

St. Bernard Church

Upcoming Meetings

Sun.	Religious Education SPRED, Rm. 6 Religious Education Religious Education	9:30 am 9:30 am 11:30 am 5:00 pm
Mon.	Yoga, Rm. 2 AA, Rm. 6	4:30 pm 7:00 pm
Tues.	Yoga, Rm. 2 Children's Choir, Church	5:00 pm 5:30 pm
Wed.	Girl Scouts, Rm. 1	6:30 am
Thurs.	Yoga, Rm. 2 Adult Choir, Church	5:00 pm 7:00 pm
Fri.	AA, Rm. 6	7:00 pm
Sat.	Legion of Mary, Conf. Rm.	10:00 am

Liturgical Readings

Mon.	Genesis 49:2, 8-10	Matthew 1:1-17
Tues.	Jeremiah 23:5-8	Matthew 1:18-25
Wed.	Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a	Luke 1:5-25
Thurs	Isaiah 7:10-14	Luke 1:26-38
Fri.	Song 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a	Luke 1:39-45
Sat.	1Samuel 1:24-28	Luke 1:46-56
Sun.	Isaiah 7:10-14	Romans 1:1-7
		Matthew 1:18-24

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

Each of us has his or her own role to play in the coming of the Kingdom of God. John the Baptist was called to be the herald of the Messiah, preparing the way of the Lord. To what is the Lord calling me?

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>
Dec. 8/9	\$7,817.00	
Religious Retirement	\$3,500.00	
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	Thomas Dilick, Sr. 14th anniversary by his wife
Tues	8:00 am	Rowland K. Hazard by his family
Wed.	8:00 am	Marguerite Sherman by her family
Fri.	8:00 am	Melvin & Catherine Sherman by their family
Sat.	5:00 pm	Ellen Cherry by William Lafreniere
Sun.	7:00 am	Maurice Lafreniere by his family
	8:30 am	Thomas J. Lardner by Richard & Martha Dwyer
	10:30 am	Alice Torres by her husband

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

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:

- * 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.

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

Youth Ministry

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

Our individual Crew meetings have been scheduled and new members are always welcome. Help spread the word and home repair applications. If you know anyone in need or another church who might want to get involved, please contact Dawn at dawnmason_sbcworkcamp2008@yahoo.com or 295-5235.

From Father Dennis

Christmas came early to me this year. First I was gifted two tickets to the Providence Singers performance of Handel's "Messiah" at the Veterans memorial Auditorium. Second I was able to attend and experience a soul-stirring performance. "Messiah" has found its way into the Christmas repertoire even though it is far broader in its scope. The chorus "for Unto Us a Child is born" is familiar to everyone as is the "Hallelujah Chorus" and the grand finale "Worthy is the Lamb". Personally, however, my favorite part of the entire oratorio is the alto solo "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd". The text from Isaiah goes on: "and he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young." It is a gentle air that is sung with a tone of complete awe at this man who is so caring and so sensitive. Often at Christmas we are reminded that the shepherds, the first to be told of the birth of Jesus, are social outcasts, way down on the bottom rung of cultural ranking. This is meant to make us feel good. Jesus cares even for the least of us. It is true and it is Good News for us. But as I was listening to the piece the other night (and it was beautifully performed) I was struck by how Jesus identifies himself as a shepherd. "I am the good shepherd" he will declare publicly and with great pride. Imagine Jesus is happy to be seen and tagged a "nobody".

That's when it hit me again: we aren't always very nice to nobodies, outcasts, and the different. Listen to public discourse and political speeches on immigrants, the poor, those who need public assistance, those, etc. Not only do we not want to be counted among them, we very often want to keep them at some distance from ourselves even when we are being charitable toward them. Or try this: Jesus as shepherd in his day is an illegal immigrant in our day. That's a good start for meditating on Christmas. We might find that there is still no room in many a manger for the Christ.

Announcements



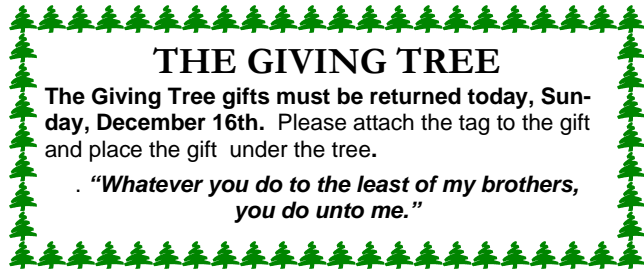
† **A Special Ornament for your Tree:** Decorative 24K gold plated St Bernard Church ornaments are available for \$17 each which includes tax and a gift box. They may be purchased at Books & More today from 9-12. They are also available at the Parish Center office during regular hours.

† **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 dlimccoy@cox.net. Donations for the participant booklets are suggested.

† **The Children Left Behind:** An interactive and multimedia exhibit featuring creative works and stories that capture life through the eyes of the orphans and other children left vulnerable by HIV/AIDS from Uganda, South Africa, India, Cambodia and Guatemala, will be presented by the Diocesan Office of HIV/AIDS Ministry on Sunday, December 16th at 12:00 pm at the Blackstone Valley Visitor Center, 175 Main St., Pawtucket.

† **N. K. Clergy Assn.'s Blue Christmas service** For those who have lost loved ones, lost a job, lost friendship or just have difficulty coping with all the hullabaloo, Christmas can be overwhelmingly sad. The churches of North Kingstown join together to offer a special service at 7:00 pm tonight, Sunday, December 16th at the N. K. United Methodist Church, located at 450 Boston Neck Road. Be with us to hear and share prayers, scripture readings and hymns that help us to know that God's presence is for those who mourn, and God's word comes to give light out of our darkness. The short service will be followed by light refreshments and fellowship in the church lounge. Everyone is welcome.



THE GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree gifts must be returned today, Sunday, December 16th. Please attach the tag to the gift and place the gift under the tree.

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

Religious Education

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION CLASSES MEET TODAY! Unless your catechist has informed you otherwise.. **HAVE YOU BEEN RECEIVING E-MAIL REMINDERS?** If not, please update your email address by calling the Parish Center.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES: Food Baskets- Call the Parish Center at 295-0387 to help assemble food baskets on 12/21 and 12/22. **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

Full service today, Sunday December 16th from 9-12. Self-service purchases can be made whenever the parish center and vestibule of the Church are open. You may also call Deborah at 885-6405 for assistance and access to merchandise at other times by appointment.

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.