St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21,2025

Merry Christmas

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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
Fourth Sunday of Advent

GOD IS WITH US

In 1995 Joan Osborne released a song titled, "One of Us." The song became a major hit but some people found the song controversial because they believed that it diminished the omnipotence of God, His majesty and glory. What they missed was the deeper message of the song which challenged listeners to question how they understood God. Is God a distant Reality in a faraway heaven or is God here in our midst, walking the daily grind with us? One of the questions raised in the song is "If God had a name, what would it be?" Of course, we have heard the name in Sacred Scripture, Yahweh. To the question, "If God had a face, what would it look like?" For Christians God's face is seen in Jesus Christ. In today's Gospel reading from the fourth Sunday of Advent St. Matthew tells us that the Christ is to be called Emmanuel, "which means God is with us." While this may sound easy enough to understand it is not always easy to live. Jesus, in one of the Beatitudes tells us, "Blessed are the pure of heart for they shall see God." The pure of heart are those who keep an undivided attention on God and His holy will. If we are honest with ourselves, we will find in our daily lives that it is all too easy to get caught up in the busyness of the day not to mention the various temptations that come our way and can overwhelm many people. To the question many raise, "if God is with us then why does He seem so far away" the answer lies with us. Is it God who is far away or are we the ones who at times can be far away? Does God put up the veil between Himself and us or do we because of sin and different priorities other than God? The reality is that God is with us. In Christ God did become one us. It is this celebration we are preparing for this and every Advent. As we come to a close of the Advent season with just a few days to go before the celebration of our Lord's birth and the beginning of the ministry of reconciliation, we are invited to allow God to walk with us each and every moment. Brother Lawrence in his spiritual classic first published in 1691, "The Practice of the Presence of God", recognized the difficulty that we can have going about our days where it is all too easy to push God out, even and usually inadvertently. Yet practicing the presence of God is what will make the words of the Gospel, "God is with Us" not just a nice ideal but a reality. The upcoming birth of Christ is an invitation to once again encounter God in prayer but also in the daily grind and busyness of life. We are reminded that God is only as far away as we put him.
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 7th, 2026

This Month's Winner of $237.50 is Mr. & Mrs. George Marinello

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!

Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

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

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

New Year's Eve
Wednesday, December 31st
4:00 p.m.

New Year's Day
Thursday, January 1, 2026
11:00 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 20, 2025

9:00am Jennie Maduri

5:00pm Kaitlyn Bernhardt Love Pop Pop (Happy Birthday in Heaven)
Happy Birthday Kristin Love Dad (Joe Fallon)
Stephen Ruggiero by his Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

9:00am Francis X. by Michele Esposito

11:00am Nicholas Burriesci by Teresa & Thomas Sorrentino
Joanne Sieja by Ivonne Rojas
Eric Simonsen by Your Loving Family

5:30pm Francesca & Angelo Incorvaia by Your Loving Granddaughter Tiffani

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2025

8:30am Pat & Ann Rega Love, Jennifer, John, Julianna & Nicholas
Sadie Benvenuto Happy Birthday in Heaven Love, Your Children, Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren, & Niece
John Hammond Jr. Happy Anniversary in Heaven Love Camille, Children & Grandchildren

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2025

8:30am Maurice Mulligan by Eileen & Robert Magnavito & Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025

8:30am Mary & Carmine Grossi by Teresa & Thomas Sorrentino
Amelia Giugliano by Teresa & Thomas Sorrentino

4:00pm Kaitlyn Bernhardt by her Family
John McCarthy by his Family
Jacqueline Fortunato by her Family
Anthony Carmelo Brannan Jr. by Mommy, Katy & Frankie

10:00pm Bernard & Jennie Maduri

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025

9:00am Carmine & Mary Grossi by Teresa & Thomas Sorrentino

11:00am Henry Frizell & Mary McKenna Love June (Anniversary)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2025

8:30am Frederick & Josephine Houston by son Edward

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2025

9:00am Happy 75th Birthday Rev. Mario Esposito O. Carm.
by Michele Esposito (Living)

5:00pm Steve Borriello by The Capalbo Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025

9:00am Daniel Borriello by The Capalbo Family

11:00am Nicholas Burriesci by Joanna & Carmine Evangelista

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

Perform a Random Act of Kindness During Advent

Send a "Thinking of You" text to someone that might need it.

Memorials

Altar Bread:
In Loving Memory of Tommy Camoia
Donated by Mom & Dad

Altar Wine:
In Loving Memory of Tommy Camoia
Donated by Mom & Dad

Altar Candles:
In Loving Memory of Eric Simonsen
Donated by Your Loving Family

Tabernacle Candle:
In Loving Memory of Tommy Camoia
Donated by Mom & Dad

Church Bells:
In Loving Memory of Deceased Members of Bonauro & Strong Families
Donated by Helen & Tony Bonauro

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

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
Rocco Gabriel DiMaggio
Donna Donzella
James Donzella
Rose Esposito
John Fahey
Teresa Fornaro
Jonathan Gan
Carole Gibbons
Tina Giberti
Mark Gottlieb
Robin Gottlieb
John Gullo
Ryan Hoefel
June Honovich
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

Baby's 1st Christmas

On Sunday, January 4th, 2026 we will have a special blessing at the 11:00 a.m. Mass for all infants baptized in our parish during 2025. If your baby was baptized in another church this year and would like to attend you are also welcome.

For the fourth week of Advent, the Advent Candle of Love has been memorialized
In Memory of

James & Mary Wagner

Donated By Their Grandchildren Isabella, Meagan & John

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.

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.
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!

May the light of Christ fill your homes with peace, joy, and renewed hope.
Thank you for entrusting us with the faith formation of your children.
What a blessing it is to walk with them as they grow in God's love.
Mrs. Veronica Obdyke, Ms. Katie Mossbarger, Mrs. Sandra Arcati,
Mrs. Angela Zito & Mrs. Sonia Palmeri
The School of Religion will resume on
Wednesday, January 7, 2026
Commitment Mass for Confirmation Candidates and Communion Children will be on
Sunday, January 25, 2026 at 12:00pm Mass-brunch to follow in the Parish Hall.

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 **Kait, Sophia & Claire DiMaiolo and all the elves before them** who work quietly and selflessly.
In addition **Michael & Sheri Dogali & Josephine DeLuca** ♥ and many anonymous parishioners who 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!

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**

Active Parish Campaign Summary

We have received from 86 Donors- there are

OVER 1,000 FAMILIES REGISTERED IN OUR PARISH

There are 6 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

Feast of the Three Kings

The Epiphany is celebrated 12 days after Christmas and is the time when we remember the three Wise Men (or three kings) who visited Jesus. The Three Kings found baby Jesus by following a star across the desert to Bethlehem. The three kings named Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar followed the star of Bethlehem across the desert to meet the baby Jesus. They offered symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The gold representing his royal standing; the frankincense his divine birth; and the myrrh his mortality.

In Honor of ***El Día de los Tres Reyes*** we will have a special Mass in Spanish
Saturday, January 3, 2026 at 7:00pm

Matthew 25 ANNUAL CLOTHING DRIVE

Our Annual Clothing Drive will be
Saturday, January 3rd & 4th ONLY.
CHILDRENS CLOTHING ONLY
AGES NEWBORN -12YRS.
& WOMENS COATS
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!

Stewardship Thought

"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home."
MATTHEW 1:24

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. Joseph was a model of these pillars of our faith. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

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)

ASSOCIATED VINCENTIAN CHARITIES OF BROOKLYN GIVES BACK

"My Car Went To Heaven"
For each car, truck or van running or not the Associated Vincentian Charities will give back to your parish $75/$200 per vehicle.
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Thank you for your participation

St. Bernard Weekly
Mass Attendance
Weekend of December 6th & December 7th, 2025
Saturday, December 6th 5:00pm-145
Spanish Mass-86
Sunday, December 7th 9:00am-144
Sunday, December 7th 11:00am-270
Sunday, December 7th 5:00pm-29
Total-674

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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