

St. Bernard's Catholic Church

December 3, 2023

The First Sunday in Advent

St. Bernard's Catholic Church

105 Knight Ave N. Thief River Falls, MN 56701

> Parish Office Hours 9AM-5PM Mon-Fri

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

www.stbernardscc.org

Parish Staff

Fr. Craig Vasek, Pastor and Superintendent Norm Betland, Office Manger 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 Jesus said to his disciples:
"Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when the time will come. You do not know when the lord of the house is coming."

Mark 13:33, 35

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 weekly schedule in the bulletin for changes to the 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, Dec. 4 NO MASS
Tue, Dec. 5 8:00 AM +Anthony Griffith
Wed, Dec. 6 5:15 PM +LeRoy Nelson

Thu, Dec. 7 8:00 AM Anna and St. Joseph's Intentions

5:30 PM-Holyday Pro Populo

Fri, Dec. 8 7:00 AM-Holyday Special Intention for S&M

Sat, Dec. 9 5:00 PM +Verna Joel Sun, Dec. 10 9:00 AM Pro Populo

Feasts and Readings

Mon., Dec. 4 St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor

1st Reading: Is. 2:1-5

Psalm: Ps. 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9

Gospel: Mt. 8:5-11

Tue, Dec. 5 Tue. of 1st Week in Advent

1st Reading: Is. 11:1-10

Psalm: Ps. 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Gospel: Lk. 10:21-24

Wed., Dec. 6 St. Nicholas, Bishop

1st Reading: Is. 25:6–10a

Psalm: Ps. 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

Gospel: Mt. 15:29-37

Thu, Dec. 7 St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor

1st Reading: Is. 26:1-6

Psalm: Ps. 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a

Gospel: Mt. 7:21, 24-27

Fri., Dec. 8 Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M.

 1st Reading:
 Gen. 3:9-15, 20

 Psalm:
 Ps. 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4

 2nd Reading
 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12

 Gospel:
 Lk. 1:26-38

Sat., Dec. 9 St. Juan Diego

 1st Reading:
 Is. 30:19-21, 23-26

 Psalm:
 Ps. 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

 Gospel:
 Mt. 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sun., Dec. 10 2nd Sunday in Advent

1st Reading: Is. 40:1-5, 9-11

Psalm: Ps. 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

2nd Reading: 2 Pt. 3:8-14 Gospel: Mk. 1:1-8

This Week in the Parish

Mon., Dec. 4

6:30 PM OCIA, Rectory Mtg. Rm.

Tue., Dec. 5

 $8:\!30\,AM\!-\!10:\!00\,PM\quad Eucharistic\ Adoration, Sanctuary$

9:00 AM End-of-Life Planning Wkshop, Parish Hall
6:00 PM End-of-Life Planning Wkshop, Parish Hall
7:00 PM Knights of Columbus Meeting, Library

Wed., Dec. 6

8:00 AM SBIB Contractor Mtg, Rectory Mtg. Rm.

5:45 PM Dinner for Exalt, Parish Hall

6:30 PM Exalt, Sanctuary
8:00 PM Men's Group, Library

Thu., Dec. 7

8:30 AM-10:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration, Sanctuary

9:30 AM Bible Study, Library

5:00-5:20 PM Confessions

5:30 PM Immaculate Conception Holy Day Mass

Fri., Dec. 8

6:30-6:50 AM Confessions

7:00 AM Immaculate Conception Holy Day Mass

Parish Office Closed

Sat Dec 9

5:00-7:00 PM Cookie Walk, Parish Hall

Sun., Dec. 10

8:10 AM Lauds (Morning Prayer), Sanctuary

9:30-11:30 AM Cookie Walk, Parish Hall

10:15 AM Sunday School

Coming Up!

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Dec. 9 & 10	Retired Religious Special Collection	Dec. 24 JPM, 10 I	PM Christmas Eve Masses (Holyday)
Dec. 9 & 10	Annual Cookie Walk	Dec. 25 9AM	Christmas Day Mass (Holyday)
Dec. 12 4:30PM	Faith Formation Board Mtg.		Parish Office Closed
Dec. 13 7AM	Buildings & Grounds Mtg.	Dec. 27	Fr. Vasek's Birthday!
Dec. 14 6PM	Christmas Program	Jan. 36:30PM	Exalt. Dinner @5:45

Dec. 14 6PM Christmas Program Jan. 3 6:30PM Exalt, Dinner @5.45

Dec. 15 3rd-5th Grade Advent Penance Service Jan. 13-14 Cross-Catholic Outreach Masses
Dec. 16 9AM-4PM Confessions on the hour Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday

Dec. 16 9AM-4PM Confessions on the hour Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday
Dec. 20 7AM Finance Council Mtg. Mar. 30 Easter Vigil

From the Desk of Fr. Vasek

Greetings,

Please consider coming to one of the Catholic United Financial (CUF) presentations this Tuesday (both are the same, so come to either one). Many people have many questions about Catholic healthcare directives, funeral planning, legacy gifts, etc. I know many families who find themselves in confusing or stressful situations regarding these kinds of topics, so I am very grateful that CUF is able to assist us in this way.

Our Masses for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary are at 5:30PM on Thursday and 7:00AM Friday. The parish office and school will be closed on December 8th in observance of the holy day of obligation. I've mentioned before that holy days of obligation carry the same force of law as Sundays, meaning we are obliged to attend Holy Mass. Here is the language from the Code of Canon Law.

Canon 1246: Sunday, on which by apostolic tradition the paschal mystery is celebrated, must be observed in the universal Church as the primordial holy day of obligation. The following days must also be observed: the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Epiphany, the Ascension, the Body and Blood of Christ, Holy Mary the Mother of God, her Immaculate Conception, her Assumption, and All Saints (I removed St Joseph and Sts. Peter and Paul – even though they are listed in Canon Law, the USA removed them as obligatory).

Canon 1247: On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in Mass. Moreover, they are to abstain from those works and affairs which hinder the worship to be rendered to God, the joy proper to the Lord's day, or the suitable relaxation of mind and body.

I hope that your Advent preparations for the great feast of Christmas are filled with many blessings. To assist your spiritual preparations, I will be in the confessional on December 16th, every hour, on the hour. I will arrive to the confessional 5 minutes before the top of each hour 9am-4pm, and will remain in the confessional until I've finished hearing the confessions of those who come on the hour. I will then return 5 minutes before the top of the next hour. So, if you come on the hour, you can prepare in a short line. If you come in the midst of the hour, if there is still a line, you can join it. If I had already finished that group, I will return before the top of the next hour. This has worked well in other places. Since sometimes a limited offering of confessions doesn't work, this allows a person to pick anytime that works throughout the entire day (9am-4pm).

Grace and Peace.

Father Vasek

Dec 9 and 10 Weekend Ministry Schedule

Ministry	Sat 5PM Mass	Sun 9AM Mass
Accompanist	Kristi Lasalle	Jim Dahlstrom
Cantor	Pat Sagsveen	Beth Zerr
Hospitality	Aiden Eidelbes Gerard Novak Gale Schmitz Bruce Skalsky	Lee Genereux Rick Reierson Robert Wald Kevin Yaggie
Sacristan	Charlie Vogel	Jill Kruta
Ministry Captain	Dave Bennett	Misty Mehrkens
ЕМНС	Mark Thune Jean Janisch	Randy Malo Paulette Holthusen
Lector	Jacob Rath	Joan Lubitz
Commentator	Samuel Rath	Marcus Langevin
Alter Servers	Isaac Rath	Karter Dallman
Technology	Jeremy Williams	VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Faith Formation

Religious Education Schedule

December 6 - EXALT - Pizza & Brownies at 5:45 pm

December 10 – 10:15 am Sunday School

December 13-6:30 pm Grades 6 & 8 RE

December 17 – 10:15 am Sunday School

December 20-6:30 pm Grades 6 & 7 RE

December 24 & 31 - No Sunday School

December 27-No Middle School Religious Ed.

January 3 – EXALT – 5:45 pm Pizza

January 7-10:15 am Sunday School

January 10-Grades 6 & 8 RE

January 14-10:15 am Sunday School

January 17-Grades 6 & 7 RE

Contact Margaret Rasmussen if you have questions.

Margaret.Rasmussen@stbernardstrf.com

Exalt: December 6

Exalt is an opportunity to step out of our busy lives and rest in the refuge of the Heart of Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament through preaching, guided prayer and music.

Fr. Bryan Kujawa will be preaching this month. Dinner begins at 5:45 PM in the parish hall and preaching begins at 6:30 PM in the Church. All are invited.



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 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 https://charlievogel.podbean.com/ or search 'St. Bernard's TRF' wherever you listen to podcasts.

Youth News

We are still reliving and reflecting on our time at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis a few weeks ago. Here is one of the many testimonials from our own youth that attended NCYC.



"NCYC 2023 still has me speechless. When people ask how the trip went, I struggle to find the words to explain and respond. Encountering the Lord with friends and thousands of other youth is a feeling like none other. The energy in the stadium was electric as the screams for

Jesus echoed throughout. There is no way for me to pick just one moment from the trip that was my favorite. There were so many favorites life-long lessons learned and memories made. However, my favorite things that I was able to experience at NCYC were pouring out our hearts in praise and worship, sitting front row at the closing mass, which Bishop Cozzens led, and listening to Bishop Joeseph Espaillat so passionately teach and lead us in adoration with 12,000 other youth, making new friends and building on the friendships I already had. NCYC is an amazing way to build your relationship with God as a youth and I highly recommend it." ~Rebecca Vogel, Junior

6th ANNUAL COOKIE WALK: Let the youth take care of all your holiday baking needs with our Cookie Walk! Saturday, December 9th from 6:00-8:00pm and Sunday, December 10th from 10:00am-Noon (or until supplies last). All proceeds help fund traveling and activity expenses for the St. Bernard's Youth Group. For those of you who would like to participate in the baking and making of Christmas goodies, please go to https://bit.ly/StBCookieWalk to sign up. Our goal is to have at least 100 dozen baked goods to ensure the Cookies Walk is a success. For any questions, please contact Laura Williams lionlaura5m11@gmail.com or Sarah Vogel csvo-gel@gmail.com



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 or call the parish office.

Stewardship

Sunday Stewardship

November 25 & 26, 2023

Weekly Offertory Budget \$11,231.00 Weekly Offertory Total \$10,425.00

Fiscal Year-To-Date Budget (Through Nov) \$242,407 Fiscal Year-To-Date Total (Through Nov) \$234,736

St. Bernard's Building Campaign

Pledged to Date: \$ 3,483,984.59 Received to Date: \$ 3,146,387.20



Online Giving



St. Bernard's Church offers an online giving option. Through Our Sunday Visitor you can set-

up automatic payments, skipping the need for weekly offering envelopes. You can also give to the school and other needs of the parish. Scan the QR code to sign-up or visit the website for more information.

Recommended Gifting Distribution

As percentage of total income.

Parish 5% Diocese 3% Other Giving 2%

Diocesan Annual Appeal

Help us reach our goal!

St. Bernard's has donated/pledged \$42,890.00 with 146 parish donors participating as of November 2, 2023.

St. Bernard's goal for this year is \$49,448.00. Help St. Bernard's reach our goal by donating online at www.crookston.org/onlinegiving/daa

Thank you to all that have participated!





Calling all snowbirds!

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

Prayer Intentions

Parish Prayer List

Jackie Hunt, Matthew Kaiser, Kaelyn Diaz, Roger Amundson, Ron Winter, John Sherack, Tom Super, Mary Hemstreet, Jim Breth, Robert Walrath, Elliana Rose Viktora, Donna Brouse, 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

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

Pope Francis' Intentions for December

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

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. 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

The St. Bernard's Adoration Society (S.B.A.S.) is a parish organization that exists to foster the Eucharistic devotional life of the Faithful.

The Church wholeheartedly believes that the Blessed Sacrament is the source and summit of Christian life. It is from this conviction that St. Padre Pio once said: "it is easier for the earth to exist without the sun, than without the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass." The SB.A.S. invites all parishioners to experience the awesome reality of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

Bishop Cozzens has a goal of establishing 7 Perpetual Adoration Chapels throughout the Diocese of Crookston. As our Adoration Chapel comes closer to completion, the S.B.A.S. wants ours to be the first Perpetual Adoration Chapel in the Diocese. To make this happen, we need adorers for each of the 168 hours of the week when the chapel opens around Easter. Please consider committing to spending an hour with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. There will be a great need for adorers during the overnight hours, particularly men.

If you would like more information, please contact Norm at the parish office (218) 681–3571.



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 Eucha-

rist. 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

SCRIP GIFT CARDS

RaiseRight (Scrip) gift cards are available for purchase. This is a great idea for holiday giving and to support St. Bernard's School!

Watch for the red toolbox in the gathering space after Mass or contact the St. Bernard's School office!

LITURGICAL VESTMENTS

The Maniple

The maniple is a decorated piece of folded cloth optionally worn on the priest's left arm during Mass, and matches the color of the other liturgical vestments. It's origin was likely at Rome in the 6th century. It is not entirely clear on its original purpose, but it was likely a practical garment used to wipe sweat off of the priest's brow. Over time the maniple began to take on additional spiritual symbolism. It is common to connect the vestment symbolically to the bonds that tied the hands of Christ (John 18:12). When putting on the maniple the prayer prayed by the priest adds additional symbolism representing the cares and sorrows of life which are to be borne with patience: "May I deserve, O Lord, to bear the maniple of weeping and sorrow, in order that I may joyfully reap the reward of my labors." (See Psalm 126).





As we begin Advent we are called to "Be watchful! Be alert" as we stand in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives

Giving to St Bernards' SVDP helps your neighbor who is hungry, hopeless and frightened know that they belong to God.



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.



Advent Giving Tree

Select a symbol from the tree, and write the symbol number, item, and your name and phone number on the sheet provided. Return your donation/gift with the symbol taped to it to the Church before December 13. Place gifts under the Giving Tree or drop them off at the parish office. *Please wrap Sweatshirts and toys and tape the symbol on the outside of the gift. DO NOT wrap food items! Monetary donations can be placed in an envelope provided and dropped off at the parish office or mail it. Thank you for participating in our Parish Advent Project!

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 <a href="style="style-type: style-type: style-type:



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.

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

2024 Special Collection Dates

Jan. 21	Church in Africa
Feb. 18	Black and Indian Mission
Mar. 10	Catholic Relief Services
Apr. 28	Catholic Home Missions Appeal
May 19	Catholic Communications/Catholic
	$U_{niversity}$
Jun. 16	Retired Priests
Jul. 14	Peter's Pence (Holy Father)
Sep. 8	Latin America
Oct. 20	World Mission Sunday
Nov. 24	Catholic Campaign for Human Development
Dec.1	St. Mary's Mission Appeal
Dec. 8	Retired Religious

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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!

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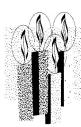
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Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Holyday of Obligation

St. Bernard's Mass Times

Thursday, Dec. 7 @ 5:30 pm

Friday, Dec. 8 @ 7:00 am



Knights of Columbus Our Lady of Lourdes



Council #4619 - November 2023

Our next council meeting - 7:00pm December 5th Brother Knights,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and good.

State Special Olympics Bowling Tournament



This month the Knights of Columbus state council sponsored the Special Olympics bowling tournament here in Thief River at The South Town Lanes Pizza and Pub. There was a good number of athletes who participated.

Pictured are Randy Malo, Dan

DeCrans, our state deputy, Bill Fogarty and Bob Buresh

Holy Mass for our Deceased Brother **Knights and Turkey Bingo**

The Holy Mass for our brother knights was held on Tuesday afternoon, November 14th at 5:30 pm. Father Rick Lambert presided. We remembered and prayed for all of our brother Knights who have passed, in particular the ones within the last year. A resolution of condolences was presented to the families of each deceased member. Afterwards there was lasagna supper and bingo games for turkeys and cash prizes. There was a short film about our founder, Father McGivney, shown during supper. Thank you to Nick Tretter and his wife for preparing the meal.

Building the Domestic Church Kiosk

You may have noticed something new in the gather space of St. Bernards. It is the new book kiosk from the Knights of Columbus. It contains 14 different, easy to read booklets. The Book titles are:

- **Lord Teach Us to Pray**
- The Family Fully Alive
- The Gift of Fatherhood
- **Letters to Families**
- The Good Life Gods Way
- The Family in the Modern World
- **A Spiritual Rosary for the Family**
- **Becoming a Real Man of God**
- **Mary Mother of God**
- **Saint Benedict for Busy Parents**
- St. Joseph Our Father in Faith

- **Gods Plan for Love and Marriage**
- **Into the Breach**
- **Complete My Joy**

These books are very informative. For example, "The Gift of Father hood" talks about what it means to be a Father in the eyes of God and some of the struggles that we as fathers must deal with to keep our children safe from not only physical harm, but also from the harm that social media can cause. Check them out.

December Christmas Supper

Our annual Christmas meeting/dinner is set for Tuesday, December 12 at The Black Cat. Social hour will be at 5, and the meal will start around 6pm. The Menu includes Chicken and ham, parsley potatoes, candied carrots plus some extras. \$20.00 per person including gratuity. Who knows, we may even have some door prizes. Come check it out.

Upcoming meetings

Our next officers' meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5th, with the regular meeting held the following Tuesday, December 12th. This will be a short meeting after our supper at the Black Cat. All members are welcome to come to both meetings. Come and let us know how we can improve our council.

Membership renewal

Membership renewal invoices were sent out this past week. Please get our dues into Carl A.S.A.P. When you do, would you please do me a big favor? Include your updated contact information. Including address, phone and your e-mail address. Supreme has really been after us to update our roster. Fishing derby tickets are also included. That will be planned for February. The Council is still in need of someone to fill the open officer positions. Some are now held by Brother Knights who have filled their responsibilities to the council. One position that needs to be filled is that of treasurer. Please prayerfully consider what your role in the KCs might be.

Thank you.

Randy Malo, Grand Knight

THE REASON FOR

High School Formation Retreats

The Reason for Hope formation retreats are open to youth in grades 9-12 in the Diocese of Crookston.

The Armor of God Equipping Retreat

November 4-5th, 2023
Diocese of Crookston
Pastoral Center
2 PM - 2 PM

Cause of Our Joy Marian Retreat

December 9-10th, 2023
Diocese of Crookston
Pastoral Center
2 PM - 2 PM

For more information and to register, visit: www.crookston.org/reasonforhope

Lion and the Lamb Lenten Retreat

February 10-11th, 2024
Diocese of Crookston
Pastoral Center
2 PM - 2 PM





"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

But do this with gentleness and respect."



CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK

Saturday, December 9th

6:00 - 8:00pm

Sunday, December 10th

10:00 am - Noon (or until supplies last)

Create your own assortment of goodies for only \$10/lb or choose from prepackaged items.

Located downstairs in the St. Bernard's Parish Hall

