

St. Bernard Roman Catholic Church

We are called to proclaim and celebrate the Good News. Evangelizing and supporting for the faith journey of every age at every stage is our commitment.

1160 Woodbridge Street, St. Paul. MN 55117

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

May 29, 2022



Fr. Arokiadoss Raji : Pastor

651-558-9301; frraji@churchofstbernard-stp.org

Fr. Joseph Kureh: Parochial Vicar: 651-558-9305

STAFF:

Ryan Thornton.....Parish Administrator,

Mary Beth Redmond.... Music Director,

Gloria Nava..... Secretary

Jim Rice.Accountant

Finance Council Chairman: Tim Struntz Trustees: Mike Perfect & Rhonda Pfiffner

Parish Council Chairman: Steve Ekeberg

Parish email: rthornton@churchofstbernard-stp.org

Website: www.stbernardstpaul.org

Phone

651-488-6733

Fax

651-489-9203

WEEKDAY MASSES: Mon—Sat 8:30 AM

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 4PM, and 7PM (Neo-catechumenal way – In Grade School)

Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM & 2:00 PM Spanish

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE: THU 6:15 PM—6:45 PM during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Sat 3:15—3:45 PM, or by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Please call the office to arrange for a meeting with a priest 6 months prior to your wedding date.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Please call the office to arrange for a meeting with a priest 2months prior to the Sacrament. Baptism is celebrated every 4th Saturday of the month @ 12 Noon.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: : Please call the office to arrange for an anointing.

For new parishioners, registration forms are available at our website & in parish office.



SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

4:00 pm + Rita Canine

7th SUNDAY OF EASTER, May 29

The Ascension of the Lord

8:00 am + Larry Specha

10:30 am + Jessica Schultz

2:00 pm **Spanish** + Rev. Fr. Steven Labat

MONDAY, May 30

8:30 am + Gunter Family

TUESDAY, May 31

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 am Lorraine Palmer

WEDNESDAY, June 1

St. Justin Martyr

8:30 am + Fran Lutz

THURSDAY, June 2

Sts. Marcellinus & Peter, Martyrs

8:30 am + Shirley Polson

FRIDAY, June 3

St Charles Lwanga & Companions, Martyrs

8:30 am + Betty Blue

SATURDAY, June 4

8:30 am + Edward Gunter

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

4:00 pm + Ray & Terry Neudauer

PENTECOST SUNDAY, June 5

8:00 am + All Souls

10:30 am + Mary Butz

2:00 pm **Spanish** + Paul Velarius

BOILER CHIMNEY STACK

Our boiler chimney stack is located between the church and Grade School is breaking and needs to be taken down as soon as possible so that we may be safe and have heat ready for the winter. The cost is estimated to \$300,000. Please consider helping in any way so that we can save any other damages with other buildings of our parish and have heating during winter. To donate for this cause, please indicate "Building Fund" on any donation memos. God will repay you hundred-fold for your generosity.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

After the Ascension of Jesus the apostles come back full of joy and they were continually in the Temple praising God. It is a strange reaction to the fact that they would no longer see their Messiah, and they would be on their own bringing the Good News to the four corners of the world. And they are full of joy? This is true since Jesus has not gone away into death, but into life. He is not defeated but raised on high. It is a joy similar to the joy of the martyrs, of Maximilian Kolbe singing in his starvation bunker, or the early Christians singing as they went to their death. Kolbe gave his life so that another prisoner could live, who was the father of many children. He could sing as he was starving to death. It is this same spirit that God wants to give to all his children.

In Cardinal Ratzinger's little book on *Images of Hope* he speaks about of the Ascension as the rehabilitation of man; this feast can restore us in the image of how God made us. In some way the Ascension helps us to rise with him as the apostles did. It is not position or affluence or connections that makes a person great, but communion with God. The Ascension is a lifting up, a *sursum corda*, as we say every mass in the preface 'Lift up your hearts; we lift them up to the Lord.' Many beautiful local churches help us to look up when we enter them, and that was their purpose, to raise our sights to heaven, and not to get stuck here on earth.

We need to know where we come from, and much more important: where are we going? Few people think of this much, or at all. Usually, it takes the passing of someone close to us to turn our attention to heaven, and the afterlife. This feast gives us a wonderful opportunity to reflect on this fact. Only from the height of heaven can our existence be enlightened. Only from above can we see the whole tapestry of our life, which includes our weaknesses and disappointments, and how God marvelously uses them.

The Ascension reminds us of heaven, and of hell. Jesus is not 'up' in the solar system somewhere; he is with the Father in heaven. What does this mean? Heaven is by nature only *what we have not made, and cannot make ourselves*. It is a grace, a gift. Heaven can always *only be given to man*. Hell is to reject this gift. Hell is when a person rejects his status as a creature and goes into himself. He cuts himself off from others and only lives for him/herself. Hell is a 'place' that we choose, God does not send us there, as the Church has always taught.

This time between the Ascension and Pentecost is a time of waiting for the Holy Spirit to come upon us, and upon the whole Church, a time to reflect on where we are going in our life and to take it seriously.

Fr. Doss
Pastor

Please call the parish office if you would like to add a name to our prayer list.

Prayer Line: Shirley Collett (651)488-6330;
Judy Cloutier at (651)224-2966

SICK OR "HOMEBOUND"

If you are sick or "homebound" (or know someone who is), and would like to have Communion, please contact the parish office.

ST. BERNARD PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

St. Bernard's Prayer Shawl Group is begun meeting monthly again from 6:30 to 8 pm in the Parish Center (door #10.)

For more information contact Elizabeth Doherty at 651-387-9500. If you know of someone in need of a prayer shawl or blanket, please contact the Parish office.

Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John

Thursdays at 7:10 pm and Sundays at 9 am, the 8-week course with 30-minute videos presented by Dr. Edward Sri will be held in our Parish Center (door #10.) For more information or to register, see the information poster and sign-up form in the Church vestibule or contact Elizabeth Doherty at 651-389-9500 or by email at steelikat@polsons.net.

BAPTISMS

"In all truth I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born through water and the Spirit; what is born of flesh is flesh, and what is born of the spirit is spirit."

Next Baptism Class, Thursday June 23 @ 6:30pm
Baptism, Sat, June 25 at Noon

Meetings will be held in the parish office.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

	<u>Year to date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Sunday Envelopes	\$3,718	4,715
Plate	\$792	960
Gas & Lights	\$36	125
Campus Repairs	\$39	70

Building Repair Fund Total: \$117,283

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!

E-Giving or auto-pay from your bank, helps our parish a lot. Please consider giving in this way!

REMEMBER ST. BERNARD'S IN YOUR WILL

Do you have a will?

A wonderful way to help our parish and to save taxes is to remember St. Bernard's in your will.

There is still plenty of work to be done in our church and also in the other buildings.

SAINT OF THE WEEK: CHRISTOPHER MAGALLANES, PRIEST & COMPANIONS

Christopher (Cristóbal) Magallanes (1869-1927), priest, missionary and teacher, was martyred during the Cristero War – the three-year resistance of the Mexican people against the government's effort to suppress the expression of faith and limit the power of the Church in the 1920s. Though Father Magallanes preached against armed violence, he was arrested on his way to say Mass and executed on charges of inciting rebellion. His final acts were to comfort and forgive. He reassured Father Agustin Caloca, who was executed with him, "Calm down, son, just a moment and then heaven."

He was born in 1869 in Totatiche, Jalisco, a state in southwestern Mexico. Christopher worked as a shepherd before enrolling in the seminary in Guadalajara at the age of 19. After ordination in 1899, Christopher became the chaplain of the School of Arts and Works of the Holy Spirit in Guadalajara before being assigned to serve his home parish in Totatiche. As a pastor, he was zealous in his efforts to educate and minister to the local people by schools and trade shops for carpentry. In his efforts to share the Gospel with the indigenous people of the area, he founded a mission in Azqueltan.

In 1914, the Mexican Government decreed that all religious schools were to be closed, including the seminary in Guadalajara, the seat of the diocese. To ensure that seminarians could continue their preparation for the priesthood, Father Magallanes opened the Auxiliary Seminary of Totatiche, and enrolled 17 students.

As the suppression of the faith became more severe, the Mexican people resisted. Though the government forbade any gathering for religious celebrations and closed all religious schools, Father Magallanes continued to say Mass, teach and promote devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He was arrested on his way to say Mass on May 21, 1927, and was executed four days later. Before dying, Saint Christopher Magallanes absolved his executioners and gave them his remaining possessions. He was canonized with 24 other martyrs (21 priests and 3 laymen who were shot or hanged) of the Cristero War in 2000 by St. John Paul II. The Cristero motto was, "Long Live Christ the King and the Virgin of Guadalupe." Their feast day is May 21. A terrific movie depicting the Cristero Movement is *For Greater Glory*, with Andy Garcia.

Persecution of Catholics would not cease until approximately 1940, with the election of a Catholic president. The effects of the war on the Church had been profound. Between 1926 and 1934 at least 40 priests were killed. Where there were 4,500 priests serving the people before the rebellion, in 1934 there were only 334 priests licensed by the government to serve fifteen million people. The rest had been eliminated by emigration, expulsion and assassination. By 1935, 17 states had no priest at all.