



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

SAINT BERNADETTE OF LOURDES PARISH "WHERE MIRACLES HAPPEN"

1035 TURNER AVENUE † DREXEL HILL PA 19026

RECTORY: (610)789-7676 † FAX: (610)789-9539 † SCHOOL: (610)449-5184

WWW.STBL.ORG

DECEMBER 13, 2020 — THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASSES

SATURDAY VIGIL: 4:30PM

SUNDAY: 9:00AM AND 11:00AM

WEEKDAY MASS

MONDAY—FRIDAY 8:30AM

HOLY DAY MASSES

TIMES ANNOUNCED IN SUNDAY BULLETIN

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 3:30PM — 4:15PM

Pastor

Rev. Michael J. Saban (Ext. 104)

Resident

Rev. Hugh J. Dougherty

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Thomas P. Fitzpatrick

Director of Religious Education

Marykate Murphy (Ext. 212)

School Principal

Mrs. Joanne Montie

Parish Business Manager

Robert J. Helmig (Ext. 103)

Administrative Secretary

Helen V. Kraus (ext. 101)

Parish Music Coordinator

Dorothy Toomey



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Third Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete Sunday* because today's opening antiphon begins with the word *Gaudete*, which means rejoice. We rejoice today, for the coming of the Lord is so near that we cannot help but think about it. Perhaps we are starting to feel overwhelmed by all of what we need to do between now and Christmas. Let this be an opportunity to refocus our attention on the true reason we celebrate this time of year. Rejoice, the Lord is near!

Parish Information

NEW FAMILIES

Welcome to St. Bernadette Parish! To register in the parish, please email Deacon Tom Fitzpatrick at deacontom@stbl.org. He will get back to you to arrange a convenient time to meet with him to register. We are eager to greet new members of our parish community and look forward to meeting you.

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

The rectory office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00am to noon and 1:00pm to 5:00pm. **During the summer the rectory will close at 3:00pm on Fridays.** Items for the Sunday newsletter must be at the rectory by Monday at noon for publication the following Sunday.

BAPTISMS

Baptisms are held at 12 noon on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Parents must attend a Pre-Jordan class held in the Wright Center at 12 noon on the first Sunday of every other month (please refer to the bulletin for exact dates). Registration for the class is required. In order to arrange for a baptism, the parents must be active members of the parish for six months. To register, please call the rectory office at 610/789-7676. Godparents should be practicing Catholics, confirmed and at least 16 years of age. If not from this parish, sponsors must have a letter of eligibility from their parish stating that they have been actively participating for six months. St. Bernadette Parishioners must be registered and actively participating for six months to receive a letter of eligibility.

MARRIAGES

We request that couples contemplating marriage call the rectory to make an appointment with the priest. At this initial interview, the date and time of your request will be recorded and you will receive a copy of the Parish Wedding Guidelines.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK/COMMUNION CALLS

A priest will administer Holy Communion to parishioners who are unable to come to Church. If you desire, Eucharistic Ministers can bring Communion each week. Please contact the Rectory to be placed on our Sick List. Parishioners who are to undergo serious surgery at a hospital are encouraged to make an appointment at the Rectory before going to the hospital.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St. Bernadette School offers sessions for Pre-School and Kindergarten and conducts full-time classes from first through eighth grades. PREP classes are held in the parish school for all students attending public school. PREP classes are held on Monday evenings at 6:45pm. Adults seeking religious instruction should call Marykate Murphy, Director of Religious Education at (610) 789-7676 ext. 212. The RCIA Program begins in October.

SAINT BERNADETTE PARISH ON FACEBOOK

We can be found at "Saint Bernadette of Lourdes Parish". Check out the page and "like" us to keep up with the latest parish news.

VISITS TO THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT can be made in the Chapel

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY takes place every Monday through Thursday at 8:00am in the church and on Wednesday evenings along with the Miraculous Medal Novena at 7:00pm in the Chapel.

UNITED HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY meet every Monday evening at 7pm in the Chapel.

NOVENA TO ST. LEONIE AVIAT takes place every Tuesday at 7:00pm in the Chapel.

FLAME OF LOVE PRAYER CENACLE takes place every Thursday at 7:00pm in the Chapel.

RESPECT LIFE GROUP information can be obtained by calling Doris Hurd at 610-789-2708.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP meets in the chapel every Tuesday at 7:30pm.

MUSIC MINISTRY is open to all who wish to share their time and talent in praise and thanksgiving to God – call Dottie Toomey at 610/449-4013 for rehearsal times.

ST. BERNADETTE MARTHAS AND A JOSEPH are a dedicated group who clean the church every Thursday after the 8:30am Mass; new volunteers always welcome—call Johanna Ryan at 484-988-2414.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Ave Maria Council #4063

serve St Bernadette Parish invites interested men 18 years of age and older to join in fraternity and the service to our parish and greater community; contact amdhillkofc@gmail.com

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS meetings are held every Thursday at 9:30am in O'Brien Hall.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPICE Casseroles to feed the homeless sponsored by St. John's Hospice in Philadelphia are collected in O'Brien Hall before the weekend Masses that precede the first Thursday of the month. Casserole pans are available in the main entrance of church. Call Mary at 610/789-6206.

FOOD PANTRY

Non-perishable food items for the Food Pantry can be placed in bags and left in the vestibules of church. Any monetary donations or donations of gift cards should be sent to Fr. Saban. If you have a question, call the Food Pantry at 610-789-7676 ext. 213.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 12

4:30pm Deacon Frank Burke

Sunday, December 13

9:00am Dorothy Eaton & Mildred Poole

11:00am Mary L. Copley & Robert W. McKenna

Monday, December 14 - St. John of the Cross

8:30am Jimmy McLaughlin

Tuesday, December 15

8:30am Patty Kelly (15th Anniv.)

Wednesday, December 16

8:30am Tom McElwee

Thursday, December 17

8:30am

Friday, December 18

8:30am

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 19

4:30pm Eleanor Gilmartin

Sunday, December 20

9:00am Theodore Colella, Jr.

11:00am Donald Kane

LEAVE YOUR LASTING LEGACY TO ST. BERNADETTE OF LOURDES PARISH THROUGH PLANNED GIVING

What is a "Planned Gift"? It is a gift given to charity through a will, contract or trust. Planned Giving is charitable giving that is planned, often deferred, and usually spread out over an extended period of time. Through various types of bequests to St. Bernadette of Lourdes Parish you may secure an estate-tax charitable deduction for the value of your gift while providing much needed support for years to come. You may prefer to include in your will or trust a sum of money, a percentage of your estate, a specific item, or a piece of real estate that you wish to give to St. Bernadette Parish.

Designate your Planned Gift by including St. Bernadette Parish in your Will. A bequest may take the form of cash, securities, real estate or other property. You should specify that St. Bernadette Parish is to receive a certain amount or percentage of your estate, specific assets or the remainder of your estate after providing for your heirs.

- Bequests can include a specific dollar amount, assets, securities, real estate, insurance policies, IRAs and personal property.

- Real estate bequests may include the entirety or remainder of your estate after payment of expenses and any specific amounts designated to other beneficiaries.

We are available to answer questions. Please call if you would like to discuss your planned gift to St. Bernadette of Lourdes Parish. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Pastor, Rev. Michael J. Saban: 610-789-7676 (Ext. 104)

Business Manager, Robert J. Helmig: 610-789-7676 (Ext. 103)



FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

This week's readings are:

First Reading - Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel - John 1:6-8, 19-28

Next week's readings will be:

First Reading - 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Second Reading - Romans 16:25-27

Gospel - Luke 1:26-38

ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Monday, December 14 and 21

7:00pm – 8:00pm

Saturday, December 19

3:30pm - 4:15pm

No Confessions Christmas Eve

BULLETIN DEADLINES

December 20 due noon - Monday, December 7

December 27 due noon - Monday, December 14

January 3 due noon - Monday, December 14

FLAME OF LOVE PRAYER CENACLE

The Flame of Love Prayer Cenacle that usually takes place every Thursday evening in the Chapel has been suspended until after the New Year. Due to the uptick in Covid, we feel it is best to not gather in a closed room. **The Flame of Love is temporary Virtual on Zoom. This is done Thursday evenings at 7 pm. Anyone wishing to participate please contact Joyce McHugh @ 610-724-3003 for the link to attend.** All are welcome to pray this blessed Rosary. God bless you - and hope to see you in 2021.



PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the Power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

When and where do I recognize the presence of the Lord in the world?

THANK YOU — THANK YOU for continuing to support your parish!

As followers of Christ Jesus, we are reminded that all things including life itself are a gift from God. What matters to God is not the gift, but the giver. Giving is God's invitation to a way of life. It helps us to overcome our selfishness and love of things. What we do with what we have been given is a sign to God and to the world of the depth and meaning of our commitment. By recalling that all is gift, we therefore must strive to be generous with the financial gifts, both great and small, that God has bestowed upon us. Thank you for your support and your generosity to God and to St. Bernadette Parish.

St. Bernadette Parish has enlisted **Parish Giving** to provide its parishioners and supporters with the opportunity to use Electronic Funds Transfer as an alternative method for giving. **The Program is free of charge for parishioners.** More information about Parish Giving is available on our Parish web site: www.stbl.org on the "Parish Giving" page.

2020 STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

Just a reminder — This appeal is most important to the strength, vibrancy and health of St. Bernadette Parish, and we ask that you please be as generous as your means permit. Please return your census form and your donation to the rectory or put it in the Sunday collection basket. If your family information has not changed, just check "no changes" on the form. Thank you for your continued support of St. Bernadette Parish.



Scrip Gift Cards can now be purchased on Sundays from 9:30am - 11:00am in the Wright Center. Enter through the Turner Ave door and per current guidelines, please wear a mask. New Incentive - purchase gift cards on Sundays and receive an entry into the monthly drawing for a \$25 grocery gift card. School families will also earn a N.U.T. pass.

Local grocery/retail gift cards available include: Giant, ACME, ShopRite, Colonial Village, Freddy's, Kohl's, Sam's Boardwalk Pizza and JD McGillicuddy's. National cards can be ordered, turnaround time is usually within a week. See full list of retailers on

<https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/>

****NEW** mobile app** - if you have been using the MyScrip-Wallet shortcut on your mobile device, they now offer an app called RaiseRight (by Shop with Scrip). Download it, and use the same Shop with Scrip login. For more information on the app, please visit: <https://www.raiseright.com/>

The St. Bernadette Scrip program is the parish based program where you purchase gift cards to your favorite stores and receive a rebate that can be redeemed in various ways: apply towards school tuition, PREP, high school tuition or donate to the parish. The purpose of the program is to help St. Bernadette families earn cash back on everyday purchases and support the parish. If you have any questions, please contact the scrip coordinators, Susan Coyne and Karen Murphy, at scrip4bernies@gmail.com.



ST. BERNADETTE SCHOOL

What's Happening

This is a special year for our 7th grade students who are getting spiritually ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in February. The children are diligently working to find creative, safe ways to give service as they prepare to complete their initiation into our Catholic faith.

In Life Science our 7th graders are learning about ecosystems and the transfer of energy through trophic levels of the Energy Pyramid. The children are discussing how resources affect a population. In ELA, the children are practicing evidence-based writing. Additionally, in Literature they are studying internal and external conflict in characters and themes. They thoroughly enjoyed analyzing and discussing Norman Rockwell's painting *Freedom from Want*.



WE PRAY FOR THE SICK - Fred Am

tucci, Elaine Ambrosano, Joseph Anthony, Lisa Pfaff Bevilacqua, Sharon Blum, Pamela Bower, Joseph Bradley, Marie Bree, Theresa Caputo, Michael Carroll, Robert & Joanne Christopher, Ron Christopher, Elaine Cole, Mike Connors, Quinn Connors, Dennis Conway, Dave Costella, Barbara Cunningham, Molly Curtis, Donna D'Ambrosio, Ann Davis, Laurel Dee, Michael DeEmilio, Tom and Peggy Dever, Frances Diegnan, Christopher DiMarto, Gabriella DiSaverio, Julia Donohue, Darrin Dougherty, Dawn Dougherty, Michael Dougherty, James Drumm, Jeff Dudley, Lexi Dunn, Bernie Dupras, Jason Durkee, Trevor Durkin, Matthew Dwyer, Marie Feola, Patrick Flanigan, Emily Flynn, Jerry Flynn, Joe Flynn, Sr. Rose Foulk, Maggie Franz, Tom Glancey, Christine Grosso, Joan Grycewicz, Rachel Hagan, Christian Hampton, Kim Hayman, Lizzy Hennessy, Pat Henningsen, Michael Hogan, Judith Holmes, Baby Lila Holmes, Adrian Hughes, Christopher Hunt, Frank Iacone, John Ingle, Ashley Juliano, David Kisella, Linda King, Tommy Lake, Wilmer Lehman, Steven Little, Betsy Long, Jeannette Maleno, Michele Malolie, Dalton Martin, Kathy Martin, James Maynard, Neil McClelland, Helene McCole, Jean McCormack, Karen McIlvaine, Sean McKeefery, Baby Rosie McKenna, Marianne McLaughlin, Theresa Merlini, Christopher Milecki, Jerry Misterman, Sue Mitchell, Bridget Morris, Charlie Morris, Kathleen Murtaugh, Matthew Nicholas, Nancy Nicholas, Sydney Nihill, Roman O'Brien, Sr. Eleanor O'Connell, SJ, Carmen Pettin, Steve Piperno, Pearl Polto, Sharon Pozzuolo, Christopher Rafferty, Michele Re, Mary Rhodunda, Dan Rock, Mimi & Rich Rogge, Anna Rokos, Marie Seiler, Michael Shane, Bridget Sharpe, Amy Sheeler, Theresa Sherwin, Marion Sloan, Rob Smith, Kristin Sorrentino, Carmella Spano, Emily Tong, Mario Turcchiolo, Carol Tyson, Annie Walker, Lily Walker, Mary Wieners Lori Zytconicz and those suffering from serious illnesses & incurable diseases.

HOSPITAL SICK CALLS - Emergency sick calls may be made to the rectory at any time. If surgery or admission to the hospital is scheduled, please call the rectory ahead of time to make arrangements to receive the Sacrament of the Sick. Due to the privacy act, if you are in the hospital and wish to see a priest while you are there, you must register as a Catholic when admitted or make sure a family member does so for you to assure a visit by a priest or Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist.

2020 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**CONFESSIONS**

Monday, December 14 and 21
7:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, December 19
3:30pm - 4:15pm
No Confessions Christmas Eve

MASSES

Vigil Mass for Christmas
Thursday, December 24
4:00pm (Church)
7:00pm (Church)

Christmas Day
Friday, December 25
9:00am and 11:00am

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2021 NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE**CONFESSIONS**

Saturday, December 26
3:30pm – 4:15pm

MASSES

Vigil Mass
Thursday, December 31
4:30pm

Friday, January 1
9:00am and 11:00am

**Christmas Giving Project****PARISH GIVING TREE**

November 29 — December 13

All gifts must be returned no later than noon—this Sunday, December 13. The gifts will be distributed on Monday, December 14.

St. John's Hospice (Men)

Knitted hats, scarves, gloves, belts, long underwear (tops and bottoms), regular underwear, flannel shirts, hooded sweat-shirts (L & XL)

Women of Change

Single bed sheets, towels, nightgowns, robes, slippers, sweat-shirts, sweatpants, flannel shirts, regular underwear, woolen hats and gloves (no scarves) - sizes L, XL and XXL for clothing items

Gift of Mary

(Mother Teresa's Sisters in Chester)

SPECIAL NOTE: This year, instead of toys, the Sisters have asked for diapers, wipes, hats, gloves, napkins, disinfectant wipes, children's sweatpants and adult sweatpants.

PARISH CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

November 29 — December 13

The Christmas food drive is this **Sunday, December 13 from 1pm until 3pm**. If you would like to donate a fresh or frozen turkey, please drop it off at the Wright Center after the 11am Mass until December 13.

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

November 29 — December 13

Those who wish to adopt a family or a person in need in the parish who would otherwise not be able to provide Christmas presents, please call or text Amy Sandman at 610-931-5692.

**DID YOU KNOW**

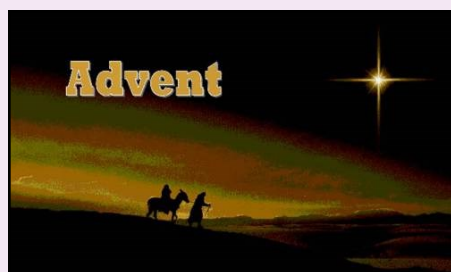
... that the practice of putting candles in the windows arose directly from the circumstances of continual religious persecution that Irish Catholics lived under? The candle served as a secret signal to priests passing through the village on Christmas Eve that the home was Catholic and that the priest was welcome to enter and celebrate Mass there.

... that in Ireland, berry-laden holly branches serve as the prevalent greenery in decorating homes and churches for Christmas? Every church and most families have a Nativity scene. At home, the crèche is set in place several days before Christmas. Customarily, the family gathers before "the Bethlehem Scene" nightly to recite the rosary there.

... that it is said among the Irish that it is a blessing to die on Christmas Eve, for on that night the gates of heaven stand wide open, and on Christmas Eve every prayer is answered? May Christmas be for us all a preparation for eternity, as the concluding words of the *Wexford Carol* declare: "In faith and hope, whatever befall, we'll wait in peace His holy call."

**Prayer for the
Third Sunday of Advent
(Gaudete Sunday)**

Lord, would you restore the joy of our salvation? Help us to be willing to follow you with all we have. As we read the Scriptures that remind us who you are and the ways you love us, ignite in us a sense of joy that overflows out of our hearts! Let this holy joy be contagious and spill over onto the lives of those around us. May your peace that surpasses all understanding be upon us...especially as we're wrapping up a year that has felt very scary and uncertain. Encourage our hearts with the knowledge that with you we can live in your perfect peace, no matter our circumstances. We thank you for the joy and peace you give! Amen.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

The worst thief of the year never robbed a bank or a convenience store, but he continues on his crime wave because nobody has yet been able to stop him completely. Actually, this outlaw is neither a him nor a her, but rather an "it," and has a name. Call it "Covid 19."

Among other thefts it has for the most part robbed us all of much of our customary way of life and made us near prisoners in our own homes. Were it not for all the electronic gizmos and gadgets, we might have all gone a lot more stir crazy than we have.

On the most serious level, it has taken a world wide death toll in the millions, AND thereby effected tens of millions more who loved their departed ones. It has ushered in a wave of fear on an unprecedented scale, and even turned the education of our young into a process involving screens on machines. It has made the fun of birthday and anniversary parties partial; graduations virtual; weddings less joyful and funerals more hurtful. Last but not least it has made our public prayer constricted with rules and regulations and even closed many of our churches. When the story of 2020 is documented, it will likely include that now familiar image of a spiked ball that will loom large in the memories of a generation.

Despite all this, it is the hope of our Church that with trust in Jesus we will maintain our hope and experience true joy. "Joy?" you ask in the midst of this and more. "Have you lost your mind, Church?" "But wait!" the Church replies, "you may be confusing joy with happiness. They are quite different. 'Happiness' is rooted in the ancient word 'hap' which means 'luck' or 'good fortune.' It is transitory while joy is abiding. Happiness is a passing thing, quite contingent on present circumstances, able to vanish with a phone call you receive." The Church continues: "Joy is completely different from happiness. It is a deeper reality, reaching down inside our souls to that place at our spiritual core where decisions are made. Where God's holy Spirit dwells, independent of externals." To this I add that our Scriptures tell us we are made by God for God. That we are loved by Him and destined for heaven.

In the context of the Advent season now upon us, when we are supposed to be preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus, it is time to stoke the flames of joy within us that may be lying dormant. Recall the love that is behind God's decision to take on our nature and demonstrate how to live in response to that love.

This third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as "Gaudete" or "Rejoice" Sunday. The Mass celebrant's vestment take on that rare rose color, as the purple of penance gets mixed in with the white of joy because Christmas is near. One way to feel that joy is to imitate the moving humility of John the Baptist while surrounded by his adoring followers. He forthrightly tells them he is definitely not the expected Messiah. Instead he points to his cousin Jesus and says "There He is! The Lamb of God!"

The thief of the year we hope will soon be a memory. But may your joy remain, because, according to Teilhard deChardin, the priest archaeologist: "joy is the infallible sign of God's presence."

God love you and give you His peace.