

# **SS. JOHN & BERNARD PARISH** ~ [www.ssjohnandbernard.org](http://www.ssjohnandbernard.org)

## **From the Desk of the Pastor:**

### **My Dear Friends in Christ**

Today we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent – a time of yearning – a time of preparation, a time of anticipation, for the coming of the Christ Child! We prepare by offering extra prayer, possibly a little fasting, alms giving, many random acts of kindness, and celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once before Christmas. You and I work to prepare our “tabernacle” to receive the “Christ Child” into our hearts and bodies at Christmas. Today, we pause in joy that our journey of Advent is now in progress, and we are nearing that special moment – when the Christ Child will grace our stage.

Gospel Theme for Today: John the Baptist proclaims the “way of the Lord”, the path to a new Heaven, a new Earth, a new Jerusalem. We ask God to show us his ways and teach us his paths, to help us turn to him.

In the First Reading, When Christ comes, all obstacles will be removed. Everything that stands in the way will be gone. A “Royal Road” must be prepared. To make way for the coming of the King!

In the Second Reading, God wants us to pray to him without ceasing; his ways are clear only to those who acknowledge him for what he is. This is why we turn to him in prayer, again and again and again. As Scripture says, “We pray without ceasing...”

The word “Advent” means “coming.” Christ’s first coming ‘opened for us the way to eternal salvation.’ In the beginning of Advent, we are not called to look directly at Christmas, but past it, to Christ’s return. Advent is a gift that allows us to look at our sometimes frightening world, yet still be filled with confidence and hope. We look past Christmas right now so that when we do focus on Christmas, it will mean so much, much more. The trees and wrappings are not bad things, in fact, they can be good things, but they must be used to help us build anticipation while living in patience, waiting for our God who will not only come once, but will come again. If we race through Advent too fast, it may seem somewhat artificial – we need to slow down and “smell the poinsettias.” *“For, Jesus Is Truly The Reason For The Season!”*

Advent is a time when we recollect ourselves. We welcome the “good news” that we are able to start over. We cherish the word of forgiveness. In fact we all know that when we sin, we have a debt to pay. Advent brings the good news of a messenger from God, someone who climbs up to the top of the mountain and tells that good news to the whole world. “I have come to forgive the sins of the entire world...” How grateful we are!!

Each Advent gives us another chance to start over to make ourselves ready and worthy for when He does come again....” Reconciliation is like tearing out those pages of our life that we don’t like.... Do it!!!

*“Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get; it’s what you are expected to give – which is everything! All we need do is follow His Son’s example – He gave everything.....”*

### THE ADVENT WREATH:

1<sup>st</sup> Weekend: Purple of “Hope.”

2<sup>nd</sup> Weekend: Purple Candle of “Peace.”

3<sup>rd</sup> Weekend: Rose Candle of “Joy.”

4<sup>th</sup> Weekend: Purple Candle of “Love.”

All Weekends: Center White Candle: “Light of Christ!”

### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

#### 1. HEATING ASSISTANCE COLLECTION: (Green Envelopes)

We will accept contributions to this fund throughout Advent. Thank you for your faith-filled response to this annual appeal!

#### 2. “WHITE BAG” Drive for the Catholic Community Center:

The distribution of the filled “white bags” is now well under way by the “Good Sisters” and their “Happy Elves”, however, we will continue to accept your filled bags throughout the Advent Season. God Bless you for your wonderful response to this annual appeal.

#### 3. NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS

Annually at this time of year, SS. John & Bernard Parish collects non-perishable food items for the Catholic Community Center, for distribution to the needy. These items may be brought throughout the Advent Season also. Monetary contributions are also most welcome!

#### 4. ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE:

Our Communal Penance Service is today, December 7 at 2:30 at St. Bernard’s Church. Please make plans now for you and your family to attend. A brief Liturgy will be followed by opportunities for individual Confessions. We are expecting that up to eight (8) area Confessors, including a Spanish-speaking Priest who will be present to expedite that process. Please don’t let Advent go by without “cleansing the Soul” – this would be a wonderful opportunity for that....

#### 5. CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS:

Please plan to assist us financially in decorating our two Worship Spaces and remember a “loved one” for the Christmas Season. Envelopes are in your December Packet.

#### 6. PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY:

Our annual Parish Christmas Party is next Sunday evening, December 14 in the Parish Center, with a social at 5:30 and Dinner at 6:00. Good food, wonderful fellowship and a great time for all. I understand that Santa Claus may stop by to update his list with the “little ones”.

#### 7. PEW MEMORIALS:

The Christmas Season is a great time to remember a loved one who has recently passed or to honor a special person or family by purchasing a “pew memorial” from St. Bernard’s Church. Each memorial is \$250.00 made payable to SS John & Bernard’s Parish. Forms are available at both Churches or from the Rectory Office.

### OTHER CALENDAR ITEMS

Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: Pageant – 4:10 PM / Mass – 4:30 PM – St. John’s.

Christmas Eve Mass – 7:00 PM – St. Bernard’s.

Midnight Mass – St. Bernard’s. (Musical Concert preceding)

Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>: Morning Mass at 10:00 PM at St.

John’s. (Musical interlude preceding Mass)

(Dedication & Blessing of the New Cry Room)

I wish you and yours a most Prayerful and rewarding time of preparation for His coming! STAY WARM!!! STAY SAFE!!!  
*“Remember, Jesus is the Reason for the Season!”*

Thanks so very much for all you do in His name!  
Yours truly in Christ! Your Pastor, Father Bill Jacobs

**PARISH:**

Knights of Columbus Corner:

Next Sunday, (second Sunday of each month) Council 1120 will prepare an all you can eat pancake, sausage and egg breakfast at St. John’s after 9 am Mass. All Proceeds go to the Catholic Community Center and the Readiness Center.

The final tally for Jeff Hanley is complete. We are so pleased that with our Council’s match, we have raised over \$3,600! THANK YOU for your generosity! That should help Jeff know that our parish supports him in his vocation.

It was with much sadness that we said goodbye to one of our brother Knights, Doug Stutz, who passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 23. If you could not attend the fundraiser on Saturday night, but would like to contribute to the family, please make your checks out to K of C Council 1120 and send them to the rectory. We truly miss Doug.

Coming up:  
Sun., 12/14/14 ~ Pancake Breakfast after 9 am Mass at St. John’s  
Sun., 12/28/14 ~ Corporate Communion, 9 am Mass at St. John’s  
Mon., 1/05/15 ~ Regular business meeting, 7 pm, 6:30-7 pm- food and refreshments at St. Bernard’s.

A true Christmas miracle is that you untangle your Christmas lights. Double miracle if they still work!

Our Seminarian Jeffrey Hanley: Pontifical North American College  
00120 Vatican City State  
Europe. Drop him a line.

CHRISTMAS EVE ORCHESTRA: Students interested in this year’s performance, please call Ruth Shuler at 927-1826 or Tom Strzyzkowski at 325-2771. Practice after 9 am Mass.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT This year will have many speaking parts and the choir. Preschool age thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate. Rehearsals will be Dec. 14, 21 and 22. Questions? Contact Juanita Grover at [jgrover4him@gamil.com](mailto:jgrover4him@gamil.com). or 269-326-0421.

PARISH R.C.I.A. The class meets from 7-8:30 pm at St. Bernard’s. Sunday, **Dec. 6**, we will talk about Mary, our Blessed Mother

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY CENTER is again collecting personal items for their clients. ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE WHITE BAGS ARE: Shampoo, Body Wash (Bath Soap), Lotion, Deodorant, Dish Soap and Toothpaste. Bags are available at both churches.

**DIOCESE:**

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE Why is it so hard to forgive, yet so easy to get even? Listen to John the Baptist in today’s gospel and repent of the anger and ugly feelings which block your ability to forgive. This Christmas give a gift which makes a difference. Give forgiveness.

PLEASE JOIN MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESAN STAFF for an informational session on the Diocesan Capital Campaign Planning Study. During this session diocesan leadership will review the proposed structure of the campaign, present some early diocesan-wide initiatives and invite comments and input from all participants. Participants will also be asked to complete a survey during the session. Sessions will be held **Tue., Dec., 9**, St. Philip Parish, Battle Creek, 7 pm and **Mon., Dec. 15**, St. Catherine of Siena, Portage, 7 pm. For more info on the study and for instructions on how to complete the online survey visit the diocesan website [diokzoo.org](http://diokzoo.org).

COLLECTION FOR RETIRED RELIGIOUS DEC. 13 & 14. Share your gratitude for our senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives.

**OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**

211 Church St., St. Joseph MI 49085  
Peggy Hanley ~ Director, 983-1575 or [religiously2@att.net](mailto:religiously2@att.net)

WINTER WEATHER IS UPON US, so if we need to cancel CCD classes or Life Teen Edge, we will notify you by email, as well as post the cancellation on WNDU TV. Also remember, if school is cancelled for the day due to weather for LMC, St. Joseph, or Lakeshore, there will be no evening CCD classes that day.

MONDAY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES: There is no class on Dec 8. due to the Feast of the Immaculate Conception Holyday. Classes will meet Dec. 15 and will resume on Jan. 5, 2015.

Sunday morning GOOD SHEPHERD classes will meet Dec. 7 and 14 and resume Jan. 4. May God bless you and your family during this time of preparation for the coming of our Lord!

**LAKE MICHIGAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:**

**Go to [www.lmclakers.org](http://www.lmclakers.org) for all LMC info.**

**Mon., Dec. 8** ~ Middle/High School Mass, 8:00 am  
Elementary Mass, 9:15 am

**Sat. & Sun., Dec. 13 & 14** ~ Cookie Walk at all parishes

Coming up:  
PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN Virtus training will be held **Mon., Dec. 29**, 6-9 pm, at the Rose Center.

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE at 3903 Lake St., Bridgman, will hold an American Red Cross Blood Drive **Mon., Dec. 15**, noon to 4:45.

**SS. JOHN & BERNARD FAMILY CHRISTMAS DINNER**  
Sunday, **Dec. 14**, 5:30 pm, Parish Center

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_  
# adults \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00  
#children age 10 and under \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$2.50  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please return reservation slip with payment by Dec. 11. Drop them in the weekend collection or mail them to the rectory.

# SS. JOHN & BERNARD PARISH, BENTON HARBOR, MI.

## LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK:

<b>Sat., 12/6</b>	5:00 pm (B)	Concetta ☩ and Ciro ☩ Forestieri by Jack Forestieri
<b>Sun., 12/7</b>	9:00 am (J)	Irene Radke ☩* by Dorothy Radke
	11:00 am (B)	Janet Houseworth ☩ by Dave and Joann Lewis
<b>Mon., 12/8</b>	<b>8:00 am (B)</b>	Our Parish Family <b>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</b>
	<b>12:10 pm (J)</b>	Rose Monte ☩ by Ben Mamma
	<b>5:30 pm (B)</b>	Deceased of Blakeman Family ☩ by Terry and Pam Blakeman
<b>Tue., 12/9</b>	8:00 am (J)	Ed Nickel B'Day by His Family
<b>Wed., 12/10</b>	5:30 pm (B)	Don Neuser ☩ by The Funeral Luncheon Ladies
<b>Thu., 12/11</b>	9:00 am (B)	Joseph Bodish ☩ and Frank Bodish, Sr. ☩ by John Bodish
<b>Fri., 12/12</b>	8:00 am (J)	Jean Demski ☩* by Her children
<b>Sat., 12/13</b>	8:00 am (B)	Doug Stutz ☩ by Eric and Mary Baker
	5:00 pm (B)	Mr. Carmen Quatrochi ☩ by Eva Howard, Christopher and Cathy Quatrochi
<b>Sun., 12/14</b>	9:00 am (J)	Dr. C. Bassett Brown ☩ by Perla Tolentino and Cyril Fuller ☩* by His Family
	11:00 am (B)	Patricia Lange ☩ by the Lange Family

### Our Offering of Thanks to God last weekend:

<b>Adult envelopes</b>	(269)	14,141.00
<b>Student envelopes</b>	(7)	11.00
<b>Loose offering</b>		609.58
<b>Electronic</b>		3,491.00
<b>Total</b>		\$18,252.58

Week #22 of this fiscal year average: \$16,456.08  
 Needed to make weekly budget: \$16,500.00  
**UNDER** budget (\$966.31)

## YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group meets Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, St. Bernard's social hall, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> (sometimes 5<sup>th</sup>) Wednesdays **Dec. 17 & 31**  
Youth Mass on Sundays, **5 pm**, St. Bernard's, fellowship follows in the **1<sup>st</sup> classroom** until 8:30 pm., 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays **Dec. 14 & 28.**

Juanita Grover, jgrover4him@gmail.com or 269-326-0421.

### Liturgical Ministers Schedule for Nov. Dec., 13 & 14:

Lector	Commentator	Servers
<b>5 pm</b> J. Carpentier	M. Piraino	J. Sirk, K. St.Amand, B. Ferragut
<b>9 am</b> J. Nahikian	S. Gaunder	H. Christiansen, C. Conklin, G. Brunner
<b>11 am</b> S. Smith	E. Healy	C. Ogata, Sami and Nati Schueneman

### Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist:

**5 pm** C. Oehlhaffen, B. Grover, M. Depuydt, D. Grega, D. Hughes\*, K. Piraino\*, J. Biegler, J. Polaskey, P. Sirk, R. Fish, M. Grover

**9 am** J. O'Malley, M. Lechenet, P. Allerton, J. Brunner\*, D. Collins\*, L. Luckner, S. Hassel, K. Collins, L. Allerton

**11 am** A. Shembarger, O. Mileski, L. Radenbaugh, L. Hazen, L. Taylor\*, P. Quattrin\*, A. Campbell, B. Rotter, E. Conrad, K. Bush, G. Rochefort

### Greeters Dec. 14:

Tim and Nancy Hamilton

### Nursery Volunteers Dec. 14:

**9 am:** Melissa Shall and Cindy Sirk  
**11 am:** Jackie Forestieri and Cindy Sirk

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK:** Fr. Bill Jacobs, Baby James, Lou Ann Agens, Rosalie and Stephen Anzalone, Bernice Barry, James Bartalone, Frances Bass, Kate Biegler, Zona Bradley, Dianne Broeder, Rose Conrad, Christian Dornseif, Ed Danapolis, Angie Danapolis, Stephen Dunafin, James Finkler, Butch Franks, George Gaunder, Beverly Goddard, Sam Guardino, Ike Hampton, David A. Hicks, Joanne Imbordino, Kevin Jones, Michael Kremers, Loretta Krieger, Cynthia MacDonald, Amber Maddox, Linda Mitchell, Robert Morse, Barbara Moshier, William Myrick, Tim Pullano, Bob Richards, Jolene Richards, Al Romeo, Val Romeo, Virginia Romeo, Genevieve Serocki, David Seymour, Dorothy Seymour, Marcie Shindeldecker, Martha Shuler, Noah Siglow, Michael Sitarz, Jim Sullivan, Judy Tabuada, Baby Leonitis Tavolacci, Valerie Thomas, Roger Thomas and Allen Zencka.

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**BURIED FROM ST. JOHN CHURCH** Sat., Nov. 29: Douglas Paul Stutz, of our parish.

**BAPTIZED Sat., Nov. 29:** Carter James and Corrina Ellyn Koern, children of Kenneth and Stephanie (Johnstone) Koern of Coloma.

**WELCOME TO OUR PARISH:** Daryl and Paula Lindsey of Hartford, MI.