

CHURCH OF SAINT BERNARD

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

DECEMBER 27, 2020

"For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples."
- Lk 2:30-31



"Porque mis ojos han visto a tu Salvador,
al que has preparado para bien de todos los pueblos".
- Lc 2, 30-31

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
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Ryan Thornton

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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' advice for Married Couples

Pope Francis is not only the 266th Pontiff of the Catholic Church. Jorge Mario Bergoglio is also the oldest of 5 siblings. "Even the Pope has a family. We are 5 siblings and I have 16 nephews and nieces. One of these nephews had a car accident." His personal experience as well as meeting thousands of people have made the Pope **an expert on the family**. His advice, simple yet direct, can help in day-to-day life. There is no doubt that his advice to married couples has spread around the world.

1. "I always give this advice to newlyweds: 'Argue as much as you want. If the plates fly, let them. But **never end the day without making peace. Never!**'"

2. "It isn't necessary to call the United Nations to come to one's home to make peace. **A small gesture, a caress, a hello is sufficient!** And until tomorrow - and tomorrow one begins again."

3. **To learn about forgiveness, there is nothing better than the Bible**, something that the Pope recommends to improve family life.

"It is not for putting in a shelf, but rather for having it at hand. It is for reading it often, every day, either individually or in groups, husband and wife, parents and children; maybe at night, especially on Sundays. That way, the family can move forward with the light and the power of the Word of God!"

4. He speaks to engaged couple on the beauty of marriage but is also very sincere with them. To move forward, they must strive. "**It is a journey full of challenges, difficult at times, and also with its conflicts, but that is life.**"

5. A life filled with children. The Pope never tires of denouncing a culture that does not favor the family. For this reason, he invited couples to **throw themselves into the adventure of parenthood**.

"This culture of comfort has, in the last 10 years, convinced us that it's better to not have children! It's better! You can go explore the world, go on vacation, you can have a villa in the countryside, you can be care-free."

6. And when the children are already here, family life can be complicated at times. Pope Francis has asked to reflect on the frantic life that families sometimes experience.

"When I confess young couples and they talk to me about their children, I always ask one question: '**And do you have time to play with your children?**' And many times the father tells me: 'But Father, they are sleeping when I go to work in the morning and when I come back at night they are already asleep in bed.' This is not life."

7. He also has advice for children. **Misused technology, he said, has become one of the elements that separates a family.**

"Many children and young adults waste so much time on hollow things: Chatting on the internet, playing with the cell phone, seeing soap operas. High tech products are meant to make life simple and to improve the quality of life. But often, they distract us from what's really important."

8. For the Pope, **a fundamental pillar of family life are the elderly**. They are the future of the people because they are its memory. For this reason, Pope Francis knows the imprint left by grandparents.

"One of the most beautiful things in the life of a family, of our lives, is to caress a child and to let them be caressed by a grandfather or grandmother."

Striving, forgiveness, prayer and dedication are the ingredients that Pope Francis offers to strengthen family life.

† Mass Intentions †

Saturday	December 26	St. Stephen, Martyr
8:30am	Mary Seidel	
4:00 pm	Gardner Family	
Sunday	December 27	The Holy Family
8:00 am	Lo Ann Zechmeister	
10:30 am	Pat Adrian	
2:00 pm	Lili Claveau & Josefina Claveau	
Monday	December 28	Holy Innocents, Martyrs
8:30am	Ninh Gran	
Tuesday	December 29	St. Thomas Becket, Martyr
8:30am	Lo Ann Zechmeister	
6:30pm (Spanish)		
Wednesday	December 30	
8:30am	† Lo Ann Zechmeister	
Thursday	December 31	St. Sylvester I, pope New Year's Eve
8:30am	† Cao Chi	
4:00pm	Vigil of the Solemnity † Deloros Elli	
Friday	January 1	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God; New Year Day
8:00am	† Bernice Toskey	
10:30am	† Marilyn Rediske	
2:00pm (Spanish)	† Parish	
Saturday	January 2	Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
8:30am	† Edward Gunter	
4:00 pm	† Bangert Family	
Sunday	January 3	Epiphany
8:00 am	† Marilyn Rediske	
10:30 am	† All Sould & Leonard Beatty Family	
2:00 pm	† Maria Antonia Clavsell	
Prayer Line Please call		
Shirley Collett at (651) 488-6380		
Judy Cloutier at (651) 224-2966		
WEEKLY READINGS		
Readings for the week of December 27, 2020		
Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/ Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40		
Monday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Mt 2:13-18		
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35		
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40		
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18		
Friday: :Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21		
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28		
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12		



Thank You Very Much

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

We have implemented a 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:	\$855,030
Amount Remaining:	\$ 65,268



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

New Year Masses Schedule Solemnity Mary Mother of God

Thursday December 31: New Year's Eve 4pm

Friday January 1: New Year's 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"

HOLY FAMILY



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.

New Year Holiday Office Hours

Parish office hours will change as noted:



December 31 & January 1: Office closed

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



Num 6:24-26
*The Lord bless thee, and keep thee:
The Lord make His face
shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee:
The Lord lift up His countenance
upon thee and give thee peace*

Mary, Mother Of God

Question: If God is eternal and infinite, how can He have a mother? Why don't we call Mary just the mother of Jesus?

To understand the title, "Mother of God," we must first clearly understand Mary's role as mother of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As Catholics, we firmly believe in the incarnation of our Lord: Mary conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Confer Luke 1:26-38 and Matthew 1:18-25.) Through her, Jesus Christ- second person of the Holy Trinity, one-in-being (consubstantial) with the Father, and true God from true God- entered this world taking on human flesh and a human soul. Jesus is true God and true man. In His person are united both a divine nature and a human nature. Mary did not create the divine person of Jesus, who existed with the Father from all eternity: "In fact, the One whom she conceived as man by the Holy Spirit, who truly became her Son according to the flesh, was none other than the Father's eternal Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity. Hence the Church confesses that Mary is truly 'Mother of God' (*Theotokos*)" (*Catechism*, #495). As St. John wrote, "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we have seen His glory: The glory of an only Son coming from the Father filled with enduring love" (John 1:14).

For this reason, sometime in the early history of the Church, our Blessed Mother was given the title "Mother of God." St. John Chrysostom (d. 407), for example, composed in his Eucharistic Prayer for the Mass an anthem in honor of her: "It is truly just to proclaim you blessed, O Mother of God, who are most blessed, all pure and Mother of our God. We magnify you who are more honorable than the Cherubim and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim. You who, without losing your virginity, gave birth to the Word of God. You who are truly the Mother of God."

However, objection to the title "Mother of God" arose in the fifth century due to confusion concerning the mystery of the incarnation. Nestorius, Bishop of Constantinople (428-431), incited a major controversy. He stated that Mary gave birth to Jesus Christ, a regular human person *period*. To this human person was united the person of the Word of God (the divine Jesus). This union of two persons- the human Christ and the divine Word- was "sublime and unique" but merely accidental. The divine person dwelt in the human person "as in a temple." Following his own reasoning, Nestorius asserted that the human Jesus died on the cross, not the divine Jesus. As such, Mary is not "Mother of God," but simply "Mother of Christ"- the human Jesus. Sound confusing? It is, but the result is the splitting of Christ into two persons and the denial of the incarnation.

St. Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria (d. 440) refuted Nestorius, asserting, "It was not that an ordinary man was born first of the Holy Virgin, on whom afterwards the Word descended; what we say is that, being united with the flesh from the womb, [the Word] has undergone birth in the flesh, making the birth in the flesh His own..." (*Against Those Who do not Wish to Confess that the Holy Virgin is the Mother of God*). This statement affirms the belief asserted in the first paragraph.

On June 22, 431, the Council of Ephesus convened to settle this argument. The Council declared, "If anyone does not confess that the Emmanuel is truly God and therefore that the holy Virgin is the Mother of God (*Theotokos*) (since she begot according to the flesh the Word of God made flesh), *anathema sit*." Therefore, the Council officially recognized that Jesus is one person, with two natures- human and divine- united in a true union. Second, Ephesus affirmed that our Blessed Mother can rightfully be called the Mother of God: Mary is not Mother of God, the Father, or Mother of God, the Holy Spirit; rather, she is Mother of God, the Son- Jesus Christ. The Council of Ephesus declared Nestorius a heretic, and the Emperor Theodosius ordered him deposed and exiled. (Interestingly, a small Nestorian Church still exists in Iraq, Iran, and Syria.)

The incarnation is indeed a profound mystery. The Church uses very precise- albeit philosophical- language to prevent confusion and error. Nevertheless, we must ponder this great mystery of how our divine Savior entered this world, taking on our human flesh, to free us from sin. We must also ponder and emulate the great example of our Blessed Mother, who said, "I am the handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto me according to thy word." May we turn to her always as our own Mother, pleading, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen."



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