

# St. Bernard's Catholic Church

January 28, 2024

## The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### 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 Holeccek, 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

*The people who sit in  
darkness have seen a great  
light; on those dwelling in  
a land overshadowed by  
death, light has arisen..*

*Matthew 4:16*

### 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 8:30 AM—10:00 PM  
Thursday 8:30 AM—10:00 PM

# Holy Mass Schedule & Intentions for this Week

Mon., Jan. 29	No Mass	
Tue., Jan. 30	8:00 AM	+Blake Torkelson
Wed., Jan. 31	<b>8:15 AM</b>	<b>School Mass with Bishop</b>
	5:15PM	Increase to Vocations
Thu., Feb. 1	8:00 AM	Anna & St. Joseph's Intentions
Fri., Feb. 2	8:30 AM	Fr. Matt Kraemer
Sat., Feb. 3	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>First Saturday Mass</b>
	5:00 PM	+Cecelia Stoltman
Sun., Feb. 4	9:00 AM	Jack Miller
		Pro Populo
		+Anton & +Victoria Kurczak

## Feasts and Readings

### **Mon., Jan. 29 Mon. of 4th Week of Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: 2 Sam. 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13  
 Psalm: Ps. 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7  
 Gospel: Mk. 5:1-20

### **Tue., Jan. 30 Tue. of 4th Week in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: 2 Sam. 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 39-19:3  
 Psalm: Ps. 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6  
 Gospel: Mk. 5:21-43

### **Wed., Jan. 31 St. John Bosco, Priest**

1st Reading: 2 Sam. 24:2, 9-17  
 Psalm: Ps. 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7  
 Gospel: Mk. 6:1-6

### **Thu., Feb. 1 Thu. of 4th Week in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: 1 Kgs. 2:1-4, 10-12  
 Psalm: 1 Chr. 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd  
 Gospel: Mk. 6:7-13

### **Fri., Feb. 2 Presentation of the Lord**

1st Reading: Mal. 3:1-4  
 Psalm: Ps. 24:7, 8, 9, 10  
 2nd Reading: Heb. 2:14-18  
 Gospel: Lk. 2:22-40

### **Sat., Feb. 3 St. Ansgar, Bishop**

1st Reading: 1 Kgs. 3:4-13  
 Psalm: Ps. 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14  
 Gospel: Mk. 6:30-34

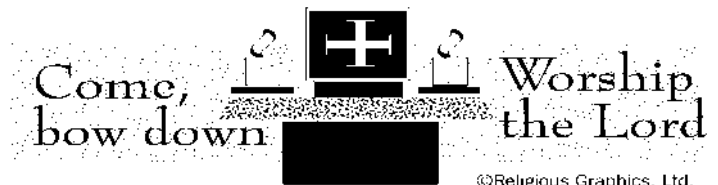
### **Sun., Feb. 4 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Job 7:1-4, 6-7  
 Psalm: Ps. 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6  
 2nd Reading: 1 Cor. 9:16-19, 22-23  
 Gospel: Mk. 1:29-39

## This Week in the Parish

### *Catholic Schools Week*

Mon., Jan. 29	
6:30 PM	OCIA, Rectory Mtg. Rm.
Tue., Jan. 30	
8:30 AM- 10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration, Sanctuary
Wed., Jan. 31	
8:30 AM	School Mass with Bishop Cozzens
6:30 PM	RE- Grades 6 & 7
8:00 PM	Men's Group, Parish Library
Thu., Feb. 1	
8:30 AM- 10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration, Sanctuary
8:30 AM	OCIA, Rectory Mtg. Rm.
9:30 AM	Bible Study, Library
Fri. Feb. 2	
9:00 AM	First Friday Fellowship after Mass, Parish Hall
10:00 AM	Oakland Park Prayer Service
4:00 PM	St. Vincent de Paul Society Community United Dinner, Parish Hall
7:00 PM	First Saturday Adoration Vigil
Sat. Feb. 3	
7:50 AM	Confessions
	First Saturday Devotions
8:20 AM	Solemn Benediction
8:30 AM	First Saturday Mass w/fellowship
Sun., Feb. 4	
8:10 AM	Lauds (Morning Prayer), Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Fellowship, Parish Hall
10:15 AM	Sunday School



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## Coming Up!

Feb. 11	Prep Lent Environment after Mass	Mar. 16	Confirmation Retreat
Feb. 14	Ash Wednesday	Mar. 24-29	Holy Week
Feb. 16	First Lenten Fish Fry	Mar. 30	Easter Vigil
Feb. 19	Youth Ski Trip, Bemidji	Eastertime	Adoration Chapel Opens
Feb. 23	UND Hockey Game Youth Event	May 4 5PM	Confirmation
Mar. 9	Confirmation Retreat	May 17-18	Diocesan Eucharistic Congress

## *From the Desk of Fr. Vasek*

Greetings,

One of the central ministry commitments of St. Bernard's is its school. Since 1925, Catholic education has been an essential extension of parish life. Catholic Schools Week is a great week to highlight and honor the gift of a Catholic education. I got a burger in town this past week, and a young man said to me: "Hey, I went to St. Bernard's school, and I'm going to send my kids to St. Bernard's. It's the best!" That is very edifying to hear. We welcome back Bishop Cozzens this coming Wednesday, as he is the principal celebrant at our school Mass. Join us if you can. Also, take some time to look at the very dear comments on the gathering space wall which our students made about why they love St. Bernard's School. "We get to worship Jesus!" "We get to learn about God!" "We have a great culture!" and... "The food is great!"

Please take some time to read the letter which I have inserted this weekend regarding our school. After many months of consultation within and without the parish, we have decided to expand our school to include 6th grade this Fall (2024), with the plan to add 7th grade (2025) and 8th grade (2026). You will see where it fits into the current building plan and the strategic plan of the school, as well as the upcoming national advisory council which will gather as we turn the corner into the next 100 years of Catholic education in Thief River Falls.

The school has had steady growth over the past 5 years, and we plan to continue that steady growth to capacity. As I mentioned last week when I gathered with parents within the parish, our school exists first and foremost for our parishioners. If all of our parishioners sent their children to the school, we would need a waitlist just for us! I understand that not everyone will choose to send their children to St. Bernard's. That being said, I think some people don't come because they think it's too expensive. We work with every family to make it work, no matter what they are able to contribute. We also have scholarships available to assist with tuition costs. Right now, about 35% of our students come from the greater community. We welcome all, of course, but my simple point is this: We exist first of all for us – and I say that with a big smile!

Grace and Peace,

Father Vasek

## **Feb 3 & 4 Weekend Ministry Schedule**

<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Sat 5PM Mass</b>	<b>Sun 9AM Mass</b>
<b>Accompanist</b>	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Cindy Dallman
<b>Cantor</b>	Shelly Burkel	Youth Choir
<b>Hospitality</b>	Ethan Eidelbes Aiden Eidelbes Gerard Novak Elijah Williams	Rick Reiersen Lisa Simenson Christy Sorenson Robert Wald
<b>Sacristan</b>	Margaret Rasmussen	Charlie Vogel
<b>Ministry Captain</b>	Dave Bennett	Carolyn Holecek
<b>EMHC</b>	Chris Bruggeman Jacob Rath	Paulette Holthusen Stephen Wegscheid
<b>Lector</b>	Samuel Rath	Youth Mass Lector
<b>Commentator</b>	Joann Holten	Youth Mass Commentator
<b>Alter Servers</b>	Isaac Rath	Lenore Vogel
<b>Technology</b>	Darryl Tveitbakk	Kayden Scholin

# Faith Formation

## Religious Education Schedule

January 31 – Grades 6 & 8 RE  
February 4 – 9 am Mass First Communion Enrollment:  
Parent Meeting after Mass  
February 4 – 10:15 am Sunday School  
February 7 – 6:30 pm Exalt (Dinner at 5:45pm)  
February 11 – 10:15 am Sunday School  
February 14 – Ash Wednesday – attend a Mass!  
February 18 – No Sunday School  
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

## Youth News

**Ski Trip to Buena Vista, Bemidji:** Monday, February 19th: **SAVE THE DATE!** I'm in the process of getting everything lined up for our annual ski trip to Buena Vista in Bemidji. Open to all 6-12th grade youth. More details are coming soon!

**Hope Retreats:** The only remaining Hope Retreat of the year, The Lion and the Lamb, will be on February 10th & 11th. This retreat is focused on learning about Jesus as the perfect and ultimate sacrifice for our sin along with his victorious act of redemption through his death and resurrection. This retreat is focused on understanding the Lord's sacrifice as we enter the Lenten season. Open to all high school students. You can register for this retreat by going to <https://www.crookston.org/reasonforhope>.

**Saint Teresa of Calcutta Camp:** This summer, the Saint Teresa of Calcutta Camp 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, Indiana. The dates of this year's camp are July 14-22, 2024. Registration is open! Contact me at [misty.mehrkens@stbernardstrf.com](mailto:misty.mehrkens@stbernardstrf.com) or go to [www.crookston.org/TOCcamp](http://www.crookston.org/TOCcamp) for more information.

**Fish Fry Season:** St. Bernard's Fish Frys begin on February 16th 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, 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.



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](http://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 at [stbernards.podbean.com](http://stbernards.podbean.com) or search 'St. Bernard's TRF' wherever you listen to podcasts.



St. Bernard's parish warmly welcomes OCIA candidates on the journey toward celebrating full Communion with the Catholic church on Easter Vigil during the "Rite of Welcome" at the 9:00 Mass Sunday, January 21st! Please hold these candidates in prayer: (left to right) Dillon Nelson, Megan Chromy, Emilie Bubolz, and Mariah Peralta.



# Stewardship

## Sunday Stewardship January 20 & 21

Weekly Offertory Budget	\$ 11,231.00
Weekly Offertory Total	\$ 25,976.31
Anonymous Gift	\$ 10,000.00

Fiscal Year-To-Date Offertory Budget (Through Dec) \$297,499  
Fiscal Year-To-Date Offertory Total (Through Dec) \$307,658

## St. Bernard's Building Campaign

Pledged to Date: \$ 3,692,591.32  
Received to Date: \$ 3,446,078.93



## Calling all snow-birds!

If you need to temporarily halt offering envelopes or change your winter address, please contact the parish office at (218) 681-3571.



## Recommended Sacrificial Giving Distribution

As percentage of total income.

Parish	5%
Diocese	3%
Other Giving	2%

## Diocesan Annual Appeal

The 2024 Diocesan Appeal will begin soon. Please look for information in the bulletin starting next Sunday.



## Stewardship Includes Time and Talent as Well!

Getting involved in weekend ministries is a great way to share in parish life. St. Bernard's is looking for individuals to be trained and scheduled to be Sacristans (prepping Sacred vessels and books before Mass), Pianists, Cantors, Extraordinary Ministers (distributing Communion during Mass and to the homebound), Altar Servers, MC-s (junior & senior boys and young men to assist altar servers), and Hospitality Ministers. To learn more, please call the parish office.

# Prayer Intentions

## Parish Prayer List

Jackie Hunt, Matthew Kaiser, Kaelyn Diaz, Roger Amundson, Ron Winter, Tom Super, Mary Hemstreet, Jim Breth, Robert Walrath, Elliana Rose Viktora, Tim Kramer, Christine Oliver, Margaret Koldon, Luke Noreen, Sid Brouse, Gale Schmitz, Tori Hovelsrud, Ray Hedlund, Emil Vanyo, Jan Kramer, Tim Bulger, John Barry, Alberta Johnson, Daniel Bernard, Steph Kaiser

If you wish to have someone placed on, or removed from, the prayer list, please call (218) 681-3571 or email [norm.betland@stbernardstrf.com](mailto:norm.betland@stbernardstrf.com)

Names will often be forgotten on the list even after they can be removed. All names will be removed twice a year to keep it up-to-date: 1st Sunday of Lent and after St. Bernard's Day (August 20)

## 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

## NEW KNIGHT AVENUE ENTRANCE

During weekend Masses, the **north side** of the new entrance on Knight Avenue will be available for entering and exiting the Church. Please note that the elevator is not installed yet, and this entrance is not handicapped accessible at this time. On weekdays this entrance will be closed as construction continues, so please use the west entrance and ramp in the school parking lot.

## St. Bernard's Adoration Society

### *Friday Lenten Adoration*

St. Bernard's has a wonderful devotional tradition of Eucharistic Adoration on the Fridays of Lent, which are February 16 & 23 and March 1, 8, 15 & 22 this year. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be ongoing throughout the day in the Church until the Fish Fry, and in the Tabernacle Room for the remainder of the evening until 10 PM.

This Friday devotion is an excellent time to spend time with Jesus; to intercede for our parish, our school, and our city; and to take refuge from worldly cares and anxieties.

If you would like to commit to an hour each week during Lent, please contact Arlene Thune at 218-681-1740. As always, everyone is welcome to visit adoration to quietly adore the Lord as time permits.



## 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 Paten*

Patens are round plates made of precious metal which hold the bread to be consecrated at Mass. The main paten is a small convex plate which is placed on top of the chalice during the preparation for Mass. It holds a single large host called the "presider host," which is the host which the priests holds during the prayer of consecration and elevates (holds up and shows to the faithful).

On Sundays and other large Masses, additional larger patens with higher edges are also used, which are able to hold enough hosts for all of the faithful who are going to communicate (receive Holy Communion).

Like all sacred vessels there is symbolism behind the paten. Because the Body of the Lord rests in the paten after the consecration, it is representative both of the manger and the Holy Sepulchre (the tomb of Christ) since Christ's body was laid in both.

Finally, the paten is consecrated and set aside solely for the purpose of holding the hosts and should never be used for any other purpose (in the same way the chalice should never be used for any other purpose than containing the wine and the Blood of Christ).



*Small paten with presider's host on top of the chalice.*



In the Gospel today we read that because Jesus spoke with authority his reputation spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee. As his disciples, we can also speak with authority when we put our faith into actions by helping the poor and suffering.

**Have you considered answering the call to serve the poor by joining the St Bernards' Society of St. Vincent de Paul?**

### 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.

## Lenten Environment Preparation

ALL HELP would be greatly appreciated in removing the plants from the Altar in preparation for Lent. This will take place on Sunday, **February 11th**, after the 9am Mass. Hopefully, see you there!

### 2023 Palm Sunday Branches

Ash Wednesday is fast approaching on February 14. Have you ever wondered where the ashes used during the liturgy come from? They come from burning the blessed palm branches distributed the previous year on Palm Sunday. Beginning next weekend, through the end of this first part of Ordinary Time, baskets will be available in the Gathering Space for you to drop off any blessed palm branches you have from last year (or previous years).

hosanna in the highest

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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)

## 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)



Please join us to pray the Patriotic Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet for peace in our country, from 5 to 6 pm on the last Thursday of each month.



Volunteers are needed to serve coffee and pastries after Mass on Sundays from September to May. If interested, contact Julie Peterson at (218) 686-8599.

## 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 [stbernardssc.org](http://stbernardssc.org) or by calling the parish office at (218) 681-3571.

## View the E-Bulletin!

Would you rather view the bulletin in a digital format?

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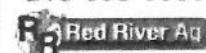
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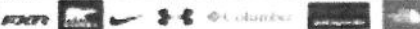


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January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Dear Parishioners,

I am very encouraged as we near the completion of the current phase of our building project. We've needed to find a way to make our site more accessible and more controlled. The expanded entrance provides accessibility through street-level access, a larger elevator, interior steps, and 24/7 access to the adoration chapel. It provides for greater security when we have parish events and school events occurring at the same time, and in further phases will accomplish a very clear and welcoming common access point with greater security for the buildings.

When I was assigned to St. Bernard's in early 2023, I was given a copy of the building plans. I was very impressed with the project and looked forward to joining the project. I have been brought up to speed regarding the beginnings of the various ideas and the time it has taken to bring them to fruition. I have also become aware that not everyone carries the same ideas regarding the overall vision. I want to be attentive to those various opinions, but this letter is to communicate what the current vision is, so that we have clarity and common understanding.

The full building plan, as I received it, is what we are pursuing. We are finishing the first phase of creating a centralized, secure, and accessible entrance on which the rest of the plan depends. We needed a larger entrance to create the ability to have a central access point which could connect to the church, the school, the parish and school offices, and the rest of the buildings with security and control.

Phase 1A is coming to completion and the project will continue toward the south. The next phase includes the construction of an integrated parish and school office space, with meeting rooms and controlled entrance to the school. Further to the south, in the next (final) phase, is the construction of a multi-use gymnasium and fellowship hall, kitchen, as well as expanded early learning center for K, Pre-K, Pre-School, and childcare.

These are the plans I received as the overall building project, and that is what we are pursuing over the next number of years. Some of these items are more pressing than others. As an example, our current use of the city auditorium for our school students is coming to an end. We need a gym. To build the gym, we first need to build the integrated parish and school office space. Also, prior to building the gym, we need to establish a rectory in a new location, since I need a place to live. My natural desire would have been to reside on-site, but I came here knowing that I'd need to be part of a community making sacrifices small and large as we continue into a bright future. Each phase carries decisions for future phases. All of that is to say, I'm glad that we've come this far, but we must continue – it's a good full plan, and we need it!

In the midst of this, we have now made a significant decision. We are expanding our education to 6<sup>th</sup> grade this coming fall (2024). Our intention is to have 7<sup>th</sup> grade in 2025 and 8<sup>th</sup> grade in 2026. It may seem to some that this is veering away from our plan, or coming as a surprise, and so I'd like to explain how we've come to this decision. The school used to have these middle school grades. It's been in the school's strategic plan to expand again to middle school within the next number of years. Our school families are asking for expanded school opportunities, both in the earlier ages (daycare/Preschool/PreK) as well into the middle school years. When I have visited with Bishop Cozzens about our school, he has clearly stated that we ought to pursue growth and expansion as we can, since Catholic education, Christian values, faith-based principles, and a Biblical worldview is a bright light in the midst of a mostly post-Christian society.

As I've been learning about our building project, a second story which would function as a middle school (above the offices) was in an early rendering. It was removed since there wasn't full commitment to whether the middle school would be pursued. I've asked the architects about this, and they have the first story plans prepared to hold a second story in the future. Of course, adding the second story in the future is much costlier than adding the second story at the time of original construction. So, the school is experiencing steady growth, it has a middle school in its own plan, we are pursuing construction, the bishop has encouraged growth and expansion – do we build a single story or a double story?

Through consultation within the parish – pastoral council, finance council, school advisory council, school parents – and external consultation with the Diocese, Catholic Schools Center of Excellence, and local business leaders who have an interest in expanded private school and child-care offerings in the community, I have come to the conclusion that building the second story in the upcoming phase rather than trying to add it on later is smarter long-term planning. Along with that, demonstrating commitment to the expansion to middle school, rather than leaving it in an undetermined future, provides clarity about where we are going. The next phases of the building project and the middle school expansion support and enhance each other's objectives in many ways. The parish gains its hoped-for outcomes. The larger community's desire for expanded private / Catholic education will bring external funds to support the project.

This Spring, we will plan for a National Advisory Council similar to what Sacred Heart in East Grand Forks did in 2013. They brought together alumni, stakeholders, wise and successful business people, parishioners, and staff to create a strategic plan for the future of the school in the realms of: 1) marketing, enrollment and retention; 2) Catholic identity; 3) academic excellence; 4) endowment and tuition. Sacred Heart has had tremendous growth from the clear vision set forth at that time. This Fall, we will have 6<sup>th</sup> grade in our current facilities. At the same time, the National Advisory Council will set the vision to navigate the full implementation of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades in subsequent years.

**I am confident that strong and clear leadership, assisted by broad and wise consultation, will amount to a very bright future for St. Bernard's Church and School. I can't help but think about our school's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary coming up in 2025. Those pioneering parishioners, at great personal cost, knew that they were going to provide Catholic education to their children. And we are the great beneficiaries of their investment. We honor them, our history, our present, and our future by boldly entering the next 100 years of Catholic education in Thief River Falls.**

Grace and Peace,



Father Vasek

Pastor and Superintendent

St. Bernard's Parish (Church and School)

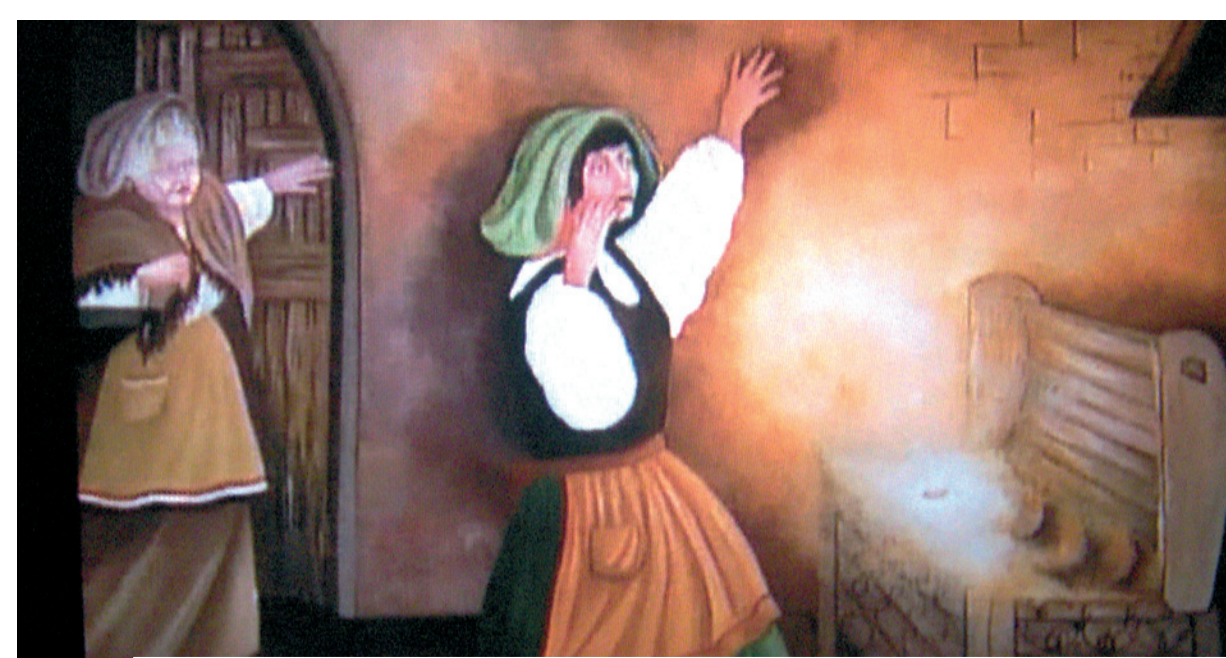


# Eucharistic Miracle of ALATRI

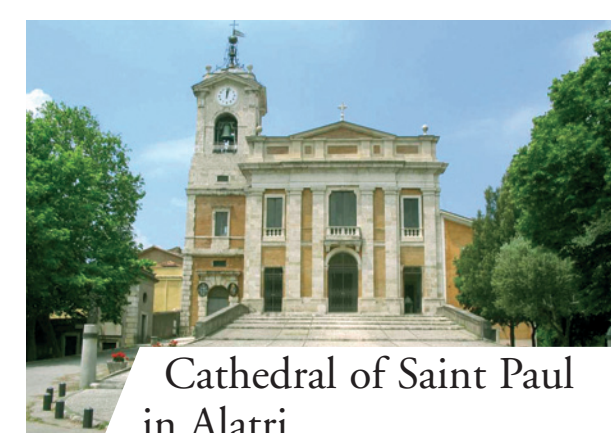
ITALY, 1228



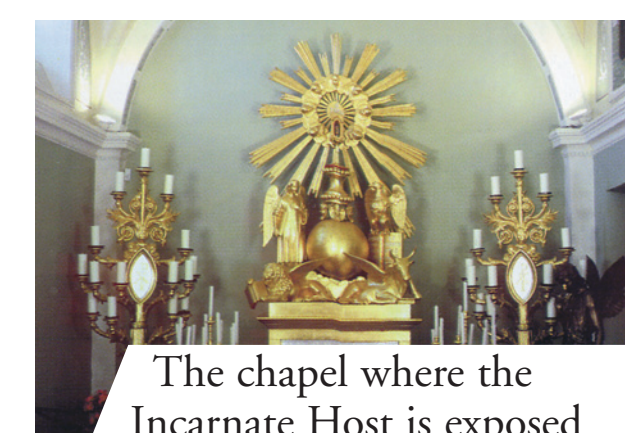
In Alatri's Cathedral of Saint Paul the Apostle, there is kept even today the reliquary of the Eucharistic miracle that occurred in 1228 and consisted in a fragment of the Host turning into flesh. A young woman, in an effort to regain the love of her sweetheart, consulted a sorceress who ordered her to steal a consecrated Host to make a love potion. During Mass, the young woman hid a Host in a cloth. But when she got home, she realized that the Host had been transformed into bleeding flesh. This miracle has extensive documentation, including from Pope Gregory IX.



Paintings in the Cathedral of Alatri which illustrate the various phases of the miracle



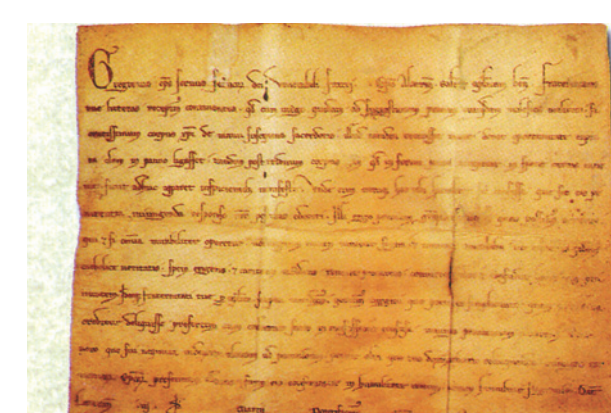
Cathedral of Saint Paul in Alatri



The chapel where the Incarnate Host is exposed



Chapel inside the cathedral where the reliquary of the miracle is kept



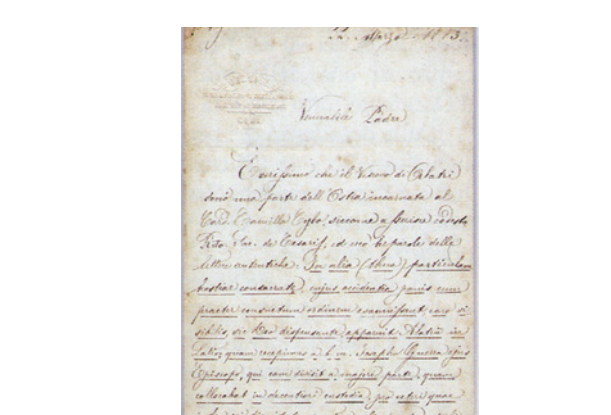
Bull *Fraternitas Tuae* of Pope Gregory IX



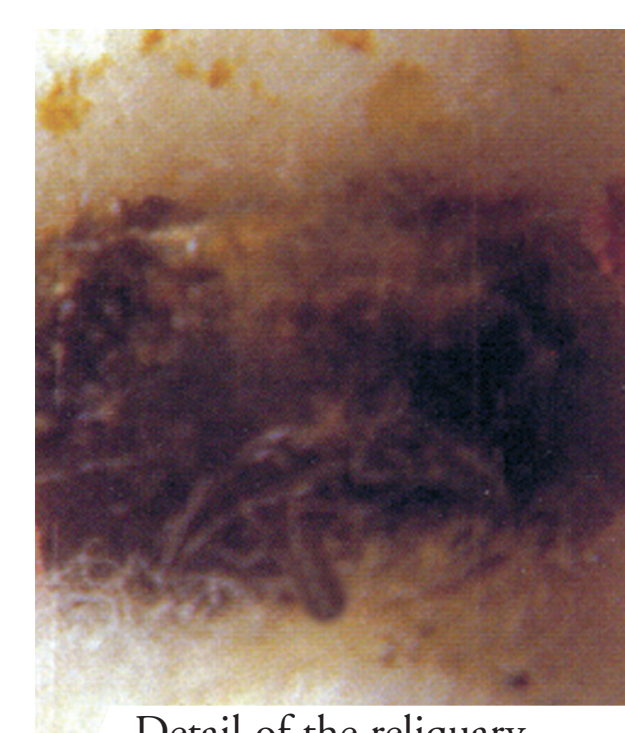
Monstrance where the reliquary of the miracle is kept



The 750th anniversary of the miracle was solemnly celebrated in 1978. For the occasion, a medal was coined which on the front shows an image of Pope Gregory IX with the Papal Bull and on the back, the façade of the cathedral with the Host above



Letter of the rector of Saint Mary alle Terme, dated March 22, 1888, in which he gives thanks for the gift of part of the reliquary of the Incarnate Host conserved in Alatri



Detail of the reliquary

The most authoritative testimony regarding this miracle is found in the Bull *Fraternitas tuae* (March 13, 1228) written by Pope Gregory IX in response to Bishop Giovanni V of Alatri. The text reads: "Gregory, Bishop and Servant of the Servants of God, to Venerable Brother Bishop of Alatri, greetings and Apostolic blessing. We have received your letter, dearest brother, in which you informed us of a certain young woman misguided by an evil woman, who, after having received from the priest the Most Holy Body of Christ, held the Sacred Host in her mouth until the right moment to conceal the Holy Eucharist in a cloth. After three days, she discovered the same Body which she had received in the form of bread transformed into flesh, as everyone has been able to verify with their own eyes. Because both women have humbly

revealed this to you, you desire our opinion regarding the punishment that should be imposed upon them. First, we give thanks with all our strength to Him Who, though He always operates in marvelous ways, in this case repeats miracles and produces new wonders so that He calls to sinners, converts evildoers and confounds heretics while strengthening faith in the truth of the Catholic Church, sustaining hope and re-igniting charity.

*Thus, dearest brother,* by means of this apostolic letter, we dispose that you inflict a milder punishment on the young woman, whom we hold to have done this more from weakness than malice, especially because it can be believed that she has sufficiently repented in confessing her sin. To the instigator,

who with her perversion pushed the young woman to commit sacrilege, apply those disciplinary measures that we believe opportune to leave to your judgment. She should also visit the nearest bishop so that she can humbly confess her crime, imploring pardon with devout submission." The Pope interpreted this episode as a sign against the widespread heresies regarding the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and pardoned the two repentant women. A commemorative medal was coined on the 750th anniversary of the miracle; one side showed the cathedral façade and the reliquary, while the other a bust of Pope Gregory IX with the Papal Bull.



# St. Bernard's Fish Frys

2024



## The Menu

### February 16

Walleye, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, coleslaw and bread.

### February 23

Walleye, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, coleslaw and bread.

### March 1

Walleye, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, coleslaw and bread.

### March 8

Walleye, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, coleslaw and bread.

### March 15

Walleye, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, coleslaw and bread.

### March 22

Walleye, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, coleslaw and bread.

## Delivery

Have your meal delivered by placing your order online between the noons of Tuesday and Friday of each week at [bit.ly/2024FishFry](https://bit.ly/2024FishFry) or calling St. Bernard's on Friday between 2-6pm at 681-3560.

## Dine-In

Come and sit down inside St. Bernard's and enjoy each other's company! Please come into the church through the west entrance off of 2nd Street. Tickets will be sold in the Gathering Space.

## Take-Out

Take out orders can be purchased and picked up inside the detached garage west of the church.

\*Please see Map on backside.

## Sign up to volunteer!



(218) 681-3571



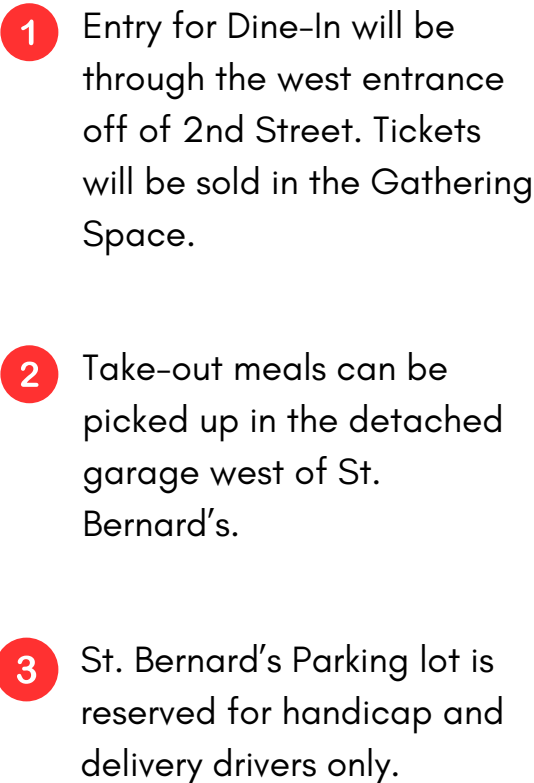
105 Knight Ave N, Thief River Falls



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

<https://linktr.ee/StBernardsParish>





- 1 Entry for Dine-In will be through the west entrance off of 2nd Street. Tickets will be sold in the Gathering Space.
- 2 Take-out meals can be picked up in the detached garage west of St. Bernard's.
- 3 St. Bernard's Parking lot is reserved for handicap and delivery drivers only.



# ST. BERNARD'S SCHOOL NEWS

~January 28, 2024~

*ST. BERNARD'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL EDUCATES AND GUIDES FAMILIES  
TO GROW AND SERVE IN THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST*



ANNOUNCING! PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR  
THE ST. BERNARD'S GALA: BOOTS & BLING!  
ON APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

## GIVING HEARTS DAY - FEBRUARY 8, 2024



Founded in 2008, Giving Hearts Day is a 24-hour event for charities in North Dakota and northwest Minnesota. Each year, Giving Hearts Day provides a platform for charities to fund their missions through an ever-increasing community of donors, many of whom get to experience the joy of giving for the first time. The longest-running giving day in the country, Giving Hearts Day has helped

participating charities raise more than \$165 million since its founding. ***St. B's is THRILLED to announce that we have matching gifts of \$3000!! Scan the QR code or go to this link: <https://www.givingheartsdays.org/>***



SCAN ME

## RAISERIGHT SCRIP IS HERE!

Please let St. Bernard's School take care of your Christmas shopping needs! We are gradually acquiring local businesses such as Ronning's and Black Cat! ***SCRIP CARDS FOR CASH OR CHECK WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE! CONTACT US AT 218-681-1539 OR [MARY.COX@STBERNARDSTRF.COM](mailto:MARY.COX@STBERNARDSTRF.COM) TO GET THE CODE.***

## ST. BERNARD'S DATES TO REMEMBER

- 1/28 - 2/2/24 Catholic Schools Week
- 1/28/24 9:00 AM CSW Sunday Mass KC Pancake Breakfast for St. Bernard's School
- 1/29/24 "Favorite Character Day" 12:30 PM Sledding
- 1/30/24 "Beach Day" CSW Beach Lunch
- 1/31/24 "Go Make a Difference Day" 8:30 AM Bishop Cozzens Mass, 11:00 AM CSW Parents and Community Lunch, Movie Afternoon, Teacher Appreciation Tea
- 2/1/24 "First Letter Day" Service Day, Giving Hearts Day Kick Off
- 2/2/24 12:30 PM CSW Spirit Olympics
- 2/4/24 9:00 AM PraySing Elementary Mass
- 2/6/24 4H Cloverbuds - K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
- 2/7/24 11:30 AM 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Class Lunch
- 2/8/24 Giving Hearts Day!
- 2/13/24 All School Adoration, 4H 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Peace of Mind Parent Webinar
- 2/14/24 Ash Wednesday, Alumni Lunch, Valentine's Day
- 2/15/24 Art Club with Pam Anderson
- 2/16/24 Friday Lenten Fish Frys Start!
- 2/19/24 No School - Inservice Day
- 2/20/24 No School - Inservice Day, School Advisory Meeting
- 2/22/24 St. Bernard's 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Fair
- 2/23/24 \*School is in charge of Fish Fry clean up\*
- 4/6/24 St. Bernard's Gala: Boots and Bling!

We sincerely thank you for  
all the support you have given  
to St. Bernard's School for the  
past 100 years and the next!





ST. BERNARD'S SCHOOL  
THIEF RIVER FALLS, MN



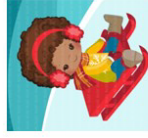




## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2024

January 28 - February 3, 2024

[www.NCEA.org/CSW](http://www.NCEA.org/CSW) #CSW2024



"Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. The theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2024 is "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community." Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses, and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation. Thank you to everyone for your support of St. Bernard's Catholic School!"

<b>Sunday</b> Jan 28  <b>Catholic Schools Week Opening Mass</b> 9:00am (singers come 8:15)  Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast 9:00-12:00  <b>Even if you are not Catholic, ALL families are encouraged to come!</b>	<b>Monday</b> Jan 29  <b>Students' Choice Character Day</b> <i>Lunch: Chicken Drumsticks</i> Wear: <i>Dress up as your favorite character</i> 12:30-2:15 Sledding and Hot Chocolate at the Armory  Please bring a sled with your name written on it and dress appropriately. We will be watching the weather and reschedule if necessary.	<b>Tuesday</b> Jan 30  <b>Beach Day</b> <i>Lunch: Hamburgers &amp; Hot Dogs</i> Wear beach clothing, but make sure you are still warm. Picnic / Limbo Regular Lunch Schedule *Bring a towel* 	<b>Wednesday</b> Jan 31  <b>"Go Make a Difference"</b> <i>Lunch: Pork Tidbits and Mashed potatoes</i> Wear GMAD Shirts Mass with Bishop Cozzens 8:30am Parent and Invited Community Guests Lunch Please RSVP at the office by 1/30—\$6 each Movie in Parish Hall 12:30 Teacher Appreciation Tea 	<b>Thursday</b> Feb 1  <b>First Letter of Name</b> <i>Lunch: Pizza Burgers</i> Wear: something that represents the first letter of your name Acts of Service- Giving Hearts Day kick off 	<b>Friday</b> Feb 2  <b>Spirit Day</b> <i>Lunch: Color Lunch</i> Wear: Class Shirts K=Yellow/ <b>1=Green</b> <b>2=Purple/3=Red</b> <b>4=Blue/5= Tie Dye</b> Spirit Olympics 12:30pm-2:15pm City Auditorium <b>All are welcome! Come cheer on our students!</b> 
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**ALL ARE WELCOME!!!**

**Sunday 1/28 @**

**St. Bernard's**

**Mass 9am**

**KC Pancake Breakfast**

**9am-12:00pm**

*Catholic Schools*

*Week*





SHOW YOUR SUPPORT



## Giving Hearts Day

Help someone.

SAINT BERNARD'S  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



**St. Bernard's School**

### OUR MISSION

**St. Bernard's Catholic School educates and guides families to grow and serve in the love of Jesus Christ.**

**February 8, 2024**



Donate today at

**[GivingHeartsDay.org](https://GivingHeartsDay.org)**

**Help us reach our \$3000 match!**