

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 22, 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,

Patrice.finstad@gmail.com (612-859-9339)

Cantor: Anna Gottwalt 651-802-6948 bananagottwalt@gmail.com

Spanish Music Director: Emanuel Romero 651-231-1372

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

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 + 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

MONDAY, December 23

St. John of Kanty

8:30 am Bernard & Marjorie Struntz
(Anniversary)

TUESDAY, December 24

4:00 pm Phil & Teresa Kohn

11:00 pm People of the parish

WEDNESDAY, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord

10:30 am Alexander & Braxton

12:30 pm (Spanish) + Edward Zech Sr.

THURSDAY, December 26

St. Stephen

8:30 am + Mary Seidel

FRIDAY, December 27

St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

8:30 am Kay Lundberg

SATURDAY, December 28

The Holy Innocents

8:30 am + John & Marie Reinhardt

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

4:00 pm + Fred & Josephine Troye

Feast of the Holy Family, December 29

8:00 am Herb Kitto &

10:30 am Platzer Family

12:30 pm (Spanish) Wayne Dains

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,

In his Angelus address in 2010 to begin the season of Advent and a new liturgical year for the Church, Pope Benedict XVI spoke about the importance of waiting. "One could say," he said, "that man is alive as long as he waits, as long as hope is alive in his heart. And from his expectations, man recognizes himself: Our moral and spiritual 'stature' can be measured by what we wait for, by what we hope for."

The Holy Father then proposed a very important question. "Every one of us," he asked, "especially in this season which prepares us for Christmas, can ask himself: What am I waiting for? What, at this moment of my life, does my heart long for? And this same question can be posed at the level of the family, of the community, of the nation. What are we waiting for together? What unites our aspirations? What brings them together?"

As Pope Benedict said in a general audience in Advent 2006, "Humanity today seeks a path of renewal, of salvation; it seeks a Savior and awaits, sometimes unconsciously, the coming of the Savior, who renews the world and our life, the coming of Christ, the one true Redeemer of man and of the whole of man." How can we help guide a longing humanity to see and embrace that fulfillment?

We can start by not just waiting, but by being, as the Gospel commands us, "watchful." Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed at midnight Mass in 2008 that in the Gospel of Luke, the shepherds — those deemed unimportant by the society of the time — were "keeping watch" in the fields around Bethlehem.

"The shepherds," Benedict said, "were truly 'watchful' people, with a lively sense of God and of his closeness. They were waiting for God and were not resigned to his apparent remoteness from their everyday lives."

By being watchful Christians, we do not wait in darkness, filled with anxiety and distracted by our own anger and expectations. Rather, the watchful heart awaits with hope and with joy the fulfillment of God's plan for the world and for our own lives. We need not fear, because God is not remote from us; he is truly Emmanuel, "God with us."

A watchful people grasp that God's Son has shown us how to be faithful to him and his Church in proclaiming the truth of the human person, made as male and female in the image and likeness of God. That means following the example of Our Lord to proclaim the truth in the face of a culture that will scorn and mock us.

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	\$3,855	—
Plate	\$920	—
Church Audio & Lighting	\$80	
Worship & Liturgy	\$30	
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!

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.

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:

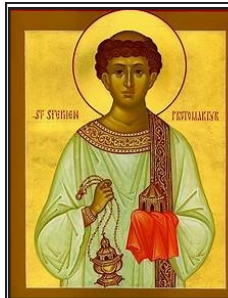
10:30 AM in English & 12:30 PM in Spanish

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

4 PM in English

Wednesday, January 1st, 2025

New year’s Day: 10:30 AM in English



SAINT OF THE WEEK

ST. STEPHEN, Dec. 26

“As the number of disciples continued to grow, the Greek-speaking Christians complained about the Hebrew-speaking Christians, saying that their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, ‘It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.’ The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit...” (Acts 6:1-5).

Acts of the Apostles says that Stephen was a man filled with grace and power, who worked great wonders among the people. Certain Jews, members of the Synagogue of Roman Freedmen, debated with Stephen, but proved no match for the wisdom and spirit with which he spoke. They persuaded others to make the charge of blasphemy against him. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin. In his speech, Stephen recalled God’s guidance through Israel’s history, as well as Israel’s idolatry and disobedience. He then claimed that his persecutors were showing this same spirit. “... you always oppose the holy Spirit; you are just like your ancestors” (Acts 7:51b).

Stephen’s speech brought anger from the crowd. “But he, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked up intently to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and he said, ‘Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.’ ... They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. ... As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ ... ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’”