

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
March 19, 2023

Fr. Arokiadoss Raji : Pastor

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

Fr. Joseph Kureh: Parochial Vicar: 651-236-7730

STAFF:

Ryan Heim.....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

Ken Tonn.Accountant

Finance Council Chairman: Tim Struntz

Trustees: Mike Perfect & Rhonda Pfiffner

Parish Council Chairman: Joe Blageo



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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Please call the office to arrange for a meeting with a priest 2 months prior to the Sacrament. Baptism is celebrated every 4th Sunday 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 Martin Clifford Charpentier
7:00 pm + Peter Rice

4th SUNDAY OF LENT, March 19

8:00 am + Jean Schreier
10:30 am + Jean Schreier
12:30 pm (Spanish) + Barbara Kent

MONDAY, March 20

St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 am Steve Lauinger (healing)

TUESDAY, March 21

8:30 am + For the Souls in Purgatory

WEDNESDAY, March 22

8:30 am Steve Lauinger (healing)

THURSDAY, March 23

St. Turbius of Mogrovejo, Bishop

8:30 am + White Family

FRIDAY, March 24

Abstinence

8:30 am Steve Lauinger (healing)

SATURDAY, March 25

The Annunciation of the Lord

8:30 am The Mike Nesdahl Family

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

4:00 pm Marykay Woessner
7:00 pm Steve Lauinger

5th SUNDAY OF LENT, March 26

8:00 am Roy & Jill Cloutier
10:30 am + Dearly Departed
12:30 pm (Spanish) + Fr. Edwin Savundra

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday: 5 PM in Karenni

6 PM in English & 6:30 PM in Spanish

Friday, March 24th, 4—7 PM St. Bernard's Club will host 2 pieces of fries pollock, cheesy potatoes with Cole slaw, roll & butter, dessert & beverage in the Parish Center. Please buy your tickets in advance after all the Masses in the church Vestibule.



The gospel of the man blind from birth begins with the question of whether his blindness was the result of his sins or his parents. The disciples think as we do, that sickness or coronavirus is a punishment for sins of the past. Jesus states profoundly that the purpose of his life, and ours, is that the

works of God will be made known, made visible through him, and through us. The blind man is sent to the Pool of Siloam, which means sent. He has a mission, as we do, and it is life changing. If we take it seriously it will bring us to a new place, not for money, but only to announce what God sees what we are experiencing and it will help our faith, our relationship with him. It will not happen automatically, but if we open the door to him these events can change us.

The man is questioned a second time by the Pharisees and he grows in his boldness to speak the truth. He tells them that once he was blind and now he sees. He goes on to say that something truly magnificent and wonderful happened to him: "It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything." Not since the world began did such a thing happen. His argument is very logical and simple and yet the Pharisees condemn him since he was 'born in sin.' They also think his blindness was because of his sins or his parents. They are prejudiced against him and against Jesus Christ. They cannot look at the facts; they are blinded by their own rules and regulations: Jesus does miracles on the Sabbath, and this is against the law. They miss the whole point.

Thanks be to God this blind man sees what God has done to him through Jesus Christ. He says: "I do believe, Lord," and bows to worship him. Jesus says something that can help us today: he came into the world so that the blind may see. And the Pharisees, and also us in some ways, say "we see" even though many times we are blind to what God is doing in our lives.

If any of these possibilities are true or something similar to them then the gospel this week (John 9: 1-41) can be a huge help for us.

Then he is brought to the Pharisees who are upset because the miracle was done on the Sabbath and they asked the man how this happened. The blind man said this 'man' put clay on my eyes and now I can see. However, the Pharisees do not accept this since if he were a man of God he would not have done the miracle on the Sabbath. The dialogue continues and each time the man speaks he refers to Jesus next as a prophet, and finally as one of his disciples. The Pharisees are totally blinded by their prejudice against Jesus, and in contrast this man grows in his love for him. We too can be blind to Jesus Christ in our life and hopefully this gospel will open our eyes.

Fr. Doss

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 Apr 20 @ 6:00pm
Baptism, Sun 23rd at Noon

Meetings will be held in the parish office.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Sunday Envelopes	\$2,207	4,654
Plate	\$996	962
Church Audio & Lighting	\$86	
Worship & Liturgy	\$106	
Building Repair Fund Donations Received:		\$173398

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.

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.

MAKE A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Make a spiritual communion. What is a spiritual communion? It is the act of drawing on the real graces conferred by your baptism to unite you to God. God dwells in our hearts; we believe, by baptism, that the Holy Trinity abides in us.

Making a spiritual communion, then, is the calling upon that reality. One popular & simple spiritual communion, which can be said often each day IS:

I wish my Lord to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your Holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints.

FEAST OF THE WEEK: ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD, MAR. 25

The feast of the Annunciation, now recognized as a solemnity, was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become man. Now, as Luke tells us, the decision is being realized. The God-Man embraces all humanity, indeed all creation, to bring it to God in one great act of love.

Mary has a hugely important role to play in God’s plan. From all eternity, God destined her to be the mother of Jesus and closely related to him in the salvation of the world. Mary becomes the eminent figure she is only by God’s grace. She is the empty space where God could act. Her “yes” to the Archangel Gabriel changed all of history as the Messiah was born in us. The Church has always taught that all mankind can also say yes to God and Christ will also be born in us. God gives this possibility everyday.

Mary is the virgin-mother who fulfills Isaiah 7:14 in a way that Isaiah could not have imagined. She is united with her son in carrying out the will of God. Together with Jesus, the privileged and graced Mary is the link between heaven and earth. She is the human being who best, after Jesus, exemplifies the possibilities of human existence. She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God. She shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to become.

Sometimes spiritual writers are accused of putting Mary on a pedestal and thereby, discouraging ordinary humans from imitating her. Perhaps such an observation is misguided. God did put Mary on a pedestal and has put all human beings on a pedestal. We have scarcely begun to realize the magnificence of divine grace, the wonder of God’s freely given love. The marvel of Mary—even in the midst of her very ordinary life—is God’s shout to us to wake up to the marvelous creatures that we all are by divine design.

My Family—My Parish—My Responsibility

Did you ever notice that the price of a movie is now over \$15, and milk is almost \$4 a gallon? The price of everything around us has increased, but has your weekly donation to the Church ever increased? Our church heating bill alone is nearly \$5,000 a month and our salaries for our small staff of 3 full-time people & few others is about \$15,000 a month. Those two items alone consume nearly 75% of our collection. Alms are a good way to build up our treasure in heaven.