

St. Bernard Church

Upcoming Meetings

Mon.	AA, Rm. 6	7:00 pm
Tues.	New Years Day—Parish Center Closed	
Thurs.	Literacy Volunteers, Rm. 2 Yoga, Room 2	9:30 am 5:00 pm
Fri.	AA, Rm. 6	7:00 pm
Sat.	Legion of Mary, Conf. Rm.	10:00 am

Liturgical Readings

Mon.	1John 2:18-21	John 1:1-18
Tues.	Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God Numbers 6:22-27 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21	
Wed.	1John 2:22-28	John 1:19-28
Thurs	1John 2:29-3:6	John 1:29-34
Fri.	1John 3:7-10	John 1:35-42
Sat.	1John 3:11-21	John 1:43-51
Sun.	The Epiphany of the Lord Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12	

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>).

STEWARDSHIP

"Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness" Paul tells the Corinthians—and us. How much more joyful this time of year would be if dedicated ourselves to thankfulness, instead of worrying.

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

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
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.

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.

Mass Intention

Mon.	8:00 am	Dan Fierro , Birthday Remembrance by Alberta Miller
Tues.	8:30 am	Donald Barker by his wife
Fri.	8:00 am	For the protection of the unborn
Sun.	8:30 am	J. F. Timothy Carroll by the Miccolis family

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

MASS SCHEDULE

NEW YEAR'S

New Year's Day Masses are at 8:30 & 10:30 am



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 are available at the Parish Center office during regular hours.

Youth Ministry

Happy New Year from the Youth Ministry. We hope that each day of 2008 for you will be healthy, spiritual and lots of FUN!! Make a New Year's Resolution to come to at least one Youth Ministry event. There truly is something for everyone. The Ministry is thriving with very dedicated and very fun high school students and their parents. We would love to see the Junior Group (middle school aged youth) grow into a group as well, which takes attendance, commitment, and faith. Please check out the calendar and pick one event to go to and invite a friend from church. And Parents are needed to help support the ministry as chaperones, a very important role, especially if you jump in and stay at a Social Night and play a game with the youths.

We are looking forward to lots of exciting activities and projects that will exercise our minds, bodies, and spirit. We promise that we do not bite and we truly believe that you once you start, you will add our calendar events to your very busy refrigerator calendar. Happy 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

Christmas was a wonderful day for me. I enjoyed my time with my family immensely. My sister brought her dog. One of my nieces brought her two dogs. The two old cats that live in the house were not full of the Christmas spirit and refused to welcome them with open arms. The more confident of the two cats asserted herself as the "boss" of the house and established boundaries which no dog could cross without having to listen to the most eerie of sounds emerging from deep within her belly. They learned to respect her and by the end of the evening there was peace, albeit a fragile one. Such is the work of Christmas: Christ came to establish boundaries and negotiate peace. The kingdom is open to all but there are rules for living in God's kingdom. Peace is built upon respect for others as they are and acceptance of them as they are. It is, of course, mutual. The whole idea takes a lot of creative imagining in the pursuit of possible strategies for making it all work. It requires lengthy dialogue about what will or will not be tolerated. It is a give and take. In the end I think the cats and dogs enjoyed peace yesterday because the process tired them out and getting along seemed the easiest course. Perhaps that is God's plan for humanity as well. God will just keep at it, giving us Christmas after Christmas and putting us in a world with others that requires continual efforts at negotiating something that works for everybody until we all get so tired we let the divine will be done and God's reign of peace takes hold. We'll see.

One other item that I wish to point out is that I accumulated through gifts just a little under ten pounds of Twizzlers which just happens to be my candy of choice. This means that I received more treats than both the cats and dogs combined. That is a Christmas to remember! On to the New Year!

Announcements

**The Parish Center will be closed
Tuesday, New Years Day, January 1st.**

† **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.

† **Bible Study:** A new study on "The Gospel According to John" begins in January. Tuesday morning group begins January 8th and Thursday evening group begins Thursday January 10th. This 12 week study will take us through the winter and into April, with breaks along the way for Valentine's Day, Holy week and Easter. The study emphasizes Christ's divinity, our relationship with Jesus and His relationship with the Father as well as the role of the Holy Spirit. Materials need to be ordered very soon. Please register as soon as possible by calling Deborah at 885-6405 or emailing dlmccoy@cox.net. Donations for workbooks are suggested.

† **The Buzz,** our quarterly newsletter, went out last week. If you did not receive it or would like to receive it electronically, **IN COLOR**, please contact the Parish Center at 295-0387 or parishcenter@sbcwickford.org

† **From "Madam Secretary":** We are 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.

† **ITALIAN NIGHT:** at the Knights of Columbus on Saturday, January 5th, from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at the K of C Hall Pasta, Meatballs, Tossed Salad, Italian Bread/ Butter, Coffee/Tea. \$7.00/adult, \$4.00/child 12 and under, and children 6 and under are free. Reservations are required by January 4th. Please call 295-0507.

† **You are invited to a KWANZAA CELEBRATION** to be held at St. Michael's Church, 239 Oxford Street, Providence on Wednesday, January 2nd at 7:00 pm. Music by the Diocesan Gospel Choir. Refreshments will be served after the celebration. For more information call 278-4552.

THE GIVING TREE

The giving tree was a huge success! Over 600 gifts were distributed to people in need this holiday season. We thank our generous parishioners and friends who purchased gifts—without you the tree would not be possible. Special thanks to the Religious Education helpers and those who helped move, sort, bag and deliver the gifts.

May God bless you at Christmas and in the New Year.
Nancy

Religious Education

SACRAMENTAL PREP CLASSES RESCHEDULED:

Classes that were cancelled Sunday 12/16 due to the storm have been **RESCHEDULED** for **SUNDAY, JANUARY 6** at the regular times.

HAVE YOU BEEN RECEIVING E-MAIL REMINDERS? If not, please update your email address by calling the Parish Center.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES: Movers-Your assistance is needed to help a family with moving tasks at the end of Dec./beginning of Jan. Call the Parish Center. **Ideas?** Have an idea for a service project? Call the Parish Center.

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

Books & More

Books & More: Our next full-service opening is January 6th from 9-12, when all Christmas merchandise will be on clearance sale. In the meantime, self-service purchases may be made when the parish center is open. You may also arrange for openings by appointment outside of parish center hours or make inquiries by calling Deborah at 885-6405. Ornaments and gift items are in the Parish Center, Room 1.