



Merry Christmas!

Mass Intentions

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

Tuesday, December 26

8:00 am †Jim Bartels (birthday),
by Eileen Healy SJ

Wednesday, December 27

9:00 am †*John Conrad,
by Our Parish FamilySB

Friday, December 29

8:00 am †Kathy Piraino
by Michael Piraino SJ

Saturday, December 30

8:00 am †Ann St. Amand,
by Knights of Columbus,
Council 1120 SJ
5:00 pm Lee Peters (birthday),
by the Maychszak FamilySB

Sunday, December 31

9:00 am †The Scrima & Nickel Families,
Living & Deceased,
by the Nickel Family SJ
11:00 am Our Parish FamilySB
12:30 pm (Español) †Marilyn Wanish,
by Jan & Linda KotynekSB

† 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 24, 2023

Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Advent - V

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29;
Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Monday

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) - W

Vigil Mass: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29;
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25
Mass During the night: Is 9:1-6;
Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Mass at Dawn: Is 62: 11-12; Ps 97: 1, 6, 11-12;
Ti 3: 4-7; Lk 2: 15-20
Mass during the Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6;
Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday

Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr - R

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 & 8ab, 16bc & 17;
Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday

Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist - W

1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a & 2-8

Thursday

Feast of Holy Innocents, Martyrs - R

1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Friday

Memorial of Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr - R

1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Saturday

Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord—W

1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Lk 2:36-40

Great Expectations

The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas can be disappointing. We remember the Christmases from our childhood, all the joy, the excitement, and the fun we had. When we grow up, we have to shop for gifts, write and mail the cards, put up the decorations, and do all the preparations that seem to stress us out. We may be sad that the day did not meet our expectations. Now that most of that is done, we can reflect on how the first Christmas upset all expectations.

I'm sure Joseph never expected to have a child so soon. And those Jews who looked forward to the coming of a Messiah never expected him to come as a baby. Yet God had his reasons for coming in this way. Jesus was born in a stable because no one had room for him. The first to see him were the shepherds, the migrant workers of the time. The political leaders (Herod and friends) wanted to kill him. Jesus was born in this way to show that he came not for the important and wealthy, but for the poor and outcast. So today he continues to come to us in the homeless, the undocumented immigrant, the sick, those in prison, the unborn infant, that we might find him where we least expect. Can we learn to see him in the unexpected, in our trials and difficulties, our own weaknesses? When we do, we will celebrate what Christmas is truly about.

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**.

Millions of Monicas

Her Story is Our Story

Millions of Monicas is a group of mothers who come together to lift up our children of all ages. Many of us have children who are struggling to embrace their Catholic faith or have left the church entirely. Like Saint Monica, mother of Saint Augustine, we pray for their joyful return to full unity with the Catholic Church.

We believe that by coming together weekly uniting our hearts and voices, we can bring strength and joy to each other. Rather than act as a support of self-help group, we strive instead to encounter God through prayer for ourselves and our children.

Our mission is to encounter God through prayer for ourselves and our children and to grow in holiness and humility.

Please join us on **Monday's at 6:30 pm** at St. Bernard's Church, enter at door number 8. If you would like more information we'll be happy to discuss this beautiful ministry with you. Call **Marie 616.216.7711** or visit **millionsofmonicas.com**



Lector Schedule

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

Saturday, December 30, 5:00pm Mass
Lectors Marcia Grover
Sunday, December 31, 9:00 am Mass
Lectors Lia Hartline
Sunday, December 31, 11:00 am Mass
LectorsSteve Gaunder
Sunday, December 31, 12:30 pm Mass
Lector..... Rosaura Tavares and
..... Hermana Natalia



OUR LADY OF THE LAKE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

From our Laker Family to Yours

WE WISH YOU A VERY

MERRY

Christmas

— & —

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Begin Your Journey with OLL,
all are welcome.

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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



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.

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!



Walking With Mom's Need

Fourth Monday of the Month

If a woman with an unexpected or challenging pregnancy turned to you, would you know what help is available? Through Walking with Moms in Need, Catholics can help vulnerable women find support in welcoming and caring for their children.

This is our goal and we invite you to join us every month on the 4th Monday after 5:30 mass at St Bernard's Parish. For January we will meet **Monday, January 22, 2024 at 6:00PM.**

In every child
which is born and
in every person who
lives or dies we see the
image of God's *glory*.

The Gospel of Life, 84

En cada niño que nace
y en cada hombre que
vive y que muere
reconocemos la imagen
de la *gloria de Dios*.

El Evangelio de la Vida, 84

Parish Office Hours

December 22 - January 2

The Parish Office will be closed, December 22— January 1st and will reopen on January 2nd at noon. If there is a Sacramental Emergency, please call 269-985-7331 and leave your name. This line will be monitored.

Have a blessed Christmas.



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



SS. John & Bernard Parish offers faith formation

children ages 3-12

Dear Parents and Caretakers,

The youngest children are filled with questions! Have you experienced your child asking, "What's that?" or "Why?" So often these simple questions are looking for deep answers. This desire for understanding the most profound realities reveals that children are already in relationship with God.

SS. John & Bernard Parish recognizes this special and unique relationship that children have with God and provides a beautiful environment, guided by a Montessori faith formation approach called Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, to nurture this relationship.

Your children, and all children you know, ages 3-12 are welcome and invited to participate in the weekly sessions!

The catechists who serve in the atriums at SS. John & Bernard Parish are always happy to offer tours to anyone, and welcome questions about the ministry!

You can reach Peggy Hanley, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Coordinator, by emailing her at tdhanley58@hotmail.com or call the Parish Office at (269) 925-2425.

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.

Becoming Catholic

St. John's Social Hall, Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00 pm

If you are an adult who is interested in becoming Catholic, or simply wants to learn more about the Catholic faith, we invite you to be part of our weekly "Becoming Catholic" gatherings! Historically known as the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), and now called the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults), "Becoming Catholic" is the process through which an adult becomes fully initiated into the Catholic Church. The program consists of weekly meetings led by Dr. Donny Wallenfang and other parishioners, who will guide participants into the riches of the Catholic faith, including Scripture, Tradition, and all the teachings of the Church. "Becoming Catholic" meetings are **OPEN TO ANY AND ALL ADULTS** who want to learn more about the Catholic faith and will take place in the Saint John's fellowship hall (600 Columbus Ave) on **Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 PM**. Please email **Donny Wallenfang** at ssjbformation@gmail.com or call **269-925-2425** for more details.

Serving our parish family

Our Youth Mass will be celebrated on **Sunday, January 14, at 11:00 am at St. Bernard's**. We are looking for lectors, servers and ushers for our celebration. Please contact the parish office at **269-925-2425** or fmichelini@ollakers.org, if you are interested in serving. Our Youth Mass is celebrated the second Sunday of the month.

Youth Group at The Rose Center High School

High School Youth Group meets **Tuesdays from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm in the Rose Center Youth Room**.

Open Youth Room

Come join us every **Thursday in the Rose Center from 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm** for snacks, games, and much more. Open Youth Room is a time for all students grades 6 -12 to come and hang out. We will have video games, snacks, board games, and so much more. Swing by and grab a snack, or stay for the whole time. We would love to see you!



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

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

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

Our Stewardship

For December 10, 2023

Collections \$6,782.00

Online \$3,471.00

YTD Budget \$278,491.00

YTD Collections \$259,311.00

Shortfall..... \$19,180.00

It's Easy To Give Online

Our online giving platform is quick and easy on our parish website. For more information contact the Parish Office.

Bishops Annual Appeal 2023

Goal..... \$116,685.00

Pledged \$97,727.00

Number of Families.....236

Needed towards goal..... \$18,958.00

A heartfelt "thank you" to everyone who made a pledge or contribution!

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