



ST. BERNARD'S

CATHOLIC CHURCH

3100 HEMPSTEAD TURNPIKE • LEVITTOWN, NEW YORK 11756

A COMMUNITY OF FAITH  HOPE  AND LOVE 



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The Third Sunday of the Season of Advent

December 13, 2015

My Soul rejoices in my Lord!



ST. BERNARD'S

CATHOLIC CHURCH

516-731-4220 Phone/516-731-4355 Fax

Email: Parish@StBernardChurch.org

Website: www.StBernardsLevittown.org

PASTORAL TEAM

Father Ralph Sommer, Pastor

Shepherd@StBernardChurch.org

ext. 130

Father Joe Nohs, Associate Pastor

FrNohsBest@StBernardChurch.org

ext. 128

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Deacon James Flannery

DeaconJim@StBernardChurch.org

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Father Joy Varkey, Resident Priest

JVarkey@DRVC.org

ext. 124

Father Andres Fernandez, Resident Priest

ext. 131

Mrs. Susan Martin, Director of Religious Education

RelEd@StBernardChurch.org

516-731-8511 Phone/516-731-7860 Fax

The Religious Education Center is closed on Fridays.

Sr. Christine Sammons, O.P.,

Coordinator of Parish Social Ministry

PSM@StBernardChurch.org

516-731-6074

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skropac@stbernardchurch.org

Mrs. Mary Jane Witte, Director of Liturgical Music

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Ms. Diane Vella, Pastoral Associate

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Mrs. Rose Marie Rotondo, Sacristan

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516-731-4220

Mr. Len Lanzi, Facilities Manager

ext. 120

Mr. Dimas Carbajal, Head of Maintenance

Maintenance@StBernardChurch.org

ext. 126

Would you like to join our vibrant community of Faith, Hope and Love at St. Bernard's? Sign-up and get to know us at one of our monthly New Parishioner Registration and Welcome evenings! For information, call the parish office at 516-731-4220, or download a form from our website www.StBernardsLevittown.org. Click on "Join St. Bernard's Parish" on the left side of the home page form. If you move away, please notify us as well.

MISSION STATEMENT

*With faith, hope, and love the people of
St. Bernard's parish family are on a mission
to bring the gospel of Jesus
to the Levittown Community and beyond.*

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Schedule of Masses:

Saturday: 8:00 am and 5:00 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am (Family Mass), 10:30 am,
12 Noon, 5:30 pm (Youth Mass)

Weekdays: 8:00 am

Holy Days: see website: www.StBernardsLevittown.org

Confessions:

Saturday: 4:00 - 5:00 pm. Weekdays: After the 8:00 am Mass

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Novena and Benediction:

Monday: Check schedule on page 5.

Morning Prayer:

Monday through Saturday 8:30 am, Prayer Room. Books are available.

Baptism of Children: We welcome infants and children to our Christian community! Baptisms are held on select Sundays at 1:30 pm. **Please contact the parish at least 3 months before an anticipated baptism – even before a new child is born – to ensure enough time to complete the baptism preparation process.** Our three-step preparation process includes: 1) at-home reading and preparation by the parents; 2) an intake conversation with a member of our parish staff; and 3) participation with other parents in a Sunday morning gathering, which begins with attendance at our 9:00 am "Family-friendly" Mass. Please call 731-4220 or e-mail parish@StBernardChurch.org to request a Baptism information and preparation packet.

Marriages: Church arrangements should be made at least 6 months before the marriage and before making any contracts with restaurants or caterers. Please call the Rectory to set up an appointment with a priest, 731-4220.

Ministry to the Sick and Aging: If you are, or know of someone who is homebound and would like to receive Holy Communion, please call the rectory at 731-4220.

St. Vincent De Paul Society: 735-3218

Usher Coordinator: John Lyons (516) 390-5150 or

Jlyons8234@gmail.com



Go tell it on the Website

E-mail Father Ralph: shepherd@StBernardChurch.org

Bring the "Baby Jesus"

Next Week

This week find the "Baby Jesus" from your home manger set and get ready to bring it to Mass next weekend. After each of the Masses we'll go to our outdoor manger in a procession and bless the statues of the infant. It's just a way to connect what's happening at home to what's happening to us as a larger community of faith. This is a wonderful experience especially for children and grandchildren.

Lessons and Carols

Next Sunday we're also celebrating the coming of Jesus with a service of "Lessons" (that is, readings) and Carols. It will be at 2:30 in the church. Come listen to God's Word and to our different choirs as a joyful way to prepare for Christ's coming. This is not a Mass and we encourage you to invite friends and neighbors who are and who aren't Catholic to join in this festive celebration.

One of my favorite Christmas songs is : "Go Tell it on the Mountain", the African American hymn written in 1865 whose chorus is,

***"Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born."***

This song helps us to realize the real meaning of Christmas. For Christmas might begin with "O come all ye faithful to Bethlehem", but if all we do is pray at the manger and think we've fulfilled our Christian duty, then we've missed the point of Christmas. Christmas is about going out everywhere and witnessing to Jesus's mercy, love, forgiveness, healing, peace and hope.

These days "everywhere" involves the internet. Parishes like St. Bernard's have had websites for at least a decade now and we know that 85 percent of people visiting our website and looking at it on mobile devices, not on their home or work computer. So it is time for an upgrade to our website and the way in which we use the internet. Starting NEXT week, a new St. Bernard's website will appear when you go to www.stbernardchurch.org. It should work well on mobile devices and we're designing the content to be more informative and descriptive of what happens in our parish.

Here's what you'll find on our new site:

- Up to the minute news about events at the parish. If a program is cancelled due to bad weather you can read it here first.
- A calendar of events throughout the year. Plan on attending some of the great spiritual and social experiences in our parish.
- Connection to staff members
- Lots of interactive forms for when you want to register for an event or ask a question
- Comments from parishioners about why they are involved in different ministries. These are meant to inspire you to get involved.
- A new weekly blog with some latest news and a reflection written by different members of our staff.

You can also get the Blog sent directly to your e-mail when it is published each week. It's easy to sign up for this service by clicking on the "Sign up to Get Email" button at the bottom of the page. So check out our new website next week and explore what it has to offer.

Father Ralph



PARISH NEWS

Miraculous Medal Novena

There will be **no evening Novena** on **Monday, December 21**. Instead, Novena will take place after the 8:00 am Mass.



St. Bernard's Rosary Confraternity Christmas Luncheon

Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 12pm - 3pm

Price: \$25.00 per person

Place: Oak Chalet, 1940 Bellmore Avenue, Bellmore, New York 11710

Door Prizes and 50/50. For more information, please call Pat Kahl 516-644-5604. All women of the parish are invited.

Ushers And Usherettes Needed

Men and women are desperately needed to usher for all Masses. If you are available to usher, please contact our **Usher Coordinator-John Lyons** at **516-390-5150**. We would appreciate and welcome any volunteers and thank you for the giving of your time and talents.



Are **YOU**

the salt of the earth?

Table salt enhances the flavor of food.

Our **SALT** is a new ministry that seeks

to enhance the lives of the

I ♥ SALT Sick Aging Lonely Tired

through little acts of kindness

(ex. a telephone call, a card, a visit, a pat on the back).

Would you like to join us and be a "Salt Shaker"?

Do you know of someone that we can serve?

Please call Bob Foley at 735-3278.



GIFTS OF TREASURE

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

December 6, 2015

\$ 14,915.10

634 envelopes

December 7, 2014

\$ 15,831.55

658 envelopes

Faith Direct

\$ 2,322.25

\$ 2,183.52

Total Collection

\$ 17,237.35

\$ 18,015.07

Capital Campaign

Goal: \$1,000,000.00

Pledged: \$1,199,925.00

Collected to date: \$1,068,322

Please **continue** to fulfill your pledge commitment so that all of the planned projects can be accomplished.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Faith Direct

Have you enrolled yet?

www.faithdirect.net Code = NY272



PARISH CALENDAR *(Subject to change)*

Monday, December 14

7:30 pm Miraculous Medal Novena, *Church*

7:30 pm "Ten Things", *Parish Center*

Tuesday, December 15

12Noon Rosary Confraternity Christmas Luncheon

10:00 am Our Lady of Consolation, *Parish Center*

2:00 pm Zumba Gold, *Parish Center*

6:00 pm Religious Award Boy Scout Troop 316, *Cafeteria*

6:15 pm Children's Choir Practice, *Parish Center*

7:00 pm Boy Scout 316 Meeting, *Cafeteria*

7:00 pm Spanish Rosary, *Prayer Room*

7:00 pm Vivitrol Support Group, *School Room 209*

7:30 pm AA Meeting, *School Room 207*

7:30 pm Adult Choir Concert Rehearsal, *Church*

7:30 pm Welcome Orientation, *Parish Center*

Wednesday, December 16

3:45 pm Levittown UFSD Memorial Mass

4:45 pm Levittown UFSD Memorial Mass

Reception

7:30 pm Advent Evening of Prayer, *Church*



MASS INTENTIONS

This listing may not reflect recent changes or additions.

Monday, December 14	
8:00 am	A Mass of Thanksgiving
Tuesday, December 15	
8:00 am	Walter Stack
Wednesday, December 16	
8:00 am	Eugene Tiefenwerth
Thursday, December 17	
9:00 am	Mylrairie Vieux- <i>Living</i>
Friday, December 18	
8:00 am	Joseph Nash, Jr.
Saturday, December 19	
8:00 am	Members of the Ministry of Consolation, Juanita Dones, Vincenza Rossetti
5:00 pm	Frances and John Thomann
Sunday, December 20	
7:30 am	Judie Lynch - <i>4th Anniversary</i>
9:00 am	For all parishioners
10:30 am	Donna Anderson, Judson "Buddy" Posa, Eugene Lynch, Anita Paguibitan Saitta
12 Noon	Eleanor Lanzi and Robert Trabucco
5:30 pm	Kathryn Smith

PARISH CALENDAR *(Subject to change)*

7:30 pm	Folk Group, <i>Off-site</i>
8:00 pm	Bread of Life Prayer Group, <i>Parish Center</i>
Thursday, December 17	
9:00 am	Zumba Gold, <i>Parish Center</i>
10:00 am	Shawl Ministry, <i>Parish Center</i>
2:15 pm	St. Vincent Meeting, <i>Clairvaux House</i>
6:30 pm	Most Holy Trinity Novena, <i>Prayer Room</i>
Friday, December 18	
2:00 pm	Stroke Support, <i>Parish Center</i>
7:30 pm	Book Pilgrimage, <i>Parish Center</i>
7:30 pm	Cub Scout Pack 318 Pack Night, <i>Cafeteria</i>
Saturday, December 19	
10:30 am	Special Education Christmas Celebration, <i>Parish Center</i>
11:00 am	Women's AA Meeting, <i>Cafeteria</i>
Sunday, December 20	
2:30 pm	Festival of Lessons and Carols, <i>Church</i>
6:30 pm	Youth Ministry Meeting, <i>YM Room</i>
8:00 pm	AA Meeting, <i>Cafeteria</i>



SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the parish the following new members:

<i>Camille Adeline Calma</i>	<i>Anthony Joseph Cull</i>
<i>Angelina Sally McCalla</i>	<i>Aiden James Molz</i>
<i>Conor James Pletka</i>	<i>Richard James Postiglione</i>
<i>Daniel Jacob Ruiz</i>	

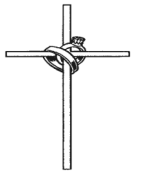
Congratulations to the happy parents.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Third Time

Scott Neal, St. Bernard Parish, Levittown

Susan de los Angeles Guadamuz Gomez,
St. Bernard Parish, Levittown



FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

<i>Steve Bryan</i>	<i>Fr. James Christie S.J.</i>	<i>Ed Costello</i>
<i>Bill Hall</i>	<i>Deborah McGinn</i>	<i>Della Dorn Rice</i>
<i>Mark Thomas</i>		

*All names will remain on the list for 4 weeks after you call in.
After that time we ask, if necessary, to call again.
Thank you for cooperating and God bless all.*

Please pray for all those on our Long-term Sick List

<i>Baby Mason Francis Combs</i>		
<i>Susan Arena</i>	<i>Arlene Barsch</i>	<i>Irene Boyce</i>
<i>Jean Caprera</i>	<i>Rosemary Clark</i>	<i>Roberta Curran</i>
<i>Richard DeLaRosa</i>	<i>Monica DeLaRosa</i>	<i>Harold Encizo</i>
<i>Jim Finlan</i>	<i>Kathleen Flaherty</i>	<i>Teresita Gallego</i>
<i>Colleen Grasing</i>	<i>John Guiffre</i>	<i>Mike Hach</i>
<i>Patricia Hafner</i>	<i>Carolyn Hakim</i>	<i>Donald Hall</i>
<i>Suzanne Hanna</i>	<i>Annette Hannon</i>	<i>Cynthia Hansen</i>
<i>Donna Hare</i>	<i>John Hartofil</i>	<i>Judy Hupfer</i>
<i>Gervas Ignacio</i>	<i>Vicki Jacona</i>	<i>Steve Jugan</i>
<i>Jerome W. Kalkhof</i>	<i>Amanda Kuck</i>	<i>Tia Mabanta</i>
<i>Andrew Mahoney</i>	<i>William McDonagh</i>	<i>Teresa McDonald</i>
<i>Mary McLean</i>	<i>Mary Messina</i>	<i>Irmgard Montanino</i>
<i>Kerri Orlando</i>	<i>Johnny Perdue</i>	<i>Rosina Perri</i>
<i>Raymond Pfiefer</i>	<i>Catherine Pipinou</i>	<i>Joan Rampolla</i>
<i>Fred Rappa</i>	<i>Laureen Quinn-Sturge</i>	<i>Deanne Reilly</i>
<i>Federico Rueda</i>	<i>Terri Saccente</i>	<i>Eve Saint</i>
<i>Thomas Saint</i>	<i>Keith Sessa</i>	<i>Terry Sherwood</i>
<i>Joseph Smithwick, Sr.</i>	<i>Norma Steiger</i>	<i>Marina Suazo</i>
<i>Liberty Tabag</i>	<i>David Testa</i>	<i>Rosalie Travers</i>
<i>Donna Vollaro</i>	<i>Theresa Votta</i>	<i>Ann "Dolores" Walsh</i>
<i>Pat Welisher</i>	<i>Charles Yevoli</i>	

PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED DECEASED AND THOSE WHO MOURN FOR THEM

<i>Gerard Beatty</i>	<i>Juanita Collazo-Dones</i>
<i>Jacqueline P. Felton</i>	<i>Margaret Taggart</i>



By Diane Vella

A few years back, a local cable news program that shall go unnamed ran a feature that they called “The 12 Days of Christmas.” They ran it the 12 days leading up to December 25. The owner of the station that carried this news program was a practicing Catholic, and as was his habit, showed up in Church on Sunday, which happened to be “the third day of Christmas” according to the feature on his cable news program.

A priest at the parish had seen the feature, and had prepared a homily that included a reference to it, because he was concerned that people were getting the wrong impression about the Christmas season from the program. *You can see this coming:* the station owner happened to come to one of the Masses that this particular priest was preaching at. When the priest spotted him in the assembly, he thought twice about mentioning the “12 Days” feature, as the station owner was quite a big contributor to the parish. *The pastor would NOT be happy if this parishioner was offended!!*

But, the priest was determined. So, taking a deep breath, he explained that from the Christian point of view, Christmas is a 12-day season that BEGINS at nightfall on December 24, and ends at nightfall on January 6, the traditional celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany. He explained the marvel of those days, when Christians are called to ponder all the different aspects of the awesome mystery of Christ’s coming: his birth, his human family, the role of Mary as “Mother of God,” and his revelation as the savior and healer of the whole world as told in the story of the Magi. He urged people to celebrate these days fully, and suggested they might want to write to the station to explain the Christian meaning of the 12 days.

Well, those sitting near the station owner—who was well-known— had looks of either bemusement or terror on their faces. The station owner did not speak to the priest on the way out. But that night, the news anchor announced the feature: “We now present the third day of our special feature, ‘The 12 Days BEFORE Christmas.’”

ADVENT

Advent Evening Prayer

Wed. Dec. 16, 23

7:30 p.m. in Church



Recover some ADVENT PEACE
in the midst of a world that’s forgotten it.

Candlelight, incense, music and
reflective guided meditation in preparation
for Christmas.



Winter Adult Education Preview

AWAKENING FAITH

Informal study/discussion group for Catholics
in their 20s-40s

4 Sat. beginning Jan. 9, 9:00-10:15 a.m. OR

4 Wed. beginning Jan. 13, 7:30-8:45 p.m.

School Youth Ministry Room

ALL ARE WELCOME!

BIBLE STUDY: THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

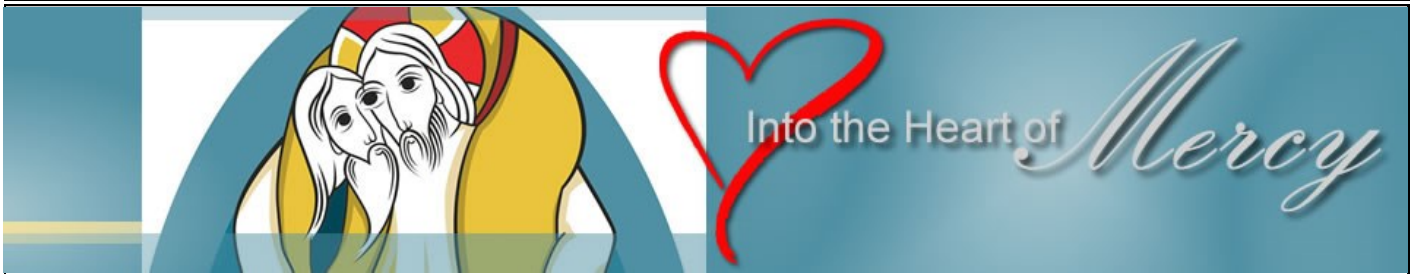
5 Thurs. beginning Jan. 7*, 7:30-9 p.m. OR

5 Fri. beginning Jan. 8*, 10-11:30 a.m.

Parish Center

**First session is introduction to Catholic Bible Study*

Call or e-mail Diane Vella to register:
516-731-4220 or dvella@stbernardchurch.org



St. Bernard's S.O.S.! (Sharing Our Support!)

Pope Francis has proclaimed December 8, 2015-November 20, 2016 A Year of Mercy. In celebration, St. Bernard's will sponsor a series of presentations designed to support families who are facing various challenges in their homes or community.

Wed. Jan. 20—Facing Concerns About Elderly Relatives—Nora Molloy, LCSW

Thurs. Feb. 25—Facing Bullying—Nina Glenn, LCSW

Mar. 14—Facing End-of-Life Issues—Alice O'Shaughnessy, CSJ, MD

Apr. 11—Facing Divorce and Annulment

7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. The Series will continue each month through next November.

Pope Francis asks: “What kind of world do we want to leave to our children?”



Over the course of the next year we will feature some thoughts from one of Pope Francis' talks or homilies. We invite you to think, talk and pray about what it might be saying to you and to our parish about our MISSION as followers of Jesus Christ as we seek with faith, hope and love to bring the Gospel to the Levittown community and beyond.

“We might ask ourselves: How are we trying to live in our homes, in our societies? What kind of world do we want to leave to our children?...May our children find in us men and women capable of joining others in bringing to full flower all the good seeds which the Father has sown!”

From Pope Francis' Homily at the Mass concluding the World Meeting of Families, Philadelphia, September 27, 2015

What kind of world DO you want to leave to your children, and to all children?

What is one thing you can do to contribute to this kind of world?

What will you teach your children about this?



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gaudete Sunday
December 13, 2015

On this Gaudete Sunday, we think of the Sacrament of Penance. In these days leading up to Christmas we want to prepare ourselves for the birth of Christ.

First Reading: On this day of rejoicing as the celebration of the Incarnation draws near, Zephaniah announces hope and declares the people must rejoice because God comes not with judgment but with merciful deliverance.

Canticle: God, the source of all that sustains us, is also the fountain of our salvation. Our rejoicing is heightened all the more because God is not a savior who strikes and then disappears in the night. The refrain reminds us that the God of our salvation is in our midst; here among us is the Holy One of Israel!

Second Reading: Contrary to those who might anticipate the coming of the Lord with trepidation, Philippians exhorts us to abandon fear and worry and surrender instead to joyful prayer. And we are not too shy from making our needs known to God. Peace should characterize our anticipation of Christ's coming—whether at the end of time, at Christmas, or in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Gospel: John's responses are blunt and sparse to those who come asking advice: "Do this -- Don't do that." His confidence is clear and he demonstrates a boldness that is born of his ability to see as God sees. His obvious authority prompts his questioners to ask if he is the Messiah, which he roundly denies by pointing away from himself to one who is more powerful. There is no false humility in his words, and we sense his own longing for the one who will be the Good News he proclaims.

FOR THE RIDE HOME

This feature is for families to share their thoughts as they travel to and from Church.

Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2015



Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

Adults: To whom have your past acts of kindness brought joy? What acts of kindness could you do this week?

Children: What kind thing have you done for someone lately? Whom could you make happy by your kindness this week?



Saint of the Week

Monday, December 14. St. John of the Cross (1542-1591), a Carmelite priest, and Doctor of the Church, is hailed as one of the greatest mystical theologians in Church history. Along with this spiritual friend, St. Teresa of Avila, he set out to reform the Carmelite order to its original spirit—a life of simplicity centered on interior prayer. St. John was persecuted by his Carmelite brothers, eventually imprisoned because his reforms challenged their comfortable lives and indulgence. During his imprisonment he composed a beautiful poem, known as The Dark Night, which expressed his intense desire for God.

Sourcebook 2016



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**Readings for
December 13, 2015 – December 20, 2015**

IT'S NOT TOO SOON TO START !



Sunday, December 13. Third Sunday Of Advent.
Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18.

Monday, December 14. Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17; Psalm 25:4-9; Matthew 21:23-27.

Tuesday, December 15. Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Psalm 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Matthew 21:28-32.

Wednesday, December 16. Isaiah 45:6-8, 18, 21-25; Psalm 85:9-14; Luke 7:18-23.

Thursday, December 17. Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Psalm 72:1-4, 7-8, 17; Matthew 1:1-17.

Friday, December 18. Jeremiah 23:5-8; Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Matthew 1:18-25.

Saturday, December 19. Judges 13:2-7, 24-25; Psalm 71:3-6, 16-17; Luke 1:5-25.

Sunday, December 20. Fourth Sunday of Advent.
Micah 5:1-4; Hebrews 10:5-10; Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Luke 1:39-45.

Daily readings can be found online at the
US Catholic Conference of Bishops website,
www.usccb.org

Catholics For Freedom of Religion - CFFR



"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

America's First Amendment

Countdown to Crisis in Catholic Hospitals, Schools and Charities:

The HHS mandate, under the Affordable Care Act, requires Catholic Institutions to violate their conscience or pay devastating fines.

This term, the Supreme Court will hear the challenge to the mandate brought by scores of religious organizations throughout the country, including the Little Sisters of the Poor, Priests for Life, and the Archdiocese of Washington. A decision is expected in early summer, 2016.

This is a complicated case. The Dept. of Health and Human Services requires the Little Sisters, etc., to sign a two-page form certifying they don't provide contraception, abortion drugs or sterilization to their employees. According to HHS, this signed form will now require the insurance company to provide these services. However, the religious groups say the signed form is the gateway to objectionable services - a gate they refuse to walk through since they would become "complicit in sin." (slate.com, 1/24/14; baltimoresun.com, 3/9/15)

Catholic and other religious based hospitals, universities, charities and schools who will not violate their conscience, would become victim to devastating IRS fines if the Supreme Court rules against them.

The IRS fine for non-compliance with the HHS mandate is **\$100 per day/per employee.**

Estimates of fines:

\$194,000/day - Little Sisters of Poor;
\$530,000/day - Notre Dame University;
\$4,600,000/day - Catholic Charities USA

The late Cardinal George of Chicago predicted that all Catholic hospitals would be bankrupted within two years if they face these fines.

**St. Vincent de Paul:**

During the month of December, we will not be asking for items for the pantry since we have had many donations of food which should carry us through to the New Year.

There are a couple of additions to our Thanksgiving thank you list:

- **Wisdom Lane Elementary School**
- **Winthrop University Hospital Sleep Clinic**

We also received several monetary donations from known and anonymous donors. Thanks to everyone who remembers those who struggle in these difficult economic times!

**The Christmas Giving Tree~~2015:**

Thanks to everyone who took a tag from our Giving Tree. Because we hope to distribute the gifts to our families on Saturday, December 19th, and sorting takes lots of time, we would appreciate receiving your gift no later than tomorrow, Monday, December 13th.

In case you still want to provide a gift:

- ❖ take a tag
- ❖ purchase the gift
- ❖ wrap it
- ❖ attach the tag (securely)
- ❖ and return the gift to our office,

no later than December 13th

so we can prepare the gifts for our families (for distribution on Saturday, December 19th.)

Please do not leave gifts in the food bin, and if you purchase a gift card, you may put it in the collection basket at Mass. It will find its way to us! Thanks for your consistent generosity!

Thanks from Ethical Friends of Children:

Jim LoPresti is our contact with Ethical Friends of Children in Garden City. This is an excerpt from his letter of thanks:

Dear Charitable KIDZ: "You outdid yourselves! Many children will have a warm winter because of you. We have parents who come to us in the coldest weather wearing summer clothes with their babies dressed in pajamas because they cannot afford proper clothing. Those babies will be wearing the coats you have given them. Your work is a most noble ministry! I know you do this without any expectation in return, but my wish for you is that the blessings bestowed on our families through your wonderful work will be returned many times over..."

Can you help?

One of our senior parishioners has been walking to the 12:00 Sunday Mass. As winter approaches, her daughter, who lives out of state, is concerned for her safety. She lives just off Shelter Lane. If you might be willing to drive her to and from church on occasion, please call our office. Thanks!

Christmas Schedule:

If you are a regular visitor to our office or to the pantry, please note that we will **be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. On December 28, 29, 30 we will be open from 10:00 a.m. to noon.** We hope you can adjust your visits accordingly. Thanks!



**Come Celebrate
Advent and Christmas!**

**Festival of
Lessons and Carols
and
Christmas Crèche
Blessing**

A service of music and readings featuring
St. Bernard's Children's, Youth, Folk and Adult Choirs
followed by

Blessing of St. Bernard's Outdoor Christmas Crèche

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20,
2:30 P.M. IN THE CHURCH**

Bring the whole family!
Hot chocolate and cookies for all follow!!



Please check our website, www.stbernardslevittown.org or our
Facebook page www.facebook.com/stbernardslevittown for
our complete Christmas season service schedule.





Reflection for the Third Week of Advent...In the midst of our troubled world, we have God's promise that the best is yet to come. Pope Francis in his apostolic exhortation "The Joy of the Gospel" reminds us to live in joy rather than discouragement. In today's second reading from Philippians, we read ... "have no anxiety at all.....the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." We strive to put aside our troubles and become "other-centered."

The third Sunday of Advent is Dec. 13th. Traditionally this is called "Gaudete Sunday", the Sunday to rejoice. Even though Advent still has a penitential flavor we are called to be glad because God DOES dwell among us. A rose or pink candle is lit in the Advent Wreath as a reminder also that Christmas is near. Do you sense an awareness of Christ during Advent?

For your domestic church....

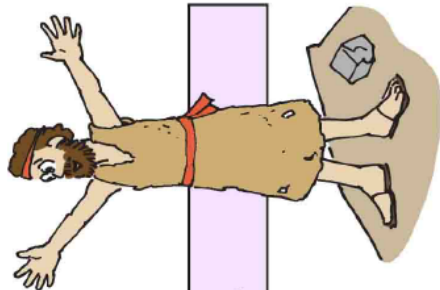
- ❖ Perhaps now is the time to set out lights on or around your home as a reminder that Christ, the Light of the World, is indeed coming to bring us hope and joy in this dark time of year. Explain to your children why many choose to honor Christ this way.
- ❖ Set up a small container near your empty manger and plant wheat or grass seeds. By Christmas eve, they will have grown and can be placed in the crib for the Christ child.
- ❖ Think of gifts for your children and others that they could learn from, that have a religious meaning or homemade gifts. Aim not to buy war toys or violent computer games that contradict the message of our Prince of Peace.
- ❖ Make a conscious effort to listen to your children, neighbors, or parishioners. Avoid the temptation to interrupt rather listen with a compassionate and sincere heart. You may not have the answers but most of us need someone who cares to listen with our ears and hearts. Pope Francis asks us "to encounter others with the right attitude, which is to accept and esteem them along the way."
- ❖ Bring your family to our parish choir concert on Dec. 20th for inspiring music of the season and hot chocolate at 2:30pm in our church.

Advent Wreath Prayer

Third Week of Advent: Jesus, you are the "Light of the World. You show us what God is like and that we have great expectations of wonderful thing to come. Help us to bring the gifts of our smiles, hope and joy to others as we await Your coming. Amen.



John preached
the Good News of Jesus
to the people.



Transfer the letters.

D G O O
G O O D S
N E W S
E W N S


Children's Worship Bulletin™

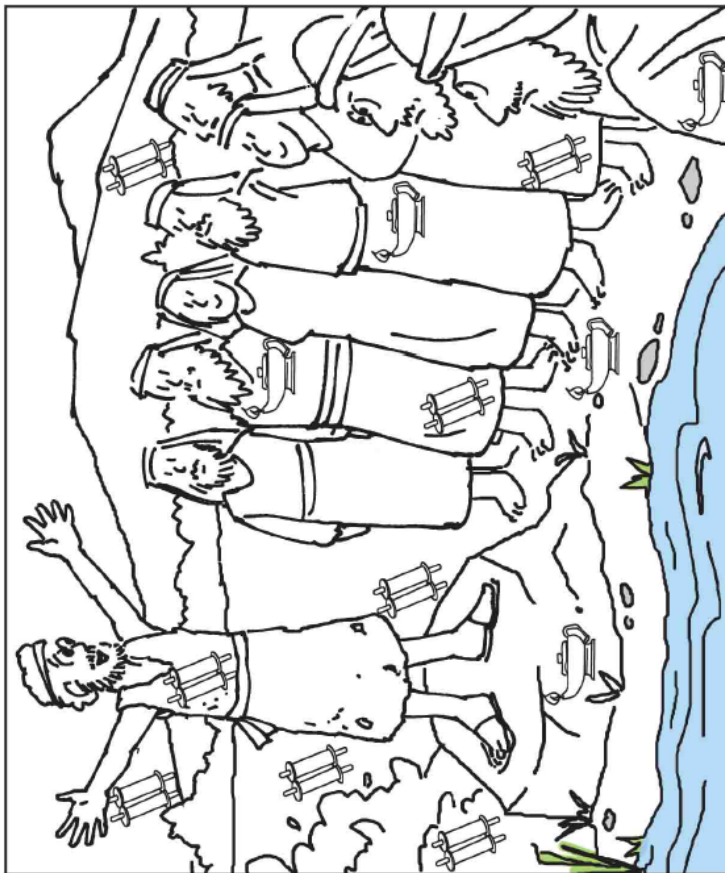
Ages 3-6

December 13, 2015 • Luke 3:7-18

John Preaches Good News

Many people came
to hear John's message.

Count the hidden objects. 7 or 8 ?  5 or 6 ?



John told the people to prepare themselves for the Lord.

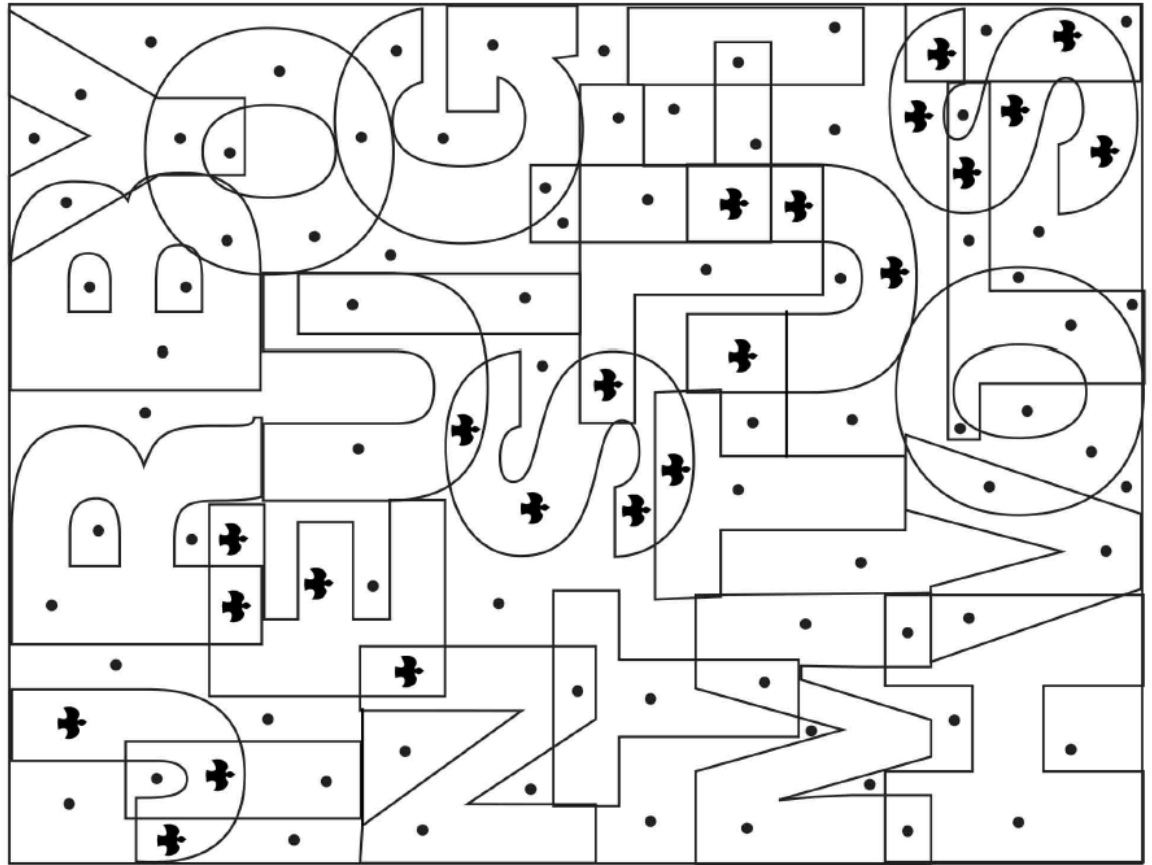
Connect the dots.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15



John said, "One will come after me."

Shade in the shapes with ♣ to learn who was coming.





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HOLY INNOCENTS COUNCIL

HOLY INNOCENTS COUNCIL PRESENTS
IT'S ANNUAL
CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 13 - 10 am - 1 pm

**Picture with Santa, fun and food
for the children.**

**Have your Children/
Grandchildren come join us
as we celebrate the Reason for
the Season.**



Please bring 1 wrapped toy for
Santa to give your child and
1 unwrapped toy which we will
donate to a child.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS!

Sign up Sheet at the Council

Food will be provided for the children,
adults can stay with their child.

**HOLY INNOCENTS COUNCIL
NEW YEARS EVE PARTY**



Thursday, December 31 - 8 pm to ???

**Dinner, Dancing, DJ, Open Bar
\$30 per person**

Come join us
as we welcome in 2016 with our
Holy Innocents Family.



2016

Sign up Sheet at the Council

If you didn't get your "**Keep Christ In Christmas**" car Magnets -
we have a limited supply left of the English and Spanish
versions. They are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Stop by Holy Innocents
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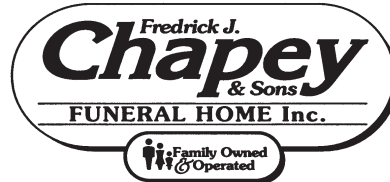


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