

Prepare  
the way of  
*the Lord*

Preparen  
el camino  
*del Señor*





## 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  
 Path Appleton  
 Andrew Bain  
 The Benson Family  
 Pam Blakeman  
 Lee Boardman  
 Sharon Calahan  
 James Carpentier  
 Cole Childress  
 Grace deBest  
 April Dornseif  
 Christian Dornseif  
 Sally Eberhard  
 Sarah Fairthorne  
 Sandy Fenderbosch  
 Carol Frosolone  
 Rose Fuller  
 Gabe Galligan  
 Steve Gaunder  
 Donna Gregg  
 Mike Hall  
 Anita Hicks

Philip Hild  
 David Hines  
 Michelle Horton  
 Barbara Hosbein  
 Martha Hudson  
 Fr. Bill Jacobs  
 Nancy Johns  
 Lynne Jones  
 Thomas Jones  
 Theda Koshar  
 David Liddle  
 Cindy MacDonald  
 Betsy Marchi  
 Robert Martin  
 Janine McDonough  
 Mic McDonough  
 Jackie Miller  
 Ted Mills  
 Dorthey Myrick  
 Larry Olson  
 Sam Pantelleria  
 Anna Post  
 Mary Ann Puchinsky  
 Kim Puleo

Mario Reich  
 Jolene Richards  
 Kristy Schmitt  
 Michael Sears  
 Ann Shembarger  
 Martha Shuler  
 Deanna Signor  
 Dave Simaz  
 Arlene Sisson  
 Mark Smith  
 Joseph Stainer  
 Ruth Still  
 The Tezich Family  
 James Thomas, Jr.  
 Shirley Thomas  
 Terry Wallis  
 Connie Weaver  
 Brian Wilder  
 Julie Wilder  
 Ruth Ann York  
 Mary Zielke  
 Lottie Zmyslo  
 Special Intentions



## Ministry Schedule

### Saturday, December 6, 5:00 pm Mass

Lector.....Peter Shaffer  
 EMHC.....Laura Bradley & Darla Nickel  
 Ushers.....Joe Campbell,  
 .....Gary Cecchi, Michael Bradley

### Sunday, December 7, 9:00 am Mass

Lector.....Youth Mass  
 EMHC.....Tracy Koshar & Dan Frosolone  
 Ushers.....Perla Tolentino, Mike Damico,  
 .....Sara Hassle & Tim Hamilton

### Sunday, December 7, 11:00 am Mass

Lector.....William Klein  
 EMHC.....Patricia Quattrin & Judy Steed  
 Ushers.....Paul Maloney, Jeff Chorny,  
 .....Richard Johnson, & Tom Schueneman

### Sunday, Diciembre 7, 12:30 pm Mass

Lector.....Nohemy, Zarco, Yessica y Karina

### Saturday, December 13, 5:00 pm Mass

Lector.....Marcia Grover  
 EMHC.....Laura Bradley & Darla Nickel  
 Ushers.....Joe Campbell,  
 .....James Visin, Michael Bradley

### Sunday, December 14, 9:00 am Mass

Lector.....Janet Nahikian  
 EMHC.....Debra Dibble & John Heil  
 Ushers.....Pete Frosolone, Mike Damico,  
 .....Sara Hassle & Tim Hamilton

### Sunday, December 14, 11:00 am Mass

Lector.....Youth Mass  
 EMHC.....Terry Wallis & Shurlie Rochefort  
 Ushers.....Paul Maloney, Jeff Chorny,  
 .....Richard Johnson, & Tom Schueneman

### Sunday, Diciembre 14, 12:30 pm Mass

Lector.....Nora, Sandra, y Valeria

## Adoration

**Mondays** St. Bernard's  
 7:00 am - 4:30 pm

**Fridays** St. John's  
 8:00 am - 12:00 noon

**First Friday of the month**  
 St. Bernard Church (enter door #8)  
 8:00 pm—12:00 midnight

Our goal is to have two people for each hour. Is God asking you to come and be with Him? To sign up, please call **269-925-2425**.



## Rest in Christ's Peace

Please pray for **Isadore "Butch" Mammina**, that he may enjoy the great blessings of eternal life. We pray also for his family and friends that he find peace in the promises of Christ.

# Mass Intentions

**Saturday, December 6** .....  
 5:00 pm †Dr. Ken Edwards,  
 by Joe & Anne Campbell ..... SB

**Sunday, December 7**  
 9:00 am †Cornelius Bass  
 by Sinie Bass.....SJ  
 11:00 am Our Parish Family, ..... SB  
 12:30 pm (Español) The Intentions of  
 Brady Warner  
 by Chad Roden ..... SB

**Monday, December 8** ..... **Judy Zencka**  
 5:30 pm †Eileen Healy  
 by Matthew & Sarah  
 McGough ..... SB

**Tuesday, December 9** ..... **Peter Shaffer**  
 8:00 am Ed Nickel (birthday),  
 by Darla Nickel .....SJ

**Wednesday, December 10**..... **Peg Pinkowski**  
 11:00 am †Ruth Maychszak,  
 by Chad Roden ..... SB

**Friday, December 12**..... **Mary Seymour**  
 6:00 pm Santino Averion,  
 by Chad Roden ..... SB

**Saturday, December 13** .....  
 5:00 pm Fr. John Fleckenstein,  
 by Our Parish Family ..... SB

**Sunday, December 14**  
 9:00 am †Dr. C. Bassett Brown  
 by Perla Tolentino .....SJ  
 11:00 am Our Parish Family, ..... SB  
 12:30 pm (Español) †Angel Joel Diaz  
 Analco & †Lidio Analco ..... SB

† Indicates Deceased • \* Indicates Death Anniversary



## International Food Festival Fundraiser

**February 7, 2026**

Planning has begun for our 2026 International Food Festival Fundraiser. If you are interested in hosting a table or helping in any way, please contact **Peggy and Tom Hanley** at **tdhanley58@hotmail.com**

There will be a Table Captains Meeting on Saturday, January 10, following the 5:00 pm Mass at St. Bernard Social Hall

# Scripture Readings

*For the Week of December 7, 2025*

**Sunday**            **Second Sunday of Advent - V**  
 Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rm 15:4-9;  
 Mt 3:1-12

**Monday**           **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - W**  
 Gen 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;  
 Lk 1:26-38

**Tuesday**          **Tuesday of the Second Week in Advent - V**  
 Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13;  
 Mt 18:12-14

**Wednesday**      **Wednesday of the Second Week in Advent - V**  
 Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30

**Thursday**         **Thursday of the Second Week in Advent - V**  
 Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab;  
 Mt 11:11-15

**Friday**             **Friday of the Second Week in Advent - V**  
 Zech 2:14-17 or Rev 11:19a; 12-1-6a, 10ab;  
 Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

**Saturday**          **Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr - R**  
 Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19;  
 Mt 17:9a, 10-13

## Gifts of the Spirit

*Second Sunday of Advent*

Part of Isaiah's hopeful description of the Messiah contains the traditional seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Messiah, and looking forward to His coming in glory, let's take a look at those gifts and see how we can use them.

Wisdom is the gift of seeing God in his creation. It means that we value the things of this world only as they help us to know and love God more. The second gift, Understanding, follows from Wisdom: we understand what God expects of us in dealing with creation and other people. This gift helps us to know how to act in a world that seems to ignore God.

Counsel follows from Understanding as the gift of making correct judgments on how to act; for example, Understanding can lead us to love others. Counsel guides us to love them in appropriate ways.

Strength or fortitude, is the gift that enables us to do those things inspired by understanding and counsel, even if they are difficult. John the Baptist shows that gift in the gospel. It gave him the courage to die for his faith.

Knowledge is similar to counsel in that we begin to see what God wants for us in this world. Knowledge leads us to deeper revelations of the truths of our faith. This can lead to the sixth gift (seventh in Isaiah's text: "delight in the Lord") of Piety, a willingness to worship and love God, a desire to be close to Him in prayer. The final gift, Fear of the Lord, is the awe and wonder of recognizing how great God is, how much he loves us, and so how much we want to stay close to Him.

The desire to be close to God leads back to Wisdom, where we see God in his creation.

Tom Schmidt



## Advent Wreath

The Second Sunday of Advent is December 7. We will be looking for candle lighters at each weekend Mass, during Advent. Please contact the parish office, if you would like to make this a part of your Christmas tradition.



RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION

## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Atrium at St. John's School is **in need of more Catechists, Teaching Aids and Substitutes**. If you or anyone you know is interested in working with young kids and helping them to grow in their faith in a Montessori style learning environment, please reach out to Seth Collins. **Whether you are available every week or only occasionally**, we would love to have your help! Please contact Seth Collins at the parish office for more information.



## Christmas Flowers

A great way to honor your deceased loved ones or someone who has everything at Christmas is to donate to the **Christmas Flower Fund**. The flowers are used to beautify our worship space as we welcome the Christ Child. There are "Flower Envelopes" at the exits or you can donate online. **If you donate online, please note Flower Fund and the person the flowers are in memory or in honor of.**



## Becoming Catholic

*Wednesdays, at 6:00 pm*

Join us this **Wednesday, December 10**, from **6:00–7:30 PM** in This week our Becoming Catholic Class will be joining the parish community in the SS. John and Bernard Parish Center at 6:30 pm for the Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Email Seth Collins at [ssjbformation@gmail.com](mailto:ssjbformation@gmail.com) or call **269-925-2425** for more details.



## Pray For Our Military Soldiers

**CPT Camila Avello**, daughter of Miguel & Brooke Avello, Sister of Sebastian Avello  
**SGT Gabriel Brunner**, son of Jon & Lynn Brunner

**STAFF SGT Jared Haberlin**, grandson-in-law of Dale & Patricia Quattrin  
**Captain Noah M. Hanau**, son of Brett & Cathy Taylor, grandson of Dale & Patricia Quattrin  
**FN Ashton Hoffman**, Navy, grandson of Randy & Mary Lechenet  
**Captain Rory McRae**, Air Force, Grandson of Maureen McRae  
**SGT Gus Pinkowski**, son of Bob & Peg Pinkowski  
**SP4 Jesse Schueneman**, Army, son of Tom & Martha Schueneman  
**HM2 Tim Schwartz**, USN; nephew of Peter & Raejene Shaffer  
**AFC Kaden Stock**, Grandson of Byron & Nancy Stock  
**PFC Samantha Quattrin**, great niece of Dale & Patricia Quattrin & Erin Fitzsimmons



## Christmas Mass Times

**Wednesday, December 24**

4:30 pm, Mass - St. John Church


7:00 pm, Bilingual Mass - St. Bernard Church (Caroling starts at 6:15 pm)

**Thursday, December 25**

10:00 am Mass - St. Bernard Church

**SOLEMNITY  
OF THE  
Immaculate  
Conception**

A Holy Day of  
Obligation  
Monday,  
October 8, 2025  
5:30 pm Mass  
St. Bernard Church



## Our Lady of Guadalupe

**November 30 - 12**

The Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be at our parish, from November 30 -December 12. The Novena will begin on November 30, after the 12:30 pm Mass. At 6:30pm, each evening, we will begin with a Rosary, then there will be a reflection on a topic pertaining to Mary in our lives. There will be Adoration and prayer time. The evening will end with a light meal. **If you plan to attend the dinner, please bring a dish to pass.** Below is a schedule and the daily topics. Please note that all events will take place at St. Bernard Church and gathering halls.

**Monday, December 8  
Immaculate Conception**

5:30pm Bilingual Mass  
6:30pm Rosary, Reflection, Adoration & dinner

**Tuesday, December 9  
San Juan Diego Representation of the Apparition**

7:30pm Play of the apparition of the Virgin Mary to Juan Diego, followed by dinner

**Wednesday, December 10**

**Message from the Virgin of Guadalupe to Juan Diego**

6:30pm Rosary, Reflection, Adoration & dinner

**Thursday, December 11  
Mary always in adoration**

6:30pm Rosary, Reflection, Adoration & dinner

## Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

**Friday, December 12, St. Bernard Church and Parish Center**

5:00 am Mananitas - Songs  
6:00 am Rosary  
6:30 am Breakfast  
6:00 pm Mass with Bishop Lohse - Dinner to follow.  
Please bring a dish to pass for the celebrations.

## Our Lady of Guadalupe and Juan Diego

**December 12**



Saint Juan Diego was born in Cuauhtlatoatzin in the Anahuac Valley of present-day Mexico in 1474. He was raised in the Aztec pagan religion and culture. In 1524 he and his wife converted to Catholicism. On December 9, 1531, Juan saw his first of four visions.

### THIRD APPARITION

Sunday, December 10, 1531, in the afternoon. It was already Sunday, Juan Diego came to bring you the news of that day: he told you that the Bishop did not believe that your truth was something genuine. He thought that he was foolish man, however, he told him that he wanted a clear sign, with which he could accept that the message was divine.

Your voice consoled him, your beautiful voice: "Okay, my son, come tomorrow to bring the sign that he needs. That way he will believe you willingly. But I want you to know, in the meantime, that I know how to pray: YOU WILL BE HOLY!"

### FOURTH APPARITION

Tuesday, December 12, 1531, at dawn. It was on Tuesday the 12th, very early in the morning, of the most beautiful December there has ever been, when poor Juan Diego, distraught, showed you his torn soul. His uncle dies. -Who takes pity?

"Do not be sorry. I give you full assurance that he is now healed. Don't you see that I am your Mother? Have you understood? Nothing should worry you! Nothing! Go up now to the summit, bring the roses that I will send to the Bishop as evidence of my clear loving words."

**\*\*Please Note Date Change\*\***

## Christmas Communal Penance Service

**Wednesday, December 17th at 5:30pm**

Join us on **Wednesday, December 17 at 5:30pm** at St. Bernard Church for a Christmas Collaborative Communal Penance Service. There will be at least 4 priests scheduled to hear confession, 1 who is bilingual. Please contact the parish office if you have any questions regarding this wonderful opportunity.

## Decorating St. Bernard Church

We plan to decorate St. Bernard Church on **Tuesday, December 16, at 8:00 am**. Please contact the parish office if you are able to help prepare for the coming of the Lord.

# Our Week at a Glance Un Vistazo ala Semana

## Sunday, December 7 • Sabado, 7 Diciembre

- 10:30 am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Catequesis del Buen Pastor, St. John School
- 10:30 am Sacramental Preparation (Spanish) Preparación Sacramental, St. John School
- 2:00 pm Lunch and Games  
SS. John & Bernard Parish Center

## Monday, December 8 • Lunes, 8 Diciembre

### Immaculate Conception - Holy Day of Obligation

- 7:00 am Adoration, Adoración, St. Bernard Church
- 4:30 pm Confession, Confesión, St. Bernard Church
- 5:15 pm Benediction, Bendición, St. Bernard Church
- 5:30 pm Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. St. Bernard Church.
- 6:30 pm Novena for Our Lady of Guadalupe, SS. John & Bernard Parish Center

## Tuesday, December 9 • Martes, 9 Diciembre

- 6:00 pm Legion of Mary, St. Bernard's Classroom
- 6:30 pm Maria Música de Dios, ensayo de coro (Español), St. Bernard Church
- 6:00 pm High School Youth Group, Grupo de jóvenes de secundaria, The Rose Center  
301 Wayne Street, St. Joseph
- 6:00 pm Knights of Columbus Officer Meeting, St. Bernard Knights Room
- 6:30 pm Maria Música de Dios, ensayo de coro (Español), St. Bernard Church
- 6:30 pm Novena for Our Lady of Guadalupe, SS. John & Bernard Parish Center
- 6:30 pm K of C Rosary, St. Bernard Church
- 7:00 pm K of C Council Meeting, St. Bernard Knights Room
- 8:00 pm K of C Dinner, St. Bernard Social Hall

## Wednesday, December 10 • Miercoles, 10 Diciembre

- 5:00 pm Safe Environment Meeting, St. Bernard Classroom
- 6:30 pm St. John Choir Rehearsal, St. John Church
- 6:30 pm Novena for Our Lady of Guadalupe, SS. John & Bernard Parish Center
- 6:30 pm Becoming Catholic, St. Bernard Social Hall

## Thursday, December 11 • Jueves, 11 Diciembre

- 4:00 pm Catholic Bible School, St. Bernard Social Hall
- 6:30 pm St. Cecilia Music Rehearsal, St. Bernard Church
- 6:30 pm Novena for Our Lady of Guadalupe, SS. John & Bernard Parish Center

## Friday, December 12 • Viernes, 12 Diciembre

### Our Lady of Guadalupe

### No AM Daily Mass & No Confession

- 5:00 am Morning Music, Mananitas, St. Bernard Church
- 6:00 am Rosary, Rosario, St. Bernard Church
- 6:30 am Breakfast, Desayuno, SS. John & Bernard Parish Center
- 8:30 am Adoration, Adoración, St. John Church
- 8:30 am Confession, Confesión, St. John Church
- 12:00 noon Benediction, , Bendición, St. John Church
- 6:00 pm Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe St. Bernard Church
- 7:30 pm Celebration & Dinner  
SS. John & Bernard Parish Center

## Saturday, December 13 • Sabado, 13 Diciembre

- 3:30 pm Confession, Confesión, St. Bernard Church

## Youth Ministry Christmas Wish List

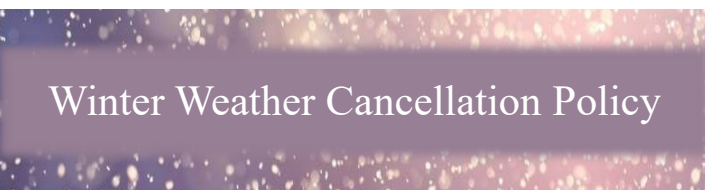
Our teens have a wish this Christmas, a new set of Bibles and Catechisms for our program. Over the years, our set of mismatched bibles and catechisms has begun to show how much we use them. So we are looking to purchase a new matching set. We are looking for donors to help us buy 20 copies of each book. It is \$9 to sponsor a Bible and \$11 to sponsor a catechism. If you would like to purchase one or more for our youth group, simply enclose your donation in an envelope labeled "youth group wish list" and put it into the baskets on Sunday. For more information please contact Chad at [4ChurchesYM@gmail.com](mailto:4ChurchesYM@gmail.com)



Our annual Christmas Party will be held **December 16th in the Rose Center Youth Room from 6:00 - 9:00 pm**. We will have food, games and more. Not to mention our annual White Elephant Game. So start brainstorming your gift under \$25. Watch the weekly email in the coming weeks for more information.



It's time! Registration for this summer's Steubenville Youth Conference is open now! Be sure to grab a spot while they last. This year's theme is "Worthy". The conference this year will be held on **June 26th - 28th** on the campus of Franciscan University of Steubenville. The cost is \$400 per student with a \$75 non-refundable deposit needed at the time of registration. For more information please contact Chad at [4ChurchesYM@gmail.com](mailto:4ChurchesYM@gmail.com) or call the Parish Office.



In the event that Our Lady of the Lake School closes due to weather, all events are canceled at the parish on the same day. It does include that the parish office, and all events (meetings, etc.) are canceled. If the "snow day" falls on a Monday or Friday, the Blessed Sacrament will not be exposed. This does not include, of course, the Mass and confession schedule. If the weather is bad enough to warrant canceling daily Mass, this will be communicated via **Facebook, email and myparish app**. **Weekend Masses will never be canceled.** Using this method is a simple way to keep everyone informed.

# Knights of Columbus

Interested in becoming a Knight? Contact **Grand Knight Joe Peters** for more information 269-338-3640, [GK1120@mikofc.org](mailto:GK1120@mikofc.org). No time commitment is too small. Insurance-only members are welcome.



## Upcoming Events

### December 9 • 6:00 pm

K of C Officers Meeting,  
Knights Room  
6:30 pm K of C Rosary, St. Bernard Church  
7:00 pm K of C Monthly Meeting,  
Knight's Room  
8:00 pm Council Dinner,  
St. Bernard Social Hall

### December 16 • 11:00 am

American Red Cross Blood Drive  
St. Bernard Social Hall

### December 28 • 11:00 am

Corporate Communion,.....St. Bernard Church

## Our Stewardship

### For November 23, 2025

Collections .....\$9,806.00  
Online .....\$2,913.66

### For November 30, 2025

Collections .....\$2,339.05  
Online .....\$2,344.97  
Weekly Budget .....\$10,846.15  
YTD Budget .....\$238,615.38  
YTD Collection .....\$226,120.99  
Shortfall .....\$12,494.39

### It's Easy To Give Online

[ssjohnandbernard.org](http://ssjohnandbernard.org)  
For more information contact  
the Parish Office.



## Parish Directory

### St. John Church

600 Columbus Ave.  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

### St. Bernard Church

555 E. Delaware Ave.  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

### Parish Office Information

580 Columbus Ave.  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022  
[www.ssjohnandbernard.org](http://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](mailto:ssjbpastor@gmail.com)

**Deacon • Deacon Ed Nickel**  
[ssjbdeaconed@gmail.com](mailto:ssjbdeaconed@gmail.com)

### Business Manager

**Parish Secretary •  
Wendy Maychszak**  
[ssjbsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ssjbsecretary@gmail.com)

### Parish

**Bookkeeper • Tammy O'Brien**  
[ssjbbookkeeper@gmail.com](mailto:ssjbbookkeeper@gmail.com)

### Director of Religious

**Education • Seth Collins**  
[ssjbformation@gmail.com](mailto:ssjbformation@gmail.com)

### Youth Ministry • Chad Roden

[4churchesym@gmail.com](mailto:4churchesym@gmail.com)  
(269) 983-1575

### Parish Pastoral

**Council • Gil Michelini**  
[gilmichelini@gmail.com](mailto:gilmichelini@gmail.com)

### Building Attendant

**and Caretaker • Chris Visin**  
[ssjbbattendant@gmail.com](mailto:ssjbbattendant@gmail.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

#### Anna Reed, Principal

[areed@ollakers.org](mailto:areed@ollakers.org)

#### Elementary School

3165 Washington Avenue  
St. Joseph, MI 49085  
(269) 429-0227

#### Sherri Kirschner, Principal

[skirschner@ollakers.org](mailto:skirschner@ollakers.org)

#### Business Office

220 Church Street  
St. Joseph, MI 49085  
(269) 983-5529