

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 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD (CHRISTMAS) December 25, 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,

Patrice Finstad.... Music Director,

(612-859-9339)

Cantor: Anna Gottwalt 651-802-6948

Spanish Music Director: Emanuel Romero 651-321-1372

Jareli Ramirez..... Secretary

.Accountant

Finance Council Chairman: Tim Struntz

Trustees: Mike Perfect & Rhonda Pfiffner

Parish Council Chairman: Steve Ekeberg

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 & 12:30 PM Spanish

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE: FRIDAY 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.





CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

4:00 pm + Phil & Teresa Kohn
11:00 pm *Christmas carols prelude Midnight Mass*

12:00 am + Edward Zech., Sr

The Nativity of Our Lord, December 25

10:30 am + Mary Kay Woessner
12:30 pm (Spanish) + Blanca Arellano

MONDAY, December 26

St. Stephen, The First Martyr

8:30 am + Mary Seidel

TUESDAY, December 27

St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

8:30 am + Wayne Daing

WEDNESDAY, December 28

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

8:30 am + Barb Washenberger

THURSDAY, December 29

8:30 am + Patricia Elliott

FRIDAY, December 30

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:30 am + Mary Alice Merritt Scheibf

SATURDAY, December 31

St. Sylvester I, Pope

8:30 am + Connie Howard

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS

4:00 pm + Paul Stang

SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, January 1

8:00 am + Peter Rice
10:30 am + Paul Polson
12:30 pm (Spanish) + Philomena

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The angel said, "Do not be afraid. Look, I bring you good news of great joy that will be shared with all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you who is Christ the Lord."

He is the savior of "all the people," not just the Christians or the ones in church or the ones who pray, but is the savior of all. This is what gives us hope. The savior that Israel wanted at the time was very different from Jesus Christ. He is not a politician or liberator or a philanthropist. He is the one who claims his people back to himself. His salvation is to free us from that part of ourselves where the habits or tendencies or lusts shake our relationship with God, and leads one to establish little gods at the altar of self. St. John says to stay clear of idols. The cult of oneself is the subtlest form of idolatry. What is important to God is holiness, the sense of belonging to him, to have an experience of him in your life. He is not interested in your political disputes or even your economic woes. He wants your heart. Until our lives are re-oriented toward him and doing what is good in his eyes our endeavors can only be fruitless.

The good news of Christ's birth is announced to three levels of people. The first are the shepherds who are not well regarded at the time and disdained by the Jews because they leave their families and are with the sheep all night. They are one of the lowest groups of people in society. And secondly, they announce this event to others who receive it with great astonishment and joy. We do not know much about them and what they do with this news but the shepherds are not afraid to speak to others and hopefully you will follow their lead.

The third person to hear this good news is Mary. The gospel as it continues from what is proclaimed on Christmas tells us that Mary treasured these things and pondered them in her heart. She hears it and holds fast to it. She is the only one we see later in the adult ministry of Jesus and also present in the Church after Jesus ascends into heaven. She is the good soil that bears an abundance of fruit.

Let us imitate Mary in front of the manger and reflect on what the Lord is doing for us, and let him be born in our hearts this Christmas season. May he bless you and all your loved ones this year! A BLESSED AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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

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 Jan 19 @ 6:00pm
Baptism, Sun 22nd at Noon**

Meetings will be held in the parish office.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

2022– Total Funds Received to Date:

Sunday Envelopes: \$218,426
Plate : \$40,838

Building Repair Fund Donations Received: \$149,683
2022 Christmas Flowers Fund: \$796

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!

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.

DID YOU NOTICE THE NEW BOILER STACK?

Both boiler chimney stack is placed on the both boilers and now the work on the old boiler stock need to be removed. Please keep this project in your prayers . Help us in anyway you can because God blesses the generous hearts and provides hundred folds.

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

Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

As the number of disciples continued to grow, the Greek-speaking Christians complained about the Hebrew-speaking Christians, saying that



their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit... (Acts 6:1-5).

Acts says that Stephen was a man filled with grace and power, who worked great wonders among the people. Certain Jews, members of the Synagogue of Roman Freedmen, debated with Stephen but proved no match for the wisdom and spirit with which he spoke. They persuaded others to make the charge of blasphemy against him. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

In his speech, Stephen recalled God's guidance through Israel's history, as well as Israel's idolatry and disobedience. He then claimed that his persecutors were showing this same spirit. "[Y]ou always oppose the holy Spirit; you are just like your ancestors" (Acts 7:51b).

His speech brought anger from the crowd. "But [Stephen], filled with the holy Spirit, looked up intently to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God....' They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him.... As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.... Lord, do not hold this sin against them'" (Acts 7:55-56, 58a, 59, 60b).