

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 3, 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 + Ann Rinehart

1st week of Advent, December 3

8:00 am + Helen Rechhardt
 10:30 am + Deceased of the parish
 12:30 pm (Spanish) + Richard Garrett

MONDAY, December 4

St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church

8:30 am Kellan Leier

TUESDAY, December 5

8:30 am + Francis

WEDNESDAY, December 6

St. Nicholas, Bishop

8:30 am + Peggy Smith

THURSDAY, December 7

St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:30 am + Paul Raji
 6:30 pm **Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass**

FRIDAY, December 8

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 am + Anthony Simon

SATURDAY, December 9

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

8:30 am + Bill Oczak

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

4:00 pm + Rev. Fr. Stephen R. O'Gara

2nd week of Advent, December 10

8:00 am + Richard Kortekaas
 10:30 am + Rev. Fr. Stephen R. O'Gara
 12:30 pm (Spanish) + Kristen Bruschi

weekend of 23 & 24 there will be confessions available before & after all the Masses. Please take advantage of the sacrament to prepare for the Christmas.



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Mark tells us in his gospel this week, and we will hear from him this year, "Stay awake! Be watchful and alert! You do not know when the time will come." Advent is a time of waiting for the Lord; first, in his second Coming and then for his coming to us in Christmas.

Also our theme to help us this Advent is Angels. Angels are messengers and when God has a message of great importance he sends an Archangel like Gabriel who announces to Mary that she will be the mother of the long-awaited Messiah. The Christmas story is full of angels, thousands of them, as we will hear these weeks. An angel appeared to Zachariah when he was in the temple to tell him that his barren wife, Elizabeth, would conceive a son and there were to name him John (the Baptist). And an angel appears to Joseph to tell him not to fear to take Mary as his wife and the child within her is from the Holy Spirit.

Angels are very popular today for many reasons and hopefully this series will help us to have a more mature understanding of angels and the role they should play in our lives. First of all they are created by God, but are not human beings like us. They are pure spirits, which means they have no bodies. They sometimes appear in Scripture with a body in order to fulfill their mission, but they are pure spirits.

What do angels do and why should I be interested in them? As we shall see they do a great deal and the first reading from Isaiah can help us. He is considered by many to be the greatest of all the prophets since he spoke more of the coming of Christ than any other prophet. We hear from him a lot during this time of Advent and Christmas. Today he is writing because Israel is under attack and in bad shape. And he complains to God say, "Why do you let us wander from your ways, O Lord?"

Isaiah knows that there difficulties arising from their wandering away from God and they are experiencing the consequences of their actions. So Isaiah is asking God or blaming God for letting it happen. We often do the same, no? And so we keep asking God why did you let me fall so far into debt, or how did I get into this mess with my spouse or kids or girlfriend, or why did you allow me to take this job or this class in school? He sounds very desperate and also he knows that God is the only one who can help him. God is the only one who can help you in that hopeless situation and he often does it by sending us angels. He did it to a nation hoping for a savior and to shepherds who were the outcasts of society. They were afraid of their appearance at first but in the end the angels come to help man and to bring him a message. They are a reminder that God does not leave us alone. This is the most important reason to get to know angels, especially your guardian angel, since they will point you and lead you to God. So be alert, the Lord is coming and you don't want to miss him.

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 December 14 @ 6:30pm

Baptism, Sun 17th at Noon

Meetings will be held in the parish office.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

| | <u>Last Week</u> | <u>Budget</u> |
|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Sunday Envelopes | \$3,503 | 4,654 |
| Plate | \$752 | 962 |
| Church Audio & Lighting | \$223 | |
| Worship & Liturgy | \$33 | |
| Building Repair Fund Balance: | \$33,000 | |

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.

CHRISTMAS CLEANING & DECORATION OF CHURCH

We will be **cleaning** the church on Saturday, **December 16th from 9 AM** and will **decorate** on Saturday, **December 24th from 9 AM** in order to prepare for the great feast of our Lord Jesus Christ's Birth (Christmas). Please come and join us to beautify our church and let us celebrate as one family and receive the blessings which the Lord restored for us.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: DECEMBER 8

A feast called the Conception of Mary arose in the Eastern Church in the seventh century. It came to the West in the eighth century. In the 11th century it received its present name, the Immaculate Conception. In the 18th century it became a feast of the universal Church. It is now recognized as a solemnity.

In 1854, Pius IX solemnly proclaimed: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin." It took a long time for this doctrine to develop, although many Catholics took it for granted. While many Fathers and Doctors of the Church considered Mary the greatest and holiest of the saints, they often had difficulty in seeing Mary as sinless—either at her conception or throughout her life. This is one of the Church teachings that arose more from the piety of the faithful than from the insights of brilliant theologians.

Two Franciscans, William of Ware and Blessed John Duns Scotus, helped develop the theology. They pointed out that Mary's Immaculate Conception enhances Jesus' redemptive work. Other members of the human race are cleansed from original sin after birth. In Mary, Jesus' work was so powerful as to prevent original sin at the outset.

Reflection

In Luke 1:28 the angel Gabriel, speaking on God's behalf, addresses Mary as "full of grace" (or "highly favored"). In that context, this phrase means that Mary is receiving all the special divine help necessary for the task ahead. However, the Church grows in understanding with the help of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit led the Church, especially non-theologians, to the insight that Mary had to be the most perfect work of God next to the Incarnation. Or rather, Mary's intimate association with the Incarnation called for the special involvement of God in Mary's whole life.

The logic of piety helped God's people to believe that Mary was full of grace and free of sin from the first moment of her existence. Moreover, this great privilege of Mary is the highlight of all that God has done in Jesus. Rightly understood, the incomparable holiness of Mary shows forth the incomparable goodness of God. The Immaculate Conception is the patron saint of the U.S., and Brazil.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24th—4 pm Children & Family Mass.

Midnight Trilingual Mass & Carols will begin at 11 PM.

Christmas Day: Monday, December 25th only one Mass at 10:30 AM