

# 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

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

December 28, 2025

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## STAFF:

Ryan Heim.....Parish Administrator,

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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 2 months 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 + 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

### **MONDAY, December 29**

#### **St. Thomas Becket**

8:30 am + Jack Tschida

### **TUESDAY, December 30**

#### **St. Felix I**

8:30 am + Garfield Emmanuel Smith

### **WEDNESDAY, December 31 (New Year's Eve)**

#### **St. Sylester I**

4:00 pm + Roger Winter

### **THURSDAY, January 1 (New Year's Day)**

#### **The Bl. Virgin Mary, Mother of God**

10:30 am + Nguyen Phuong Dung

### **FRIDAY, January 2**

#### **St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen**

8:30 am + Marcia Ryan & Amanda Henning

### **SATURDAY, January 3**

#### **Most Holy Name of Jesus**

8:30 am + Edward Gunter

### **SATURDAY VIGIL MASS**

4:00 pm Marion Kneissel

### **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, January 4**

8:00 am + Jane & Lorraine Gunter  
10:30 am + Marcia Ryan  
12:30 pm Familia Benancio Arellavo

### **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,

"When they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the Child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom: and the favor of God was upon him." On this feast of the Holy Family we can see how the plan of God makes use of a simple and poor family to bring about our salvation. It is touching how many years Jesus spent as a normal child in Nazareth, not doing anything extraordinary. He, Joseph and Mary lived obedient to the law and worked as ordinary people do.

It is good for us to think about God's choice to carry out our redemption through a simple family; it speaks volumes for us. Especially at a time when the family is in such a crisis and is so poorly understood by the world and the culture. In the Holy Family we see a perfect model for all families. Blessed Pope Paul VI said, "Nazareth is the school where we begin to get to know his Gospel. Here we learn to observe, to listen, to meditate, to penetrate the mysterious depths of this simple, humble and charming manifestation of the Son of God among men. Here we learn too, perhaps without realizing it, how to imitate that life."

Mary and Joseph submit to the Law and go to the Temple forty days after the birth of Jesus to be purified. The mother had to be made clean and offer a sacrifice to God. In this case Mary and Joseph offer two pigeons, since they could not afford a lamb. Mary was sprinkled with the blood of a pigeon; the one who would usher in purification for all humankind submits to the Law and is presented and purified in the Temple today. Jesus is also presented in the Temple and is not "redeemed" as the first-born son was for any Jewish family. St. Luke writes it this way since how the Savior can be redeemed. He is presented and belongs entirely to God, his father.

Simeon is prompted by the Holy Spirit to go to the Temple at the same time. This child will be a light even for the gentiles and will bring glory to Israel. However, the prophesy of Simeon includes the sorrow that will pierce Mary's soul. She will bear this sorrow for her people with her Son. Mary teaches us compassion, how "to suffer with" someone, which is fundamental for a Christian family. A parent has to suffer with her children and later in life a son or daughter suffers in caring for the elderly. This is not heavy but is truly beautiful and is a sign of love to those around us.

Let us continue to contemplate the wonders of God as he makes himself known to us through the Child Jesus. There is much we can learn before the manger, the crib that hopefully we have set up in our own homes. With the children and the family God invites you to spend time in front the manger during these days of Christmas. I wish you and your whole family a wonderful Christmas Season and a joy-filled New Year.

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	—	\$4060
Plate	—	\$940
Church Audio & Lighting	—	
Worship & Liturgy	—	
Building Repair Fund Balance:		\$47,500

**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!

### NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

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 HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026**



**MARY, MOTHER OF GOD; PRAY FOR US**



### SAINT OF THE WEEK: THOMAS BECKETT, DEC 29

St. Thomas à Becket (1118-1170) was an English Churchman and martyr. Becket was a loyal friend and chancellor to Henry II. However, when Henry promoted him to Archbishop of Canterbury he became more inclined to prioritize the church over the king. This led to an increasing feud between the two. It culminated in the murder of Becket in Canterbury Cathedral by friends of the king. After his death, he became venerated as a saint and martyr of the church.

Thomas Becket was born to a wealthy London family around 1118. He was given a good education in both London and Paris. On returning to England, his talents were noticed by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Theobald. (At that time, the Archbishop of Canterbury was one of the most powerful men in England, after the King.) After successfully taking part in missions to Rome, he was noticed by King Henry II who appointed Thomas Becket to be his Chancellor. Becket quickly became a favorite of Henry II. Thomas was loyal, dedicated, charming and with a skill for diplomacy. He proved very talented in managing the nation's finances and enabling Henry II to achieve many of his wishes. As chancellor, Beckett always put the king's interests first and he became indispensable to Henry II.

In 1162, Henry II had Becket appointed Archbishop of Canterbury. At the time Becket wasn't even a priest, so the king had him ordained a priest and the next day Archbishop of Canterbury. It was a very rapid promotion for Becket in both political and religious terms. The king fully expected Becket to continue in his loyalty to the King in the second most important job in the country. However, much to the annoyance of Henry II, Becket became very devoted to his religious position and frequently ruled on decisions which angered the King.

It is said on becoming Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Becket became more religious and saw his role as head of the church as more important than as a servant of the King. As chancellor, he had led quite a worldly life but after becoming Archbishop he adopted an ascetic approach to life. In his position as God's representative of the church, he felt his relationship with Henry II changed – no longer was he a loyal subject of the king, but the loyal servant of God. Becket no longer feared the power of the earthly king. Henry II became more frustrated with Becket's obstruction and fearing for his life he fled to France. With the intervention of the pope Henry agreed to a reconciliation and allowed Beckett to return to England.

According to tradition, in late 1170 Henry II flew into a rage at the disloyalty of Becket and uttered "Who will rid me of this meddling priest?" On hearing this, supporters loyal to the King travelled to Canterbury Cathedral to confront Becket on behalf of the king. Tensions were raised at this meeting and the soldiers responded by stabbing Becket with a sword as he stood in the church. Miracles were soon reported at Becket's tomb and he was canonized by the Pope very quickly – three years after his death in 1173.