

The Catholic Community of Bradford

*Twenty-Third Sunday in
Ordinary Time
September 7, 2025*

*Rev. James Gutting
Parochial Administrator
Rev. Edward Walk
Senior Associate*

95 East Corydon Street
P.O. Box 2394 Bradford, PA 16701-5394

St. Bernard of Clairvaux



ST. BERNARD MASSES

Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:30 am

DIVINE MERCY CHAPEL MASSES

Monday & Thursday — 8:00 am & 9:00 am
Tuesday — 9:00 am Wednesday — 8:00 am
Friday — 12:10 pm Saturday — 9:00 am

Phone: (814) 362-6825

Email: office@stbernardcatholic.org

Website: www.stbernardcatholic.org

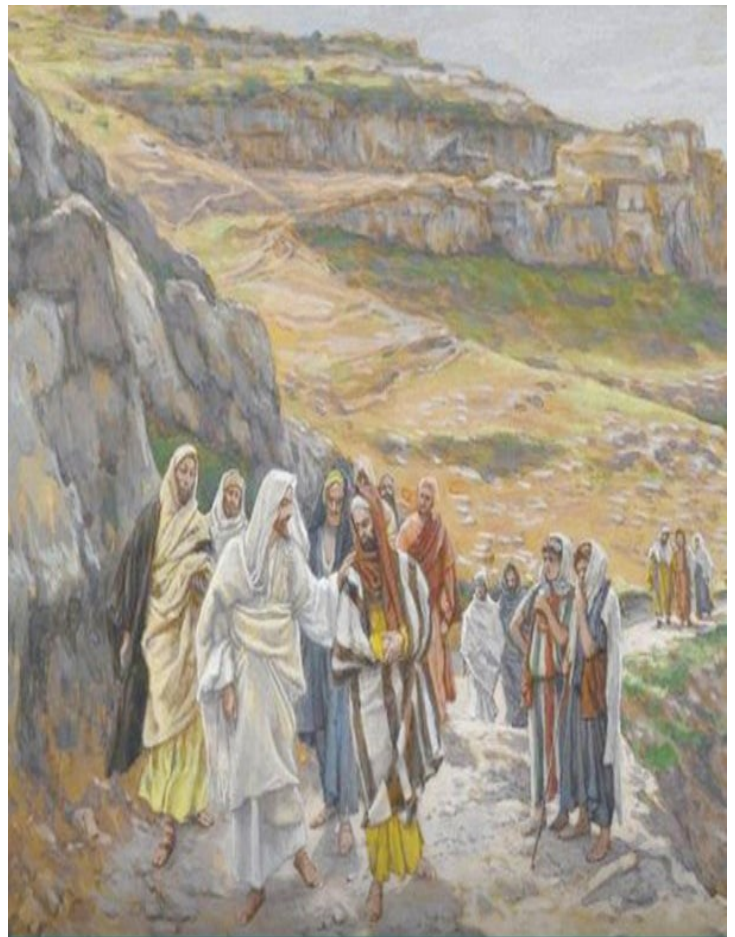
Facebook:

St Bernard of Clairvaux - Bradford, PA

LIVE STREAMING SUNDAY 10 AM

Youtube.com

St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Bradford PA



23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion?
... In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." - Lk 14:28, 33

GOSPEL MEDITATION: ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

One hot Arizona summer afternoon my car ran out of gas. I phoned the parish office and begged for help. My secretary came and helped me fill the gas tank. She chided me, "If you can't manage getting your car from A to B, how can we expect you to guide the parish where it needs to go?" Point taken, Julie. I vowed to always make sure I have plenty of gas in my car.

The Lord Jesus chides us in this week's Gospel, too. He uses the two images of a man building a tower and a king marching soldiers into war to make this single point: acquire what is needed to follow him or look ridiculous. We rightly mock the builder who lacks money for his tower and the king with a short-handed army. But our mocking boomerangs back on us. How do we expect to follow Jesus to the end with insufficient detachment from our possessions and divided hearts?

The good news is, there is still time. Jesus is building a great tower to heaven—his own body. So we renounce all and give ourselves to him as his precious stones. Jesus is waging a battle against our enemy. So we forsake all and swear allegiance and march under his banner. In this way, we will finish what has begun in our discipleship. Or better put, our Lord will have the stones and soldiers required to see his great work through.

— Father John Muir

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Prayer of Simplicity

Dear God, In my desire for You, take away anything that keeps me from knowing You, myself, or my mission here on earth. Help me to remember what is truly important, and to seek and treasure that.

Amen.

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Wedding Anniversary Celebration with Bishop Persico

Couples celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or more wedding anniversaries are still welcome to receive a certificate mailed to you. Registrations will close on Thursday, September 11. Couples and/or Parish staff may complete the registration online at <https://www.eriecd.org/familylifeoffice/anniv.html>, calling their parish office or contact the Marriage and Family Life Office at (814) 824-1210.



Order of Christian Initiation for Adults is the process by which unbaptized adults or those baptized in other Christian traditions are fully initiated into the Roman Catholic Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. It's a journey of faith, study, and sharing within the Catholic community. If you are interested in learning about the Catholic Faith and becoming Catholic, classes begin on September 16 at 5:30 pm at St. Bernard's Conference Room. Please call Laura Brewer at 814-596-0181.

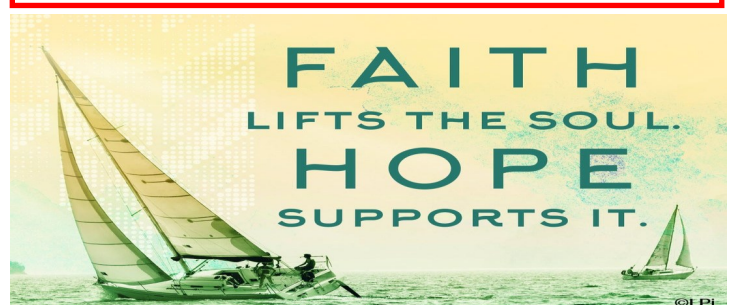


Adult Faith Formation Class - Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible

Refresher to the Great Adventure Bible study will begin on

September 24 at 5:30 pm for 8 weeks. Participants will meet every week to view an engaging video presentation followed by a time of lively group discussion and fellowship. To register, or for more information contact the Parish office. Feel free to bring your bibles and a snack to share. *Donation of \$30.00*, you will receive a full color workbook and *Bible Timeline®* Chart.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION COLLECTION—The Catholic Faith has endured for 2,000 ears—now it's our turn to pass it on. Help us form the next generation of faithful Catholics. We ask you to give generously to this year's Catholic Education Collection which will take place on September 20/21. Half of your gift stays right here at St. Bernard to support our religious education programs. Your support makes faith formation possible.



BISHOP'S SPECIAL COLLECTION Per Bishop Persico's letter in the August 24th bulletin, we are taking up a collection this weekend for the assistance of Christians and other innocent victims of violence in Gaza and surrounding areas. Many are struggling to survive, protect their children and live with dignity in dire conditions. Bishop Persico asks that you give generously to this Special Collection. Thank you!

Question— What Happens if Someone Drops a Consecrated Host?

Despite our best efforts, and this is as true in our liturgical celebrations as in all of life, accidents happen. Occasionally at Mass, a host may be dropped or some of the Precious Blood could even be spilled from the chalice, despite the best efforts of the priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of holy Communion assisting at the liturgy.

So, when a host is dropped or the Precious Blood is spilled, we can take guidance from the U.S. Bishops' statement Norms for the Distribution for Holy Communion Under Both Kinds:

All ministers of Holy Communion should show the greatest reverence for the Most Holy Eucharist by their demeanor, their attire, and the manner in which they handle the consecrated bread or wine. Should there be any mishap — as when, for example, the consecrated wine is spilled from the chalice — then the affected "area . . . should be washed with water, and this water should be then poured into the sacrarium."

According to no. 280 of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, the general rule is that a dropped host is picked up by the minister distributing Communion and reverently consumed. The minister should be careful to make sure that no other particles from the host remain on the ground. As we see in the instruction from the bishops, the Precious Blood would be absorbed (customarily with a purificator) and the area attentively and reverently washed with water which would then be disposed of properly.

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SEPTEMBER 11 NEVER FORGET

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PATRIOT DAY—A day to remember the nearly 3,000 lives lost as well as the countless first responders and service members who answered the call in the days, months, and years that followed the terrorist attacks on 9/11. Americans are encouraged to participate in memorial events and a moment of silence at 8:46 am ET to commemorate the first plane striking the World Trade Center.



"It is by the virtue of hope that we desire to attain the fullness of this happiness in Heaven. Thus, it inspires and sustains us to grow closer to God even when confronted by the hardships of life."

"What smells the best at Grandma's house for dinner?"



"Your nose!"



FUN FACT! Tradition says that Mary's parents were named Anne and Joachim. They are the patron saints of grandparents, since they were Jesus' grandparents!

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WISHING YOU A DAY THAT IS AS GRAND AS YOU ARE



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

HAPPY GRANDPARENTS' DAY!

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Rosary Altar Society: Thursday, September 11th @ 6:00 pm In Ritchie Hall

Widow's Group: **Wednesday, September 17th @ Noon**

K of C #403 : Tuesday, September 9th @ 7:00 pm

Cemetery Board: Wednesday, September 24th @ 11 am

Pastoral Council: Tuesday, October 28th @ 6 pm

Finance Council: Wednesday, September 17th @ 4:30pm

SF 50+ Club: Wednesday, September 10th @ 11 am in Ritchie Hall

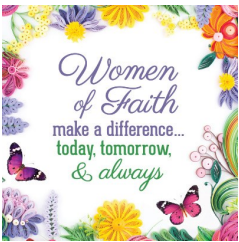
Liturgy Committee: TBA

Catholic Women's Club: Sunday, September 14th @ 10am
Mass—Communion Breakfast to follow @ Togi's Blue Room
Officer Installation/New member Introductions

ATTENTION WIDOWS! We will meet in the Divine Mercy Chapel on Wednesday, September 17th at Noon for the Rosary. We will then go over to the Social Hall for a meeting. Bring your own lunch. All widows are welcome.

**THE FRIENDSHIP TABLE**

served almost 5000 meals in June! If you are looking for an organization to support, especially with the upcoming holidays, your help will be greatly appreciated. A thank you to Joe Doriguzzi (my brother), who has been involved with the Table for over 25 years, and all the dedicated volunteers who make this happen.



The St. Bernard Catholic Women's Club is compiling a history of the Bradford Catholic Community from the 1860's, when a priest traveled on horseback to say Masses throughout the area, to the present day. If you would like to share your stories or historical accounts, please provide your information below, tear it off, and drop in the collection basket or at the Parish Office. A Catholic Women's Club member will contact you! Thank you.

Yes, I have information I'd like to share.

Your Name

Phone #

Email



**The Bradford Council #403
of the Knights of Columbus**
www.koc403.com

Meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the parish office. **Please Note: Next meeting on September 9th.** Council members are urged to attend, and new members are most welcome.

Parish Care and Concern Ministry Presentation

Parish Care and Concern: Are you looking to start or breathe new life into your parish social ministries and connect with fellow parishioners in renewed service? Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie invites you to attend an information session to learn more about how Parish Care and Concern can help you use your gifts and talents as a parish family to serve your neighbors in need. On Thursday September 18th at 12pm, there will be a presentation at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie and an opportunity to attend virtually. Register at <https://bit.ly/PCandC> or contact Diane Gallagher at dgallagher@ccincerie.org or 814-824-1251 for more information. All are welcome.

MASS CARDS—Please stop in between 12 and 4 pm. (3 pm on Fridays during September). Mornings (especially Mondays) at the Parish Office are our busy times. We appreciate your patience!

CATHOLIC TRIVIA Question: What does the word "dalmatic" mean?

Answer:

A dalmatic is the outer vestment worn by a deacon.



EMERY TOWERS—if you, or someone you know, are having difficulty maintaining their home or simply wish to enjoy a maintenance free lifestyle, give Emery Towers a call to schedule a tour. For more information visit their website at www.emerytowers.com or stop at the Rental Office at 2 South Avenue. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9 am to 4 pm.



We have a number of left over school desks free for the asking. If interested in one (or more) desk call the parish office. Must pick-up, no deliveries.



On September 8th each year, the Catholic Church celebrates one of its most ancient and beloved Marian feasts: the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This sacred day invites us to contemplate the humble beginning of she who would become the Mother of God, and to recognize how God's plan of salvation unfolds through the most ordinary and extraordinary moments of human life. The enduring nature of this celebration speaks to the deep reverence Christians have always held for Mary's role in the mystery of the Incarnation. While the Gospels do not provide details about Mary's birth, sacred tradition has preserved the beautiful account of her parents, Saints Joachim and Anne. According to the ancient text known as the Protoevangelium of James, this holy couple endured many years of childlessness—a source of great sorrow in their culture—before God blessed them with the gift of Mary. Their story mirrors that of other biblical couples like Abraham and Sarah, or Hannah and Elkanah, showing us how God often works through apparent impossibility to accomplish His greatest works. Mary's nativity represents far more than the birth of a child; it marks the beginning of the final chapter of salvation history. In Mary, we see God preparing the perfect vessel for the Incarnation of His Son.



ON LINE GIVING—No checkbook or offertory envelope today? No problem! Just visit our website <https://stbernardcatholic.org> to make a one-time donation or, even better, set up a recurring donation for hassle-free, consistent giving. You'll never have to worry about forgetting again! Thank you for your generosity and support. Your contributions are invaluable and help us continue our mission. We deeply appreciate your kindness.



St. Bernard Sanctuary Candle will be burning this week in Memory of Sue Terry O'Connell



Grades 1-5 meet Sundays in Gallina Hall from 11:00 am—12:15 pm. Sept. 7 & Sept. 28.

Grades 6-9 meet Sundays in Gallina Hall from 5:45 pm—7:15 pm. Sept. 14 & Oct. 5

(Full schedule in packets.)

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE Today's gospel is clear: commitment to another involves sacrifice. Before we accept commitments such as marriage or parenting, we must plan carefully, like the king in today's gospel. These are serious commitments that demand complete self-giving and are not for the faint-hearted or selfish.



**LIBERTY TAVERN
PLEASE GIVE THEM YOUR SUPPORT!**

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Total Collection - Needed Weekly: \$ 10,072

August 31.....\$ TBA

2025 Combined CSA Assessment \$ 94,414

2025 CSA Collected \$ 56,094

**Checks for CSA must be made out to St. Bernard.
Please do not COMBINE other payments with CSA.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

**PASTORAL STAFF:**Rev. James Gutting, *Parochial Administrator*Rev. Edward Walk, *Senior Associate***LIVE STREAMING SUNDAY 10 AM:**

You Tube, St Bernard of Clairvaux Bradford

WEBSITE: <https://stbernardcatholic.org/>**FACEBOOK:** St Bernard of Clairvaux - Bradford Pa**MAILING ADDRESS:** PO Box 2394, Bradford, PA 16701**OFFICE HOURS:****Monday thru Friday: 8:30 am to 4 pm**Gina Davidson, *Business Manager**Email: business@stbernardcatholic.org*Elaine Doriguzzi, *Administrative Assistant**Email: office@stbernardcatholic.org***CONFESSIONS:**

St. Bernard — Saturdays from 3:00 to 3:45 pm before
4:00 pm mass; Thursday before First Friday from
4:30 to 5 pm; After 9 am mass on Saturdays.

Private appointments may be made by calling the **Parish Office 362-6825**.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (REP)**REP Coordinator: Cindy Greek**

Students not attending Catholic school should be enrolled in REP programs. The Bradford Catholic Community Religious Education program is Grades 1—5 & Grades 6—9 (Confirmation). Please call the parish office for more information.

REP NEWS! Registration packets for the 2025-2026 year are available in the back of the church, the parish office and online at www.stbernardcatholic.org. Signed forms and payment may be turned in to the office or the offertory baskets. Please return paperwork **before** the first class begins.



**BULLETIN INFORMATION MUST BE
RECEIVED IN WRITING
BY NOON ON FRIDAY
2 WEEKS PRIOR TO BULLETIN DATE.**

MEMBERSHIP: All Baptized Catholics should be registered, practicing and supporting members of a Parish. Only properly registered members appear on our parish list and are eligible to receive the benefits of parish membership for sacraments. Each parishioner is called upon to practice good stewardship of time, talent and treasure. If you are not currently receiving envelopes, you may not be registered. Call the Parish Office - we would love to meet you!

MARRIAGE: Couples need to contact a priest *at least six months before their wedding*. Registered and active participation needs to be considered before marriage.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:

We welcome all inquiries about the Catholic faith. This **RCIA** process begins in the fall of the year. Please call the Parish Office for further information.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK: Please call the Parish Office to request the Sacrament of the Sick for family members who are seriously ill. Communion for the sick is taken to the hospital, nursing homes, and the home-bound on a regular basis.

BAPTISM: Both parents must attend the Pre-Baptism Preparation Program. Please call the St. Bernard Parish Office for dates and times of upcoming class. Baptisms are scheduled after completing the program. Call the Parish Office to schedule the class and baptism. Godparents must be at least 16, confirmed and active, registered members of their parish.

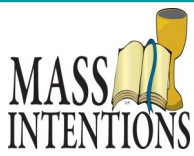
STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**Liturgical****Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors**

Organist St. Bernard	Rita Bennardi
	Michael Hicks
Resurrection Choir	Joan Raabe
God's Housekeepers	Parish Office
Liturgy	Fr. John B Jacquel

Parish Community

Pastoral Council	Craig Cuthbertson
Catholic Women's Club	Joan Yohe
Rosary Altar Society	Dawn Kozminski
Telephone Prayer Chain	Natalie Marasco (598-5565)

Cover photos of churches by LongArt Photography



WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 8TH—14TH. All daily masses are in the Divine Mercy Chapel (SBC) (SB=Church)

Monday, September 8th

SBC 8:00 am Louis Curcio (Estate of Nicholas Pingie)

SBC 9:00 am Marjorie Guthrie (Marty & Kris Sapko)

Tuesday, September 9th

SBC 9:00 am Mary Lou Cauley Mary Anne Stauffer

Wednesday, September 10th

SBC 8:00 am Thomas Black (Pehonsky Family)

Thursday, September 11th (No 8:00 am Mass)

SBC 9:00 am Shirley Lerch (Joyce Schaming & Bill Manning)

Friday, September 12th

SBC 12:10 pm Robert Enos (Mary Ann Satterwhite)

Saturday, September 13th

SBC 9:00 am Dick Cavallero (La Stella Lodge)

SB 4:00 pm Rose Remington (Joyce Schaming)

Sunday, September 14th

SB 8:00 am Kristin McCann (Family)

SB 10:00 am Richard DeFrank (Gene & Helen DeFrank)

SB 11:30 am Jack Carns (Ron & Kathy Symington)

Weekly confessions: Saturdays after 9 am Mass & 3:00 to 3:45 pm before 4 pm Mass.



Readings for the week of September 7, 2025

Sunday: Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 (1)/ Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

Monday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c/ Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

Tuesday: Col 2:6-15/Ps 62:6-7, 9/Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday: Col 3:1-11/Ps 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab/ Lk 6:20-26

Thursday: Col 3:12-17/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Lk 6:27-38

Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11/Lk 6:39-42

Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7/Lk 6:43-49

Next Sunday: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17



SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2025

Saturday: St. Bernard 4:00 PM

LECTOR: Mary Anne Stauffer

EM: Chris Pehonsky **CUP:** Dick Williams/Tammy Black

Servers: Peyton & Cooper Haight

SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2025

Sunday: St. Bernard 8:00 am

LECTOR: Mike Kozminski

EM: Patty Colosimo **CUP:** Dawn Kozminski/Dave White

Server: Dave Hill

St. Bernard 10:00 am

LECTOR: Joyce Geis

EM: Lynn Hogue **CUP:** Beth Mongillo/Teri Everett

Servers: Daniel Marasco/Caleb McAndrew

St. Bernard 11:30 am

LECTOR: Sue Lee

EM: Karen McClain **CUP:** Craig Cuthbertson/Kim Ditz

Server: Dan Cuthbertson



Please pray for those who are sick or suffering

Thomas Ackley, Virgil Anderson, Arnold Family, Dianne Barr, Mary Beth Behan, Nancy Black, Theresa Bond, Sue Bradley, Nancy Bukowski, Tim Burris, Michael Cagney, GiGi Carroll, Dominic "Frank" Cavallero, Dick Clark, Kelly Costello, Melissa Cox, Billie Cummins, Paul & Marianne Curcio, Charlotte Cuthbertson, Jennifer Smith Dawson, Josh Dawson, Christine DiStrola, Brady Dolan, Denise Douthit, Richard Douthit, James Drumm, Alliyson Feldman, Ferguson Family, John Fornataro, Stepheny Franco, Robin Fuller, Pat Geary, Kate Geils, Chip Giordano, Pat Girard, Donna Gocella, Janet Goebel, Tonya Graves, Anthony Haller, Paul Hamer, Melissa Hannon, John Hart, Jill Henry, Joy James, Craig Johnson, Judy Keenan, Lilly Keesler, Mary Keesler, James Kibby, Bill Kline, Craig Kloss, Lisa Komidar, Bob Kuntz, Chris Lechner, Elizabeth Lindemuth, Don Long, Paula Louk, Susan McCann -Piganelli, Pat McCormick, Anita Magnetti, Mariana Militelo, Virginia O'Brien, Mary O'Connell, Chris Pehonsky, Lois Pessia, John Pockey, Joan Pointon, Dan Popiel, Courtney Prentiss, John Pupo, Donna Rail, Anne Reed, Virginia & Ed Reed, George Rhodes, Sandy Rhodes, Kathy Ryan, Jackie Schlegel, Steve Schmidt, Judy Signor, Steve Skaggs, Eileen Smith, Hailey Smith, Betty Soble, Alex Tingley, Molly Thompson, Carol Vinca, Damion Wasiewski, Heather Watson, Philip Weese & Family, Rick Wheaton, Matthew Whelan, Beckett Whitney, Lisa Zurat.

May they be strengthened by the healing presence of God's Spirit.