

Saint Bernard Church



February 26, 2023
First Sunday of Lent

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

In last week's "Ponderings" column I wrote about some of the characteristics of a 'hardened heart'. These included, when I stop celebrating; when I stop caring; when so many things that were once meaningful that now seem mechanical; when there is no passion in what I do; when I don't believe the 'best' about people. I wonder if any of these resonated with you as you read them. Scripture speaks about 'hardened hearts'-----we will hear that phrase any number of times during the Lenten season. Precisely because a person's heart is now 'hard' means that little can penetrate the heart, little can enter in, including the 'good things' of life.

I mentioned at the end of last week's column that I would write this week about a few 'solutions' to the hardened heart----a few 'antidotes' for this condition. These suggestions come as we embark on our Lenten journey and they fit in nicely with the plan of the Church for Lent.

The first is 'prayer'. During the season of Lenten the church encourages a renewed dedication to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. How is it that prayer can help my hardened heart? Prayer is both speaking and listening. In silence I might come to an understanding of the heaviness of a hardened heart. It might be that burden, that heavy burden that Jesus invites me to lay at his feet. There is a heaviness to a hard heart and in the quiet of prayer I may come to an awareness of the price I am paying to carry that hard and heavy heart. Prayer might also begin a dialogue with God about how your heart became hardened and what can now be done about it. A prayerful conversation, for example, about why you have stopped celebrating or stopped caring or stopped seeing the best in people, might just open your heart to receive a reply from God. We can become so easily frustrated by our own imperfections and the imperfections of others (and the world) that joy seeps out of our lives. Prayer may be the start to a change of heart----a time to invite the Lord into my life so that I can walk with him through those things that added to the hardness of our hearts.

The second is strengthening our relationship with God. This follows as a nice corollary to prayer. We are called to deepen our relationship with Jesus. God is not only for the crisis moments of our lives----yes, we need him then. But an ongoing relationship is what we are invited to---it is what I need. If we think about our human friendships, we do not just call on our friends when there is a crisis----although I need them in those moments. My friend is someone I go to sorrow or joy or any other emotion I might have on a given day. Some days my prayer ---my conversation with God might be to simply 'check in'----to thank him for the blessings of the day. That day may not have brought any great crisis or any great joy----it is like so many of our relationships.

The third is to look honestly at the harm brought about by a hardened heart. The harm can come to the person with hard heart----in not having much joy or zest for life. The harm likely will be seen in relationships with family and friends. A hardened heart in one or more people in a group of friends, for example, will bring a heaviness to that network of friends. Some in a group might feel that the heaviness of a hardened heart prevents to group from growing as friends----of being trapped in some way.

The fourth is to ask for forgiveness. In the examination of my heart I can, with humility and sincerity, ask forgiveness of those I may have hurt. In the prayerful examination of my life I can come to see how I have impacted the lives of others. The sacrament of reconciliation is a wonderful way to seek forgiveness and be strengthened by the grace of this sacrament to continue in a friendship----to make the necessary adjustment.

The psalmist says, "If today you hear His voice, harden not your heart." Our Lenten journey is best started with ears wide open.

--Fr. Gaffney

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



Mass Intentions

MONDAY, February 27

8:00 AM – *Eva Deware*
by Joan Elouadih

TUESDAY, February 28

8:00 AM – *Joan Keenan*

WEDNESDAY, March 1

8:00 AM – *Benjamin Delaney*

THURSDAY, March 2

8:00 AM – *David Carr*
by Ryan & Jen Bernard

FRIDAY, March 3

8:00 AM – *Julia Lawrence*
by Ryan & Jen Bernard

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, March 4

5:00 PM – *S. Peter & Lucille Beauregard*
by the Kirkutis family

SUNDAY, March 5

7:00 AM – *Deceased of the Parish*

8:30 AM – *Claire Brown*
by her family

10:30 AM – *Marilyn Craven*
by her family



Lenten Mission at Our Lady of Mercy Church

“Our Relationship with Jesus:
The Pearl of Great Price”

Join us for a Lenten Mission preached by Father Justin Brophy, OP, a Professor of Political Theory at Providence College. Father Brophy will preach all the weekend Masses at Our Lady of Mercy the weekend of March 4/5, 2023. The Mission continues each night during the week with Mission Talks at 7:00PM each night on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (March 6-8). Confessions are heard each night of the Mission on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 6:00pm with Four Confessors. For more information, go to www.olmparish.org or contact the OLM Parish Office at 401-884-4968 or via email at parish@olmparish.org Our Lady of Mercy Church, 65 3rd Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818.

All-Day Confessions

Saturday, March 25, 2023

9:00am-3:00pm

Our Lady of Mercy Church

65 3rd Street

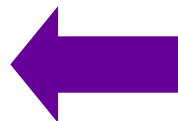
East Greenwich, RI.

“Do not be afraid of Confession”-Pope Francis
Four Confessors available all-day in traditional Confessional Boxes. Eucharist Adoration during the hours of Confession.

Stations of the Cross on Friday Evenings

Our Lady of Mercy Church and St. Francis De Sales Church have Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m. on the Friday evenings of Lent.

(Co-adjutor) Bishop Richard Henning and Fr. Gaffney. St. Bernard’s hosted a luncheon meeting of the priests from the South County area on Tuesday, February 15th. Bishop Henning was able to accept the invitation to join the group for the meeting. It was his first visit to our church!



Parish Support

February 12, 2023 2022

Basket	\$6,698.00	\$7,767.00
ACH	\$2,474.00	\$2,648.00

February 19, 2023 2022

Basket	\$5,824.00	\$6,993.00
ACH	\$4,619.00	\$2,551.00

YTD	\$355,708.00	\$349,542.00
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Lenten 'Soup and Scripture' Series
The Gospel of Matthew

Saturday, March 11th

Arrival: 11:30-11:45 a.m.
Bible Study with soup lunch: Noon.
End time: 1:00 pm.
Bring your Bible.
(Free Will Offering)

Please register me for this session:
(Name)

40 Days for Life Lenten Campaign

Monday through Saturday 7am to 7pm
From Ash Wednesday, February 22 through
Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023.
At a public right-of-way outside
175 Broad St., Providence
Bring a friend and together be a peaceful and
prayerful witness for life!

Join us at the Cathedral of SS. Peter & Paul on
Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023 where we will
pray the Rosary for Life following the 12:05 PM
Mass and Distribution of Ashes.

For more information contact Office of Life &
Family Ministry, Lisa Cooley, Coordinator at
401-278-2518,
lcooley@dioceseofprovidence.org or
services@rirtl.org.

Lenten Fast and Abstinence
Regulations

A gentle reminder that Church law requires absti-
nence from meat, meat soups or other dishes
made from meat (for those 14 and older) on Ash
Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent. In addi-
tion, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are fast
days. Adults between the ages of 18 and 59
should eat less: that means, take no solid food
between meals and only one meal that day should
be a full one. Those with special health re-
strictions should always follow their doctor's ad-
vice before fasting.

Women's Bible Study

Wednesday March 1 from 10am to 12pm in the
parish Hall.

Grief Support Group.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 14,
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 at Heart March Luncheon

Tuesday, March 21, 2023 (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, March 14, 2023.

Faith Formation

Weather related Class Cancellations!
Please go to www.turnto10.com
or the local TV/Radio Channels for updates

GOSPEL WEEKLIES PROGRAM

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

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

Class Today: 2/26/23
Next in Person Class: 3/5/23

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

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAM

Grades 2, 8, 9
Next in person class: 3/12/2023

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.

2023 St Bernard Vacation Bible School: SAVE THE DATE

August 14 -18, 2023 ~ 8:30am to 11:30am

A week-long, half day camp for students entering grades K-5 in the fall of 2023. In this wet and wild VBS, kids learn that what they do today can change the world around them. When we put our trust in Jesus, we can “make waves” because of His Spirit living inside us. Through fun activities, engaging lessons, and God’s Word, we’ll help the kids understand how they can share God’s love with the people around them.

More details to follow in the upcoming Weeks!!!!

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
March 1st at 7:00 PM
in the Parish Hall. New members are welcome.

Lent at St. Bernard 2023

Ash Wednesday (February 22nd) 8:00 a.m. *Mass with Distribution of Ashes; 12 Noon-Prayer Service with Distribution of Ashes; 7:00 p.m. Mass with Distribution of Ashes.*

Weekdays: Mass at 8:00 a.m. *Come for Morning Mass, Monday-Friday at 8:00 a.m.*

The Magnificat Lenten Companion. *Pick up a copy of this publication with daily reflections. One per household, please.*

Stations of the Cross. *This devotional prayer will take place on Friday mornings immediately after the Morning Mass. (This has worked out well for the past two years)*

Soup and Scripture Series. *Fr. Gaffney will offer a “Bible Study” focusing on the Gospel of Matthew on three Saturdays at Noon. A simple meal of ‘soup’ will be offered. The dates are: February 25, March 11 and April 1. Bring your Bible. Arrive at the parish center 11:30-11:45. Each session will begin at Noon and end at 1:00 p.m. A free will offering will be accepted. Please call, e-mail, or return response slip in the bulletin to the parish center one week in advance.*

Rice Bowls. *These will be available on the gathering space table if you would like to use them for ‘sacrificial giving’ during Lent.*

Children’s Lenten Packet. *We have assembled a packet of Lenten activities appropriate for children in grades K-5. Why not get one for your child, grandchild or godchild! There is a \$5.00 offering per packet. (A limited number of packets are available)*

Sacrament of Penance. *We will increase the time available on Saturday afternoons. We will add 30 minutes to the time for ‘confessions’. For the Saturdays of Lent we will offer the sacrament of Penance from 3:30-4:30 p.m.*

