

Saint Bernard Church



July 30, 2023 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 (David)
sbc.pa@verizon.net (Angelo)

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

Just a few weeks ago we had a “book club” using the book entitled, Return: How To Draw Your Child To The Church, by Brandon Vogt. We had some lively discussions about family members, often children or grandchildren, who no longer ‘practice the faith’----they do not come to Mass and some say they no longer believe in God. There are all kinds of feelings experienced by those family members who ‘did their best’ to raise them ‘in the faith’. Some parents and grandparents feel sad or angry or disappointed or feel guilty.....maybe ‘all of the above’.

St. Monica prayed for years that her son, St. Augustine, would practice the faith. She is, in many ways, the patron saint of those who pray for family members who are ‘fallen away’. Most every family can name family members who fall into this category. What can we do? Like Monica, we can pray for them. God never gives up on them. Neither should we! As a community I would like to take a few weeks to reflect on who we might like to pray for----a family member who: (1) has drifted away from the Church (2) no longer comes to Mass ---or rarely comes (3) has stopped believing in God. Can they have a ‘change of heart’? Yes! Certainly! For a whole variety of reasons there are many people who ‘stepped away’ from the Church.....and have, for a whole variety of reason, returned! We have to be a people of hope when it comes to our family members and our prayers that they will come back.

I have put on a table some small sheets of papers and invite you to write the ‘first name’ or ‘first initial’ of a family member who you are praying for. Put that paper in the prayer box. We will have these papers available for a few weeks. Then, on the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Monica (August 27th)----which happens to be a Sunday this year----we will pray for all of our family members----as a community. I ask only for a first name or initial----I want to respect your privacy. We can support each other through prayer. If you’d like, take a paper or a few papers home and bring them back next weekend.

Brandon Vogt, in his book, speaks about “Six Main Types of Fallen-Away Catholics”. First, the ‘cultural Catholic’----this person identifies as Catholic but is personally disconnected from Mass and the sacraments. They are generally not hostile, just indifferent. Second, ‘the shruggers’. These folks are lazy and don’t care. They don’t believe religion matters. Mass is equal to all other activities they might do----mow the lawn, sleep, exercise, shop. Third, ‘spiritual but not religious’. These people say they can find God anywhere---why do they have to go to Church? Yes, God is everywhere. We believe he is present in the Eucharist, in Sacred Scripture, in the person of the priest and in the Assembly gathered to worship. Fourth, the ‘moral movers’---these folks stay away because of the moral teachings of the Church---mostly around ‘pro life’ issues, I suspect. Fifth, ‘religious switchers’---they have moved to another church denomination. They complain that they have not been spiritually fed. Sixth, ‘skeptics’---this group is made up of atheists and agnostics. 12% of former Catholics are atheists (don’t believe in God) and 16% of former Catholics are agnostics (not sure about God).

Do you recognize any family members in these six categories of ‘fallen away’ Catholics? There are probably more than six categories----but this would include many of those who are no longer in our pews.

It is so very important to express our ‘unconditional love’ for our family members---even when they have turned away from the practice of the faith. We love them and we want to pray for them---because we believe that a ‘reconnection’ a ‘reversion’----will be life-giving for them---it will give them a renewed friendship with Jesus Christ.

I am always available to speak with a family member who has questions about the Church or who is angry at the Church or who has been hurt by the Church.....let me know. I will continue to pray for them.....following the good example of St. Monica.

--Fr. Gaffney

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



Mass Intentions

MONDAY, July 31

8:00 AM – *Benjamin Dabrowski*

TUESDAY, August 1

8:00 AM – *Charles Sajeva*
by Sal & Linda San Filippo

WEDNESDAY, August 2

8:00 AM – *Larry Simmons*
by Dan & Madeleine O’Leary

THURSDAY, August 3

8:00 AM – *Deceased of the parish*

FRIDAY, August 4

8:00 AM – *Egidio Capobianco*

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, August 5

5:00 PM – *Armond Leonard*
by his family

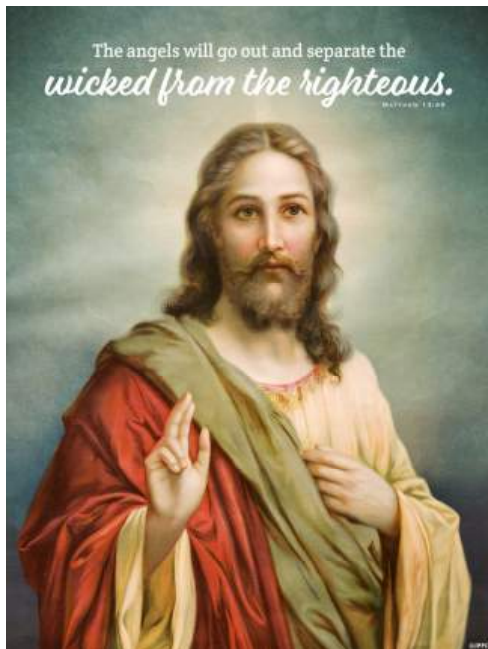
SUNDAY, August 6

7:00 AM – *Rosemary & Tracy Walsh*
by their family

8:30 AM – *Deceased of the parish*

10:30 AM – *Lois Scialo Ellis*

3rd Anniversary by her husband



Grief Support Group.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, August 18, 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.

Save the Date: St. Bernard Parish Feast Picnic: Saturday, August 19th.

After the 5:00 p.m. Mass we will have our parish picnic----hamburgers, hotdogs, water will be provided. Start time is approximately 6:00 p.m. Bring the whole family!



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Wedding Anniversary Celebration at the Cathedral

The Office of Marriage Preparation and Enrichment is hosting the annual Wedding Anniversary Celebration to honor couples of the Diocese of Providence who will be observing their 25th, 40th, 50th and OVER 50 years wedding anniversaries in 2023. The celebration will be held on Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul, Providence. It will include Mass, renewal of marriage vows, a personalized certificate for each couple and a reception for the couples and their families. Bishop Richard G. Henning will be the main celebrant and homilist. You must register with the parish by September 10. Please call the parish office or e-mail the parish office (sbc.pa@verizon.net) if you would like to attend this special celebration.

Parish Support

| | July 9, 2023 | 2022 |
|--------|---------------|-------------|
| Basket | \$8,557.00 | \$5,830.00 |
| ACH | \$3,316.00 | \$2,918.00 |
| | July 16, 2023 | 2022 |
| Basket | \$7,766.00 | \$5,463.00 |
| ACH | \$3,661.00 | \$2,570.00 |
| YTD | \$35,786.00 | \$27,643.00 |

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

While You're Away Don't Forget

If you are away this summer enjoying the beach or far-away places, please don't forget that back home in old St. Bernard's, we still have to pay our bills. If you are away and miss a few weeks of your budget contributions, please try to make them up so that we can keep going or you can use the Online Giving Option. We miss you while you're away, and we miss your generosity too!

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 **August 2 at 7:00 PM** in the Parish Hall. New members are welcome. Please join us and strengthen your faith through study of scripture and fellowship with other catholic men.

Eucharistic Adoration

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place immediately after the morning Mass on Tuesdays (approximately 8:30 a.m.) Benediction and reposi-tion at 11:00 a.m. This is an opportunity for quiet, prayerful reflection before the Blessed Sacrament.

St Bernard Third Annual Golf Tournament **SAVE THE DATE!**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023



**GOLF, DINNER,
CONTESTS, PRIZES**
New Venue!
**RICHMOND
COUNTRY CLUB**

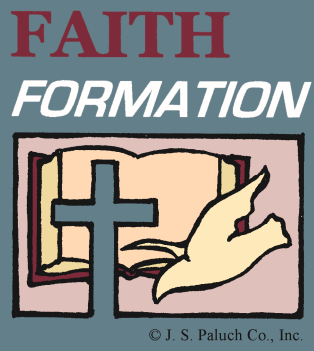
If you played last year, please join us again. If you did not play, please join us this year! A great time was had by all! Meet fellow parishioners. Enjoy the day! Look for additional information and register on our website: <https://www.stbernardnk.org/golf>

When a loved one is approaching death.....

- + Call the pastor to administer the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. (this can be done any time we experience declining health, hospitaliza-tion, illness, etc.)
- + After your loved one's death you will con-tact the funeral home. The funeral director will call the church to arrange the day and time for the funeral. You will then be contacted by the parish for the planning of the Funeral Mass. (scripture readings, music, etc.)
- + As St. Bernard Church was so important to your loved one during this life, we are always so very grateful if you would consider listing 'St. Ber-nard Church' as a recipient of donations in your loved one's memory. We want our parish to re-main vibrant and healthy for generations to come.

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 greet-ing cards for them. Call the parish office. Thank you.



Faith Formation
It's Registration
Time!!!!

Check out our website:

www.stbernardnk.org

for all details about the changes to the program for this year. Please view Fr. Gaffney's introduction video and the informational slideshow first for an explanation of how the program will be running this year and then review the instructions on how to register your child. Also, registration and payment can be done on our website. Upon your review of the documents, should you have any questions, please contact the Faith Formation Office at 295-0387 or email at:

sbcreligiouseducation@gmail.com.

Registration Deadline: 8/13/2023.

A late processing fee of \$20.00 will be applied after that date.



Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

I have frequently asked St. Anthony to live up to his reputation as a "Finder of Lost Articles." From his help long ago in finding my precious school ring as a senior in high school all the way up to my miraculous medal only two months ago, "Holy Tony" has been my "go to" man when I've lost something. Of course, these material objects are not to be ranked as the really important things in life. It's just easier to live when we know where they are.

Young King Solomon knew that even before he asked for wisdom in governing as the new ruler of his people. He and the other unnamed people in Our Lord's "kingdom parables" are Our Lord's way of setting the standards for us on how to live and act with true wisdom. Implied here are items like anticipating the future; remembering the past as a guideline; acting in the present with your priorities aligned with God's. Anticipating; remembering; acting: a threefold plan reflecting present day wisdom. When we adopt such wisdom, ultimately based on belief in God's divine providence, we have a foolproof plan for life.

The question can arise "why do we so often go wrong?" One answer is "human weakness". Another is "battle weariness" from our daily struggle with a world opposed to Christ and His ways.

The good news here is the antidote only the Church can give through sacramental grace. Using Pope Francis' metaphor for the Church as a "field hospital," amid the battlefield of the world makes the answer even clearer. There we will find doctors and nurses well-trained to give us the necessary "first aid."

By that I mean a Church where forgiveness abides in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, formerly named Penance; where friendship and fine-tuned mercy flourish from the conviction that "God and other people" come before one's self. Incidentally, that's a new way to interpret the word "Joy" as an acronym expressing one's priorities: J is for Jesus; O is for Others; and Y is for you (rightly in last place.) As a member of such a Church, we can never really get lost. Besides that, we can learn a new way to spell "joy" and be happy to live it. God love you; keep you found; and mindful of what real joy is.