

# Saint Bernard Church



## September 17, 2023 Twenty-Fourth 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

Thank you for your very generous support of the Annual Collection for the Senior Priest Retirement Fund in past years. This annual collection takes place this year on the weekend of September 16/17. There are special envelopes available for this purpose that you may want to use.

Most every one of you knows a 'retired priest'. Fr. Dennis Reardon, former pastor is now retired. Fr. Jack Unsworth, former pastor, is now retired. Fr. Charles Maher, a senior priest, has been assisting us at St. Bernard's for more than 20 years since his retirement as pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Providence. I am sure that you may know other retired priests. In our diocese there are 89 retired priests who receive a pension. Approximately 2/3 of them are still active and helping in parishes. I am certainly happy that they remain active! As you know, most every catholic parish in the diocese is served by one priest. Gone are the days of most parishes having associate pastors. There was a time when larger parishes would have three or four priests assigned to it. No longer is this the case. Most of us are 'on our own'----and gratefully receive help from our 'senior retired priests'. Fr. Maher continues to be a very big help to me by celebrating Mass on Thursday mornings. (I am able to take a day off). Fr. Jack has helped when I have been on vacation or retreat.

When a diocesan priest retires from active ministry, he loses a number of benefits. For example, he loses a home----the parish rectory is no longer his home. He no longer receives a salary--since he is no longer working for the parish. We are fortunate, that through some very careful planning, our senior priests retain very good health insurance (even while paying their own Medicare part B premium). Priests do participate in Social Security. What is problematic is that salaries were so very low when many of them were first ordained. (\$50 per month prior to 1952 and \$100 per month until 1972). At that time priests had no health care.

The main source of income for senior retired priests is from the Diocesan Priest Pension. It is a challenge to keep this plan funded. That is where your generosity is so very needed. I do not want to paint a picture that our retired priests are in dire straits----but a healthy pension fund is essential.

My own situation is rather unique. As you know, I was a religious brother from the age of 21 until my diaconate ordination at the age of 39. During that time, I did not personally receive a salary. The salary that I received from the catholic high schools where I worked was sent to the religious community which then paid for housing, food, medical insurance, transportation, and a small monthly personal stipend. During that time, I was not 'paying into Social Security'. It was not the practice of the religious order at the time. When I receive my annual report from Social Security these days, there is a 'flat line' until the age of 40 when I received my first assignment (and my first salary) after ordination as assistant pastor at St. Luke's in Barrington. When it is time for me to retire---the official retirement age is 75, but priests may ask the bishop to retire at the age of 70—I will very much need the assistance of the Senior Priest Retirement Fund. (Some priests---even a few that are my age-- have had to retire 'early' due to poor health) I will also need a place to live. Some priests have a 'family home' they have inherited. Some rent an apartment. Some live in rectories. In addition, the diocese makes available a small number of apartments in facilities like St. John Vianney Retirement Home in Providence---there are 16 'efficiency apartments' for retired priests.

We continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood! I spent about 12 of my years of priestly ministry working in the formation of seminarians. Continue to pray for vocations! I know that many of our 'senior retired priests' pray daily for vocations----it is a worry for them---'who will come after them?'----'who will carry on the work they gave their lives for?'----

Join me in praying in thanksgiving for our Senior Retired Priests-----and support them through this important annual collection! On behalf of Fr. Dennis, Fr. Jack and Fr. Maher----and every other retired priest in our diocese, I say---Thank you!

--Fr. Gaffney



## Mass Intentions

**MONDAY, September 18**

8:00 AM – *Michael J. Gaffney*

**TUESDAY, September 19**

8:00 AM – *Innocents of Abortion*

**WEDNESDAY, September 20**

8:00 AM – *Deceased of Kusmierz family*

**THURSDAY, September 21**

8:00 AM – *Anna Keenan*

**FRIDAY, September 22**

8:00 AM – *Fenwick Gardiner*  
28th Anniversary by his family

### **WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

**SATURDAY, September 23**

5:00 PM – *Mary DiDonato*

**SUNDAY, September 24**

7:00 AM – *Deceased of the Parish*

8:30 AM – *Ryan Manning*

10:30 AM – *John Black*  
by his family



## Senior Priest Retirement Fund

Catholics throughout the Diocese have a unique opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of our senior priests. This week's collection will benefit the Senior Priest Retirement Fund, a significant source of support for priests that provides for basic needs such as food, housing, transportation and medical care. Please consider your generous support of this important effort that benefits those who have selflessly served the faithful for decades. For more information about the senior priest retirement fund, or to donate online, please visit:

[www.srpriestri.com](http://www.srpriestri.com)

## Worship 101

Finding More Meaning in the Mass (An Adult Faith Formation program). Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the parish center. Please call or e-mail the parish center to register.

## Grief Group

The schedule of meetings for the fall are:  
(Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30)

October 10

November 21

December 5

If anyone would like more information about the group, please see Fr. Gaffney.

## It's Time to Sing!!

Have you always liked to sing? Are you looking for a new way to worship at church? Please consider joining the Adult Choir. We are always looking for new members. Rehearsals are on

Thursdays at 6:45 PM

and will begin September 21st. No experience necessary, just your desire to sing! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to see our Music Director, Alison Shea or any choir member.

## Parish Support

September 3, 2023 2022

Basket	\$6,398.00	\$9,041.00
ACH	\$5,429.00	\$2,461.00

September 10, 2023 2022

Basket	\$9,922.00	\$9,121.00
ACH	\$4,724.00	\$2,260.00
<b>YTD</b>	<b>\$114,404.00</b>	<b>\$111,139.00</b>

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

## 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.

## Baby Bottle Boomerang

You will see empty baby bottles at each exit of the church. Please take a bottle home and fill it with your spare coins -- cash or checks are also much appreciated -- and return the bottle to church next week or the weekend after. Collection bins will be located near each exit. Your generosity will help Right to Life Services, the charitable arm of the Rhode Island State Right to Life Committee, continue providing pregnancy tests and ultrasounds throughout Rhode Island in their Ancora Women's Mobile Care Center. Your contribution also helps to stock the shelves of their Maternity Hope Chest, which serves many hundreds of mothers who have courageously chosen LIFE but need a helping hand caring for their precious little ones, whether it be diapers and wipes, clothing and blankets, basinetts and strollers, and many other must-have baby items. May the Good Lord bless you many times over for your generosity, which has enabled us to serve tens of thousands of moms for more than 50 years.

## St Bernard Third Annual Golf Tournament

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>

## Women's Bible Study

*Touching The Divine - A Study of the Gospel of John* by *Walking With Purpose* is a 22-week Catholic women's Bible study designed to bring ALL women together for authentic relationship and meaningful discussion around the Word of God.

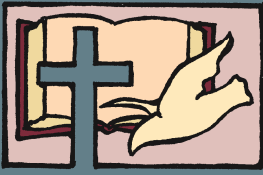
Day session will meet each Wednesday starting October 4, from 9:30am - 12:00pm in the Parish Center. Refreshments are served weekly. All women and their friends are welcome. NO Bible experience is necessary! Sign ups are required so that workbooks can be pre-ordered for each woman.

A 6-week evening session could be available utilizing *Living the the Father's Love* by *Walking with Purpose* if enough women are interested. Mid October start date meeting from 6:30 - 8:00pm with choice of evening dependent upon the group's availability.

We are very excited! Please RSVP and/or share any questions with:  
Mary Capobianco  
([marykcapobianco@gmail.com](mailto:marykcapobianco@gmail.com)) or Jean Martish  
([jjbbam2@aol.com](mailto:jjbbam2@aol.com))

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

## **FAITH FORMATION**



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### **Faith Formation** **It's Registration** **Time!!!!**

Check out our website:

[www.stbernardnk.org](http://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](mailto:sbcreligiouseducation@gmail.com)

### **Halloween Fun Bags**



On the weekends of October 21st/22nd and October 28th/29th we will be selling Halloween fun bags to support our next Steubenville East Trip. Each bag will include some candy, a craft, games, and other assorted Halloween themed items.

Each bag is a suggested donation of \$10, and is geared towards children in Preschool-Elementary school.

### **Teen Life Ministry**

St. Bernard, together with St. Francis de Sales Parish, is offering a new program called Teen Life Ministry. This ministry is open to any current middle school or high school student. This will be an opportunity for local teens to socialize, share their Faith, and get involved in community service. The ministry will meet once a month throughout the school year on a Friday or Sunday evening. Meetings will be held at either St. Bernard's or St. Francis de Sales on a rotating basis. This will be an uplifting and fun ministry. No commitment is necessary. To sign up, or for more information, please contact Christina Pichette at

[sbc.teenff@gmail.com](mailto:sbc.teenff@gmail.com)

The next Teen Life Ministry gathering will take place here at St. Bernard's parish center on Friday, October 13th from 6PM-7:30PM. For a list of all the upcoming dates, please refer to our website.

### **Name Tag Sundays**

From Labor Day weekend to Columbus Day weekend we will once again ask you get a name tag as you enter church. We will take a moment at the start of each of the masses to greet our neighbors. So often we recognize faces, but don't know the names of those who sit near us in the pews. The mantra goes: "See a Face, Learn a Name, Share a Story, Love Your Neighbor"!

### **RCIA**

Any adults who may not have received one or more of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Holy Communion, Confirmation) and would like to prepare to receive the sacrament(s)-----please contact the parish office. The first class is September, 26 at 7:00 PM.

### Young at Heart September Luncheon

**Monday September 25, 2023** (sign in at 11:30 AM)

Menu: TBA

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$15.00 per person. (Please make out checks payable to St. Bernard)  
Please respond by Monday September 18, 2023.

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