

CHURCH OF SAINT BERNARD

1160 WOODBRIDGE STREET • SAINT PAUL, MN 55117
One block west of Rice Street on Geranium Avenue

DECEMBER 20, 2020



And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." - Lk 1:35



El ángel le contestó: "El Espíritu Santo descenderá sobre ti y el poder del Altísimo te cubrirá con su sombra. Por eso, el Santo, que va a nacer de ti, será llamado Hijo de Dios". - Lc 1, 35

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
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Hsawreh Sharpoehtay

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Ryan Thornton

Parish Office

Phone: (651) 488-6733

Fax: (651) 489-9203

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Website: www.stbernardstpaul.org

Facebook Page:

Parish Life at St. Bernard's Catholic
Church, St. Paul, MN

Anointing of the Sick & Communion for the Sick & Homebound

Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements
with Fr. Ivan

Baptism of Infants

It is recommended that parents who wish to present
their child for Baptism make arrangements several
months before the date with the priests.

Marriage Preparation

Couples anticipating Christian Marriage need to contact the Parish Office at least six months prior to the wedding
date they desire. After a pre-nuptial interview with a priest, a specific date will be set. Marriage preparation classes
are required.

Pope Francis on Christmas

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined” (*Is* 9:1). “An angel of the Lord appeared to [the shepherds] and the glory of the Lord shone around them” (*Lk* 2:9). This is how the liturgy of this holy Christmas night presents to us the birth of the Saviour: as the light which pierces and dispels the deepest darkness. The presence of the Lord in the midst of his people cancels the sorrow of defeat and the misery of slavery, and ushers in joy and happiness.

We too, in this blessed night, have come to the house of God. We have passed through the darkness which envelops the earth, guided by the flame of faith which illuminates our steps, and enlivened by the hope of finding the “great light”. By opening our hearts, we also can contemplate the miracle of that child-sun who, arising from on high, illuminates the horizon.

The origin of the darkness which envelops the world is lost in the night of the ages. Let us think back to that dark moment when the first crime of humanity was committed, when the hand of Cain, blinded by envy, killed his brother Abel (cf. *Gen* 4:8). As a result, the unfolding of the centuries has been marked by violence, wars, hatred and oppression. But God, who placed a sense of expectation within man made in his image and likeness, was waiting. God was waiting. He waited for so long that perhaps at a certain point it seemed he should have given up. But he could not give up because he could not deny himself (cf. *2 Tim* 2:13). Therefore he continued to wait patiently in the face of the corruption of man and peoples. The patience of God. How difficult it is to comprehend this: God’s patience towards us.

Through the course of history, the light that shatters the darkness reveals to us that God is Father and that his patient fidelity is stronger than darkness and corruption. This is the message of Christmas night. God does not know outbursts of anger or impatience; he is always there, like the father in the parable of the prodigal son, waiting to catch from afar a glimpse of the lost son as he returns; and every day, with patience. The patience of God.

Isaiah’s prophecy announces the rising of a great light which breaks through the night. This light is born in Bethlehem and is welcomed by the loving arms of Mary, by the love of Joseph, by the wonder of the shepherds. When the angels announced the birth of the Redeemer to the shepherds, they did so with these words: “This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger” (*Lk* 2:12). The “sign” is in fact the humility of God, the humility of God taken to the extreme; it is the love with which, that night, he assumed our frailty, our suffering, our anxieties, our desires and our limitations. The message that everyone was expecting, that everyone was searching for in the depths of their souls, was none other than the tenderness of God: God who looks upon us with eyes full of love, who accepts our poverty, God who is in love with our smallness.

On this holy night, while we contemplate the Infant Jesus just born and placed in the manger, we are invited to reflect. How do we welcome the tenderness of God? Do I allow myself to be taken up by God, to be embraced by him, or do I prevent him from drawing close? “But I am searching for the Lord” – we could respond. Nevertheless, what is most important is not seeking him, but rather allowing him to seek me, find me and caress me with tenderness. The question put to us simply by the Infant’s presence is: do I allow God to love me?

More so, do we have the courage to welcome with tenderness the difficulties and problems of those who are near to us, or do we prefer impersonal solutions, perhaps effective but devoid of the warmth of the Gospel? How much the world needs tenderness today! The patience of God, the closeness of God, the tenderness of God.

The Christian response cannot be different from God’s response to our smallness. Life must be met with goodness, with meekness. When we realize that God is in love with our smallness, that he made himself small in order to better encounter us, we cannot help but open our hearts to him, and beseech him: “Lord, help me to be like you, give me the grace of tenderness in the most difficult circumstances of life, give me the grace of closeness in the face of every need, of meekness in every conflict”.

Dear brothers and sisters, on this holy night we contemplate the Nativity scene: there “the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light” (*Is* 9:1). People who were unassuming, people open to receiving the gift of God, were the ones who saw this light. This light was not seen, however, by the arrogant, the proud, by those who made laws according to their own personal measures, who were closed off to others. Let us look to the crib and pray, asking the Blessed Mother: “O Mary, show us Jesus!”.

† Mass Intentions †

Saturday December 19

8:30am † Cao Chi
4:00 pm † The Kneissel Family

Sunday December 20 4th Sunday of Advent

8:00 am † Rose Bearth
10:30 am † Pat Adrian
2:00 pm Elena Perfect & Nolen Perfect

Monday December 21

8:30am † Herb Smith

Tuesday December 22

8:30am † Edward Zech
6:30pm (Spanish)

Wednesday December 23

8:30am † Wayne Dains

Thursday December 24 Christmas Eve

8:30am † Marilyn Redeske
4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass † Philip & Theresa Kohn
12:00am Midnight Mass † Parish

Friday December 25 Christmas Day

8:00am † Rose Olds
10:30am † La Clair Family
2:00pm (Spanish) † Parish

Saturday December 26 St. Stephen, Martyr

8:30am † Mary Seidel
4:00 pm † Gardner Family

Sunday December 20 Holy Family

8:00 am † Lo Ann Zechmeister
10:30 am † Pat Adrian
2:00 pm † Lili Claveau & Josefina Claveau

Prayer Line Please call

Shirley Collett at (651) 488-6330
Judy Cloutier at (651) 224-2966

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the week of December 20, 2020

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/ Lk 1:57-66

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79

Friday: Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22

Next Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/ Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40

<u>Weekly Collection</u>		
	<u>Last Week's Contributions</u>	Budget
Envelope Income	\$5,318	\$4,731
Plate	1,639	581
Gas/Lights	59	125
Campus Repair	13	70
<u>Year to Date:</u>		
Envelope Income	\$104,889	\$113,544
Plate	19,808	13,944
Gas/Lights	1,679	3,000
Campus Repair	1,053	1,680

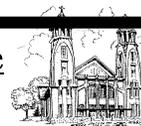
NOTICE ON GIVING VIA CREDIT/DEBIT CARD OR BY CHECK:

We have implemented an new way giving to our parish through online, on our website www.stbernardstpaul.org, with a **credit or debit card**, you can make a donation on the window on our parish website entitled "**Donation to our Parish**". At this window there is also an option to set up **recurring direct deposits** on a weekly or monthly basis.

If you would like to make a donation by **check**, you can mail to the address of the Parish Office:

Capital Campaign Update

Total Pledges: \$920,298
Payments to date: \$854,780
Amount Remaining: \$ 65,518



Boiler repair funds collected: \$34,536

Please pray for the sick and homebound

MaryAnn Nordine	Margaret Datko
Lloyd Anderson	Lorraine Eheim
Theresa Griffith	Bernice Labarre
Devra Shepherd	Yur Reh
J. Harringer	Delores Schloesser
Steve Lauinger	



Parish News

Christmas Masses Schedule

Thursday December 24: Christmas Eve 4pm
Midnight Mass 12am

Friday December 25: Christmas Day
8am & 10:30am English
2pm Spanish



Catholic Community Foundation Grant

Received to help families and individuals in this time of hardship because of the Pandemic. The Parish received \$30,000 and distributed \$26,175 to 33 different families and individuals. Helping in rent, electrical and gas bills, food, gas and medicine expenses.

"What you did to the least of my little one you did it to me"



The Three Kings are coming to St. Bernard

On Sunday, January 3 at 12:00pm presentation of the three Kings in the Church.

All Faith Formation Children are to be there as part of their class schedule.

Prepare a letter to the Kings asking for a gift for your life or someone else.

Christmas Season Office Hours

Parish office hours will change as noted:

December 24 & 25: Office closed

December 31 & January 1: Office closed

For emergencies you can always call Fr. Ivan at 651-488-6733 ext 1.



Advent Season Confession Schedule

A priest will be present in the confessional at these times from this Saturday December 5 to Wednesday December 23

Saturdays 3:00-3:45pm & 5-5:30pm

Sundays: 1-1:45pm

Mondays: 9-9:30am

Tuesdays: 6-6:25pm

Thursdays: 6-7pm

Fridays: 6-6:25pm



Come let us adore Him



*On behalf of all the parish staff, we wish you
and your loved ones a
Merry Christmas!*

*May God bless you with all his graces
in this year to come.*



Merry Christmas

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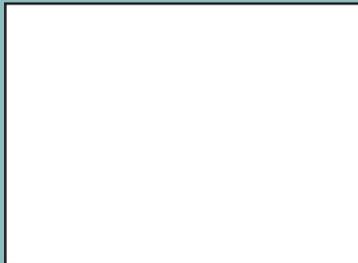
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