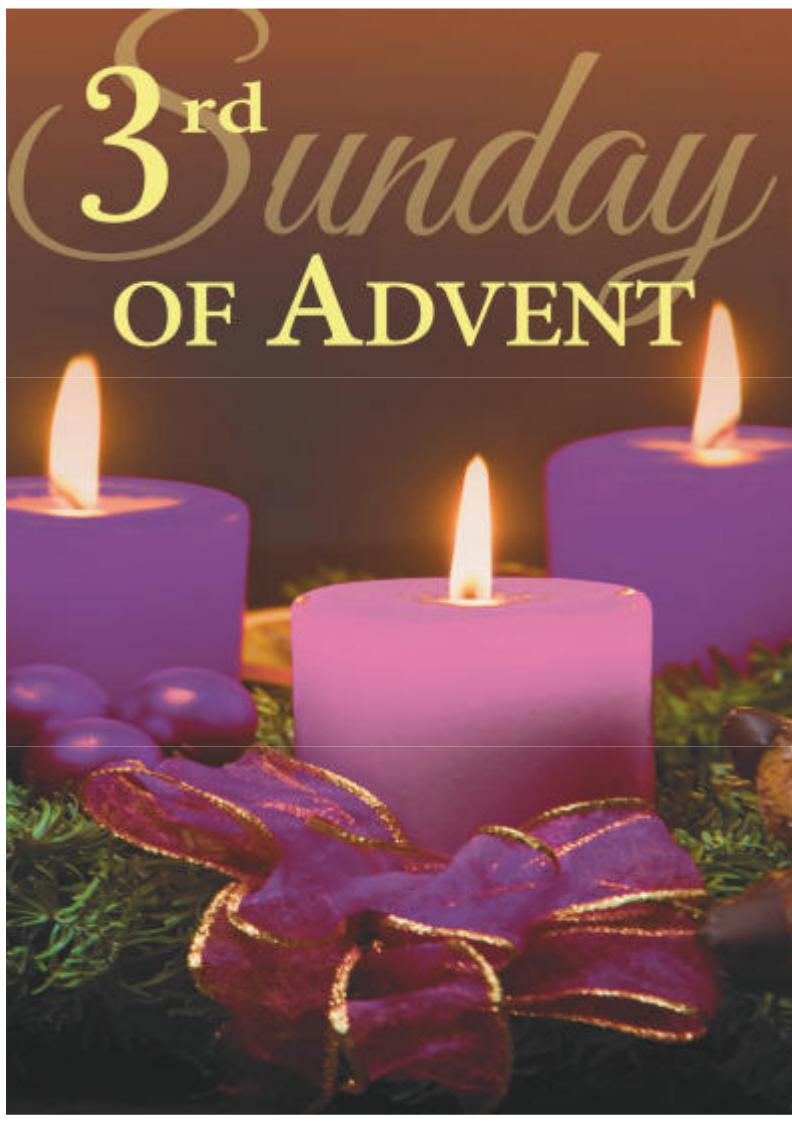


ST. BERNARD OF MONTJOUX PARISH

December 13, 2020



Worship Sites



St. Bernard's
27 St. Bernard St.
Saranac Lake, NY
12983



Church of the
Assumption
826 State Rt. 86
Gabriels, NY

Oratories

St. Paul's
1640 State Rt. 3
Bloomingdale, NY

St. John's
in the Wilderness
6148 St. Rt. 30
Lake Clear, NY

Our parish is one of only two in the U.S. named for St. Bernard of Montjoux, patron saint of hikers, skiers and mountaineers. All other St. Bernard's parishes are under the patronage of St. Bernard of Clairvaux.

Eleventh century Priest of the Diocese of Aosta in the Alps, St. Bernard was well known for his ministry among the travelers and hikers in the treacherous alpine passes between France and Italy. One of the monasteries he established developed the massive breed of dog that could function well in deep snow and unrelenting cold—the St. Bernard.



Pastor: Father Martin E. Cline **Parochial Vicar:** Father Alex Guimpol
Priest in Residence: Msgr. C.J. McAvoy

St. Bernard's Rectory 518-891-4616 www.stbernards.church



Regular Office Hours:

Monday: 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.



Deacon: Joseph Szwed, 518-891-5008
Pastoral Assistant: Sr. Carol Kraeger

School Principal: Andrea Kilbourne-Hill, 518-891-2830
www.stbernardsschool.org

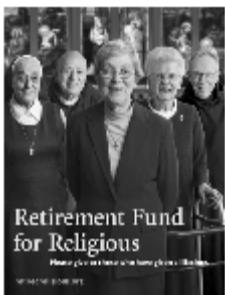


3rd Sunday of Advent

Did you ever stop and realize that there is no earthly gain that can ever really satisfy us? Think of winning the Lotto. On this side of the winning ticket, it's all about the money, the new car, house, vacations, bank accounts, and infinite pleasures. The possibility of acquiring all of these earthly securities brings us back again and again to the purchase of a ticket. Then, one day we win! Our dreams are fulfilled, and happiness is on the horizon. Then one day, we wake up and realize that nothing has really changed, and we are not as satisfied as we thought we were or would be. We find ourselves living in incompleteness and with profound sorrow and grief. We did not find joy.

Glimpses of joy are possible but not by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to face with real and authentic faith, hope, and love. And, they are glimpses and do not last. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, they are gone, and we find ourselves remembering the moment. To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not something I create, manufacture or even acquire. It cannot be purchased. It is a gift. My need for joy mirrors my need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence of who I am and desires a home within me. As C. S. Lewis discovered, joy is a surprise that speaks to my very soul and is given as gift by the God who loves me.

The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses. They never satisfy us, sustain us or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of the soul. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal Otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy, we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow.



Retirement Fund for Religious

Make a difference. "Every dollar makes a difference in covering our expenses," says a Trappist abbot. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious this weekend helps these communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous!



From the Pastor

Third Week of Advent: Scripture and Prayers Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Advent Prayer for Rejoicing

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to joy. Lift up our heads from the dust and adorn us with your righteousness, that we may rejoice and testify that our Lord has come; for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Advent Wreath Prayer Week 3 — Joy

Heavenly Father, this third week of Advent, let us remember that the good news of Jesus' birth has the power to bring us great joy this Christmas season. Our joy isn't dependent on what is going on in our life, in our world, or the people that we are with. It doesn't depend on the gifts we give or the gifts we find under the tree. No earthly thing can ever give us complete joy. Our joy comes from you. That joy that flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, the hosts of heaven, and Mary and Joseph is the joy that still has the power to overwhelm our hearts with rejoicing.

Our joy doesn't come from our jobs, our family, our relationships, our finances, or our success. Our joy doesn't come from what we have on earth or who we are with. Our joy is a gift. It is the gift that you gave us that first Christmas in Jesus Christ. Our joy is encompassed in our Savior, King Jesus. Flood our heart with joy this Advent season as we reflect on the good news of Jesus' birth. In Jesus' precious name we pray. Amen.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hour for Vocations.

On December 13th at 2 p.m. we will have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for Vocations. This was a request that I was honored to accept from the Diocese. They asked parishes throughout diocese to set aside some time during the Advent Season to pray for vocations. We often think that such actions to prayer are for seminarians, which is important, but there are other vocations in the church. Marriage, single life, and religious are also important calls from God for which to pray. So, I hope and pray that you take some time to join me for one hour to pray for the future and present ministries of the church—married couples, those that have chosen the single life, the religious and clergy. Thank you!

THANK YOU
for your generosity

Many thanks to all who gave peanut butter and jelly and/or monetary donations for the Christmas Food Boxes. One hundred food boxes were distributed on Saturday, December 12th. All extra food and money collected will be donated to the food pantry. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



St. Bernard's School News

Our students are celebrating the Advent season in multiple different ways at St. Bernard's School. The fourth graders have a calendar where behind each day is a different scripture passage to read and a way to show hope and love. In Kindergarten, they are "lighting" the electric candles of their wreath as they practice their prayers. Our first graders made an origami type advent wreath and have "kindness" elves who leave notes for them when they are caught being kind to others. Our second graders are celebrating this thoughtful season by diligently preparing for their first reconciliation!

Thank you to all who have purchased a Holiday Calendar Raffle! If you would still like to purchase one, please call the school office. The first drawing is December 14th.

One of our challenges this year has been to find substitute teachers and teacher aides. If you would like to be added to our substitute list, or know someone who would be a great candidate, please reach out to our school office, 518-891-2830. The minimum qualifications are just a high school diploma, background check, child safety course, and a love for working with students!



Catholic War Veterans and Auxiliary Recruiting members

The Department of New York Catholic War Veterans (CWV) and Auxiliary are launching a campaign to recruit membership in their organizations. The organization's success depends on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The CWV and Auxiliary belong to the people they serve and the communities we live in. Join them in camaraderie and in service for the Church and the Catholic way of life.

Requirements: Specific "wartime" service is not required to become a member. Any baptized Catholic serving in the Armed Forces or discharged under honorable conditions for a period of 90 days or longer, including time served in the Reserves and National Guard, is eligible for membership in the CWV. The Catholic War Veteran's Auxiliary is open to any baptized Catholic man or woman related within 2 degrees to a veteran or currently serving member of the Armed Forces. The veteran or serviceman or servicewoman can be of any faith. Active duty men and women will have the dues waived until separated from active service.

For further information and membership application visit their website cwv.org or contact John O'Shea at 516-316-4221 or joshea112@hotmail.com.

Advocacy in the Palm of Your Hand

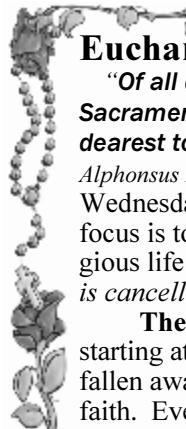
You now have the tool to make your voice heard to your elected officials right in the palm of your hand. The Catholic Action Network (CAN) can text critical advocacy alerts directly to your smartphone, with links to quickly send messages to your elected officials on urgent issues of the day. To sign up, just text the word CAN to 50457. You'll immediately receive a one-time link to complete your registration, which is free. Please consider signing up today. More information is available at <https://www.nyscatholic.org/nys-catholic-conference-action-center/>.



ADVENT PROGRAM

On December 12th, Fr. Martin gave an Advent Talk, focusing on the images of Mary that are familiar to us

and what they have to tell us about our faith journey. This talk is posted on our YouTube channel. Please tune in for a different perspective on a familiar Advent Figure.



Eucharistic Adoration/The Rosary

"Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest of the sacraments, the one dearest to God, and the one most helpful to us..." St. Alphonsus Liguori Eucharistic Adoration is held each Wednesday, after the 8:30 a.m. Mass, until noon. The focus is to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life in our Diocese. All are welcome. *Adoration is cancelled whenever a funeral Mass is held.*

The Rosary will be said each Thursday morning starting at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel. The intention is for fallen away Catholics and their return to the Catholic faith. Everyone is invited.



Christmas Wreaths

The Knights of Columbus are making wreaths and crosses. The wreaths and crosses will be sold for \$20 each and will be made to order and delivered to your home. Larger size wreaths are also available for \$30. Please contact Dan at 891-6039 or Stuart at 891-8402 to order wreaths. **It's not too late!** Thanks for your support of this annual fundraiser.



Environmental Stewardship

Some Green Tips for Celebrating Christmas:

1 - Most of us love a bit of festive decoration and fancy wrapping and cards. But research suggests that the paper waste over the Christmas season is equivalent to 5-12 million liters of biofuel – enough to power a bus to go the moon 20 times. Be creative and use alternative gift wrapping that can be recycled, reused or repurposed.

2 - Why not make your own Christmas decorations? Foraging for pine cones and evergreens is the perfect excuse to go for a walk and enjoy the beauties of God's creation.

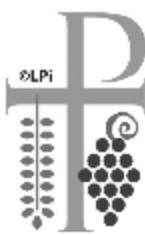
3 - Be creative and share some favorite recipes. Decorate Mason jars and fill with dry ingredients for homemade hot chocolate mix, brownie mix, family cookies or soup mixes along with directions.

"When we recall Christmas pasts, the simplest things give off the greatest glow of happiness." Bob Hope



Holy Hour and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for Vocations

Throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg on **December 13th at 2 p.m.**, a number of parishes will be holding Holy Hours. Our parish was asked by the Vocation office to hold the Adoration. So please join our priests to pray for vocations in the church, our religious and priests of the Diocese, and those that one day will serve our Diocese.



MASS INTENTIONS

December 12 — December 20

Sat., Dec. 12 & Sun., Dec. 13 — 3rd Sunday of Advent

4:30 p.m. (*St. B.*) (Ant.) Sister Norma, SSJ (Ann.) by Sister Carol
8:00 a.m. (*St. B.*) People of the Parish
10:00 a.m. (*St. B.*) Emma Law Berghorn by Urban Curley & Family

Monday, December 14 — St. John of the Cross

8:30 a.m. (*St. B.*) Jane Hamnett by Rose Luciano

Tuesday, December 15

12:00 p.m. (*St. B.*) Virginia Struss by Cathy & Jim Vaughn

Wednesday, December 16

8:30 a.m. (*St. B.*) Marion Collins by Shirley Hossler

Thursday, December 17

12:00 p.m. (*St. B.*) John Buckley & Family by Mary Buckley

Friday, December 18

8:30 a.m. (*St. B.*) James Michael Vaughn by Jim & Cathy, Brittany & Katie Vaughn

Sat., Dec. 19 & Sun., Dec. 20 — 4th Sunday of Advent

4:30 p.m. (*St. B.*) (Ant.) Charles Madore by Judy & Family
8:00 a.m. (*St. B.*) Joanne Senecal by Rose Luciano
10:00 a.m. (*St. B.*) People of the Parish

Readings for the week of December 13, 2020

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32
Wed.: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
Next Sun: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38



Funeral Masses

The noon Mass is cancelled, and the intention is rescheduled, whenever a Funeral Mass is held.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday Liturgies:

4:30 p.m. (Anticipated) — St. Bernard's
8:00 a.m. — St. Bernard's
10:00 a.m. — St. Bernard's

Weekday Masses:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday — 8:30 a.m. — St. Bernard's
Tuesday, Thursday — 12:00 p.m. — St. Bernard's

Baptismal Preparation:

Please call St. Bernard's Rectory, 891-4616

Penance:

Saturdays: (*St. B.*) 3:30 to 4:15 p.m.
Anytime by appointment.

Catholic Charities: 518-483-1460

Pregnancy Services:

Crisis Pregnancy? 1-800-NO-ABORT
Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center 518-578-9648 (Free pregnancy testing, counseling, & ultrasound)
Birthright 518-563-4300; OLV Gabriel Project 518-561-1842
Post-Abortion Healing is possible: 1-800-HOPE4ME, or
www.rachelsvineyard.org

St. Bernard's Parish Council:

Jeff Branch, RoseAnn Hickey (Vice-President), Tom Kalinowski, Jim Law (President), Dorothy Metz, Kathy Samperi, Sister Carol, Deacon Joe Szwed, Jim Murnane (trustee), Carol Ward (trustee), Andrea Kilbourne-Hill (school rep), Kathy Hall (secretary — non-voting member)

St. Bernard's Finance Council:

Andrea Kilbourne-Hill, Michael Kilroy, Alan Latourelle, Dorothy Metz, Jim Murnane, Carol Ward



11/22/20 collection
St. Bernard's Parish\$5,145.00
Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

For the month of December , please bring any canned fruit or macaroni & cheese. Your donations are greatly needed and appreciated during these unprecedented times.



Advent Poem

If you want, the Virgin will come walking down the road pregnant with the Holy and say, "I need shelter for the night. Please take me inside your heart, my time is so close."

Then, under the roof of your soul,
you will witness the sublime intimacy,
the divine, the Christ, taking birth forever,
as she grasps your hand for help,
for each of us is the midwife of God, each of us.
Yes, there, under the dome of your being,
does creation come into existence eternally,
through your womb. Dear pilgrim,
the sacred womb of your soul,
as God grasps our arms for help:
for each of us is His beloved servant never far.
If you want, the Virgin will come walking down the street,
pregnant with Light, and sing! *St. John of the Cross*

