

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 21, 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 + Cheryl Fox

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT, December 21

8:00 am Bernard & Marjorie Struntz

10:30 am Stephen Lauinger

12:30 pm + Millard & Barbara Kent

MONDAY, December 22

St. Francis Xavier Cabrini

8:30 am + Rose Bearth

TUESDAY, December 23

St. John of Kanty

8:30 am + Edward Zech & Herb Kitto

WEDNESDAY, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

4:00 pm + Phil & Teresa Kohn

MIDNIGHT People of the parish

THURSDAY, December 25 (Nativity of the Lord)

10:30 am Platzer family

12:30 pm (*Spanish*) People of the parish

FRIDAY, December 26

St. Stephen

8:30 am + Mary Seidel

SATURDAY, December 27

St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

8:30 am Jeremy Morrissey

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

4:00 pm + Wayne Dains &

Agnes M. Janski

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, December 28

8:00 am Bernard 'Bernie' Walsh

10:30 am The James Campbell Family

12:30 pm+ Federico Baixali & Francisco Beltran

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,

At this time of year it is a good time for me to reflect a bit on old and new friends and how things have changed since last year. Also to write a few cards and receive many more from so many kind people in our parish. It is a hectic time but it is worthwhile to reflect a bit in the car or to find a few minutes before going to bed or with your morning coffee.

We hear in the gospel that Joseph is to name his son, Jesus, which in Hebrew or Aramaic is Jeshua, and means salvation. Joseph does the naming of his son which is a very important act in the Jewish tradition. Joseph is the focus of this gospel of Matthew and we find him in a very difficult situation. He and Mary are betrothed to one another. This betrothal lasts for one year and can only be broken by a divorce. It is a serious commitment that the couple makes and it precedes the couple living together as man and wife. If the woman is unfaithful during that time period the punishment is death.

So Joseph being a just and compassionate man decides to divorce Mary quietly. It is very curious that Mary does not say anything about her situation. She respects God's plan for her husband and waits for God to act in Joseph's life. I would have a big difficulty in keeping quiet under these trying circumstances. What about you? The situation is finally resolved and Joseph agrees to take responsibility for the child by naming him Jesus.

As Pope Francis spoke about setting up the manger in our house or office or town is an important tradition that is in danger of being lost in many places. The crèche can help us to reflect on these scenes of the birth of our God who became man for us. What a marvel. He who had no beginning or end become one like us in all things but sin.

Imagine ourselves as another person in these Bethlehem scenes can help us to see the amazing way Joseph and Mary responded to the action of God in their life. This can be a big help to us as we try to make sense of the difficulties of our own lives. Let us ask Jesus Christ for light in a world that is often dark so that we can see God's plan for each one of us. May the Lord be born in your heart and in mine at this time and may He grow inside of all of us in the New Year. See you at Midnight Mass!! Come early and listen to our amazing choir.

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	\$3544	4,060
Plate	\$606	940
Church Audio & Lighting	\$375	
Worship & Liturgy	\$436	
Building Repair Fund Donations Received:		\$169,815

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 **tonight at 6 PM** in the Church. Please come and enjoy.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 24th, Christmas Eve:

4 PM Children & Family Mass

11 PM Carols prelude with Midnight Mass

Thursday, December 25th, Christmas Day:

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

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

4 PM in English

Thursday, January 1st, 2026

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

**WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS &
A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026**



SAINT OF THE WEEK: JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

St. John, the son of Zebedee and brother of St. James the Great, was called to be an Apostle by our Lord in the first year of His public ministry when he and his brother were mending their nets. He became the "beloved disciple" and the only one of the Twelve who did not forsake the Savior in the hour of His Passion. He stood faithfully at the cross when Christ made him the guardian of His Mother. His name means: "the Lord has worked grace."

John was always among the small group that Jesus took with him on specific occasions. He was with Peter and James when Jesus entered Peter's house in Capernaum to cure his mother-in-law; with the other two, he followed the Teacher into the house of Jairus to raise his daughter back to life; he followed him when he climbed the mountain for his Transfiguration. Lastly, he was close to him in Gethsemane when he withdrew to pray to the Father before his Passion.

His later life was passed chiefly in Jerusalem and at Ephesus. He founded many churches in Asia Minor, and he wrote many important works, including the fourth Gospel, three Epistles, and the Book of Revelation is also attributed to him.

Brought to Rome, tradition relates that he was by order of Emperor Dometian cast into a cauldron of boiling oil but came forth unhurt, and was banished to the island of Pathmos for a year. He lived to an extreme old age, surviving all his fellow apostles, and died in Ephesus about the year 100.

St. John is called the Apostle of Charity, a virtue he had learned from his Divine Master, and which he constantly inculcated by word and example. The "beloved disciple" died at Ephesus, where a stately church was erected over his tomb. It was afterwards converted into a Mohammedan mosque.

John closes the last book of the Bible, Revelation, with a final aspiration: "Come, lord Jesus!" This was one of the central prayers of the nascent Church, also translated into its Aramaic form: "Maranatha." One of its meaning is: "You have already come, Lord! We are sure of your presence among us. It is our joyous experience. But come today already and may peace triumph."

St. John the Apostle, pray for us!