

St. Bernard Church

Upcoming Meetings

Sun.	Religious Education SPRED, Rm. 6 Religious Education Gospel Choir Concert	9:30 am 9:30 am 5:00 pm 7:00 pm
Mon.	Workcamp, Rm. 1 AA, Rm. 6	6:30 pm 7:00 pm
Tues.	Yoga, Rm. 2 Children's Choir, Church SPRED, Catechists Rm. 6	5:00 pm 5:30 pm 7:00 pm
Thurs.	Literacy Volunteers, R. 2 Yoga, Rm. 2 Adult Choir, Church	9:30 am 5:00 pm 7:00 pm
Fri.	Yoga, Rm. 1 AA, Rm. 6	6:00 pm 7:00 pm
Sat.	Legion of Mary, Conf. Rm.	10:00 am

Liturgical Readings

Mon. Isaiah 4:2-6	Matthew 8:5-11
Tues. Isaiah 11:1-10	Luke 10:21-24
Wed. Isaiah 25:6-10a	Matthew 15:29-37
Thurs Isaiah 26:1-6	Matthew 7:21, 24-27
Fri. Isaiah 29:17-24	Matthew 9:27-31
Sat. Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
Genesis 3:9-15, 20Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12 Luke 1:26-38	

STEWARDSHIP

"At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come," says today's Gospel. Good stewards know that they are accountable to God for all they have and are and strive to live in readiness for His

Sunday Liturgy

Spend a small bit of time this week getting ready for the spiritual highlight of every Catholic's week, Sunday Mass. "web site": (<http://liturgy.slu.edu>).

Baptized but not Confirmed?

Is this you? Or somebody you know? For any number of reasons, baptized Catholics do not always complete their initiation into the Church. This is done through the Sacrament of Confirmation and receiving Holy Communion. This is a simple process of preparation that results in the satisfaction of participating fully in the sacramental life that Christ has given us for our joy and support. For information call Fr. Reardon.

PARISH SUPPORT

	Actual	Budget
Nov. 24/25	\$5,929.95	
ACH	\$478.00	
Through 09/30/07	\$104,066	\$103,778

- St. Bernard's offers parishioners the opportunity to make their budget contributions by Direct Debit. Call the Parish Center, 295-0387 for further information.
- Many companies offer matching funds for donations to non-profit organizations. Your company might match your donation to St. Bernard! Please find out if your company has this policy.

Mass Intention

Mon. 8:00 am **Dot Silva** by her husband
 Tues 8:00 am **Jim Smith & Roger Chase** by their friends
 Wed. 8:00 am **For the protection of the unborn**
 Fri. 8:00 am **John & Kathleen Casey**
 7:00 pm **Rose & George Brissman** by their family
 Sat. 8:00 am **Herman & Mary Silva** by George Silva
 10:30 am **Msgr. John W. Struck**, 10th anniversary by the Murphy family
 5:00 pm **Karyl Motherway** by Robert & Maureen Motherway
 Sun. 7:00 am **Thomas Birch** by his family
 8:30 am **Gene McDermott** by Anne & Chris
 10:30 am **Don Miller**, Birthday Remembrance by his wife

Those who would like to bring the bread and wine to the altar, please call the Parish Center at 295-0387 to arrange.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday, December 8th is the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a holy day of obligation.

Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry would like to invite you to our annual Breakfast with St. Nicholas on Saturday, December 8th from 8:30am to 11am at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Come and capture the spirit of Christmas with the timeless classic of "Miracle on 34th Street". We believe, do you?? There will be arts and crafts, breakfast, raffle baskets, face painting and St. Nicholas, of course. So, bring your family, your camera, and your Christmas spirit. Youth volunteers (elves) are asked to help decorate and prepare the night before on Friday, 12/7 from 5-8pm at the Knights Hall. Please bring a donated toy/candy for a raffle basket.

2008 Narragansett Bay Workcamp

We are "Loving out Loud" like crazy, won't you come and join us? It feels so good, you won't want to stop. We have scheduled our individual Crew meetings and new members are always welcomed. We are looking people to help spread the word and home repair applications. If you know anyone who is in need or another church who might want to get involved, please contact Dawn at dawnmasterson_sbcworkcamp2008@yahoo.com or 295-5235. And there will be a Site Writing Training on Wed 1/14 from 6:30-9pm for anyone interested in assisting with the prep work needed for the home repair projects. Anyone with construction/building experience (but it is not a requirement) are welcomed. Please consider giving some of your time for this powerful and impactful project.

Bulletin Submission

Please submit bulletin materials directly to the Parish Office or e-mail to parishcenter@sbcwickford.org. Attn: Jane Allen. The deadline for submission is **Tuesday** by **5:00 pm**. Please take into consideration the cut off time and space limit.

From Father Dennis

I had one of those "nightmare experiences" on Tuesday morning. I was unable to access online my cell phone account. I called for help and was promptly led by a very polite mechanical voice to a real live genuine human being in one is mistakenly called the "service department". More than two hours later the problem was resolved. In the meanwhile I struggled to understand the heavily accented English of various persons who all began by asking the same questions, gathering the same information, having me repeat the same story of my woeful situation that led me to contact them in the first place. It was very frustrating to be passed off four times to people who were unflappably polite but equally useless. The final technician, the gentleman who ultimately allowed me to return to the normal world, did pretend to be interested in "service" but rather a firm determination not to be held hostage by a "system". This relatively unimportant bit of inconvenience in my daily life is symbolic of much of our harried twenty-first century lives. Things move fast and went they go off track getting them back up and running can be very slow and very frustrating. Aha! We need ADVENT! That's the church season we begin this weekend. It is the brief pre-Christmas period that offers us sanity in the midst of the holiday hubbub that keeps us busy but really does little to prepare us for Christmas. Well, that is, if Christmas is still a feast that is centered on the birth of Christ. I don't take for granted that it is actually that even for many Catholic Christians who go to church on a more or less regular basis. The bottom line: do something each day to make "Advent" more than something on the calendar of the church. Light a candle or an advent wreath; read some scripture or some really good fiction, listen to some music. Ask yourself what you really want for Christmas... really, really want from Christ. Ask yourself what gift you are going to give to Christ as we celebrate his birth. Good luck and God bless you during this short but significant period of time. I'll be thinking of you and praying for you, my favorite gifts!

Announcements

Come Ring the Bells!



Members of St. Bernard's are invited to help the Salvation Army by being Bell Ringers at the Walmart on Ten Rod Rd. on Saturday, December 15. Contact the Parish Center to sign up for an hour.

† **A Special Ornament for your Tree:** Decorative 24K gold plated St Bernard Church ornaments are available for \$17 each which includes tax and a gift box. They may be purchased at Books & More today from 9-12. They are also available at the Parish Center office during regular hours.



† **2008 St. Bernard's Calendars** are here! Please pick one up in the vestibule of church.

† **ANNUAL COAT DRIVE:** Please drop off your **GOOD, USED COATS** at the Parish Center to be distributed to local agencies. For more information or to help sort and distribute, call 295-0387 or email parishcenter@sbcwickford.org.

† **THE ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR RETIRED RELIGIOUS** will be taken up at all Masses next weekend. Please see the insert in this week's bulletin.

† **The Gardner family** would like to thank all who helped out with "**The Gardner Project**" this year. The turnout was tremendous!! We were able to transport, sort, fold and deliver all of the clothes and toys in 3 days time – setting a new record! Over 20 agencies and school systems will benefit from your help – touching the lives of hundreds of needy children and adults. Merry Christmas to all and hopefully we will see you in 2008 when our project continues! Mark, Mary Lou and Nick Gardner

† **From "Madam Secretary":** The staff at the Parish Center has been using email more frequently to inform parishioners of upcoming events and items of interest. Some email accounts may reject bulk emailing so please put us on your "buddy list". Our email addresses are: parishcenter@sbcwickford.org, jane.allen6@verizon.net, judidi@verizon.net, and sbc.gof@verizon.net. If you haven't been receiving our emails and would like to, please let us know.



THE GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree is up! Please take a tag and purchase the requested gift. The tag should be attached to the gift and the gift placed under the tree by Sunday, December 16th. Assumption Parish, DCYF, St. Mary's Home, Matthew 25, St. Edward's School, and local families having a difficult time this holiday season, have requested our help in brightening the holidays.

If your family, or any family you know, needs help with gifts this Christmas, contact Jane at parishcenter@sbcwickford.org or call 295-0387.

"Whatever you do the least of my brothers, you do unto me."



Religious Education

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION CLASSES: Classes meet this weekend at the Parish Center.

Service Opportunities: 8th and 9th Grade Confirmation Candidates can help at this evening's Gospel Concert. Please meet at the Parish Center at 6 PM.

Office help needed this Thursday, December 6 at the Parish Center. Meet at the Parish Center right after school until 4:45 PM (sooner, if we finish early!). Ring bells for the Salvation Army- see bulletin for details.

In case of inclement weather, please check your local news for cancellations.

Books & More

Books & More: Open today, December 2nd and December 16th from 9-12.. Advent wreaths, candles, reflection booklets and advent calendars are available. We also carry some Christmas decorations, ornaments, and boxed cards. For customer assistance, special orders, or access to store at other times call Deborah at 885-6405.