When John heard in prison of the works of Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?”

—Matthew 11: 2-4
RCIA: ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW FEELING CALLED TO THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

St. Brendan the Navigator Parish will begin a series of **Monday night sessions** beginning **7:00pm on January 6, 2020** at **Our Lady of Good Hope Church in Camden** for those who are unbaptized and seeking to know more about the Catholic faith.

These initial sessions, called Inquiry, is a first step in the process known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA. It is the Church’s ritual process for calling adults to a conversion of mind and heart, preparing them for a full and active life in the Church as disciples of Jesus.

During this initial phase we explore the basics of the Catholic faith, begin to develop or deepen our relationship with Jesus through prayer, Scripture and good works. We will share stories, examine life events and spiritual callings that have guided the person thus far to seek faith in the Catholic Church.

There is a team of solid Catholics and a sponsor who walks in the faith with those seeking.

RCIA aims to transform the entire person into an individual who has truly “put on Christ Jesus.” And as such, there is no time-frame in the RCIA process as it is tailored to each person’s conversion. But generally, after inquiry the person may be accepted into the church to study more intensely the faith in a period known as the Catechumenate. If the person still feels called to the faith after this period, they enter a period of prayer and reflection during Lent leading up to the culmination of receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

Interspersed in the process are various Rites, usually celebrated during the Mass, that involve the whole parish community in the person’s conversion. The parish community should be an active and vital witness and encouragement for the person seeking faith.

RCIA is also for:
- Baptized Catholics who need to receive the other sacraments of initiation — Confirmation and First Holy Communion
- Other Christian denominations and faiths or those with no faith background at all who wish to explore becoming Catholic
- Children over the age of 7

And a final note, those who come to RCIA are never obliged to become Catholic, as this is the spiritual work of the Holy Spirit which RCIA supports.

If you know someone or you yourself are interested in learning more, please contact Christine Fee in the parish office at 207-236-4785.
**LITURGY OF THE Eucharist (Mass Times)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Mass Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Bernard</td>
<td>Saturday 6:00pm, Sunday 8:00am &amp; 11:00am Tues 8am &amp; Thurs 6:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Good Hope</td>
<td>Saturday 4:00pm, Sunday 11:00am Mon 6:30pm &amp; Wed 8am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Francis of Assisi</td>
<td>Saturday 4:00pm Sunday 8:30am Wed 6:30pm &amp; Fri 8am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pastoral staff**

Rev. Robert Vaillancourt, Pastor  
Email: Robert.Vaillancourt@portlanddiocese.org

Rev. Hyacinth Fornkwa, Parochial Vicar  
Email: hyacinth.fornkwa@portlanddiocese.org

Deacon Robert Cleveland  
Email: bob.cleveland@portlanddiocese.org

**Office**

Address: 7 Union St, Camden, ME 04843  
Phone: 207-236-4785  
Fax: 207-236-9422

For Priest Sick Call ONLY: 207-551-7974

For Parish Social Worker, Jeanne Denny  
207-390-1763

Office Hours: M, T & Th 8:30am-3:30pm, Wed 8:30am - 12:30pm

Email: stbrendan@portlanddiocese.org

Belfast Recorty: 207-930-7044  
Rockland Recorty: 207-594-0233

Website: http://www.stbrendanparish.net

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stbrendanparishmaine

Parish email list: Contact Christine.Fee@portlanddiocese.org

St. Francis email list: Contact Bill Rispoli: brill24@fairpoint.net

**Staff email addresses:** first name.last name@portlanddiocese.org

**Pastoral life & faith formation staff**

Christine Fee, Pastoral Life Coordinator  
Sr. Kathleen Luppens, Parish Catechetical Leader

Paulette Spera, Faith Formation Coordinator, OLGH

**Administrative staff**

Karol Skoby, Business Coordinator  
Penny Wolfe, Office Manager

Paula Williamson, Safe Environment Coordinator

Michael Colson, Custodial  
Kevin Bailey, Custodial

Rich Norman, Soup Kitchen Supervisor

Jeanne Denny, Social Worker (Contact: 207-390-1763)

**Sacramental life**

Baptism: If you are planning to have a child baptized, please call the Parish Office, 207-236-4785, two months prior to the birth.

Marriage Preparation and Ceremony: All couples planning a wedding should contact the parish office at least one year prior to their planned wedding date so that the church or mission can be reserved and the necessary preparation can be discussed.

Anointing the Sick / Communion at home: If you know of a parishioner in need, please call the Parish Office, 236-4785.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Available during the half-hour before every weekend Mass or by appointment.

**Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer) at 8:00am**

St. Francis of Assisi, Belfast on Tues & Thurs. at 8:00am

**Mass Schedule & Intentions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mass Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, December 14, 2019 – Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00pm</td>
<td>St. Francis Fr. Hyacinth Ralph Schmieder by Elaine Witt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>OLGH Fr. Bob Pro Populo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>St. Bernard Fr. Bob Jose Marin by Diana MacFarland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Saturday, December 15, 2019 – Second Sunday of Advent |
| 8:00am | St. Bernard Fr. Bob Samuel A. Maltese by Jean Maltese Deuso |
| 8:30am | St. Francis Fr. Hyacinth Paul R. LePage by daughter, Mary Anne Kinney |
| 11:00am | OLGH Fr. Hyacinth Molly and Bill Brown by the Brown family |
| 11:00am | St. Bernard Fr. Bob Michael Ferrara by The Ferrara Family |

**Monday Dec. 16**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OLGH</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Fr. Bob</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fr. Bob</td>
<td>Patrick Harney by Siobhan and Alex Gilmore</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tuesday Dec. 17**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Bernard</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Fr. Hyacinth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fr. Hyacinth</td>
<td>Patrick Harney by Siobhan and Alex Gilmore</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wednesday Dec. 18**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OLGH</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Fr. Hyacinth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Francis</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Fr. Hyacinth Eddie Gilmore by Siobhan and Alex Gilmore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thursday Dec. 19**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MSP</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Fr. Bob Mass at Maine State Prison, please pray for inmates and their families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Bernard</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Fr. Bob Eddie Gilmore by Siobhan and Alex Gilmore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Friday Dec. 20**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Francis</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Fr. Bob Eddie Gilmore by Siobhan and Alex Gilmore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Saturday, December 21, 2019 – Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>St. Francis Fr. Bob Robert Pietsch by Betty Bohndell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>OLGH Fr. Hyacinth Pro Populo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>St. Bernard Fr. Hyacinth Alice Hurd by Steve &amp; Rae Leach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sunday, December 22, 2019 – Third Sunday of Advent**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>St. Bernard Fr. Hyacinth Michael D. Freda by Josephine Freda</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>St. Francis Fr. Bob Lilliane Sohns by Jim Sohns and Ann Robbins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>OLGH Fr. Bob David Deptula by his parents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>St. Bernard Fr. Hyacinth Increased Belief in the True Presence by Bill Donaghy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Masses at local nursing homes**

- Quarry Hill, Camden: 3rd Tuesdays at 10:30am
- Windward Gardens, Camden: 1st Mondays at 10:30am
- Knox Center, Rockland: 2nd Mondays at 11:00am
- Harbor Hill, Belfast: 1st Tuesdays at 11:00am

**To receive Parish-wide emails, send an e-mail with your name and church you attend most often to Christine Fee at Christine.Fee@portlanddiocese.org**

**To add name to Parish prayer chain:** Send an email to Kathy Daley at kassy23@protonmail.com.
FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD...

AIO Food Pantry: This week’s item is microwavable rice/pasta, next week is skillet meals.

TIF Food Pantry: Non-perishable food items, coupons for non-perishable food items, and recycled grocery bags.

Camden Area Christian Food Pantry: Collection is 3rd week of each month. Items needed are hearty soups, CEREAL (especially!), canned fruit, and macaroni.

GBAM Food Cupboard St Francis: We need breakfast cereals, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce and pasta to help local families. Donate these items by putting them in the boxes at the doors — thank you!


Belfast Soup Kitchen: 1 Belmont Ave, Belfast. Open Mon-Fri 10:30-12:30.

ST. BERNARD SOUP KITCHEN

For the week of Dec. 2, we served the following meals

M - 80, T - storm, W - 53, T - 64, F - 64

We want to thank the Market Basket and the Samoset for their generous donation of pies and turkeys to our kitchen. Any questions or want to help? Call Rich Norman 691-6400

ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR PARISH OFFERTORY REPORT DEC. 7/8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Bernard</td>
<td>$3,291.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Good Hope</td>
<td>$2,331.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Francis of Assisi</td>
<td>$2,330.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soup Kitchen</td>
<td>$299.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WESHARE

Find out about WeShare online giving at: https://stbrendanparish.weshareonline.org/

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Belfast: You’re invited to the Knights of Columbus breakfast on Sunday, December 15, after 8:30am Mass at St. Francis for an extra special breakfast on us — plus, some holiday surprises as well! Come join us for food and fellowship! Belfast Knights—William S. Brannagan Council 3942 meets the 2nd Wednesday at 6:30pm at St. Francis church hall. William Brannagan Council 3942 (Belfast, ME), http://www.kofc3942.org.


SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PEACE

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

St. Francis of Assisi Church has committed to donate 25 Christmas Food Baskets to the Waldo Community Action Partners Heroes 4 Hunger program to help feed people in Waldo County.

Tozier’s Market in Searsport has graciously given St Francis Church a deal on the Christmas Baskets again this year. For $37.00 they will have the basket packed and ready to go. All baskets need to be purchase by Friday, December 20th. To donate a basket, please see Jewel and Tim O’Donnell in the hall after Mass or call Jewel O’Donnell at 469-8811 to make payment arrangements. Please make checks payable to Tozier’s Market.

The Knights of Columbus will pick up and pass out or deliver the Food Baskets. Every year the people of St Francis has shown their Christmas spirit by generously helping their neighbors in Waldo County. Thank you in advance for supporting this worthy Neighbor for Neighbor program!

PEN BAY SINGERS AT ST. FRANCIS

SUNDAY, DEC. 15TH AT 3:00PM

On Saturday, December 15th at 3:00pm at St. Francis in Belfast the Pen Bay Singers will be blending narrative and song to deliver Charles Dickens’ heartwarming “A Christmas Carol” in a performance sure to transform the stubbornest Scrooge. Suggested donation is $15 and accompanied children are free.
Parish, Faith & Sacramental Life

Scripture Readings, Week of Dec 15, 2019

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10'/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 [Is 35:4]/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Gm 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
Friday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38
Sat: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a, 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Adult Bible Study
At Our Lady of Good Hope is on recess until January 12th!

Are You Called?
“I send my messenger ahead of you to prepare your way before you.” Are you called to be sent by Jesus as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? Call Father Seamus Griesbach at (207) 773-6471 or write: seamus.griesbach@portlanddiocese.org.

Formed Pick of the Week

FORMED provides amazing content 24/7 for you to grow in your faith. It’s FREE and EASY to Register!

• Visit formed.org with a web browser
• Click on Register (lower right of page)
• Enter Parish Access Code: 26KXX28
• Enter your email and create a password (you need this to login later)

Please sign up using the parish code above and rediscover and fall in love with our Catholic faith!

Lighthouse Talks/Augustine Institute Media CDs
You can find them in the racks at each church. This ministry tries to be self-sustaining by requesting a minimum contribution of $3/CD.

The Case for Jesus: The Biblical and Historical Evidence for Christ: Dr. Brant Pitre uses biblical and historical evidence to bolster the “case for Jesus” by exposing the problems with the many false theories that have been introduced over the past hundred years resulting in widespread skepticism about the reliability of Christian faith.

For more information, contact Paulette Spera at paulette.spera@gmail.com.

Winter Planning
At St. Francis: A reminder to the folks in Belfast that when it snows, parking on all blocks in the vicinity of the church must be on one side only — for Court Street it is the NE side (opposite the church). On Elm, Park, and Grove it is the first parker who sets the side — This is to allow emergency vehicles access on our narrow streets.

Storm Cancellation Policy
If school is delayed or cancelled, there will be no weekday Mass and/or Morning Prayer. For the latest on cancellations of Masses, Faith Formation classes and parish events, please go to WCSH6 or Bangor Daily News online.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

That Man Is You!
That Man Is You is meeting on Saturday mornings at 7:00am at Our Lady of Good Hope in Camden. New members are welcome! On Saturday, December 21st, we will be on Session 13, Week 8: The Light of Love.
• The Internet and the Brain
• The Preferred Solution: Medication
• The Reality for Children
• Moving Beyond Human Interaction

To find out more, contact Joe Cammelieri at 975-4634 or email jccam@tidewater.net.

Thank You!
The Women’s Club of Our Lady of Good Hope would like to thank all who baked and donated cookies for the Christmas Cookie Sale, and to those who supported it — it was a delicious success! The proceeds will be going to college Scholarships for graduating seniors, and to help those in need of assistance.

Christmas Pageants
One of the traditions we have in St. Brendan the Navigator Parish is the presentation of a Christmas pageant on Christmas Eve before the start of the children’s Mass at each of our parish churches. We would like to plan this early, so it doesn’t get caught in the last-minute Christmas preparations. It is a wonderful experience for families and children to take part in.

If your child would like to be in the pageant or you would like to help with the preparations and practice, please email Sr. Kathleen (kathleen.luppes@portlanddiocese.org), Paulette Spera (paulette.spera@portlanddiocese.org) or call the office (207-236-4785) and let us know what church you will be attending and the names of your children who would like to be part of the Christmas Pageant.

We wish everyone a Happy and blessed Advent Season!

“This is the one about whom it is written:
Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way before you.
Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” — Mt 11:10-11
OLGH GIVING TREE

The Social Justice and Peace ministry, with the help of the office, is once again organizing the Giving Tree for Our Lady of Good Hope. We are requesting gifts for two groups: elderly individuals from local nursing homes and children from local families up to age 18. We have asked that all gifts not exceed the cost of $25 and we will do our best to try and determine that requests stay within that limit.

If you prefer to do a monetary donation, this year we are asking support for the homeless, or those in emergency situations who contact the church office. The donated money will assist with emergency shelter, fuel and/or food costs. Checks should be made out to St. Brendan the Navigator Parish. Please write on the memo line: OLGH Giving Tree—emergency assistance. Thank you.

Please take a tag from the tree and attach it to the outside of the wrapped gift so it will reach the intended recipient since all tags are coded.

It is IMPERATIVE that all gifts be returned no later than December 15th so no one is left out. We will be collating gifts the next day. If there is a problem with being able to follow through on your choice please contact the office. We ask that gifts be placed under the tree in Cote Hall. If doing a gift card please wrap it in a small box or gift bag to keep it from getting lost.

We appreciate all that our church members have done in the past to provide for those in need and hope you can continue to do so this year. May the spirit of giving be returned to you this season and in the year ahead. Thank you for your generosity!

OLGH GIVING TREE AT ST. FRANCIS

The 2019 St. Francis Giving Tree will be up the first weekend if Advent and ready for your donations for the St Francis Mission Fund. The envelopes are up by the table near the tree. Please put a gold ornament up on the tree when making your donation. This fund helps the local poor in our parish for winter emergencies. No amount is too small. It can be a part of an allowance or maybe one day without a carry-out sandwich. “Whatsoever you do for the least of your brothers, that you for Me.” Thank you for your generosity!

OLGH GIVING TREE AT ST. BERNARD

This Advent Season, St. Bernard Church is again sponsoring a Giving Tree. Envelopes dedicated to the mission in Brazil for a child, seminarian, or sister sponsorship will be hung on the tree in the church vestibule. The envelopes may be returned in any collection basket during Advent. Child sponsorship is $75 per year while sponsoring a seminarian/sister is $250. Smaller donations will be pooled so that additional children, seminarians, and sisters can be sponsored. Thank you for your support and generosity!