

# 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

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**December 15, 2024**

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,

[Patrice.finstad@gmail.com](mailto:Patrice.finstad@gmail.com) (612-859-9339)

Cantor: Anna Gottwalt 651-802-6948 [bananagottwalt@gmail.com](mailto:bananagottwalt@gmail.com)

Spanish Music Director: Emanuel Romero 651-231-1372

[emmanuelromero200910@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelromero200910@gmail.com)

Jareli Ramirez..... Secretary

Accountant: Lighthouse (LSS).

Trustees: Steve Donohue & Rhonda Pfiffner

Finance Council Chairman:: Allison Donohue

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 @ 10 AM & 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 + Fredy Garrett

### **3rd Sunday of Advent, December 15**

8:00 am + Santamary

10:30 am + Francis

12:30 pm (Spanish) Hisaid Ramirez (B'day) &  
+ Jacinto Barrera & Juana Sanchez

### **MONDAY, December 16**

#### **St. Adelaide**

8:30 am + Gary Reinhardt

### **TUESDAY, December 17**

#### **St. Wivina**

8:30 am + Dannis Blackstone

### **WEDNESDAY, December 18**

#### **St. Flannan**

8:30 am + Andrew Pumphrey

### **THURSDAY, December 19**

#### **St. Anastasius**

8:30 am John Mercado (B'day)

### **FRIDAY, December 20**

#### **St. Fachanan**

8:30 am Ryan & Sarah Heim

### **SATURDAY, December 21**

#### **St. Peter Canisius**

8:30 am + Leo & Helen Reinhardt

### **SATURDAY VIGIL MASS**

4:00 pm + Brian Hoffman

### **4th Sunday of Advent, December 22**

8:00 am + Rose Bearth

10:30 am + Dominic Heim

12:30 pm (Spanish) + Souls in purgatory

### **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.



Dear brothers and sisters,

Pope Francis' recent letter about using the Christmas manger well for family and ourselves. It is a wonderful teaching experience for parents, grandparents and children and this tradition which is very much being

lost today can be recovered. Of course, the first place is in the home, but look for other opportunities to set one up in the office or outdoor mangers in our towns, etc. It is a great reminder of how Christ humbled himself to be one like us.

Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The Scriptures uses fire in two senses: one of them is the cleansing or purifying action of fire and the second is fire as a punishment. The first aspect can help us a bit today if we think of our life here and especially of our difficulties as part of God's plan to purify us. We have been chosen to enter in the furnace of humiliation, or of sickness, or old age, and this cleansing that will get us ready to enter the kingdom of heaven.

This cleansing or what the Church calls purgatory does not affect the saints who go directly to heaven. I too can choose to be purified of my sins, my bad habits, while I am still on earth. How I react to the trials and difficulties of each day has something to do with the judgment that God will make of me at the end of my life. Advent comes to help me, and you, to prepare for that coming of the Lord. My whole life is a preparation for that meeting. I need to be ready for it, and to look forward to it, not to be afraid of it or think this is nonsense.

What do we expect to see when Jesus Christ comes to meet us at the moment of death? Maybe even John was surprised when he saw Jesus who was full of love and mercy, even for the greatest of sinners. Let us rejoice that God loves us and wants us to be happy even here in this life. He respects us and our choices and never forces himself upon us. He is waiting for an invitation from us and he is very patient, much more patient than us, thankfully. I invite you all to find some time to take advantage of the sacrament of reconciliation this weekend after and before all the masses and during this time of Advent. So that we may worthy to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is calling you today.

Fr. Doss

### **SICK OR "HOMEBOUND"**

If you are sick or "homebound" (or know someone who is), and would like to receive any Sacrament, please contact 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

### **SUNDAY COLLECTION**

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Sunday Envelopes	\$3,014	—
Plate	\$952	—
Church Audio & Lighting	\$272	
Worship & Liturgy	\$450	
Building Repair Fund Donations Received:		\$54,500

**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!**

### **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE**

Beautiful Christmas trees and flowers fill the sanctuary in the church during this holy season. These are donated by the parishioners who contribute an offering in memory of a loved one. If you would like to make such an offering, please fill in the form below and return it to the parish office or place it in the collection basket, with your contribution. The names of those remembered will appear in a Book of Remembrance during the Christmas season. Please print clearly.

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Also parishioners are invited to bring white or red poinsettias to our church before December 21st for the decoration of the church.**



### **SAVE THE DATE COME TO HELP US & HAVE FUN**

#### **CONFESSIONS**

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

#### **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Please join us to enjoy our Christmas party on Sunday, December 15th at 3 to 5 pm in the high school Gym.

#### **CHRISTMAS CLEANING & DECORATION OF CHURCH**

Christmas **cleaning** on Saturday, **December 14th from 9 AM** and will **decorate** on Saturday, **December 21st 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.

#### **CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE**

Tuesday, December 24th, Christmas Eve:

**4 PM Children & Family Mass**

**11 PM Carols prelude with Midnight Mass**

Wednesday, December 25th, Christmas Day:

**10:30 AM in English & 12:30 PM in Spanish**

Tuesday, December 31st, New Year's Eve:

**4 PM in English**

Wednesday, January 1st, 2025

**New year's Day: 10:30 AM in English**

#### **CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION 2024**

As you consider your year-end charitable contributions, we hope that Saint Bernard will be at the top of your list. Your contributions directly support the various ministries and liturgical life at our parish.

A reminder that all 2024 contributions must be postmarked by December 31, 2024, received in the collection on December 31st or received at the parish office prior to December 30, 2024. Any donations post-marked or received January 1, 2025, or thereafter will be considered 2025 donations. Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish community.