

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 7, 2025

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 Pffner
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 + Peg Smith

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT, December 7

8:00 am Stephen Lauinger
10:30 am + Elaine Churchill
12:30 pm Familia Dobon

MONDAY, December 8

The Immaculate Conception of the BI Virgin Mary

8:30 am Frank Fleischhacker
7:00 pm People of the parish

TUESDAY, December 9

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

8:30 am Bernice Albert

WEDNESDAY, December 10

Our Lady of Loreto

8:30 am + Elaine Churchill

THURSDAY, December 11

St. Damasus I

9:00 am + Bernard Struntz

FRIDAY, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:30 am + Elaine Churchill
7:00 pm (*Spanish*) People of the parish

SATURDAY, December 13

8:30 am + Mau Tran

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

4:00 pm + Elaine Churchill

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT, December 14

8:00 am + Mary Mercado
10:30 am + Fred Kaiser
12:30 pm Familia Claveau

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,

Advent is a time of hope, of expectation, of waiting for the Lord. God wants us to recover that sense of anticipation we had as a child when we waited for Christmas. It is not about wishful thinking but to reflect about the deep desires we have for ourself, our family, and friends this Christmas. The hope we have for a change in the relationship in our family. Hope requires that we take some action: to pray, to get up early and speak with the Lord.

Hope means that we are a people "on the way." There are some who say they "have arrived," that they have it all. This is presumption. And its opposite is the one who says, "I'll never get there; it is impossible." This is despair. Hope is a virtue, a good habit that lies in the middle of these two extremes. God wants you to live in hope and I invite you to work on this virtue. I will focus on it during these four weeks of Advent with the intention that it grows in us.

Have you named the desire that you are hoping for this Christmas? I encourage you to spend some time thinking about this. What do you desire for your parents or your spouse or your children this year? It is not just wishful thinking but a deep desire for a change, not so much in others but in yourself. Also, part of this desire is for those people you would like to hear this message of hope at Christmas. Often at Christmas and the holidays it can be very stressful and full of tension. Hope will change your outlook on others and create more peace.

Paul is writing to the Romans since there are also tensions in their church, their community. Paul says just a few verses before what was proclaimed today, "Bear with the failing of the weaker ones, and not just to please yourselves. Consider your neighbor's good in order to build him up." Paul speaks wisely in saying bear the foibles of others rather than getting annoyed by them. If it is something serious then, of course, you have an obligation to speak. However, it is often the small things of your spouse or your friend that drive you crazy. Don't force them to be the way you want them to be, love them for who they are. Jesus did not do things to please himself, neither should we.

Scripture, the Bible, was written so that you might believe, so that you would have hope and encouragement. Scripture is full of stories of all kinds of people who build us up so that we have hope. It includes not just good people but all types of characters that in some way respond to God. I hope during Advent that you find encouragement in God's word, and this gives you hope.

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	\$1,668	4,060
Plate	\$1,055	940
Church Audio & Lighting	\$2	
Worship & Liturgy	\$2	
Building Repair Fund Balance:	\$44,500	

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!

SAVE THE DATE COME TO HELP US & HAVE FUN

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Christmas concert on **Sunday, December 21st at 6 PM** in the Church. Please come and enjoy.

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 CLEANING & DECORATION

Christmas **cleaning** on Saturday, **December 13th from 9 AM** and will **decorate** on Saturday, **December 20th 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

Wednesday, 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, 2026 **New year’s Day: 10:30 AM in English**

Women mystics in the Middle Ages

Professor André Vauchez, historian of medieval Christianity at the University of Paris X–Nanterre, gave a lecture in French, entitled “Mysticism and Holiness in the West during the Late Middle Ages.”

Beginning in the late 12th century, he explained, mysticism underwent a double process of “feminization and secularization,” becoming an individual experience that at times appeared suspect to the Church, “insofar as priestly ministry seemed unnecessary for those who received such graces.”

Some historians have interpreted mystical experience as a kind of “refuge” for women who, in most cases, did not know Latin and had to dictate their experiences to clerics.

From the 14th century onward, however, certain religious orders—particularly Franciscans and Dominicans—maintained that women were in fact predisposed to a deeper understanding of the mysteries of faith, as they were not burdened by “temporal concerns or scholastic reasoning.”

By the mid-14th century, the situation had evolved further. Many Christians, including Popes Urban V and Gregory XI, recognized that the “visionary and prophetic discourse” of figures such as Saint Bridget of Sweden, Saint Catherine of Siena, and Blessed Dorothea of Montau could support the Church “in times of trial and crisis.”

Mysticism as a Divine ‘Gift’

Fr. Luca Ezio Bolis, professor of the History of Spirituality and Spiritual Theology at the Theological Faculty of Northern Italy, addressed “Mysticism and Theology: A Complex and Fruitful Relationship.”

To clarify this relationship, Fr. Bolis offered a striking metaphor: the difference between “eating,” which represents theological knowledge, and “tasting” food, which symbolizes mystical experience.

This distinction reflects the broader tension between faith and reason, in which faith has often been relegated to a “marginal region” relative to reason. Such separation has impoverished both, said Fr. Bolis.

Theology has sometimes become abstract and arid in its perception of Christian revelation, while spiritual experience has been exposed to the risk of “subjectivist drift.”

Today, after centuries of suspicion, mysticism is again being valued—even as a potential “therapeutic path”—in an age when “sensitivity toward God” seems diminished. Fr. Bolis emphasized that mysticism does not equate to irrationalism, clairvoyance, superstition, occultism, or magic. Rather, it is a divine gift, the fruit of grace, and not something that can be acquired through technique.