

# St. Bernard's Catholic Church

February 18, 2024

## The First Sunday in Lent

**St. Bernard's Catholic Church**  
105 Knight Ave N.  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

Parish Office Hours  
9AM-5PM Mon-Fri  
*(The office is closed from 12 to 12:30PM)*

Parish Office: (218) 681-3571  
School Office: (218) 681-1539

[www.stbernardscc.org](http://www.stbernardscc.org)

**Parish Staff**  
Fr. Craig Vasek, Pastor and Superintendent  
Norm Betland, Office Manager and Executive Assistant  
Carolyn Holecek, OCIA Coordinator  
Misty Mehrkens, Youth Minister  
Manuel Peralta, Buildings and Grounds  
Margaret Rasmussen, Religious Formation Coordinator  
Charlie Vogel, Advancement Director

**School Office**  
Laura Brickson, School Principal  
Rebecca Peralta, Office Administrator

*One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*

*Matthew 4:4b*

**Holy Mass Schedule**

Tuesday	8:00 AM
Wednesday	5:15 PM
Thursday	8:00 AM
Friday	8:30 AM (School Mass)
Saturday	5:00 PM
Sunday	9:00 AM

See the bulletin for weekly changes to the regular schedule.

**Confession Schedule**

Saturday	4:00-4:50 PM
Sunday	8:00-8:50 AM
Weekdays	30 min. before Mass, ending 10 min. before Mass

**Adoration Schedule**

Tuesday	3:00 AM—10:00 PM
Wednesday	4:00 PM—10:00 PM
Thursday	4:00 AM—10:00 PM

# Holy Mass Schedule & Intentions for this Week

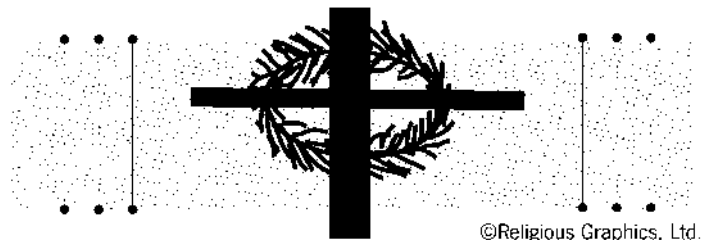
Mon., Feb. 19	No Mass	
Tue., Feb. 20	8:00 AM	Peterson and Ford Families
Wed., Feb. 21	5:15 PM	+Dale Wavra
Thu., Feb. 22	8:00 AM	+Bernadette Erickson
Fri., Feb. 23	8:30 AM	+Arline Wavra
Sat., Feb. 24	5:00 PM	Pro Populo
Sun., Feb. 25	9:00 AM	+Stan A. Stancyk

## Feasts and Readings

<b>Mon., Feb. 19</b>	<b>Mon. of 1st Week in Lent</b>
1st Reading:	Lev. 19:1-2, 11-18
Psalm:	Ps. 19:8, 9, 10, 15
Gospel:	Mt. 25:31-46
<b>Tue., Feb. 20</b>	<b>Tue. of 1st Week in Lent</b>
1st Reading:	Is. 55:10-11
Psalm:	Ps. 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19
Gospel:	Mt. 6:7-15
<b>Wed., Feb. 21</b>	<b>St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor</b>
1st Reading:	Jonah 3:1-10
Psalm:	Ps. 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19
Gospel:	Lk. 11:29-32
<b>Thu., Feb. 22</b>	<b>Chair of St. Peter</b>
1st Reading:	1 Pt. 5:1-4
Psalm:	Ps. 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6
Gospel:	Mt. 16:13-19
<b>Fri., Feb. 23</b>	<b>St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr</b>
1st Reading:	Ezek. 18:21-28
Psalm:	Ps. 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8
Gospel:	Mt. 5:20-26
<b>Sat., Feb. 24</b>	<b>Sat. of 1st Week in Lent</b>
1st Reading:	Deut. 26:16-19
Psalm:	Ps. 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8
Gospel:	Mt. 5:43-48
<b>Sun., Feb. 25</b>	<b>2nd Sunday in Lent</b>
1st Reading:	Gen. 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
Psalm:	Ps. 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19
2nd Reading:	Rom. 8:31b-34
Gospel:	Mk. 9:2-10

## This Week in the Parish

<b>Mon., Feb. 19</b>	<b>Parish Office Closed: President's Day</b>
6:30 PM	OCIA, Rectory Mtg. Rm.
<b>Tue., Feb. 20</b>	
3:00 AM- 10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration, Sanctuary
2:30 PM	Lenten Study on Prayer, Offsite
<b>Wed., Feb. 21</b>	
7:00 AM	Finance Council Mtg., Rectory Mtg. Rm.
4:00 PM- 10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration, Sanctuary
5:45 PM	Lenten Soup Supper, Parish Hall
6:30 PM	Stations of the Cross, Sanctuary
7:00 PM	Lenten Study on Prayer, Parish Hall
8:00 PM	Men's Group, Parish Library
<b>Thu., Feb. 22</b>	
4:00 AM- 10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration, Sanctuary
8:30 AM	OCIA, Rectory Mtg. Rm.
9:30 AM	Bible Study, Library
<b>Fri., Feb. 23</b>	<b>Day of Abstinence</b>
9:00 AM- 10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration, Sanctuary
4:30 PM	Fish Fry Takeout
5:00- 6:30 PM	Fish Fry Dine-In
<b>Sun., Feb. 25</b>	
8:10 AM	Lauds, Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Fellowship, Parish Hall
10:15 AM	Sunday School



## Coming Up!

Mar. 1	Fish Fry	Mar. 30	Easter Vigil
Mar. 9	1st Sat. Adoration Vigil	Apr. 12/13	Proclamation Retreat
Mar. 16	Confirmation Retreat	May 4 5PM	Confirmation
Mar. 20	Eucharistic Heart of Mary Retreat	May 17-18	Diocesan Eucharistic Congress
Mar. 24-29	Exalt, 6:30PM (Dinner at 5:45)	July 17-21	National Eucharistic Congress
Mar. 26	Holy Week	Aug. 19	Parish Block Party
	Seder Meal	Aug. 20	St. Bernard's Feast Day

## *From the Desk of Fr. Vasek*

Greetings,

Please see a summary of this month's Pastoral Council Meeting.

- Norm Betland presented that adoration times are expanding well. Some parishioners may give short reflections before Mass about the impact of adoration in their lives to encourage more parishioners to sign up.
- Charlie Vogel presented a proposal for services from Catholic Development Group to assist with the comprehensive vision for the parish and school. Spring and Fall sessions to create robust plan to accomplish the current building project (SBIB), expand the school well (6th-8th), mark the school's centennial, ensure financial sustainability for parish and school for the next many decades (endowments, scholarships, etc.).
- Sanctuary updates (see letter in bulletin). Movement of tabernacle follow-up; movement of statues into the sanctuary; hanging of Crucifix.
- St Bernard's is planning a "block party" for the entire city. It will be around August 20th (the Solemnity of St. Bernard). The parish will gather for the solemnity on the 20th, and the block party for the city will be the 21st. Ideas thus far: color run, fish fry, live music, beer garden. The purpose of the block party is principally for the parish to engage the wider community: "St. Bernard's is here and alive". Tom Schaefer, Kyle Mehrkens, and Michelle Johnson are co-chairs for the planning.

Grace and Peace  
Fr. Vasek

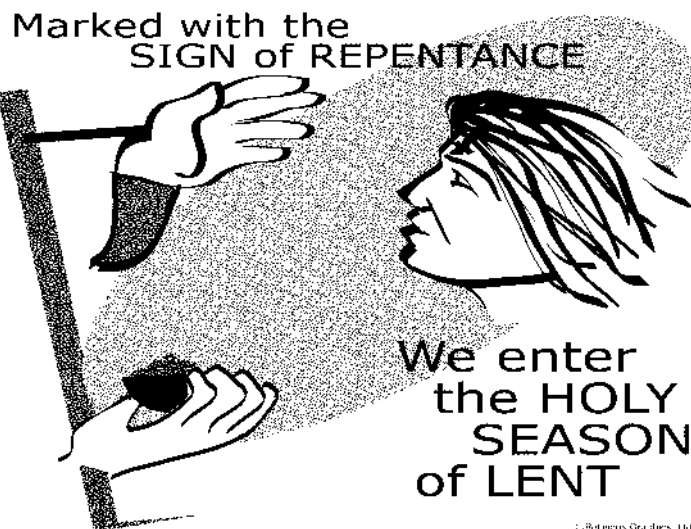
## Feb 24 & 25 Weekend Ministry Schedule

Ministry	Sat 5PM Mass	Sun 9AM Mass
Accompanist	Libby Sobotta	Laura Brickson
Cantor	Shelly Burkel	Douglas Meyer
Hospitality	Ethan Eidelbes Aiden Eidelbes Gerard Novak Elijah Williams	Rick Reierson Lisa Simenson Christy Sorenson Robert Wald
Sacristan	Michelle Johnson	Carolyn Holecek
Ministry Captain	Margaret Rasmussen	Bob Buresh
EMHC	Laura Williams Jeremy Williams	Tevia Strand Deb Buresh
Lector	Rob Burkel	Katie Fogarty
Commentator	Joann Holten	Bill Fogarty
Alter Servers	Braxton Eidelbes	Kayzlee Strand
Technology	10th Grade Boys	VOLUNTEER NEEDED

# Faith Formation

## Religious Education Schedule

February 21 – Grades 6 & 8 RE  
February 25 – Sunday School  
February 28 – Grades 6 & 7 RE  
March 3 – 10:15 am Sunday School  
March 6 – Grades 6 & 8 RE  
March 9 – Confirmation Retreat  
March 10 – 10:15 am Sunday School  
March 13 – 6:30 pm Grades 6 & 7 RE  
March 17 – 10:15 am Sunday School  
March 20 – EXALT  
March 27 – No Middle School RE- Holy Week  
March 31 – No Sunday School – Happy Easter!



**FORMED**  
THE CATHOLIC FAITH.  
ON DEMAND.

Formed is a streaming service for the entire family which provides Catholic Content including podcasts, Bible studies, educational series, movies, prayers, books, and more.

Formed is available St. Bernard's parishioners for FREE. Visit [formed.org](https://formed.org) and search for St. Bernard's parish to sign-up for an account. You can view content on your web browser or on the free app available on Android, iOS, Roku and Apple TV devices!



## St. Bernard's Podcast



Listen to homilies, Bible studies, and more on the new St. Bernard's Podcast. Find it out on [podbean](https://podbean.com) at [stbernards.podbean.com](https://stbernards.podbean.com) or search 'St. Bernard's TRF' wherever you listen to podcasts.

## Youth News

**Saint Teresa of Calcutta Camp:** This summer, the St. Teresa of Calcutta Camp (STOC) will be "on wheels". Students in the Diocese of Crookston, currently in grades 8-12 are invited to register for a once in a lifetime experience as this year's "camp" will be a 9-day experience, beginning at the Pastoral Center in Crookston, and traveling to the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, IN. The dates of this year's camp are July 14-22, 2024. Registration is now open and the deadline for registration is March 15th. Please go to [www.crookston.org/TOCCamp](https://www.crookston.org/TOCCamp) to register and for more information.

**Saint John Paul II Camp:** The theme this year is Abide in Me and will be held July 28 - August 1, 2024. This camp is for all incoming 7th and 8th grade youth and takes place at Oak Hills Christian College in Bemidji, MN. Abide in Me will follow the story of Jesus accompanying his disciples on the Road to Emmaus. Registration is open now at <https://www.crookston.org/jp2camp>. Camps like these fill up fast!

Contact me at [misty.mehrkens@stbernardstrf.com](mailto:misty.mehrkens@stbernardstrf.com) if you have any questions!

**Fish Fry Season:** St. Bernard's Fish Frys have begun and will be on every Friday until March 22nd. This is a great opportunity for youth to add funds to their accounts and pay for any and all activities St. Bernard's or the Diocese of Crookston host (like the ones listed above!). Parents, siblings, and friends can all work towards the same family youth account. \$10/hour for the fish fry and \$20/hour for cleanup after 7:00pm. If everyone were to commit to ONE slot for ONE Friday, we'd have everything taken care of! Willing to accept the challenge? Go to <https://linktr.ee/StBernardsParish> to view the available slots for each Friday's sign up. Please take special consideration in the areas of deliveries, take out orders, dining room help, and kitchen cleanup. Those are the areas that need a large number of volunteers to ensure it runs smoothly. Thank you!



## O.C.I.A.

Are you interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Faith? Consider St. Bernard's O.C.I.A. program (the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults). Through O.C.I.A. you will be able to learn more about what the

Church believes and teaches and prepare to receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist).

If you'd like more information, contact Carolyn Holecek at [Carolyn.holecek@stbernardstrf.com](mailto:Carolyn.holecek@stbernardstrf.com) or call the parish office.



# Stewardship

## Sunday Stewardship February 10 & 11

Weekly Offertory Budget \$ 11,231.00  
Weekly Offertory Total \$ 8,239.02  
Fiscal Year-To-Date Offertory Budget (Through Jan.) \$341,573  
Fiscal Year-To-Date Offertory Total (Through Jan.) \$379,863

## St. Bernard's Building Campaign

Pledged to Date: \$ 3,693,386.32  
Received to Date: \$ 3,447,072.43



## Recommended Sacrificial Giving Distribution

As percentage of total  
income.

Parish	5%
Diocese	3%
Other Giving	2%

## Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who purchased cinnamon rolls last weekend. **\$659** was raised to put towards new vestments!

## Diocesan Annual Appeal

St. Bernard's 2024 Parish Goal is **\$49,448**.

Visit [www.crookston.org/DAA](http://www.crookston.org/DAA) or scan the QR code to learn more about the DAA and make a gift.



## Finance Council

Brenda Bruggeman, Trustee, Tim Benedict, Trustee, Kathy Casavan, Jim Retka, Mark Thune, Kevin Yaggie, & Fr. Craig Vasek

## Pastoral Council

Rob Burkel, Tom Schaefer, Michelle Johnson, Lucy Scholin, Joan Lubitz, Kyle Mehrkens, Tevia Strand, Jacob Rath, Mike Wavra & Fr. Craig Vasek

# Prayer Intentions

## Parish Prayer List

In an effort to keep the prayer list up to date, the list is cleared twice each year: on the First Sunday in Lent and on the Sunday after St. Bernard's Day (August 20th). Please contact the parish office to add names to the parish prayer list.

(218) 681-3571  
[norm.betland@stbernardstrf.com](mailto:norm.betland@stbernardstrf.com)



## Pope Francis' Intentions for February

**For the terminally ill**  
We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

## Mass Requests

If you would like to have a Mass said for a special intention, you can request a Mass in multiple ways. You can stop by the parish office, send them by mail or drop them in the collection basket. When requesting a Mass for the deceased, be sure to indicate this with " + " before their name. The customary offering is \$10. Masses are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis, and can be scheduled up to 1 year in advance.

# Parish Life

## St. Bernard's Adoration Society

During Fish Frys, the Adoration Society will be displaying portions of the International Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles in the Gathering Space. The Catholic Church has a vast and interesting history of miraculous events happening during Mass in addition to the miracle of the bread and wine becoming the Body and Blood of Christ, and they continue to happen into the present. Be sure to check out these displays during Lent!

New adorers continue signing up for Perpetual Adoration every week! We continue to focus on filling up our weekday mornings, afternoons, and evenings in order to open up sections of adoration more quickly. We are also in need of individuals who might not be able to commit to a weekly hour, but are willing to be substitutes when needed.

You can register for an hour or to be a substitute at [stbernardscc.weadorehim.com](http://stbernardscc.weadorehim.com)

## Holy Week Seder Meal

St. Bernard's is hosting a Seder Meal on March 26 at 5:30PM in the parish hall. A Seder meal is a ritual Passover meal that remembers the exodus out of Egypt. The meal is a structured event with prayer, readings and specialized food that goes back to the original Passover with Wine, Lamb, Matzo (unleavened bread), Egg, Bitter Herb, and Charoset (apples, nuts).

More information will follow in the coming weeks.



Remember you are dust  
and unto dust  
you shall return

©Religious Graph cs, Ltd



NATIONAL  
**Eucharistic  
Revival**

Mark your calendars for the Star of the North Eucharistic Congress, to take place May 17-18 at the Sanford Center in

Bemidji. Bishop Cozzens and Bishop Felton of the Diocese of Duluth welcome you to this collaboration between our dioceses to celebrate and glorify Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Immediately following the congress, the Marian Route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will begin at the headwaters of the Mississippi in Itasca State Park. The Eucharistic Congress will inspire your devotion to the Eucharist through power talks, witness testimonies, panels, fellowship, praise and worship, Mass, adoration, and confession. Register at [crookstoneucharist.org](http://crookstoneucharist.org)

## LITURGICAL ITEMS

### *Chalice Items: The Burse and Corporal*

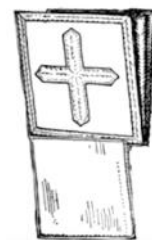
#### **The Burse**

The burse is square linen that is open on one side. Its name comes from the Latin for "bag". It is used to contain the corporal while the Chalice is being brought to and from the Sacristy, and from the credence table to the altar. Burses are thought to be relatively recent in origin. They may have evolved from earlier bags and boxes that were used to bring the corporal into and out of the Sacristy. Use of the burse began to spread in the 14th century, but it was not universally required in the celebration of the Mass until the late 17th Century. After the Second Vatican Council, the use of the burse again became optional. Burses are the same color as the other vestments at Mass and often match the design and embroidery of the veil and the chasuble.

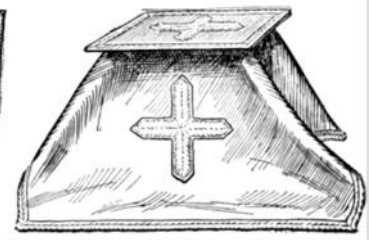
#### **The Corporal**

The corporal is a square piece of undyed linen, somewhat smaller than the altar cloth, and used to set the Chalice and the paten on during Mass. The exact origins of the corporal are unknown, but believed to be very ancient. In the earliest Masses, it was probable that no corporal was used, but that the altar cloth itself served its purpose, however, at some point a separate cloth came into use. Over time, the corporal developed into the smaller square cloth that is used today.

The corporal helps to protect the Blessed Sacrament from being profaned. Any drops of the Precious Blood that might fall from the Chalice will be absorbed before reaching the altar cloth or the altar stone. When the corporal is folded after the Communion Rite, it is folded in thirds in each direction. This method ensures that any particles of the Host which fell onto the corporal are secured within the linen until it can be purified.



The Burse and the Corporal



The Chalice completely covered



In today's Gospel, Jesus overcomes the temptations to wealth, power and esteem. As we begin Lent, may we open our hearts to the grace of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

**Through your gifts, SVDP was able to assist several local families, providing food, money for utilities, rent and other bills and short term housing. God Bless You!**

## Cursillo 2024

“Where two or three meet together in my name, I shall be there with them.”  
-Matthew 18.20-

Cursillo is a three-day learning, sharing and inspirational experience of living in a Christian community. During the three days of a Cursillo weekend a person not only hears inspiring talks on what it really means to be a Christian, but actually experiences the joy of building and being part of a genuine Christian community.

### Spring Cursillo Weekends

Men: February 22-25, 2024

Women: March 14-17, 2024

For more information visit Crookston Diocese Cursillo page or reach out to Stephen Wegscheid, Randy Malo, David Holecek or Tom Schaefer.

## Subscribe to eOND for the Latest and Biggest Diocese of Crookston News!

Our Northland Diocese, official publication of the Diocese of Crookston since 1946, is available via eOND, an electronic newsletter full of the latest and biggest news of our local Church! In addition to monthly print issues delivered to household mailboxes, eOND arrives to email inboxes twice monthly. Each eOND offers local, national and world news published digitally between print issues, as well as local monthly commentary. Parishes pay an annual subscription rate of \$15.67 per household for all services but opt-in is required for eOND. Subscribing is as simple as providing your name and email address so do not delay!

[www.crookston.org/subscribe](http://www.crookston.org/subscribe)



If you or someone you know has been a victim of sexual misconduct on the part of a priest, deacon, or individual representing the Diocese of Crookston, its parishes, or its schools, your first call should be to law enforcement. In addition, the diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator is available at 218-281-7895 (24 hour confidential number).



Please have any items for the bulletin in to the Office Manager by Tuesday at Noon. Email: [norm.betland@stbernardstrf.com](mailto:norm.betland@stbernardstrf.com)

## Advancement Director's Corner

I am meeting with parishioners to get to know them, to understand what excites them about St. Bernard's and what their concerns may be. Initial meetings are focused on The One campaign, funeral planning, questions around wills and legacy giving, and ways to get involved in parish life. Call the parish to set up an appointment or email me at [charlie.vogel@stbernardstrf.com](mailto:charlie.vogel@stbernardstrf.com). Below are my scheduled appointment hours.

Monday – 7:30am – 2pm

Tuesday/Thursday/Friday – 9:30am – 3pm

Wednesday – 4pm – 8pm

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month – 10am – 4pm

## New Parishioner or Change of Address?

If you are a new parishioner or need to update your contact information, you can register or update your information on our website at [stbernardscc.org](http://stbernardscc.org) or by calling the parish office at (218) 681-3571.

## Meatless Friday Recipe

*St. Antony of the Desert Soup*

3 T. oil, 1 C barley, 1 finely grated carrot, 2 sliced leeks, 1 bay leaf, 1/3 C fresh minced parsley, salt to taste, 7 C water, 1 bouillon cube (optional), chopped mushrooms (optional)

1. Heat oil in a soup pot and add barley, stirring continuously for 1 minute. Immediately add the carrot, leeks, bay leaf, parsley, salt, and water.
2. Cook the soup over low to medium heat, covered, for 40 to 45 minutes, until the barley is tender. Add more water if needed. For extra taste, add the bouillon and the mushrooms during the last 20 minutes of simmering. Remove the bay leaf and serve hot.

The recipe serves 4.

*Recipe from [catholiccuisine.blogspot.com](http://catholiccuisine.blogspot.com)*

## View the E-Bulletin!

Would you rather view the bulletin in a digital format?

Check out the e-bulletin at [stbernardscc.org](http://stbernardscc.org) or in the myParish app!

Search for **myParish** on the App Store or Google Play to download our app today!







**LEE**  
Plumbing & Heating  
Thief River Falls, MN

Residential • Commercial • Industrial  
• Heating • Air Conditioning • Ventilation  
Gas Fireplace Installation

**BRODIN**  
Central Systems  
**Matt & April Kraemer**

www.brodin.com email: matt@brodin.com  
140 Highway 59 South Thief River Falls, MN 56701 (218) 681-4433

**STOCKS • BONDS • CDs**  
**IRAs • MUTUAL FUNDS**

Todd K Meck, AAMS®  
208 4th St East  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701  
218-681-0045

www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC  
**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

**NORTHERN STATE BANK**  
Member FDIC

www.nsbtrf.com Thief River Falls, MN

**THRIFTY WHITE PHARMACY**  
Committed to Healthy Outcomes

201 Horace Ave. North in downtown Thief River Falls, MN  
218-681-2932 • 800-570-3784

Store Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am - 6 pm • Sat 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

**ACE Hardware**

"Serving the Area Since 1945"

**THIEF RIVER FALLS LifeCare Pregnancy Center**  
A LIFE PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

Progress • High Ac • New Help?  
24 Hour Hotline: 218-681-5254 Or 218-681-1278  
Services are Free and Confidential

214 LaBree Ave North PO Box 572 • Thief River Falls, MN 56701  
www.lifecaretrf.org

**24/7 Gym**  
Group Exercise Classes  
Kids fitZone  
Gymnastics & Ninja Warrior  
(218) 683-4367

**WELLNESS CENTER**  
GARFIELD

**Mobile Elite Pressure Washing LLC**  
We'll Bring The Soap

And Wash It All Nathan Bennett  
218-686-8422

www.elitepw.com  
Farm-Home-Commercial-Industrial

**INSURANCE SOLUTIONS**  
**NORTH RISK PARTNERS**  
THUNE DIVISION northriskpartners.com

(218) 681-1714

**STEVE STONE**  
Pennington County Veterans Service Officer

Pennington County Government Center  
PO Box 616 • Thief River Falls, MN 56701  
218.683.7034 sjstone@co.pennington.mn.us

**PGI Paint & Glass Interiors**  
Your Home Improvement Store

1217 Horace Ave. North Thief River Falls, MN 56701  
218-681-3012

TEXTURE DESIGN

**YOUR HOME TEAM!**

**USA Realty LLC**  
KERMIT GENEUEX USA REALTY LLC.  
PO Box 355  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701  
218-681-4893 Office  
218-681-4339 Cell  
kermitg@midstate.net

**BERGAN travel**  
218-681-4100

www.bergantravel.com

217 LaBree Ave. N • Thief River Falls, MN

**Hefty SEED COMPANY**  
Full Service Seed and Crop Protection Retailer.

www.heftyseed.com  
218-683-6930

Independently Owned and Operated by Red River Ag, LLC

**Red River Ag**

**RONNINGS**  
CERTIFIED FOR PERFORMANCE SINCE 1958

**YOUR HEADQUARTERS FOR CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR & GIFTS**

DOWNTOWN THIEF RIVER FALLS • RONNINGSSMN.COM

NIKE • NIKE+ • NIKE+ i • NIKE+ R • NIKE+ S • NIKE+ T • NIKE+ V • NIKE+ W • NIKE+ X • NIKE+ Y • NIKE+ Z

**Gale L. Schmitz, LTD.**  
Certified Public

**CPA**  
FOR ALL YOUR ACCOUNTING AND TAX SERVICES

111 Third Street East • PO Box 604  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701  
218-681-6008

Serving All Your Family Prescription Needs!

**THRIFTY WHITE PHARMACY**

201 Horace Ave. N. • Thief River Falls, MN  
218-681-2932

**DIAMONDS & DESIGNS**  
Your Family Jewelry & Diamond Center

Downtown Thief River Falls 218-681-1490

You'll Taste The Love In It!

**Evergreen Catering**  
218-683-5000

**& BAKERY**

**NORTHERN motors, Inc.**  
THIEF RIVER FALLS

SALES • SERVICE • PARTS • BODY SHOP

218-681-4820

northernmotorsinc.com

**BORDER State Bank**  
COMMUNITY BANKING AT ITS BEST!

Hwy 59 S | TRF | 681-8085

www.borderstatebank.com

**THE SHOP**  
Auto Body Repair and Car Sales

Jeff Brouse, Owner

(O) 218-681-8531 (C) 218-686-1255  
703 North Atlantic • Thief River Falls, MN

**SteaMagic of TRF**  
Residential & Commercial Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning  
Only Certified Firm in NW Minnesota

**Scott Hebert**  
Thief River Falls, MN  
218-681-2319

-Since 1932-

**FORSBERGS, INC.**  
Manufacturer of Separation Equipment

1210 Pennington Avenue  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701  
218-681-1927

**Saint Bernard's School**  
"Put Christ In Your Child's Classroom"  
A STRONG HISTORY SINCE 1925

**Knowledge • Faith**  
**Discipline • Service**

**681-1539**

**MCMULLEN Realtors & Auctioneers**

(218) 681-3960 Office  
WWW.MCMULLENSALES.COM

Feb 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Letter to Parishioners

Re: Sanctuary Updates during Eastertide

(Note: if this letter is too long, you can simply go to the bottom of the back page for the shorthand summary. I wanted to make sure I gave thorough reasoning.)

Greetings,

When I arrived at the parish last summer, I began the steep learning curve regarding the current building project, as well as the history of the parish. I learned that there was to be a new adoration chapel with a tabernacle completed in the Spring of 2024. Bishop Cozzens indicated that there would need to be two tabernacles at the parish since the distance from the adoration chapel to the main church was too far for transferring the Most Blessed Sacrament back and forth for Communion during Holy Mass, adoration, etc.

I also learned about the history of our current adoration program. The small tabernacle room off the main church had previously been used for adoration but had been found to be too small for multiple people to spend time in adoration, so the adoration program was moved into the main church. Of course, that doesn't work all that well, since there are funerals and other church events. If the tabernacle room was too small, the main church was too big. Thus, there is now going to be a very nicely sized chapel, with secure 24/7 access, excellent for individuals and small groups to gather for prayer, adoration, Mass, etc. I'm very delighted and eager to begin to use the new chapel, and very encouraged by the growth in our adoration program over the past few months.

Since the small tabernacle room was found to be too small and we will now have a larger adoration chapel, it seems to me that the small tabernacle room, which was found to be impractical, is now all but obsolete. To say it another way, I'm unaware of other churches having two adoration chapels.

I have consulted the Pastoral Council on this issue, asking them if it would be prudent to move the tabernacle from the small tabernacle room into center of the Sanctuary of the main church. While there is permission given to place the tabernacle in a smaller room for private prayer (which will now be accomplished in the new adoration chapel), the norm and tradition of the church is for the tabernacle to be in the sanctuary in a prominent place.

Practically, I regularly need to retrieve or repose the Most Blessed Sacrament during services, and the distance from the altar to the tabernacle is great. People have also asked if they are supposed to turn toward the tabernacle room when they enter the church, so that they can genuflect to the Most Blessed Sacrament within the tabernacle. That can be awkward for the person genuflecting as well as for persons between the genuflector and the tabernacle.

The Pastoral Council is in favor of this move. I have sent a letter to the Diocese to seek permission from the Bishop and that permission has been granted. Thus, after consultation with the Pastoral Council and approval from the Bishop, we will move the tabernacle from the



tabernacle room into the center of the sanctuary during Eastertide, around the same time that our new adoration chapel will open. We do not have a finalized plan for how to best make use of the tabernacle room once the tabernacle has been moved. It will also be the case that the current Crucifix in the sanctuary will need to be hung from cables rather than attached to the wall for spacing and alignment reasons.

Along with this, I have been admiring the beautiful statues which are located around the building. The statues of the Sacred Heart, Blessed Mother, and St. Bernard are very excellent. However, due to their locations, they are acting more as decoration than fostering devotion. I haven't seen people lighting candles or kneeling near the statues (there are no kneelers or candles near them). I would very much like to see the statues serving devotion in a more dynamic way. So, I approached the Pastoral Council again to discuss this: would they be in favor of having two of the statues brought into the church sanctuary, one on the far left and the other on the far right? This distinction between decoration and devotion was well received, and they agreed that the move made sense to foster the devotional life of the parish. I again approached the Bishop and he indicated that a letter need not be sent to the Diocese for this change. Thus, around the same time that we move the tabernacle into the sanctuary, we will also move two of the beautiful statues into the sanctuary. We are consulting a designer who will help us make sure that we do it in a way that make sense within the existing architecture. The present project will cost nearly zero dollars.

To close I will add one other piece. The adoration chapel needs an altar. Since the altar in the main church is quite small for the large size of the church, it was deemed appropriate for it to be placed in the adoration chapel. A new, slightly larger altar (almost identical design to the current altar) is being built for the main church.

If you have any questions about these changes, please feel free to reach out to me or members of the Pastoral Council, or regarding the new altar, Dave Odette.

Grace and Peace,



Father Vasek

Pastor

Shorthand Summary:

The tabernacle is moving into the sanctuary from the tabernacle room.

Two statues are moving into the sanctuary from the gathering space.

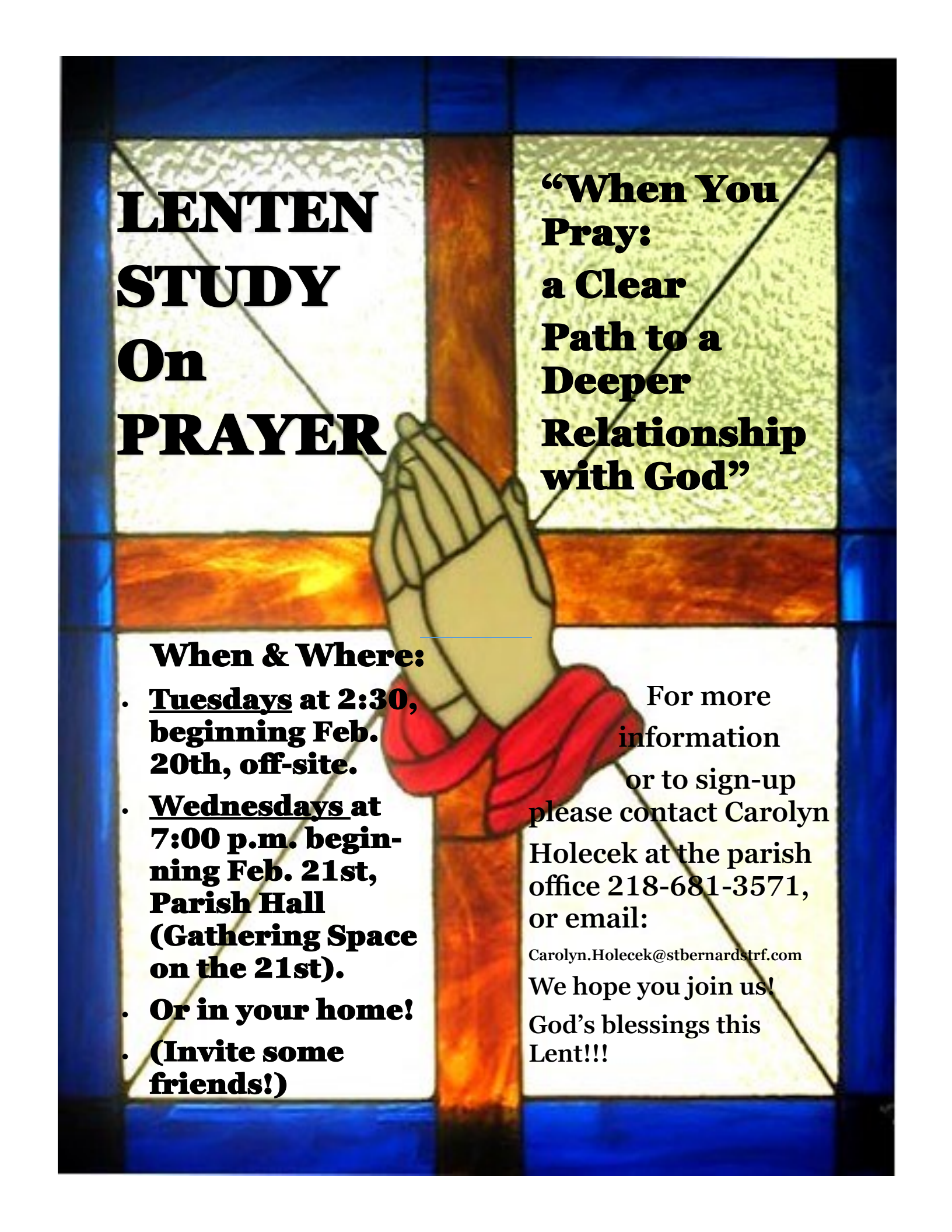
The Crucifix will be hung from the ceiling rather than attached to back wall.

A new, larger altar (quasi-identical design) will be set in the sanctuary.

The current altar will be moved to the adoration chapel.

Project cost: almost zero dollars.

The Pastoral Council was consulted and Diocese granted permission for these changes.



**LENTEN  
STUDY  
On  
PRAYER**

**“When You  
Pray:  
a Clear  
Path to a  
Deeper  
Relationship  
with God”**

**When & Where:**

- **Tuesdays at 2:30, beginning Feb. 20th, off-site.**
- **Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning Feb. 21st, Parish Hall (Gathering Space on the 21st).**
- **Or in your home!**
- **(Invite some friends!)**

For more information or to sign-up please contact Carolyn Holecek at the parish office 218-681-3571, or email:

[Carolyn.Holecek@stbernardstrf.com](mailto:Carolyn.Holecek@stbernardstrf.com)

We hope you join us!

God's blessings this Lent!!!



# ST. BERNARD'S APPAREL

New St.B's apparel is now up and ready for School and Parish! Link will be available through March 1st. All orders can be delivered to St.B's, otherwise if you have anyone out of town they can select a delivery option as well.

Many more options!!!!



bitly



[bit.ly/StBApparel](http://bit.ly/StBApparel)



# Eucharistic Miracle of KRAKOW

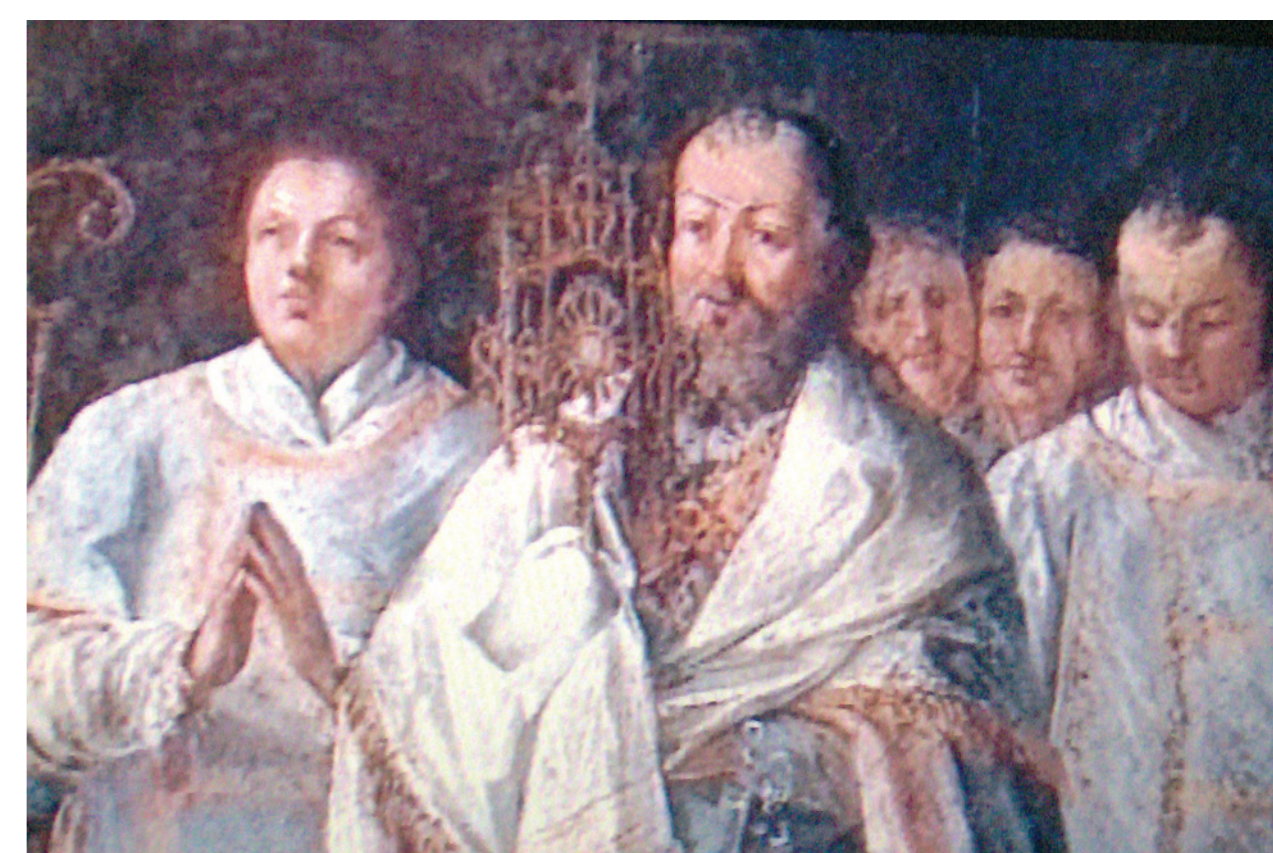
POLAND, 1345



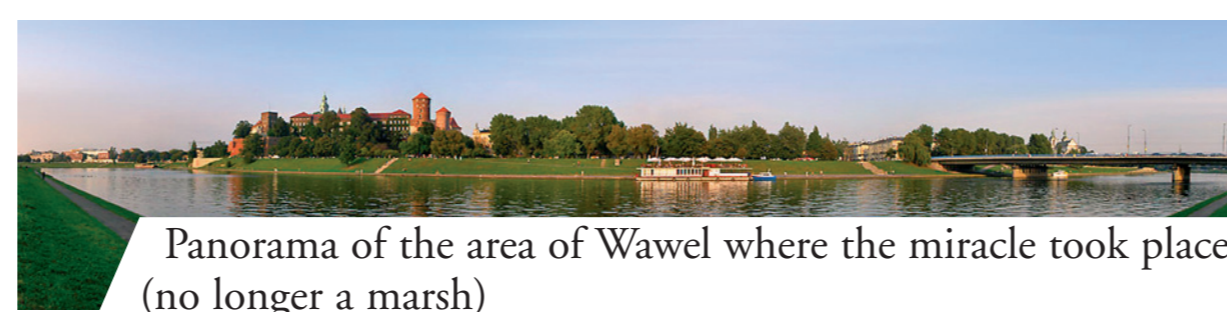
The Eucharistic miracle of Krakow relates to consecrated Hosts that emitted an unusual bright light when they were hidden by thieves in a muddy marsh. The thieves had stolen a monstrance containing consecrated Hosts from a church in the village of Wawel (outside of modern-day Krakow). They ultimately abandoned the monstrance and Hosts in a marsh outside of the village, where the miracle took place. The Church of Corpus Christi in Krakow, Poland contains paintings depicting the miracle as well as documents and depositions relating to the matter.



Painting in the Corpus Christi Church depicting the phenomenon of bright flashes coming from the marsh



Detail of the painting



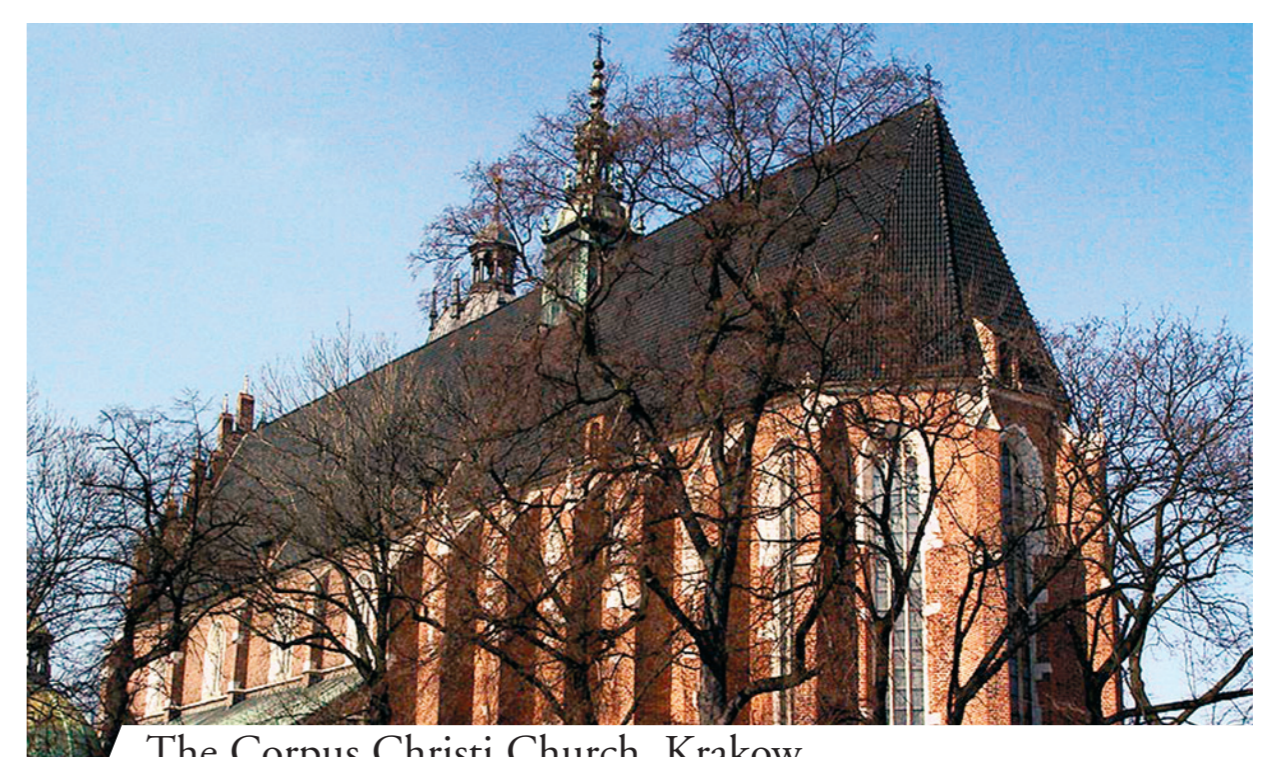
Panorama of the area of Wawel where the miracle took place (no longer a marsh)



King Casimir III the Great



Inside of the Corpus Christi Church, Krakow



The Corpus Christi Church, Krakow

In the year 1345, King Casimir III the Great of Poland gave orders to build a church named Corpus Christi in honor of the Eucharistic miracle that was verified that same year. It had taken place in the village of Wawel, near Krakow. Some thieves broke into a little church (The Collegiate Church of All Saints), which was a short distance from Krakow. They forced their way into the tabernacle and stole the monstrance, which contained consecrated Hosts.

*They got away,* but when they figured out that the monstrance was not made of real gold, they threw it (including the Hosts) into the muddy marshland that was prevalent in the area. Priests from the church began a search, but they did not hold out much hope. When darkness fell, however, a mysterious light emanated from the

spot where the treasure had been abandoned. Bright flashes of light were visible for several kilometers. Frightened villagers approached the area and reported back to the Bishop of Krakow. The bishop called for three days of fasting and prayer. On the third day, he led a procession out to the marsh. There, they found the monstrance, and within it they found the Hosts, which were unbroken and were the source of the unusual lights. The people began to pray and to celebrate the miracle. Annually on the occasion of the feast of Corpus Christi, the miracle is celebrated in the church of Corpus Christi in Krakow.



A representation of the procession of the bishop back into the city after finding the Hosts of the miracle in the marsh





## First Sunday of Lent: Turning Towards Jesus

---

**WORK OF MERCY:** Admonish the Sinner

**THE GRACE I SEEK:** to turn away from sin towards Jesus

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.**

*Pause for a few moments, and allow yourself to become aware of Jesus' gift of himself in the Eucharist. Realize that, at this very moment, the Lord of Life is gazing upon you with great love. Allow yourself to receive his loving gaze. You are his beloved child. Rest in his loving gaze.*

*Thank Jesus for the gift of himself in the Eucharist.*

**ASK FOR THE GRACE:** Jesus, help me to turn away from any sin in my life.

**SCRIPTURE MEDITATION** — *Read slowly, 3–4 times. Allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this passage.*

**“Beloved: Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit.” (1 Peter 3:18)**

**REFLECTION QUESTION** — *Allow yourself to sit with these questions for a while, being attentive to how the Lord is speaking in your heart.*

During this time of Lent, Jesus is inviting us to root out sin in our lives as the first step in cultivating a culture that does not accept sin. What is one area of sin you are struggling with right now? Be concrete and specific. Give this struggle to Christ on the Cross so that he can put it to death.

**SCRIPTURE MEDITATION** — *Read slowly, 3–4 times. Again, allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Let the Holy Spirit speak to you through this passage.*

**“After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: ‘This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.’” (Mark 1:14–15)**

**REFLECTION QUESTION** — *Allow yourself to sit with these questions for a while, being attentive to how the Lord is speaking in your heart.*

Repenting of sin—turning away from what distracts us from Jesus—is only half the battle. We must also make an effort to build a culture that does not accept sin. We must cast aside sinful alliance and learn to walk together with Christ. How is the Lord calling you to support others in humility as they learn to walk more closely with him? Ask him who in your life he is calling you to assist in seeking out his merciful love.

*Remain in silence with the Lord. Allow him to speak in the silence, in your heart. Receive his presence. If it helps, write down what you sense the Lord communicating to you during this time of prayer.*

**CLOSING PRAYER** — Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen. (Collect, First Sunday of Lent)

**SUNDAY MASS CONNECTION** — At every Mass, Jesus offers himself to the Father for us. We can always join our own offerings with Jesus at Mass. This Sunday, offer your desire to turn away from a specific sin and focus your attention more fully on Jesus. Joining your sacrifice to his, consider praying for all those in the world who struggle with your same area of sin and are not repentant.

**LOVE IN ACTION** — In the Gospel reading above, Jesus asks us to “repent, and believe in the gospel.” To believe in the Gospel message more deeply, we must immerse ourselves in the actual reading of the Gospels. Consider giving yourself a Lenten challenge to read from the Gospels for a set amount of time each day, even if it is only five minutes. Allow that prayerful reading of the Gospels to help you turn away from sin, and encourage others to do the same.



# Accompaniment Project at St. Bernard's Parish

St. Bernard's Catholic Church is one of the forty-three parishes that have been selected nationwide to participate in a grant funded initiative, the *Accompaniment Project*, through the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM). St. Bernard's, along with seven other parishes from the Diocese of Crookston, also selected to participate, create one of five cohorts. Please see the official press release on the back side.

## What does this mean for St. Bernard's?

By inviting young people into meaningful conversations, parishes can truly accompany youth in faith and discernment. Within accompanying communities, youth will have multiple opportunities to meet with adult faith companions. Because St. Bernard's is welcoming of its young members, youth will be fully integrated throughout parish life. Those who have been left out of current efforts will now be engaged. Programs that serve youth will be transformed to utilize this accompaniment mindset. New strategies and initiatives will be developed. Parents and faith companions will be supported in guiding youth toward vibrant faith.

## The accompaniment model for ministry with youth will be evident through:

- Building relationships of accompaniment with youth throughout St. Bernard's.
- Transforming current youth programs and processes.
- Engaging parents and families.
- Empowering faith companions for each youth.
- Developing initiatives that engage youth who may have been left out of previous strategies.

## Accompaniment Project Steering Committee

To grow accompaniment efforts, St. Bernard's will recruit and support a 3-year steering committee to engage parish leaders and members in key conversations and planning in helping develop a shared vision, effective practices and facilitating structure to support efforts in three areas:

Becoming an accompanying parish.

Empowering parents and faith companions.

Building youth ministry through accompaniment.

## Interested on being on the Committee?

St. Bernard's is looking to build a team of 5-8 members for the steering committee to help the parish implement these accompaniment efforts with youth. If you are interested in being a part of this important initiative, please contact Misty Mehrkens by using the information provided below:

**For Immediate Release**

November 30, 2023

Natalie Ibarra, NFCYM  
Communications Manager  
nataliei@ncym.org

**NFCYM's *Accompaniment Project* Announces Forty-Three  
Partner Parishes**

**WASHINGTON D.C., November 30, 2023** – The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) is pleased to announce that it has invited forty-three parishes to participate in five cohorts for its grant-funded initiative, the Accompaniment Project.

Each cohort of parishes will work with an NFCYM-appointed coach to train an Accompaniment Steering Committee who will lead the work of the project for a period of three years. In that time, the parish leaders hope to educate the adults in their communities on what it means to accompany young people in faith as well as to provide them with the practical skills they need to do so. In this effort, these parishes will be testing a new model of ministering with young people which focuses on developing a community of faith companions for the youth.

The five cohorts who have been selected for the project include:

- **Diocese of Crookston, Minnesota:** Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Holy Rosary, St. Ann, St. Bernard, St. Joseph, St. Mary, and St. Peter
- **Dioceses of St. Augustine, Florida and Venice, Florida:** St. Paul (St. Augustine); Epiphany Cathedral, Our Lady, Queen of Heaven, St. Catherine, St. Joseph, St. Paul, and St. Peter the Apostle (Venice)
- **Archdiocese of New Orleans, Louisiana:** Mary, Queen of Peace, Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Clement of Rome, St. Maria Goretti, St. Paul the Apostle, Sts. Peter and Paul, and St. Peter Claver
- **Diocese of Bridgeport, Connecticut and New England Parishes:** Our Lady of Fatima, St. James, St. Peter, and St. Stephen (Bridgeport); Holy Rood Collaborative - St. Mary, St. John the Evangelist, and St. Margaret of Scotland (Boston); St. Katharine Drexel (Camden), St. Matthias (Metuchen); Ascension (New York); and Holy Innocents (Philadelphia)
- **National Online Cohort:** St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (Baltimore); Sacred Heart of Jesus (Baton Rouge), Our Lady of the Valley (Birmingham); St. Thomas the Apostle (Birmingham); St. Pius X (Great Falls-Billings); Holy Savior (Jackson); St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (Las Vegas); St. John Paul II (Las Vegas); The Grove Collaborative - Good Shepherd, St. Joseph, St. Maria Goretti and St. Vincent De Paul (Sacramento); and Our Lady of Perpetual Help (San Bernardino)

For more information, visit [nfcym.org](http://nfcym.org). For media inquiries, please contact Natalie Ibarra, Communications Manager for NFCYM at [nataliei@nfcym.org](mailto:nataliei@nfcym.org).

###

**About the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry**

National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), Inc. ([nfcym.org](http://nfcym.org)), a nonprofit organization, is a broad, nationally recognized leadership alliance for Catholic youth ministry. Its mission is to "support and strengthen those who accompany young people as they encounter and follow Jesus Christ."