

# DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

## St. Bernard's Parish Faith Formation

God does not come to us just on Sundays.

Perhaps we should acknowledge His presence throughout the day through prayer and meditation.

We need that constant sense of God's presence.

### FATHER ANTHONY'S GUIDANCE

## CHRISTMAS

*As we rejoice and celebrate this wonderful season of Christmas, let us not forget to thank baby Jesus for coming into our lives. Let us together prepare ourselves to welcome Him into the homes of our hearts.*

*Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones.*

**-Fr. Anthony Onyango**

### THE DEACON'S CORNER

*Christmas is the season of Love and Joy. God has come to earth, not as a warrior but as a defenseless child. This is the ultimate Hope that God has in us and that we have in God.*

#### **The Magi**

*Their coming was foretold. "The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts, the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay Him homage, all nations shall serve Him" (72:10-11).*

*Isaiah also prophesied the gifts: "Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the Lord" (Isaiah 60:6).*

A source attributed to [St. Bede the Venerable](#) gives us the following clues about these men.

- The oldest of the Magi was Melchior, King of Arabia. He had a long gray beard and gave gold as a gift, symbolizing the acceptance of Christ as King.



### IMPORTANT DATES

#### DECEMBER 24

- Christmas Eve Mass
  - 4:00 pm at St. Damian
  - 7:00 pm at St. Damian (Hispanic)
  - 10:00 pm at St. Bernard

#### DECEMBER 25

- Christmas Day Mass at 9:00 am at St. Bernard



- Balthazar, King of Ethiopia, was middle-aged, swarthy, bearded, and bore the gift of frankincense, symbolizing Christ as High Priest.
- Finally, Caspar was King of Tarsus, in his twenties. His gift was myrrh, which was used in making medicines. This symbolized Christ as the healer and great physician.

It is said that after discovering and honoring the Savior, the Magi returned home and surrendered their high positions, gave their property to the poor, and went to spread the Gospel. The apostle St. Thomas is said to have baptized them forty years later in India, ordaining them as priests. An excerpt from a Medieval saints calendar printed in Cologne reads: "Having undergone many trials and fatigues for the Gospel, the three wise men met at Sewa (Sebaste in Armenia) in 54 (AD) to celebrate the feast of Christmas.

Thereupon, after the celebration of Mass, they died: St. Melchior on 1st of January, aged 116; St. Balthazar on 6th of January, aged 112; and St. Caspar on 11th of January, aged 109." They became martyrs and were buried in the walls of Jerusalem.

The Empress St. Helena (circa 248-330, mother of Constantine I) supposedly discovered their bodies in Persia in 325 AD during her pilgrimage to the Holy Land and brought them to Constantinople, where their remains rested in the church of St. Sophia. It was she who established their identity within the early church although the Magi were not referred to as saints until the twelfth century. St. Helena died in 330.

[\[hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com\]](http://hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com)



***Just an added note of the importance of the children coming to Mass regularly on weekends with their families. On weekdays they attend Mass during Faith Formation sessions, but the children need to pray with their moms and dads at Mass also on the weekends. Praying together strengthens a family in more ways than we'll ever realize!!!! Joshua says', "as for me and my house, we will serve God".***

***Thank you for bringing the children to Mass!***

**-Deacon Glenn**

***"May you always be doing those good, kind things that show you are a child of God." Phil 1:11***

## ADORATION WITH BENEDICTION

The Weekly Holy Hour with Benediction held at St. Bernard and St. Damian parishes are as follows:

***Tuesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00 pm @ St. Bernard (even months - Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec)  
Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00 pm @ St. Damian (odd months - Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sept, Nov)***

*Adoration starts at 7:00 p.m. and concludes with Benediction at 8:00 p.m.*

Here is a link of things to do during a Holy Hour... <http://www.therealpresence.org/eucharst/pea/holyhour.html>

If you have any questions, please contact me at 314-660-3976.

**-Deacon Kevin**

## THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

*Christmas is many celebrations both in our faith community and in our family and other groups to which we belong. The Hispanic community celebrated 8 nights of posada at different churches where we live. The simple celebration of prayer and song capped by sharing pozole and tamales helps us remember to make room for God.*

*Now after Christmas we thank the many generous people who brought gifts for the families.*

*On January 5<sup>th</sup>, we gather with the Magi and take the Good News of God among us out to the world.*

*Navidad tiene muchas celebraciones en nuestra comunidad de fe y en las otras agrupaciones donde pertenecemos. La comunidad hispana celebró 8 noches de posada en diferentes iglesias donde vivimos. La celebración sencilla de oración y cantos y tanto más mejor con el compartir de pozole y tamales y bolos para todos.*

*Ahora después de la Navidad compartimos nuestra gratitud por las muchas familias quienes trajeron regalos para las familias.*

*El 5 de enero reunimos con los Reyes y con ellos llevamos la Buena Nueva de Dios entre nosotros a todo el mundo. FELIZ AÑO NUEVO*

**-Sister Ellen Orf**

## FAITH FORMATION WEEKDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

NOTE: Weekday masses at St. Bernard are on Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays at 7:45 am

**St. Bernard's Weekday Ministry Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Readers</b>	<b>Servers</b>	<b>Cantors</b>	<b>Voc Prayer</b>	<b>Mass Hosting</b>
1/7/2020	Bradley S. Ashlyn H.	Wyatt J. Tessa S. Jack R.	Coryn T. Kaley W.	Liam J.	6th
1/9/2020	Coryn T. Alaina H.	Carson R. Riley R. Alex A.	Coryn T. Kaley W.	Kailey E.	6th
1/14/2020	Jordan S. Trevor J.	Kellen R. Landon S. Cayden L.	Madi W. Corrine W.	Kate M.	5th
1/16/2020	Lydia E. Jessenia T.	Carson R. Modesto H. Omar A.	Madi W. Corrine W.	Sam R.	5th
1/21/2020	Corina H. Mallory S.	Kellen R. Alex A. Oliver V.	Cristina R-C. Lucero H.	Cole H.	4th
1/23/2020	Jillian K. Avery W.	Corinne W. Madi W. Kayle R.	Cristina R-C. Lucero H.	Dylan W.	4th
1/28/2020	Ana A. Wyatt J.	Avery W. Andrew C. Brock S.	Corina H. Yerian P-C.	Waylon S.	3rd
1/30/2020	Alaina H. Landon S.	Carson R. Modesto H. Omar A.	Corina H. Yerian P-C.	Liam J.	3rd

## ST. BERNARD WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Date	Communion Ministers	Readers	Ushers	Servers	Collection Counters
Saturday, Dec. 21 <sup>st</sup> 4:00 pm	Steve Schomaker Deb Schomaker Melissa Netemeyer	Nettie Broeckling	Ed Broeckling <b>Volunteer</b>	Corina Hegger Tyler Robertson Landon Schroeder	
Sunday, Dec. 22 <sup>nd</sup> 10:00 am <i>7<sup>th</sup> Grade Host</i>	Sharon Wuebbels Lynette Huegen Kati Schwierjohn	Ray Gill	John Majchrzak Linda Majchrzak Ron Norrenberns Geri Norrenberns	Bradley Strubhart Mallory Strubhart Avery Wuebbels	Tim Schroeder Phyllis Albers John Majchrzak
<b>PLEASE SIGN UP FOR CHRISTMAS EVE &amp; CHRISTMAS DAY!!</b>					
Saturday, Dec. 28 <sup>th</sup> 4:00 pm	Ken Nussbaumer Nettie Broeckling Kathy Engelmann	Liz Nussbaumer	Nick Friederich Kathy Friederick	Clayton Jansen Rylee Jansen Kalie Wellen	
Sunday, Dec. 29 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 am <i>6<sup>th</sup> Grade Host</i>	Dan Love Lee Love Cole Schomaker	Lynette Huegen	Tom Broeckling Mitchell Broeckling Dave Wuebbels Dave Langenhorst	Jillian Kloeckner Jake Kloeckner Ashlyn Gebke	Lynn Athmer James Williams Dana Lake

