

The Fourth Sunday Of Advent

December 22, 2024

Mass Intentions

December	23	8:00 AM	Intentions Of Bill Boia requested by Pat & Gwen Pray
December	24	4:00 PM	People Of The Parish
		6:00 PM	Deceased Of The King & Sharman Families
December	25	9:00 AM	Megan Moyer Seiber requested by The Moyer Family
December	26	8:00 AM	NO MASS
December	27	8:00 AM	NO MASS
December	28	5:00 PM	Sister Augustine Marie Molnar requested by The Fordyce Family
December	29	8:00 AM	People Of The Parish
		10:30 AM	Brenda Garber requested by Deacon Robinson

Liturgical Ministries December 28-29

	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers	Servers
5:00 PM	Joe DeFrancesco	Yvonne DePaulis	Terry Meek
8:00 AM	Trudi Heffley	Scott Sheaffer	Joseph Morrison Helena Krieger
10:30 AM	Bill Davies	Nancy Stanton	Jacob Innerst Zoey Lowe

Schmidt Center Cleaning

December 29

Gabby Brandt & Jen Meek

January 5

Kim Lane, Marian McCoy

Next Sunday's Readings

Please prepare for Mass and the Homily by reflecting on these texts from the Sacred Scriptures

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Colossians 3:12-21

Luke 2: 41-52

Christian Stewardship

Last Sunday's Collection amounted to: \$4,313.00

The Collection on this date one year ago amounted to: \$4,983.36

May God Bless you for your generous and responsible stewardship!!!

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 22nd (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Confessions, 7:00-7:45AM

Masses, 8:00 and 10:30AM

CCD, 9:15-10:15AM

Monday, December 23rd

Mass, 8:00AM

Church Decorating for Christmas, 6:00PM

Tuesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve)

No Morning Mass

Christmas Eve Masses, 4:00PM and 6:00PM

Wednesday, December 25th (Nativity of the Lord)

Mass, 9:00AM

Thursday, December 26th

No Mass

Friday, December 27th

No Mass

Saturday, December 28th

Confessions, 4:00-4:45PM

Sunday Vigil Mass, 5:00PM

Sunday, December 29th (Feast of the Holy Family)

Confessions, 7:00-7:45AM

Masses, 8:00 and 10:30AM

No CCD

Monday, December 30th

Mass, 8:00AM

☉ Come, ☉ Come, Emmanuel!

From the Pastor's Desk:

Ask a child, "Where is God?" and you'll likely receive a variety of responses: "in heaven,"

"in church," "everywhere"

and "in my heart" are all conceivable answers from

a child's lips. But the one we most easily write off as

silly or sentimental is one that the saints would urge

us to revisit more seriously: God is indeed

"in my heart" – that is, He is present in our souls!

This is true not only when we receive Him in Holy

Communion, and not only because He is

"everywhere," but

because we possess sanctifying grace. Grace is

divine life – God's life – and if we are "in a state

of grace" (that is, we have brought all our mortal

sins to confession), we have this life within us!

Our model for becoming aware of this wonderful

gift is our Blessed Mother, whose example in



because we possess sanctifying grace. Grace is divine life – God's life – and if we are "in a state of grace" (that is, we have brought all our mortal sins to confession), we have this life within us! Our model for becoming aware of this wonderful gift is our Blessed Mother, whose example in

today's Gospel teaches us to love, reverence, and obey God within us. Setting out "in haste" to serve her aged cousin, Mary carried God in her womb. We can imagine the love and joy with which she carried Him. At every moment, God is present in us, too (not physically, but by grace) and we should strive to recognize and love Him who has made our hearts his dwelling place.

The events of today's Gospel suggest that Jesus' presence in Mary is not for Mary alone. Prompted by love, she made the arduous journey to visit Elizabeth – itself an act of charity. But Mary brought more than her services and support to Elizabeth during a potentially difficult pregnancy; she brought God Himself! Mary was so conscious of God within her that even her words, flowing from a heart burning with His love, carried a special power; at Mary's greeting, Elizabeth was "filled with the Holy Spirit" and John the Baptist "leaped for joy." As we become increasingly aware of God dwelling in our souls, we, too, become "Christ-bearers" to others. By being lovingly attentive to our Divine Guest, our words and actions become means by which he can act on the hearts of those we encounter each day.

Every time you spend time with another person, it is the visitation re-created. You bring Christ, Who is within you, to that person and can change their life by that divine encounter. Be mindful of sharing Christ with others as you make your visits with family and friends over these sacred days!

O come, divine Messiah!

The world in silence waits the day

When hope shall sing its triumph

And sadness flee away!

Remember the Sick of our Parish in your charity and prayers: Rosemary Anderson, Cathy Steiner, Marietta McQuaid, Marie Dishman, Suzanne Matunis, Pat Widdowson, Kay Dorundo, Gene Odat, Annetta Round, Joann Speis, Joni Lawrence, Shirley Scotta, Samantha Strazisar, Ellen White, Tara Smith, Dennis Haag, Louise Kline, Frances Kute, and all the long-suffering in our community and at Perry Village.

Deacon Robinson's Contact Information: Contact Deacon Robinson at his cell phone (602-6298) or deacon.robinson@analogypapologetics.com.

Online Information: You can access the weekly bulletin and other information at our parish website (www.stbernardsnbpa.org).

Church Decorating for Christmas will take place Monday evening, December 23rd at 6:00 PM. Your gracious assistance is needed to help with the Christmas trees and poinsettias that beautify our sanctuary. Please sign up at the bulletin board if you can assist us.



Be Considerate of Others: In consideration of parishioners listening to the readings from Sacred Scripture or to the homily, or if people are kneeling during the consecration of the Mass, please wait until the congregation stands to seat yourself. Walking down the aisle while everyone is seated and listening to the readings or homily is very distracting. If you are late for Mass (*which sometimes cannot be helped*) or if you need to leave Mass for some reason, please return to your seat only when the congregation stands! This will help eliminate distractions during Mass for parishioners and the celebrant.

Use of Parish Kitchen and Facilities: In accordance with the norms of our insurance company, Catholic Mutual, a person must be 16 years old to work or enter the kitchen. If parishioners want to use the kitchen or other parish facilities, which you are always free to do, please reserve the space with the parish office and sign the insurance form at least one week before your event. If your event is parish related, no additional insurance is needed. If personal, you must secure additional insurance from your own insurance company or through Catholic Mutual in case of accidents or physical harm. Call the parish office for further information.

Parish Contribution Statements for your church contributions will be available in early January. If you would like to have a statement emailed to you, please contact the parish office (info@stbernardsnbpa.org) and request one. Paper statements will also be available upon request.

Dear Friends in Christ,

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families the love of Christ at

Christmas and the blessings of God for the New Year. You have blessed our lives at Saint Bernard's with your friendship and prayerful support. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to be your Pastoral Shepherds and journey with you to God's kingdom.

Let us rightly remember the birth of Jesus, that with the angels we may sing of His glory and share the joy of the shepherds who came to worship him. With the Wise Men, let us share with Him the special gifts and talents we possess as if treasures of gold, frankincense, and Myrrh. In Christ we can close the doors of our hearts to hate and open wide the doors of our hearts to love God and our neighbor.

On Christmas morning relive the joy of your childhood and thank God our Father for sending us His most precious gift – His Son – our Savior!

Blessings in the Lord!
Father Sharman
Deacon Robinson

“Magnify, my soul, her who is more honorable and glorious than the hosts above. I behold a mystery strange and wondrous. The cave is heaven, the Virgin is the throne of the cherubim, the manger is the place where the Incomprehensible is laid, Christ our God, Whom we magnify with song.” This day the Christ is born: this day the Savior is appeared: this day the angels sing praise in the earth and the archangels rejoice: this day the righteous are glad and say: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!”

“Thus it is that Christianity, even negatively, and without contemplating its positive influences, is the religion of civilization.” (John Henry Newman)

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve Masses
Tuesday, December 24th
4:00PM and 6:00PM

Mass on Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 25th
9:00 AM