

God is  
with us

Dios está  
con nosotros



## 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 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

### Saturday, December 27, 5:00 pm Mass

Lector.....Darla Nickel  
EMHC.....Laura Bradley & Darla Nickel  
Ushers.....Joe Campbell  
.....Michael Bradley, Jim Visin

### Sunday, December 28, 9:00 am Mass

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

### Sunday, December 28, 11:00 am Mass

Lector.....Rajesh William  
EMHC.....Gil & Fran Michelini  
Ushers.....Jeff Chorny,  
.....Richard Johnson, & Tom Schueneman

### Sunday, Diciembre 28, 12:30 pm Mass

Lector.....Lilia, Daylin y Cesar



## Adoration

**Mondays** St. Bernard's  
9:00 am - 5:15 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.

## Adorers

Starting Monday, December 22, during the winter months, Monday Adoration hours will change to 9:00 am to 5:15 pm, with Benediction at 5:15 pm.

Some of our regular Adorers are snowbirds and are looking for help covering their holy hour. Make that resolution to spend an hour with our Lord in Adoration, on Mondays or Fridays, please contact the parish office. 269-925-2425.

# Mass Intentions

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

**Sunday, December 21**  
 9:00 am †Dr. Allen Zencka,  
 by Judy Zencka ..... SJ  
 11:00 am †Eileen Healy,  
 By Matt & Sara McGough .... SB  
 12:30 pm (Español) Our Parish Family . SB

**Monday, December 22** ..... **Judy Zencka**  
 5:30 pm Barb Cluff,  
 by Ruth Shuler ..... SB

**Tuesday, December 23** ..... **Peter Shaffer**  
 8:00 am †Eileen Keating  
 by Eileen Healy..... SJ

**Wednesday, December 24** .....  
 4:30 pm The Intentions of  
 Aedan Collins,  
 by Chad Roden..... SJ  
 7:00 pm †Ching Mendoza  
 by Chad Roden..... SB

**Thursday, December 25**.....  
 10:00 am †Tom Damico,  
 by the Perrino Family..... SB

**Friday, December 26**.....**Mary Seymour**  
 8:00 am †Jim Bartels & †Victor Kasput  
 by Eileen Healy..... SJ

**Saturday, December 27** .....  
 9:00 am **Our Parish Family** ..... SJ  
 5:00 pm Our Parish Family..... SB

**Sunday, December 28**  
 9:00 am †Cyril Fuller,  
 by the Fuller Family ..... SJ  
 11:00 am Deceased Members of the  
 Knights of Columbus, ..... 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 **pegyhanley2@gmail.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 21, 2025

**Sunday** **Fourth Sunday of Advent - V**  
 Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rm 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

**Monday** **Monday of the Fourth Week of Advent - V**  
 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

**Tuesday** **Monday of the Fourth Week of Advent - V**  
 Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14;  
 Lk 1:57-66

**Wednesday** **Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Advent - V**  
 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29;  
 Lk 1:67-79

**Thursday** **The Nativity of the Lord - 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

**Friday** **Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr - R**  
 Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and  
 17; Mt 10:17-22

**Saturday** **Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist - W**  
 1 Jn 1:14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a and 2-8



# Feast of Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist, 9:00 am Mass, St. John Church

Saturday, December 27

The Feast of St. John the Apostle and Evangelist is celebrated on **December 27th**, right after Christmas, honoring Jesus' "beloved disciple" who wrote the Gospel of John, three Epistles, and Revelation. This feast day, within the Octave of Christmas, highlights John's deep understanding of Jesus' divinity, his unique role at the crucifixion, and his status as the only apostle to die a natural death, symbolizing purity and close intimacy with Christ. Please join us for Mass on

**Saturday, December 27 at 9:00 am at St. John Church**, to commemorate the Feast of our patron Saint. Donuts and coffee will be served following Mass.



## 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.



## Our Lady of the Lake

As we close out the calendar year, thank you for the many ways you support our students. Your generosity makes a real difference in their daily lives. If you'd like to learn more about giving opportunities, please reach out to the Development Office anytime.

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



# Emmanuel

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

On this last Sunday before Christmas, we see that Jesus' birth is the fulfillment of the promise of Emmanuel, meaning "God is with us." (Mt 1:23) The gospel refers to the first reading from Isaiah. There we see the king of Judah, Ahaz, is under attack by the kings of Aram and Israel. He wants to ask the Assyrians for help, instead of relying on God. He is afraid to admit his lack of faith. So the weakness of Ahaz gives us the wonderful prophecy of the birth of Jesus.

In the gospel, Joseph also does not understand how Mary was pregnant. But unlike Ahaz, Joseph did have faith in God and the message of the angel. He took Mary as his wife and helped her through her pregnancy and afterwards in raising Jesus.

So now we have to choose who we rely on: Do I act like Ahaz, relying on the worldly powers, or like Joseph who trusted the Lord? If I look at my actions and priorities, I might be more like Ahaz than I want to admit.

How much time do I spend watching television (especially now that it's in HD) compared to time in prayer? How much time do I spend reading the scriptures compared to the newspaper or magazines? If I really believe that "God is with us," which is what Christmas is all about, how much of God can people see in my actions? Maybe if we kept in mind that promise that God IS with us, in the Baptism we received and the sacraments of the Church, and the love of our spouse or parents—we could see how close God really is and let others see in our actions, that Jesus is Emmanuel.

Tom Schmidt



**Knights of Columbus  
Pancake Breakfast  
Sunday, January 11,  
After BOTH the  
9:00 & 11:00 am  
Masses at  
St. Bernard  
Parish Center**

## Knights of Columbus Chili & Euchre Night

*Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>*



Mark your calendar for a warm night of Chili and Euchre on **Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>** after the **5:00 pm Mass** at **SS. John & Bernard Parish Center.**

# SAVE THE DATE! MARDI GRAS FUNDRAISER DINNER

Tuesday, February 17th, 6:00 - 7:30 PM  
St. Bernard Parish Center - Dinner for a donation!

Come support the youth of our parish as they fundraise for their summer trips!

A dinner so great we sold out last year.  
Don't miss your chance to grab a bowl of gumbo!

# Our Week at a Glance Un Vistazo ala Semana

## Sunday, December 21 • Sabado, 21 Diciembre

- 11:00 am Sacramental Preparation (Spanish)  
Preparación Sacramental, St. Bernard School
- 2:00 pm Lunch and Games  
SS. John & Bernard Parish Center
- 6:30 pm Christmas Posadas, Pasada Navidena,  
SS. John & Bernard Parish Center

## Monday, December 22 • Lunes, 22 Diciembre

- 9:00 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
- 6:30 pm Christmas Posadas, Pasada Navidena,  
SS. John & Bernard Parish Center

## Tuesday, December 23 • Martes, 23 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
- 6:30 pm Christmas Posadas, Pasada Navidena,  
SS. John & Bernard Parish Center

## Wednesday, December 24 • Miercoles, 24 Diciembre

- 4:30 pm Vigil Mass - St. John Church
- 7:00 pm Vigil Mass - St. Bernard Church

## Thursday, December 25 • Jueves, 25 Diciembre

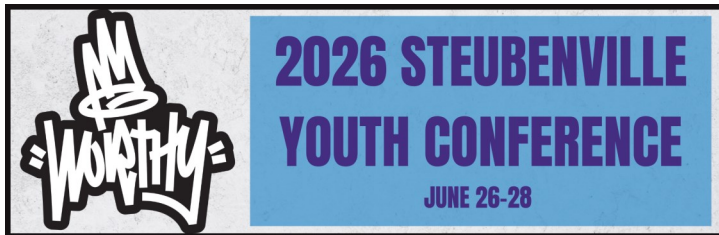
- 10:00 am Mass, St. Bernard Church

## Friday, December 26 • Viernes, 26 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

## Saturday, December 27 • Sabado, 27 Diciembre

- 9:00 am Mass for the Feast of St. John the Evangelist  
with Coffee & Donuts
- 3:30 pm Confession, Confesión, St. Bernard Church



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.

## 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**

*O Come Let Us  
Adore Him*

*A Night with the New Born King*



How do you celebrate the Christmas Season? For most of us that week between Christmas and the New Year is a dateless grey area. No school, no rushes, cozy endless days inside. So let's set a date with the New Born King, God's Love Incarnate. The Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord for eight straight days, and we are dedicating one of those nights to be with him. Join us for an hour of adoration and a time of fellowship at St. Bernard's Church on **Tuesday, December 30th from 5:00 - 7:00 pm**. We will start the night in the Church with Eucharistic Adoration, Vespers, and Christmas Reflection. After, join us in the social hall for a warm meal and board games. We hope you can make it! This event is open to any students currently in Middle or High School.

## Cancellations

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.

# 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 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,  
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

Knights Room



# 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 at 6:00 pm

ALL ADULTS ARE WELCOME!

Email **Seth Colins** at [ssjbformation@gmail.com](mailto:ssjbformation@gmail.com) or call 269-925-2425 for more details.



# 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](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