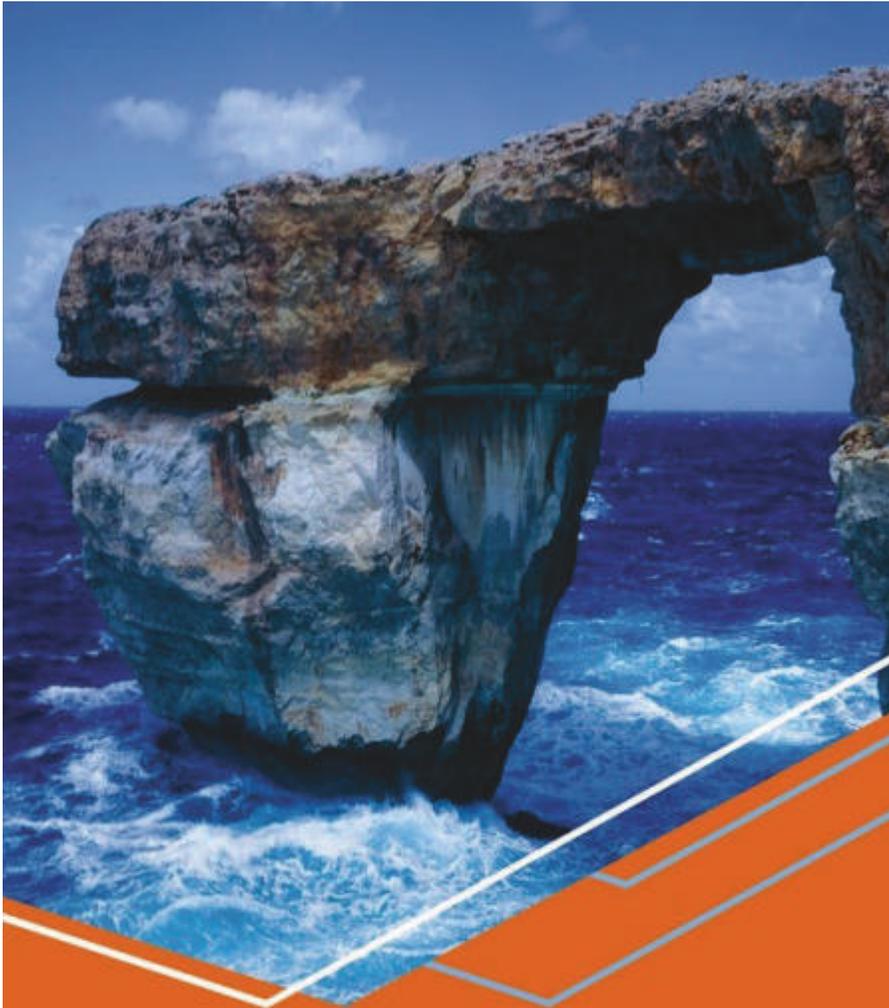




Weekly Clairvaux

3601 No. 65th Street Omaha, NE 68104 || 402-551-0269 || stbernardomaha.org



September

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**23rd Week In
Ordinary Time**

Next Week's Mass Times

Monday - Friday: 8:00am

Saturdays: 5:00pm

Sundays: 8:00am, 10:00am

****30 Minutes prior to each Mass,
the Holy Rosary will be prayed****

Confessions

Saturdays: 3:30 pm

Mon-Fri - 7:30 am

Any time by appointment;

Call: 402-551-0269

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"—that is, "Be opened!" - Mk 7:32-34

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass. ©2001, 1988, 1970 CCD.

(L.P.)

St. Bernard Mission Statement

We offer support and strength through a community of strong traditions and rich friendships for people of all ages. We desire to build faith and knowledge in our Savior, Jesus Christ, to all who enter our doors. Come experience St. Bernard Catholic Community. Come be part of our mission to make Christ present in all we say and do.

Pastor

Reverend Daniel L. Wittrock

dlwittrock@archomaha.org

Deacon Community

Paul & Darlene Dreismeier

Tim & Laurie McNeil

John Purk (Visiting Deacon)

Chuck & Pat Sheik

Don † & Pat Kemp

Skip † & Barb Baughman

Ed † & Sheila Osterhaus

Parish Office 402-551-0269

Business Manager &

Director of Development

Rose Flores

raflores@archomaha.org

Parish Secretary

Lindsey Ridley

stbernardchurch@hotmail.com

Religious Education

Deacon Chuck Sheik—402-551-0269

Safe Environment Training

402-551-0269

School Office 402-553-4993

School Principal

Emily Finley

efinley@stbernardomaha.org

School Secretary

Krista Sorensen

ksorensen@stbernardomaha.org

Child Care 402-556-4161

Director

Lara Miller

lmiller@stbernardomaha.org

Announcements and other information for the Weekly Clairvaux are due by **NOON** on the Friday nine days prior to the publication of the Weekly Clairvaux in which you desire to have your information published. Space is limited. Please email requests to stbernardchurch@hotmail.com.

2021 LOTTERY CALENDAR WINNERS

09-06 \$50.00 Megan Siebrandt #628

09-07 \$25.00 Randy & Erin Brungardt #301

09-10 \$25.00 Kris Dungan #626

09-12 \$25.00 Carm Cosentino #200

September 3 — St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor

There are only four popes who have been called “Great”, St. Leo the Great, St. Nicholas the Great, soon to be St. John Paul the Great, and St. Gregory the Great. St. Gregory was born in Rome at the end of the sixth century. After serving in various public offices in Rome, he quit public life to become a Benedictine monk. But his diplomatic skills required his services as an ambassador to Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire. He was elected pope in 590 and served until 604. In that time he wrote extensively on the theological and moral subjects as well as writing hundreds of letters. He is credited with introducing Gregorian Chant into the liturgy. He sent missionaries to England to evangelize the Germanic tribes there. He organized the processes of giving donations and food to the poor in Rome. He is also considered the pope who revitalized the papacy and brought the institution of the papacy to its central place in the Church as first in charity and authority. He introduced the title *Servum servorum Dei*, “Servant of the Servants of God”, which is the last of the eight titles of a pope.

There is a great deal that St. Gregory accomplished for the Church. As pope he had care for all people’s spiritual needs, but he also cared for the physical needs of those in Rome who had been brought low by bad economics and war. He even cared for the needs of those who weren’t Christian by sending missionaries. Servanthood is founded upon Jesus’ commitment to serve us: “If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do” (Jn. 13:14-15).

We are servants and friends of Jesus if we do as he commands. What greater thing can we do than serving each other and our society by our lives of Christian love and fellowship? Our worship together on Sunday solidifies our solidarity in living as Christ calls us: “As I have loved you, so you also should love one another” (Jn 13:34). This is the true legacy that St. Gregory the Great, and all the saints, give us.

If you want to read more about the saints, go to Mr. Mueting’s Saint Weblog at: mrmuetingsaints.blogspot.com

Yours Truly,
Mr. Tim Mueting

LAST WEEK’S GIVING

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| August 29th Collection | \$3,073 |
| Faith Direct Donations this period | \$0 |
| YTD Total First Collections/Deficit Reduction Collections | \$63,902 |
| YTD Required First Collections(\$7,984 per week) | \$71,856 |
| YTD Performance First Collection [Collected-Required] | -\$7,954 |

YTD 2021 ANNUAL APPEAL = \$28,873

NEW PARKING LOT FUND = \$11,135

(These funds cover the \$35,000 Initial Expense, plus future Maintenance Costs)

ST. BERNARD ANNUAL BENEFIT & AUCTION



OUR DINNER AUCTION EVENT IS ONLY 5 SHORT WEEKS AWAY. PLEASE SEE THE INSERT IN THE BULLETIN FOR TICKET INFORMATION OR WAYS TO HELP.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS.

SUNDAY'S READINGS

September 5, 2021

First Reading: Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing. (Is 35: 5-6)

Psalm: Praise the Lord, my soul! (Ps 146) or Alleluia

Second Reading: Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him? (Jas 2:5)

Gospel: "He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak." (Mk 7:37)

Gospel Meditation—

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

From the time we are born into this world until we die, our human radar picks up signals about how to respond to life. What we picked up on when we were very young carries an even greater power. The messages we receive and process tell us what we are "supposed" to do with our feelings, how to understand and cope with disappointment, anxiety, failure, death, illness, and what to expect out of life. As life unfolds for us, these radar messages kick in and resonate in us at very deep levels. Sometimes what we have learned is helpful and sometimes it is not. The stories we have been told, especially when we are young, about how life is best lived and how to negotiate its pain carry a heavy weight.

Life can be challenging and frightening. Sometimes, it really hurts to be a human being. It also can be quite unpredictable and, at times, unfair. We face our vulnerability and brokenness of all kinds: physical, emotional, and spiritual. It doesn't take much for life to quickly fall apart. What we knew to be familiar and true is gone and something we relied upon, physically, emotionally, or spiritually, can be taken away. It is hard to confront our limitations and sit with our incompleteness. Often, life hurts us so much that we find ourselves sitting in a pool of sadness, not sure what we are supposed to do. It is particularly hard when the signals we have inherited tell us that we need to be successful in what we do, and we have to avoid life's unfairness. We can feel like a failure, wondering what precisely we did to deserve this fate, or ruminate about what we did not do correctly. But it's really not about us. We are part of a bigger picture and much more fascinating story!

If we cease doing battle with life's incompleteness and see ourselves, as God does, on a journey toward wholeness and completeness we can better accept our disappointments and stand firm. The prophets told us, and Jesus reassured us: Be strong! Fear not! Sometimes we have to update our stories and replace them with newer, more accurate ones. When we make God's story our own and tune our radar into His voice, what we hear is all about restoration, healing, and rejuvenation! This is true even when we think we have hit rock bottom and can go no further. There is always hope. Remember the words of Julian of Norwich: God made us, God loves us, and God keeps us. Now, listen to God when He says, "be opened!" Be healed and allow stories to change.

Parish Religious Education at St. Bernard (P.R.E.)

We will be having Classes this year on Wednesday evening beginning September 15th, for children in Kindergarten up to 8th Grade. First session will be an Introductory night, starting with Mass at 6:00pm, then an opportunity to meet the teachers and see their classrooms.

All parents will be **required** to attend this evening.

Starting September 22nd, classes will be from 6:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Please consider sending your children to spend an hour with us at St. Bernard's where they would learn more about their faith.

Please note, Father Dan Wittrock has decided that there will be no fees for the class.

Parents, we are in need of teachers to assist us and don't forget that our children are our future in keeping our faith alive.

If you have any questions, please send me an e-mail at cpskeik@archomaha.org or call Deacon Chuck Sheik at 402-672-7907.

RCIA Class; which stands for Rite of Christian Initiations for Adults, will be Thursday nights, starting September 16th, and going through April 2022.

This will be a weekly meeting on Thursday evenings from 7—8:30pm. It is a spiritual journey in which the individual determines whether they are ready to deepen their relationship with Jesus. We will explore the teachings of the Catholic Church.

RCIA is also available to Catholics who never received the Sacrament of Confirmation when they were younger. Each year we invite Catholics who want to renew/revisit their own faith, as an adult, to join us.

If you or someone you know is interested in exploring the Catholic faith, please call Deacon Chuck Sheik at 402-672-7907 or send an email to cpsheik@archomaha.org.

MONDAY NIGHT ADULT BIBLE STUDY RETURNS!

Yes, we will be resuming our in person Bible study at St. Bernard. We welcome all, *particularly young adults*, who are interested in becoming more involved in the study of the Bible. The title of this Catholic Bible Study is *Living in the Power of the Holy Spirit*. This study guarantees to help you find answers to your questions: "Who is the Holy Spirit? What is his role in our salvation? How do we cooperate with him to experience the fullness of his presence? How do we receive his fruits and exercise his gifts?" If you want to grow in your appreciation of the Holy Spirit, please join us beginning on Monday, September 27 from 7-8:15pm for nine consecutive Mondays, ending on November 22. This study will be facilitated by Deacon Chuck of our parish. Cost of the study booklet is only \$10; the study will be held in our Clairvaux Center. On or before Monday, September 13, please call Dick at 402-572-8211 if you wish to join this inspiring Bible Study or if you have any questions or concerns.

Are you aware that there is an extensive library in the back of the church to assist you in your spiritual growth?

Hundreds of books are organized in specific categories, such as Prayer, Biography, Spiritual Life, Church History, and even books to amuse your young children during Mass!

One biography you may have heard of:

Left to Tell: discovering God amidst the Rwandan Holocaust, written by Immaculee Ilibagiza with Steve Erwin.

Immaculee was a 24 year old college student, on an Easter break at home in Rwanda in 1994, when an uprising resulted in the genocide of more than a million Tutsi citizens, including most of her family. She found refuge at a protestant pastor's home, hiding in a three foot by four foot bathroom with seven other women for 91 horrifying days. They had to take turns standing up to stretch; there was little ventilation; food delivered by the pastor was sparse. They were nearly discovered several times. Immaculee depended on her rosary for distraction and comfort, as her faith in God grew, and she found comfort in prayer. A spellbinding story of horror, courage, determination, and the growth of faith.

There are two copies of this book (filed in the BIO section) in the library and many other biographies of saints, popes, and inspirational Christians.

A book may be checked out for three weeks.

-Book review by Mary Mick.

Liturgical Roles

Saturday, September 11th & Sunday, September 12th

Deacons:

5:00pm: Deacon Paul Dreismeier
8:00am: Deacon Chuck Sheik
10:00am: Deacon Tim McNeil

Altar Servers

5:00pm:
NONE AT THIS TIME

8:00am:
10:00am:

EMHC's

5:00pm:
8:00am: *NONE AT THIS TIME*
10:00am:

Lectors:

5:00pm: Angela Chrystal
8:00am: Barb Baughman* **
10:00am: Tim Muetting* **

*First Reading and Psalm (if no music)

*Announcements and Second Reading

This Week's Heavenly Helpers



Crew #4

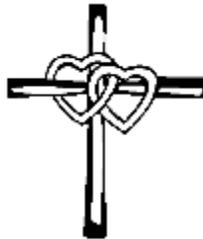
Bev Mausbach, Colleen Rickabaugh,
Karen Kafka, Lino Thomas,
Lauretta Simon, and Lisa Salcedo

Baptism classes are held the first Monday of the month at 7:30pm. All new parents must take this class before having their first child baptized. Please call the Parish Rectory to register—
(402)551-0269



MARRIAGE PREPARATION

PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH FR. DAN AT LEAST 6 MONTHS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR DESIRED WEDDING DATE



St. Vincent de Paul Corner

The responsorial psalm for this Sunday's Mass speaks of God's tender mercy and care for the oppressed. He "gives food to the hungry" . . . "raises up those who were bowed down" . . . Sustains "the fatherless and the widow."

Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul strive to extend God's care for those in need to our neighbors. Our pantry provides food to the hungry.

Financial assistance relieves those bowed down under the weight of unexpected circumstances. If you would like to join fellow parishioners with these efforts, please call Susan at 402-556-9226 to learn more.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

September 5th – September 12th

Sunday, September 5th:

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am Mass †Bob & Peg Gehringer
10:00am Mass †Michael Kemp

Monday, September 6th:

23rd Monday in Ordinary Time

8:00am Mass †Cassie Sheik

Tuesday, September 7th:

23rd Tuesday in Ordinary Time

8:00am Mass Memorial Fund Members

Wednesday, September 8th:

Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00am Mass †"For the Souls of All Who
Have Taught at St. Bernard"

Thursday, September 9th:

Memorial of St. Peter Claver, Priest

8:00am Mass †James E. Christensen

Friday, September 10th:

23rd Friday in Ordinary Time

8:00am Mass †Leon St. Pierre Bailey, Jr.

Saturday, September 11th:

23rd Saturday in Ordinary Time

5:00pm Mass †Donald E. Baldwin, Sr.



Sunday, September 12th:

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am Mass St. Bernard Parish Family
10:00am Mass †Don & Michael Kemp

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