



ST. BERNARD'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

3100 HEMPSTEAD TURNPIKE • LEVITTOWN, NEW YORK 11756

A COMMUNITY OF FAITH



HOPE



AND LOVE



Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

April 8, 2018

Give thanks to God!



ST. BERNARD'S

CATHOLIC CHURCH

516-731-4220 Phone/516-731-4355 Fax
Email: Parish@StBernardChurch.org
Website: www.StBernardChurch.org

PASTORAL TEAM

Father Ralph Sommer, Pastor
Shepherd@StBernardChurch.org
ext. 130

Father Joe Nohs, Associate Pastor
FrNohsBest@StBernardChurch.org
ext. 128

Father Innocent Duru, Chaplain In Residence
onyeduru@yahoo.com

Deacon John Blakeney
DeaconJohn@StBernardChurch.org
516-731-4220

Deacon James Flannery
Aquinas69@gmail.com
516-731-4220

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

Pat McDonough, Director of Youth & Young Adults
pat@stbernardchurch.org
Ext. 144

Mrs. Mary Jane Witte, Director of Liturgical Music
MJWitte@StBernardChurch.org
ext. 142

Ms. Diane Vella, Pastoral Associate
DVella@StBernardChurch.org
ext. 143

Mrs. Rose Marie Rotondo, Sacristan
Sacristan@StBernardChurch.org
516-731-4220

Mr. Len Lanzi, Facilities Manager
facilitiesmanager@stbernardchurch.org
ext. 120

Mr. Dimas Carbajal, Head of Maintenance
Maintenance@StBernardChurch.org
ext. 126

CYO Basketball: email: info@stbernardcyo.org
website: www.stbernardcyo.org

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.stbernardchurch.org. Click on "Join St. Bernard's" on the bottom 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.StBernardChurch.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 4.

Morning Prayer:

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

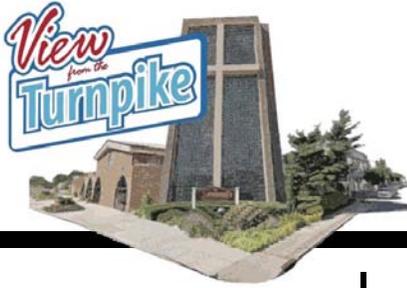
Baptism of Children: *We welcome infants and children to our Christian community!* Baptisms are held on select Sundays at 1:30 pm. **Please contact the parish at least 3 months before an anticipated baptism – even before a new child is born – to ensure enough time to complete the baptism preparation 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



Divine Mercy

E-mail Father Ralph: shepherd@StBernardChurch.org

Easter Thanks

The number one thing I'm thankful for this Easter Season is that Father Joe is back home after a few day's stay in the Hospital. I missed that we couldn't celebrate the Triduum together. But he's recovering -- you can read his message online on our home page or [pages 8-9](#) of this bulletin.

I am also thankful that I recovered from my knee replacement surgery enough to be back in action by Palm Sunday. I'm grateful for all the prayers sent my way over the past six weeks. I'm still not fully recovered, but enough to get back into the swing of things.

I'm also grateful to all who made our Holy Week Celebrations so beautiful and meaningful. I so appreciated the music, the decoration, the proclaiming of God's Word, the fire, smoke, water and oil and all who were involved in these marvelous celebrations.

Thanks to all who were so generous in the Easter collection too.

Now all we need is spring!

In Easter Sunday's gospel we were missing one key person: Jesus himself! The women who went to the tomb were told to tell the apostles to meet him in Galilee -- a three day's walk from Jerusalem. One can only imagine the apprehension, doubt, shame, and anticipation that filled that journey.

Today we discover what happens when Jesus appears to his apostles. Not condemnation, not a long lecture, not a guilt trip. Only one thing: divine mercy. "Peace!" is his first word.

Yet his gift of peace and mercy was not meant for the apostles only. "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them," he tells them. And so he unleashes a great wave of mercy that's meant to wash the world with forgiveness, hope, and peace.

There are three things we can do today on "Divine Mercy Sunday": (1) Ask for God's Mercy. Let us ask God to pour mercy out upon us and upon the whole world. (2) Be merciful. Jesus wants us to receive his mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as he does to us. (3) Completely trust in Jesus. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

Of course a major figure in today's gospel is "doubting Thomas." I always feel badly for Thomas because all we seem to know about him is that he doubted (as if WE'VE never doubted??). I'm sure Jesus saw some other very special qualities in him when he chose him to be an apostle. Alas, these qualities are not recorded in the scriptures. But what if he was also "reliable Thomas," or "welcoming Thomas," or "generous Thomas"? Unfortunately he's remembered for his doubt.

I suppose there's a temptation to think of other people in terms of their most negative qualities. Divine Mercy would invite us to pray about others and reflect on their best qualities and to give thanks to God for the good things. That kind of prayer will help us in the long run to be more patient with the flaws of others and to show more mercy in our attitudes when others disappoint us or frustrate us.

Father Ralph



The Rosary Society will meet in the prayer room of the church on **Monday, April 9th** where we will pray the rosary together. We will continue to pray for peace, our parish family and our own families, Pope Francis, Bishop Barris, Father Ralph, Father Joe, Father Innocent, and all clergy and religious. We always remember our country, its leaders, those in the armed services, and the people who protect us at home. Please remember "For where two or three gather in my name, I am there with them." Matthew 18:20. All women of the parish are welcome. Please try to join us.



St. Bernard's Altar Server & Youth Ministries Annual Spring Flower Sale
 May 5, 2018 12:00pm-7:00pm &
 May 6, 2018 8:00am-7:00pm

St. Bernard's Center for Religious Education
 Level 2 First Communion banner sale will be held **Saturday April 14th** in the Parish center from 9am-11am. Be sure to pick up your child's banner as well.

PARISH CALENDAR (Subject to change)

- Monday, April 9**
- After 8am Mass Miraculous Medal Novena, Church
- 9:30 am DRVC Faith Formation Bereavement, Parish Center
- 12 Noon Rosary Society, Prayer Room
- 1:00 pm Ministry of Consolation, Parish Center
- 2:00 pm Zumba Gold, Parish Center
- 7:00 pm Bereavement Group, Parish Center
- Tuesday, April 10**
- 10:00 am Our Lady of Consolation, Parish Center
- 11:00 am Alzheimer Support Group, Parish Center
- 6:15 pm Children's Choir, Parish Center
- 6:45 pm Boy Scout Troop 316, Cafeteria
- 7:00 pm Spanish Rosary, Prayer Room
- 7:00 pm Vivitrol Support Group, School Room 206
- 7:30 pm AA Meeting, School Room 207
- 7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal, Church



SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| April 1, 2018 | April 2, 2017 |
| \$ 40,362.75 | \$ 14,120.50 |
| 1,281 envelopes | 593 envelopes |
| | <u>Faith Direct</u> |
| \$ 2,776.25 | \$ 2,776.25 |
| | <u>Total Collection</u> |
| \$ 43,139.00 | \$ 16,896.75 |



Faith Direct
Have you enrolled yet?
www.faithdirect.net Code = NY272

PARISH CALENDAR (Subject to change)

- Wednesday, April 11**
- 10:00 am Bereavement, Parish Center
- 2:00 pm Zumba Gold, Parish Center
- 7:00 pm CFFR Meeting, Parish Center
- 8:00 pm Bread of Life Prayer Group, Parish Center
- Thursday, April 12**
- 9:30 am Shawl Ministry, Parish Center
- 1:45 pm St. Vincent De Paul, Clairvaux House
- 7:00 pm Catholic Daughters Meeting, Parish Center
- 7:30 pm Bible Study, Parish Center
- Friday, April 13**
- 10:00 am Bible Study, Parish Center
- 5:30 pm Girl Scouts coordinating with Cub Scouts
- 7:00 pm Cub Scout Pack Night, Cafeteria
- 7:15 pm Most Holy Trinity Prayer Group, Prayer Room
- Saturday, April 14**
- 8:30 am Communion Banner Sale, Parish Center
- 11:00 am Women's AA Meeting, Cafeteria
- 7:30 pm Spanish Mass, Church
- 8:00 pm Spanish Mass Reception, Parish Center
- Sunday, April 15,**
- After all Masses Knights of Columbus Bake Sale, School Lobby
- After all Masses K of C Membership Drive, Outside church
- 9:00 am Baptism Preparation Mass, Church
- 10:00 am Baptism Preparation Gathering, Parish Center
- 10:00 am Youth RCIA, Parish Center
- 4:30 pm Youth Choir Practice, Church
- 6:30 pm Youth Ministry Meeting, Parish Center
- 8:00 pm AA Meeting, Cafeteria



MASS INTENTIONS

This listing may not reflect recent changes or additions.

- Saturday, April 7**
 8:00 am Benedict Rotondo - *Anniversary Remembrance*
 5:00 pm FOR ALL PARISHIONERS
- Sunday, April 8**
 7:30 am Kathleen Walsh
 9:00 am Ann Fattorini
 10:30 am Carmela Bonomo,
 Gloria Fadel,
 Jonathan Paul Schreiber-*Living*
 Edith Sauve
 12:00 pm Living and Deceased Members Holy
 Innocents Council Knights of Columbus
 5:30 pm
- Monday, April 9**
 8:00 am Jack Doherty
- Tuesday, April 10**
 8:00 am Albert Macias
- Wednesday, April 11**
 8:00 am Thanksgiving to the Blessed Mother
- Thursday, April 12**
 8:00 am John Mahoney, Jr
- Friday, April 13**
 8:00 am Michael Hands
- Saturday, April 14**
 8:00 am Marianne Smith,
 Thomas Martin,
 Lynch and Hughes Families,
 5:00 pm Richard Yankowski
- Sunday, April 15**
 7:30 am FOR ALL PARISHIONERS
 9:00 am Louise Franco
 10:30 am Msgr. George Graham,
 Patricia Concannon,
 Catherine L Musumeci,
 Theresa French
 12 Noon Anita Paguibitan Saitta-*Birthday Remembrance*
 5:30 pm Don Gancio



PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Chris Angyal | Candy Auer | Rudie Braithwaite |
| Linda Costello | S. Cotton | Carmen Greico |
| Sr. Margaret Mary Igoe | Irene Lambert | James Lane |
| Fr. Joe Nohs | | Andrea Patricia Obregon |
| Luciana Ulloa Obregon | Maria Paletta | Vinny Rosa |
| Dixie Ulrich | | |

*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

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| | Baby Mason Francis Combs | |
| Susan Arena | Brian Austin | Lorraine Bardolf |
| Arlene Barsch | Irene Boyce | Lois Byrne |
| Jean Caprera | Rosemary Clark | Ed Costello |
| Monica DeLaRosa | Sr. Juliana Deptuch | Debra Dowdell |
| Margaret Dowdell | Gerry Finlan | Jim Finlan |
| Linda Fitz | Kathleen Flaherty | Rich Fuleki |
| Muriel Gallagher | Teresita Gallego | Michael Giampetruzzi |
| Regina Gorman | Colleen Grasing | John Guiffre |
| Mike Hach | Patricia Hafner | Carolyn Hakim |
| Cynthia Hansen | Donna Hare | John Hartofil |
| Vicki Jacona | Steve Jugan | Jerome W. Kalkhof |
| Anne Kalman | Katherine Anne Kwestel | Violet Kwestel |
| Tia Mabanta | Jaime Macias | Andrew Mahoney |
| Lucy Marconi | Len Martinez | Gene McDonagh |
| William McDonagh | Teresa McDonald | Mary McLean |
| Mary Messina | Irmgard Montanino | Kerri Orlando |
| Johnny Perdue | Rosina Perri | Catherine Pipinou |
| Dolores Pizzo | Joan Rampolla | Fred Rappa |
| Lauren Quinn-Sturge | Deanne Reilly | John Rotondo, Jr. |
| John Rotondo, Sr. | Flore Rowe | Federico Rueda |
| Eve Saint | Thomas Saint | Terry Sherwood |
| Danielle Stallone | Frances Stallone | Norma Steiger |
| Louis Steinberg | David Testa | Rosalie Travers |
| Joan Virostko | Theresa Votta | Brendan Wagner |

Help Us Keep the Sick List Up-to-date
When your loved one's health improves, please call the rectory at 516-731-4220 to let us know so their name can be removed from the sick list. It is important that the list remain current. Thank you for your cooperation.



PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED DECEASED
 AND THOSE WHO MOURN FOR THEM

Leonardo Paladino

Got questions about life
 Alpha is coming to St. Bernard's next fall...



VOLUNTEER MINISTRY

CALL TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR OUR 7TH ANNUAL SPIRIT OF ST. BERNARD AWARD!



This award will be given annually to a parishioner or parishioners who have responded exceptionally to their baptismal call to build up the Kingdom of God in the parish of Saint Bernard, *especially in the last year*. These men and women have followed the call of Christ and participated in the mission of the parish by bringing the Gospel of Jesus to the Levittown community and beyond through prayer and worship, education and formation, service to those in need, and/or efforts on behalf of justice in the world. They have shown their devotion to the Holy Father, the diocese, and the parish through their commitment to the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. **Qualifications for nominees are as follows:**

- ⇒Registered parishioners of Saint Bernard’s who participate regularly in Sunday Eucharist and the sacraments.
- ⇒Current members of a formal parish organization or group, or may currently work informally.
- ⇒Nominees can be those who work “behind the scenes” to support the mission of our parish.
- ⇒Nominees can be an individual, couple, or in certain cases, a small team working together.
- ⇒Nominees cannot be prior recipients of the Diocesan Saint Agnes Medal or the Spirit of St. Bernard Award.

PLEASE SUBMIT FORMAL LETTERS OF NOMINATION DETAILING HOW THE NOMINEE/S MEETS THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS TO FATHER RALPH NO LATER THAN MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2018



for our annual Volunteer Ministry “Thank You” party **FRI., MAY 11 AT 7 PM!**

*If you are **21 or older** and **CURRENTLY** serving in one or more of the ministries listed below and wish to attend the party, please indicate the ministry/ies below and return the completed form by May 1; no late reservations can be accepted. You are welcome to bring your spouse or one guest. (Couples please submit 1 form for the two of you; no guests.)
Please note check-in begins 6:30; bar opens 7:00 p.m.*

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Acolytes | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult and Folk Choirs | <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Server Coordinators |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baptism Preparation Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Baptism Greeters | <input type="checkbox"/> Bereavement Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blood Drive Coordinators | <input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin Editors | <input type="checkbox"/> CYO Coordinators |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charitable Kidz Adult Coordinators | <input type="checkbox"/> Children’s Catechists/Assistants/Monitors | <input type="checkbox"/> Consolation Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extraordinary Min. of Communion | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance Council | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusion Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Lectors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage Preparation | <input type="checkbox"/> Meals on Wheels/Island Harvest | <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Social Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Council | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer of the Faithful Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> RCIA Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renaissance Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Shawl Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> St. Martha Society |
| <input type="checkbox"/> St. Vincent de Paul | <input type="checkbox"/> Ushers | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Ambassadors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worship Greeters | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Ministry Leaders (over 21) | |

NAME/S: _____

ADDRESS AND TOWN: _____

E-MAIL: _____

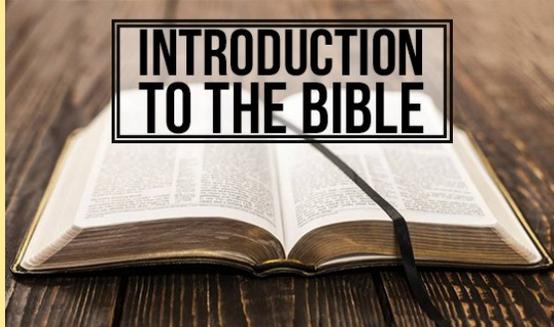
PHONE: _____ ONE OR TWO ATTENDING? _____

Responses accepted only until May 1; sorry, but no later reservations can be accepted.
Volunteer Party, 3100 Hempstead Tpk., Levittown, NY 11756 OR
e-mail complete sign-up information to Diane Waldhof at secretary@stbernardchurch.org.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

**Confused by the Bible?
Come get smart in just ONE SESSION!**

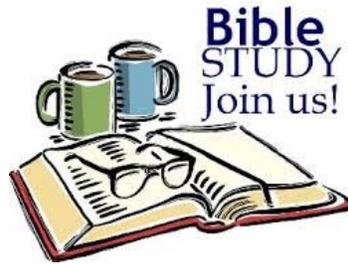


Understanding the Bible can be tricky until you learn the keys to unlocking its meaning. You'll be surprised what you didn't know and what a difference it will make !

**THURS. APR. 12, 7:30 pm OR FRI. APR. 13, 10 am
PARISH CENTER**

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER!

Contact Diane Vella at
516-731-4220 or dvella@stbernardchurch.org



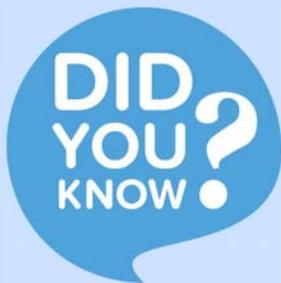
**Spring Bible
Study:
The Acts of
the Apostles**

*What happened that turned a bunch of scared people who abandoned Jesus into the beginning of a movement that continues to transform the world?
The Acts of the Apostles tells the story!*

**4 sessions starts
Thurs. eve. Apr. 19, 7:30-9 p.m. or
Fri. morn. Apr. 20, 10-11:30 a.m.
Parish Center**

IF YOU ARE NEW TO BIBLE STUDY AT
ST. BERNARD'S, PLEASE REGISTER FOR OUR
INTRO SESSION

*For info & registration contact Diane Vella at
516-731-4220 or dvella@stbernardchurch.org*



CATHOLICISM 101 BASICS OF THE FAITH

*A study and discussion for those who don't know "the basics"...
and those who think they do!*

5 Wednesday evenings starts April 18, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Parish Center

This is a GREAT opportunity for...

- ⇒ People who want to know more
- ⇒ People curious about the Church
- ⇒ People who feel they didn't get a good religious education
- ⇒ Parents of young children who feel unprepared to discuss faith with them
- ⇒ Catechists who teach others
- ⇒ Those who haven't learned anything new about the faith since their Confirmation!

For information contact Diane Vella at 516-731-4220 or dvella@stbernardchurch.org

Fr. Nohs Best



Thank you for the well wishes

First I want to say thank you all from the bottom of my heart. Even though Fr. Ralph did it as an April Fool's joke by having every one turn to the camera and say hi, I was able to hear many of you over the "Mass Cam" wishing me well. I was able to even share with the other folks in the hospital what our Easter Vigil looked like.

It broke my heart that I could not be here with you to celebrate Easter. I have been holding back my Alleluia for so long. But don't worry. You know I will more than make up for it. ☺



Secondly, what happened? To make a long story short, my leg was bothering me and I had the shakes, confusion, and 102 fever. I went to the doctor's office right away and he said, and I quote, "which hospital do you want to go to, because you are going there right now?" I have cellulitis in the left leg.

This was Holy Thursday and I asked the doctor if he could give me an antibiotic and I promise to go in on Monday AFTER Easter. He wasn't gentle when he said, if I didn't go now, I may not be around to enjoy "after Easter." Message received!



I have to tell you something. My hospital stay was great. I am so glad I chose to go to St. Joseph's hospital. I had great doctors, nurses, and all the aides and assistants. Plus the food was actually really good. My roommate was great as well. His name was Ed and he allowed me to take this selfie with him. (See photo) You know when you're in the hospital and you just want to keep that curtain between you closed. Not us. Every time the nurses closed the curtain either Ed or I would say... "Could you leave the curtain opened please.

We actually like each other." LOL ☺ And what a loving family he has. It made me want to have kids..... uh, "APRIL FOOLS." LOL Honestly, I couldn't have had a

better roommate. And from his wife to his grandchildren, they made me feel like family.

I know many of you asked if you could visit. Thank you for your thoughts on this, but to be honest, it would have been crazy. Because, speaking of family, my family made their visits as well. And that kept the door rotating enough. 😊 Even though I missed Easter meal with my family my sister-in-law snuck in an Easter Meal of Raviolis and Meatballs and Sausages. Out of this world. And she made a dish for Ed as well.



Of course I have a million stories to tell; and you know that you will soon hear them in my homilies; as if you really want to hear them. LOL But from the E.R.



visit where people thought I was there for THEM, to the nurses aide who got so nervous when she found out I was a priest. And then all of the priests that came to visit me only made her more nervous. And you know what people do when they get nervous? They tend to say the wrong things. It was just too funny.

So anyway, here I am. Back home. I will be on light duty for awhile. I still have the cellulitis, but I am on oral medication for now. If it doesn't go away with the orals then I will have to go back to the IV antibiotics. But if it gets worse I will be back at the hospital for an even longer stay. So please be patient with me. And keep the prayers going.

I love you all so much.

God be with you always and in all ways.

Fr. Joe

Alleluia!



LITURGY CORNER

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (or DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)/ Octave Day of Easter
April 8, 2018

The Sunday of Divine Mercy is a day established by Pope John Paul II as “a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face with confidence in divine benevolence the difficulties and trials that humankind will experience in the years to come.

First Reading: This summary of the early community of believers at Jerusalem depicts an ideal community, one we can strive to emulate. Would that we, like they, see our unity in the one heart and mind of Jesus Christ and hold everything in common, for everything ultimately belongs to the Lord! The community took care of everyone’s needs as it centered its work on witnessing to the Resurrection and living out the message of new life in the Risen Christ.



Responsorial Psalm 118: As we sing this song of thanksgiving today, may its words help us give voice to our Easter joy for there is nothing, not even death, which will put an end to the Lord’s mercy.

Second Reading: Throughout the Sundays of Easter Time, the Second Readings come from the First

Letter of John. Today, we hear words from the final chapter of this letter. These words instruct us that love of God’s children is intimately connected to love of God and obeying God’s commandments. Faith conquers all that is evil in the world. God’s children have confidence in this truth for we believe Jesus Christ conquered death. And, when our memory lapses in regard to this truth, we only need listen to the testimony of the Spirit.

Gospel: Peace is Jesus’ gift to the disciples when he appears to them in the locked room. “Receive the Holy Spirit,” he says. You have the power to forgive sins. Even on the basis of the disciples’ testimony, Thomas did not believe they had seen the Lord. What we have is the question this Gospel passage leads us to ponder today. Perhaps knowing Thomas’s doubt, Jesus appears again a week later offering the same gift of peace, and not judging Thomas at all, invites him to see for himself that Jesus is indeed his Lord and God.



Solemnity and Saints of the Week



Monday, April 9. Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. The Annunciation is a Solemnity of the Lord, but it is also a day to give thanks to and for Mary. The Gospel account of the Annunciation in Luke reveals a great wonder: God sought the free consent of a young girl to carry out his plan for us. God asked for help! No wonder so many artists throughout the ages have chosen to depict this moment of decision that changed the world forever.

Wednesday, April 11. St. Stanislaus. Bishop and Martyr. While serving as bishop he spoke out against King Boleslaus, an unjust and cruel man who incited fear in the people of Poland. St. Stanislaus, outraged by the oppressive behavior of the monarch, declared

that an unjust king has no place in the Church. The king defamed his reputation, eventually ordering guards to kill him, but they refused.. The king took matters into his own hands by stabbing him with a sword.

Friday, April 13. St. Martin I was a Roman of noble birth, and had a reputation for intelligence, learning and charity. He fought against the Monothelite heresy, which claimed that Jesus had two natures—human and divine - but only one will. Martin was tried by Emperor Constans II in Constantinople, and was imprisoned and exiled. He died from mistreatment at the hands of fellow Christians in 655.

Sourcebook 2018

Readings for
April 8, 2018 —April 15, 2018

IT'S NOT TOO SOON TO START!



Sunday, April 8. Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday. Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 5:1-6; Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; John 20:19-31.

Monday, April 9. Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Heb10:4-10; Psalm 40:7-11; Luke 1:26-38.

Tuesday, April 10. Acts 4:32-37; Psalm 93:1-2, 5; John 3:7-15.

Wednesday, April 11. Memorial of Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr. Acts 5:17-26; Psalm 34:2-9; John 3:16-21.

Thursday, April 12. Acts 5:27-33; Psalm 34:2, 9, 17-20; John 3:31-36.

Friday, April 13. Acts 5:34-42; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; John 6:1-15.

Saturday, April 14. Acts 6:1-7; Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; John 6:16-21

Sunday, April 15. Third Sunday of Easter. Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2:1-5; Psalm 4:2, 4, 7-9; Luke 24:35-48.

Daily readings can be found online at:
www.usccb.org/bible/readings

THE RIDE HOME

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

**Second Sunday of Easter
(Sunday of Divine Mercy)**



Gospel: John 20:19-31

Adults: What can I do to inspire my family to resemble the first Christians?

Children: What can my family and I do to help others who are in need?

Focus on Religious Freedom

From
Catholics For Freedom of Religion-



"ANY AND ALL CHRISTIAN MUSIC IS BANNED!"

Florida: This sign was posted on an organ located in a commons area of a condo building in Port Charlotte, FL. The condo Board passed a new resolution in February that stated, "prayers and other religious services, observations, or meetings of any nature shall not occur ... in or upon any of the common elements." A group of residents had held a Bible study group in the buildings common room for almost a year.

"The (condo) resolution, both in text and in application, is discriminatory and violates the Fair Housing Act because it prohibits ... residents from accessing common condominium areas for any religious activity, while allowing other residents to use those same facilities for similar secular purposes," said First Liberty law firm, after a resident filed a federal complaint.

Freedom of Speech and Religious Expression under attack:

Michigan: Citizens at a Senior Center were told that if they continued to say Grace before meals, federal funding for the meals would end. "If you continue to pray, you know what will happen." The message was clear - you can either eat or you can pray. The Great Lakes Justice Center has challenged this policy.

Pennsylvania: In 2016, when the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) revised regulations regarding food distribution to the homeless to say that no religious activities - such as praying over the meal - could occur, Bethesda Mission was forced to decline accepting USDA surplus food. "... in some way, we serve 100,000 poor and homeless people a month ...," said the Mission. "We don't force our faith on anybody. But we find the whole idea of the government coming in to tell us what to do .. is out of bounds, especially in matters of faith". (christiantimes.com, 3/13/18; firstliberty.org, 3/16/18; cnsnews.com, 10/31/16; stevegruber.com, 8/18/17)

"Whoever would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by subduing the Freedom of Speech."

Benjamin Franklin

Action Steps:

* Pray for a restoration of tolerance and kindness in our culture.

* See multiple "search engines," such as DuckDuckGo, Startpage.com, and others, to read more news stories on this topic.



PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

Sr. Christine Sammons, O.P., 731-6074

St. Vincent de Paul:

Because of the wonderful food drive that our **Charitable KIDZ** had on March 24th, in addition to the food we receive from Long Island Cares and Island Harvest, we are not making any special requests for items for the pantry this week. Again, we are most grateful to our KIDZ and to all who shopped at Stop & Shop on March 24th.

*Next week, you might like to remember the poor boxes!
Thank you, as always!*

Thanks to all who contributed to the **Parish Social Ministry collection** earlier last month. To date, the collection has amounted to almost **\$6000** to be used to assist our low-income Levittown neighbors! Once again, thank for your outrageous generosity! God bless!

Does anyone have a no-longer-needed laptop to share with one of our young mothers returning to school?

Thanks to **Cub Scout Troop 374**, and **Girl Scout Troops 3247** and **3385** for the Walmart and Stop & Shop gift cards donated to our pantry. We are always particularly grateful to community groups who know about our pantry and are anxious to share their support! Thanks, Scouts all!

Faith and Service in the City~~Vincetian Leadership Institute for High School Students:

This amazing program is accepting applications for their week-long residential program at St. John's University campus. It is an exciting and unique program for high school sophomores and juniors to work with faculty members and campus ministers, focusing on Catholic Social Teaching and social justice through an exploration of theology and participation in activities throughout New York City. It is funded by the Lilly Endowment, (cost to students: \$100—we can help!) and will be repeated three times—Sunday through Saturday!

- ✓ **Week of July 8th**
- ✓ **Week of July 22nd**
- ✓ **Week of August 5th**

Will look great on your resume! Come and talk to Pat or Sister Christine—we have applications!

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Thursday, April 12, 7:30 PM. CDA meeting in the Parish Center

Sunday, April 15. Deadline for submission of applications for scholarships offered by Catholic Daughters Court #1690. If you are a member of our Court and have a child or grandchild who will be attending their first semester of Catholic high school or graduating high school and attending their first semester of college, consider having them submit an application. Rules and application may be obtained by contacting Amelia Montgomery at amelia.montgomery@verizon.net. All applications will be reviewed and winner(s) determined by an independent party who is not a member of our court. Scholarship dollar amount(s) will be based on the available funds in the education savings account.

Friday, May 4. Gift Card Bingo in the school gym. Doors open at 6:30 PM; Bingo begins at 7. Entry fee is \$5 per person, which includes one book of games and coffee, tea and cake. Additional cards, food and raffles available for purchase. Reservations are kindly accepted. Call Sandy at 516-735-7990 or Marie at 516-735-0037



Thursday, May 10, 7:30 PM. CDA meeting in the Parish Center.

July 17-22, CDA 57th Biennial National Convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. 100th Anniversary of the State Court. For information: contact Jean Leviton at 516-796-6750.

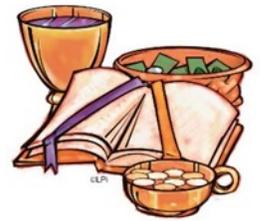
*Catholic Daughters always welcomes new members.
For information, please contact Rosemary Brunoforte at
516-796-0021.*



Liturgical Ministers Meeting

Please mark your calendars.

We will have our annual meeting of Liturgical Ministers on **Monday, April 16th at 7:30.**



For this meeting we will need the Ushers, Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.



One of the questions I need you to think about before this meeting: Do you wish to continue in the ministry? Every three years the diocese asks us to re-commission those involved in ministry.

God be with you always and in all ways.

Fr. Joe

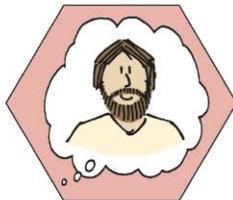
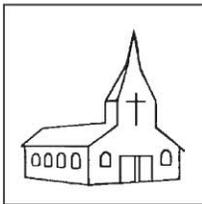
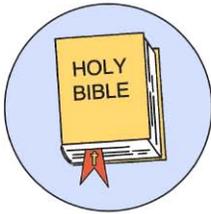


Ladies from Catholic Daughters Court #1690 attended a Women's Retreat at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception on March 24.

Pictured (l-r) are Debbie Stellakis, Susan Maher, Dorothy Currao, Sandy Leonard, Amelia Montgomery, Pam Wells, Louise Cassano, Maureen Cartwright, Jane Nieman, Midge Finck and Mary Lynn Borst.

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Match the shapes.



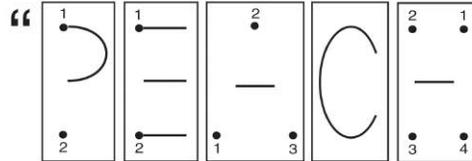
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Jesus Is the Son of God

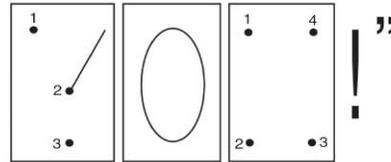
On the evening of the first Easter, the disciples were together with the doors locked. Suddenly, Jesus was in the room with them! What did He say?



Connect the dots to form the letters.

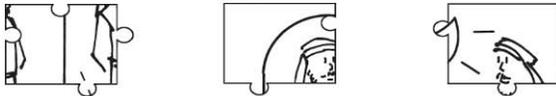


be with



Jesus told His disciples, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Match the puzzle pieces.



But Thomas was not there when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he did not believe them.

Circle the 2 that are alike in each row.



Believe! Believe! Believe?



A week later, Jesus came again. This time, Thomas was there. He said to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

Attention Parents of Kindergarteners it's time to register for Religion!



Level I Communion Program (read all about it on our website!)

If you are NOT yet a registered parishioner:

Parents and Guardians of children currently attending Kindergarten will have the opportunity to register their children for St. Bernard's Church two-year First Holy Communion Preparation program, which will begin in the Fall of 2018.

In order for a child to be eligible for the First Holy Communion program, a parent or legal guardian needs to be a registered member of St. Bernard's parish. Parents who are not yet formally registered in the parish may join the parish at an upcoming New Member Welcome Orientation, to be held on:

Monday, April 23 7:30pm

First Holy Communion program registration information packets will be available at the orientation. Please call the rectory at 516-731-4220 or visit www.stbernardchurch.org and click on the "Join St. Bernard's Parish" link for Welcome Orientation information and to sign up. If you are not sure if you are actually a current registered parishioner, please call the rectory to verify.

If you are already a current registered parishioner:

But **DO NOT** have other children in our program

(If you currently have children registered in our program you will receive instructions on how to register your new 1st year student with your older child's Re-registration.)

Registration will take place at the Religious Education Center on:

Monday May 14 thru Thursday May 17 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Tuesday May 15 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Sunday May 20 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

In order to register you will need:

- *Parish Envelope Number*
- *Your payment (cash or check only) for \$195*
- *A copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate (Even if they were Baptized at St. Bernard's)*

NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT **ALL** OF THESE REQUIREMENTS

EAST MEADOW
2515 N. Jerusalem Road
516-826-1010



WANTAGH
603 Wantagh Avenue
516-731-5550



EAST ISLIP
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