

LITURGICAL MINISTRY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

Rosary

Sacristan

Gifts

Lector

Servers

Greeters

Cantor

Money Counters

Homebound EM

Libby Ivy

Bernie Spindler

Bailey Spindler, Jack Anderson

Sarah Spindler

Allison Spindler, Cole Phillips

Dennis & Deann Gress

Sarah Reising

Mike Smith

Klint Obert

Terri Ziliak

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

Rosary

Sacristan

Gifts

Lector

Servers

Greeters

Cantor

Money Counters

Homebound EM

Traveling Chalice

Terri Ziliak

John Spindler

Molly Schnarr, Brian Heichelbech

Rena Schleter

Emily Anderson, Spencer Heichelbech

Audrey & Lori Spindler

Leroy Seib

Kirk Peterson

James Silva

Steve Obert

Leroy & Sauny Seib

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 31 - 11:15 a.m.

Thursday, January 4 - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 6 - 5:30 p.m.

+ Jessica Obert

+ Donna Weber

+ St. Bernard & St. John's Parishes

Stewardship of Treasure

December 24 Collection (11:15 am)

December 24 Collection (10 pm)

Needed for weekly budget

YTD Collection

Needed to meet budget

YTD Variance

Children's Collection

\$2,257.00

\$2,554.00

\$1,795.38

\$58,952.96

\$46,679.88

\$12,273.08

\$5.00

Thank You!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As part of the ongoing celebration of the Christmas Octave, we commemorate two great realities tied with the coming of the Lord. The Sunday after Christmas is always the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, and the conclusion of the octave comes on Jan 1st, the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God (a holy day of obligation). Both of these are directly tied to the mystery of Christmas in a profound way. This is because God not only chose to come to us as a human being, but also as a part of a human family.

This is one of many reasons why the Church has always upheld the dignity and necessity of a healthy and holy family for the health of the Church and of the world. Without the family living, working, and loving as it should, things fall apart.

These mysteries also show the great humility of God and at the same time the great exaltedness of our human nature because of the Incarnation. Obedience is the key to healing everything in fallen creation. Mary was exalted and received the singular honor of being the Mother of God simply because of her obedience. Jesus was obedient to the will of the Father, which was that he would remain hidden, humble, and unknown for the vast majority of his life. Consider that Jesus submitted himself to two of his creatures (Mary and Joseph) *for 30 years*. He did not just do what they asked. He did *nothing but this for three decades*. When Joseph died, Jesus continued His quiet life of service by simply working as a craftsman as Joseph had. He did this not because it was the only thing He could do, but because he took his responsibility to support his widowed mother with the utmost seriousness. He also desired to show us through his own work and humble labor that we are dignified and sanctified through our own labors!

Also consider God's choice of family for Jesus, and consider what God finds most important and of the highest priority. It is very telling that God did not pick a family that was wealthy, or powerful, or well placed, or highly educated. He picked a family that was above all *pious*. They observed God's law. Mary was deferent to Joseph. Joseph was concerned about the protection of Mary and Jesus as well as working hard to provide for them. All were observant and practicing Jews. Everything was properly ordered within the family, and the whole family was ordered to God the Father above all.

These celebrations remind us that God wishes that we be not necessarily successful by any worldly measure, but *faithful* to God and His will for us above all things. The Holy Family provides for us the perfect model for life and true success. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, pray for us!

-Fr. Chris

ST. BERNARD PARISH NEWS

This Friday, January 5 is First Friday Adoration at St. Bernard from 8 am to 3 pm. Please keep your commitment. In this New Year of the Holy Eucharist, why not make it a resolution to come spend a little time with the Lord!

**Join us for Q & A with Fr. Chris after Mass this Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m.

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.

Parish Council

The next PC meeting will be on Thursday, January 18 at 7:15 pm. There will be a Finance meeting first at 6:45 pm.

Thank You

Many thanks to Father Gary, Father Tony, Father Jack and Father Chris for the beautiful Mass. To the Altar Society for the meal and all the parishioners who visited, sent cards, food, gifts and prayers to us during Tony's long illness. We are very grateful. Janet Sevier and family.

Capital Campaign

We are only \$304.87 away from our goal of \$31,828. We are very thankful to all those who have helped make this possible with your generosity!

Catholic Ministries Appeal

Assessment - \$31,828

Amount Collected - \$31,523.13

% of Goal Collected - 99%

St. Bernard Relic

You may have noticed the monstrance reliquary on the altar which contains a relic of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, our patron. One of our high school students noticed it was in the sacristy closet. A first-class relic are the physical remains of a saint and can include pieces of bone or hair.

*Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, born in 1090, was a renowned French monk and theologian. He entered the Abbey of Cîteaux and quickly became one of its most influential members. His piety and his eloquence earned him to attract many disciples and to found several monasteries, including that of Clairvaux. He participated actively in the reform of the Church and was a fervent defender of the crusades. His theological and spiritual writings, such as "On Grace and Free Will", are still authoritative today. He died in 1153 and was canonized shortly thereafter.

St. Bernard, Pray for Us!

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church for the Christmas season. It looks beautiful!! Thanks also to all our musicians who helped make the Christmas Eve Mass so special!

Religion Class resumes on January 10.

Enjoy Christmas Break!

Happy New Year

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

There may still be time to sign-up! Contact Bryan Macke ASAP. 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 Tenbarger! 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!

Cost is \$50.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Gibson Catholic Young Adults

Come join the Gibson County Catholic Young Adults for games and socializing on Jan. 12 at 6:00 in Sts. Peter and Paul Cafeteria. Join a hot sauce challenge or cheer on your friends. Families welcome, see our Facebook page for details and to sign up to bring food.

St. Benedict Cathedral

In preparation for The Diocese of Evansville Eucharistic Congress...Please Join us for an Evening of ADORATION on Friday, January 12, 2024 at 6:30 pm. with John Michael Talbot, Rev. Alex Zenthoefer and Dr. Edward Sri. All are Welcome!



Evansville Eucharistic Congress

There are still tickets available for Saturday, January 12, 2024. Please see the poster on the bulletin board in the back of church for details on how to obtain tickets. You do not want to miss this event!!



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



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

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:

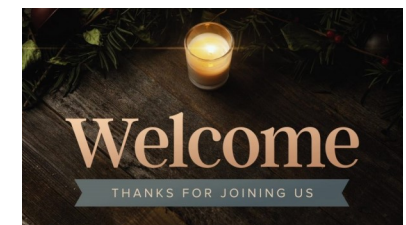
Adoration: First Friday of each month 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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, 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 31, 2023 ~ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph