

# 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

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**February 23, 2025**

**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 + Jerome & Emily Troje

### **7th Sunday in Ordinary Time , February 23**

8:00 am Carolina Loya Lopez

10:30 am + Angelica Vargas

12:30 pm (Spanish) Maria Izabel Lopez

### **MONDAY, February 24**

#### **St. Matthias**

8:30 am + Francis

### **TUESDAY, February 25**

#### **St. Nestor**

8:30 am + Richard Garrett

### **WEDNESDAY, February 26**

#### **St. Victor**

8:30 am Helen Platzer

### **THURSDAY, February 27**

#### **St. Gregory of Narek**

8:30 am Dorothy Stuber

### **FRIDAY, February 28**

#### **St. Hilary**

8:30 am + Donald White

### **SATURDAY, March 1**

#### **St. David of Wales**

8:30 am + Edward Gunter & his family

### **SATURDAY VIGIL MASS**

4:00 pm + Jerome & Emily Troje

### **8th Sunday in Ordinary Time , March 2**

8:00 am People of the parish

10:30 am People of the parish

12:30 pm (Spanish) People of the parish

### **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,

St. Augustine tells us that to forgive and to give are two wings of prayer that bring us in front of God. Forgive and you will be forgiven; give and it will be given to you. It is not easy to do either one and yet this is our calling as Christians; as we forgive so we will be forgiven, and as we give so will it be given back to us.

Luke uses a unique word for love in Greek, *agape*. We call this unconditional love. No matter what our spouse or parent or child or friend does to us we would never desire anything but his good. Even if we are treated like dirt we would only be good and kind to him or her. This is not an emotional type of love; we might not humanly speaking like the person and yet we seek only what is good for him, as Christ and all the saints did. It is not a negative command or prohibition; it is the opposite; it is a command or an invitation to love as God loves us, unconditionally.

You might be thinking that I heard this before and yet I do not see how it could be true in my life. We at times do not see this because we know our weaknesses and do not look at our lives and our own histories with eyes of faith. We think somehow we were short changed and God made a mistake, after all my mother or my father left me when I was little or someone close to me died at an early age or I suffer now from a disease that is incurable. And yet when we have eyes of faith we see that God loves us and uses that suffering to help us. God did not cause the suffering; he uses it and turns it into something that saves us.

Well, my friends, God will enlighten us at some point in our life to help us see that what the gospel says today is true. Maybe God is trying to enlighten us right now and we cannot accept it, or we cannot slow down enough to think about it, or we are so convinced that our life would have been better in some other way—all of this is a waste of time. God does not make mistakes. Let us ask him to help us to see the particular history of our lives with faith, and to be in wonder and about what he is doing with us.

Let us pray for each other and for our parish that the Lord may shower His blessings upon all of us to do His will.

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

	Last Week	Budget
Sunday Envelopes	\$24,396	4,060
Plate	\$1,021	940
Church Audio & Lighting	\$55	
Worship & Liturgy	\$100	
Building Repair Fund Balance:		\$58,500

### 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!**

### SAINT OF THE WEEK: POLYCARP, Feb.23

Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, disciple of Saint John the Apostle and friend of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, was a revered Christian leader during the first half of the second century.

Saint Ignatius, on his way to Rome to be martyred, visited Polycarp at Smyrna, and later at Troas wrote him a personal letter. The Asia Minor Churches recognized Polycarp’s leadership by choosing him as a representative to discuss with Pope Anicetus the date of the Easter celebration in Rome—a major controversy in the early Church. Only one of the many letters written by Polycarp has been preserved, the one he wrote to the Church of Philippi in Macedonia.

At 86, Polycarp was led into the crowded Smyrna stadium to be burned alive. The flames did not harm him and he was finally killed by a dagger. The centurion ordered the saint’s body burned. The “Acts” of Polycarp’s martyrdom are the earliest preserved, fully reliable account of a Christian martyr’s death. He died in 155.

Polycarp was recognized as a Christian leader by all Asia Minor Christians—a strong fortress of faith and loyalty to Jesus Christ. His own strength emerged from his trust in God, even when events contradicted this trust. Living among pagans and under a government opposed to the new religion, he led and fed his flock. Like the Good Shepherd, he laid down his life for his sheep and kept them from more persecution in Smyrna. He summarized his trust in God just before he died: “Father... I bless Thee, for having made me worthy of the day and the hour...” (*Acts of Martyrdom*, Chapter 14).

### WHY YOU SHOULD READ CHURCH HISTORY

“To be deep in history is to cease to be Protestant.” If Blessed John Henry Newman were to have a Twitter account he might well have used that as his signature tweet. Plunging into the writings of the apostolic fathers was certainly one of the factors that brought that most famous convert to the threshold of the Catholic Church, and the path he forged has been well trod by many others over the years, including myself.

However, reading history is beneficial and enjoyable. Why church history over any other history? Because church history, no matter how objective the historian aims to be, is history with a viewpoint. An overview of church history is written as pearls threaded on a string. There is a logical connection. The chronology develops. One can see a meta narrative—an overarching story line, and even the most skeptical critic will see a development even if he does not see a providential plan.

A good volume of church history not only relates the story of the Christian church, but it connects the theological and ecclesiastical struggles with the political and ideological struggles of every age. The conflicts that emerge are spiced up with the very human frailties of both the church and secular leaders. The temptations to prosperity, power, and pleasure haunt the palaces of princes as well as the palaces of the prelates. A good review of church history helps ground one’s contemplation of the current conflicts in society and church.

Overviews of church history are a good foundation. Steve Wiedenkopf teaches church history at Christendom College. His new book *Timeless—A History of the Catholic Church* has just been published. It is an eminently readable textbook which delves deeply enough and points the way to further study. James Hitchcock’s *History of the Catholic Church: From the Apostolic Age to the Third Millennium* is another excellent overview, while Eamon Duffy’s *Saints and Sinners* takes the reader on the same journey focusing on the papacy. *The Oxford Illustrated History of Christianity* is not only full of pictures, but is comprised of a series of chapters by a range of scholars rather than a single author overview.

For those who wish to listen rather than read, my own podcast series *Triumphs and Tragedies* is a twenty-three part series with roughly one episode per century. Other podcasts on church history consist of my reading of an abridged version of Hillarie Belloc’s *Characters of the Reformation*. You will also find *History of the Early Church Podcast* for a more scholarly approach. For those who want in-depth listening, Monsignor John Witt’s lectures on church history are terrific. There are 46 lectures on the first six centuries and another 40 through the Middle Ages. Fr. Dwight Longenecker