



# ST. BERNARD'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

3100 HEMPSTEAD TURNPIKE • LEVITTOWN, NEW YORK 11756

A COMMUNITY OF FAITH  HOPE  AND LOVE 



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**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**February 5, 2017**

*In the sight of the angels, I will sing your praises Lord.*



# ST. BERNARD'S

CATHOLIC CHURCH

516-731-4220 Phone/516-731-4355 Fax  
Email: [Parish@StBernardChurch.org](mailto:Parish@StBernardChurch.org)  
Website: [www.StBernardChurch.org](http://www.StBernardChurch.org)

## PASTORAL TEAM

**Father Ralph Sommer, Pastor**  
[Shepherd@StBernardChurch.org](mailto:Shepherd@StBernardChurch.org)  
ext. 130

**Father Joe Nohs, Associate Pastor**  
[FrNohsBest@StBernardChurch.org](mailto:FrNohsBest@StBernardChurch.org)  
ext. 128

**Father Innocent Mbaegbu**  
[ebere1212@yahoo.com](mailto:ebere1212@yahoo.com)

**Deacon John Blakeney**  
[DeaconJohn@StBernardChurch.org](mailto:DeaconJohn@StBernardChurch.org)  
516-731-4220

**Deacon James Flannery**  
[Aquinas69@gmail.com](mailto:Aquinas69@gmail.com)  
516-731-4220

**Deacon Timm Taylor**  
[DeaconTimm@StBernardChurch.org](mailto:DeaconTimm@StBernardChurch.org)  
516-731-4220

**Mrs. Susan Martin, Director of Religious Education**  
[RelEd@StBernardChurch.org](mailto: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](mailto:PSM@StBernardChurch.org)  
516-731-6074

**Ms. Sarah Kropac, Coordinator of Youth Ministry**  
[skropac@stbernardchurch.org](mailto:skropac@stbernardchurch.org)

**Mrs. Mary Jane Witte, Director of Liturgical Music**  
[MJWitte@StBernardChurch.org](mailto:MJWitte@StBernardChurch.org)  
ext. 142

**Ms. Diane Vella, Pastoral Associate**  
[DVella@StBernardChurch.org](mailto:DVella@StBernardChurch.org)  
ext. 143

**Mrs. Rose Marie Rotondo, Sacristan**  
[Sacristan@StBernardChurch.org](mailto:Sacristan@StBernardChurch.org)  
516-731-4220

**Mr. Len Lanzi, Facilities Manager**  
[facilitiesmanager@stbernardchurch.org](mailto:facilitiesmanager@stbernardchurch.org)  
ext. 120

**Mr. Dimas Carbajal, Head of Maintenance**  
[Maintenance@StBernardChurch.org](mailto:Maintenance@StBernardChurch.org)  
ext. 126

**CYO Basketball:** email: [info@stbernardcyo.org](mailto:info@stbernardcyo.org)  
website: [www.stbernardcyo.org](http://www.stbernardcyo.org)

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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:Jlyons8234@gmail.com)

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](http://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.



# Church and Politics

E-mail Father Ralph: [shepherd@StBernardChurch.org](mailto:shepherd@StBernardChurch.org)

## Comings and Goings

Many people have already met Fr. Innocent Mbeagbu who is assigned as a resident priest and hospital chaplain. But we just found out that we are doubly blessed now with a SECOND Fr. Innocent (Fr Innocent Duru) who will also be in residence, working as a hospital chaplain. But on a sadder note, Deacon Timm and his wife Judy will be moving to Florida this month and we've scheduled a sending forth at the 12noon Mass on February 12th followed by a reception in the parish center.

## Bible Night

Did people in the Bible really live til the age of 600? Why are there two stories of creation? What if the Bible says one thing and science says another? These are just a few of the questions I'll be tackling this Monday night at our 6th Grade Religion night on the Bible at 7:30 in the cafeteria. If you'd like to sit in and learn about how Catholics understand the Bible, you're welcome to attend even if you're not in 6th grade.

**A** quick survey of Catholics this past week showed that 80% wished that they had heard more about the Church's position on the recent developments in our nation's changing policies. I also received some inquiries as to whether we'd be doing some teaching at Mass regarding the latest executive orders, cabinet and supreme court nominees, etc.

**I**'m somewhat reticent to use Mass time to make statements. I ask myself, "If I spent my first three years here preaching against the immoral stances of the Obama administration, and extolling the ways in which it promoted the gospel and if I spend the next four years preaching against the immoral stances of the Trump administration, and extolling the ways in which it promotes the gospel, how would that help my parishioners act more like Jesus?"

**F**or example, last week I preached about following the Beatitudes of Jesus -- being peacemakers, having mercy, hungering for righteousness. Within hours, I read on social media parishioner comments that used foul language, made personal attacks, re-posted false news, etc. against their fellow citizens who held different opinions from their own. So I'm thinking if I can't even move my own parishioners to act like the Beatitudes in their very public statements, what hope do I have of getting them to act on the even more radically conservative things that Jesus says like "love your enemies...do good to those who hate you...?"

**T**his week Jesus tells his disciples (us) that we are light of the world. Imagine if I dared to talk about the light of the torch held by the Statue of Liberty as a sign of our nation acting like Christians when we act on her famous inscription: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" Some would applaud, some would grind their teeth at such American virtue. But in the end, what difference would that preaching make?

**S**o while I'll be passing along some helpful references in the weeks ahead, I'll spend more time listening than speaking and I urge all to spend time listening most of all to the gospel and to at least stop posting hateful things that certainly do not convince others to change their positions -- rather these kinds of posts only convince others of the writer's diminished Christianity.

*Father Ralph*



## PARISH NEWS

### Hospitality Sunday, today, Sunday, February 5

will be hosted by the Catholic Daughters after all Masses. Donations for veterans (toiletries, socks, candy, etc.) will be collected.

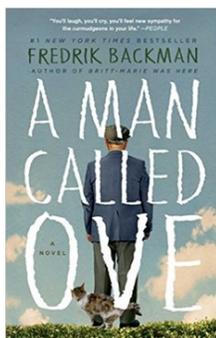
**The Rosary Society** members will meet in the prayer room of the church on **Monday, February 6 at 12:30 pm.** We will pray the rosary together asking God to bring PEACE into our families, our country, and our world. All women of the parish are welcome. Please join us..



**An Evening of Prayer for all Liturgical Ministers**  
**On Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> from 7:30pm – 8:30pm.**  
See [page 12](#) for details

### Mid-Week Mid-Morning Book Discussion

Meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon, the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. So when a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten his mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. Here is a moving and unforgettable story that draws you in and grips your heart. Join your fellow parishioners for an informal discussion of Fredrik Backman's internationally acclaimed **A Man Called Ove** (368 pages) on **Wednesday, February 22 at 10 am** in the Parish Center. For more information contact Wally Rodier at [wrodi@verizon.net](mailto:wrodi@verizon.net) or 516-731-6690.



## GIFTS OF TREASURE

### SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

<u>January 29, 2017</u>	<u>January 31, 2016</u>
\$ 13,293.75	\$ 16,360.40
600 envelopes	682 envelopes
	<u>Faith Direct</u>
\$ 2,776.25	\$ 2,054.72
	<u>Total Collection</u>
\$ 16,070.00	\$ 18,415.12

### Capital Campaign

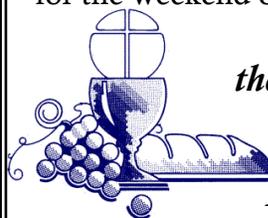
Goal:	\$1,000,000.00
Pledged:	\$1,199,925.00
Collected to date:	\$1,135,081.00

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?  
Code = NY272

THE GIFTS OF BREAD AND WINE  
for the weekend of February 4<sup>th</sup> and February 5<sup>th</sup>



have been requested for  
*the intentions of Joseph Masi*  
by his parents,  
*Marlene and Victor Masi*

## PARISH CALENDAR *(Subject to change)*

### Monday, February 6

- After 8:00 am Mass Miraculous Medal Novena, Church
- 12:30 pm Rosary Recitation, Prayer Room
- 2:00 pm Zumba Gold, Parish Center
- 7:00 pm CYO, Parish Center
- 7:30 pm Liturgical Minister Meeting, Church

### Tuesday, February 7

- 10:00 am Our Lady of Consolation, Parish Center
- 11:00 am Alzheimer Caregiver Support Group, Parish Center
- 6:15 pm Children's Choir, Parish Center
- 7:00 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 Practice, Church

### Wednesday, February 8

- 1:00 pm CFFR, Parish Center
- 2:00 pm Zumba Gold, Parish Center
- 7:30 pm Folk Group Rehearsal, Off-site



# MASS INTENTIONS

*This listing may not reflect recent changes or additions.*

- Monday, February 6**  
8:00 am
- Tuesday, February 7**  
8:00 am
- Wednesday, February 8**  
8:00 am
- Thursday, February 9**  
8:00 am Eddie DeBono
- Friday, February 10**  
8:00 am Thanksgiving to the Blessed Mother
- Saturday, February 11**  
8:00 am Monica Whyte, *25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Remembrance*  
5:00 pm For all parishioners  
7:30 pm Spanish Mass
- Sunday, February 12**  
7:30 am For all parishioners  
9:00 am Loriann Flaherty  
10:30 am Phyllis Smolinski,  
Kelly Grimmer,  
Mary DeKoning Cicero,  
Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin Mother  
12 Noon Joseph Nash, Sr.  
5:30 pm William Costa

## PARISH CALENDAR *(Subject to change)*

- 8:00 pm Bread of Life Prayer Group, *Parish Center*
- Thursday, February 9**  
10:00 am Shawl Ministry, *Parish Center*  
2:15 pm St. Vincent Meeting, *Clairvaux House*  
7:30 pm Bible Study, *Parish Center*
- Friday, February 10**  
10:00 am Bible Study, *Parish Center*  
6:00 pm Girl Scout Cadette Troup, *Parish Center*  
7:30 pm Book Pilgrimage, *Parish Center*
- Saturday, February 11, Blood Drive Sign up**  
10:15 am Special Ed, *Parish Center*  
11:00 am Women's AA Meeting, *Cafeteria*  
6:00 pm Sacred Heart Communities, *Parish Center*  
7:00 pm CYO Night at the Races, *Gym*  
7:30 pm Spanish Mass, *Church*  
7:30 pm Spanish Mass Reception, *Parish Center*
- Sunday, February 12, Blood Drive Sign up & Religious Ed Bake Sale**  
12 Noon Deacon Timm's Farewell Mass, *Church*  
1:00 pm Deacon Timm's Farewell Reception,  
*Parish Center*  
4:15 pm Youth Choir Rehearsal, *Church*  
6:30 pm Youth Ministry Meeting, *YM Room*  
8:00 pm AA Meeting, *Cafeteria*

## PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Joan Berg	Maureen Guarino	Joseph Gould
Ann Kelly	Sarah Levine	Maria Ramirez

*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	Arlene Barsch
Kathleen Biscardi	Eileen Bopp	Irene Boyce
Jean Caprera	Rosemary Clark	Ed Costello
Diane DeSalvo	Monica DeLaRosa	Debra Dowdell
Margaret Dowdell	Gerry Finlan	Jim Finlan
Linda Fitz	Kathleen Flaherty	Rich Fuleki
Teresita Gallego	Regina Gorman	Colleen Grasing
John Guiffre	Mike Hach	Patricia Hafner
Carolyn Hakim	Cynthia Hansen	Donna Hare
John Hartofil	Judy Hupfer	Vicki Jacona
Steve Jugan	Jerome W. Kalkhof	Anne Kalman
Katherine Anne Kwestel	Violet Kwestel	Tia Mabanta
Andrew Mahoney	Lucy Marconi	Gene McDonagh
William McDonagh	Teresa McDonald	Dr. John McLaughlin
Mary McLean	Mary Messina	Irmgard Montanino
Kerri Orlando	Johnny Perdue	Rosina Perri
Raymond Pfeifer	Catherine Pipinou	Joan Rampolla
Fred Rappa	Lauren Quinn-Sturge	Deanne Reilly
John Rotondo, Jr.	John Rotondo, Sr.	Flore Rowe
Federico Rueda	Terri Saccente	Eve Saint
Thomas Saint	Angela Scilla	Terry Sherwood
Norma Steiger	David Testa	Rosalie Travers
Jerry Valinoti	Donna Vollaro	Theresa Votta
Brendan Wagner	Richard Yankowski	Frank Zizzo

### 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

*Mercedes "Mercy" Cunningham    Joseph Mannino  
Rosetta Macone                      Neil J. Swensen*



By Diane Vella

*Over the next several weeks we'll address some of the topics from our Awakening Faith discussion groups.*

Faith. What is it, really? Do you have it? Do you WANT it? And if so, how do you get it? Think for a moment either of yourself or of someone else you know who you would say “has faith.” What is it that you see in yourself or this person that makes you conclude that you or this person has “real faith?”

Often “faith” is equated with “believing in God.” But even that can have several meanings. Does “believing in God” simply mean believing that there IS a God; in other words, believing that God exists? Or, does it imply more – a sense of trust and confidence in God? And what’s the difference between those two kinds of “faith?” The word “faith” comes from the Latin word *fidere*, which means “to trust.” It can mean trusting, relying on, or having confidence in someone or something. So in considering what religious faith might mean, it’s helpful to start by thinking about more ordinary experiences of faith that we have in our lives. Who is someone that you truly have faith in? Think about WHY you have faith in that person. It can be anything from a more mundane kind of faith, as in, “I have faith that the ice cream truck will come down our street about 7 p.m.,” to a deeper kind of faith, as in, “I have faith that my husband will be there for me throughout our lives.”

Ultimately, this kind of faith is possible only because of one or both of the following things: *experience* and/or *relationship*. We have faith that the ice cream truck will come at a certain time because of our experience that the truck comes every evening about the same time. We have faith in our spouses because of both the experience we have of them always being there for us, and because of the relationship that we share with them. These things tell us that they are reliable and trustworthy. We know – as best as we can – that they will live up to their marriage vows because they have shown themselves trustworthy, and because we *know* them through our ongoing, deepening relationship with them.

From these very ordinary, human experiences of faith, we can glean the meaning of faith in God, and of religious faith – which are two related but different things.

Some people “believe that God exists.” This is not real faith any more than having faith in your spouse means believing that he or she exists. Faith, as we have seen, is possible only because of *experience* and *relationship*. So, having faith in God means having a living, growing, dynamic relationship with God. It’s only such a relationship that allows us to have trust and confidence in God. In this way, it’s no different from having faith in another person. And, just as we build relationship with other people through spending time with them, talking with them, etc, we build a relationship with God the same way. We spend time and talk with God through prayer, through the sacraments, and by consciously bringing God with us as we go through our day and interact with others. And, just like any good, growing relationship, maintaining that relationship takes work, and will have its ups and downs.

So how do you “get” this kind of faith? So many people DON’T have it. Christians believe that faith is ultimately a *gift* to us from God. But if that’s so, why doesn’t everybody have it? Shouldn’t a good God gift us all equally, like a good parent would? Actually, we believe that God *does* offer the gift of faith to every single human being – but not everybody accepts it, or accepts it fully. Sometimes this is due to a person’s own self-centeredness or selfishness, or simply their own choice. Maybe they don’t have “time” for God. Or maybe they’re just not paying attention to or ignoring the presence and action of God in their lives. Sometimes, however, it’s life’s difficult circumstances that block the way to God for some people through no fault of their own. So for example, if a person has been brought up in a severely dysfunctional household, the anger and “baggage” that person rightfully feels can get in the way of a true relationship with God. God still tries to “get through,” but can’t. Just like in any relationship, we have to actively seek it out and nurture it for it to bear fruit.

So what does *religion* have to do with this? A religious community is a group of people who are “tied together” (the meaning of the Latin *religio*) by common beliefs about who God is and what God requires of us in the world. It’s a group of people who have something of a *common* experience of faith. They respond to and communicate with God in common through certain ritual words and actions (worship). The purpose of religion is to give glory to God by *supporting and increasing the common and individual experience of faith*. Unfortunately, not all people have this positive and nurturing experience of religion, and reject it as an aid to faith. Religions have to constantly renew themselves to avoid this so that the faith of the individual has the support and nurturing that it needs to grow and thrive.



# ADULT FAITH FORMATION



## LENT

**BEGINS  
MARCH 1!  
LOOKING  
AHEAD:**

### PARISH MISSION



#### **EVENING PRAYER**

Candles, incense, chant, music,  
guest preachers

**Wed. Mar. 15, 22, 29, Apr. 5, 7:30 pm**

#### **AWAKENING FAITH**

Informal study and discussion for  
seekers in their 20s-40s

**4 Sat. starts Mar. 18, 9:00-10:15 am**

#### **ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 1**

**FRIDAY ADORATION 12:00**

**FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS 7:30**

**VIA CRUCIS EN ESPAÑOL VIERNES 8:15**

**TURNPIKE STATIONS SAT. APR. 1, NOON**

**RECONCILIATION DAY APR. 10, 3-7 pm**



### **PARISH LENT MISSION WITH DEACON KEVIN MC CORMACK**

*Are you looking for God  
in all the wrong places and  
missing the God right under your nose?*

**Deacon Kevin McCormack**  
will lead us in re-discovering  
the way to God through

**FAITHHOPELOVE**

Kevin McCormack is an ordained Deacon assigned to Our Lady of Peace parish in Lynbrook. Involved in Catholic education for over 30 years, Deacon Kevin is currently the principal Xaverian High School

Deacon Kevin is also the co-host of WABC 770's Religion on the Line with Rabbi Joseph Potasnik on Sunday Mornings 7:30 -9:00 am for the last 10 years.

Deacon Kevin has presented theological study days and courses, days of reflections and parish missions throughout the Brooklyn and RVC Dioceses as well as the Archdiocese of New York and Newark. He and his family live in Lynbrook.

**SUN. MAR. 5—TUES. MAR. 7  
7:30 PM  
COME AND BRING FRIENDS!**



*Are you a man or  
woman over 50?*

### **Spirituality for the Golden Years**

**Monday, February 13, 1:30 pm  
Parish Center**

**This month's topic:**

***The Spirituality of Compassion***

**Leader: Sister Jo Ann Walsh, R.S.M.**  
*Retreat Director and Certified Spiritual Director.*

**St. Vincent de Paul:**

Thanks to those who are always mindful of our low-income Levittown neighbors. Special thanks to the students of the **Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District** who donated several bags of food in honor of the late Dr. Martin Luther King.

This week, our pantry needs include:

- Peanut butter (regular size jars)
- Grape jelly (regular size jars)
- Ramen noodles
- **Chunky/heartly** soups
- Canned tomatoes of any kind
- Canned pasta, any kind
- Spaghetti
- Oatmeal
- Canned meat (tuna, chicken)

*As always, please remember the poor boxes and to  
"buy one, get one free!"*

**Baby Formula and Diapers:**

At the present time, we don't receive requests for formula or baby diapers, but if you have formula which is not expired, and diapers (even in opened packages) one of our parishioners will bring the items to **Birthright**. They are always grateful, since they are so expensive to purchase.

**Thanks for our Souper Bowl of Caring:**

Our Charitable KIDZ are grateful to all who will contribute prayerfully and financially to our **Souper Bowl of Caring** collection this weekend. As soon as our totals are complete, we will share them with you. As you know, our goal is to collect **\$5000** which we can forward to Father Patrick toward the well which he has committed to drill in his home village in Nigeria. We will keep you posted! If you pledged to donate, we will be happy to accept cash or checks to **Parish Social Ministry**. **Once again, thank you so much!** We will be in touch with Father Patrick to let him know the results of this year's Souper Bowl of Caring!

**The Nassau Police Academy:**

The Nassau County Police Academy anticipates commencing a Citizen's Police Academy in March, 2017. This training will be conducted on Thursday evenings between 7:00-10:00 pm and will run consecutively for fifteen weeks. The tentative start date is March 9, 2017 with the graduation scheduled in June, 2017. The Citizens Police Academy is a program designed to educate members of the community who are not sworn police officers about the activities of the Nassau County Police Department. The goal of this program is to have participants acquire a better understanding of the authority and limitations of the police in general. Some of the various courses and topics will include the following: Asset Forfeiture and Intelligence, Duties of a Police Officer, Penal law Topics, Search and Seizure, Use of Force, Physical Training and Defensive Tactics, Constitutional Law, School Safety, DWI Enforcement, Gang Investigations, Terrorism Awareness and a practical with the Professional Range Instructor Simulator. There will also be appearances by some of the following units: Aviation, Mounted, Arson Bomb, K-9 and the Bureau of Special Operations. If you are interested in further information, please contact the PSM office.

**Bethpage Federal Credit Union Volunteer  
Income Tax Assistance Locations:**

The VITA program offers free tax help for low-to-moderate-income (\$55,000 and below) individuals and families, between February 4<sup>th</sup> and April 8<sup>th</sup> at various locations in Nassau County. Other weekday options are available. The following information is needed:

- Photo ID, social security cards
- Current year's tax package if you received one, from all employers
- Wage and earning statements
- Interest and dividend statements from banks
- Last year's federal and state returns if available
- Bank routing and account numbers for direct deposit
- Total paid for day care and provider's tax ID.

For more information, please contact Community Development at (516) 349-4288.

## FAMILY LIFE COMMITTEE PRESENTS

# CANDY BAR BINGO!!

Saturday, February 18, 2017 at 6:00pm  
St. Bernard's Cafeteria

Admittance Fee: One large size candy bar

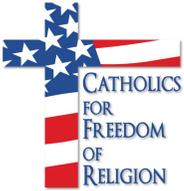
8 games of Bingo

Chances to win fun prizes and Chinese Auction, too!

Hot dogs and snacks will be available for purchase

Fun for the whole family!!

For more information: [susan.maher3@verizon.net](mailto:susan.maher3@verizon.net) or 516-633-8960



## Catholics For Freedom of Religion—CFFR

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

*"For the most part, we are aware of the persecution and martyrdom of Christians around the world, but we tend to be naive about the threat to religious freedom right here in America."*

Msgr. James M. McNamara, L.I.Catholic, January, 2017

### **Atheist group wins battle to pull cross from Veterans Memorial Park:**

Belle Plaine, MN - A monument depicting the silhouette of a soldier kneeling at the grave of a fallen comrade with a headstone marked by a cross, has had the cross cut off.

"It's a grave marker - in this instance, it's not a religious symbol," said a resident from a family of veterans. "It's frustrating to see that one or two people are allowed to speak for a town of over 3,00 people," said another resident, who started a movement to fight back by displaying crosses in front yards and nearby businesses.

Also, a nearby manufacturing plant will deliver 400 copies of the original metal statue - cross and all - to the veterans club for residents to purchase and display on their own property. ([startribune.com](http://startribune.com), 1/25/17; [alphanewsmn.com](http://alphanewsmn.com), 1/19/17)

### **"Hall of Shame" 2016 report:**

For the first time, the United States has been named among the top 12 nations where Christians are targeted for their faith by International Christian Concern (ICC), a persecution watchdog group. "While conditions in the U.S. are in no way comparable to other countries on the list, a certain segment of the culture and the courts seem to be intent on driving faith out of the public square. There have been too many court cases with bad decisions to miss the clear trend line," said Jeff King, president of ICC.



## LITURGY CORNER

### FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 5, 2017

**T**his liturgy is a great source of inspiration to the newly received and the parish community. Celebrate the evangelizing Light of Christ found in today's Scripture readings.

**First Reading:** The expectations of the covenant were twofold: first the people were called to fidelity to God and second they were to care for their fellow members of the covenant community. Isaiah addresses some of those obligations. They deal with the most basic and obvious of human needs: having food, shelter, and clothing. Those who are in need are to be treated as your own, meaning they are family; together they share a common bond. When the faithful live in this way they are blessed by the Lord, they will be like a light that shines before others and the Lord will answer their every prayer.

**Responsorial Psalm 112:** The psalmist sings the praises of the just person. Echoing the image of light in the First Reading, the psalmist says that the just person is like a light in the darkness and his justice toward others will rebound on his own life.

**Second Reading:** In many of Paul's letters to the early Christians he makes a point of being self-effacing in order to impress upon his readers that it is the power of the Spirit and the importance of the Word of God. This is the gist of today's text. Paul distances himself from the high wisdom teachings of other orators. He humbly admits to his own weakness and anxiousness in their presence, but he boldly affirms that the message of Christ Jesus is what is really important.

**Gospel:** The familiar images and ordinary use of salt and light become metaphors of a spiritual identity for Jesus' disciples. Both salt and light cause other things to happen. Salt adds flavor to food; light gets rid of darkness so others can see and move about safely. The task of the disciple is to be an agent of the Kingdom of God so that the lives of others will be enriched. Jesus' statement is emphatic: "you are," not you might be or someday you will be. This identity and accompanying mission has a present purpose: to declare the Kingdom of God now.



### Feasts and Saints of the Week



**Monday, February 6. St. Paul Miki and Companions. Martyrs.** St. Paul Miki (†1597), a Jesuit priest, was one of the twenty-six martyrs of Japan. Feeling threatened by the growing influence of the Jesuits, the local governor had members of the Christian community arrested and thrown in jail. They were forced to walk 600 miles from Kyoto to Nagasaki as a deterrent to other Christians, but they sang the *Te Deum* as they went. At Nagasaki they were crucified. When Christian missionaries returned to Japan in the nineteenth century, they found that a secret Christian community had survived by transmitting their beliefs and prayers from generation to generation.

**Wednesday, February 8. St. Jerome Emiliani.** Jerome was born into a wealthy family, and before being led to study for the priesthood he was a soldier in Venice. As a priest, Jerome was greatly devoted to helping the poor and the disadvantaged. He founded hospitals, orphanages (for which he was proclaimed Patron of Orphans by Pius XI), and an order of priests whose

apostolate it was to care for the orphans.

Also: **St. Josephine Bakhita. Virgin.** Josephine was born in Sudan and at the age of nine was taken into slavery. Bought by an Italian diplomat, she was taken to Italy where she converted to Christianity at the age of 25. Three years later, after having been freed from slavery, she joined the Institute of the Canossian Daughters of Charity. She spent fifty years in that congregation and was a well-known and sought-after speaker regarding the Catholic faith.

**Friday, February 10. St. Scholastica. Virgin.** Information regarding the life of St. Scholastica is rather meager but her legacy continues to live on. She was the twin sister of St. Benedict, the father of Western monasticism. From a young age (480-547) she expressed a deep desire to dedicate her life to God through the monastic vows: obedience, conversion of life (poverty and chastity), and stability. She founded and supervised a monastery of nuns near her brother's monastery at Monte Casino.

**Saturday, February 11. Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes.** Today we commemorate the Virgin Mary's appearances in 1858 to Bernadette Soubirous, a fourteen year-old peasant girl. The parish priest told her to ask the lady's name. Bernadette returned and said, "I am the Immaculate Conception," a title for Mary, of which Bernadette would have known nothing. One of the lady's requests was that a chapel be built on the site of her appearance. Eventually a large church was built there (Lourdes, France), which is now a popular pilgrimage site.

*Sourcebook 2017*

The Spanish prayer group will be offering  
**The Via Crucis**  
**(Stations of the Cross in Spanish)**



EVERY Friday in Lent (except Good Friday)  
 at 8:15pm  
 following the stations in English.  
 It will be led by the laity.

**Todos los viernes de Cuaresma a las 8:15pm**  
**(excepto el Viernes Santo) tendremos el Vía**  
**Crucis en Español.**  
**Invitamos a todos a participar.**

## Readings for

**February 5, 2017– February 12, 2017**

**IT'S NOT TOO SOON TO START !**



**Sunday, February 5. Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Isaiah.** 58:7-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Psalm 112:4-9;  
 Matthew 5:13-16.

**Monday, February 6. Memorial of Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs.** Genesis 1:1-19; Psalm 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35; Mark 6:53-56.

**Tuesday, February 7.** Genesis 1:20-2:4; Psalm 8:4-9;  
 Mark 7:1-13.

**Wednesday, February 8.** Genesis 2:4-9, 15-17; Psalm 104:1-2, 27-30; Mark 7:14-23.

**Thursday, February 9.** Genesis 2:18-25; Psalm 128:1-5; Mark 7:24-30.

**Friday, February 10. Memorial of Saint Scholastica, Virgin.** Genesis 3:1-8; Psalm 32:1-2, 5-7; Mark 7:31-37.

**Saturday, February 11.** Genesis 3:9-24; Psalm 90:2-6, 12-13; Mark 8:1-10.

**Sunday, February 12. Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time.** Sirach 15:15-20; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; Matthew 5:17-37.

## THE RIDE HOME

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

**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**February 5, 2017**

**Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16**



**Adults:** In what way might you be hiding the light of Christ from others? What could you do to improve this?

**Children:** How can you let the light of Christ in you shine for others this week?

# An evening of Prayer for all Liturgical Ministers

*Please mark your calendars.*

N.B.: This is NOT a MANDATORY gathering.

On **Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm**, we will have an evening of prayer for all Liturgical Ministers.

**Who are they:** Greeters; Ushers; E.M.H.C.'S; Lectors; Music Ministers; Sacristans; Clergy; and Servers.



Lent is only weeks away and as Liturgical Ministers we should spend some time together preparing ourselves mentally, physically, emotionally, but more to the point... Spiritually. So come and let's spend an hour together in prayer before the Lord.



As I said, this is not a mandatory meeting. Although I do encourage anyone who is new to a liturgical ministry to come. After prayer we could spend some time together for training or clarifications for those who want.

Please pass the word! All Ministers are welcome.

God be with you always and in all ways.

Fr. Joe

*I have not stopped giving thanks for you and remembering you in my prayers.*



*Ephesians 1:16*



ST. BERNARD'S CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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Our level 8 Confirmation retreats are now completed. We thank our Youth Group for facilitating the three sessions in which over 130 students participated! Having seen the music video "Believe" by Shawn Mendes, the parable of the lost sheep was then read and reflected upon. Students then wrote what they believe in regarding our faith. Clips from the DVD "Facing the Giants" was shown and discussion of doing one's best for God, facing the unknown with faith in God and using the gifts of courage, fortitude, and understanding in our lives was discussed. After lunch, the Lord's Prayer was performed in a dialogue format. Then a film called "Marty's Call" was shown which showed a student thinking about what Confirmation means and the responsibility of saying "yes" to God. Towards the end of the day, a commitment prayer was read and Mass was celebrated with our sponsors. We ask for your prayers for all of our students both in level 8 and in high school who are preparing for Confirmation.

**Confirmation Bake Sale** will be held in the school lobby after the morning Masses on Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup>. Come and support our youth!



**NO CLASSES.** There will be no religious education classes the week of **February 20<sup>th</sup>**. The Saturday classes for level 2 and special needs on **February 18 and 25<sup>th</sup>** will also be cancelled. We look forward to seeing you the following week!

**SUBSTITUTES NEEDED.** During these winter weeks with much sickness, we are in need of substitutes to cover our many classes. Can you help? Please contact the Religious Education Office if you are free during our class hours of 4:15-5:30pm on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday!



## Salt and Light

Jesus said, "Your goodness must be greater than that of the teachers of the law so you may enter the kingdom of heaven."

Match the shapes.

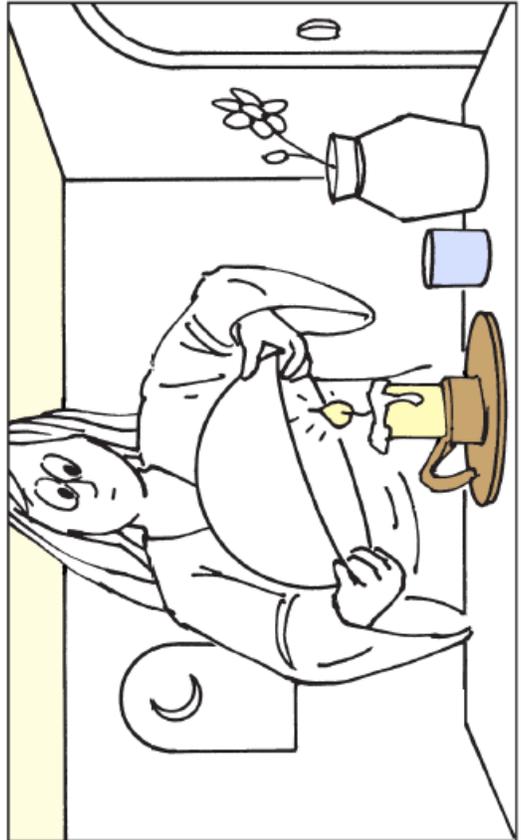
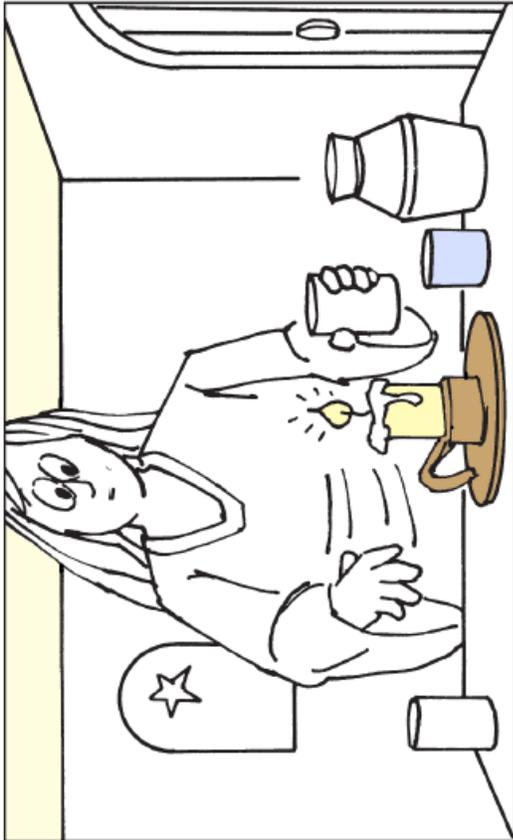
Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth. ... You are the light of the world."

Count how many. 4 or 5 6 or 7



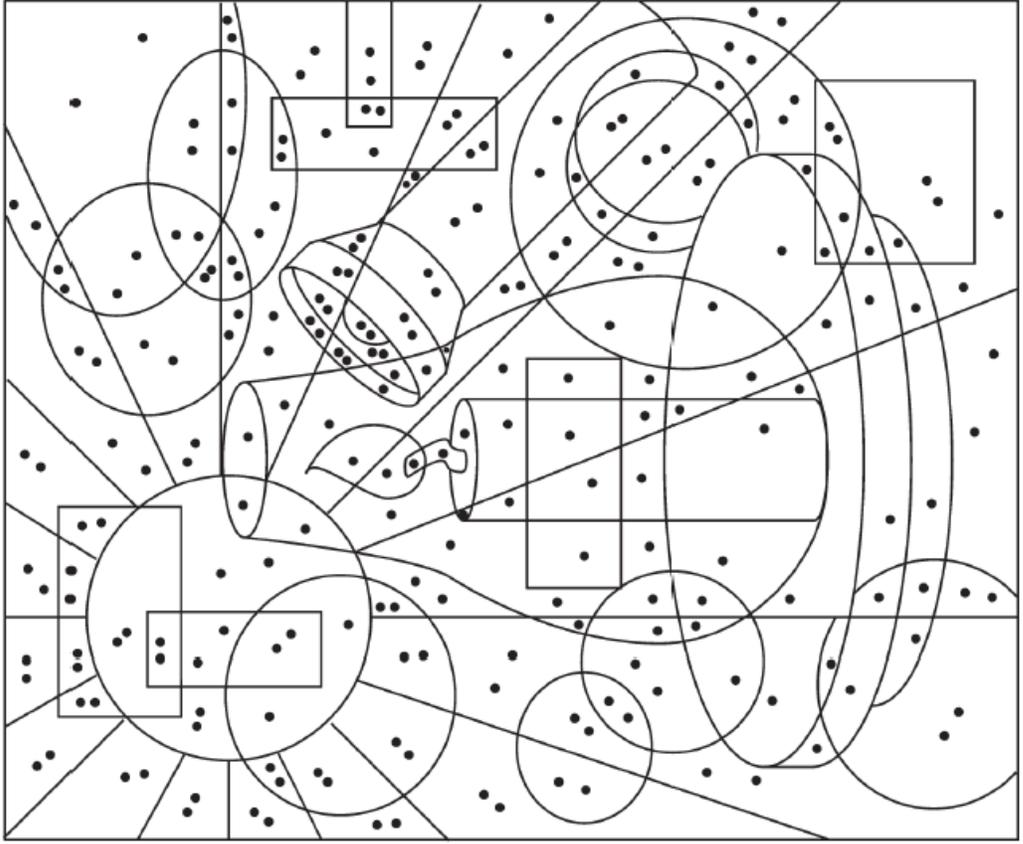
Jesus also said that people do not hide a lamp, but put it out to give light to everyone.

Circle 6 differences in the bottom picture.



“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Shade in the spaces with . . .



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Registration is  
ongoing for  
September classes!!

# Tender Garden

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Registration for Summer  
Camp/K-Prep begins  
February 6<sup>th</sup>!! Register  
before March 31<sup>st</sup> and  
receive \$50 off your total  
tuition!!

## September 2017 Pre-School Classes

Pre-Nursery (2 years old)  
Nursery – (3 years old)  
Pre-K – (4 years old)  
Half & Full Day classes  
Morning Care begins at 7:15 am  
After care available until 5:30 pm

## Summer Camp 2017

6 weeks:  
Monday, Wednesday & Friday  
9am - 1pm  
Kindergarten Prep Class  
6 weeks:  
Tuesday & Thursday  
9am - 11am

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church in Lindenhurst, NY is seeking a Part-Time Receptionist. Hours are Tuesday evenings, 5:00-9:00 pm, Fridays, 9:00 am-5:00 pm, and every other Sunday, 9:00 am-3:00 pm. The position also requires flexibility to cover additional hours when necessary. Essential responsibilities involve greeting guests, answering phones, and light clerical duties. Requirements include a basic knowledge of computer skills. Must have an upbeat personality and enjoy working with people. Send Cover Letter and Resume to: Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco at [msgrio@oloph.org](mailto:msgrio@oloph.org)

## ST. BERNARD'S CYO BASKETBALL

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

### Picture Day

Picture day for all **Girls Intramural Teams 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grade** will take place on **Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. Coaches will have your scheduled times. More info will be posted on the website.



February 11, 2017  
Gym  
Doors Open At 7pm

More info will be on our web site:  
[www.stbernardcyo.org](http://www.stbernardcyo.org)

John and Karen Cahill's (CYO Board members) nephew, Devin O'Rourke has been battling Steven Johnsons Syndrome for a while and while thankfully he is getting better and is out of the hospital, the bills have been devastating to this family. We're trying to help them and plan on doing a 50/50 at the **Night of the Races**.

## Come join us for the Columbiettes Valentine Breakfast



**On Sunday, February 12, 2017**  
**From 10 am - 12 noon**  
**\$10.00 per person at**  
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