

Advent



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 16

8:00 am †Karen Scrima,
by Robert & Linda Morse SJ
5:00 pm †Karen Scrima,
by Bob & Peg PinkowskiSB

Sunday, December 17

9:00 am †Dr. C. Bassett Brown,
Perla Tolentio SJ
11:00 am The Deceased Members of the
Knights of ColumbusSB
12:30 pm (Español) Por la Comunidad
ParoquialSB

Monday, December 18

5:30 pm †Nancy Cioffi,
by Jan FischerSB

Tuesday, December 19

8:00 am †August Brogno,
by the Brogno Family SJ

Wednesday, December 20

9:00 am †Dr. Allen Zencka,
by Judy ZenckaSB

Friday, December 22

8:00 am Maxine McKittrick
by the McKittrick Family SJ

Saturday, December 23

8:00 am †Eileen Keating,
by Eileen Healy SJ
5:00 pm Our Parish Family,SB

Sunday, December 24

9:00 am †Cyril Thomas Fuller,
by the Fuller Family SJ
12:30 pm (Español) Por la Comunidad
ParoquialSB

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Vigil

4:30 pm †Kenneth Cuzelis,
by the McKittrick Family SJ
7:00 pm †Mary Cecchi,
by Gary CecchiSB

Monday, December 25, Christmas Day

9:00 am The Barden & Grassi Families,
by the Barden Family SJ
11:00 am †Karen Scrima,
Legion of MarySB

† Indicates Deceased • * Indicates Death Anniversary

Attend Our Masses by Live Stream on the Web

Sunday, 9:00 am • St. John

Visit Our Facebook Page: SS. John & Bernard
YouTube Channel: SS John and Bernard Parish

Scripture Readings

For the Week of December 17, 2023

Sunday

Third Sunday of Advent - Rose

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54;
1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday

Monday of the Third Week of Advent - V

Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday

Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent - V

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday

Wednesday of the Third Week of Advent - V

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Thursday

Thursday of the Third Week of Advent - V

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21;
Lk 1:39-45

Friday

Friday of the Third Week of Advent - V

1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Saturday

Saturday of the Third Week of Advent - V

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14;
Lk 1:57-66

Reasons to Rejoice

Third Sunday of Advent

Saint Paul seems to be throwing out a handful of sayings that may sound overly optimistic, but are actually very practical. "Rejoice always"? If we pray constantly and thank God for all that happens to us, we have reason to rejoice. Even the things we don't like can be turned to good by God. God allows sin because it leads to forgiveness, an experience of God's love for us. And God allows even death, because God can bring us to eternal life.

When Paul tells us not to quench the Spirit he means we should be open to what the Holy Spirit moves us to do. "Prophetic utterances" refer to things that other people were inspired to proclaim. If we pray constantly (1 Thessalonians 5:17), the distractions of this world will not keep us from hearing the Spirit within us. We won't be so critical of others that we miss what the Spirit is telling us through them.

How do we know if something really is from the Spirit? Saint Paul says, test everything. Retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Use the scriptures, the teachings of the Church, and your conscience to decide whether the Spirit is moving you, or if advice you hear is worthwhile. Trust God to make us holy if we only allow it. Then we will be ready for the coming of the Lord, whether through the sacraments, the celebration of Christmas, or God's final coming in glory. I'd say that's a reason to rejoice.

Tom Schmidt



Anointing of the Sick a Sacrament of Healing

Do you have a family member who is transitioning to Hospice or is homebound and in need of Anointing or Confession? Please contact the Parish Office at 269-925-2425.

Please Pray For Our Sick

Gary Allison
Gabriel Andersen
Anna Anderson
Andrew Bain
Elizabeth Bean
Lee Boardman
Sharon Calahan
James Carpentier
Cole Childress
Grace deBest
Dale DeLong
Marietta DeMorrow
Richard Dibble
April Disterheft
Christian Dornseif
Sally Eberhard
Sarah Fairthorne
Sandy Fenderbosch
Erin Fitzsimmons
Rose Fuller
Michael Gagliardo
Gabe Galligan
Mike Gaunder
Steve Gaunder

Bryan Hammond
Eileen Healy
Linda Heil
Amanda Michaels
Hamilton
Philip Hild
Michelle Horton
Barbara Hosbein
Fr. Bill Jacobs
Lynne Jones
Thomas Jones
Theda Koshar
David Liddle
Cindy MacDonald
Robert Martin
Janine McDonough
Mic McDonough
Linda Mitchell
Jackie Miller
Dorthea Myrick
Larry Olson
Anna Post
Mary Ann Puchinsky
Kim Puleo

Mario Reich
Jolene Richards
Kristy Schmitt
Michael Sears
Raejene Shaffer
Ann Shembarger
Martha Shuler
Deanna Signor
Dave Simaz
Arlene Sisson
Noah Snowden
Sherry Smith
Catherine Sitarz
Joseph Stainer
Ruth Still
The Tezich Family
James Thomas, Jr.
Shirley Thomas
Terry Wallis
Connie Weaver
Brian Wilder
Julie Wilder
Ruth Ann York
Special Intentions



Adoration

Mondays St. Bernard's 7:00 am - 4:30 pm
Fridays St. John's 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Our goal is to have two people for each hour. Is God asking you to come and be with Him? We are in need of an adorer on Friday Afternoons. To sign up, please call **269-925-2425**.

Collaborative Communal Penance Service

Tuesday, December 19th

There will be a Collaborative Communal Penance Service on Tuesday, December 19 at 6:30 pm in St. Bernard's Church.



Lector Schedule

Saturday, December 16, . 5:00pm Mass
Lectors Peter Shaffer
Sunday, December 17, .. 9:00 am Mass
Lectors Jim Stouffer
Sunday, December 17, .11:00 am Mass
Lector Gil Michelin
Sunday, December 17, 12:30 pm Mass
Lector Ruben Redroza and
..... Nora Ramierz

Saturday, December 23, 5:00pm Mass
Lectors Peg Pinkowski
Sunday, December 24, ...9:00 am Mass
Lectors Steve Gaunder
Sunday, December 24, .12:30 pm Mass
Lector Sandra Banda and
..... Reyna Gutierrez

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry provides high quality, one to one (gender to gender), Christ centered care to persons experiencing a crisis or life difficulty. Parishioners who are hurting can request a trained care giver, who will provide confidential, emotional, and spiritual support. Care givers engage by listening to, praying with, and providing resources for each care receiver. In addition, Stephen Ministry is about sharing hope with those struggling, knowing of Jesus's love for every person.

Wendy Maychszak.....
Parish secretary: 925-2425
Stephen Leaders
Jim Stouffer - 269-208-4207
Deacon Ed Nickel - 269-214-4451





OUR LADY OF THE LAKE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL



10 Reasons to attend Our Lady of the Lake Elementary

- We share our Catholic faith everyday
- Caring, dedicated teachers and staff
- Strong Academics monitored by NWEA, Dibbles and Delta
- Small class size, 10:1 Student/Teacher ratio
- Monthly Adoration and Weekly Mass
- Sports for grades 3-5 including basketball, soccer, volleyball, cheer
- Variety of special classes - art, music, PE, Spanish, computers, library, music, and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- State of the art MakerSpace
- Faith Families focused on service and prayer
- Safe and loving environment



Begin Your Journey with OLL;
all are welcome.



Tuition Free Scholarship
Scan to see how you can get
your 1st year's tuition **FREE!!!**



Sherri Kirschner, Principal

3165 Washington Ave.

269-429-0227

www.ollakers.org



Our Mission:
Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit,
rooted in Sacred Scripture and
centered on the Eucharist, Our Lady of
the Lake Catholic School embraces the
values of Education, Faith, and
Citizenship.

Our Week at a Glance Un Vistazo ala Semana

Sunday, December 17 • Domingo, 17 Diciembre

- 8:15 am Confession, Confesiones, Iglesia de, St. John's Church
- 11:00 am Catequesis Familiar, St. Bernard Parish Center
- 6:00 pm Confirmation Class, St. Bernard's Social Hall
- 6:30 pm Christmas Posadas, St. Bernard's Parish Center
- Novena por Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
St. Bernard Parish Center

Monday, December 18 • Lunes, 18 Diciembre

- 7:00 am Adoration, Adoracion al Santisimo, St. Bernard's Church
- 4:30 pm Confession, Confesiones, Iglesia de, St. Bernard's Church
- 5:15 pm Benediction, Bendicion, Iglesia, St. Bernard's Church
- 6:30 pm Christmas Posadas, St. Bernard's Parish Center

Tuesday, December 19 • Martes, 19 Diciembre

- 12:00 noon American Red Cross Blood Drive, St. Bernard Parish Center
- 5:30 pm Legion of Mary, St. Bernard's Classroom
- 6:00 pm HS Youth Group, Grupo Juvenil de la HS
Rose Center, 301 Wayne Street St. Joseph
- 6:30 pm Communal Penance Service, St. Bernard's Church
- 6:30 pm Christmas Posadas, St. Bernard's Parish Center

Wednesday, December 20 • Miercoles, 20 Diciembre

- 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, St. John Church
- 6:30 pm Becoming Catholic, St. John's Church Social Hall
- 6:30 pm Christmas Posadas, St. Bernard's Parish Center

Thursday, December 21 • Jueves, 21 Diciembre

- 3:00 pm Open Youth Room, Sala Juvenil Abierta,
Rose Center, 301 Wayne Street St. Joseph
- 6:30 pm Christmas Posadas, St. Bernard's Parish Center
- 7:00 pm legion de maria,
St. Bernard's Classroom
- 7:00 pm St. Cecilia Choir Practice, St. Bernard's Church

Friday, December 22 • Viernes, 22 Diciembre

Parish Office Closed

- 8:30 am Adoration & Confession
Adoracion al Santisimo & Confesión Iglesia
St. John's Church
- 4:20 pm Benediction, Bendicion, Iglesia, St. John's Church
- 6:30 pm Christmas Posadas, St. Bernard's Parish Center
- 7:00 pm Maria Música de Dios, ensayo de coro (Español),
St. Bernard's Church

Saturday, December 23 • Sabado, 23 Diciembre

- 3:30 pm Confession, Confesiones, Iglesia de
St. Bernard's Church
- 6:30 pm Christmas Posadas, St. Bernard's Parish Center

Thank You!

Sunday Donuts

Thank you to Millions of Monica's and the Sargent Family from Our Lady of the Lake, for taking care of the coffee and donuts this week. If your ministry or family would like to help with this church activity, please contact the parish office.



Greetings from Father John Peter

3rd week of Advent

As we enter into the 3rd week of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, rejoice! There will be a Communal Penance Service on Tuesday, December 19 at 6:30pm at St. Bernard's Church. There will be six priests to help with confession. I am very excited to announce that our parish office is now **handicap accessible**. I am so grateful for the generosity of our parishioner for her donation. God bless you all.



Registration is now open for the 2024 Steubenville Youth Conference! The conference is open to all students currently in grades 8 -12. This year we will be attending Main Campus 2, **June 28th - 30th**. For more information, please contact **Chad** at 4churchesYM@gmail.com

Rest in Christ's Peace

Please pray for **Wanda Adler**, that she may enjoy the great blessings of eternal life. We pray also for her family and friends that they find peace in the promises of Christ.



Saturday, December 23, 2023:

4th Sunday of Advent

(Sunday Obligation)

5:00 pm Mass St. Bernard

Sunday, December 24, 2023:

4th Sunday of Advent

(Sunday Obligation)

9:00 am Mass St. John

12:30 pm Mass St. Bernard (Spanish)

Sunday, December 24, 2023:

Vigil of Christmas

(Fulfills Christmas Obligation)

4:30 pm Mass St. John

6:15 pm Caroling St. Bernard

7:00 pm Mass St. Bernard

Monday, December 25, 2023:

Masses for Christmas

(Fulfills Christmas Obligation)

8:40 am Caroling St. John

9:00 am Mass St. John

10:40 am Caroling St. Bernard

11:00 am Mass St. Bernard

(Bilingual)

Saturday, December 30, 2023:

Feast of the Holy Family

(Sunday Obligation)

5:00 pm Mass St. Bernard

Sunday, December 31, 2023:

Feast of the Holy Family

(Sunday Obligation)

9:00 am Mass St. John

11:00 am Mass St. Bernard

12:30 pm Mass St. Bernard

(Spanish)

Monday, January 1, 2024:

Masses for Mary, Mother of God

(New Year's Day)

9:00 am Mass St. John

Save the Date

Saturday, February 10, 2024



On **Saturday, February 10, 2024**, we will hold an **International Food Festival** fundraiser at St. Bernard's Parish Center, after the 5:00 pm Mass. Please consider hosting a table of food from your family's heritage. We are looking for table captains to coordinate a country's table and workers to cook/donate food/work the tables. We are also accepting donations for our Silent Auction (new items or certificates for services). For more information, see **Tom or Peggy Hanley**, or contact the parish office.

Learn about the Legion of Mary!

Tuesdays at 5:30 pm in St. Bernard's Classroom

The Legion of Mary is an Association of Catholics who aim to glorify God through the holiness of its members, specifically by prayer and action directed toward the conversion, conservation, and consolation of God's people. The unit (praesidium) of the Legion of Mary holds a weekly meeting, where prayer is intermingled with reports of assigned apostolic work and discussion. The Legion sees as its priority the spiritual and social welfare of each individual.

Anyone (18 and older) interested in learning more about the Legion are invited to join our weekly meetings, held on

Tuesdays, beginning promptly at **5:30 PM** with the Rosary in the **St. Bernard Classroom**. Come see what the Legion is all about!



Blood Drive

Sponsored by

Knights of Columbus
Tuesday, December 19th

at

St. Bernard Parish Center
12:00 noon - 4:45 pm



Knights of Columbus

Council 1120

Join us, as we continue our mission of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. All practicing Catholic men 18 years or older are invited to join. For more information **contact Grand Knight, Van Maychszak at 269-208-2195.**

Upcoming Events

December 19 • 12:00 noon

American Red Cross Blood Drive

..... St. Bernard Parish Center

January 2 • 6:00 pm

K of C Officers Meeting

..... Knights Room in St. Bernard

K of C Rosary St. Bernard's Church

K of C Monthly Meeting.....

..... St. Bernard's Parish Center

January 14 • After the 9:00 am Mass

Pancake Breakfast..... St. John's Social Hall

January 27 • 5:00 pm

Corporate Communion St. Bernard's Church

Chili Euchre Night St. Bernard's Parish Center

Report of Physical, Sexual, or Emotional Misconduct

The Diocese of Kalamazoo has and will continue to cooperate with the Michigan Attorney General's investigation and encourages anyone with information related to misconduct to call the reporting number set-up by the Michigan Attorney General's office at:

1-844.324.3374

The **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service (CBAR)** has been established to receive reports of sexual abuse and related misconduct by bishops and to relay those reports to proper Church authorities for investigation. To make a report, visit **ReportBishopAbuse.org** or phone **1-800-276-1562.**

When a report includes a crime, such as the sexual abuse of a minor, it will also be reported to civil authorities. Otherwise, reports will be kept confidential.

Parish Directory

St. John Parish

600 Columbus Ave.
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

St. Bernard Parish

555 E. Delaware Ave.
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Parish Office Information

580 Columbus Ave.
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
www.ssjohnandbernard.org

Office (269) 925-2425

Fax (269) 925-4678

Tuesday - Friday

8:30 am - 3:30 pm

(Closed for lunch

12:30 - 1:30 pm)

Parish Staff

Administrator • Father John

Peter Ambrose

ssjbpastor@gmail.com

Deacon • Deacon Ed Nickel

ednickel57@gmail.com

Deacon • Deacon Philip Sirk

psirk64@gmail.com

Bookkeeper • Diane Petlick

ssjbbusmgr@gmail.com

Parish

Secretary • Wendy Maychszak

ssjbsecretary@gmail.com

Director of Adult Evangelization

Donny Wallenfang

ssjbformation@gmail.com

Building Attendant

and Caretaker • Chris Visin

(269) 925-2425

Parish Pastoral

Council • Gil Michelini

gilmichelini@gmail.com

Buildings and

Grounds • Eric Hanley

ssjbfacilities@gmail.com

Youth Ministry • Chad Roden

4churchesym@gmail.com

(269) 983-1575

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Coordinator • Peg Hanley

tdhanley58@hotmail.com

Sacramental Emergency Only

Call (269) 985-7331 and follow the instructions carefully. Please leave a message on the emergency line only, if no one answers as it is always monitored.

Catholic Community Center

Catholic Charities of Southwest

Michigan

(269) 926-6424

Readiness Center • Martha

Thieneman

(269) 926-4084

Our Lady of the Lake

Catholic Schools

Middle/High School

915 Pleasant Street

St. Joseph, MI 49085

(269) 983-2511

James White, Principal

jwhite@lmclakers.org

Elementary School

3165 Washington Avenue

St. Joseph, MI 49085

(269) 429-0227

Sherri Kirschner, Principal

skirschner@lmclakers.org

Business Office

220 Church Street

St. Joseph, MI 49085

(269) 983-5529