St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

Parish Staff

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MRS. ANGELA ZITO
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Mass Schedule

Sundays

Saturday at 5:00 p.m.
Sundays: 8:30 a.m. -10:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.
Spanish-Once a Month on Saturday's at 7:00 p.m.

Weekdays

Monday - Friday at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

Summer

Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
Sundays at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Holy Days

8:30 a.m. and Evening Mass at 7:30 p.m.

Reconciliation

Saturday at 4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Rectory Hours

Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m.-4:00p.m.
NATIONAL HOLIDAYS - RECTORY CLOSED

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PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES WHILE IN CHURCH!

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word
Third Sunday of Advent

If today's Gospel reading sounds very familiar, that's because it is a similar account to what we heard last week, from a different Gospel writer. Last week we heard from Mark; this week's if from John. While both last Sunday and today we hear this story of John preaching and baptizing, there are some differences that are worth paying attention to. In today's Gospel, we hear that the religious leaders in Jerusalem, upon hearing of John's preaching, sent people to question him. Clearly, they were skeptical of John. After all, John's strange behavior, especially his humble clothing and diet, would seem to match some of the radical behavior that prophets of the Old Testament might have demonstrated. The religious leaders in Jerusalem were nothing like John. While he wore camel's hair, they wore fine linens. And where he survived on locusts and wild honey, they dined on good foods. And while he was out preaching and baptizing in the Jordan River, they stayed in comfort on the temple grounds in Jerusalem. John was nothing like these so called "holy men." Perhaps they felt threatened and send people to question him, possibly to discredit him or to uncover reasons to condemn him, just as they would later do to Jesus. To his credit, John received this questioning gracefully, being honest about the fact that he is not the Messiah, but also doing whatever he could to proclaim the approach of Jesus. In this way, John embodied exactly what he was called to do; what we are all called to do. As the Gospel states, "He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him." Believe through him, not in him. John shows us some incredible humility and commitment to the mission by doing whatever he can to point away from himself and toward Christ. When asked if he is Elijah (a prophet from the Old Testament), he continuously denies his own greatness in favor of Christ. And the Pharisees ask him why he is baptizing when he is not one of these important figures. And once again John points to Jesus by stating that his own baptism with water was simply preparing the way for Jesus, who John knew would be baptizing with the Holy Spirit. John gives us a great model of what it is to live with humility while still doing great things. Humility in this case is lived out by pointing away from yourself and toward someone else. In John's case (and all of ours) the correct choice is to give all glory to Christ.

Monthly 50/50 Raffle

Contribution is $25 and the proceeds will be used for the ongoing renovation and rebuilding of the parish facilities. Winner takes home half the amount collected for the given month. Simply drop your entry at the rectory or in the weekly collection basket.
The next winner will be picked on January 2nd, 2024

This Month's Winner of $312.50 is
Mr. & Mrs. Reed Perlowitz

Advent Series

To help prepare for Christmas we will have our last Advent Series night on Wednesday, December 20th at 7:00pm in the Church.
The nights will reflect about Isaiah, Mary & John the Baptist.

Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24th
4:00 p.m. Family Mass,
8:00pm Spanish Mass &
Midnight Mass at
10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day
Monday, December 25th
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

New Year's Day
Monday, January 1, 2024
11:30 a.m.
This is not a Holy Day of Obligation

Knights of Columbus Christmas Party

Thursday, December 21st
6:30pm in the Parish Hall
Food, fun and Christmas cheer! Free to all. There will be a visit by Santa Claus! All are welcome!

Reconciliation Monday

On Monday, December 18th, there will be reconciliation for parishes in the New York Area. We will have confessions from 9:00am-10:00am and4:00pm-7:00pm.
It's a great way to prepare spiritually for Christmas.

This weekend's second collection is a Diocesan Collection for Religious Retirement.
Thank you always for your generosity! It is greatly appreciated!

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023	
9:00 am	Andreas Gonsavos by The Berger Family
5:00 pm	Lougie Capadanno by his loving niece Mary Ann
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023	
8:30am	Martin Mulligan Eileen & Robert Magnavito(Happy Birthday)
10:00am	Letizia Palizzotto by The Palizzotto Family Jeanie Salvaggio by The Arcati Family John Marinelli by St. Bernard Friends (Anniversary)
11:30am	Belisario, DeVito & Reinhardt Families by The Belisario Family
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023	
8:30 am	Eamon Maguire by His Beloved Family People of the Parish
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023	
8:30 am	Martin Mulligan by Arlene Formica
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2023	
8:30 am	Kaitlyn Bernhardt by Pop-Pop Philip Simonetti by Martha-Jean Rosiello (Happy Heavenly Birthday)
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023	
8:30 am	Brian P. O'Neill by Christy Concepcion Clemenza & Family
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2023	
8:30am	Sadie Benvenuto by Children Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren & Niece (Happy Birthday in Heaven) John Hammond Jr. by wife Camille, Children & Grandchildren (2nd Anniversary in Heaven)
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2023	
9:00am	Francis X. Esposito by Michele Esposito
5:00pm	Maurice Mulligan by Eileen & Robert Magnavito
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023	
8:30am	Mary & Carmine Grossi by Teresa & Tom Sorrentino
10:00am	Francesca DiBlasi Love your St. Athanasius Family (Christmas in Heaven)
11:30am	Vincent Patrizio by Anthony & Michael Mr. & Mrs. DeMeo by Mr. & Mrs. George Marinello Carmine Carriero by his wife Concetta Carriero
4:00pm	Mary, Mickey & A-Net Damato by Rita Kaitlyn Bernardt by her Family John McCarthy by his Family Jennie Donadio by her Family
10:00pm	Jacqueline Fortunato by her Grandchildren

Perform a Random Act of Kindness

Third Sunday of Advent – Joy!

Make Someone Laugh Today.
Send a Card to a Loved One
or Friend.

Altar Bread:
In Loving Memory of Kaitlyn Bernhardt
Donated by her Family

Altar Wine:
In Loving Memory of Kaitlyn Bernhardt
Donated by her Family

Altar Candles:
In Loving Memory of Kaitlyn Bernhardt
Donated by her Family

Tabernacle Candles:
In Loving Memory of Kaitlyn Bernhardt
Donated by her Family

Tabernacle Candles:
In Loving Memory of Kaitlyn Bernhardt
Donated by her Family

Church Bells:
In Loving Memory of Kaitlyn Bernhardt
Donated by her Family

Altar Flowers:
In Loving Memory of Kaitlyn Bernhardt
Donated by her Family

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

A.B.
V.B.
Jack Albin
Rosa Andreani
Francis Arcati
Marilyn Augello
Anna Barone
Christine Palumbo Beck
Nicholas Berlingieri
Lizette Borquero
Paul Brienza
Thomas Caliendo
Diane Camacho
Elaine Capper
Ana Caraballo
Joseph Carone
Carmine Carriero, Jr.
Leonard Carriero
Domenic Carriero
Clare Cawthon
Nick & Sarah Codella
Julia Comer
Sheila Connors
Daniel Commisso
Janet Commisso
Angela Marie Cosenza
Irma Cruz
Samantha Curreri
John Curte
Gabriella Cutrone
Josephine Dai
Joan Darragh
Tania Davis
Pamela DeCesare
Vicky DeGruccio
Frances DePace
Ed Desantis
Diane DiAngelo
Rosa Diaz
Rosa DiBerardino
Mildred Diel
Donna Donzella
James Donzella
Gia Marie Duffy
Stephen J. Esposito
Aiden Estrella
John Fahey
Kevin Fahey
Pat Fallon
Adriana Farrell
Tracy Farrell
Natalie Ferber
Anthony Filippazzo
Marisa Fullam
Alexandra Gagliardi
Karen Gallagher
Patricia Gallagher
Peter J. Gallagher
Linda Gannon
Courtney James Garrisson Jr.
Thomas Garziniti
Margaret Generoso
Ellen Gentile
Connor Patrick Geoghagen
Francine Giannotti
Rose Giberti
Tina Giberti
Mark Gottlieb
Robin Gottlieb
Nicholas Grillo
John Gullo
Cindy Guzzo
Ken Healy
Gregoria Hernandez
Maria Hinners
June Honovich
CarolAnn Howe
Gianni Incandela
Laura Johnson
William Kenney
Ann Klauss
Kiera Sophie
Stella Kinsella
Annette Kyle
Angelina Larrymore
Roberto Lastra
Salvatore Leone
Greyson Livia
Barbara Lopez
Ariana Lore
Joseph Malk
Allan Maloney
Baby Salvatore Manniello
Yolanda Maranga
Steven Marinelli
Joseph Marino
Andrea Martin
Lurline Martineau
Matthew Mason
Nicole McCallion
Mackenzie McCallion
Eddie Boy McCarthy
Christine McCartney
Kelsey McCartney
Nancy McCormick
Edna McGuinness
Matt McMahon
Donald Merone
Debbie Miller
Brian Morgan
Daniel Morrissey
Joseph Mosiello
Tanya Ortiz
A.Passaro
Rose Patrizio
Sandra Pena
Jo-Ann Piazza
Nicholas Piccio
Clement Pollio
William Prussing
Corinne Ramaglia
Alexa Ramos
Phillip Ramos
Antonio Reda
Jacob and Jaxson Rivera
Antonio Romano
Margaret Romano
Craig Rosen
Aida Rosiello
Sal Rubino
Gasper Sacco
Joseph Sanfratello
Robert Sansone
Jerry Sarni
Joanne Sarnicola
Laura Scattereggia
Carol Schroeder
Aiden Seazer
Erik Seidel
Gloria Serewitz
Mark Skinner
Michael Skody
Alexandra Smith
Aurora Sorrentino
Sue Ann Spotts
Troy Tamburo
Cigdem Tanriverdi
Linda Testagrose
William A. Thomas
Ryan Torgerson
Jennifer Tortorici
Geraldine Ventrice
Salvatore Ventrice
Stephen Wiegand
Thomas Yorke
Lily Zemel

For the third week of Advent, the Advent Candle of Joy has been memorialized
In Memory of

John Marinelli (Anniversary in Heaven)

By Your St. Bernard Friends

If you would like to add to any of our Christmas decorations "In Memory of" or "In honor of" your loved ones, forms are available in the church & Rectory.

Holy Family Jesus, Mary and Joseph
We Entrust Our Families To Your Sacred Heart

In Memory of Toni Ann Seddio

Beloved Daughter, Sister & Aunt

Donated by The Seddio Family

If you would like to add to any of our Holy Family Memorials "In Memory of" or "In honor of" your loved ones, forms are available in the church & Rectory.

Christmas is a time for us to come together to rejoice in the birth of Our Lord, Jesus the Light of the World! I ask you to consider being a supporter of this joyous annual event and important Parish fundraiser. You can choose to memorialize a loved one or you can make a gift in honor of someone.
Please return this completed form to the rectory OR place in the Sunday Collection in an envelope.

CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

8' CHRISTMAS TREES WITH LIGHTS - $300 EACH _____ STARS-$150_____

MERRY CHRISTMAS SIGN-$500_____ TOWER WREATHS - $ 300 EACH_____

PLEASE PRINT

Donated/Sponsored by:_____

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Phone:_____ E-Mail:_____

IN MEMORY OF_____

IN HONOR OF_____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT ENCLOSED: $_____

Please list below any additional gifts. Thank you for your continued support!

The Giving Tree

We would like to express a huge THANK YOU to the secret "*Elves*" who work tirelessly behind the scenes to arrange, organize, sort and pack the overwhelming amount of gifts that our generous parishioners donate to those less fortunate. Preparations began in September with the making of the ornaments to hang on the trees and coordinating with organizations. We all know that many hands make light work and we give thanks to the "Official" Elf Team **The Carucci Family & The Zito Family** who work quietly and selflessly for the past 12 years.

In addition **Richard & Matthew Gibbons, Michael & Sheri Dogali & Josephine DeLuca** and many anonymous parishioners all pitched in to help keep everything running smoothly. We collected 49 full black bags filled with toys and 107 gift cards. Of course, there always has to be a Chief Elf, so we also extend our appreciation to **Ellen Morris** who coordinates everyone year after year to help those in need. God Bless you all for your kind and giving hearts!

Did You Wrap Your Gift? Would you give a gift to a friend and not wrap it? Would you take a present to a party and not put your name on it? Please treat your weekly gift to God with the care and respect you would any gift that you give. Wrap it in an envelope and put your name on it. It will make you feel so much better about that gift.

Try it some Sunday and see if it doesn't make you feel a little prouder of your gift. If you need parish envelopes please call the Rectory at 718-763-5533
Thank You for Your Generosity!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

to all those who made a gift to the **Bishop's** Annual Catholic Appeal! We encourage all those who made a pledge to **please fulfill it**. If you have not made a gift, you can still make an end-of-year gift! The Appeal ends December 31, 2023 and all donations received over our goal will come right back to our parish for our use with Ministries and Services.

God Bless all our Parishioners for your Generosity and Kindness always!

PLEASE HELP US UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION SO THAT YOU CAN BE REACHED WITH IMPORTANT INFORMATION, WHEN NECESSARY. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A CHANGE TO YOUR DATA OR ADD INFORMATION, LIKE YOUR CELL PHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL, PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM WHICH IS LOCATED AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH OR IN THE PARISH HOUSE AND RETURN IT TO US. IF YOU WOULD LIKE US TO EMAIL THE FORM TO YOU, PLEASE EMAIL US AT PA101028@DIOBROOK.ORG THANK YOU!

Join Our Deacons
For an 8 part series on our Faith:
The Liturgy, Precepts of the Church, Biblical Way to Pray the Mass, The Cardinal Virtues, Corporal Works of Mercy, Spiritual Works of Mercy, The Our Father & The Beatitudes Every first Tuesday starting In Church 7:00 pm Come one, come all. Join us each month or whenever the Spirit moves you

Stewardship Thought

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." – 1 Thessalonians 5:16 – 18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

Bereavement Ministry
Working Our Way Through Grief
A journey from grief to healing for people coping with the loss of a loved one.
Saturday, January 13, 2024
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Rectory
For more information please call
Barbara at 917-686-5444 or
Maureen at 347-436-5192

ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS

We welcome all our college students back from school. There will be a gathering for all college students on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish House.

YEAR OF THE SUNDAY MASS

This year in St. Bernard's is the Year of the Sunday Mass. Since 2017, the diocese of Brooklyn has seen 37% decrease in Mass attendance. This has happened in our parish too. The Sunday Eucharist is the most important event each week in our parish. We hear God's word. We receive Jesus himself in Communion. We are sent into the world to live as disciples. We all know people on our block and in our family that are not coming to Mass. Pray for them and give them an invitation to come with you. Share WHY you come. We will be trying different strategies this year. One is using social media better.
We now have an Instagram page. Check it out: St.bernardchurch.
We'll be telling you more in the coming weeks

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
"Doing good while having fun"
St. Bernard's Council #14269
Council meetings are the 1st & 3rd Thursday's of the month at the Hudson River Yacht Club, starting at 7:30pm.
Check out our Facebook page for the most up to date listing of events.
www.facebook.com/Stbernardkofc
Interested in joining our council? Please contact our Recruitment Director,
Edward McCarthy 917-681-7936

St. Bernard Weekly Mass Attendance
Weekend of December 9th & December 10th, 2023

Saturday December 9th 5:00pm ~489
Sunday, December 10th 8:30am ~107
Sunday, December 10th 10:00am ~94
Sunday, December 10th 11:30am ~158

Total Weekend Attendance~848

Parish Phone Numbers

RECTORY OFFICE: 718-763-5533 **FAX**:718-763-0224
EMAIL: sbchurchbrooklyn@aol.com
ACADEMY OFFICE: 718-241-6040
SCHOOL OF RELIGION: 718-763-5533

Gift Shop Hours

Weekdays 8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m., Sunday 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Devotions

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA
MONDAYS
Novena after the 8:30 a.m. Mass
ROSARY
Monday - Friday after 8:30 a.m. Mass
Saturday after 9:00 a.m. Mass
FIRST FRIDAYS
Exposition: 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in Chapel

Baptisms

Scheduled for the fourth Sunday of each month at 12:30 p.m. Parents are required to schedule an appointment with a Priest or Deacon at least six weeks prior to Baptism.

Marriages

Arrangements must be made with a Priest or Deacon at least 6 months before the wedding.
Pre-Cana information can be found at **www.pre-cana.org.**

Sick Calls

Please call the Rectory to arrange a Communion call to the sick or elderly, or a pastoral visit to a hospitalized loved one.

Vocations

Anyone seeking information regarding the Priesthood, Permanent Deaconate, Religious Life or to serve in our Parish as a Lay Minister should speak to Msgr. Grimaldi, Fr. Mike, Dcn. Frank. or Dcn. Chris.

Parish Membership

All new families are welcome to the Parish and encouraged to become actively involved in parish societies and activities. New parishioners should register at the Rectory as soon as possible. Parishioners are asked to use the weekly envelopes in making their contributions.

Catholics Come Home

Please feel free to invite those who have been away from our parish to attend Mass with you. If there is anyone you know of that is upset with the church and feels that my speaking to them would be of help, please let me know so that I may speak with them. Msgr. Grimaldi.

Consider Leaving a Legacy of Faith

Remember Our Parish in Your Will

When you next update your estate plans, please consider continuing your lifelong stewardship by leaving a bequest to St. Bernard. For more information please see Msgr. Grimaldi.

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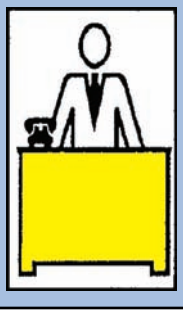

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washes with ADVERTISED soap
puts on ADVERTISED clothes
drinks a cup
of ADVERTISED coffee
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