



Blessed is the one
**who takes no
offense at me**

Dichoso aquel
**que no se sienta
defraudado por mí**



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
Don Smith Jr.
 Mark Smith
Mary 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 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

Saturday, December 20, 5:00 pm Mass

Lector.....Peter Shaffer
 EMHC.....Laura Bradley & Darla Nickel
 Ushers.....Gary Cecchi,
Patrick Clark, Michael Bradley

Sunday, December 21, 9:00 am Mass

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

Sunday, December 21, 11:00 am Mass

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

Sunday, Diciembre 21, 12:30 pm Mass

Lector.....Nohemy Lopez, Ximena y Rosaura

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**.



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.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 13
 5:00 pm Fr. John Fleckenstein,
 by Our Parish FamilySB

Sunday, December 14
 9:00 am †Dr. C. Bassett Brown,
 by Perla TolentinoSJ

11:00 am Our Parish Family,SB
 12:30 pm (Español) †Angel Joel Diaz
 Analco & †Lidio AnalcoSB

Monday, December 15**Judy Zencka**
 5:30 pm †*Ruth Maychszak,
 by Van & Wendy Maychszak SB

Tuesday, December 16 **Peter Shaffer**
 8:00 am †Martin Birkenfeld Sr.,
 by Tammy O'BrienSJ

Wednesday, December 17..... **Peg Pinkowski**
 9:00 am †Eileen Healy,
 by Matt & Sarah McGough ..SB

Friday, December 19.....**Mary Seymour**
 8:00 am The Intentions of Leo Roden,
 by Chad RodenSJ

Saturday, December 20
 5:00 pm †Carmen Lopez,
 by Van & Wendy Maychszak SB

Sunday, December 21
 9:00 am †Dr. Allen Zencka,
 by Judy ZenckaSJ

11:00 am †Eileen Healy,
 By Matt & Sara McGoughSB
 12:30 pm (Español) Our Parish Family .SB

† Indicates Deceased • * Indicates Death Anniversary

Scripture Readings

For the Week of December 14, 2025

Sunday **Third Sunday of Advent - Rose**
 Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10;
 Mt 11:2-11

Monday **Monday of the Third Week of Advent - V**
 Num 24: 2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab; 6 and 7bc, 8-9;
 Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday **Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent - V**
 Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23;
 Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday **Wednesday of the Third Week of Advent - V**
 Gen 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8,17; Mt 1:1-17

Thursday **Thursday of the Third Week of Advent - V**
 Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Friday **Friday of the Third Week of Advent - V**
 Jdg 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Saturday **Saturday of the Third Week of Advent - V**
 Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

The Prophet's Profit

Third Sunday of Advent

Old Testament prophets were not very popular. Most were killed or exiled because they challenged people to follow the commands of God. John the Baptist suffered the same way. So what kept the prophets going?

First of all, the prophets had faith in God. They believed that God spoke through them, that God would protect them and support them. Second, they had patience. They kept going when people rejected their preaching. Some prophets had to be patient with their own weaknesses.

The third gift of the prophets was hope: That by keeping God's commands, God's people would be renewed, along with all of creation. Our first reading is an example of such hope, with its descriptions of deserts becoming gardens and the sick and disabled being healed and strengthened.

So what do we learn from those prophets? First, we need to keep our faith in God strong. If you go to church once a week, the bare minimum, it would be like exercising only once a week and thinking that will keep you in shape. Second, we need patience and not just with our kids. We need to be patient with ourselves and with God. Some people stop going to church because they don't see any spiritual growth in themselves. So be patient; don't expect to become a saint right away. Finally, the reading from Isaiah gives us hope that God will open our eyes of faith, clear our ears to hear His word, (Is 35:5) and "meet him with joy and gladness" (Is 35:10).

Tom Schmidt



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

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 is bilingual. Please contact the parish office if you have any questions regarding this wonderful opportunity.



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 of or in honor of.**



Christmas Mass Times

Wednesday, December 24 - Nativity of the Lord - Vigil

4:30 pm, Mass - St. John Church

7:00 pm, bilingual Mass - St. Bernard Church
(caroling starting at 6:15 pm)

Thursday, December 25 - Nativity of the Lord

10:00 am Mass - St. Bernard Church

Saturday, December 27 -

Feast of St. John the Apostle and Evangelist

9:00 am, Mass - St. John Church

Wednesday, December 31 -

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God - Vigil

5:00 pm, Mass - St. Bernard Church

Thursday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

9:00 am, Mass - St. John Church



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.

Becoming Catholic

Wednesdays

There will not be a Becoming Catholic gathering on December 17, December 24, or December 31 due to Christmas break. Our Becoming Catholic sessions will resume on **Wednesday, January 7**. ALL ADULTS ARE WELCOME! Email **Seth Collins** at 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



Las Posadas

The Night of Las Posadas by Tomie dePaola

Las Posadas is an Advent tradition begun by Hispanic Catholics in the 16th century. Las Posadas means “the Inns,” and like a typical novena lasting nine days, the celebration spans the nine days before Christmas. Though it does involve knocking on doors and treats, this is not like trick-or-treating at your neighbors’ or strangers’ houses on Halloween. It’s much more exciting, in my opinion. Different communities celebrate it slightly differently, so I asked others for their own Las Posadas experience—and learned to pronounce it correctly!

My sister-in-law, Natalie Philipp, described her experience participating in Las Posadas fondly. She said visiting family in Mexico with family during the Christmas season, including Las Posadas, was a lot of fun.

“It’s a big production!” she explained. Natalie listed what’s involved during the evening: sharing a meal, sometimes goodie bags, prayer time, and songs. The whole nine days are a very well-planned event where a large group of people gather at a different hosts’ home each night. This happens between December 16-24. Communities who celebrate Las Posadas commemorate Saints Joseph and Mary seeking a place to stay for the birth of Jesus Christ as read in the Book of Luke, chapter 2:

Now it happened that at this time Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be made of the whole inhabited world. This census — the first — took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to be registered, each to his own town. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee for Judaea, to David’s town called Bethlehem, since he was of David’s House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

Now it happened that, while they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the living-space [inn].

My friend Marci Houle also celebrated this tradition in Texas with her parish. It’s tradition, she recounts, to have a Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. In high school, she was Mary while her community walked around their parish and knocked on the hall three times before being allowed entry. In communities where this is a more popular tradition, she mentioned, people travel to two different houses asking for shelter before being allowed into the third house.

She also noted that family is incredibly important in Hispanic culture so they tend to live close to each other or in close-knit smaller communities. This means events such as Las Posadas are a “must-do for the sake of tradition” no matter how tiring or involved. Both ladies included that hot chocolate is important!

“Abuelita’s Hot Chocolate is imperative,” Marci elaborates. Of course, the prayer, songs, community, and Scripture is important, but she emphasized the hot chocolate saying, “If it’s not there, it’s not Las Posadas.”

We are fortunate to have the Las Posadas happening right here at SS. John and Bernard Parish Center at 6:30pm, from December 16 - Christmas Eve. You are invited to come and enjoy this tradition. Please bring a dish to pass.

Las Posadas Prayer

As we welcome these travelers in to our home . . .

We remember all those who are traveling tonight.

We remember all those who are looking for rest and shelter tonight.

We remember all those who care for and comfort those in need.

May God bless us and all those we love as we journey with Mary and Joseph towards celebrating the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Amen.

Our Week at a Glance Un Vistazo ala Semana

Sunday, December 14 • Sabado, 14 Diciembre

- 10:30 am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Catequesis del Buen Pastor, St. John School
- 11:00 am Sacramental Preparation (Spanish) Preparación Sacramental, St. Bernard School
- 2:00 pm Lunch and Games
SS. John & Bernard Parish Center

Monday, December 15 • Lunes, 15 Diciembre

- 7:00 am Adoration, Adoración, St. Bernard Church
- 4:30 pm Confession, Confesión, St. Bernard Church
- 5:15 pm Benediction, Bendición, St. Bernard Church
- 6:30 pm Millions of Monicas, St. Bernard Church, Enter door number 8

Tuesday, December 16 • Martes, 16 Diciembre

- 11:00 am American Red Cross Blood Drive - Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus - **St. Bernard Social Hall**
- 6:00 pm Legion of Mary, St. Bernard's Classroom
- 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry, St. Bernard Social Hall
- 6:00 pm High School Youth Group, Grupo de jóvenes de secundaria, The Rose Center
301 Wayne Street, St. Joseph
- 6:30 pm Maria Música de Dios, ensayo de coro (Español), St. Bernard Church
- 6:30 pm Christmas Posadas, Pasada Navidena, SS. John & Bernard Parish Center

Wednesday, December 17 • Miercoles, 17 Diciembre

- 5:30 pm Communal Penance Service, St. Bernard Church
- 6:30 pm St. John Choir Rehearsal, St. John Church
- 6:30 pm Christmas Posadas, Pasada Navidena, SS. John & Bernard Parish Center

Thursday, December 18 • Jueves, 18 Diciembre

- 4:00 pm Catholic Bible School, St. Bernard Social Hall
- 6:30 pm St. Cecilia Music Rehearsal, St. Bernard Church
- 6:30 pm Christmas Posadas, Pasada Navidena, SS. John & Bernard Parish Center

Friday, December 19 • Viernes, 19 Diciembre

- 8:30 am Adoration, Adoración, St. John Church
- 8:30 am Confession, Confesión, St. John Church
- 12:00 noon Benediction, , Bendición, St. John Church
- 6:30 pm Christmas Posadas, Pasada Navidena, SS. John & Bernard Parish Center

Saturday, December 20 • Sabado, 20 Diciembre

- 3:30 pm Confession, Confesión, St. Bernard Church
- 6:30 pm Christmas Posadas, Pasada Navidena, SS. John & Bernard Parish Center

In the event that Our Lady of the Lake School closes due to weather, all parish events and meetings are canceled. It does include the parish office. 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.

Youth Group Christmas Wish Lists

Bible and Catechism
Drive

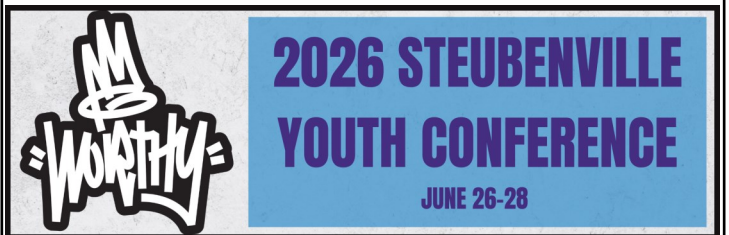


Youth Ministry Christmas Wish List

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**



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** or call the Parish Office.

Knights of Columbus

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

Upcoming Events

December 16 • 11:00 am
American Red Cross Blood Drive
St. Bernard Social Hall

December 28 • 11:00 am
Corporate Communion,.....St. Bernard Church
January 11 • 6:00 pm
K of C Pancake Breakfast, SS. John & Bernard Parish Center

January 13 • 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, SS. John & Bernard Parish Center



Our Stewardship

For December 7, 2025

Collections	\$10,412.47
Online	\$4,249.11
Weekly Budget.....	\$10,846.15
YTD Budget	\$249,461.54
YTD Collection.....	\$240,682.57
Shortfall	\$8,778.97

It's Easy To Give Online
ssjohnandbernard.org
For more information contact the Parish Office.



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
ssjbeaconed@gmail.com

Business Manager
Parish Secretary • Wendy Maychszak
ssjbsecretary@gmail.com

Parish Bookkeeper • Tammy O'Brien
ssjbbookkeeper@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education • Seth Collins
ssjbformation@gmail.com

Youth Ministry • Chad Roden
4churchesym@gmail.com
(269) 983-1575

Parish Pastoral Council • Gil Michelini
gilmichelini@gmail.com

Building Attendant and Caretaker • Chris Visin
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

Elementary School
3165 Washington Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 429-0227
Sherri Kirschner, Principal
skirschner@ollakers.org

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