St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

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Permanent Deacon

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Director of Liturgy and Music

MRS. HELENE CIRRINCIONE
Youth Minister

MRS. SANDRA ARCATI
Office Manager

MRS. ANGELA ZITO
Receptionist

Mass Schedule

Sundays

Saturday at 5:00 p.m.
Sundays: 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.- 5:30 p.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.

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
First Sunday of Advent

STAY AWAKE

As we begin this Advent many people can and do find themselves caught up in the hectic pace of the upcoming Christmas season. More than a few have spoken of Advent as a 'lost' liturgical season as the celebration of Christmas largely overwhelms everything. While this reality is something difficult to completely avoid, we are called to make the efforts necessary to enter into this time of preparation, for that is what Advent is. It is in fact a two-fold preparation: one for the celebration of the birth of the Savior and the other for the day when our Lord will come again in His glory. As with Lent, we are called by the Church to enter into a few weeks of retreat. This is obviously not a retreat where we go off to a different place for a few days, though that would be ideal. Rather it is a retreat from the busyness of life into that interior place where God dwells. It is here where we find the inner silence and peace of the Lord who directs our hearts and minds towards the gift of new life in Christ, where the darkness and cold of the impending Winter is illuminated by the warmth and Light of Christ, and where the anxieties of life, so oftentimes caused by our own choices, are absorbed into the peace of Christ. We cannot deny that it is also something of a melancholic season as millions of people recall with both fondness and sadness the physical absence of loved ones whose going forth from us leaves an ache in countless hearts. Yet it is also a time of hope for in and through Christ the faithful live on in glory where all is an experience of joy and for whom the deepest longings of the heart are now fulfilled. When all is said and done, Advent is about opening ourselves anew to the miracle of Christmas. Some speak erroneously of the 'magic' of Christmas. While it may have a pleasant ring to it, magic in reality is an illusion that lasts a moment. The miracle of Christmas which we prepare for during Advent is no illusion. It is the Truth that has saved the human race; the peace the world cannot give; the hope of the lost; the joy of the faithful; the fulfillment of the promises. When we jump from Thanksgiving right into Christmas with all of its trimmings but without making that stop at Advent we can and will miss so much. Christmas day becomes a day of gifts and family and friends, all good and wonderful things to celebrate; however, if we have prepared ourselves spiritually during Advent the day of Christmas and the season that follows will not be just a day of celebration but a never-ending journey into Life, Peace, and Joy itself. So "stay awake" Jesus tells us so that He can work these miracles and gifts in us too.

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 December 2nd, 2025

This Month's Winner of $275 is Amy Ferraro

Deanery Advent Mission Retreat

Our Deanery is having an Advent Retreat
3 Nights, 3 Churches
Monday, December 1st- St. Bernard
Tuesday, December 2nd-St. Thomas Aquinas
Wednesday, December 3rd-St. Mark
The theme is "Waiting In Silence"
The presenter is Fr. Kieran
We hope you can join us

Offertory Procession

If you or your family has an announced Mass intention for a loved one and you would like to bring up the Communion gifts **PLEASE** see one of the ushers before Mass begins. Thank you!

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 8th
we celebrate the
Feast of the Immaculate Conception.
It is a Holy Day of Obligation.
Masses will be at 8:30am and 7:00pm

This weekend's second collection is a Parish Collection for Groundskeeping.

Thank you always for your generosity! It is greatly appreciated!

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2025

9:00am Rose & Edward Kowalczyk by Michele Esposito

5:00pm Domenick Puleo by Stephanie Puleo

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025

9:00am John Ferranti by Phyllis & Michael Sorrentino
Mary Lisa by Phyllis & Michael Sorrentino

11:00am Madeline Poggioli by Lisa Poggioli
Jeremiah Collins Jr. by The Grecco Family
Richard Pool Genito by Linda & Family

5:30pm Lucette Adolphe by Altagrace Foureau
Dorotha & Raymond Foureau by Altagrace Foureau

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2025

8:30am Frances Black

People of the Parish

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025

8:30am Ugo Capalbo by The Capalbo Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025

8:30am Patrick Morris

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025

8:30am Arthur Ferguson

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025

8:30am Richard R. Cerchione by his Family (25th Anniversary in Heaven)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025

9:00am Milovan Uckar

5:00pm Mary Lisa by Mike Piccinnini
Nicholas Burriesci by The Fandacone Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

9:00am Nicholas Grillo

11:00am Antonio Filippazzo by his Family
Richard R. Cerchione by his Family (25th Anniversary in Heaven)

5:30pm Salvatore Savettiere by St. Bernard Friends

Memorials

Altar Bread:

In Loving Memory of Richard R. Cerchione
Donated by His Family
(25th Anniversary in Heaven)

Altar Wine:

In Loving Memory of Richard R. Cerchione
Donated by His Family
(25th Anniversary in Heaven)

Church Bells:

In Loving Memory of Two Dads

Purgatorial Society

Paul Lombardozzi
Charles Nigro

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Justin Andrickson
Jourdanna Barton
Jim Bellard
Margaret Bracco
Morelda Brown
Michael C. Thomas Caliendo
Carmine Carriero, Jr.
Domenic Carriero
Nick Codella
Daniel Commisso
Janet Commisso
Irma Cruz
Francine Danza
Maureen DeMarinis
Donna Donzella
James Donzella
Rose Esposito
John Fahey
Teresa Fornaro
Jonathan Gan
Carole Gibbons
Tina Giberti
Mark Gottlieb
Robin Gottlieb
John Gullo
Ryan Hoefel
Micha Edmond Jordan
Jennifer Karayeanes
Ann Klauss
Greyson Livia
Eddie Boy McCarthy
Christine McCartney
Kelsey McCartney
Tannya Ortiz
Angela Pollio
William Prussing
Corinne Ramaglia
Gasper Sacco
Robert Sansone
Joanne Sarnicola
Stephanie Sheetz
Alberta Sirett
Shawn Anthony Smith
Gene Stark
Maureen Stewart
Cigdem Tanriverdi

Bereavement Ministry

Working Our Way Through Grief

A journey from grief to healing for people coping with the loss of a loved one.
Saturday, December 13, 2025
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

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Novena Nights of Preparation in Spanish
Wednesday, December 10th
7:00pm St. Bernard
Thursday, December 11th
7:00pm St. Bernard

Friday, December 12th 6:30pm
Procession, Mass & Fiesta
St. Thomas Aquinas
1550 Hendrickson Street

For the first week of Advent, the Advent Candle of Hope has been memorialized
In Memory of

Susanne MacBride

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.

Faith Formation News

First Holy Communion 2026

Saturday, May 9, 2026

11:00am-St. Bernard Catholic Academy 1:00pm-St. Bernard Religious Education Program

Visit The Kids Korner

- Mass intention cards for all of the children in our parish community.
- Weekly envelopes as part of a Stewardship effort for the children to understand and participate in the gift of giving.
- Reading material and resources for children and families.
- Take a look each week for activities or reading material and other little surprises that will reinforce the message of the Gospel. Imagine the conversation on the way home from church.
- **Please only take one and leave one for a friend, thank you**

Matthew 25 Ministry

Advent is here!

That means our **GIVING TREES**

are up and decorated with "ornaments" for children and families in need. The Christmas Elves have worked behind the scenes and we are so thankful to have their continued help. This year gifts need to be back **by December 14th**. Tags will be marked accordingly. Please check the back of the tag for return by date. Among the recipients of the generous gift of our parish community are *Hour Children* (children of incarcerate women), *Mercy First* (foster children), *Catholic Charities, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel* (Deacon Ruben & Deacon Jorge), *Sisters of Life* (unwed/homeless pregnant women), *some other organizations that have reached out to us and some neighborhood residents.* Our gifts will brighten the lives of many ranging from the yet unborn and their moms through children of all ages and the adults of Mercy Home. Please feel free to purchase a gift now, at your leisure, if the timing is better for you. The sales will be starting quickly. If you choose to purchase a gift ahead of time, please **just label the gift with the age and gender** so we can sort them easily. Many of the requests we receive are not specific so you can get a jump on your Christmas shopping if you like! Additionally, we always receive many requests for teens especially from MERCY FIRST and HOUR CHILDREN. **Gift cards** are always a great idea for that age group! Please remember to bring your gift **UNWRAPPED** and attach the ornament from the tree to it.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (O.C.I.A.) is a process by which a person prepares to become a member of the Roman Catholic Church. The process is one of inquiry, evangelization, prayer, study and conversion, leading to one's entrance into the church through Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. OCIA welcomes the unbaptized as well as those baptized in other Christian traditions. OCIA also welcomes those who have been baptized Catholic but who have not completed their sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation. **Anyone who is interested in participating in this program is asked to call the Rectory now and speak to Deacon Frank.**

Stewardship Thought

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." Matthew 24:42

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and you begin to see God's active presence in your life. You grow in gratitude, each day, for all that we have been given.

SAVE THE DATES

Christmas Wreath Sale

Friends of Scout Troop 76
will be selling
FULLY DECORATED
CHRISTMAS WREATHS
Great Price: $25.00

Christmas Tree Lighting

The lighting of our Parish Christmas display will take place on Saturday, December 13th following the 5:00 p.m. Mass. All are invited to attend, sing Christmas Carols with us and enjoy some nice hot chocolate as we turn on the lights for the beginning of the Christmas season.

Breakfast with Santa Hosted by St. Bernard Catholic Academy

Sunday, December 14, 2025
10:00am following 9:00am Mass
Come meet Santa and have a photo taken. Raffles & 50/50
Don't miss a wonderful fun time!
Open to all!

Knights of Columbus Christmas Party

Thursday, December 17th
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!

Active Parish Campaign Summary

We have received from 8.6% of Members of our Parish- there are

OVER 1,000 FAMILIES REGISTERED IN OUR PARISH

There are 8 weeks left in the year. If each additional Family gave $100
WE WOULD REACH OUR GOAL AND HAVE AN EXCESS TO USE FOR OUR PARISH MINISTRIES AND PROGRAMS!

IF WE DO NOT REACH OUR GOAL, WE WILL NEED TO PAY THE DIFFERENCE!

If you have already made your pledge – Thank you!

If you have not - Please support the ***2025 Annual Catholic Appeal. Thank You!***
No gift is too large or too small!

Give WHAT YOU CAN When you can!
Watch the ACA video and see our own Deacon Chris Wagner talk about how the ACA helped with his Formation!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0H-QNBivn9I

Saint Bernard Rosary Society Christmas Luncheon

Sunday, December 7, 2025
Dolce Vita Restaurant
12:30 pm
Donation: $75.00 pp
Husbands, Friends and all Parishioners are Welcome!
Join us for a fun-filled afternoon to start off the Christmas season!
Enjoy a Full Meal including appetizer, main course and dessert.
50/50 & Raffles
For questions or further information call the Rectory at
718-763-5533 or call or text 917-698-5506

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)
Andrew-Jude Lao (SPC 2 Space Force)
Joseph Milone (Marines)
Ryan Moravcik (Army-Cavalry Scout)
Liam O'Connell (Navy)

Perform a Random Act of Kindness For Advent

Write three things you are grateful for and display them somewhere visible.

St. Bernard Weekly Mass Attendance

Weekend of November 15th & November 16th, 2025
Saturday, November 15th 5:00pm-185
Sunday, November 16th 9:00am-146
Sunday, November 16th 11:00am-263
Sunday, November 16th 5:00pm-42
Total-636

The Knights of Columbus council #14269 completed its annual donation to St Bernard Church & Academy on Sunday September 21st. The annual donation totaled $26,500.00.

DOING GOOD WHILE HAVING FUN!
ARE YOU A KNIGHT WHY NOT?
USE THE QR CODE TO JOIN US!

Membership

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 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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