

Saint Bernard Church



January 5, 2025 The Epiphany of the Lord

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

One of the wonderful Catholic customs at this time of year is to put our “Nativity Set” in a prominent place for the family to enjoy---to gaze upon. Some nativity sets are made of plastic, some are made of wood (think Holy Land olive wood), some are made of ceramic, some are made of plastic (always a good idea when there are young children who like to grab things!). The nativity set, or creche, can be the focus of a prayerful gaze---and can become a means for us to enter into the stable---to be with Mary, Joseph, the tiny Christ child, the oxen and other animals, the shepherds, the angels, the wise men. Why not take a quiet moment---cup of tea in hand, to stare into the scene---offer a prayer of thanks---or simply ‘wonder’ at the Christmas miracle. After all is said and done, after the rushing around, after the entertaining, after the opening of gifts---it is really all about that tiny child, the Savior of the World, the Prince of Peace, the Son of God.

One of the most awaited “Nativity Set” unveilings is in St. Peter’s Square in Rome. During my years in Rome I always enjoyed walking into the square during the month of December to see the progress of setting up and eventually unveiling “this year’s nativity”. This year (2024) the nativity set was unveiled on December 7th. The scene was crafted by some 40 volunteers from Grado, a town of the Marano Lagoon (near Venice) at the northern tip of the Adriatic in the province of Gorizia. It depicts scenes from everyday life in the early 20th century, centered around the local fishermen, the ‘casoneri’ and their ‘casoni’, typical reed dwellings. Two ‘batele’, typical flat-bottomed boats, will float on a stream behind a 100-meter dike. The crib is adorned with ‘briccole’, signs indicating navigable canals to the cities of Aquileia, Trieste and Venice and to the Marian shrine of the Crowned Virgin of Barbana. The shrine dates back to 582 and is located on one of the lagoon’s islets, of which there are more than a hundred.

Mary, Joseph and the child Jesus are located inside one of the fishermen’s huts (casone). Among the figures molded by hand from the mire of the lagoon, is a fisherwoman who is leading the boat carrying the three wise men. This is the first time that the nativity scene features a large body of water. The replica lagoon features a beach, islands, boats, animals and representatives of the town.

Pope Francis, at the unveiling, said, “I greet the delegation from Grado, from whose territory the Nativity display in the center of the Square originates, and that of Ledro, from whose forests comes the imposing 29 mter high spruce tree.” He continues, “...in the shadow of the great spruce tree, the Nativity display reproduces the ‘casone’ of the lagoon of Grado, one of the fishermen’s houses that were built with mud and reeds and where the inhabitants of the ‘motes’, the small lagoon island, during the hard work of fishing, shared the joys and sufferings of everyday life. This symbol, too, speaks to us of Christmas, in which God becomes man in order to share in our poverty, coming to build his Kingdom on hearth not with powerful means, no, but through the weak resources of our humanity, purified and strengthened by his grace.”

In reference to the typical flat-bottomed boat used by the fishermen (batela)---he says it makes it possible to move over shallow waters. And the boat is needed to reach Jesus, too: the Church is the boat. One does not reach his ‘alone’—never—we reach him together, we reach him as a community, on the great little boat that Peter continues to lead and on which, huddling together a little, there is room for everyone.”

During my time in Rome there was a Nativity display from Malta that really impressed me---I’m sure I used the description of it in a Christmas homily! Enjoy the savoring of the Christmas season---by staring into your family’s creche.

--Fr. Gaffney

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



Mass Intentions

MONDAY, January 6

8:00 AM — *Pamela Hubbell*
by Al Boucher

TUESDAY, January 7

8:00 AM — *Ken Kerwood*
by his family

WEDNESDAY, January 8

8:00 AM — *Robert Nisbet*

THURSDAY, January 9

8:00 AM — *Ken Lazaraki*
by Paulette

FRIDAY, January 10

8:00 AM — *Bob Viera*
Birthday Remembrance by his Family

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, January 11

5:00 PM — *Henry & Joan Zaborski*
by her family

SUNDAY, January 12

7:00 AM — *Marianne Jamison*
by Marcaccio family

8:30 AM — *Marie Ferranti*

by Anthony & Colleen Miccolis

10:30 AM — *Jerry Saands*

by his wife



Men of St. Joseph

The Men of St. Joseph International is a Catholic association of men committed to Jesus Christ. Our monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, **January 8th at 7:00 PM** in the Parish Hall. New members are welcome.

Morning Glory Gathering

Please join us for coffee and socializing on **Thursday, January 9th** after the 8:00 AM morning Mass in the Parish Hall.



Soup-er Bowl! (Super Bowl!)

Outreach to help the Poor.



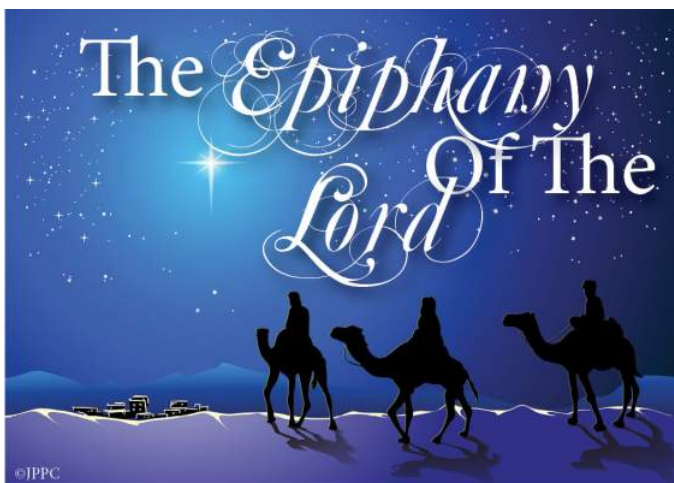
From January 1st through February 9th (the day of this year's Super Bowl) we will be collecting cans of SOUP for the North Kingstown Food Pan-try. We are setting a 'challenge' to collect 500 cans of soup! Then on the weekend of February 8/9 the young people of the parish will hold 'Soup Bowls' at the exit for a 'free will' donation----which will support our parish's outreach to the poor and needy. (We purchase 'food cards' for those in need who approach us year-round).

Thanks for your support!

The North Kingstown Food Pantry

For the month of November, 2024
299 pounds of food were donated.

Thank you so much for all your donations.



Parish Support

December 15, 2024 2023

Basket	\$6,228.00	\$8,677.00
ACH	\$3,065.00	\$2,630.00

December 22, 2024 2023

Basket	\$8,564.00	\$7,162.00
ACH	\$3,392.00	\$2,879.00

YTD	\$288,260.00	\$265,807.00
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Grief Group

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

January 7, 2025
February 8, 2025
March 18, 2025
April 22, 2025
May 27, 2025

Income Tax Statements

We will only mail or email donation statements for income tax purposes to those parishioners who request them. (This allows us to conserve paper and postage.). Please contact the office by phone (295-0387) or email us at

sbc.pa@verizon.net

Young at Heart

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

February 10, 2025
March 24, 2025
April 28, 2025
June 2, 2025

Annual Collection

Participation is its own goal. We are grateful for all who have sent in a contribution to our annual collection. Do you think we could get 100% participation? How about 75% or 50%? Are you able to participate? Any and all contributions are gratefully accepted. As of now 177 households have donated. Imagine what might be contributed if everyone of our 1,400 families participated. Your contribution is an important factor in maintaining our financial viability as a parish.

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.

January 14 & 28, 2025
February 11 & 25, 2025
March 11 & 25 2025
April 8, 2025

Soup Dinner

Recognizing our ‘humble beginnings’ as a ‘mission church’ in 1874 and in conjunction with our “Soup-er Bowl” Outreach to help the Poor----we will have a “Soup Supper” on Saturday, February 1st after the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Please return the RSVP---so we have an accurate count. *A free will offering will be accepted.* Our collection of cans of soup will take place: January 1, 2024 through February 9, 2025 (Super Bowl Sunday). Thank you for your generosity as we reach out to those in need.

Family Name: _____

Number attending: _____

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: 1/12/2025

** Return completed assignments to next in-person class

Sacramental Preparation Program

Grades 2, 7, 8, 9

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

Class Today: 1/5/2025

Next Class: 1/26/2025

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.

Please Be Careful!

The winter is just getting started. Cold and snow will surely come. The area around St. Bernard Church is especially difficult to keep clear from ice in winter weather. Our church has been built facing the north and the sun never shines on our front entrance. What melts during the day, re-freezes at night.

We always do our best to keep the walks clear, but it is never going to be perfect (unless we turn the building around to face the South), and so we ask you all, when it does snow please use extreme caution and good common sense when coming to church. Please be thoughtful of others and lend a hand to those who are in danger of falling (especially the elderly).

The Visitation of the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be visiting our diocese in various parishes throughout Rhode Island from Saturday, January 10 through Friday, January 31, 2025.

The image is an exact replica of the original image of Our Lady which She left on the Tilma of St. Juan Diego in December 1531. The image is among four blessed at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico by the Rector of the Basilica, Msgr. Monroy, to bring conversions, reverence for life, sanctity of the family and solidarity of the Church in America. The Missionary Images are known to have been associated with many miracles and healings.

The Image will be here at St. Bernard's on **Tuesday, January 14 during adoration.**

The schedule and locations can be found by visiting the diocesan website at

<https://dioceseofprovidence.org/OLG>



Annual Coat Drive



Please drop off your good, used coats and hats at the Church or Parish Office to be distributed to those in need.

Young at Heart February Luncheon

Monday, February 10th 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, February 3rd.**

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"Those who hath ears to hear, let them hear."
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