

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

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 24, 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 651-231-1372

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

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 + Kathy Janski

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, September 24

8:00 am + Richard Kortekaas

10:30 am For All Parishioners

12:30 pm (Spanish) + Caroline Das

MONDAY, September 25

8:30 am + Donald White

TUESDAY, September 26

Sts. Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs

8:30 am + Warren Rinehart

WEDNESDAY, September 27

St. Vincent de Paul, Priest

8:30 am + Annette Prifrel

THURSDAY, September 28

St. Wenceslaus, Martyr; St. Lawrence Ruiz & Companions, Martyrs

8:30 am Judy & Les Sheehan
(Anniversary)

FRIDAY, September 29

Sts. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels

8:30 am + Ferdinand & Barbara
Spannbauer

SATURDAY, September 30

St. Jerome, Priest & Doctor of the Church

8:30 am + Souls in Purgatory

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

4:00 pm + Mike Fischer

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, October 1

8:00 am + Leo Degonda

10:30 am + Jean Schreier

12:30 pm (Spanish) + Francis

BOOYA

St. Bernard's club will have Booya day on **October 7th from 9 am to 2 pm in the parish center**. Please come and get your booya before it runs out.



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This is the third week of our new series: Who Do You Think I Am? What makes you, you is another way to put it. And how you answer this question determines a lot in your life: your actions, relationships and values. All of this is incomplete and is not the fullness of who you are. Ultimately you and I need to look to God to see our identity. He is the one who knows us best; he designed us and created us for a purpose. Last week we saw that a key part of my Christian identity ought to be forgiveness. Not done by my efforts but through the help that God gives me.

This week the second reading of Paul's letter to the Philippians can help us to better answer this question. The city of Philippi remains today and was once a prosperous Roman metropolis. Paul started the community or church there, is very fond of them for their support of him and the letter is very personal. Most probably he wrote it from Rome when he was in prison or house arrest. Imagine how unsure he must have been about what would happen to him.

He says that he hopes that the prayers of the Philippians (1: 20-24) will bring about his deliverance. And he hopes that he has sufficient courage to magnify Christ in his body, either by life or death. In other words he is saying don't worry: if I live or if I die Christ will be magnified in me. Then he says something super profound: "For me life is Christ and death is gain." What would you say if you are being totally honest: for me life is football and death is being sick?

This statement is very similar to what he said earlier: Christ will be magnified in my body whether I live or I die. You and I cannot make Christ bigger, how could we? But you can make him present in the world by your faith-filled actions, your ability to not hold grudges, etc. How you react shows or does not show how Christ is in you.

Paul's identity is that he is a disciple. That is why he is in jail and that he could die for this, and eventually he did die for this. However, prison, condemnation, death make no difference to him and to his sense of who he is. All has been taken away from him except for one thing: Christ. That is his success. And all will eventually be taken away from you!

Paul stood with Christ. Do you stand for him in your family, your work, among your friends? Do they easily see this in you? Let us look again to God in order to define ourselves. He chose everything you have and wants you to go into his vineyard, no matter what stage in your life: a teenager, middle age, and retiree. He calls all of us!

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	\$2,714	4,654
Plate	\$1,103	962
Church Audio & Lighting	\$85	
Worship & Liturgy	\$73	
Building Repair Fund September Balance:		\$51,235

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. fr.raj@churchofstbernard-stp.org (or) 651-558-9301

Saint of the Week: Saint Lorenzo Ruiz and Companions, September 22

Lorenzo was born in Manila of a Chinese father and a Filipino mother, both Christians. Thus he learned Chinese and Tagalog from them, and Spanish from the Dominicans whom he served as altar boy and sacristan. He became a professional calligrapher, transcribing documents in beautiful penmanship. He married and had two sons and a daughter.

Lorenzo’s life took an abrupt turn when he was accused of murder. Nothing further is known except the statement of two Dominicans that “he was sought by the authorities on account of a homicide to which he was present or which was attributed to him.”

At that time, three Dominican priests were about to sail to Japan in spite of a violent persecution there. With them was a Japanese priest, Vicente Shiwozuka de la Cruz, and a layman named Lazaro, a leper. Lorenzo, having taken asylum with them, was allowed to accompany them. But only when they were at sea did he learn that they were going to Japan.

They landed at Okinawa. Lorenzo could have gone on to Formosa, but, he reported, “I decided to stay with the Fathers, because the Spaniards would hang me there.” In Japan they were soon found out, arrested, and taken to Nagasaki. The site of wholesale bloodshed when the atomic bomb was dropped had known tragedy before. The 50,000 Catholics who once lived there were dispersed or killed by persecution.

They were subjected to an unspeakable kind of torture: After huge quantities of water were forced down their throats, they were made to lie down. Long boards were placed on their stomachs and guards then stepped on the ends of the boards, forcing the water to spurt violently from mouth, nose and ears.

The superior, Fr. Gonzalez, died after some days. The other two broke under torture, which included the insertion of bamboo needles under their fingernails. But both were brought back to courage by their companions. In Lorenzo’s moment of crisis, he asked the interpreter, “I would like to know if, by apostatizing, they will spare my life.” The interpreter was noncommittal, but in the ensuing hours Lorenzo felt his faith grow strong. He became bold, even audacious, with his interrogators.

The five were put to death by being hanged upside down in pits. Boards fitted with semi-circular holes were fitted around their waists and stones put on top to increase the pressure. They were tightly bound, to slow circulation and prevent a speedy death. They were allowed to hang for three days. By that time Lorenzo and Lazaro were dead. Still alive, the three priests were then beheaded. In 1987, Pope John Paul II canonized these six and 10 others who spread the faith in the Philippines, Formosa, and Japan. Lorenzo Ruiz is the first canonized Filipino martyr.

St. Lorenzo & companions pray for us!