

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 LENT
February 18, 2024

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 + Edward Kneissel

1st SUNDAY OF LENT, February 18

8:00 am + Poor Souls

10:30 am + Kevin Lee Daditt

12:30 pm (Spanish) + Souls in Purgatory

MONDAY, February 19

St. Belina

8:30 am + Poor Souls

TUESDAY, February 20

St. Jacinta Marto & St. Francisco Marto

8:30 am Stephen Lauinger

WEDNESDAY, February 21

St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:30 am Stephen Lauinger

THURSDAY, February 22

The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

8:30 am Stephen Lauinger

FRIDAY, February 23 (Abstinence)

St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr

8:30 am Stephen Lauinger

SATURDAY, February 24

St. Matthias

8:30 am Stephen Lauinger

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

4:00 pm The Dan Washenberger Family

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT, February 25

8:00 am Stephen Lauinger

10:30 am + John E. Borgert

12:30 pm (Spanish) + Mario Priego Solis

STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON FRIDAY

5:00 PM in Karenni

6:00 PM in English

6:30 PM in Spanish



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Lent commemorates the forty days Jesus Christ spent in the desert to prepare for his public life of preaching and healing, which culminates in the cross and triumph of the Resurrection, of Easter. The number 40 in the Bible usually refers to preparation so

what are we preparing for and what was Jesus preparing for in those days? We, as just mentioned, are getting ready for Easter and Jesus was preparing for his public life. Mark's gospel briefly recalls for us today those forty days of prayer, fasting, and the temptations of the devil.

St. John Chrysostom tells us that the Lord does everything for our instruction and we should not be surprised when we suffer temptations since they are part of life. A temptation is not a sin; when we say yes to the temptation, then we sin. We break with God in a small way (venial sin) or a serious way (mortal sin). Temptations are good for us since they are a reminder that the life of a Christian is always a struggle, and if we react with faith, temptations can make us stronger.

The temptations of Jesus Christ in the desert are the same ones that we undergo. They are on a different scale for Jesus than they are for us. The devil is a very smart angel and he knows how to trip us up. The first temptation concerning the bread has to do with money and how we secure ourselves in life, rather than depending on God. The second temptation has to do with rejecting aspects of the life God has given us, like our looks, our parents, our hair color, our siblings, etc. And the third temptation concerns the idols of the world that we can put before God. Probably the biggest one is money, and to this we can add health, relaxation, my plans, etc. So you see that these can cover all aspects of my life.

Pope Francis is inviting us to use this Lent as a time of renewal so that we do not become indifferent to the needs and sufferings of others. Since we may be healthy and comfortable it is easy to forget about others. So rather than giving something up or in addition to this let us see what we can do to go out of way to help others. There are many ways to do this. The most important is by praying for them. Ask the saints to help us in this area. It is impossible to hate people if we are praying for them.

Another positive thing we can do is to train ourselves to have a merciful heart, not a weak one. Let it be pierced by the Spirit. A poor heart realizes its own weaknesses and gives itself freely to others. Let us ask the Lord for a heart like his during these weeks of Lent. Let the Lord guide you, which does not mean to do nothing, and be specific as to what you will do this Lent.

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 February 22nd @ 6:30pm

Baptism, Sun 25th at 10:30 AM & 12:30 PM
Meetings will be held in the parish office.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Sunday Envelopes	\$2450	-
Plate	\$1209	-
Church Audio & Lighting	\$55	
Worship & Liturgy	\$26	
Building Repair Fund Balance:	\$54,000	

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.

ARE WOMEN STRONGER THAN MEN?

The reading from Genesis 2 last week in the weekday Mass said that the first woman was created from one of the ribs of the first man. In Hebrew to say that woman was taken from man is a play on words because man is 'ish' and woman is 'ishshah.' It is not to say that women are any less than men. In fact, in most ways they are stronger; they can deliver babies, and can handle multiple things at the same time, are more relational, more patient, etc.

In Christian marriage they are no longer two but one flesh. Men and women are complementary and so to make women like men is a great mistake. Women are different and often times better, so why make them like men?

LENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Lent is a time of fasting but —as important as it is—is only one element of Lent. Fasting without any increase of prayer or focus on Christ is just a diet. So let's consider some resources that could help us truly enter into the Passion this Lent.

- **Gospel reflections**

If there's anyone in America who knows how to break open the Scriptures, it's Bishop Robert Barron. Every day of Lent, he'll be sending a reflection on the day's Gospel straight to subscribers' inboxes. All you have to do is go to lentreflections.com and you can start each day of Lent meditating on the life of Christ. If you're getting to daily Mass as part of your Lenten commitment, having thought about the Gospel before you get there can make the Mass even more fruitful.

- **Sacred art**

If you're an art lover (or want to become one), Lent is the perfect time to let the God of beauty speak to you through artists. Sister Wendy Becket (of BBC and PBS fame) has a new book out this year with a different painting each day of Lent and a meditation on the art. The paintings vary from the secular to the sacred, from the well-known to the more obscure, but each day's reflection is sure to give you lots to think and pray about.

- **Powerful videos**

Scott Hahn and his team at the St. Paul Center have put together some beautiful, enriching video series about the truths of the faith as revealed in the Word of God. During Lent, they're offering them free at stpaulcenter.com/lent. Each week they're sharing two lessons each from *The Bible and the Virgin Mary* and *The Bible and the Sacraments*, giving you no excuse not to give up Netflix.

- **Spiritual reading**

In the Catholic tradition, there are thousands of life-changing books available, from the 2nd century up until today. If you're looking for a good Lenten read, check out one of these:

For an extended meditation on the Stations of the Cross, try Caryll Houselander's *The Way of the Cross*. Writing shortly after World War II, Houselander has a simple spirituality and a profound understanding of suffering that makes this a powerful book.

If you want to delve deep into the Passion accounts in the Gospels, you can't do better than the second volume of Pope Benedict's *Jesus of Nazareth*. This book on Holy Week is scholarly but is also beautifully written from the heart of our last Pope.