

Saint Bernard Church



February 16, 2025 Sixth 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

From time to time, I come across a news article that I read and think to myself, “that would make a good subject for a Ponderings column!” I suppose it is just a coincidence that this Ponderings column comes on the heels of Valentine’s Day!

The title of the article was “The Unspoken Grief of Never Becoming a Grandparent.” The reality is that an increasingly large number of young people are deciding not to have children. And thus, their parents, will not become grandparents. The Pew Research Center says that 47% of adult children under the age of 50 without children say they are unlikely to have them. This is an increase in 10 percentage points since 2018. Of those who said they are unlikely to have children 57% say “they just don’t want to.” The US fertility rate reached an historic low in 2023, with a growing share of women ages 25-44 having never given birth. Four in ten say there was a time when they wanted to have children.

Besides, “they just don’t want to”, some of the other reasons why younger couples do not want to have children, according to this study, include: they want to focus on other things, such as their career and interests; they have concerns about the state of the world; they can’t afford to raise a child; concerns about the environment; they really don’t like children. By not having children these people in the survey say they have more time for hobbies; they can afford the things they want; they can save for the future; they can become successful in their job or career; they can have an active social life.

In the article mentioned earlier, they interview a woman, age 56, who says that none of her children want to have kids. She said, “I don’t have young children anymore, and now I’m not going to have grandchildren.” She continued, “So that part of my life is just over.” The woman’s husband says, “That is the best and worst thing about having kids. You watch them make their own decisions, different from yours.” The article says that the “would-be grandparents” may experience a deep sense of longing and loss when their children choose not to become parents, even if they understand at an intellectual level that their children do not ‘owe’ them a family legacy. One therapist said that our society traditionally paints grandchildren as a reward for aging. In other words, if I grow old, then I will see my children having children---I will have grandchildren. The woman interviewed for the article said, “You always hear people talk about how great it is to be grandparent, how it’s better than being a parent. I think when people don’t get to experience that, there’s a real grief that comes with it.” She says it is a kind of grief that our culture does not know how to talk about.

Parents who are hoping for grandchildren would fall into a category of those who see fewer years ahead of them than behind them. It brings to mind questions about their legacy. What do they ‘leave behind’----or better, ‘who do they leave behind.’ The topic of not wanting to have children can be a very sensitive topic for potential-grandparents and their children to discuss. For the older generation it can feel like a rejection of them. Some of them ask, “Did I mess up as a parent so much that my kids don’t want to have children?” Then when others in the peer group of “grandparents” speak about how busy they are shuttling grandchildren to sports’ practices and dance recitals, it can leave the ‘potential grandparents’ out in the cold. Friends post lots of photos of their grandchildren---if you don’t have grandchildren, you don’t post.

Experts encourage non-grandparents to explore different sides of themselves and for those who miss spending time around younger children to find ways to get involved. What are they to do with the ‘unconditional love and guidance’ they wanted to pass on?

I would suggest that as men and women of faith there are opportunities to become ‘spiritual grandparents’-----to pray for the children of the parish---pray for those preparing to receive First Holy Communion or Confirmation. There may be ways to assist our Faith Formation program---something to think about. Yes, there can be a sadness and a grieving process of not having grandchildren, but as family of faith, there are kids around---to be prayed for, guided, supported and loved---by our faith community.

--Fr. Gaffney

(It goes without saying that those couples who cannot have children for medical reasons, but would like them----is a totally different topic)

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



Mass Intentions

MONDAY, February 17

8:00 AM — *Mary Reardon*

TUESDAY, February 18

8:00 AM — *Innocents of Abortion*

WEDNESDAY, February 19

8:00 AM — *Thomas Cavanagh*

THURSDAY, February 20

8:00 AM — *Julia Buckley*
by her family

FRIDAY, February 21

8:00 AM — *Deceased of the Viera Family*
by Jane Viera

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, February 22

5:00 PM — *Josephine Capobianco*
by Women's Bible Study

SUNDAY, February 23

7:00 AM — *Vic Schumacher*
by Dick Buckley

8:30 AM — *Regina Salisbury*

10:30 AM — *Kenneth & Esther Claflin*
by their family



Support for Seminarians



Each time a man answers God's call to the priesthood, YOU are part of that journey. Through your support of the 2025 Catholic Charity Appeal, together as a Catholic Community, we help nurture vocations and provide crucial support for the 13 seminarians currently studying to become priests in the Diocese of Providence. Please prayerfully consider a gift to the appeal as we strive for 100% parish participation. To make your difference today, visit:

DioceseofProvidence.org/CCA

to invest in the future of our Church and ensure that these men can dedicate their lives to serving God and His people.

Soup-er Bowl Success.

Parishioners of St. Bernard Church donated more than 1000 cans of soup to the North Kingstown Food Pantry as part of their "Soup-er Bowl" campaign. Photo: Rev. David Gaffney, pastor, and a representative from the Food Pantry loading the van with cans of soup.



Parish Support

February 2, 2025 2024

Basket \$9,237.00 \$7,635.00

ACH \$3,957.00 \$3,004.00

February 9, 2025 2024

Basket \$4,607.00 \$9,238.00

ACH \$2,502.00 \$2,734.00

YTD \$370,048.00 \$362,376.00

Grief Group

The Grief Group meets on Tuesdays, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm in the large conference room. If anyone would like more information about the group, please see Fr. Gaffney. The schedule is:

February 18, 2025

March 18, 2025

April 22, 2025

May 27, 2025

Young at Heart

Our Young at Heart Luncheon returns on the following dates at noon with sign in at 11:30 am

March 24, 2025

May 5, 2025 (Note Date Change)

June 2, 2025

Adult Faith Formation.

Our "topic" for this year will be Prayer. Our meetings will be at 7:00 PM in the parish hall and follow the schedule listed below.

February 25, 2025

March 11 & 25 2025

April 8, 2025

Young Adults/Young Couples

Mardi Gras Party on Saturday, March 1st after the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Please respond to Fr. Gaffney in person or send an e-mail to the Parish Office (sbc.pastor@aol.com or sbc.pa@verizon.net). Thanks.

Young at Heart March Luncheon

Monday, March 24 at Noon (sign in at 11:30 AM)

Menu: TBD

Name (s) _____

Cost: \$15.00 per person. (Please make out checks payable to St. Bernard)

Please respond by **Monday, March 17th..**

Faith Formation 2024-2025

Weather related Class Cancellations!

Please go to: turnto10.com/ or the local TV/Radio Channels for updates

Gospel Weeklies Program

Grades K, 1, 3-6

In-person class schedule 9:25-10:25 am

Next Class 2/23/2025

** Return completed assignments to next in-person class

Sacramental Preparation Program

Grades 2, 7, 8, 9

In-person class schedule: 9:30-10:45

Next Class: 3/2/2025

Grade 2 & 8 is expected to return each Gospel Weekly to the next in person class. This is so the lesson from the Gospel of the week is reviewed in a timely manner and the program stays on track.

For more detailed information, please refer to your Weekly News Family email.

The North Kingstown Food Pantry is Here for You

The North Kingstown Food Pantry is available to any resident of the town of North Kingstown who is in need of nutritional support. The food pantry is a safe place where you will receive healthy food which is essential for good health.

Each month, North Kingstown residents may receive one week's worth of free food along with personal care products when available. In addition to the monthly week's worth of food that a household may receive, those 60 and older may participate in the food pantry's Senior Supplement Program each month. Families with children in school can receive additional food during the summer when government meal programs are unavailable and also during winter and spring vacation weeks. The food pantry also offers Holiday meals throughout the year and farm fresh produce on Thursdays.

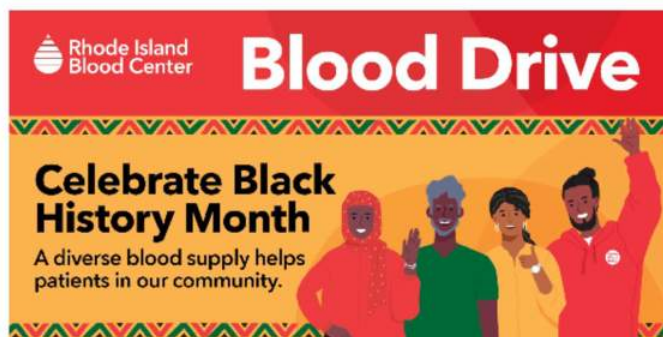
If you could benefit from the services provided by the North Kingstown Food Pantry, you need to register by visiting their website at nkfoodpantry.org. If you do not have access to a computer, please call the food pantry at 401-885-3663 during food pantry hours. The hours are Monday-Friday from 10:00am-2:00pm. The food pantry is located at 445 School Street in North Kingstown. Please know that food distribution is by appointment and you will have to bring your own shopping bags. No appointment is needed for Thursday produce days.

The North Kingstown Food Pantry is here for you and will assist you whenever you could use the extra support – even if you receive SNAP or other food assistance.



President's Day

On Monday, February 17th, the Parish Office will be closed and our daily Mass will be at 8:00 AM.



St. Bernard Church
Monday, February 24
2:00pm-7:00pm

Parish Hall
275 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown



Sign up at ribc.org/drives
and use sponsor code 0830

Prepare to donate

- Eat well and hydrate
- Bring a photo ID
- Feel good and symptom free
- Must be 17 or 16 with parental consent first
- Meet minimum weight requirements

For full eligibility requirements and COVID-19 information, visit ribc.org/eligibility.

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Sunday-Thursday 11:30am-11:30pm | Friday & Saturday 11:30am-12:00am



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"Those who hath ears to hear, let them hear."
-Matthew 11:15

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