St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

Merry Christmas

Parish Staff

REV. JOHN J. MADURI
Pastor

REV. MICHAEL G. TEDONE
Parochial Vicar

REV. DOMINIC PEPRAH
In Residence

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DEACON CHRISTOPHER A. WAGNER
Permanent Deacon

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MR. ERNEST BUCKLEY
Music Director

MRS. HELENE CIRRINCIONE
Youth Minister

MRS. SANDRA ARCATI
Office Manager

MRS. ANGELA ZITO
Receptionist

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.-7:00p.m.
Saturday & Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
NATIONAL HOLIDAYS - RECTORY CLOSED

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Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word
Fourth Sunday of Advent

BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BELIEVED

These words we hear from this 4th Sunday of Advent's Gospel from St. Luke remind us of something our Lord would say in His public ministry when He appeared to St. Thomas after the Resurrection: "Blessed are those who have not seen but have believed".

Faith, like life itself, is a precious gift. So much in life and creation is interconnected, and too are faith and life and with them Christmas itself. As you may remember in one of my homilies a few weeks ago I spoke of a 95 year old woman who converted to Catholicism after living her life as an atheist. She made the statement, "to live as an atheist is hell." She explained that to live without faith was ultimately to live without hope. To live without hope is not a life but an existence. It is despair.

The unfortunate reality is that a growing number of people live without faith. Even more so, there are vast numbers who live as functional atheists. They may acknowledge God's existence but live as if God did not exist. Choices and decisions are made not on God's will but on personal desire. Either way, faith grows cold and oftentimes will die. Hence, we have a situation where many seek to find hope in the passing things of this world. Rather than using the good things God has given us as a means to find Him and acknowledge Him, they become ends in themselves, leaving us continually dissatisfied and ever chasing shadows.

It is noteworthy that the call to faith is found at the beginning of our Lord's revelation of Himself in the Annunciation and ends towards the last days of Jesus' public ministry with our Lord's statement to St. Thomas. It should also be noted the different degrees of faith in Mary and Thomas. Mary's faith was firm and unshakeable, "Let it be done to me as you say", whereas Thomas' faith was one of struggle with doubt, "I will not believe until I put my fingers in His nail prints and my hand into His side." Their reality is the reality of many people, either faith is strong or faith is weak. Yet Mary and St. Thomas had one thing in common. They both sought the Lord sincerely; and essential to note, because of that sincerity, our Lord continually strengthened both Mary and Thomas' faith.

Faith, as I stated above, is a Gift. The gift though is not something but Someone who is Christ the Lord whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. As we pray over the Scriptures and learn more fully who Jesus is and what He came to tell us, our faith will grow. As we observe the Commandments and the Beatitudes and give God His due worship, our faith will grow. As we live the moral life based in truth, charity, and justice, our faith will grow. As we pray as an offering of self, our faith will grow. As we keep holy friendships, our faith will grow. As we ask for the gift with sincerity of heart, our faith will grow.

Christmas is the fulfillment of our hope for salvation from sin and death. This hope fulfilled is borne of a faith that is planted in the hearts of every person (and grows in those who have the wisdom to nurture the gift.) The fulfillment of our faith and hope in the birth of Jesus gives us every reason to rejoice because death is at an end and the light has conquered the darkness.

Fr. John Maduri

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 2, 2025

This Month's Winner of $212.50 is
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Mozatto

Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

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

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25th
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve

Tuesday, December 31st
5:00 p.m.

New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 1, 2025
11:30 a.m.

This weekend's second collection is a Parish Collection for Snow Removal.
Thank you always for your generosity! It is greatly appreciated!

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2024

9:00am Carol Vargo by your sister Lynn

5:00pm Stephen Ruggiero by The Baez & Merrick Families

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024

8:30am Maurice Mulligan by Eileen & Robert Magnavito

10:00am Francesca Incorvaia by her loving granddaughter Tiffani & Nico (Birthday)

11:30am Sadie Benvenuto Happy Birthday in Heaven Love your Children, Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren & Niece
John Hammond Jr. Happy 3rd Anniversary in Heaven
Love your wife Camille, Children & Grandchildren
Thomas Quinn by Stephanie & Joe Warren

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2024

8:30am Giuseppe Torani by Dcn. Chris & Mrs. Wagner

People of the Parish

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024

8:30am Jim Pietrosh

4:00pm Kaitlyn Bernhardt by her Family
Mary, Mickey & A-Net Damato by Rita
John McCarthy by his Family

10:00pm Jacqueline Fortunato by her Grandchildren

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2024

9:00am Bernard & Jennie Maduri

11:00am Henry Frizell & Mary McKenna Love June
Maureen Ferrari Love June

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2024

8:30am Fredrick & Josephine Houston by son Edward

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2024

8:30am Steve Borriello by The Capalbo Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2024

9:00am Patrick Sorrentino by Stephanie Puleo

5:00pm Thomas Quinn by Teresa & Thomas Sorrentino
Clement Pollio by Connie Carriero
Jeanette Savino by Meryl & Josephine

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024

8:30am Patrick Sorrentino by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hinners

10:00am Patrick Sorrentino by Lloyd & AnnMarie Spangen

11:30am Sandra Mohamad by St. Bernard Friends

Baby's 1st Christmas

On Sunday, January 12th ,2025 we will have a special blessing at the 11:30 a.m. Mass for all infants baptized in our parish during 2024.
If your baby was baptized in another church this year and would like to attend you are also welcome.

Altar Bread:

In Loving Memory of Peter Modica
Donated by St. Bernard Friends

Altar Wine:

In Loving Memory of Peter Modica
Donated by St. Bernard Friends

Altar Candles:

In Loving Memory of Peter Modica
Donated by St. Bernard Friends

Tabernacle Candle:

In Loving Memory of Paul Bonauro & Jason Shamley
Donated by Helen & Tony

Tabernacle Candle:

In Loving Memory of Thomas Quinn
Donated by Teresa & Thomas Sorrentino

Church Bells:

In Loving Memory of Fosco Lenzini
Donated by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hinners

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

A.B.
V.B.
Christine Alamia
Jack Albin
Rosa Andreani
Debra Antoci
Francis Arcati
Marilyn Augello
Anna Barone
Jourdanna Barton
Christine Palumbo Beck
Nicholas Berlingieri
Lizette Borquero
Paul Brienza
Margaret Bracco
Arline Brack
Thomas Caliendo
Diane Camacho
Gary Camarda
Mary Campisi
Elaine Capper
Ana Caraballo
Joseph Carone
Carmine Carriero, Jr.
Domenic Carriero
Jeanne Castello
Clare Cawthon
Danel Cham
Nick Codella
Julia Comer
Sheila Connors
Angela Marie Consenza
Daniel Commisso
Janet Commisso
Angela Marie Cosenza
Irma Cruz
Samantha Curreri
Gabriella Cutrone
Josephine Dai
Francine Danza
Tania Davis
Pamela DeCesare
Phyllis DeCesare
Samantha DiGennaro
Vicky DeGruccio
Maureen DeMarinis
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
Pat Fallon
Adriana Farrell
Tracy Farrell
Natalie Ferber
Anthony Filippazzo
Ruppert Fontenelle
Marisa Fullam
Alexandra Gagliardi
Karen Gallagher
Patricia Gallagher
Peter J. Gallagher
Linda Gannon
Courtney James Garrisson Jr.
Thomas Garziniti
Odette Gaudard
Margaret Generoso
Ellen Gentile
Connor Patrick Geoghagen
Ida Giannettino
Francine Giannotti
Carole Gibbons
Tina Giberti
Mark Gottlieb
Robin Gottlieb
Nicholas Grillo
John Gullo
Cindy Guzzo
Ken Healy
Gregoria Hernandez
J.H.
June Honovich
CarolAnn Howe
Gianni Incandela
Laura Johnson
William Kenney
Kiera Sophie
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
Katherine Marra
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
Jason Moll
Brian Morgan
Joseph Mosiello
Tanya Ortiz
A.Passaro
Sandra Pena
Jo-Ann Piazza
Nicholas Piccio
Jerry Pottak
William Prussing
Corinne Ramaglia
Alexa Ramos
Phillip Ramos
Antonio Reda
Vito Rita
Jacob and Jaxson Rivera
Antonio Romano
Margaret Romano
Craig Rosen
Aida Rosiello
Sal Rubino
Nikki Russo
Sofia Russo
Gasper Sacco
Joseph Sanfratello
Robert Sansone
Joanne Sarnicola
Mickie Sarni
Laura Scattereggia
Carol Schroeder
Aiden Seazer
Erik Seidel
Gloria Serewitz
Michael Skody
Alexandra Smith
Aurora Sorrentino
Sue Ann Spotts
Maureen Stewart
Troy Tamburo
Cigdem Tanriverdi
Linda Testagrose
William A. Thomas
Ryan Torgerson
Jennifer Tortorici
Geraldine Ventrice
Salvatore Ventrice
Stephen Wiegand
Thomas Yorke
Lily Zemel

Dear Parishioners:
On behalf of Fr. Michael Tedone, Fr. Dominick Peprah, and our parish staff, I extend our prayers and best wishes for a very blessed Christmas to you and your loved ones. We also extend prayers that you and your loved ones will have a very happy new year filled with happiness and much goodness.
I also extend at this time my gratitude for your continued dedication to our parish family of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, and your warm welcome and many kindnesses you have extended to me since my arrival at our parish.
I look forward to a new year serving as your Pastor and ask for your prayers as I continue my ministry at St. Bernard's. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your intentions.
Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. John Maduri

Blessed Christmas & Happy New Year!

Mrs. Melissa Wagner, Mrs. Sandra Arcati, Mrs. Angela Zito,
Mrs. Sonia Palmeri, Mrs. Michele Obdyke & Ms. Amanda Goldberg

The School of Religion will resume on
Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Commitment Mass for Confirmation Candidates and Communion children will be on Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 10:00am Mass-light breakfast to follow in the Parish Hall.

For the Fourth week of Advent, the Advent Candle of Peace has been memorialized

In Memory of

Patrick Sorrentino

Donated by 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.

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 **Francesca Zito, Gail Gibbons, Joan Rodriguez & Diane Silvestri** who work quietly and selflessly.
In addition **Michael & Sheri Dogali & Josephine DeLuca** and many anonymous parishioners all pitched in to help keep everything running smoothly. 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!

The Annual Catholic Appeal calls us collectively to be one family of faith, by living out our covenant with The Lord, we reveal and serve Jesus in so many different ways. The ACA funds Youth Ministry Programs, Vocations and Retired Priest, to name a few.
Everyone benefits from the Ministries and Services of the Diocese throughout their life. You may not realize this to be true but think about it. Do your children go to Religious Education? Have you gone for Pre Cana classes? Were you or someone in your family dealing with an Addiction? Are your children in Catholic School? Have you had to put Mom or Dad into a Nursing Home or perhaps you found
affordable living for them? Do your children participate in the CYO programs? I am sure that at least once in your life you sought out spiritual advice from your local Priests. These and many more are ministries, services and programs that are supported by the Diocese of Brooklyn. St. Bernard Parish has NOT reached its Annual goal. Two large donors were unable to donate this year and we need your help!
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, 2024 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!

Stewardship Thought

"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy."
(LUKE 1:44)

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading at Mass, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. What are you doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Do you just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.

Matthew 25 ANNUAL CLOTHING DRIVE

Our Annual Clothing Drive will be
Saturday, January 5th and Sunday, January 6th.

WOMEN & CHILDRENS CLOTHING ONLY
NO MEN'S CLOTHING!

All donations will be going to BRIDGE TO LIFE".
An organization for women & families facing unexpected pregnancies, they provide evidence-based, life-affirming information on pregnancy options. Their hope is that through honest and compassionate counseling, women & families are empowered to choose life for their babies.
Thank you for always being so generous!

ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS

We welcome back all our college students who have been away for the semester and those still here for college who have just finished the semester.

St. Bernard Weekly Mass Attendance
Weekend of December 7 & December 8, 2024

Saturday December 7th 5:00pm-441
Sunday, December 8th 8:30am-95
Sunday, December 8th 10:00am-104
Sunday, December 8th11:30am-160
Total-800

For the Military

If you would like to add a loved one that is in active duty in the military, please call the rectory with their name and branch of service and we will add them to a list of military members to pray for. Thank you. Almighty & eternal God, protect these men & women as they discharge their duties. Protect them with the shield of your strength and keep them safe from all evil and harm. May the power of your love enable them to return home in safety, that with all who love them, they may ever praise you for your loving care.
We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.
Shane Cawthon (Army)
Frank Gargano (Army)
Michael Gargano Jr. (Navy)
Marcello Gargano (Army)
Joseph Milone (Marines)
Ryan Moravcik (Army-Cavalry Scout)
Liam O'Connell (Navy)

Perform a Random Act of Kindness

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Peace!
Pray and rejoice in peace!

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Parish Phone Numbers

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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 Fr. Maduri, Fr. Mike, Dcn. Frank, Dcn. Chris or Dcn. Herb.

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. Fr. Maduri.

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 Fr. Maduri.

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