

St. Bernard Church

Upcoming Meetings		
Sun.	SPRED, Rm. 6	9:30 am
Mon.	Yoga, Rm. 2 AA, Rm. 6	4:30 pm 7:00 pm
Tues.	Yoga, Rm. 2 Children's Choir, Church Workcamp, Conf. Rm. Cub Scouts, Rm. 2 Women's Guild Potluck Party, Rm. 1 SPRED, Catechists Rm. 6	5:00 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 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.	AA, Rm. 6	7:00 pm
Sat.	Legion of Mary, Conf. Rm. Over 50, Rm. 1	10:00 am 6:00 pm

Liturgical Readings		
Mon.	Isaiah 35:1-10	Luke 5:17-26
Tues.	Isaiah 40:1-11	Matthew 18:12-14
Wed.	Our Lady of Guadalupe Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelations 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47	
Thurs	Isaiah 41:13-20	Matthew 11:11-15
Fri.	Isaiah 48:17-19	Matthew 11:16-19
Sat.	Sirach 48:1-14, 9-11	Matthew 17:9a, 10-13
Sun.	Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10	James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

STEWARDSHIP

We must be good stewards of God's gifts to us, receiving them gratefully and cultivating them with care lest we be the ones about whom John the Baptist speaks today: "Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

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
Dec. 1/2	\$7,464.00	
Haitian Project	\$2,073.00	
ACH	\$478.00	
Through 09/30/07	\$104,066	\$103,778
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •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 Ed O'Keefe
Tues	8:00 am Deceased & living family & friends of the Beaucaires
Wed.	8:00 am Maria & Joseph Cerilli , Birthday remembrance by their daughter Alberta Miller
Fri.	8:00 am Lillian Casey
Sat.	5:00 pm William & Leonora Lafreniere by William Lafreniere
Sun.	7:00 am Charles R. Lennon by his family
	8:30 am Robert Keefe by the Perry family
	10:30 am Catherine Wells by her family
<p>Those who would like to bring the bread and wine to the altar, please call the Parish Center at 295-0387 to arrange.</p>	

MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S	
Christmas Eve	5:00 pm Family Mass 7:00 pm Candlelight Mass 11:00 pm Solemn Mass
Christmas Day	7:00, 8:30 & 10:30 am
New Year's Day	8:30 & 10:30 am
Reminders:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Both the 5:00 pm Mass and the 11:00 pm Mass are preceded by musical programs. * Only those who are able to be seated will be admitted to the 5:00 pm Family Mass on Christmas Eve. No one will be allowed to stand in the aisles or along the walls. This is a safety compliance regulation. † Please make alternative plans to participate in a liturgy other than the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass unless you plan to arrive early. † Incense will be used at the 11:00 pm Mass and the 8:30 and 10:30 am Masses.

Youth Ministry

Thanks to all those who were involved in and attended the Breakfast with St. Nicholas. The Knights of Columbus Hall was transformed into Macy's on 34th Street and everyone enjoyed crafts, breakfast, face painting/tattoos and a very special visit from St. Nick. **Senior Posse** (High school students) we are trying to get a group together to go to LaSalette Shrine on Friday, Dec 28th. Hope you can join us and enjoy the lights, sounds, and warmth of the company. Our next planning meeting is Monday, January 7th so mark your calendars to discuss events for the new year.


2008 Narragansett Bay Workcamp

We have scheduled our individual Crew meetings and new members are always welcomed. We need 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.

From Father Dennis

My favorite seasonal display is the profusion of light on the corner of Tower Hill Road and Hamilton Allentown Road. The multi-colored lights spread generously on the trees never fail to touch my soul no matter how often I pass by them. It makes no difference whether it is early in Advent or close to Epiphany. The light speaks of the mystery of hope that we have and need to hold on to in our world in which cold and dark seem so present, threatening and discouraging. In its own way the display is more powerful than any manger scene I pass by. Of course, I know that the familiar figures speak of the heart of the Christmas event. It is just that they make it too easy for me to relegate them to the category of "bible story" or to make me sentimental, even comfortable. The lights evoke something deeper, less manageable. They take me beyond Luke to Saint John: "...the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (1:5)" The words are both a profound commentary on my own life and also an eloquent proclamation of the importance of not giving up on our world. The impact of the candles on our Advent wreath in church pale in comparison to the lights on the corner. Still they too speak of the strength of even the smallest light to warm our hearts and refresh our spirits. One great way to enter into Advent and open ourselves to the mystery of Christ, Light of the World and Light of my Life, is to light a candle and sit in the darkness and simply sit in silence and look at it for a few minutes. I conclude this daily ritual by listening to a favorite piece of music and whispering a simple and sincere "Thank You, God, for Light."

Announcements




† **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.
- † **Blue Christmas, An Ecumenical Service of Healing and Hope** will be held Sunday Dec. 16th at 7:00 pm at the North Kingstown United Methodist Church. For more information please see the insert in today's Bulletin.
- † **St. Bernard's Women Guild Annual Christmas Pot Luck Party** will be held on Tuesday, December 11 at 6:00 PM in the Parish Center. Please bring your favorite dish to share, a gift for the Yankee Swap and dues will be collected. Come join this enjoyable evening!!!
- † **ROAST PORK DINNER:** The Knights of Columbus, will have a Roast Pork Dinner on Saturday, December 15th, from 5:30 to 7:00 P.M. at the Council Hall, Menu:Roast Pork, stuffing, gravy, potatoes, vegetables, soup, \$9.00/person, \$5.00 children 12 and under; children 6 and under are free. Reservations required by December 13th. Call and leave a message at 295-0507.
- † **First Baptist Church in Wickford Annual Open Messiah Sing** will be held on December 16th at 7:00pm. We are inviting area churches to participate in this wonderful evening. We hope to see you there!

Books & More

Books & More: Open 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.



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.

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 **next Sunday, December 16th**

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

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>).

Religious Education

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION CLASSES: Classes meet NEXT weekend, December 16, unless specified by your catechist.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES: **Can you rake?** A St. Bernard family is in need of yard work. Get a few friends and help out. Call the Parish Center for more information. On Friday 12/21 and Saturday 12/22, help is needed to put together food baskets for families in our community. Call the Parish Center at 295-0387 to sign up to help.

PARENTS! Check out this online Advent Calendar with your kids – www.beliefnet.com.

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