

LITURGICAL MINISTRY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Rosary Leroy Seib
Sacristan Robert Fuhs
Gifts Lucas Ivy, Cole Phillips
Lector Payton Steckler
Servers Allison Spindler, Jack Anderson
Greeters John & Diane Hasenour
Cantor Emily McDaniel, Hannah Rodgers
Money Counters Chris & Camy Davis

Homebound EM Dennis Titzer
Traveling Chalice Mary McKinney
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

Rosary Terri Ziliak
Sacristan John Hasenour
Gifts Maverick Reising, Jack Anderson
Lector Michael Smith
Servers Isaac Ivy, Teddy O'Connor
Greeters Robert & Jenny Fuhs
Cantor Sarah Reising
Money Counters Clint Obert
Homebound EM Kirk Peterson
Lori Spindler

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 28 - 5:30 p.m.

+ Jim Gries

Thursday, October 3 - 6:00 p.m.

+ Rudy & Catherine Hoefling

Saturday, October 5 - 5:30 p.m.

+ St. Bernard & St. John Parishes

Stewardship of Treasure

September 21 Collection **\$960.00**
Needed for weekly budget \$1,820.96

YTD Collection \$24,772.00
Needed to meet budget \$21,851.52
YTD Variance **\$2,920.48**

Children's Collection \$3.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I've been getting a *lot* of questions about some recent more-or-less off the cuff statements from Pope Francis concerning non-Christian religions. The first of these statements were made to an audience in Singapore earlier this month, where the Pope, at this point rather infamously, said:

"Tutte le religioni sono un'ammina per arrivare a Dio."
Translated from the Italian, it means "All religions are a way (or path) to God." This of course lit off a firestorm in the Catholic (and non-Catholic) cyberspace. This would seem to be a direct contradiction to the very words of Jesus in the Gospel, where He self-identifies as "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

So did Pope Francis just countermand Jesus, and is he changing perennial teaching of the Church? In a word, no. This is for more than one reason. First of all, this was not an official pronouncement at all. It was not an exercise of the official teaching authority of the Holy Father and the Church. Instead it was an offhand comment to a bunch of largely non-Christian teenagers in Singapore. Second, there are certainly orthodox ways in which even his words can be interpreted, that *don't* contradict the words of Christ.

It is a basic principle of Catholic theology that anything that is taught by the magisterium of the Church must be interpreted in light of previous statements and teachings of the Church in the span of the Sacred Tradition. There are various teachings found in the Second Vatican Council documents, as well as papal teaching *before* the Council that shed more light on what this proper understanding might be. Acts 17 also has an account of St. Paul preaching on the Areopagus in Athens that also would lend credence to this truth as taught by the Church: that all religions, though they obviously err to some degree from the fullness of the Truth found in the Catholic Church, had *some elements of the Truth* within them. This is a far cry from saying that *all religions are true*.

Unfortunately, the Pope has not clarified what exactly he meant when he made that statement. He simply said it and dropped the mic, so to speak. Sadly, this is something that he tends to do almost out of habit. In stark contrast to previous Popes, most notably Benedict XVI, Francis is frankly a very offhand and sloppy communicator. To be frank, that's a liability for someone who is watched so closely and quoted (or misquoted) so freely as the Pope. The vast majority of the time, he says things and then moves on to the next thing, failing to clear the previous thing up.

This is not helpful, of course, but let us return to my earlier observations of what official Catholic teaching actually IS. There are elements of truth in other religions, because through natural reason we can come to certain right conclusions about reality. This is absolutely provable too, because essentially *every* culture that has been evangelized after the Apostles went out to spread the Gospel *belonged to another religion*. I've also talked to many, many people who have come into the Faith not because they woke up one day and decided it would be a good thing to do. Usually something true that they already believed from their previous religion or worldview 'primed the pump', so to speak, for them to embrace the fullness of the truth. To quote GK Chesterton, the great English Catholic convert and apologist, "Paganism is an attempt to reach the divine reality through imagination alone."

The really sad and confusing thing is that most people who will have heard his quote probably don't have the theological instruction to understand things in that light. The fact of the matter is that there may be various paths that lead people to get to Christ, but there is no way forward to the Father except for the road that is Jesus!

In Christ the Way, the Truth, and the Life,
-Fr. Chris

ST. BERNARD PARISH NEWS

**THIS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, IS FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION AT ST. BERNARD.
PLEASE KEEP YOUR TIME COMMITMENT. EVERYONE IS INVITED TO
SPEND TIME WITH OUR LORD.**

Religion Class

Our first religion class is THIS Wednesday, October 2 from 7 to 8 for all students. A schedule with religion class dates will be sent home the first night of class. All students will meet in their classroom and should be picked up from the school hall at the end of class. A big THANKS to all our religion teachers who so graciously give of their time and talent to teach our young children, the future of our church! Lets all keep our teachers and students in our prayers for a successful year!!

The Catholic Ministries Appeal begins this week

You can pick up you letter in the back of church after Mass or you will be receiving a letter in the mail this week asking for your pledge to this yearly campaign to support our Catholic Diocese and its programs. St. Bernard's goal for this year's campaign is \$31,708. Your support provides the continuation of our many services to Catholics throughout the diocese. As we discern during this Season of Stewardship, let us ask the Lord how we are to support the many needs of our parish and diocese through increasing our prayer, service to others, and financial contributions. May we each respond generously to the Lord's invitation to the **Catholic Ministries Appeal**. To donate, you may scan the QR code to the right and give a secure donation or mail your check to the Diocese of Evansville.



***September Parish Council Minutes are available in the back of church.

TRUNK OR TREAT HALLOWEEN PARTY

Please join us for our 3rd annual TRUNK or TREAT Halloween Party at St. Bernard on Wednesday, October 30th from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. ALL St. Bernard children and families are welcome!! Hot dogs, chips and cookies will be served! Don't forget to wear your Halloween costumes! If you would like to decorate your trunk, there is a sign up sheet in the back of church!! If you have any questions, contact Ericka Obert 812-483-1366.



MAGNIFICATS

It is that time of year to place your order for the 2025 Magnificats. I will need your order for Magnificats no later than October 6. The price is the same as last year, **\$29.00** for a yearly subscription. **PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH.** Please sign up on the list in the back of church and give the money to Terri or put it in the collection basket. I cannot take orders after Oct. 6.

Upcoming Youth Events

- Sept. 29 – HS Diocesan Youth Day
- Oct. 13 – HS RockLife
- Oct. 20 – Bingo at Transcendent Healthcare
- Oct. 26 – HS/MS Fall Freshivities
- Nov. 9 – MS Holy Fire



HS RockLife Nights

Our next RockLife is Oct. 13. We'll meet in the youth room at Sts Peter & Paul from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. This will continue throughout the school year (usually twice a month). These nights focus on leading teens closer to Christ while meeting them where they're at. It helps youth get excited about their faith and more engaged! Not only will you find food for the soul, you'll also be served Sandy's Pizza!! Bring a friend and a waiver!

MS Holy Fire event in Nashville TN

At Holy Fire, middle school Catholics are invited and challenged to embrace their baptismal call and the powerful, relevant gospel of Jesus. Through talks by dynamic speakers, witness by peers, inspirational praise and worship, and rich experiences of the Sacraments, Holy Fire helps young people feel seen, welcomed, and invited into a life changing commitment to Christ. It's a 1-day event held in Nashville, TN on Sat. Nov. 9th. Cost is \$75 per person (includes meals, t-shirt and transportation). Financial assistance available upon request. Approximate departure and arrival home would be 6:30am-9:30pm. Please contact Bryan at 664-7992 or bmacke@evdio.org if you are interested. Deadline to sign-up (for early-bird pricing) is Monday, Oct. 14th.

HS & MS Fall Freshivities at St. Bernard

On Saturday, October 26th, all MS & HS youth are invited to join in on this fresh night! Beginning at 6:00pm at St. Bernard. We have a great night planned! HS youth will put on a "haunted house" for MS youth. Bonfire with snacks and drinks provided. More info coming. Ends at 10:00pm. **Asking for \$5 from each person to help St. Vincent de Paul Society! Turn in diocesan event waiver by Wednesday, October 23rd.**

Any questions/concerns about youth events please contact Bryan Macke at 664-7992 or bmacke@evdio.org. Diocesan Event Waivers can be found in the back of each church or on our webpage at www.smg youth.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Knights of Columbus Weekly BINGO - Tuesday Evenings: Doors Open @ 6pm; First Game @ 7pm. 20 Regular Games - 6 Half Pot Special Games - One Lucky Number Game possibly worth \$1000 - Pull-Tabs, Snacks & Drinks available. **BRING A FRIEND!** PROCEEDS BENEFIT South Gibson Catholic Schools. BINGO resumes on September 3rd @ KofC Hall, 117 S. Main St. Haubstadt, Ind

Chicken Dinner

Holy Cross Parish, Fort Branch is hosting an "All You Can Eat Chicken Dinner" on Sunday Oct. 6, 2024, from 10:45am-1pm. Dine-In and Carry-Out options available. Cost is \$14/adult, \$5/child.

St. Joseph Rummage Sale

Saturday, October 5, 8 am-1pm in St. Joseph School Gym, Princeton. Early Bird Shopping begins at 7:30 am for a \$5.00 admission. Everything is half price from noon to 1:00 pm.

Respect Life Celebration

October 17, 2024 at St. Benedict Cathedral with Bishop Siegel and guest speaker Jonathan Meyer. Dinner and speaker to follow in Woodward Center. See the flyer in back of church for details.



Welcome to St. Bernard

A Catholic Community Since 1877

5342 E. State Road 168
Fort Branch, IN 47648

Pastor: Fr. Chris Forler

Deacons: Vince Bernardin, Richard Leibundguth, Lonny Davis

Catechetical Leader: Rose Obert

Office Managers: Lori Spindler (lspindler@evdio.org)
Terri Ziliak (tziliak@evdio.org)

Maintenance: Jeff Meny (812-385-6861)

Parish Council President: Nick Ivy

Altar Society President: Ericka Obert

School Hall Rental: Terri Ziliak/Lori Spindler

Table & Chair Rental: Jeff & Tammy Meny

Parish Website: stbernardsnakerun.org

Parish Office: 812-615-0201

Adoration: First Friday of each month 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sacraments:

Reconciliation: Before Thursday evening Mass starting at 5:15 p.m.

Baptism: Must sign up for Baptismal Class. Call the parish office to make arrangements.

Marriage: Call the parish office at least six months in advance.

Sacrament of the Sick: Administered by appointment.



Our parish invites you to join our church family! All new parishioners can register by emailing lspindler@evdio.org or calling the parish office

MASS SCHEDULE - ST. BERNARD

Saturday - 5:30 p.m.

Thursday - 6:00 p.m.

MASS SCHEDULE - ST. JOHN (DAYLIGHT)

Saturday - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 7:15 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday - 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday - 5:30 p.m.

Thursday - 8:00 a.m.

Feast of Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, the Archangels is September 29. *O God, who dispose in marvelous order ministries both angelic and human, graciously grant that our life on earth may be defended by those who watch over us as they minister perpetually to you in heaven. Amen*



PRAYER LIST

Kenny & Marcia Reising, Jim Lubbers, Ralph Elpers, Crystal Williamson, Julia Market, Frankie Rynkiewich, Dana Seninger, Doris Hagedorn, Mike Folsom, Ronnie Martin, Mary Lou Michel, Johnsie Michel, Ed & Sue Miskovic, Mary Lou Wolf, Greg & Rose Obert, Jeff Williamson, Cindy Knotts, Ed Nurrenbern, Phyllis Schmitts, Bret Weber, Larry Pflug, Rita Hasenour, Jeff Hoffman, Stephanie Silva, Teddy O'Connor

Please call Terri to add or remove someone 677-0511. Let us know when someone can come off.

Saturday, September 28, 2024 ~ 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time