St. Brendan the Navigator Parish

January 5, 2020

Belfast ~ Camden ~ Rockland ~ Islesboro ~ North Haven
Vinalhaven ~ St. Dismas Catholic Community (Maine State Prison)

The Epiphany of the Lord

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. - Mt 2:10-11a
Dear Parishioners,

Fr. Hyacinth and I would like to thank you VERY MUCH for all your kindness, well wishes, and generosity this Christmas—we are humbled at the love which you all show us. Please know that we keep you in our prayers every day and wish you a blessed new year!

I also want to tell you about a short (7-minutes), powerful, and moving video called The Veil Removed. A parishioner showed this to me and is what I experience at every Mass—it is what I have been teaching for many years—that during the Mass heaven and earth are joined! This is what it’s all about! Please make time to watch it — here is the link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOLZDaTgIAA

We are so blessed!
Fr. Bob and Fr. Hyacinth

FAITH FORMATION

Family Faith Formation meeting will be on Sunday, January 5th.
St. Bernard’s Program will meet on Sunday, January 12th.

CHURCH ENVELOPES

If you are a registered parishioner and signed up for envelopes, they have arrived and can be picked up in your churches! At Our Lady of Good Hope they are in the parish hall, at St. Bernard they are in the hall near the religious articles counter, and at St. Francis they are in the back of the church. If you have any questions please call Paula Williamson at the parish office, 236-4785. Thank you!

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

READ: The Epiphany marks the arrival of visitors, identified in Scripture as the magi, to the place where Jesus was born. Although we know virtually nothing about them, we do know they brought three gifts:

- GOLD — a symbol of wealth and power, identifies the recipient as a king.
- FRANKINCENSE — the crystalized resinous sap of a tree used as incense and as an offering, is symbolic of prayer.
- MYRRH — another resinous tree sap, was used in healing liniments and as an embalming ointment. Myrrh is an odd gift for a child—so, even at the beginning of Jesus’ life on earth, this gift foreshadows his death.

REFLECT: For much of the secular world, the holiday season has died down. Reflect on the joys of the holiday season and what you have left to celebrate when the decorations are put away.

PRAY: Say the blessing below on your home on the Epiphany.

ACT: Wish someone a Merry Christmas today! An easy way to evangelize is to wish someone a Merry Christmas during the Christmas season after December 25 and explain why. The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

(BLESSING)

Lord God almighty, bless + this home, and under its shelter let there be health, chastity, self-conquest, humility, goodness, mildness, obedience to your commandments, and thanking to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. May your blessing remain always in this home and on those who live here; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FROM: https://www.getfed.com/epiphany-blessings-traditions-6182/

BLESSED CHALK: There is a long-standing Epiphany tradition of marking churches, homes, schools, and other buildings with a special 'holy formula' over the entryway using chalk that has been blessed for this purpose on Epiphany. This formula includes the current year along with the initials C, M, and B in this order: 

20 + C + M + B + 18

The C, M, and B are placed in between the numbers of the current year, with crosses in between each symbol. The three letters have two significations: the invocation Christus Mansionem Benedicat (Christ bless this house), as well as the first initial of the names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP AT ST. BERNARD

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Bernard is being lit this week for Carol Escorsio Kosmalski by her husband and daughter.

THANK YOU FOR THE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS!

To all those who so generously supported the purchasing of the Christmas flowers in our churches in memory of their loved ones, we THANK YOU! Each of our churches looked so beautiful in honoring the newborn Jesus, Our King, Who is so deserving of such regal beauty!
Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer) at 8:00am
St. Francis of Assisi, Belfast on Tues & Thurs. at 8:00am
THE WEEK AHEAD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUR LADY OF GOOD HOPE</th>
<th>ST. BERNARD</th>
<th>ST. FRANCIS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Jan 5</td>
<td>11am Mass</td>
<td>8am Mass</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:30 Family Faith Formation</td>
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<td>Mon., Jan 6</td>
<td>5:30pm Adoration</td>
<td>6:30pm Mass</td>
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<td>Tues., Jan 7</td>
<td>6am Mass</td>
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<td>Wed., Jan 8</td>
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<td>Thur., Jan 9</td>
<td>5:30pm Adoration</td>
<td>6:30pm Mass</td>
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<td>Fri., Jan 10</td>
<td>8am Mass</td>
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<td>Sat., Jan 11</td>
<td>7am That Man Is You</td>
<td>4pm Mass</td>
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<td>6pm Mass</td>
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UPCOMING: Jan. 12th, 9:30am—St. Bernard Faith Formation
Jan. 19th—St. Francis KofC Breakfast after 8:30am Mass

FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD...

**AIO Food Pantry** (70 Thomaston St, Rockland): This week’s item is Baby Bell or similar cheese packets, next week is microwavable meals.

**TIF Food Pantry** (2nd Floor, Watts Hall, Main Street (Rte 1): 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 Church doors — thank you!

**St. Bernard Soup Kitchen:** 150 Broadway, Rockland. Serving lunch Mon-Fri 11:30am-noon.

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

ST. BERNARD SOUP KITCHEN

For the week of Dec. 9, we served the following meals:

- M - 75, T - 46, W - Clsd, T - 54, F - 68

A huge thank you to Hannaford for their daily donation of food to our soup kitchen.

Any questions or want to help?
Call Rich Norman 691-6400

ST. BRENDA THE NAVIGATOR PARISH OFFERTORY REPORT DEC. 24/25

St. Bernard $4,244.00
Our Lady of Good Hope $6,901.00
St. Francis of Assisi $2,792.00
Soup Kitchen $245.03

WESHARE

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**Belfast:** 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.

**Rockland:** The Rockland Knights - Limerock Council 136 meets the 3rd Thursday at 7pm in Grispi Hall, at St. Bernard’s Church, Rockland. http://kofc136.stbrendanparish.net.

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.
ST. ANDRE BESSETTE FEAST DAY: JANUARY 6TH

IT IS WITH THE SMALLEST BRUSHES THAT THE ARTIST PAINTS THE BEST PAINTINGS.
—St. André Bessette

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.

ADORATION
Come Adore Jesus Truly Present in the Blessed Sacrament!

Our Lady of Good Hope Church - Monday evenings from 5:30-6:30pm, immediately followed by Mass at 6:30pm.

St. Francis of Assisi Church- Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:30pm, immediately followed by Mass at 6:30pm.

St. Bernard Church - Thursday evenings from 5:30-6:30pm, immediately followed by Mass at 6:30pm.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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, Jan. 11th, we will be on Session 16: The 1st Day: The Roman Empire:

- The Holy Family and Life Under Roman Rule
- Allusions to the Enemies of the Church in Revelation
- The Negative Influences on Western Culture
- Sin and the First Temptation of Woman
- Timeline of the Legal Dismantling of Christian Culture
- The “Agenda for Women’s Empowerment”
- Death of European Culture

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

Scripture Readings, Week of Jan. 5, 2020

Sunday: 6:01-15/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (cf. 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a (8ab)/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 (cf. 11)/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 (cf. 11)/Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 (cf. 11)/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 (12a)/Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b (cf. 4a)/Jn 3:22-3

Adult Bible Study at OLGH

A Study of the Prophets: Men and Women Who Spoke For God

Starting up again on January 12th, all adults and teens are welcome to join this year’s study group on Sundays from 9:30-10:45am in Cote Hall at Our Lady of Good Hope. We have a lively and fun time reading the Bible and discussing what we have learned, and you can join us for one session or every week. We will be continuing our year with the prophets. In the Hebrew scriptures, the prophets were men and women who spoke a message from God. How do we hear the message of God today? Some have said the age of the prophets is over. But God is still speaking...come and listen for the voice of God with us. If you have any questions, contact Mary Smyth at 207-975-3527 or email, mlstocme@gmail.com.

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 Code: 26KXZ8
- 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.

Suicide is the second-leader cause of death for youth and young adults. Yet despite the many TV shows, movies, and articles on this topic, suicide, depression, self-harm, and loneliness remain difficult subjects for adults of any age to discuss. Speaking with honesty, humor, and personal experience, Noelle Garcia tackles these issues head-on, encouraging those who are struggling (or know someone who is) that God’s mercy and love are waiting for them; that you, and your life, truly matter.

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

Are You Called?

“God chose us before the world began to be holy.” God has chosen each person in Christ for a particular vocation. If He may be calling you to be holy through a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, call Father Seamus Griesbach at (207) 773-6471 or write: seamus.griesbach@portlanddiocese.org.
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The Hands Around the Capitol Rally, marking and mourning the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion, will be held in Augusta on Saturday, January 18. The rally and march are being organized by the Maine Right to Life Committee, which was founded to protect and uphold the dignity and worth of every human life from conception to natural death.

All are welcome to attend part or all of the event. Here is a schedule for the day:

10am—Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Church on 41 Western Avenue in Augusta (celebrated by Bishop Deeley)
11am—Gathering at the St. Michael School gymnasium next to the church
11:15am—Rally with Bishop Deeley and pro-life leaders from across Maine
12:15pm—March to the State House
12:30 pm—Participants join hands while the capitol bell is rung 47 times, once for each year since the Roe v. Wade ruling.

For more information about the Hands Around the Capitol Rally or the Maine Right to Life Committee, visit www.MaineRighttoLife.com or call (207) 782-0101.

**Reflection:** Supporters of abortion say, “This is my body, I can do what I want.” Jesus says, “This is My Body, given up for you.” The same words are spoken from opposite ends of the universe with totally opposite results. Let us resolve to live those words as Jesus did, giving ourselves away for the good of others, born and unborn.

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for my body, my life and my freedom. May all of us understand the purpose of these gifts; to freely give ourselves away in love just as You did.

FROM: *Pro-Life Reflections for Every Day* by Father Frank Pavone