

# The Catholic Community of Bradford

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

Rev. John Jacquell

Pastor

Rev. Edward Walk

Senior Associate

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Facebook:

St Bernard of Clairvaux - Bradford, PA

LIVE STREAMING SUNDAY 10 AM

Youtube.com

St Bernard of Clairvaux, Bradford PA

*St. Bernard of Clairvaux*

RENOVATIONS COMPLETE!  
WELCOME BACK  
TO ST. BERNARD CHURCH!



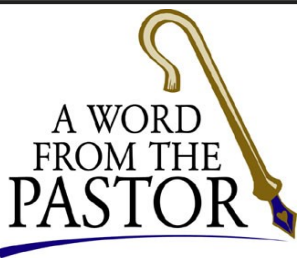
*St. Francis of Assisi*

ALL MASSES ARE NOW BEING  
CELEBRATED AT ST. BERNARD  
CHURCH & DIVINE MERCY CHAPEL



3<sup>rd</sup>  
Sunday  
OF ADVENT





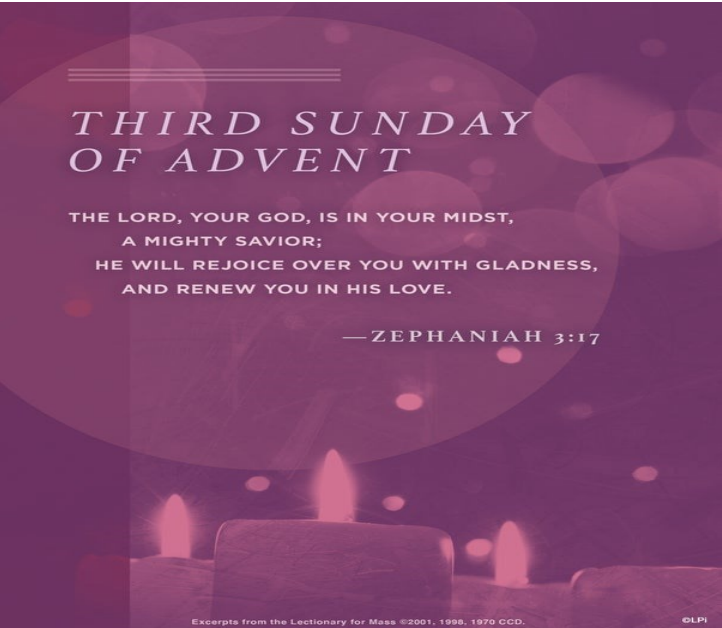
Here's some of what our patron, St Bernard of Clairvaux, says about Advent: "We know that there are three comings of the Lord. The third lies between the other two. It is invisible, while the other two are visible. In the first coming, he was seen on earth, dwelling among people; he himself testifies that they saw him and hated him. In the final coming *all flesh will see the salvation of our God, and they will look on him whom they pierced*. The intermediate coming is a hidden one; in it only the elect see the Lord within their own selves, and they are saved. In his first coming our Lord came in our flesh and in our weakness; in this middle coming he comes in spirit and in power; in the final coming he will be seen in glory and majesty.

"Because this coming lies between the other two, it is like a road on which we travel from the first coming to the last. In the first, Christ was our redemption; in the last, he will appear as our life; in this middle coming, he is our rest and consolation.

"In case someone should think that what we say about this middle coming is sheer invention, listen to what our Lord himself says: *If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him*. There is another passage of Scripture which reads: *He who fears God will do good*, but something further has been said about the one who loves, that is, that he will keep God's word. Where is God's word to be kept? Obviously in the heart, as the prophet says: *I have hidden your words in my heart, so that I may not sin against you*.

"Keep God's word in this way. Let it enter into your very being, let it take possession of your desires and your whole way of life. Feed on goodness, and your soul will delight in its richness. Remember to eat your bread, or your heart will wither away. Fill your soul with richness and strength.

"If you keep the word of God in this way, it will keep you." (Sermon 5 – Advent of our Lord) Fr John



**What is the meaning of Gaudete Sunday?** The third Sunday of Advent in the Roman Catholic calendar of the church year. The term is derived from the Latin opening words of the introit antiphon, "Rejoice (Gaudete) in the Lord always." The theme of the day **expresses the joy of anticipation at the approach of the Christmas celebration.**

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**  
**Women and men religious offer gratitude.** "Sincere thanks to the donors of the Retirement Fund for Religious. I hope we meet, if not in this world, then in the next," says Sister Teresa Korycka, 81, of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. Your gift impacts over 24,000 senior women and men religious, providing them a dignified retirement. To learn how your donation helps, visit [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org).



**CEMETERY NEWS** Due to unforeseen circumstances, there is a delay in the opening of the new columbarium. We should be operational before Christmas. Some niches are still for sale.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Rosary Altar: TBA  
 Widow's Group: TBA  
 K of C #403 : Tuesday, January 8th @ 7:00 pm  
 Cemetery Board: Wednesday, December 18th @ 11:15 am  
 Pastoral Council: Tuesday, December 17th @ 6:00 pm  
 Finance Council: Wednesday, January 8th @ 4:30pm  
 SF 50+ Club: Wednesday, January 8th @ 11:00 am in Gallina Hall  
 Liturgy Committee: TBA



The Bradford Council #403  
 of the Knights of Columbus  
[www.koc403.com](http://www.koc403.com)

meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the parish office.

**Please Note: Next meeting on January 8th**

Council members are urged to attend, and new members are most welcome.



The Bradford Catholic Community Youth Christmas Choir under the direction of Ryan Cannon, with Lynne Kuntz assisting, will be singing at Christmas Eve Mass at 4pm at St. Bernard Church. **Practice session in Gallina Hall on Sunday, 12/15 @ 12:30 & next Sunday 12/22 at 12:30 in St. Bernard Church.**



**GRADES 1-5 will meet on Sunday, December 15th in Gallina Hall at 11:15 am. GRADES 6-9 will meet on Sunday, January 12th @ 5:45 in Gallina Hall.**

**Bulletin Bloopers—Good for a Laugh**

- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands!
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and the community.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- The eighth graders will be presenting Shakespeare's "Hamlet" in the church basement on Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- Don't let worry kill you — let the church help.
- Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

**A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE**

Today's gospel encourages us to **SHARE!** This Christmas, resist the pressure to give token gifts. Instead, use those funds to provide **necessities** to the poor. If our impoverished brothers and sisters are not on our gift list, we've missed the true meaning of Christmas.



**STANLEY E. PECORA, JR. & CASEY GRAFFIUS**  
**ATTORNEYS AT LAW**  
 PLEASE GIVE THEM YOUR SUPPORT!

**Prayer for the Third Week of Advent**

Dear Lord, Give us boldness as we move through the motions of the holiday season, to reflect and remind those around us of Your deep and abiding love for them. Allow them to encounter Your love, through us. Amen.

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**Wreaths Across America** laid wreaths on Veterans graves at St. Bernard Cemetery on Saturday, December 14th.

**GOSPEL MEDITATION**—On a bright Spring morning, a passerby once saw St. Francis of Assisi hoeing a row of beans and asked him, "What would you be doing right now if you knew this was the last day of your earthly life?" The Saint responded, "I'd keep hoeing this row of beans." Preparing for this world to end — whether by our death or by Jesus' glorious coming — invites us to live not in the past or the present, but deeply in the present moment. This same point is on display in the simple advice given by the wild and eccentric John the Baptist. He speaks of the one who is to come who will baptize "with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Luke 3:16). Despite the bizarre awesomeness of this announcement, he tells his listeners to engage in the present moment with simple acts of justice and love as their preparation for Jesus' coming, sharing their clothes and food, eliminating greedy and underhanded practices, being content with their wages. It's so undramatic. But how many actually did it? We don't know. How many of us will commit ourselves to these types of humble and demanding practices in our lives? That's what we should be doing now in our present moment, not worrying about the future. Advent challenge: Name one way you are doing the bare minimum towards others in your daily life. Or name something you are doing because you are not content with your financial situation. Pray: "Jesus, if it is your will, help me to stop doing these things this week. Help me prepare for your coming." Then make the appropriate changes.— Father John Muir

©LPi

"How does a sheep say Merry Christmas?"



**"Fleece Navidad!"**



There are many ways to say "Merry Christmas," but each one is a wonderful blessing of the good news of Jesus come to earth as our savior.

©LPi



**PLAQUES STILL AVAILABLE**  
*These would make wonderful Christmas gifts.* Church plaque or Altar plaque \$60, both for \$100. Plaques can be seen at the office or at St. Francis Church. Please call the office if interested. They're available for immediate pick-up.



*St. Bernard Sanctuary  
Candle will be burning this week  
in memory of  
Evelyn Taylor*

**CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN**

Question: What do we call an ornamental canopy above an altar inside a church?

Answer: A Baldacchino or Baldachin.

©LPi



**Mark Your Calendars!** The Women's Club of the Catholic Community of Bradford, along with the Rosary Altar, and the Knights of Columbus are again sponsoring the annual Chili Cook-off. It will take place on Saturday, January 25th following the 4 pm Mass at St. Bernard Church and will be in Gallina Hall.

**MARRIAGE MOMENT**

What makes a marriage happy is often not so much how compatible you are, but how you deal with incompatibility. How are you and your beloved most different?



**PARENTING POINTERS**

In this season of "Peace" continue your peacemaking by making an effort to resolve a conflict you have with a family member, a neighbor, or a person with a different political view from yours. Who \_\_\_\_? Try it.



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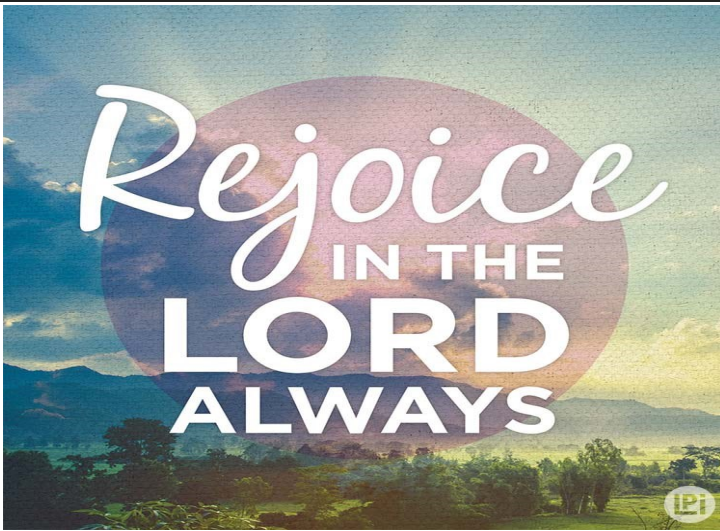
**LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**


**Total Collection - Needed Weekly: \$10,072**

December 8..... \$ TBA  
Retirement Fund for Religious.....\$ TBA

**2024 Combined CSA Assessment \$89,918**  
2024 CSA Collected ..... \$61,736

**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS**





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

**PASTORAL STAFF:**  
 Rev. John B Jacquel, *Pastor*  
 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*  
 Elaine Doriguzzi, *Administrative Assistant*

**CONFESSIONS:**  
**St. Francis** — 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: Kim VanHorn**

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.

**NURSERY:** Nursery is available during 10 am Mass at Ritchie Hall. If interested in helping out, even in a limited capacity, please reach out to Ruby Morris at 814-989-0194 or at [rubbytmor@gmail.com](mailto:rubbytmor@gmail.com).

**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
Organist St. Francis	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 DECEMBER 16TH—DECEMBER 22ND**  
**All Masses will now be celebrated at St. Bernard except for the daily Masses in the Divine Mercy Chapel, indicated by SBC in front of the time.**

**Monday, December 16th (9 am Mass final at St. Francis)**  
 SBC 8:00 am David & Frances Place (Deb & John Place)  
**SF** 9:00 am Anna Veroche (Toni Magnetti & Family)

**Tuesday, December 17th**  
 SBC 9:00 am James Carroll (Kathy Symington)

**Wednesday, December 18th**  
 SBC 8:00 am Arthur Frownfelter (Ann Frownfelter)

**Thursday, December 19th**  
 SBC 8:00 am All Parishioners  
 SBC 9:00 am Lucille M. Vinca (Dave Vinca)

**Friday, December 20th**  
 SBC 8:00 am Evelyn Taylor (Family)

**Saturday, December 21st**  
 SBC 9:00 am Gerry Cierpilowski (M/M Jack Kerr & Family)  
 SB 4:00 pm Dan Costello (Wesley & Ann Miller)

**Sunday, December 22nd**  
 SB 8:00 am William Bottorf, Sr. (d) (Cindy Greek)  
 SB 10:00 am Mike Pascarella (Pat Pascarella)  
 SB 11:30 am Sal Luzzi (Mary & Karen Luzzi)

**Weekly confessions: Saturdays after 9 am Mass and 3:00 to 3:45 pm before 4 pm Mass.**  
**Special Reconciliation Opportunity: Sunday, December 15th, 2-3 pm in St. Bernard Church**

**Readings for the week of December 15, 2024**

**Sunday:** Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/  
Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17


**Wednesday:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

**Thursday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/  
Lk 1:5-25

**Friday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

**Saturday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/  
Lk 1:39-45

**Next Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/  
Lk 1:39-45




**DECEMBER 21ST, 2024**  
**Saturday: St. Francis 4:00 pm**  
**Lector:** Jean Truman  
**EM:** Dick Williams **CUP:** Peggy Johnson/Tammy Black  
**Servers:** Bella & Giana Davidson

**DECEMBER 22ND, 2024**  
**Sunday: St. Francis 8:00 am**  
**Lector:** Martha Torrey  
**EM:** Deb Soyke **CUP:** Joan Yohe/Patty Colosimo  
**Server:** David Hill

**St. Francis 10:00 am**  
**Lector:** Greg Ulyan  
**EM:** Gloria Scarano **CUP:** Lynn Hogue/Teri Everett  
**Servers:** Abigail Carlson, Claire & Teddy Henretta

**St. Francis 11:30 am**  
**Lector:** Judy LeRoy  
**EM:** Craig Cuthbertson  
**CUP:** Karen McClain/Sue Lee  
**Server:** Dan Cuthbertson



*Pray For...* Please pray for those who are sick or suffering

Thomas Ackley, Virgil Anderson, Arnold Family, Dianne Barr, Frank Barton, 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, Christine DiStrola, Brady Dolan, Denise Douthit, Richard Douthit, James Drumm, Alliyson Feldman, Ferguson Family, Stepheny Franco, Robin Fuller, Pat Geary, Chip Giordano, Pat Girard, Tonya Graves, Anthony Haller, Paul Hamer, Melissa Hannon, John Hart, Kristen Marie Hayes, Jill Henry, Joy James, Craig Johnson, Judy Keenan, Lilly Keesler, Mary Keesler, James Kibby, Bill Kline, Craig Kloss, Bob Kuntz, Chris Lechner, Shirley Lerch, Elizabeth Lindemuth, Harold & Paulette Little, Don Long, Paula Louk, Susan McCann-Piganelli, Pat McCormick, Marilyn Manion, Anita Magnetti, Mariana Militelo, Lorraine Mueller, Virginia O'Brien, Mary O'Connell, John Pockey, Dan Popiel, Courtney Prentiss, Mary Rae, Donna Rail, Anne Reed, Virginia & Ed Reed, Sandra Remington, Sandy Rhodes, Steve Schmidt, Judy Signor, Steve Skaggs, Eileen Smith, Hailey Smith, Betty Soble, Alex Tingley, Molly Thompson, Carol Vinca, Damion Wasiewski, Philip Weese & Family, Matthew Whelan, Donna Whitford, Beckett Whitney, Lisa Zurat. **May they be strengthened by the healing presence of God's Spirit.**