

# Saint Bernard Church



July 21, 2024  
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Rev. David F. Gaffney, Pastor**

sbc.pastor@aol.com

Rev. John E. Unsworth, Pastor, Emeritus

Rev. Charles Maher, Weekday Assistant

Rev. Albino Barrera, OP Weekend Assistant

**Pastoral Assistant:** Angelo Giacchi  
**Business Manager:** David Cote  
**Elementary Faith Formation:** Dawn Masterson  
**Youth Faith Formation:** Christina Pichette  
**Music Director:** Alison Shea

## Mass Schedules

### Weekends

Saturday Vigil ~ 5:00 PM

### Sundays

7:00 AM      8:30 AM      10:30 AM

### Weekdays

8:00 AM Monday through Friday

**Address:** 275 Tower Hill Road  
North Kingstown, RI 02852

**Phone :** 401-295-0387

**E-mail:** sbc.bus@verizon.net (David)  
sbc.pa@verizon.net (Angelo)

**Web:** www.stbernardnk.org

**Hours:** Mon - Tues: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Wednesday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Thursday & Friday: Closed

**Baptism:** Please call Angelo at the Parish Center for information about scheduling and preparation.

**Communion to the Sick:** Please notify us of those sick and in need of Communion at home.

**Marriage:** Please call 10 months in advance.

**Holy Orders:** Tel: 401-831-8011  
www.catholicpriest.com

**Project Rachel:** Post abortion counseling  
Tel: 401-421-7833, ext. 118

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturdays 4:00 PM

## Eucharistic Adoration

Following Tuesday's 8:00 AM Mass until 11:00 AM

## Family Faith Formation Program

Our programs provide parishioners of all ages opportunities for learning, growing and living our Faith through common experiences, age-specific learning and interactive sharing. Please call the Parish Center for information regarding any of our programs or email:

First Communion Grade 2:  
sbcreligiouseducation@gmail.com

Confirmation Grades 8 & 9: sbc.teenff@gmail.com

Gospel Weeklies Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7:  
stbernardgospelweeklies@gmail.com

## *Ponderings*

You may have heard about a meeting that took place in Hiroshima on July 9-10 entitled, “AI Ethics for Peace.” Pope Francis sent a representative to that gathering. He also wrote a message to the participants.

Artificial Intelligence has been very much in the news in recent years. Many people have raised the ‘ethical concerns’ associated with AI. Pope Francis writes to the participants, “Faced with the marvels of machines, which seem to know how to choose independently, we should be very clear that decision-making, even when we are confronted with its sometimes dramatic and urgent aspects, must always be left to the human person.” He continues, “We would condemn humanity to a future without hope if we took away people’s ability to make decisions about themselves and their lives, by dooming them to depend on the choices of machines.”

The Holy Father expresses a particular concern about “Artificial Intelligence” being used in a time of armed conflict/war. He says, “It is crucial that, united as brother and sisters, we remind the world that in light of the tragedy that is armed conflict, it is urgent to reconsider the development and use of devices like the so-called ‘lethal autonomous weapons’ and ultimately their use.” In an address he gave to the G7 in June he said, “No machine should ever choose to take the life of a human being.”

If the topic of “Artificial Intelligence” has not become part of your discussions with family, friends, neighbors, co-workers or parishioners---I am sure that it will. It does impact us now and can have a greater impact on our lives going forward. That is why there is a concern both among religious leaders and political leaders to consider the ethical use of this technology.

In 2023 Tesla founder Elon Musk along with 1,000 other tech leaders urged a pause on large AI experiments citing that the technology can ‘pose profound risks to society and humanity.’ Some of the possible risks of using AI: lack of AI transparency; job losses due to AI automation; social surveillance with AI technology; lack of data privacy using AI tools; biases due to AI; socioeconomic inequality as a result of AI; weakening ethics; autonomous weapons powered by AI; financial crises brought about by AI algorithms; loss of human influence; uncontrollable self-aware AI.

On the other side of the argument---there are those who point to the benefits of Artificial Intelligence---in the present time and into the future. Here are a few: automation of repetitive tasks; improved customer experience; enhanced accuracy and precision; increased scalability; machine learning applications; security and monitoring capabilities; improved marketing and advertising campaigns; increased competitiveness; more efficient healthcare research; generating new revenue streams.

A key concern for many workers is what Artificial Intelligence will do to your ‘average workers’---will it eliminate jobs? Perhaps some jobs will be restructured to work with Artificial Intelligence. For sure, we need to express our concern for the ethical use of this technology. It can certainly enhance what we do in many fields of endeavor, but we need to be careful about letting machine ‘make decisions’---behind the machine there does need to be a human with an ethical mindset to guide the decisions.

At times people will say that “the Church” is ‘behind the times’—‘not current’---I think the pope’s concern about Artificial Intelligence is an example of his concern and the Church’s concern about a very contemporary issue---it is how the Church continues to engage with today’s culture and the important decisions that impact our concern for the ‘dignity’ of every human being. Stay tuned----I know there will much more information in the news about Artificial Intelligence.

--Fr. Gaffney

We welcome families to bring their children—our youngest parishioners  
—in their strollers to Mass.



## Mass Intentions

### **MONDAY, July 22**

8:00 AM — *Deceased of the Cotter & Fanning families*

### **TUESDAY, July 23**

8:00 AM — *Rob Verdi*  
by his family

### **WEDNESDAY, July 24**

8:00 AM Anu Tomy  
by her family

### **THURSDAY, July 25**

8:00 AM — *Janice Capano (L)*

### **FRIDAY, July 26**

8:00 AM — *Holy Souls of Purgatory*

### **WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

### **SATURDAY, July 27**

5:00 PM — *Rev. Dennis Reardon*  
by Peter & Gudrun Cannon

### **SUNDAY, July 28**

7:00 AM — *Rev. Dennis Reardon*

8:30 AM — *Elaine Boucher*  
by SPRED

10:30 AM — *Robert Gibbons*

## Grief Group

The next meeting is **Tuesday, August 13th from 6:30 pm-to 7:30 pm.** If anyone would like more information about the group, please see Fr. Gaffney.

## 15 years old!

Our “new” church building observes its “15<sup>th</sup> birthday” on August 15<sup>th</sup>. To celebrate we will have “Coffee An” after the 10:30 Mass on Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>.



## St. Bernard Church

### Celebrates 150 Years

1874—2024 : MISSION 150

Upcoming Events

**July 22 (Monday) and/or**

**July 29 (Monday)**

**6:00 PM**

Beer Tasting

West Passage Brewery

(see Registration Form on page 5)

**August 24 (Saturday)**

Feast of St. Bernard Cookout

After 5:00 PM Mass

Visit our website for complete information and also to purchase tickets online for the dinner dance.

[www.stbernardnk.org/mission-150/](http://www.stbernardnk.org/mission-150/)



## Happy Birthday, Fr. Jack!

Our “Pastor Emeritus” is celebrating a ‘milestone’ birthday this year. He will celebrate the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> and we will have “coffee and” in the parish center immediately after! Come and sing “Happy Birthday”! Join us!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

## Early Closing



The Parish Office will be closing at 3:00 PM on Mondays and Tuesdays during the months of July and August..

### Parish Support

|        | July 7, 2024  | 2023        |
|--------|---------------|-------------|
| Basket | \$26,322.00   | \$17,719.00 |
| ACH    | \$3,443.00    | \$6,359.00  |
|        | July 14, 2024 | 2023        |
| Basket | \$8,617.00    | \$7,766.00  |
| ACH    | \$2,608.00    | \$3,661.00  |
| YTD    | \$40,990.00   | \$35,786.00 |

### While You're Away Don't Forget

If you are away this summer enjoying the beach or far-away places, please don't forget that back home in old St. Bernard's, we still have to pay our bills. If you are away and miss a few weeks of your budget contributions, please try to make them up so that we can keep going or you can use the Online Giving Option. We miss you while you're away, and we miss your generosity too!

### Christmas in July!

Parishioners were very generous with gifts and gift cards for the Advent Giving Tree. Many people were helped by your generosity. Most often we have some extra gift cards that we give out each month to those 'in need' who contact us. We are almost out of those gift cards. If you are able to help and would like to help you can purchase a \$25 gift card from an area food market. You can put them in the collection basket. This will restock our supply. Thank you for your generosity! This collection will go on for the month of July.

### St Bernard Fourth Annual Golf Tournament



Sunday October 6, 2024  
Richmond Country Club

Visit our website:

[www.stbernardnk.org/golf/](http://www.stbernardnk.org/golf/)

### Parish Feast Day and Parish Cook-Out!

The Feast of St. Bernard is Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday August 24<sup>th</sup> after the 5:00 p.m. Mass we will have a Parish Cook-Out! We will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs and bottled water. You bring whatever your family wants for 'sides' or dessert. Bring a lawn chair! We will also have the parish hall set up with tables and chairs---with air-conditioning. Come---meet other parishioners! Renew old acquaintances! **SAVE THE DATE: SAT. AUG. 24<sup>TH</sup>**. (even if you plan to go to Mass on Sunday morning-----come to the cookout at 6:00 p.m.)

Please return this form through the collection basket or e-mail the parish office at

[sbc.pa@verizon.net](mailto:sbc.pa@verizon.net)

This will help us as we plan the amount of food to purchase!

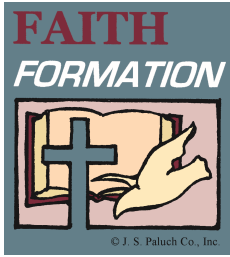
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

### Italian Heritage Mass and Dinner Dance

Sacred Heart Church in West Warwick will be holding its annual Italian Heritage Mass and Dinner Dance on Saturday, August 3. This year it will be held in memory of Rev. Richard A. Bucci. The feast will begin with Mass at 5 PM in the Church, followed by the Dinner Dance at the Quonset O Club in North Kingstown. Music provided by a DJ. Dinner will be choice of New York steak or baked stuffed chicken. Tickets are \$60 per person, children under 12 for \$25, children under 3 free. For tickets, please contact:

Angela (287-5624 or [angsantilli@gmail.com](mailto:angsantilli@gmail.com))  
or Ashley ([avilla1047@gmail.com](mailto:avilla1047@gmail.com)),  
or by calling the rectory at 821-4184  
(office open 9 AM-1 PM Monday-Thursday).



**Faith Formation**  
**It's Registration**  
**Time!!!!**

Check out our website:

[www.stbernardnk.org](http://www.stbernardnk.org)

for all details about the changes to the program for this year.

There have been some changes and new additions to the upcoming school year's program.

- NEW Gospel Weeklies class for the incoming class of Kindergarten students.
- Grade 7 has been shifted to the Sacramental Preparation schedule as a Pre-Confirmation class
- Grade 7, 8, 9 - New Curriculum books listed on website
- Save the Date - September 9/15/24 - Family Pasta Party & Faith Formation Open House to kickoff the new program year.

**Kids Clothing**

We will be collecting good, clean used “Kids Clothing”—elementary and high school age young people. We will donate the clothing to Warde-Robe in Central Falls. It is part of McAuley Ministries. As you shop for ‘back to school’ clothing and realize your children have ‘outgrown’ some of their clothes, we know where they can find a ‘new home’!

**Wedding Anniversary**  
**Celebration at the Cathedral**



The Office of Marriage Preparation and Enrichment is hosting the annual Wedding Anniversary Celebration to honor couples of the Diocese of Providence who will be observing their 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and OVER 50 years wedding anniversaries in 2024. The celebration will be held on Sunday, **September 22, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.** at the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul, Providence. It will include Mass, renewal of marriage vows, a personalized certificate for each couple and a reception for the couples and their families. Bishop Richard G. Henning will be the main celebrant and homilist. You must register with the parish by **August 11**. Please call the parish office or e-mail the parish office (sbc.pa@verizon.net) if you would like to attend this special celebration.

**Limited Edition Signed Prints.**

Thomas Lynch, the artist of the painting for our Anniversary, provided us with 50 signed limited editions prints of this beautiful work. Several remain for sale at \$50. Contact the parish office for availability. The painting depicts Mill Cove, here in Wickford.



**Beer Tasting**

West Passage Brewing Company  
 7835 Post Rd, North Kingstown, RI 02852  
 6:00 PM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

July 29: Number of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00 each

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to ‘St Bernard Church’ and ‘Beer Tasting’ in Memo Line

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-Matthew 11:15

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