

LITURGICAL MINISTRY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

Rosary

Sacristan

Gifts

Lector

Servers

Greeters

Cantor

Money Counters

Homebound Communion

Traveling Chalice

Dennis Titzer

Melvin Ziliak

Carlie & Cole Phillips

Deann Gress

Brooke Silva, Molly Schnarr

John & Sarah Spindler

Emily McDaniel, Hannah Rodgers

Matt Obert

Dennis Gress

Lori Spindler

Dolores Ziliak

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Rosary

Sacristan

Gifts

Lector

Servers

Greeters

Cantor

Money Counters

Homebound Communion

Traveling Chalice

Dolores Ziliak

Steve Obert

Maverick Reising, Carson Heichelbech

Elizabeth Ivy

Lydia Siekman, Abby Heichelbech

K of C

Kelly Obert

Holly Heichelbech

James Silva

Dennis Titzer

Mike & Brenda Smith

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 10 - 11:15 a.m.

+ Linda Folsom

Thursday, December 14 - 6:00 p.m.

+ Tom, Carol, Glenn & Denise Vaal

Sunday, December 17 - 11:15 a.m.

+ Roberta Silva & Marlene Obert

Stewardship of Treasure

December 3 Collection

Needed for weekly budget

YTD Collection

Needed to meet budget

YTD Variance

Children’s Collection

\$3,728.00

\$1,795.38

\$49,774.96

\$41,293.74

\$8,481.22

\$4.00

Thank You!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This Wednesday, December 6 was the feast day of the great St. Nicholas, sometimes known as St. Nicholas of Myra or less frequently as St. Nicholas of Bari. He is of course the basis for our modern day fictional legend of Santa Claus (Sinterklaas in Dutch). However, I find the story of the *real* Nicholas much more interesting than any story of a fat man in red squeezing up and down chimneys all night on Christmas Eve!

According to tradition, Nicholas was born in the year 270 AD to wealthy Greek Christian parents in modern day Turkey. He was a devoutly religious child, and when still quite young his parents died suddenly in an epidemic. He was then taken into the care of an uncle, also named Nicholas, who was a bishop, and was further educated in the Faith. He was eventually ordained a priest by his uncle and after a lengthy pilgrimage in the Holy Land, returned to Turkey and was for a time thrown into prison during the reign of the Roman Emperor Diocletian. He was probably greatly mistreated there, as analysis of his relics in Bari, Italy revealed that he at least had suffered broken and rehealed facial bones and some other old injuries.

After Christianity was legalized in 312, he returned to the city of Myra in Turkey and was consecrated the bishop there around 317. He was a presiding bishop at the Council of Nicea in 325, which deliberated over the Arian heresy and formulated the Nicene Creed. Arius taught that Jesus was not divine but was created by the Father. Nicholas was a very public and vocal defender of Jesus’ divinity. My favorite story about him is that during the council when Arius was presenting his ideas, Nicholas got so angry and fed up with what he was hearing that he simply got up and struck Arius in the face. He was thrown into prison overnight for doing this in the presence of the Emperor (poor court manners), but was released the next day.

Numerous stories of great miracles worked by him during life abound, but the most well-known is his custom of giving money and assistance to the poor. Most famously, he tossed through the window of a poor man’s home three sums of gold in bags. The man had no money for dowries for his three daughters, and without this, they would never be able to marry and would have to resort to prostitution. Nicholas saved them from this abysmal fate. It is no doubt from this event in the life of St. Nicholas that the age-old custom of exchanging gifts on his feast day originated (and is really older than the custom of exchanging gifts on Christmas).

After a long life as a courageous, steadfast, and loving bishop, he died in Myra in the year 343 on December 6th, the date of the celebration of his feast. The real ‘Santa Claus’ was a remarkable man of faith and generosity. May we learn to emulate him in faith and selflessness! St. Nicholas of Myra, pray for us!!

Yours in Christ,
-Fr. Chris

ST. BERNARD PARISH NEWS

The Angel Giving Tree

All items are due next Sunday, December 17!! Many thanks to everyone for your generous donations!!

Confessions

Wednesday, December 20 is your chance to get ready for Christ for Christmas. Confessions will start at 6:30 pm for the Parish. We will have a second priest here to help. Make this a great Christmas with a clean heart for Christ.

Christmas Poinsettia Remembrances

If you would like to donate to the poinsettia decorations for Christmas in remembrance of a loved one, please either put your money in your labeled Christmas memorial envelope or one of your own envelopes. Please list the persons you want the memorial to go toward and put your donated amount in the Sunday collection or in the box in the back of church. We are asking for at least a \$10.00 donation for as many people as you would like. Any questions, please ask Dolores Ziliak. These are due by Sunday, December 17.

St. Bernard Christmas Program

The religious education students invite you to the 2023 rendition of “Waiting for the Birth of Jesus” next Sunday, December 17 at 6 p.m. followed by cookies and a visit from Santa. All are invited!

Caroling

Please help us spread a little Christmas cheer to our parishioners!! We will begin with pizza in the school hall and then off to caroling on Friday, December 22 at 4:30 p.m. Please text Lori Spindler (812-664-2511) if you would like to join us so we can order pizza. It will be a fun evening!

End of Year Donations

All donations for tax substantiation must be turned in by January 1 and dated December 31. Anything received after January 1 will be recorded as a 2024 donation.

Mass Change

Starting Saturday, January 6, 2024 Mass will be on Saturday evening at 5:30 pm with the Rosary starting around 5:00 pm.

THANK YOU

God Bless You

Thank you to the Altar Society for the wonderful party last weekend. What a great time with our parish family. The true meaning of the season!!

Please look up to the choir loft and check out the Blessed Mother. She is now on a beautiful pedestal. Many thanks to Bernie Spindler for this wonderful addition to our church. It is truly a stunning view of our Mother Mary!!

Christmas Eve Mass

Christmas Eve Mass this year will be at 10 p.m. at St. Bernard. Since Christmas falls on a Monday, we will have Mass at 11:15 am on Sunday the 24th along with Christmas Eve Mass that evening at 10 p.m. To fulfill your obligation you will need to attend two Masses. Please see the chart from the diocese.

Wednesday, December 13

Program Practice from 6:45 to 8 p.m. in Church

Saturday
Dec. 23

Sunday
Dec. 24

Monday
Dec. 25

Saturday Morning Mass
(fulfills no obligation)

Sunday Morning Mass
(fulfills Sunday Obligation)

Mass on Christmas Day
(fulfills Christmas Obligation)

Saturday Evening Mass
(fulfills Sunday Obligation)

Sunday Evening Mass
(fulfills ONE Obligation for either day) ✳

✳ Two Christmas Eve Masses can fulfill both obligations

Upcoming Youth Events

Jan. 13 – Evansville Diocese Eucharistic Congress
Jan. 14 – Boys Open Gym
Jan. 14 – Girl Time
Jan. 14 – HS RockLife



Eucharistic Congress in Evansville Diocese for HS youth

Want to grow deeper in your love for and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist? This unique and timely event in our home diocese will bring our local church together for worship, adoration, education, joy, and mission! Renowned Catholic speakers include Dr. Edward Sri, Dr. Andrew and Sarah Swafford, Monsignor James Shea, and Fr. Tyler Tenbarge! Worship music will be led by PJ Anderson and John Michael Talbot. It'll be on Sat. January 13th at the Old Nat'l Event Plaza. We have 10 seats reserved as of now. Tickets that include lunch are \$50. We will meet at Sts. Peter & Paul around 7:30am to take the mini bus. We will return around 5:30pm. Invite a friend! **Turn in your waiver & \$50 by Wed., December 27th.**

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.smgyouth.com



There is a new Catholic Book Store in Haubstadt. It is in the front office of Daylight Farm Management on Highway 68 just East of Holiday Foods. There are big signs along the Highway so you cannot miss it. Laurie Ziliak has opened this in the past few weeks. Please check it out and support our local Catholic Book Store. There is also a facebook page called Rooted in Him. Check it out!

Catholic Ministries Appeal

Assessment - \$31,828
Amount Collected - \$30,273.13
% of Goal Collected - 95%



MASS SCHEDULE - ST. BERNARD

Sunday - 11:15 a.m.
Thursday - 6:00 p.m.

MASS SCHEDULE - ST. JOHN (DAYLIGHT)

Saturday - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday - 6:45 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday - 8:00 a.m.
Wednesday - 5:30 p.m.
Thursday - 8:00 a.m.
Friday - 9:00 a.m.
First Saturday - 8:00 am



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: Jessica Anderson

School Hall Rental: Terri Ziliak/Lori Spindler

Table & Chair Rental: Jeff & Tammy Meny

Parish Website: stbernardsnakerun.org

Parish Office: 812-615-0201

Sacraments:

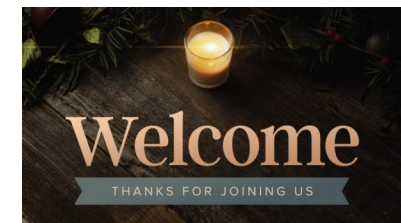
Adoration: First Friday of each month 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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.

PRAYER LIST

Kenny & Marcia Reising, Jim Lubbers, Ralph Elpers, Crystal Williamson, Julia Market, Frankie Rynkiewich, Tony Sevier, Dana Seninger, Diane Gress, Herb Bethe, Doris Hagedorn, Stephanie Meny, Mike Folsom, Stan Elpers
Please call Terri to add or remove someone 677-0511. Let us know when someone can come off the list. Thank you.

December 10, 2023 ~ 2nd Week of Advent