



# St. Bernard's Catholic Church

## The 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 6, 2024

### Contact St. Bernard's

105 Knight Ave. N.  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

Parish Office Hours  
9AM-5PM Mon-Fri  
(Office closed from 12 to 12:30 PM)

Parish Office: 218-681-3571  
School Office: 218-681-1539

[www.stbernardscc.org](http://www.stbernardscc.org)

### Our Parish Staff

**Fr. Craig Vasek**, Pastor and Superintendent  
**Norm Betland**, Office Manager and Executive Assistant  
**Carolyn Holecek**, OCIA Coordinator  
**Misty Mehrkens**, Youth Minister  
**Manzy Peralta**, Buildings and Grounds  
**Margaret Rasmussen**, Religious Formation Coordinator  
**Pat Sagsveen**, Business Manager  
**Charlie Vogel**, Advancement Director

### School Office Personnel

**Laura Brickson**, Principal  
**Rebecca Peralta**, Office Administrator

### Holy Mass Schedule

Tuesday	8:00 AM
Wednesday	5:15 PM
Thursday	8:00 AM
Friday	8:30 AM
Saturday	8:30 AM <i>1st Sat. of the month</i> 5:00 PM
Sunday	9:00 AM

### Confession Schedule

Tuesday	7:30-7:50 AM
Wednesday	4:45-5:05 PM
Thursday	7:30-7:50 AM
Friday	8:00-8:20 AM
Saturday	4:00-4:50 PM
Sunday	8:00-8:50 AM

*See the weekly Mass schedule in the bulletin for any changes to the standard schedule.*

### From Fr. Vasek

Greetings,

The month of October, within the Church, is devoted to the Most Holy Rosary, since its annual feast is Oct 7th. It is a very special day for me - I renew my own consecration to Our Lord and devotion to Our Lady each year on Oct 7th. I spend one month preparing for the renewal through particular reading, prayer, examination, etc. I hope you can refresh your own devotion to the Blessed Mother in whatever way suits you best. Options: the family rosary, or the family decade of the rosary (for those with young kids); the Angelus (with its bells) at 6am, Noon, 6pm; other Marian prayers; the morning offering, or another form of Marian devotion or piety.

October is also marked as Respect Life Month. There are resources from the United States Bishops on this website: <https://www.respectlife.org/respect-life-month>. It may seem strange that Catholics have a month focused on these items - doesn't everyone respect life? We no longer live in a Christian society which defaults to a Biblical approach to the human person and life issues, so it became necessary to bring attention to these issues in a particular way.

I want to ask you for your prayers and thank you for those you've offered for me. I just spoke at a conference in Iowa with 5000 people and it went very well. I will be speaking at three locations around the Diocese of Reno this weekend, and then directing 20+ nuns on a their annual 8-day silent retreat. Prayer intention, along with prayers for safe travels: May God be glorified, and may many people advance in salvation and holiness.

Grace and Peace,

Father Vasek

## WAYS TO CONNECT AT ST. BERNARD'S

CONNECT	LITURGY	PRAYER	COMMUNITY
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Become a Parishioner</b></p> <p>If you aren't already registered at St. Bernard's, we encourage you to register by stopping by the parish office or registering on the website:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://www.stbernardscc.org/parish-registration">https://www.stbernardscc.org/parish-registration</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Get Involved at Mass</b></p> <p>There are many liturgical and music ministries to participate in at Mass. To get involved in liturgical or music ministries, call Margaret Rasmussen at 218-681-3571 ext. 211.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Eucharistic Adoration</b></p> <p>Spending an hour each week with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is a great way to grow your interior life. Commit to an hour by visiting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://stbernardscc.weadorehim.com">stbernardscc.weadorehim.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Small Groups and Organizations</b></p> <p>If you are interested in joining or starting a small group, or would like to get involved in one of the many organizations at St. Bernard's, contact the parish office at 218-681-3571</p>

## WAYS TO GIVE AT ST. BERNARD'S

During Mass	Sept. 28 & 29 Offertory <b>\$6,602.31</b>	<h3 style="text-align: center; color: #008000;">THIS WEEK AT ST. BERNARD'S</h3> <p><b>Monday, October 7</b>                  2:45–8:30PM Piano Lessons, Parish Library                  5PM–8:30PM OCIA, Mtg. Rm. 2 &amp; 3</p> <p><b>Tuesday, October 8</b>                  3AM–5PM Eucharistic Adoration, Sanctuary                  8:30–9AM All School Adoration, Sanctuary                  12–7:15PM Piano Lessons, Parish Library                  4:40PM Men's Staff Vespers, Mtg. Rm. 3                  5–6:30PM Faith Formation Board, Mtg. Rm. 1                  7–8PM K of C, Mtg. Rm. 1</p> <p><b>Wednesday, October 9</b>                  12–5PM Piano Lessons, Parish Library                  4–6PM Faith Builders, 6th grade classroom                  5:30–8PM Exalt, Parish Hall &amp; Sanctuary                  6–8PM Bible Study–Letter of James, Mtg. Rm. 3                  5:45PM Exalt, Parish Hall &amp; Sanctuary                  6–8PM Piano Lessons, Parish Library                  8PM Cursillo Men's Group, Parish Library</p> <p><b>Thursday, October 10</b>                  5AM–11PM Eucharistic Adoration, Sanctuary                  9AM–11AM NAC Academic Committee, Mtg. Rm. 1                  9:30–11AM Bible Study, Parish Library                  11:15AM–7:30PM Piano Lessons, Parish Library                  12PM Cursillo Men's Group, Mtg. Rm. 1                  6–7:30PM Pastoral Council, Mtg. Rm. 1                  6:30–9PM OCIA, Mtg. Rm. 3</p> <p><b>Saturday, October 12</b>                  10AM–2:30PM Altar Server Training, Church                  1–5PM Cursillo Ultreya, Parish Hall</p> <p><b>Sunday, October 13</b>                  8:10AM Lauds, Church                  10:15–11:15AM Sunday School                  2–4PM Women's Cursillo Group, Parish Library                  4–5PM Lectio Divina, Parish Library</p>
Mail to the office	Weekly Target: \$12,787.61	
Online at <a href="https://bit.ly/StBernardGiving">https://bit.ly/StBernardGiving</a>	Jul'24 to Aug'24 Actual: \$70,384 Jul'24 to Aug'24 Budget: \$110,826	

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION & FACILITY USE

<p><b>Baptism</b></p> <p>If you are preparing to have your child baptized, please call the parish office at 218-681-3571 ext. 201 to schedule a Baptism Preparation class with Fr. Vasek.</p> <p>Adults seeking Baptism can contact the OCIA Coordinator, Carolyn Holecek, at 218-681-3571 ext. 209.</p> <p><b>First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation</b></p> <p>Preparation for First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation are coordinated by the St. Bernard's Religious Education program. To enroll your child, please contact Margaret Rasmussen at 218-681-3571 ext. 211.</p> <p>Adults seeking these Sacraments can contact the OCIA Coordinator, Carolyn Holecek, at 218-681-3571 ext. 209.</p> <p><b>Holy Matrimony</b></p> <p>If you are planning a wedding, please contact the parish office at 218-681-3571 ext. 201 at least 6 months in advance to reserve the wedding date and to begin Marriage Preparation with Fr. Vasek.</p> <p><b>Anointing of the Sick &amp; Last Rites</b></p> <p>The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is available for those suffering an illness or preparing for serious surgery.</p> <p>Last Rites (Confession and Holy Communion) are given when death is imminent. If your loved one is in need of Last Rites, contact the parish office as soon as possible, even if there are family members who have not arrived yet.</p> <p><b>Facility Usage</b></p> <p>If you would like to reserve a parish space for parish or non-parish related activities, contact Norm Betland at 218-681-3571 ext. 201 for more information.</p>	Content for this column is integrated into the 'THIS WEEK AT ST. BERNARD'S' section above
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## MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

### Monday, October 7 Our Lady of the Rosary

No Mass

### Tuesday, October 8 Tue. of the 27th Week in Ord. Time

7:30 AM Confession

8:00 AM Mass.....+Tony Griffith

### Wednesday, October 9 St. John Leonardi, Priest

4:45 PM Confession

5:15 PM Mass.....+Marion Kappes

### Thursday, October 10 Thu. of the 27th Week in Ord. Time

7:30 AM Confession

8:00 AM Mass.....+Carolyn Halvorson

### Friday, October 11 St. John XXIII, Pope

8:00 AM Confession

8:30 AM Mass.....+Virgil & +Bernie Burger

### Saturday, October 12 Sat of the 27th Week in Ord. Time

4:00 PM Confession

5:00 PM Mass.....+Henrietta Myszkowski

### Sunday, October 13 The 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Confession

9:00 AM Mass.....+Alice Stancyk

## Prayer Intentions

### The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for October

For a shared mission: we pray that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.

### October Devotion: The Holy Rosary

O Virgin Mary, grant that the recitation of thy Rosary may be for me each day, in the midst of my manifold duties, a bond of unity in my actions, a tribute of filial piety, a sweet refreshment, an encouragement to walk joyfully along the path of duty. Grant, above all, O Virgin Mary, that the study of thy mysteries may form in my soul, little by little, a luminous atmosphere, pure, strengthening, and fragrant, which may penetrate my understanding, my will, my heart, my memory, my imagination, my whole being. Amen.

### Those in Need of Prayer

Deb Perreault, Ray Hedlund, Mickey Morrissey, Larry Bjerken, Carol Amundson, Roger Amundson, Tim Cramer, Dale Jendro, John Berry, Becky Berry, Leah Dahlstrom

Call Norm at the Parish Office to add or remove a name from the list.

### Request a Mass Intention

The customary offering for a Mass intention is \$10. Intentions can be placed in the offertory or sent to the parish office. Indicate deceased individuals with a "+" before their name. Masses are scheduled in the order they are received. We make every effort to accommodate requested dates, but cannot guarantee them.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Eucharistic Adoration is in Need of Adorers.** As we prepare to move into our new adoration chapel this month, there are several hours in great need of new or additional adorers:

Tuesdays 12PM to 1PM, Tuesdays 6PM to 7PM, Thursdays 9AM to 10AM, Thursdays 11AM to 12PM

You can commit to these or another hour at <https://stbernardscc.weadorehim.com/>

**Calling all Cursillistas!** Whether you made your Cursillo a week ago or 30 years ago, you are invited to an Ultreya at St Bernards on October 12th at 1 pm in the Parish Hall. There will be a spiritual talk, small group, with fellowship and refreshments following!

**A new Cursillo women's group** will meet on Sundays at 2pm in the parish library. All women are welcome to attend. It is not required to have made a Cursillo, but is highly encouraged. Please reach out to Alexia at 218-688-0277 with any questions about the group.

**Cursillo's three-day fall men's retreat** is coming up October 24-27, at the Crookston Pastoral Center. Applications can be found at <https://crookstonscursillo.weebly.com/>

### St. Bernard's Altar Server Training is beginning in October.

The altar server program is open to Catholic youth in grades 3-12 who have received First Communion. Training will be held monthly between now and March for all new and returning servers. Each server needs to attend one of these sessions. The first session is Saturday, October 12 from 10AM to 2:30PM. To sign-up or get more information, visit <http://bit.ly/StBAltarServerTraining>

**Are you leading a Bible Study?** St. Bernard's is currently compiling a list of Bible Studies lead by parishioners both on- and off-site to help direct interested individuals to existing studies. If you are leading a study, send a quick email including the time, location, and type of Bible Study (lectio divina, professional course, self-guided, etc.) to [norm.betland@stbernardstrf.com](mailto:norm.betland@stbernardstrf.com)

**Hospice of the Red River Valley needs companionship volunteers** in your community! Companionship visits provide support for patients on Hospice. We offer a 2-hour training session and cover the cost of a TB test and background check. If interested contact Darcy at 701-356-1602.

**Check out the St. Bernard's Podcast** where you can listen to homilies, Bible studies, and more. Visit [stbernards.podbean.com](http://stbernards.podbean.com) to subscribe, or visit the embedded podcast player on the parish website.

To request an announcement in the bulletin, please visit <https://bit.ly/StBBulletinReq>

*"The secret of life is to let oneself be carried by God and so carry Him to others."*

*-Pope St. John XXIII-*

## **Christian Teaching on Marriage / Catechism of the Catholic Church**

**1659** St. Paul said: "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church. . . . This is a great mystery, and I mean in reference to Christ and the Church" (*Eph* 5:25, 32).

**Christian marriage finds its basis in Christ.**

**Christ laid down his life for His Bride, the Church.**

**1660** The marriage covenant, by which a man and a woman form with each other an intimate communion of life and love, has been founded and endowed with its own special laws by the Creator. By its very nature it is ordered to the good of the couple, as well as to the generation and education of children. Christ the Lord raised marriage between the baptized to the dignity of a sacrament (cf. CIC, can. 1055 § 1; cf. *GS* 48 § 1).

**The Sacramental union makes use of civil law and ecclesial law.**

**There is a twofold purpose: good of spouses; children.**

**1661** The sacrament of Matrimony signifies the union of Christ and the Church. It gives spouses the grace to love each other with the love with which Christ has loved his Church; the grace of the sacrament thus perfects the human love of the spouses, strengthens their indissoluble unity, and sanctifies them on the way to eternal life (cf. Council of Trent: DS 1799).

**Spouses can love with Christ's love**

**Perfecting love; Strengthening bond; Increasing holiness.**

**1662** Marriage is based on the consent of the contracting parties, that is, on their will to give themselves, each to the other, mutually and definitively, in order to live a covenant of faithful and fruitful love.

**Consent of bride and grooms consists in:**

**Freely giving self and choosing other.**

**Only the other, for whole of life.**

**Fruitfulness in society and open to having children.**

**1663** Since marriage establishes the couple in a public state of life in the Church, it is fitting that its celebration be public, in the framework of a liturgical celebration, before the priest (or a witness authorized by the Church), the witnesses, and the assembly of the faithful.

**Christian marriage has a public nature.**

**Civil permission.**

**Ecclesial permission (bishop, priest, minister, preparation).**

**1664** Unity, indissolubility, and openness to fertility are essential to marriage. Polygamy is incompatible with the unity of marriage; divorce separates what God has joined together; the refusal of fertility turns married life away from its "supreme gift," the child (GS 50 § 1).

**Unity forbids polygamy.**

**Indissolubility forbids multiple marriages.**

**Openness to fertility forbids refusal of fertility.**

**1665** The remarriage of persons divorced from a living, lawful spouse contravenes the plan and law of God as taught by Christ. They are not separated from the Church, but they cannot receive Eucharistic communion. They will lead Christian lives especially by educating their children in the faith.

**“living” - Marriage ends only with death of a spouse.**

**“lawful” - Declaration of nullity studies church law.**

**1666** The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason the family home is rightly called "the domestic church," a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity.

**The Christian home is a participation in the church.**

Further Information

\*Marriage Preparation Guidance

\*Separation, Divorce, or Re-Marriage Guidance

See separate page

## **Further Information on Catholic Marriage Legal Matters**

(This page is not attempting to give the full pastoral compassion necessary; it is briefly addressing the legal elements surrounding marriage. These matters are very serious.)

### **Marriage Preparation Guidance**

Catholics are bound to follow Catholic law to get married.

Weddings:

Prepared by Catholic representative (parish pastor or delegate)

All permission must be given through the church (bishop, parish pastor)

This includes: marriage preparation (initiated at least six months prior to wedding); location of ceremony; officiant of ceremony; order of service for ceremony.

Once engaged, your first call should be to the parish, prior to all other considerations.

There needs to be an initial meeting to fill out the requisite form to begin marriage preparation, before which you cannot plan a wedding date at a church.

Pro tip: Don't set yourself up for frustration!

If you are married and did **not** do marriage preparation at a parish, and/or did **not** receive permission to get married from the Parish/Diocese, and/or did **not** have a Catholic officiant for the ceremony (or his delegate), we will need to bring your marriage into harmony with Catholic law. Please set up an appointment with Fr. Vasek by contacting the parish office and speaking with Norm.

Pro tip: Don't wait.

### **Separation, Divorce, Re-Marriage Guidance / Catholic Legal Next Steps**

Introduction: The death of a spouse is the only dissolution of the sacramental marriage bond. A civil divorce does not in itself end a Christian marriage.

#### **Separation**

If you and your spouse have separated, nothing needs to be done.

#### **Civil Divorce**

Situation 1) If you have a civil divorce decree, and are not going to attempt another marriage, nothing needs to be done.

Situation 2) If you have a civil divorce decree, and desire to attempt another marriage in the future, your marriage needs to be studied by the Tribunal to see if a declaration of nullity can be granted. There is no guarantee one way or another about that outcome. You are not free to pursue a marriage until the Tribunal would grant a declaration of nullity regarding a current marriage.

#### **Re-Marriage**

If you have a civil divorce decree from a first civil union (marriage), have entered into a second civil union, yet your first civil union was not studied by the Tribunal to see if a declaration of nullity could be granted, you will need to pursue a declaration of nullity. You also need to call the parish and schedule a meeting with Father Vasek so that he can help you along the process.



# LETTER FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF MINNESOTA ON THE 2024 ELECTION

## DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS

As we approach the 2024 election, we encourage you to reflect on the virtue of faithful citizenship. As Catholics, our spiritual life and public life are not separate. Rather, our prayer and sacramental life informs our conscience, guides our actions, and sustains us in our efforts to build a just society.

In our representative form of government, voting remains a significant responsibility. Those we elect to office make critical decisions on our behalf, and therefore, we should participate in the electoral process with informed consciences, nurtured by prayer.

As faithful citizens, the principles of Catholic Social Teaching are the foundation for discerning how to vote and advocate for policies that promote the common good. The Church's social teaching reflects the Gospel's call to love our neighbor, promote the common good, and uphold the dignity of every human person. These principles give Catholics the tools to live out our personal call to holiness despite the challenges of modern society and to share the truths of the faith. Understanding current issues through the mind of the Church informs our conscience to vote and act accordingly. Although national elections draw much attention, state and local politics directly impact the quality of life of our families and communities. Therefore, our engagement at the local level is vital.

**As we discern our choices, let us remember that no candidate is likely to align fully with our positions. And although we may not find a presidential candidate, for example, who aligns with all our values, that is not an excuse to abstain from voting altogether. There is a full ballot of candidates, each with the potential to shape our communities and our future.**

**As we prepare to vote, let us consider the following when evaluating candidates:**

### At All Levels:

- Who will work to protect life from the moment of conception?
- Who will respect the liberty of the Church and the rights of all believers to practice their faith?
- Who will defend the rights of free speech and assembly, necessary for a properly functioning democracy?

### At the Federal Level:

- Who will promote peace among nations and reject the escalation of violence as a means of conflict resolution?
- Who will exercise fiscal responsibility and avoid burdening families with inflation and debt?
- Who will work for a just and comprehensive immigration policy that respects the wellbeing of both American citizens and migrants?

### At the State Level:

- Who will oppose the legalization of assisted suicide?
- Who will promote economic security for families, including access to housing?
- Who will uphold the rights of parents and support parental choice in education?
- Who will steward our state's natural resources responsibly?

### At the Local Level:

- Who will advocate for public safety that protects citizens, respects victims, and offers restoration opportunities for offenders?
- Who will ensure harmful materials are kept out of public libraries?



MINNESOTA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE  
[www.mncatholic.org/election2024](http://www.mncatholic.org/election2024)

**Archbishop Bernard Hebda**

Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

**Bishop Daniel Felton**

Diocese of Duluth

**Bishop Robert Barron**

Diocese of Winona-Rochester

**Bishop Andrew Cozzens**

Diocese of Crookston

**Bishop Chad Zielinski**

Diocese of New Ulm

**Bishop Patrick Neary**

Diocese of Saint Cloud

**Bishop Michael Izen**

Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese