

Saint Bernard Church



December 25, 2022 The Nativity of the Lord

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

Merry Christmas! Believe it or not this is my Third Christmas as pastor of St. Bernard. It continues to be a joy for me to serve you as pastor of this wonderful parish. Christmas is an opportunity for us to take stock of the many ‘gifts’ we have been given. Among the many gifts I am grateful for are my family (four brothers; 12 nieces and nephews; 21 great nieces and nephews)! my friends; and my faith---which I now share with you through the priesthood. I am grateful for the many ways you support and encourage me---especially by your own lives of faith and your generosity to the parish and to the local community through our various outreach projects---such as the Giving Tree. As your pastor, I have celebrated joyful moments in your lives---the birth of a child, a marriage. I have also accompanied you through sad times, as well---an illness or death of a loved one. These are privileged moments. Little by little parish programs and activities are increasing and growing. More people are coming to Mass. This is so very encouraging! Even with all of these good things, there is so much more that can happen in our parish---ways that we can respond to the Christ Child’s love for each of us. There is so much potential in St. Bernard parish!

One of my favorite songs of the season is “The Little Drummer Boy”. I think it goes back to the time when I was a boy! You’ll remember the lyrics, “I am a poor boy too. I have no gift to bring that’s fit to give a king. Shall I play for you on my drum? Mary nodded. I played my drum for him. I played my best for him.” The little boy goes to the newborn king and is told that others are bringing gifts to honor the baby. The boy confesses that he is poor and doesn’t have anything to give, so he offers to play his drum. His offer is accepted by the king’s mom. The boy plays the best he can. So, what’s the message? Some times we don’t think we have much to give---and yet, we have been blessed by talents and abilities that are unique to us. Like the little drummer boy, we are called to use them---‘to play my best for him’. Have you done this? Have you used your gifts and talents in the service of others? Have you used your gifts and talents in service of the Church? Giving your ‘time’ ---coming to Mass is a ‘gift’ to the newborn king---not just at Christmas, but throughout the year. We give ourselves to him and he gives himself to us in the Word of scripture and the Sacrament of the Eucharist! We are all like that little drummer boy in being ‘poor’---we don’t have everything, our supply of time, talent and treasure, is limited---but we do have some gifts to give. Even though we are ‘poor’ we can be generous---sharing what we do have. I invite you to become more engaged in the life of our parish. “I played my drum for him. I played my best for him.....Then he smiled at me, me and my drum.” Our God does smile at us as we use the talents he gives us. Don’t parents smile when their children use their talents? Think of parents smiling at their child’s soccer game, or piano recital, or a gymnastics competition, or a school play, or a hockey game, or any number of activities! In using our time, talent and treasure we give a gift to the newborn king!

Let us then approach the newborn King on bended knee, ask his strength not only for ourselves and our loved ones, but for our beloved parish! May we receive the spiritual gifts---not always the ones wrapped under the tree---that will bring us ever closer to the Messiah, the one the prophets foretold. On behalf of our parish staff, and in my own name, I wish you every blessing---you and your families---for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2023.

--Fr. Gaffney

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



Mass Intentions

MONDAY, December 26

8:00 AM – *Thomas Delaney*
by his family

TUESDAY, December 27

8:00 AM – *Raymond J. Broderick*
by Marie & Ed Altieri

WEDNESDAY, December 28

8:00 AM – *Holy Souls of Purgatory*

THURSDAY, December 29

8:00 AM – *William Arnold, Jr.*
by his family

FRIDAY, December 30

8:00 AM – *Joseph Palladino*
by his family

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, December 31

5:00 PM – *Mary DiDonato*
by her family

SUNDAY, January 1

7:00 AM – *Marie Sauriol*

8:30 AM – *Mary Kusmierz*
by her family

10:30 AM – *Kathleen Asher*
by her family



Cement repair: Workmen preparing the section of the walkway--- just outside the entrance of the church that was deteriorating--- for a new pour of cement. Your 'maintenance collection' at work! Thank you!

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 coming of the Christ, the days of everlasting justice and of peace.

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

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Joyous Christmas

Parish Support

	December 4 , 2022	2021
Basket	\$6,967.00	\$9,487.00
ACH	\$4,246.00	\$2,872.00
	December 11 , 2022	2021
Basket	\$6,716.00	\$6,350.00
ACH	\$2,416.00	\$2,710.00
YTD	\$238,503.00	\$237,403.00

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 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).

2023 March for Life Bus Pilgrimage to D.C., January 19-20

The annual March for Life Bus Trip joins Servants of Christ for Life in collaboration with the Diocese of Providence Office of Life and Family Ministry on a charter bus to D.C. This year's event is both the 50th anniversary of the March and an opportunity to pilgrimage to give thanks to God for the overturning of Roe v. Wade.

We leave Rhode Island Thursday morning, Jan. 19, and stay overnight in a Knights of Columbus Hall in Maryland and then join the March for Life on Friday morning, Jan. 20. We return to Rhode Island early Saturday, Jan. 21. Cost: \$200 per person.

Trip/schedule includes:

- -Bus transportation
- -Dinner Thursday and breakfast Friday, provided by the Knights
- -Overnight lodging Thursday night, provided by the Knights
- -Pro-Life speaker on Thursday night
- -Thursday evening and Friday morning Holy Masses
- -Marching in the historic March for Life Friday

To register, please contact:

Tyler Rowley, Servants for Christ for Life, at 401-290-7201 /t3rowley@gmail.com or
Lisa Cooley, Coordinator, diocesan Office of Life and Family Ministry, 401-278-2518 /
lcooley@dioceseofprovidence.org.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

The Visitation of the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Saturday, January 7 through Sunday, February 5
The Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be visiting our diocese in various parishes throughout Rhode Island from Saturday, January 7 through Sunday, February 5, 2023. The image is an exact replica of the original image of Our Lady which She left on the Tilma of St. Juan Diego in December 1531. The image is among four blessed at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico by the Rector of the Basilica, Msgr. Monroy, to bring conversions, reverence for life, sanctity of the family and solidarity of the Church in America. The Missionary Images are known to have been associated with many miracles and healings. The schedule and locations will be available beginning January 3 by contacting the diocesan Office of Life and Family Ministry at

401-278-2518

LCooley@dioceseofprovidence.org,
and by visiting the diocesan website at
dioceseofprovidence.org/OLG.

A Holy Mass for Life

In Thanksgiving for the overturning of Roe v. Wade

Saturday, January 21, 2023 at 9 a.m.

The diocesan Office of Life and Family Ministry is sponsoring a Holy Mass for Life, in Thanksgiving for the overturning of Roe v. Wade, on Saturday, January 21, 2023 at 9 a.m. in the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, Providence. Most Rev. Thomas J. Tobin, D.D., Bishop of Providence, will be the main celebrant and Rev. J. Joseph Brice, Assistant Pastor, St. Patrick and St. Michael the Archangel, Providence, will be the homilist.

For more information, please contact Lisa Cooley, Coordinator, Office of Life and Family Ministry, 401-278-2518 or lcooley@dioceseofprovidence.org. More information at dioceseofprovidence.org/life.