

Wondering Why

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The old axiom goes: if you want to make God laugh, tell God your plans. All too often the vision God has for us takes us in quite varying directions. The stories of King David and of Mary echo such realities. David, who wanted to build a temple for the Ark of the Covenant so God would not need to live in a tent, had his plans nixed, only to be reminded that it is *God* who does the building in life and not David. And Mary, who found herself confused over how she might conceive, was asked to simply trust and place her life in the hands of God. Both said “yes.”

There are always times when the unfolding path of God for us may unsettle us: the complexities of immigrants at our doorstep, the changing demographics of our cities, the need to close or merge parishes, the upheavals of our personal lives. We find ourselves asking why without receiving any answers. Each time there is no answer, consider it an invitation to trust in a power greater than ourselves.

Not all rhythms of life are necessarily caused by the hand of God, but then one can never be sure. Who is to say where and how and through whom God works? Christmas comes as a reminder that God's love and presence still unfolds in varied and new ways, always giving birth again and again to the divine made flesh in our lives. The mystery of the Incarnation points to this truth: God is present in all of life. ●

Reflect

Have you ever had your plans unsettled in a way that turned out, in the end, to be a gift from God?

Welcome to The Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit



St. Bernard's, 43 Botsford St., Moncton, NB E1C 4W9

Phone: (506) 857-0425 Email: sbhf@rogers.com

Office hours: Monday to Friday: 9:00 AM to 12 noon & 1-4 PM

Website: www.stbernardschurch.ca

Parish Office will be closed on Christmas Day (Dec. 25) and Boxing Day (Dec 26)



St. Vincent's, 63 Charlotte St., Sackville, NB, E4L 2Y5

Phone: (506) 536-1460 Email: stvince@nbnet.nb.ca

Office hours: Monday & Thursday @ 10 AM- 2 PM



St. Clement's, 14 Church St., Port Elgin, NB E4M 2C9

Phone: (506) 538-2262 Email: stclement.stbartholomew@gmail.com

Office hours: call office to verify

Mass times / Intentions:

St. Bernard's

Mon.	Dec. 25	11:00 AM	Anniv. Late Connell Whitehead	Gloria and Veronica
Thur.	Dec. 28	9:30 AM	Special Intention for Deacon Frank	Nancy Gallie
Fri.	Dec. 29	9:30 AM	Late Krista Powers & Bill McNichol	Heather Morris
Sat.	Dec. 30	4:00 PM	Special Intention for Lionel, Rosalie, and Carol Savoie	Claudette Savoie Family
Sun	Dec. 31	11:00 AM	For the People	
Sun	Dec. 31	4:00 PM	Special Intention for Deacon Frank	San & Donna

St. Clement's

Sat.	Dec. 23	7:00 PM	For Special Intentions	Joanne Carroll
Mon.	Dec. 25	9:00 AM	Chris Murphy	Patsy and Family

St. Vincent's

Mon.	Dec. 25	11:00 AM	Mom Mary Jane Richard	Marie Wood
Sun	Dec. 31	9:00 AM	Brothers Camille and Eddy Richard and sister Clara Sterling	Marie Wood



St. Bernard's Sacrament of Reconciliation regular schedule

Prior to weekday masses: Monday, Thursday. & Friday: 8:30 – 9:20AM

First Friday of the month: 8:00 – 9:00 AM

Saturdays: 1:00 PM

OFFERINGS

St. Bernard's – December 16 & 17, 2023

Envelopes	\$10,543.67	Loose	\$603.60	People in need	\$230.00
All Soul's	\$15.00	Karing Kitchen	\$231.25	Christmas Flowers	\$1350.00
Food Bank	\$100.00	Christmas Offer	\$1070.00	Capital Expenditures	\$2268.33
Donation	\$105.00	Reconnect	\$40.00	Evang. of the People	\$20.00
Indigenous			\$85.00		

St. Clement's – December 16, 2023

Envelopes	\$525.00	Collection	\$45.00	Donation with Receipt	400.00
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St. Vincent's – December 17, 2023

Envelopes	\$1900.00	Loose	65.00
Maintenance	\$15.00	Fuel	\$15.00
Christmas	\$50.00	Christmas Flowers	\$65.00

Thank you for your generous and continued support!!!

In Sympathy

*A time to mourn...
sincere sympathies to the families of:*

St. Bernard's

Roean Abrams	Wife of late Gordon, Mother of Susan, Shelley, and Scott
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*Ecclesiastes 3... Under every season there is a time...
A time to heal.*

St. Bernard's

Norm Gallant	Al Gallant	Judy Chiasson	Roger Berube
Patricia Devine	Margaret Manderville	Cecil Rigby	Nicolas Morales Smith
Gordie Gallie	Michel Saulnier	Corry Evers	Ray Leger
Harold O'Blenis	Paul Doiron		

St. Clement's

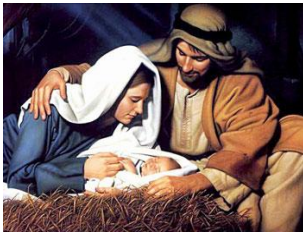
Vina McGraw	Gerard McGraw	Ophelia McGraw	Shadra McGraw
Arabella McGraw	Carol Murphy	Ken Murphy	Hudson Sweeney
Baby Owen	Corine Allen		

St. Vincent's

Lowell Brine	Vince Wood	Art Chase	Leone Campbell	Tim Nye
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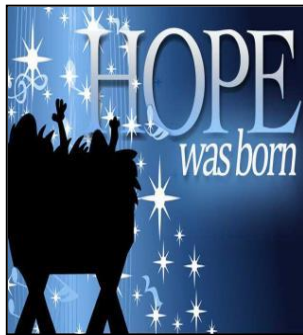
And all who care for them...

The Good Shepherd Pastoral Ministry Team		
Priest Administrator	Fr. Charles Broderick	charlesbroderick1@gmail.com
Assistant Priest	Fr. Carlos Jacinto	sbhf@rogers.com
Liturgy	Darlene McGraw	darlenemcgraw@rogers.com
Catechetics	Lorella Dunnett	Lorella_st.bernards@hotmail.com
Receptionist / bookkeeper	Geneva Rivera	sbhf@rogers.com
Social Justice	Claudia McCloskey	
Adult Faith	Andrew Wilson	
St. Bernard's Parish Staff		
Pastoral Associate/ liturgy	Darlene McGraw	darlenemcgraw@rogers.com
Receptionist / bookkeeper	Geneva Rivera	sbhf@rogers.com
Catechetical Coordinator	Lorella Dunnett	Lorella_st.bernards@hotmail.com
St. Vincent's Parish Staff		
Parish Secretary	Lorraine Horyl	
Catechetical Coordinator	Cathy Crinnion	
St. Clement's Parish Staff		
Parish Secretary	Pam Van Egmond	



Christmas

The Christmas Season celebrates the birth of the Lord Jesus and the ways he manifested the presence of God among us. For the Church, only the Easter celebration of the Lord's death and rising is more important than the Christmas Season.



On behalf of all who serve the parishes of The Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit, best wishes for a happy, joyful, and holy Christmas season. At the same time, we remember and pray for those for whom this Christmas is a time of challenge and/or loss. May the peace of the newborn Jesus be in our world and in our hearts as we remember and celebrate His coming to save us.

Blessings, Fr. Charlie and Fr. Carlos



We are nearing the end of 2023!

It is a great time to make up for any Sunday offerings that you may have missed over the year. Together as a parish community we can meet St. Bernard's financial commitments for the year. Donations can be made by cash, cheque, and preauthorized payments. **All donations for 2023 must be received prior to December 31st to be included in 2023 taxation receipts. Thank you for your continued generosity!!**

St. Bernard's

Mark Your Calendar

RCIA	Sat, Jan. 20 and 27: 10 AM
Baptisms Preparation	Sun, Jan. 21: 1:30 PM
Next Baptisms	Sun, Jan. 28: 1:30 PM
Carmelites	2 nd Sat of the month: 9:30 AM

Israel/Hamas War

I received the following message from a parishioner, and I share it with you. "The bulletin of November 5 included a notice from Development and Peace on the Israel/Hamas war. Part of that notice encouraged parishioners to write to their MP to call for a cease-fire. This ignored the fact that there was a cease-fire in place which was broken by Hamas when it invaded Israel on October 7. That fact should have been included in the notice."

Cease-fires are effective only when the parties honor them. This is a good reminder for us to pray not just for the cessation of violence but for a change of heart that results in a lasting peace. Our desire is, as the prophet Isaiah says that, *The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them....They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.*

Isaiah 11.6, 9

As we welcome Jesus, the Prince of Peace, this Christmas, we pray that the words of the prophet will become reality, that there be peace on earth.

Blessings,
Fr. Charlie



PADS – If you would like to continue to donate to Capital Expenditure, you may also do this through the Pre-Authorized Debit system. Kindly contact **Geneva Rivera at 857-0425** or send an email to **sbhf@rogers.com** to register for St. Bernard's PADS. * Some have previously indicated and pledged to donate to the church either weekly, 1st or 15th of the month; we will contact you to confirm if your intention and debit schedule is still the same.



"Scams and frauds skyrocket this time of the year. It's crucial to remain vigilant and protect us against potential fraud. Unfortunately, this festive time can attract the attention of scammers seeking to take advantage of our goodwill and increased online activity. **We would like to remind everyone that if you receive suspicious emails or text messages claiming to be Fr. Charlie, Fr. Carlos, or any of our parish staff, please be cautious and bring this our attention. Call our parish offices to verify any suspicious email. We wish you a joyful and secure Advent Season!**"

**PARISH OFFICE
IS CLOSED**

St. Bernard's: In-lieu of Christmas Day and Boxing Day, Parish Office will be closed on Christmas Day (Dec. 25) and Boxing Day (Dec 26)

The Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit Christmas & New Year's Schedule			
St. Bernard's	Sat.	Dec. 23	Regular Mass: 4PM
	Sun.	Dec. 24	Fourth Sunday of Advent: 11 AM
			Christmas Eve -The Nativity of the Lord: 5, 8 & 10 PM
	Mon.	Dec. 25	Christmas-The Nativity of the Lord: 11 AM
	Sat.	Dec. 30	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph: 4 PM
	Sun.	Dec. 31	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph: 11 AM
			The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God: 4 PM
Mon.	Jan. 1	The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God: 11 AM	
St. Clement's	Mon.	Dec. 25	Christmas-The Nativity of the Lord 9:00 AM
	Sat.	Dec. 30	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph: 7 PM
	Sun.	Dec. 31	The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God: 7 PM
St. Vincent's	Mon.	Dec. 25	Christmas -The Nativity of the Lord 11 AM
	Sun.	Dec. 31	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph: 9 AM



St. Clement's

Women's Sweet Plate Fundraiser – was held on Sat. and was very successful, raising \$1,586.50. Thank you to all the women who baked and those who worked hard putting the plates together.

St. Vincent's

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS – A reminder that mass will be celebrated at St. Vincent's on Christmas Day, Monday, December 25, 2023, at 11:00 AM.

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS

From	For
Deanna Crossman	Parents Bill & Freda; Husband Ken; Daughter Bonnie
David & Lorraine Horyl	Parents Stephen & Catherine Horyl; Brothers Michael & Stephen Horyl, Jr.; Parents Verna & Norman Etter
Bob & Irene LeClair	Daughter Glenda
Claudette Shea	Husband Ronald; Parents Landry & Shea Families
Nancy & Leigh Ann Wheaton & Josie	Husband and Father Eric Wheaton

FAITH FORMATION – In-person catechism sessions take place on Sunday mornings following Mass. For any participant or volunteer inquiries for the program, now until mid-May, please contact Cathy Crinnion at ccrinnion@yahoo.ca or 536-4470. Adults of the parish, no previous experience is necessary for you to share your time with our Faith Formation families, as a helper or as a catechist!

We wish everyone a peaceful and joyful Christmas season, filled with hope and love!

Sacramental preparation for First Eucharist and for First Reconciliation will take place in the winter and spring, and plans will be made in the new year with the families who are involved.



Trevor Driesbeck - 857-4879 or trevord.diocese@gmail.com
Karen LeBlanc – 387-4198 or karen.diocese@gmail.com

Seniors Connect a safe space for Seniors to gather, socialize, learn about, and discuss issues related to aging in New Brunswick. Our next gathering will take place on January 11 at 10:30 am at the Dan Bohan Centre at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 5 Fatima Dr., Riverview. We will have retired dietician Lynn Burdock join us. Jot down any questions you may have in the meantime. Questions? Contact Karen LeBlanc at 387-4198 or email karen.diocese@gmail.com

2023 Christmas Flower



<i>In Memory Of</i>	<i>Donated By</i>
Rob, Mum and Dad, Donna	Fran Robichaud
Thomas and Elizabeth Clements and Family	Noreen and Doug Martin
Eleanor Beck	The Family (Lise Watts)
Deceased members of the O'Brien & Scott Families	Michael and Joanne Scott
Lester Rossiter	Melda and Family
Deceased members of Cassidy and Richard Families	Diane and Paul Cassidy
Emery "Tim" Cormier	Arline Cormier
John and Ann Boom	Mrs. Elizabeth Evers
Edward and Viola Parks	Jim and Gayle Gallant
Roy Hopper	Wife-Juanita, Stephanie, Melanie, and Natalie
Deceased Family members	Lydia R. Espiritu
Joy (Bell) Brown	Debbie Sebastien
John Joseph (J.J.) Murphy	Lorraine, John, Michaela. Adam and Noah

2023 Christmas Flower



<i>In Memory Of</i>	<i>Donated By</i>
Paul McCourt	Bernie McCourt
Maureen Coyle	Madge Lund and Family
Les and Eleanor Buzzell	Bob and Paulette Buzzell
Val and Geneva Caissie	
Joseph O'Connor	Neil and Carol Ann Bryant
Thomas and Edna Bryant	
Charles (Chuck) Kinney, Carrol, Girouard, Polardy Families	Jessie and Peter Kinney
René Lajoie	Mary Lou Lajoie and Raymond Savoie
Marie-Thérèse Savoie	
William and Pauline Dalton	Maura and Mary Ellen
Louise MacGregor	Yvonne Williams
Nellie de Winter	Peter Gulliver
Louis and Florence McKinley	Bob and Helen McKinley
Ben and Olézine Arsenault	

2023 Christmas Flower



<i>In Memory Of</i>	<i>Donated By</i>
Joe and Josie Moran	Bill and Andrea Creagh
Katie Ermen, Jeff Ermen, Louis and Kay Boudreau, Sam and Erma Ermen	Sam and Donna Ermen
James and Mary Fahey, Harry and Greta Fahey, Ernest, and Margaret Fahey	James, Gary, and Sharon Fahey
Jim Beek	Marie
Ralph, Florence, and Pater Fahey	The Family Donated by Wanda Garland
Manuel de Matos	Madelaine and Grant Currier
Wayne Charles Currier	
Thomas and Jean Kane, Ann Marie Walbourne	Mike and Rosemary Kane
Earl and Isobel Noel, Ramona Ball, Noelle Lanneau	
Anthony Francis Maillard	Dianne Maillard and Family
Deceased Family members	Jim and Dorine White

2023 Christmas Flower



<i>In Memory Of</i>	<i>Donated By</i>
Deceased Family members	Jim and Dorine White
Deceased members of the Cormier and Steele Families	Norma Cormier
Earl and Evelyn Stevens	Jean and Marty Cormier
Laurie and Frances Cormier	
Deceased members of Carter and Flanagan families	Roy and DeeDee Carter
George and Zella O'Dell	Donna and Richard Shaw
The Power and Martin Families	Gerry Power
Joann LeBlanc and Marc LeBlanc	Mike and Sue LeBlanc and Family
Laura and Arthur Eveleigh, Mary and Nelson Green Sr., Betty and Daryl McGowan, Donna Green	Mary and Nelson Green Jr.
Minnie Burnett, Verna, and George Perry	Ross and Sharon Burnett
Gloria Savoie	Jerry, Linda, Jason, Todd, and Jamie Soulliere

Dear Padre,

The Bible talks about Jesus' brothers and sisters. Is there scriptural proof that Jesus was Mary's only child?

The Catholic Church's position is that Mary had only one child; her son called Jesus. Yet there are at least ten scriptural references to "the brothers of Jesus" or to his "sisters" (see Matthew 13:55–56, Mark 6:3, and Luke 8:19–21).

The difficulty is that the meaning of the term "brothers" (translated from the Greek *adelphos*) isn't restricted to the sharing of a parent. On the contrary, it may not only refer to other relatives, including cousins, but also to close relationships, such as disciples. This is not unlike how we might refer to "brothers in arms" as those who fought in a war together, or a religious order of brothers or sisters.

Recall, too, that Jesus and his disciples spoke Aramaic, and there is no equivalent for the meaning of "cousins" as we know it in that language. Instead, the word for brother or sister was used when referring to cousins. Thus, when St. Jerome (*circa* 340–420) translated the Bible from Hebrew into Church Latin, he considered "the brothers of Jesus" as cousins, not siblings. After all, it would have been the rightful responsibility of these male relatives of Jesus to take care of Mary when Jesus died. Yet Jesus entrusts his mother to the care of his beloved disciple John (John 19:26). ●



SARAH/ISTOCK/ALAMY/ISTOCK/OLIVIERO TONUTTI

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
December 25 <i>Nativity of the Lord</i>	December 26 <i>St. Stephen, the First Martyr</i>	December 27 <i>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>	December 28 <i>Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i>	December 29 <i>Christmas Weekday</i>	December 30 <i>Christmas Weekday</i>	December 31 <i>Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph</i>
Is 52:7–10 Heb 1:1–6 Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14	Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59 Mt 10:17–22	1 Jn 1:1–4 Jn 20:1a, 2–8	1 Jn 1:5–2:2 Mt 2:13–18	1 Jn 2:3–11 Lk 2:22–35	1 Jn 2:12–17 Lk 2:36–40	Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17 Lk 2:22–40 or 2:22, 39–40

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Let us ask our Lady for a grace...that she kindle our enthusiasm for the ideal of holiness which is not a matter of holy cards and images, but is about living what happens each day, humbly and joyfully...with our eyes fixed on God and the neighbor we meet.

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 8, 2021