



BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC PARISH

THE HOLY FAMILY

DECEMBER 26, 2021

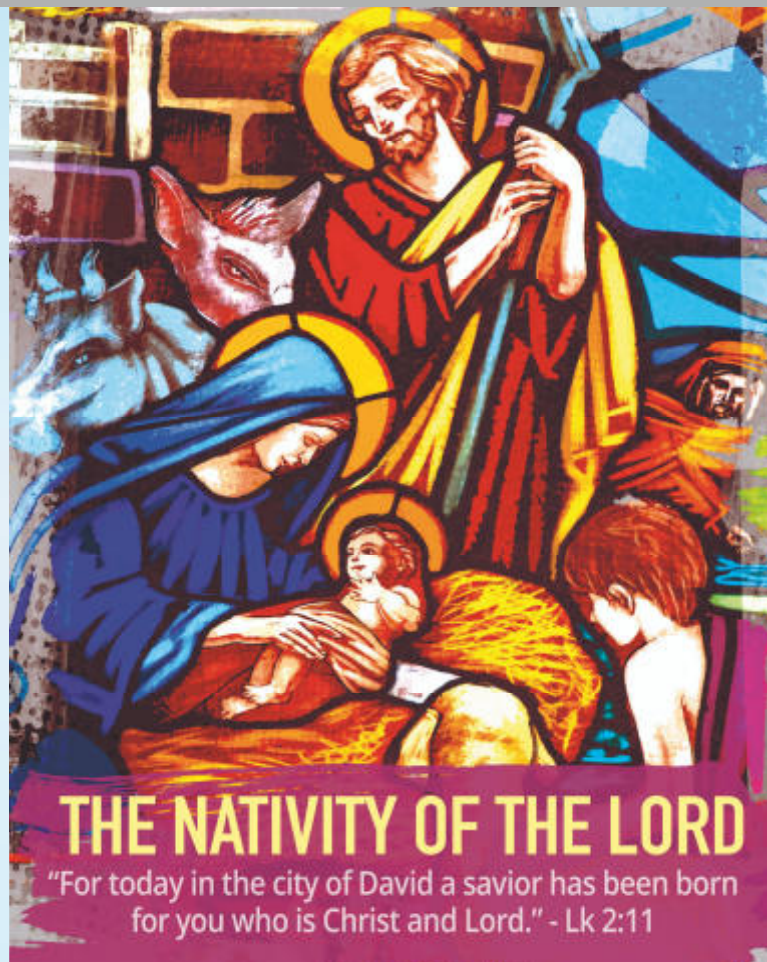
WELCOME

AS A CATHOLIC FAMILY, WE ARE CALLED BY CHRIST TO PRAYERFULLY CREATE AND NOURISH A VIBRANT COMMUNITY CENTERED ON THE EUCHARIST AND DEDICATED TO SERVICE, SPIRITUALITY, AND EVANGELIZATION.

NEW PARISHIONERS please contact our parish office or click '**Register with the parish**' on the bottom of our webpage.

NEW PARENTS are encouraged to contact the parish office please click '**Schedule a Baptism**' on the bottom of our webpage to register for a baptism class.

ENGAGED COUPLES are requested to contact the parish office at least 6 months prior to their wedding. To start the process, click '**Get Married**' on the bottom of our webpage.



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." - Lk 2:11

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.BLESSEDSACRAMENTCT.ORG

SAINT BERNARD

25 St. Bernard Terrace
Rockville, CT 06066

PHONE: (860) 875-0753

FAX: (860) 871-7460

email: rectory@saintbernardchurch.org

Office Hours: Mon - Fri 9:00am-3:00pm

Christmas Week Mass Schedule

Friday(12/24): 4:00pm, 6:00pm & Midnight

Saturday (12/25): 9:00am & 11:00am

Sunday (12/26): 8:00am, 10:00am & Noon

Monday (12/27), Wednesday (12/29) &

Friday (12/31): 8:00am

Saturday Vigil (1/1): 5:00pm

Sunday (1/2): 8:00am, 10:00am & Noon

Confession: Saturday (1/1) 3:00pm – 4:00pm

SAINT MATTHEW

111 Tolland Green
Tolland, CT 06084

PHONE: (860) 872-0200

FAX: (860) 875-4413

email: parishoffice@stmatthewct.org

Office Hours: Mon - Fri 9:30am-3:00pm

Christmas Week Mass Schedule

Friday (12/24): 4:00pm, 4:15pm, 6:00pm & 10:00pm

Saturday (12/25): 8:30am & 10:30am

Sunday (12/26): 8:30am, 10:30am

Tuesday (12/28), Thursday (12/30): 9:00am

Saturday Vigil (1/1): 5:00pm

Sunday (1/2): 8:30am, 10:30am

Confession: Saturday (1/1) 4:00pm – 4:45pm

We will Live Stream the following Christmas Week Masses on our website:

Friday 4:00pm, 6:00pm & Midnight / **Saturday** 9:00am / **Sunday** 10AM / **Monday** 8AM / **Tuesday** 9AM / **Wednesday** 8AM / **Thursday** 9AM / **Friday** 8AM / **Saturday** 5PM



BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC PARISH

THE HOLY FAMILY

PASTORAL STAFF

OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS

ST. BERNARD
(860) 875-0753

ST. MATTHEW
(860) 872-0200

PASTOR

REV. RICHARD J. RICARD

Ext 101 / fr.rick@cath-comm.org

PAROCHIAL VICAR

REV. GEORGE A. BUSTO, JR.

Ext 108 / fr.george@cath-comm.org

REV. LAWRENCE J. BARILE

Ext 121 / fr.larry@cath-comm.org

DEACONS

DEACON RONALD F. FREEDMAN

Ext 310 / deacon.ron@cath-comm.org

DEACON MICHAEL C. BERSTENE

Ext 313 / deacon.mike@cath-comm.org

BUSINESS MANAGER

Mr. Brian Kenny

Ext 106 / bkenny@cath-comm.org

FAITH FORMATION

Mrs. LeeAnn Fritsch, Secretary

Ext 309 / leann.fritsch@cath-comm.org

Ree Suárez Vertefeulle—Grades K-6

Ext 308 / theresa@cath-comm.org

Mrs. Bridget Thurston—Grades 7-10

Ext 306 /bridget.thurston@cath-comm.org

CHURCH SECRETARIES

Ms. Stella Jonas—St. Bernard Church

Ext 1 / stella@cath-comm.org

Mrs. Denise Gilcreast—St. Matthew Church

Ext 2 / parishoffice@cath-comm.org

FINANCE ASSOCIATE

Mrs. Christine Griffin

Ext 305 / christine.griffin@cath-comm.org

BULLETIN EDITOR

Mrs. Amy Blanchard

Ext 303 / bulletin@cath-comm.org

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: Monday by noon
Submit electronically to: bulletin@cath-comm.org

YOUTH GROUP Ext 306 / youth@cath-comm.org

MUSIC DIRECTORS

Liz Bologna—Parish Music Coordinator

bspmusic@cath-comm.org

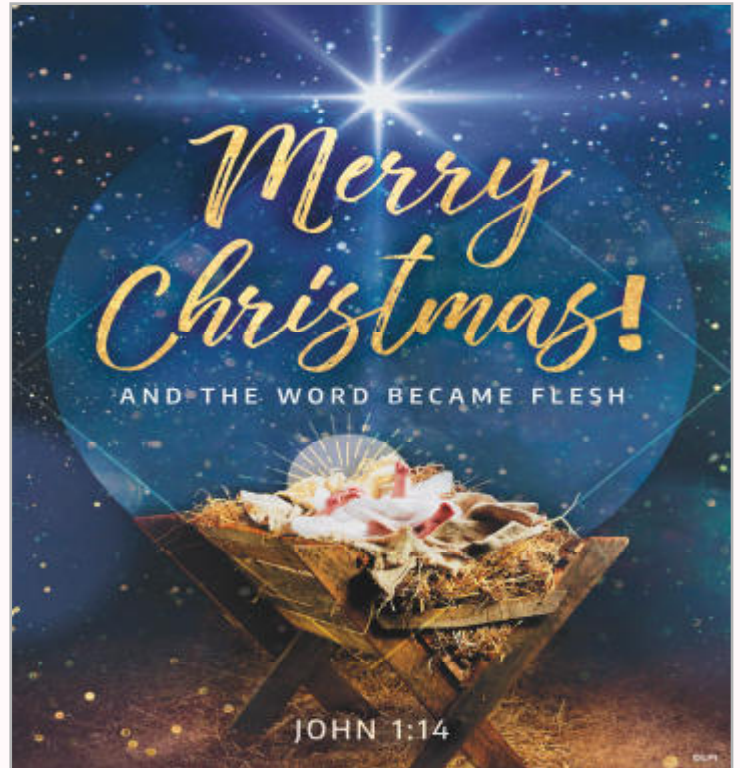
Mrs. Norma Marchesani—Director, St. Bernard

music@cath-comm.org

Mrs. Rebecca Urrutia—Director, St. Matthew

rebecca.urrutia@cath-comm.org

CEMETERY Ext 105 / cemetery@cath-comm.org



COME ENJOY OUR CHURCHES



We invite our parishioners who are not comfortable coming to Mass to visit our beautifully decorated Churches. Both our Churches will be open from **9:00am to 6:00pm on December 27th through December 30th** for you to come and sit quietly with the Lord.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

All Church offices will close at noon on **Thursday, December 30th** and reopen **Monday, January 3rd**.
If you need assistance during this time, please leave a message and someone will get back to you.

St. Bernard—(860) 875-0753 Ext. 1
St. Matthew—(860) 872-0200 Ext. 2



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Our community will celebrate Mass:

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

Vigil Mass - 5:00pm at St. Matthew

Saturday, JANUARY 1ST

Mass - 9:00am at St. Bernard

Please Note: There **will be** an 8:00am morning Mass at St. Bernard on December 31st, but there **will not be** a 9:00am Mass at St. Matthew. Also, there **will be** 5:00pm Vigil Masses at both churches on January 1st.



BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC PARISH MASS INTENTIONS

DECEMBER 26, 2021

ST. BERNARD CHURCH

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD MASSES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00pm † Joseph Cordeira rb family
6:00pm † Walter Iwan (12th Anniv) rb Stella, Nick & Samie

Midnight Blessed Sacrament Parish Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:00am † Joseph Burke rb daughter
11:00am † James & Christine Smith rb their daughter, Kathleen

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

8:00am † James Allen Turek (5th Anniv) rb Kathleen Vaiciulis
10:00am † Guy Plourde (12th Anniv) rb family
† Christopher Wilson rb family
† Green & Jones families rb their families

12:00pm † Luisa Jensen rb family

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

8:00am † Nancy Lachut rb family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

9:00am Mass at St. Matthew

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

8:00am † Dolores Tschinkel (birthday memorial) rb friends

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30

9:00am Mass at St. Matthew

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:00am † Michael Burroughs

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

5:00pm † Mass at St. Matthew

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

9:00am For a healthy faith-filled New Year

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

5:00pm † Joaquin Ballestas (5th Anniv) rb Diane

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

8:00am Blessed Sacrament Parish Family
10:00am † William Kenneth Conway rb Pastoral Council
† Ben Vilorio rb Eslao family
12:00pm † William & Anna Cosgrove, & son, Billy rb daughter/sister, Mary

SANCTUARY LAMP—DECEMBER 26, 2021

In Loving Memory of Joseph Burke
Requested by daughter

ST. MATTHEW CHURCH

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD MASSES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00pm † John and Katherine O' Loughlin rb
O'Loughlin and McNamee families
4:15pm † Donald, Patricia & Paul Burnell rb the Cabaniss family

6:00pm For peace in our world and in our hearts
10:00pm For those who are ill this Christmas

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

8:30am For those who cannot be with their family on Christmas

10:30am † William & Anna Cosgrove rb family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

8:30am Blessed Sacrament Parish Family
10:30am For our sister parish, St. Pierre, in Haiti

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

8:00am Mass at St. Bernard

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

9:00am † Michael Marino rb Don Zybik

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

8:00am Mass at St. Bernard

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30

9:00am † James Allen Tyrek (5th Anniv) rb Kathleen Vaiciulis

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

9:00am **No Mass**

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

5:00pm † Kathleen Kelleher (1st Anniv) rb her husband

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

9:00am Mass at St. Bernard

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1—

5:00pm † Cody Ericson rb Mom & Dad

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

8:30am
10:30am

SANCTUARY LAMP—DECEMBER 26, 2021

In loving memory of Jeanne Meddick
Requested by Rob Green

† *In Sympathy* †

We commend to the risen Lord: **Doris M Huff, Melbourne Archambault, Sr., Michael J. Boyle, and Ruth McBride Griffin** who passed away into eternal life. We express our sincere and heartfelt sympathy to their families.



BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

THE HOLY FAMILY



MUSIC FOR OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST. BERNARD CHURCH

ENTRANCE:

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS:

Christmas Eve (4:00pm & 6:00pm):

#531 WC O Little Town of Bethlehem

Midnight:

#537 WC Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Christmas Day:

#520 WC Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

RECESSIONAL:

#523 WC JOY TO THE WORLD

**MIDNIGHT MASS NOTE: CHRISTMAS CAROLS WILL
BEGIN AT 11:30PM, BEFORE MIDNIGHT MASS.**



HYMNS FOR SUNDAY MASS AT ST. BERNARD

Entrance:

#534 WC O Come, Little Children

Presentation of Gifts:

#552 WC What Child is This

Recessional:

#528 WC Angels We Have Heard on High



ST. BERNARD CHURCH HAT & MITTEN TREE

Our annual hat & mitten tree has been set up in the center vestibule at St. Bernard Church. Please remember those less fortunate by bringing new or gently used hats & mittens to add to our tree.

All gifts will go to the Cornerstone Foundation. The tree will remain through the Christmas season.



CATHOLICS
RETURNING
HOME

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN AWAY FROM THE CHURCH?

If you are attending Christmas Mass and haven't been to Church in a while, we are glad that you are here! We'd like to share with you that our Parish is sponsoring a six-week program **starting on January 10th at 7 pm** that is open to all Catholics who have been away from the Church and have given some thought to coming back more often. It is a welcoming, non-judgmental, and educational series, designed to reintroduce our Faith to those that have been away, no matter what the reason and no matter how long.

If you'd like to know more, just scan the above QR Code. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Blessed Sacrament Parish has suspended having ushers collect weekly offertory envelopes. Instead we now have collection baskets located before each Communion station. Please put your envelope in the basket when you go for Communion.

BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH OFFERTORY

WHY WE GIVE

GIVING EXPRESSES LOVE FOR PEOPLE

OUR GIVING MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR PEOPLE TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S LOVE FOR THEM. IT ALSO HELPS US PROVIDE, THROUGH OUR MINISTRY PARTNERS, CRITICAL CARE TO THE POOR AND THOSE IN NEED.

*EACH ONE MUST GIVE AS HE HAS DECIDED IN HIS
HEART, NOT RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER COMPULSION,
FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER.*

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

WEEKEND OF 12/12/21:

WEEKLY COLLECTION: \$ 31,159.59

TITHE: Cornerstone Foundation \$ 1,557.98

**PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO
BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY



BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

DECEMBER 26, 2021



FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Fridays beginning January 7th we will gather to adore our Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. All parishioners are invited to join us in prayer. It is a great opportunity for peaceful reflection, personal prayer or just relaxing in Jesus' presence, speaking, and listening to him.

Christ had asked of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690), a French nun, as he had asked the apostles in the Garden of Olives: "Can you not watch one hour with me?" Jesus made it clear to St. Margaret Mary that through this devotion, He wishes His faithful friends to become partakers of that "sorrow unto death" which He willed to suffer in the Garden of Olives and to join with Him in the humble prayer which He offered to His Father at that time. He also wishes the faithful to appease His Father's anger and to ask Him to forgive all sinners.

First Friday Exposition begins at 3:00 PM and concludes with Benediction (the blessing) at 7:00 PM. We will alternate gathering at our Churches (see below).

St. Bernard Church	St. Matthew Church
Friday, January 7	Friday, February 4
Friday, March 4	Friday, April 1
Friday, May 6	Friday, June 3
Friday, July 1	

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Voghel at spirituality@cath-comm.org



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH SOUP KITCHEN MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

Monday	December 27	Team 4	St. Elizabeth (Karen, Barbara, and Michael working, Grace subbing)
Tuesday	December 28	Team 8	St. Bridget (Jil, Diane, Tom, and Linda working)
Wednesday	December 29	Team 14	St. Stephen (Ben & daughter working)
Friday	December 31	New Year's Eve No Teams Working	

Once in our world a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world.
C.S. Lewis

MERRY CHRISTMAS from the Soup Kitchen Ministry



Catholic Book Club

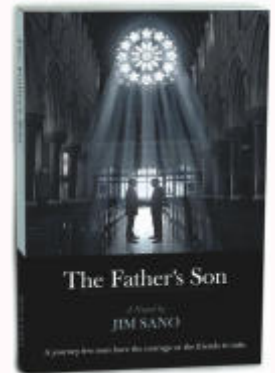
Jan 10, 24, and Feb 7

Morning sessions at St. Bernard Church
Evening sessions available on zoom

Blessed Sacrament Parish Book Club resumes in January! We will have an in person option for those comfortable gathering in a group setting as well as an option for Zoom discussion sessions for those who cannot make the morning session or want to participate from home.

New members are always welcome. If you enjoy reading and learning about our Catholic faith then this book club is made for you! Our book club will inspire participants on our Catholic faith journey to develop a deeper spiritual life, and strengthen our personal relationship with Jesus and with each other.

Our next book will be The Father's Son by Jim Sano. The Father's Son is a highly engaging story that will make you think about faith, family, friendship, forgiveness, redemption, love, and truth, and may prove to profoundly impact how you look at life itself.



There is no cost to join, however, participants buy their own book. Registration is on our website, BlessedSacramentCT.org.

- Our in person morning session will run from 9—10:30am.
- Our evening Zoom session will run from 7—8:30pm.

Email any questions or suggestions to bookclub@cath-comm.org

Register online before January 3rd.
BlessedSacramentCT.org



BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

THE HOLY FAMILY



December 26 - 31

Grades K-6)

- ◆ **Sunday students**—No Class (resumes 1/9/22)
- ◆ **Monday students**—No Class (resumes 1/3/22)
- ◆ **Tuesday students**—No Class (resumes 1/4/22)
- ◆ **Wednesday students**—No Class (resumes 1/5/22)

Grades 7-10

- ◆ **Monday students**—No Class (resumes 1/3/22)
- ◆ **Tuesday students**—No Class (resumes 1/4/22)
- ◆ **Faith and Fun Night - January 15th at St. Bernard**
We will be holding our annual event for Clairvaux House. Details will be emailed prior to the event.

◆ **2nd Year Confirmation Parent & Candidate Workshop - January 10th and 11th**

Sponsors are also welcome.

We will be reviewing important information, requirements, and details about Confirmation. This is where you will have **all** of your questions answered! Please be sure to attend **one** of these sessions.

Register for the session you and your teen will be attending by scanning the QR Code or going to the Faith Formation page on our website.



For questions, call or email Bridget Thurston.

Merry Christmas from the Staff to our Teachers and Students of the Religious Education Program.



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

FREE membership offer good thru 12/31/2021, use the QR code or go to www.kofc.org/join use PROMO code MCGIVNEY2020 and enter Council 4122 (St. Bernard) or 6626 (St. Matthew).



Blessed Sacrament Parish offers several opportunities to participate in our Youth Music Program in 2022.

The Youth Choir Masses at St. Matthew, directed by Deirdre Goldsmith, are an opportunity for youth from middle school and beyond to worship in contemporary song after rehearsing together for one hour before Mass. Mrs. Goldsmith sends out the music selections in advance to musicians who are on the roster, then musicians RSVP back their availability. To be added to the roster, email: deirdre.goldsmith@cath-comm.org.

The Youth Choir Masses are new at St. Bernard! One noon Mass each month, singers middle-school-aged and older are invited to join Liz Bologna and Jenny Tran to participate in the Mass through song. Music will be sent out a week before each Mass date and singers will rehearse briefly before the Youth Choir Masses. Let Liz know if you are interested: bspmusic@cath-comm.org.

St. Matthew Dates:

- Sunday, January 23, 10:30am Mass
- Sunday, February 13, 10:30am Mass
- Sunday, April 3, 10:30am Mass

St. Bernard Dates:

- Sunday, January 9th noon Mass
- Sunday, February 6th noon Mass
- Sunday, March 6th, noon Mass
- Sunday, May 1st, noon Mass

Youth from both of our parish sites are welcome at either group!



BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

The next class for registered parents who wish to have their child(ren) baptized is scheduled for:

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12TH AT 7:00PM

Call Denise at 860-872-0200, Ext. 2 to pre-register.

Baptisms are scheduled:

- at St. Bernard on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sunday of the month
- at St. Matthew on the 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sunday of the month



BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

DECEMBER 26, 2021

St. Bernard Women's Guild News

Please note - we will not be meeting in January.

Our next meeting will be

Tuesday, February 1st at 6:00pm

in the St. Bernard Church Hall

We hope to see you then!

*Have a Blessed Christmas &
Happy, Healthy New Year!*



Thank You. 

The St. Bernard Women's Guild would like to thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for supporting our raffle this year. We are humbled by the wonderful response we received from the parish. Thank you also to all the women who helped with getting the permit and paperwork for the state, envelope stuffing, processing our returns, doing our bank deposits, the parish office staff for their ongoing support and thank you, Fr. Rick, for pulling the winning tickets and allowing us to hold the drawing after Mass.

May God Bless you all for your generosity and kindness. Merry Christmas!

ST. BERNARD WOMEN'S GUILD DRAWING WINNERS

- #1 Ticket no. 1856—William Gates
- #2 Ticket no. 1782—Deanna Chvatal
- #3 Ticket no. 1650—Liz Bologna
- #4 Ticket no. 3313—Ann Marie Ward
- #5 Ticket no. 0070—Laurie Bostiga
- #6 Ticket no. 0961—Linda Lee
- #7 Ticket no. 0632—Art Plante
- #8 Ticket no. 0228—Sharon Breault
- #9 Ticket no. 3658—Diane Levenson
(gift card donated by Stop and Shop)



Justice & Peace Committee News

IRIS REQUEST

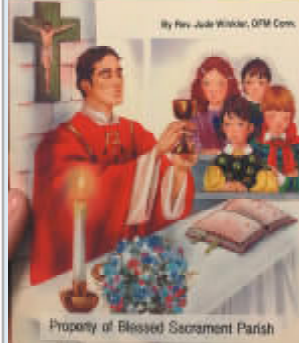
Our contact at IRIS has made another request to help the many refugees that they are working with—underwear for both children and adults.



We will have labeled boxes in both church halls for donations. This collection will run through January 2, 2022. **PLEASE - NEW UNDERWEAR ONLY.**

CHILDREN'S MISSALETTES

The MASS for Children



A parishioner has donated copies of the booklet "The Mass for Children" to our parish for use in the pews during Mass.

Please feel free to use a copy for your child to look at during Mass, and kindly return the book before leaving Church. We hope our parish children can enjoy following along with the Mass with this booklet for years to come!



THANKING A FAMILY CAREGIVER

It can be difficult to know how to thank a family caregiver. But the holiday season is the perfect time, and here are a few suggestions:

- Acknowledge that caregiving is difficult, and simply say "thank you".
- Make specific offers of help, such as bringing a meal on a specific date, or offering to do some laundry, or sitting with their loved one for an hour or two while they have some time for themselves to go out or sit in another room and read a book.
- Make a "caregiver coupon book" with tasks you can do to help and that they can use when needed.
- Be there for them. Call or stop by to check on how they are doing. Let them talk.
- Share caregiving resources such as local care agencies, day care, etc.; or online sites such as aarp.org/ctcaregiving.



BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Due to holiday schedules, the next available bulletin for announcements is the January 8/9 bulletin. Requests must be received electronically by noon on Monday, January 3rd to be considered for that bulletin.

Requests should be emailed to:
bulletin@cath-comm.org.



BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

THE HOLY FAMILY

THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all.

Pope Francis: *Patris Corde*



(Continued from last weekend)

God's dearest desire is entrusted to Joseph. God has awaited Joseph's response no less than He did Mary's sweet fiat. Joseph receives Mary, his wife, into his home. And so, God is given a worthy home in which to dwell, Joseph's home. "Go to Joseph," the old lay brothers remind us; and with good reason, for it is what God himself did with His dearest desire, his dream. He went to Joseph and found there a heart like his own. God found in Joseph, says Saint Bernard, one whom He could trust, entrust with his dearest secret. Joseph's availability to unexpected grace and divine reversal, divine possibility gives God a home in Nazareth, that place of ordinariness. (continued next weekend)

**Reflection from the monks of St. Joseph Abbey,
Spencer, MA;**

submitted by the Blessed Sacrament Spirituality Team



**2021 ACA UPDATE:
AS OF NOVEMBER 29TH**

**Congratulations to Blessed
Sacrament Parish for
surpassing its goal!**

The current amount donated is \$161,576 with 14.21% of our parishioners donating.

We are striving for as close to 100% participation as possible. THERE IS STILL TIME TO DONATE! Our campaign year ends December 31, 2021.

If you have not made your contribution to the 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal, "One Faith, One Family", or would like to make an additional gift, donation envelopes are still available within the church or you can contact the Development Office at (860) 886-1928 or go online to www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org.

Thank you to everyone for your support!



Blessed Sacrament Catholic Parish receives thank you letters from groups & organizations that we support through our tithing program. Below are excerpts from some of those letters.

CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S:



Thank you for your thoughtful contribution in support of the patients and families at Connecticut Children's. Your gift benefits the Greatest Need Children's Fund. Your generosity is more meaningful than ever as we navigate these uncertain times.

Your support has an immediate impact on our patients and families. Thank you for your kind generosity.

TRI-TOWN FUEL BANK:

Thank you for your recent donation. We are truly grateful for your willingness to reach out to our community. Your support allows us to assist individuals and families in Vernon, Ellington, and Tolland who are experiencing a heating or utility crisis. The Tri-Town Fuel Bank would not exist without the thoughtfulness of people like you.

VERNON SOCIAL SERVICES:

Thank you for your generous donation to our Back-to-School Program. With the support of caring people like you, we were able to provide 61 Vernon children with gift cards to purchase new clothes and supplies for school this year. Your generosity and kindness are greatly appreciated.

4 PAWS FOR ABILITY:



Thank you for your generous donation toward the training and placement of service dogs with people who have disabilities! Please know that the families that receive these dogs value your contribution. By donation to 4 Paws you are making a dream come true!

INTERVAL HOUSE:



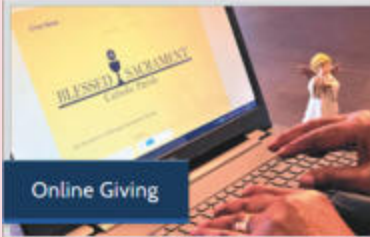
Thank you for the very generous donation.

Did you know that **one in four women** will experience domestic violence during her lifetime? In April 2021, we sheltered a record 94 individuals, bringing our Safe House to 314% capacity and forcing us to place dozens of clients in hotels—and unbudgeted expense. The cost is staggering, which is why we are so grateful for your ongoing support.



BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

DECEMBER 26, 2021



**PLEASE CONSIDER
ONLINE GIVING FOR
YOUR WEEKLY AND
SPECIAL COLLECTION
DONATIONS.**

It is SAFE and EASY!

ParishSOFT, the company that supports our Online Giving platform, meets the payment card industry's strictest security standard, and they are a Level 1 Certified PCI Compliant Service Provider. ParishSOFT treats your sensitive information with the utmost respect and puts the highest security measures in place.

To sign up for a one time or recurring donation, scan the QR Code or log onto our website: blessedsacramentct.org



If you have questions, please contact:

Christine Griffin - christine.griffin@cath-comm.org or

Brian Kenny - bkenny@cath-comm.org



MASS & SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTIONS

In addition to Mass Intentions, both of our Churches have a Sanctuary Lamp that is available to memorialize a loved one or for an intention such as healing or thanksgiving. The lamp will burn for a week for the intention.

To reserve a Mass or Sanctuary Lamp, please call:

For St. Bernard: (860) 875-0753 Ext 1

For St. Matthew: (860) 872-0200 Ext 2



OUR BULLETIN IS AVAILABLE ONLINE

You can view our bulletin on our website (under the Resources menu). Or you can sign up to have our publisher email our

bulletin to you. To sign up:

- 1) Scan the QR Code (this will bring you our parish's section within our publisher's website www.parishesonline.com)
- 2) Click on the Subscribe button (in the Recent Publications section)
- 3) Enter your email address and name then click Subscribe



If you have questions, please email Amy Blanchard at bulletin@cath-comm.org



THE TOLLAND FOOD PANTRY

Tolland food pantry is in need of the following items:

- Canned tuna, chicken, salmon
- Raisin Bran, Shredded Wheat, Total Cereal, Rice Krispies, Cheerios
- Pasta Sauce (with & without meat)
- Ravioli, SpaghettiOs
- Juice - Apple, Grape, Fruit punch
- Canned pineapple, peaches, pears, mandarin oranges
- Healthy crackers and snacks
- Applesauce

To donate items to the Tolland Food Pantry:

Items can be left at the entrance to the St. Matthew Church Hall or brought to the Tolland Senior Center.

THE CORNERSTONE FOOD CUPBOARD

Because we have to limit the weight and size of food items, we ask for small size food items. The items below are items we cannot usually obtain for free from Foodshare.

Most Needed Food Items:

- Pasta sauce (Francesco Rinaldi & Aldi's come in plastic jars)
- Canned soup (especially chicken noodle, tomato, cream of chicken and cream of mushroom)
- Rice-a-Roni, Pasta Roni, or Knorr side dishes
- Instant soup mix
- Pouches of instant potatoes
- Ramen noodles (especially six-packs)
- Salad dressing (small bottles, 8 or 9 ounces)
- Canned baked beans or pork and beans

**We greatly appreciate all donations,
including grocery store gift cards!**

To donate items to the Cornerstone Food Cupboard:

Please leave items in the vestibules at St. Bernard Church. Someone from the Food Cupboard will pick items up weekly.



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THE HOLY FAMILY



WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED COMING BACK TO CHURCH

Question:

I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

Answer:

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

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PICK OF THE WEEK

December 26, 2021

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FORGIVEN—SESSION 1: WHERE ARE YOU?

As we make resolutions for 2021, don't forget about your spiritual well-being! Through our Forgiven series, you can help guide friends and family to new spiritual beginnings!



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FORMED NOW! WHO IS SAINT STEPHEN?

This past week, we celebrated the life of St. Stephen, heroic leader of the early Church. Join Dr. Gray and Dr. Barber as they discuss the first Christian martyr.

LEARN

LISTEN

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY: LOVE UNVEILED BY DR. SCOTT HAHN

The feast of the Holy Family reminds us to help our own families grow in holiness. With this in mind, join Scott Hahn as he shares his advice on how to bring sanctity into the home.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY



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