

*We wait for the com-  
ing of the Christ,*

*the days of everlasting justice and of peace.*

*You are our God, living and reigning, forever and  
ever.*

*Amen.*

### 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.

**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’.

### Stormy Weather and Daily Mass

If the public schools in North Kingstown are closed because of bad weather, our daily 8 AM Mass is also cancelled. We hope this will prevent people from venturing out in dangerous conditions just so see if we are open.

### **Parish Support**

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

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 195 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.

### **Please Be Careful!**

The winter is just getting started. Cold and snow will surely come. The area around St. Bernard Church is especially difficult to keep clear from ice in winter weather. Our church has been built facing the north and the sun never shines on our front entrance. What melts during the day, refreezes at night.

We always do our best to keep the walks clear, but it is never going to be perfect (unless we turn the building around to face the South), and so we ask you all, when it does snow please use extreme caution and good common sense when coming to church. Please be thoughtful of others and lend a hand to those who are in danger of falling (especially the elderly).

### **Grief Support Group.**

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 17, 2023 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.

### **Homebound Parishioners:**

Please let the parish know of any 'homebound' parishioners---those who cannot leave their homes ----and might like to receive Holy Communion at home. Also, we like to 'keep in touch' with greeting cards for them. Call the parish office. Thank you.

### **Young at Heart Luncheon**

Our next Young at Heart Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, February, 21, 2023.

## **Faith Formation**

### **GOSPEL WEEKLIES PROGRAM**

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

In-person class schedule

9:30-10:30 am

Class today: 12/18

Next in Person Class: 1/22/23

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

### **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAM**

*Grades 2, 8, 9*

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**

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**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

