Saint Bernard Church

February 22, 2026
First Sunday of Lent

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MR. ERNEST BUCKLEY
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 Lent

THE SADNESS OF UNFULFILLMENT

We can sometimes get so bogged down over debates over whether or not the Creation accounts in Sacred Scripture are historical fact or stories to teach essential lessons, that we can overlook those lessons to our own detriment. The portrayals in this Sunday's first reading from the Book of Genesis offers us one of those essential lessons. It is actually a very simple lesson, or perhaps better it raises a rather straightforward question: 'When is enough, enough?' Adam and Eve are given everything possible in the Garden of Eden for immense happiness and joy. There are "various trees that were delightful to look at and good for food." Life any garden it would have had its grassy areas and been filled with many different flowers, colors, and aromas. On top of all of this they had each other in a relationship of pure love. Just one simple command. 'Do not eat the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden.' It seemed simple enough. After all, they had everything else to fulfill them. Yet, tragically, it was not enough. A lack of gratitude for what God had already given them, a failure to appreciate the good and beautiful things around them, even a diminished awareness of each other, led them to seek more. That more was the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. Perhaps that one more thing will seal the deal for their perfect fulfillment. They learned, albeit too late, that no created thing, not even another person, can completely satisfy the deepest longings of the human heart. From the garden they were banished, or really banished themselves for they had been warned that they "would die" if they ate that fruit. Inside the garden Adam and Eve lost the innocence of their love replaced by lust and desire. Outside the garden rather than walking on lush green grass they found themselves crawling on their bellies on dirt. They had to long and hard much to find food to maintain their physical lives. This is an allegory that is all too familiar to countless people. How many there are who are never satisfied and who go in search of the next thing or person or place. A bigger house, a fancier car, a larger bank account, a new neighborhood, more cable channels, another award or trophy, a different relationship. It is a tragic way to live yet it has become the way of millions of people. It is not a life lived but an existence in search of meaning that can never be found in any person, place, or thing. Like Adam and Eve, who learned too late, God alone suffices. It is what led St. Augustine, who also sought fulfillment and meaning in the passing pleasures of this world, to write of his newfound relationship with God, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in you." In today's Gospel reading from St. Matthew, we are once again faced with the temptations made against our Lord who due to His unwavering love for the Father resisted every one of them. He was tempted with food in the form of bread, then with distrust in God, and finally with power. If we look at each of these, we see their deeper symbolism. An inordinate hunger for food easily symbolizes the desire to satisfy the desires of the flesh while minimizing or ignoring the spirit. The temptation to test God comes from a lack of a relationship with God leading to a fear that God, definitively revealed by our Lord, is not trustworthy so we rely on ourselves. The temptation to power symbolizes the human need to control even though intuitively most people, at least in moments of introspection, realize that it is impossible to be master of everything, everyone, and every circumstance. Yet without a strong relationship with God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we can too easily become like Adam and Eve. We are given so much but we see so little. The season of Lent invites us to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as key means to combat the restless heart and to recognize that our deepest longings are found in God alone. What every single person longs for, consciously or not, is a full life and love. Jesus reveals God to us as Life and Love. It makes perfect sense then that the One Who is life and love would be the One to fulfill that longing. Once again, the Sacred Scriptures invite us to wisdom, a wisdom that seeks the things of God, the things of heaven, the things that are eternal, God Himself who is only as far away as we place Him.

Fr. John Maduri

This weekend's second collection is a Parish Collection for Music Ministries
& a Diocesan Collection for Black & Indian Missions
Thank you always for your generosity! It is greatly appreciated!

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026

9:00am Charles & Angelina Leo by Stephanie

5:00pm Vito Mattioli by The Colella Family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

9:00am Josephine DeLuca by Teresa & Thomas Sorrentino

11:00am Vito Cutrone by Tina Giberti
Patrick Morris by Connie Carriero
Maryellen Prevete by The Tropeano Family

5:30pm Guidance for Harolde John by Harolde John

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026

8:30am Clement Pollio by Your Loving Family (Anniversary)

People of the Parish

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026

8:30am Vito Cutrone by Nick & Ellie Graziano (1st Birthday in Heaven)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026

8:30am Delhias John & Parris Zoe Robinson by Harolde John
Elda St. Louis & Weber Guerrier by Harolde John
Angelo Messina by Ted & Maureen DeMarinis

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

8:30am Giovanna Dente by Stephanie Puleo

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

8:30am Timothy Rokose by Gina Rokose

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

9:00am Theresa LaMattina by The Taliercio Family

5:00pm Happy Birthday Elizabeth (Living)
Manuel Vieira by The Guida Family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2026

9:00am Frank, Anthony & Concetta Incontrera by Sandra Burriesci

11:00am Milovan Uckar by The Bernie Family

5:30pm Josephine DeLuca

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!

Continue to Pray the Rosary Each Day!

Now, more than ever we need to come together in prayer and reach out to Our Blessed Mother with hope. We ask her to intercede with her Son and we implore her maternal care for all of her children.

Memorials

Altar Bread:

In Loving Memory of Josephine DeLuca
Donated by Teresa & Thomas Sorrentino

Church Bells:

In Loving Memory of Clement Pollio
Donated by Your Loving Family (Anniversary)

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
Joe DeAmbrosia
Maureen DeMarinis
Baby Demi
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
Kenny M
Eddie Boy McCarthy
Christine McCartney
Kelsey McCartney
Tannya Ortiz
Angela Pollio
William Prussing
Corinne Ramaglia
Gasper Sacco
Robert Sansone
Joanne Sarnicola
Stephanie Sheetz
Shawn Anthony Smith
Gene Stark
Maureen Stewart
Cigdem Tanriverdi

St. Joseph Novena

Tuesday's following the 8:30 a.m. mass. If you would like to memorialize flowers for a loved one during any of the weeks of this novena please come to the rectory for more information. Thank you

Faith Formation News

First Penance Saturday, March 28, 2026 at 11:00am
Penance Practice both groups Monday, March 16th & Wednesday, March 18th 3:30pm in Church

First Holy Communion Saturday, May 9, 2026
St. Bernard Academy ~ 11:00 am/St. Bernard Faith Formation~ 1:00 pm
Communion Practice Academy Tuesday, May 5th 4:00pm~5:30pm in Church Children Only
Communion Practice Faith Formation Wednesday May 6th 3:00pm~4:30pm in Church Children Only

Confirmation Candidate Retreat
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday April 20, 21, 22, 2026 St. Bernard Church (More Information to Follow)

All children should be using their Mass intention cards and envelopes at Mass.
Extra cards and envelopes can be found in the Kids Korner.

School of Religion Calendar: Use the dates below to plan accordingly.
Wednesday February 25
Wednesday March 4, 11, 18, 25
Wednesday April 15, 22, 29 (NO CLASS on April 1st & 8th)
Wednesday May 6, 13, 20

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 March 3rd, 2026

Last Month's Winner of $300.00 was Frede Frederic

Defensive Driving Class
Insurance Reduction/
Point Removal
Saturday, March 7, 2026
Saint Bernard Catholic Academy
2030 East 69th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11234
10:00 a.m. $50.00 per person
Call Andrea at 718~965~7375 Ext. 1601
for Information and to Register
Proceeds Benefit Saint Bernard Academy

Bergen Beach Sports & Recreation Camp

at St. Bernard Catholic Academy
Open House/ Registration in Lobby of Academy Building
Saturday, March 21, 2026
Saturday, April 25, 2026
Saturday, May 16, 2026
Saturday, June 13, 2026
11:00a.m. ~ 2:00p.m.

Stewardship Thought

As we begin the season of Lent, the Church invites us into 40 days of renewal and refocusing. Lent is not only about giving something up, but about making room for God. For Christian stewards, this season invites us to reflect on how we are using the time entrusted to us. In the first reading, Adam and Eve turn their attention away from God and allow doubt to take root. Trust is replaced by self-reliance, and the harmony of the Garden is broken. These same temptations remain familiar when our days become crowded with distractions that pull us away from God. In the Gospel, Jesus shows us a different path. In the desert, He gives time to prayer and fasting, remains grounded in Scripture, and places His complete trust in the Father. By intentionally giving time to God, Jesus resists temptation and remains faithful. Lent invites us to do the same. By making space in our schedules for prayer, Scripture, and quiet reflection, we grow in trust and gratitude. When we place God at the center of our time, stewardship becomes a way of life, and our hearts are prepared to celebrate the joy of Easter.

FAMILY MASS

Our Next Family Mass
Sunday, March 1, 2026
at 11:00am

Come With Your Families,
Especially Your Children

Preparing For Lent

The Lenten Season provides a great opportunity for deepening our faith, hope and love through prayer, penitential practices and works of charity.
Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend any or all of the following:

Stations of the Cross will be said on Friday evenings during Lent at 7:00 p.m. in the Church beginning Friday, February 20th. You can also watch on our website and Facebook page when available.

Parish Mission:
Our Annual Parish Lenten Retreat will be held on Saturday, March 14th 9:00am-5:00pm at St. Bernard Church
$30 Per Person at the door-Please brown bag lunch, hot & cold beverages & donuts provided

"There Is More" Day of Healing & Praise Presented by Dan & Caroline Dirkes of 2TIM4 Ministries

Session 1 More Love "Encountering the Heart of the Father"
Session 2 More Faith "Expectant Faith Unleashes the Miraculous" includes a powerful healing service
Session 3 More Power "Power Evangelization" includes prayer ministry for more of the Holy Spirit & gifts

Taize Prayer: On Wednesdays, February 25th, March 11th & March 25th at St. Bernard at 7:00pm.

Holy Hours of Prayer & Reflection: On Wednesdays, March 4th & March 18th at Mary Queen of Heaven at 7:00pm.

Lenten Regulations

Abstinence from meat is observed on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent by Catholics 14 years of age and older.
Fasting is observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all those between the ages of 18 and 59. Those bound by this rule may take only one full meal, with two smaller meals permitted. Eating between meals is not permitted.

SAVE THE DATE

St. Bernard Church 10th Annual Card Party
Saturday, March 7, 2026

Over 10,000 scratch off's sold!
Get yours now in the rectory!!
Mailings are out!!
Put the date on your calendar
Get ready for all the fun!!

Perform a Random Act of Kindness

Each year, during Lent many Christians choose to give things up for 40 days. Lent is traditionally a time of abstinence and many people give up chocolate, or wine, or bread even. Some people choose to take up something, such as doing an act of kindness, or giving a small amount to charity each day. It can be difficult to think about just one thing to give up, or take up. Small acts of kindness are the way to go, especially if you're doing them with children. We all need a bit of kindness at the moment, and being kind to others is often a kindness to ourselves. Leave a nice online review for a small local business
Write some notes telling people what you appreciate about them.
Make a donation to a small charity.

Children: Tidy up your bedroom without being asked to.

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)

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St. Bernard Weekly Mass Attendance

Weekend of February 14th & February 15th, 2026
Saturday, February 14th 5:00pm-179
Sunday, February 15th 25th 9:00am-121
Sunday, February 15th 11:00am-235
Sunday, February 15th 5:00pm- 20
Total-555

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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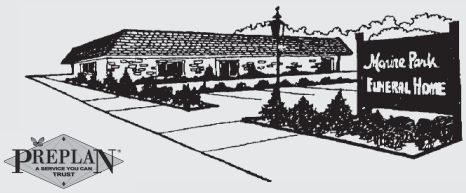

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