

# 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

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

Fr. Arokiadoss Raji : Pastor

651-558-9301; [frraji@churchofstbernard-stp.org](mailto: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 651-231-1372

Jareli Ramirez..... Secretary

Lighthouse (LSS). ....Accountant

Finance Council Chairman: Tim Struntz

Trustees: Mike Perfect & Rhonda Pfiffner

Parish Council Chairman: Joe Blageo



Website: [www.stbernardstpaul.org](http://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 2months 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 + Dearly Departed

### **23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, September 10**

8:00 am + Ann Rinehart

10:30 am + Ann Rinehart

12:30 pm (Spanish) + Souls in Purgatory

### **MONDAY, September 11**

8:30 am + Mary Mercado

### **TUESDAY, September 12**

***The Most Holy Name of Mary***

8:30 am + James Plifrel., Sr

### **WEDNESDAY, September 13**

***St. John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor of the Church***

8:30 am For All the sick

### **THURSDAY, September 14**

***The Exaltation of the Cross***

8:30 am For all the Parishioners

### **FRIDAY, September 15**

***Our Lady of Sorrows***

8:30 am + Souls in Purgatory

### **SATURDAY, September 16**

***Sts. Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian, Bishop & Martyrs***

8:30 am + Brian Kearvey

### **SATURDAY VIGIL MASS**

4:00 pm + Ann Rinehart

### **24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, September 17**

8:00 am + Richard Kortekaas

10:30 am Bill Hafner

12:30 pm (Spanish) + Souls in Purgatory

### **GOSSIP**

“If something uncharitable is said in your presence, either speak in favor of the absent, or withdraw, or if possible stop the conversation.”

-St. John Vianney



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome back for those who have been away for the summer and I hope you rested a bit and ready to begin this series called, Who am I? It is the same question that Jesus asked the people and his disciples: who do people say that I am?

Many people today answer this question from their work or position in society. If work is what defines you then you do everything for the job, and often there is little left for others. If who you are is determined by your children then you pour all your energy into them and this is your world or the same if you live for your friends.

Knowing who you are will determine the quality of your relationships with others. When people have a good sense of who they are then they can form healthy human relations and comfortably fit in with others. When you lack a sense of identity then marriages often fail. Relations with kids also fall apart when a parent acts like a peer or the child acts like the one in charge.

Who you are drives your work and relations with others and what you value. For many people they value a particular ethnic group, or a sport that they play or follow, or a certain school or people of a similar age. For many what they own or the life style that they live or position that they have determines who they are and what they value.

All of these things whether good or bad are always changing and in themselves are not complete and don't define us totally. To help us unpack this large topic let's look at the first reading from Ezekiel to help us get a better glimpse of who I am.

Ezekiel lived 600 years before Christ when Jerusalem was falling apart and the Jewish people abandoned God and the culture was corrupt. Babylon was preparing to destroy the nation and its culture and this situation called into question the very idea of Israel and who the people are. In this situation God says to Ezekiel, “I have appointed you as watchman for the house of Israel. Warn them and try to turn the wicked away from their ways.”

In these times a watchman was an appointed official stationed on the city walls to be the eyes of the city and warn of approaching danger. For Ezekiel the danger is not a foreign power or outside force. God says, “Warn the wicked and try to turn him from his ways.” He is a watchman for the dangers of sin and evil in the hearts of the people themselves. And God goes on to say that he takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. But he wants them to turn from their evil ways and be his people. God tells Ezekiel who he is. He says it very simply: “You're mine. I chose you and appointed you for something beautiful! Do not be afraid. Follow me.”

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 October 19 @ 6:30pm**

**Baptism, Sun 22nd at Noon**

***Meetings will be held in the parish office.***

### SUNDAY COLLECTION

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Sunday Envelopes	\$3384	4,654
Plate	\$803	962
Church Audio & Lighting	\$55192	
Worship & Liturgy	\$381	
Building Repair Fund Donations Remaining: Coming Soon		

**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.

**INVITED!!!** Our young people often say that one of the biggest reasons they don't consider the priesthood or Religious Life when they think about the future is that NO ONE EVER INVITED THEM to do so. Do you know any young people who have a healthy sense of self, who spend time volunteering to help others, attend Mass regularly, and have leadership potential? Pray for them and invite them to consider a life of service in the Church. For information, call the parish office 651-488-6733 or speak to Fr. Doss. [fraggi@churchofstbernard-stp.org](mailto:fraggi@churchofstbernard-stp.org) (or) 651-558-9301

### Abortion Survivor Melissa Ohden Shares Her Story

#### BOOK PICK: *You Carried Me*

Beginning Aug. 24, 1977, for five consecutive days, medics in a hospital in Iowa tried to kill Melissa Ohden. But she was not born yet. She was 31 weeks into gestation when a doctor drained the amniotic fluid from her mother's uterus and replaced it with saline solution. Within 48 hours he calculated the caustic fluid would burn her skin, incinerate her lungs and eventually cause her heart to stop. Dead, her corpse would miscarry onto the delivery table and be trashed as an abortion statistic.

But the procedure failed. Still within her mother's womb after two days, a Pitocin drip was introduced to induce labor, and Melissa was delivered five days later. Suffering acute respiratory distress and weighing a mere 2 pounds 14.5 ounces, she still managed "a spontaneous weak cry." Hearing the plaintiff plea, rather than abandoning her to die, a compassionate nurse nearby rushed her to the neonatal intensive care unit, where she was treated for severe medical complications. Two months later, she was welcomed into the loving arms of her adoptive parents and carried back to their home in Iowa. The full details of Ohden's abortion survival story are now chronicled in her new book *You Carried Me: A Daughter's Memoir*. The author is a wife and the mother of two children. She is also the founder of Abortion Survivors Network. At age 14, after learning the devastating truth of her abortion survival, she embarked on a complex 30-year journey to recover her sense of self-worth and to find the answers to her agonizing questions, including: "Where did I come from? Whose blood runs through my veins?" and "Why did you try to kill me?" En route, she established and re-established relationships, became a speaker for the pro-life movement, and discovered a new mission. As she defines it, "To be a voice not for myself, but for others."

Ohden speaks with authority, merited by many courageous battles described in the book. She is a voice for those wounded by abortion. She is a voice for abortion survivors attacked or silenced by abortion advocates unable to reconcile their support for the murderous procedure with the existence of living survivors. She is a voice of forgiveness for the sorrowful who regret their abortions or their complicity in abortions. And she is a voice for the unborn who have no voice. As one mother told her, recalling how, as a pregnant teenager, Ohden's voice had pierced her conscience while she sat, tearful, listening to her testimony, "I want you to know that you saved a life. You were a voice for my little girl when she didn't have one."