

# 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

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**February 8, 2026**

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: Light house (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 Bernard & Gloria Schuweiler (50th Anniversary)

**5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, February 8**

8:00 am People of the parish  
 10:30 am For all married couples  
 12:30 pm Carolina Loya de Cardenas

**MONDAY, February 9**

**St. Apollonia**

8:30 am + Philomena

**TUESDAY, February 10**

**St. Scholastica**

8:30 am + Sagayamary

**WEDNESDAY, February 11**

**Our Lady of Lourdes**

**St. Veronica**

8:30 am + Jerald Rani

**THURSDAY, February 12**

**St. Julian**

8:30 am + Richard Garrett

**FRIDAY, February 13**

**St. Giles Mary of St Joseph**

8:30 am + Audrey White

**SATURDAY, February 14**

**St. Cyril & St. Methodius**

8:30 am + John Thoemke

**SATURDAY VIGIL MASS**

4:00 pm Edward Kneissel

**6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, February 15**

8:00 am + Francis  
 10:30 am People of the parish  
 12:30 pm Manuel R. Mendoza

**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:

I hope you were able to pick one person to love this week, and follow through on it. In the gospel we hear Jesus continue with his Sermon on the Mount, and he speaks of a Christian's responsibility to the world. You are the salt of the earth... you are the light of the world. And he says this also to each one of us, to anyone who wants to follow him.

Christians are called not only to be virtuous but to be salt, to add flavor to the world, and to transform it. To become insipid means to be sophomoric, to be a wise fool. In Latin, it means one who no longer knows who he is. A thing is wisest when it is most fully itself and keeps within its nature. A foolish person forgets to be what it is, and no longer has his proper flavor. Salt when it goes bad is hopeless.

A Christian heightens the quality of life and makes it more palatable, more nourishing or he has no reason for being. Salt is not for itself, cannot be its own end. It serves a humble yet somehow indispensable purpose. Nothing can substitute it. Insipid Christians have forgotten the salt placed on their tongues, which was part of the old rite of Baptism.

Also with light we often want to receive it rather than provide it for others, and then we run the risk of becoming dark. Christ has communicated to a Christian his own salt and light of his divinity; they "turn" and become corrupt if they are not used and communicated, like the manna in the desert. "What the soul is to the body, that Christians are to the world," says an ancient *Letter to Diognetus*.

The good works of a Christian are beams of light that manifest God's goodness to all. A Christian represents God, makes him present again. I was struck by that saying that you cannot be a Christian unless you see one. A Christian can be a source of scandal when he is unfaithful to that call.

When we look around us we see the consequence of people ceasing to be the salt and light of Christ. St. Pope John Paul II said society is scarred by the denial of God and the lack of religious freedom compared to the overriding importance given to economic matters. Pope Francis echoes the same message.

A Christian, and a parish, needs to move from a pastoral work of conservation (of merely giving the sacraments) to a decidedly missionary pastoral work. This involves all of us. We are called to be light not because we are better than anyone, but only as a service, which is so much in need today!

Fr. Doss

## Pope Leo on World Day of Peace

Moreover, it should be noted that global military expenditure increased by 9.4 percent in 2024 compared to the previous year, confirming the trend of the last ten years and reaching a total of \$2,718 billion (or 2.5 percent of global GDP). Furthermore, the response to new challenges seems to involve not only enormous economic investment in rearmament, but also a shift in educational policies. Rather than fostering a culture of memory that preserves the hard-won awareness of the 20th century and the millions of victims, we now see communication campaigns and educational programs—at schools, universities and in the media—that spread a perception of threats and promote only an armed notion of defense and security.

And yet, “those who truly love peace also love the enemies of peace.” St. Augustine thus advised not to burn bridges or persist in reproach, but to prefer listening and, where possible, engaging in discussions with others. Sixty years ago, [the Second Vatican Council](#) concluded with a renewed awareness of the pressing need for dialogue between the church and the contemporary world. In particular, the Constitution “[Gaudium et Spes](#)” drew attention to the evolution of warfare:

The hazards peculiar to modern warfare consist in the fact that they expose those possessing recently developed weapons to the risk of perpetrating crimes like these and, by an inexorable chain of events, of urging people to even worse acts of atrocity. To obviate the possibility of this happening at any time in the future, the bishops of the world gathered together to implore everyone, especially government leaders and military advisors, to give unceasing consideration to their immense responsibilities before God and before the whole human race.

Reiterating the appeal of the council fathers, and considering dialogue to be the most effective approach at every level, we must acknowledge that further technological advances and the military implementation of artificial intelligence have worsened the tragedy of armed conflict. There is even a growing tendency among political and military leaders to shirk responsibility, as decisions about life and death are increasingly “delegated” to machines. This marks an unprecedented and destructive betrayal of the legal and philosophical principles of humanism that underlie and safeguard every civilization.

It is necessary to denounce the enormous concentrations of private economic and financial interests that are driving states in this direction; yet that alone would not be enough, unless we also awakened conscience and critical thought. The encyclical “[Fratelli Tutti](#)” presents St. Francis of Assisi as a model of such awakening:

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In the world of that time, bristling with watch-towers and defensive walls, cities were a theater of brutal wars between powerful families, even as poverty was spreading through the countryside. Yet there Francis was able to welcome true peace into his heart and free himself of the desire to wield power over others. He became one of the poor and sought to live in harmony with all.

This is a narrative that we are called to continue today, and that means joining forces to contribute to a disarming peace, a peace born of openness and evangelical humility.

### A Disarming Peace

Goodness is disarming. Perhaps this is why God became a child. The mystery of the Incarnation, which reaches its deepest descent even to the realm of the dead, begins in the womb of a young mother and is revealed in the manger in Bethlehem. “Peace on earth,” singing the angels, announcing the presence of a defenseless God, in whom humanity can discover itself as loved only by caring for him (cf. Lk 2: 13-14).

Nothing has the power to change us as much as a child. Perhaps it is precisely the thought of our children and of others who are equally fragile, that cuts to the heart (cf. Acts 2: 37). In this regard, [my venerable predecessor](#) wrote that “human fragility has the power to make us more lucid about what endures and what passes, what brings life and what kills. Perhaps for this reason, we so often tend to deny our limitations and avoid fragile and wounded people: they have the power to question the direction we have chosen, both as individuals and as a community.”

(to be continued next week)

### 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	\$3,602	4,060
Plate	\$694	940
Church Audio & Lighting	\$95	
Worship & Liturgy	\$276	
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!**