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PARISH STAFF

- FR. RICK LAMBERT, PASTOR
- LAURA BRICKSON, SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
- CAROL AMUNDSON, OFFICE MANAGER
- MARGARET RASMUSSEN, RELIGIOUS FORMATION COORDINATOR
- MISTY MEHRKENS, YOUTH MINISTER
- CAROLYN HOLECEK, RCIA COORDINATOR

DIOCESAN VICTIMS ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR
CINDY HULST, LSW
218.281.7895
(SAFE, CONFIDENTIAL LINE)

MASS IS CELEBRATED ON THE WEEKENDS AT:
5:00 P.M. ON SATURDAY
SUNDAY AT 8:30 & 10:30 A.M.
(8:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMED)

PLEASE REFER TO "THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH" FOR THE TIMES OF THE WEEKDAY MASSES

THOSE WISHING TO CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE ARE ASKED TO CONTACT THE PASTOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO THE INTENDED DATE OF THE CELEBRATION

ST. BERNARD'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
105 Knight Avenue North Thief River Falls, MN 56701
(218) 681-3571 www.stbernardscc.org

The Nativity of the Lord
Christmas
December 25, 2022

Today is born our Savior,
Christ the Lord!

NOTES FROM FR. RICK:

THE PARISH FAMILY EXTENDS PRAYERFUL SUPPORT to the Cota family at the death of their mother, Lorraine Cota; to the Brosseau family at the death of their mother Mary Lou Brosseau, to Darryl Tveitbakk at the death of his brother Larry Tveitbakk, May the Lord grant them eternal life!

IN THE NAME OF THE PARISH FAMILY, I WANT TO SINCERELY THANK the Men's Prayer Group for donating the book HOLY MOMENTS by Matthew Kelly. Please pick up your copy in the gathering space of the church. *We are most grateful!*

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL! As we once again celebrate this awesome gift from God our Father, the birth of Jesus Christ, may we recognize the God of the Universe is the "God with us"! He comes to dwell in our midst as one of us! In spite of the darkness in our world, in spite of our fears, struggles, and pain we all endure, JESUS is with us! *He comes to us where we are. He loves us as we are. Our lives our His birthplace - our lives His home. May the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the world, surround you and yours this Christmas, giving you hope, bringing you peace, and deepening you love!* In the name of Msgr. McGee, the Parish and School Staff – MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light

For unto us a child is born a son is given to us upon him dominion rests

They shall call him Wonderful, Counselor, Prince of Peace

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THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

- 26 Monday— Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59— Psalm 31:3-4,6,8,16-17 —Matthew 10:17-22**
No Mass today
- 27 Tuesday— 1 John 1:1-4 —Psalm 97:1-2,5-6,11-12— John 20:1a, 2-8**
8:30 A.M. Communion Service
9:00 A.M.—10:00 P.M. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 28 Wednesday— 1John 1:5; 2:2—Psalm 124;2-5,7-8— Matthew 2:13-18**
5:15 P.M. Mass + Connie Omdahl
5:45 P.M. Reconciliation
5:45 P.M. Rosary
No Middle School Religious Ed.
6:30 P.M. Bible Study
8:00 P.M. Men's Prayer Group
- 29 Thursday— 1 John 2:3-11 —Psalm 96:1-3,5-6 -Luke 2:22-35**
8:30 A.M. Communion Service
9:00 A.M. —10:00 P.M. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
6:00 P.M.—8:00 P.M. OCIA
- 30 Friday— Sirach 3:2-6,12-14 or Colossians 3:12-21 —Psalm 128:1-5—Matthew 2:13-15,19-23**
7:00 A.M. KC Rosary
8:00 A.M. Rosary
8:30 A.M. Communion Service
- 31 Saturday— I John 2: 18-21—Psalm 96;1-2,11-13— John 1:1-18**
4:00 P.M. Reconciliation
4:30 P.M. Rosary
5:00 P.M. Mass + Barb Brazier

1 THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Numbers 6:22-27— Psalm 67:2-3,5-6,8—Galatians 4:4-7— Luke 2:16-21

- 8:00 A.M. Rosary
8:30 A.M. Mass + Fr. Jerry Rogers
No Sunday School
No Coffee & Rolls
10:30 A.M. Mass + For the People



Please remember those who have asked for our prayers:

Brian Williamson, Lowell Arlt, Gary Arlt, Joe Roskop, Madeline Baumann, Mary Ann Lambert
Merlin Stone, David Carlson, Kristy Dupree, Timmy Nelson, Tom Miller, Elaine Radniecki, William Kezer,
Rachael Carlson, Tim Przybylski, Jane Palm, Audrey Berard, Duane Lusignan, Jannelle Knott, Tony Radniecki
Brian Huerd, Gordon Peterson, Frank Miller, Fern Melby, Ron Winter, Theresa Linnertz, Randy Winter, Tom Super,
Alayna Espeseth, Michael Andersen, Andrea Dowers, Gary Paquin, Gary Lane, Willy Schaefer, Kim Osowski,
Bev Oski Hayes, Mikey Hedegard, Dennis Bjerken, Lillian Winter, Matthew Kaiser, Kaelyn Diaz,
Renee Miller, Cheryl McClenahan, Jeremy Johnson, Dan Dowers, Ed Rasmussen, Lisa Swanson, Grace Rundell,
Judy Langhorst, Marie Chaput, Corey Refshaw, Larry Schaefer, John Parent, Emily Novacek, Donald Hanson,
Marty Torgerson, Micki Taddy, Lori Kristo, Sherrill McDonald, Dennis Srnsky, Doreen Dargon, Jerome Brazier
Cindi Determan, Candace Schaefer, Wanda Murphy, Pete Christianson, Patty Anderson, John Barry, Bernie & Evie Huot,
David & Phyllis Cornelius, Sharon Kozojed, Gerald Kostrzewski, Jeanette Stoltman, Alice Stancyk, Myrna Lane,
Ann Sang, Katy Seed, Vivian & Bruce Linander, Jim Legg, Shelly Legg, Donna Radeke, Elliana Viktora, Mary David,
Jackie Hunt, Christopher Benjamin, Kent Rahne, Ralph Cox, Carolyn Halvorson, Douglas Stalboerger,
Rachel McCoppin, Ted Stoltman, Fr. Rick Lambert, Ginny Pream, Ray Hedlund

RELIGIOUS FORMATION NEWS

By Margaret Rasmussen
Margaret.Rasmussen@stbernardstrf.com

- Dec 21 & 28** —No Middle School Religious Ed
Dec. 25 & Jan. 1 —No Sunday School
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year !
Jan. 4 -6:30 pm Grades 6 & 7 RE
Jan. 8 -9:20 am Sunday School
Jan. 11 - 6:30 pm Grades 6 & 8 RE
Jan. 15—9:20 am Sunday School

The 3 Most Beautiful and Important Symbols Of Christmas
Advent and Christmas are liturgical times that are particularly rich in symbols.



The Christmas tree is the most visible and frequent symbol for Christmas. Unfortunately, we don't always give it a religious meaning. The commercial world has appropriated the Christmas tree as if it were simply a symbol of the "holidays" and completely ignore the centrality of the Our Lord's role. While the traditions that each family may use can vary, what's important is that we remember and make it clear that the Christmas tree is a Catholic symbol. Here are a few examples. Some families usually allow the youngest child to be the one that puts the star on the tip of the trip. Some families arm the tree while praying the joyful mysteries of the rosary. Others ask the parish priest to bless the Nativity scene and the tree. Still others will offer up special prayers for every decoration that goes up on the tree: blue ones represent prayers of repentance, silver ones represent thanksgiving, gold ones represent praise and red one represent petitions.



The Advent wreath helps us follow along more intensely the four weeks that precede Christmas. As we lite the candles, we are prepare ourselves to receive our Lord Jesus. Every Sunday we can participate all together as a family by preparing a little liturgy, emphasizing the particular aspects of the Advent time. The circular shape represents God's eternal love for us and speaks of our love for the Lord and others. The green color of its branches represents the color of hope. The four candles represent the dissipation of darkness as we approach the birth of the Lord.



The Nativity Scene. This is a beautiful tradition that was begun by the great Saint Francis of Assisi and was then subsequently diffused throughout the world by the Franciscans. In it's initial years, they were "living nativity scenes" and only later did they become figures made out off clay, wax, etc. Every family interacts with the nativity scenes in their own way. Some families, every Sunday of Advent, add figures and do a little theatre in order to narrate the story so that the little ones can get to know them. The birth is, of course, the emblematical symbol of the day of Christmas. As such, it is on Christmas that the little baby child is finally placed in the nativity scenes. Usually, the family will gather and sing Christmas carols in order to celebrate.

YOUTH NEWS

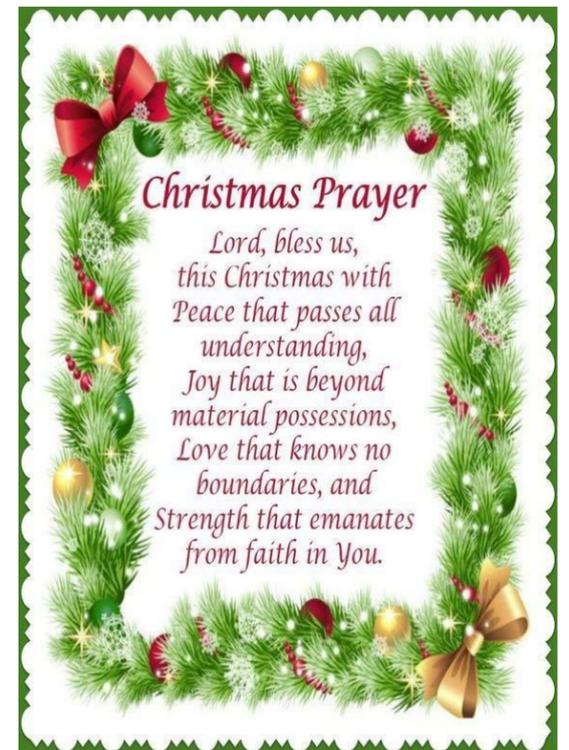
By Misty Mehrkens
Misty.Mehrkens @ stbernardstrf.com
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Merry Christmas!!

Today is the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord. Also known of course as Christmas. Our media environment is saturated with stories of the unusual, the bizarre, the remarkable, the admirable, and the horrifying. Amidst this comes a push for every kind of reinvention of the self to be better, prettier, happier, "more anything," but not ordinary. Luke's account of the birth of Christ asks us to rethink our fear of being "ordinary". Despite visits from angels and a miraculous pregnancy, Mary and Joseph are still, for all intents and purposes, just another utterly ordinary couple moved about by the whims of the more powerful. In Bethlehem, they are just another couple of travelers among many, and the savior of humanity, the long-awaited Christ, is born in homelessness and laid in an ordinary trough for animal feed. Even the angelic heralds of his birth come not to the rich and powerful, but to the shepherds. If we believe in Jesus' divinity, then we believe that all of this is intentional ~ the census, the homelessness, the manger, and the choice of a welcoming committee of poor, ordinary laborers. The good news of Christ announced by choirs of angels is the good news for all. God became a baby, an ordinary person, and by doing so made the ordinary something extraordinary.

TAKE ACTION!

The angels prepared the shepherds to recognize their savior in a poor, newborn baby in a manger. This Christmas, pray for the faith to see and serve Christ in every person you encounter, no matter how ordinary or unimportant they seem.



“And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us...” John 1:14

God made us to be in relationship with Him. He loves each of us individually. Through sin, our relationship with God was broken. He gave us Jesus to restore our relationship. Being a disciple of Jesus we are given the model to obtain eternal life in Heaven. Christmas isn't about the material gifts we receive, it's about the love that God, Our Father, gave us by giving us His Son, Jesus – the best gift we could ever receive.

PROMISE TO PROTECT PLEDGE TO HEAL
 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).

K of C
 Are you unable to leave your home to get groceries or other supplies? Do you know someone who cannot get out because they are sick or they are vulnerable? If so, the Knights of Columbus wants to help you and your loved ones.
 During this pandemic the Knights of Columbus will gladly pick up your shopping for you and deliver to your home. For more information please call Mark Christiansen at (218)556-0037.



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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! Visit >> www.crookston.org/subscribe



St. Bernard's Building Campaign

Pledged to Date: \$ 3,168,632.07

Received to Date: \$ 2,459,125.93



St. Bernard's Church is Offering Online Giving. For additional information , or to sign up, visit our website: www.stbernardsc.org

SUNDAY STEWARDSHIP
Sunday — December 18, 2022

Weekly Offertory Total.....	\$ 11,340.54
Weekly Offertory Budget.....	\$ 10,833.00
Excess/Shortfall	+ \$ 507.54

New to the parish and not registered? Need to update your address or discontinued your landline? You can register or update your information on our website at stbernardsc.org or call 681-3571.

Eucharistic Adoration
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is open to anyone who would like to come to pray or be in the presence of Jesus. If you would like an hour of your own, contact Arlene Thune at 218.681.1740
 Adoration : Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:30—10 pm

First Friday/Saturday Adoration Vigil.
 In remembrance of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, St Bernard's holds an Adoration Vigil between the First Friday and Saturday of each month. If you would like to sign up for an hour or sign up as an alternate, please contact Mark Christiansen at (218)556-0037 or email at mark.christiansen22@gmail.com

Please join the rosary rally praying 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 & Rolls after the 8:30 am Sunday Mass. Please consider helping in this ministry. Contact Julie Peterson for more information and to sign up. 218-686-8599




Today we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, hearing the words of the angel, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy". Today and throughout the new year, may we take care of our suffering brothers and sisters, bringing hope, not fear.

Thank you ALL from St Bernard's' St Vincent de Paul for your prayers and financial gifts - that have helped so many in our community in so many ways this past year.

MEMORIALS:
Memorials to the St. Bernard's Church
In memory of Connie Omdahl by: Michelle Lasha James & Marilyn Counter

The Crookston Diocese welcomes all couples to a free Natural Family Planning Introductory Session presented by Laura Golden, FCP and Sarah McKeown, CFCP. Couples will begin to learn the Creighton model and will be provided with the responsible parenthood instructions for achieving pregnancy, avoiding pregnancy, and monitoring fertility and cycles.

Laura and Sarah will also provide you with real solutions to problems such as infertility, PMS, miscarriages, reproductive health concerns, and more. For any questions with registering please feel free to email cjohnson@crookston.org.
 Join Us for a Free Natural Family Planning Introductory Session When: January 10th 7:30-8:30pm Where: Online
 Zoom Register: <http://bit.ly/3XJjTNY>

St. Bernard's Youth Masses—Grades 1 & UP!

January 8—Sunday 10:30 am
February 5—Sunday 10:30 am
March 5—Sunday 8:30 am
April 2—Sunday 10:30 am
April 29—Saturday 5:00 pm

Go to Sign up Genius: <https://bit.ly/SBYouthMass>




Cursillo 2023
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's February 23-26, 2023 & Women's March 23-26, 2023
 For more information visit Crookston Diocese Cursillo page at <https://crookstonscursillo.weebly.com/> or reach out to Stephen Wegscheid, Mike Wavra, Mike DeMars or Tom Schaefer.



Ready to be a part of something life-changing? Jesus needs each one of us to be his hands and feet throughout the National Eucharistic Revival. We're seeking laypeople, families, religious orders, and priests to volunteer their time, talents, and prayers in pursuit of the grassroots renewal our world so desperately needs. Just as many humble pieces come together to form a glorious stained-glass image, so too will God use each of us, however ordinary or imperfect, to bring about this Revival. He only asks that you listen for his voice!

To learn about ways that you can get involved in the National Eucharistic Revival as a Prayer Partner or Eucharistic Missionary, visit www.eucharisticrevival.org. If you would like to learn more about upcoming events I the Diocese of Crookston, visit www.crookston.org/revival.

MERCY HOUR: A EUCHARISTIC HEALING SERVICE FOR MARRIAGES AND FAMILY MEMBERS.

As part of the Diocesan Phase of the Eucharistic Revival, Bishop Andrew Cozzens will travel the Diocese leading services of healing for marriages and families. Married, single, divorced, widowed – every person belongs to a family and has a place in this experience. There will be exposition/adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a talk by Bishop Cozzens, prayers and intercessions, music and prayer stations all culminating in an intimate moment of a Eucharistic encounter offered for you as an individual, or as a couple or as a family.

Upcoming Mercy Hours
 Sunday, February 5, 2023 3 pm Sacred Heart, Roseau
 Sunday, February 12, 2023 3 pm Holy Rosary, Detroit Lakes

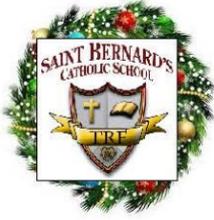


FLOWERS FOR THE CHRISTMAS ENVIRONMENT AT ST. BERNARD'S



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ST. BERNARD'S SCHOOL NEWS

~December 25, 2022~

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



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ST. BERNARD'S SCHOOL

May the Peace and Joy that Christmas brings... always be with you and your family.
Merry Christmas from your St. Bernard's family!

FREE PAPER TOWEL DISPENSERS & TELEVISIONS

We are in the process of replacing our paper towel dispensers with new, touchless ones. As a result, we have a number of our used paper towel dispensers available for FREE. We also have a few televisions (tube – not flat screen) which are also FREE. Please contact our Head of Maintenance Manzy Peralta, or the school office if you are interested in one or a few. We will be disposing them at the beginning of the year.

ST. BERNARD'S ON THE RADIO

Thank you so much to Mark Johnson of Pioneer 90.1 radio who recently recorded our K-5 students on "What Christmas Means to Me." In addition, the 5th graders recorded a 30 second commercial. All will be played until midnight on Christmas, so listen in to 90.1 and see if you can hear our students!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUBSTITUTE TEACH?

We are currently developing our substitute teacher list for the school year. You would need to have a 4-year degree, pass the Diocese of Crookston Safe Environment Training / Background Check, and an interview. Currently, under the Minnesota Department of Education you do NOT need to have a teaching license. Please contact the school office at 218-681-1539 for more information.

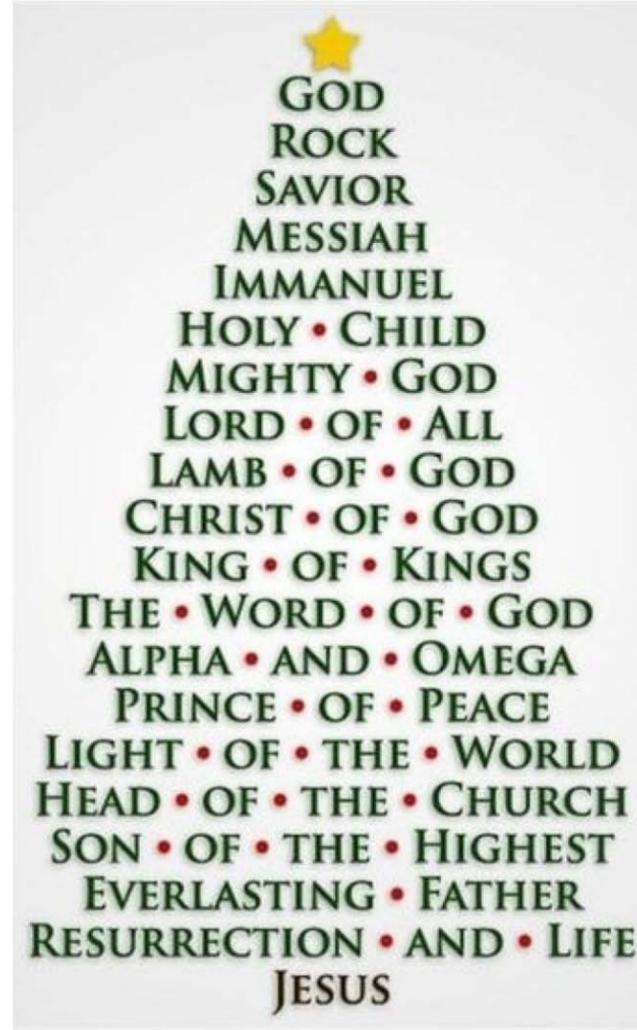
SCRIP IS HERE! SCRIP IS HERE!

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

ST. BERNARD'S DATES TO REMEMBER

- 12/23 – 1/2 Christmas Break
- 1/2 6:00 PM School Advisory Council
- 1/3 School Resumes
- 1/9 6:00 PM Wellness Committee
- 1/12 End of the 2nd Quarter
- 1/13 No School – St. Bernard's In-Service Day
- 1/16 No School - St. Bernard's In-Service Day
- 1/17 Alumni Lunch
- 1/29-2/3 Catholic Schools Week (CSW)

St. Bernard's School is an Equal Opportunity Employer




Have You Heard?

GOD IS DOING SOMETHING NEW—AND HE IS CALLING YOU TO BE A PART OF IT!

Jesus desires to heal, renew, and unify the Church and the world. How will he do it? By uniting us once again around the source and summit of our faith—the Holy Eucharist. The National Eucharistic Revival is the joyful, expectant, grassroots response of the entire Catholic Church in the U.S. to this divine invitation.

Scan the code below to learn more about the exciting journey ahead, and sign up for weekly updates on what's happening in this unprecedented national movement!



eucharisticrevival.org



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