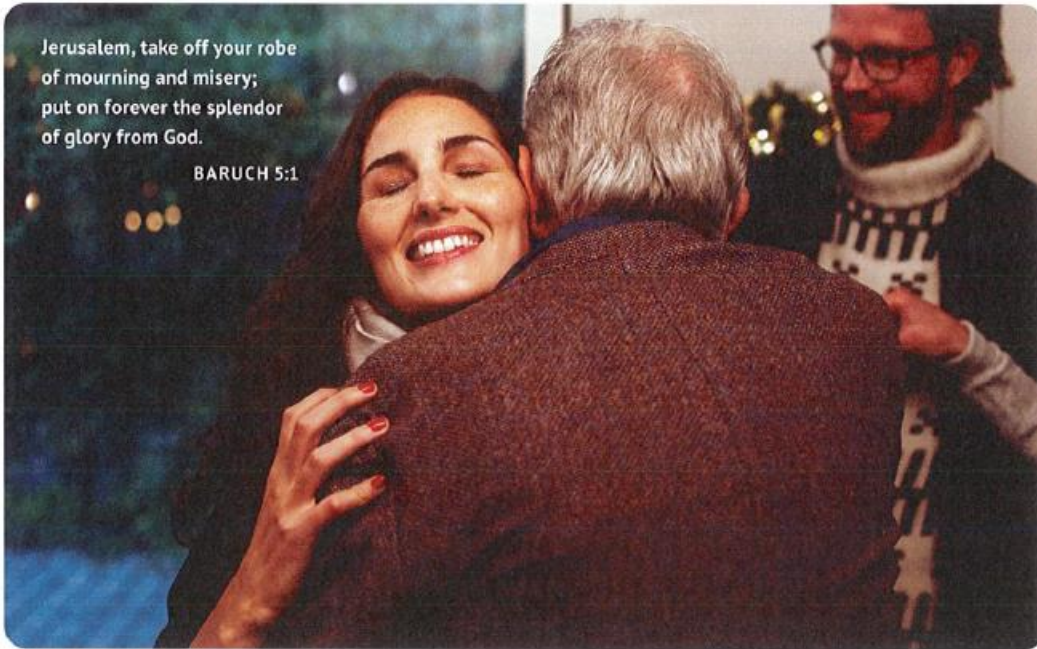




Jerusalem, take off your robe
of mourning and misery;
put on forever the splendor
of glory from God.

BARUCH 5:1



Coming Home

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Coming home can take place in many varied ways. Sometimes it's at the end of a long day when we come home to where we can be ourselves without any pretensions. Sometimes it's going back to the neighborhood we grew up in, to the old haunts that remind us of the dreams we had and how they now seem tucked in every niche. Sometimes coming home is what happens after many wanderings, after we've sown our oats and harvested little and now have nowhere else to go. That too is a coming home, back to where it all began, back to where we dare to hope that life might begin again.

All of this is how the Hebrew people found themselves coming home to Jerusalem after eighty years of exile, coming back to start anew with the hope that their God would once again be proud of them, back to where they could be as God intended them to be. All of that is what we do when we decide we will try to be the sort of person we'd always hoped to become. It's when we attempt a second effort at making a marriage work, or a job productive, or maybe simply putting the pieces of our lives back in some sort of order. It's all about coming back home to God's dream for us, a kind of second Advent, when God comes into our lives and is born once again. ●

Reflect

Have you wandered too far from the values of your true home? Can you find your way back?

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 for next week:

Monday - Thursday: 9AM – 12 noon & 1 – 4 PM.

Fridays: CLOSED

Website: www.stbernardschurch.ca



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

The Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit

St. Bernard's PMT

Priest Administrator	Fr. Damian Nwachukwu	sbhf@rogers.com
Assistant Priest	Fr. Carlos Jacinto	sbhf@rogers.com
Liturgy	Darlene McGraw	darlenemcgraw@rogers.com
Catechetics	Lorella Dunnett	Lorella_st.bernards@hotmail.com
Social Justice	Claudia McCloskey	
Adult Faith	Andrew Wilson	

St. Bernard's Parish Staff

Pastoral Associate/ liturgy	Darlene McGraw	darlenemcgraw@rogers.com
Receptionist / Bookkeeper	Giredine Aguidi	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	
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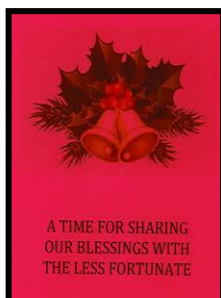
Mass times / Intentions:				
St. Bernard's				
Mon.	Dec. 9	9:30 AM	For the People	
Tues.	Dec. 10	9:30 AM	Special intention	Dan & Nellie Wright
Wed.	Dec. 11	9:30 AM	Late Adam Joseph Frehlich	Cathy Jensen
Thurs.	Dec. 12	9:30 AM	Deceased Members of family	Claire Hachey
Fri.	Dec. 13	9:30 AM	Late Pelagia Nhongo	St Bernard's CWL
Sat.	Dec. 14	4:00 PM	Late Alyre Williams	St. Bernard's Music Ministry
Sun.	Dec. 15	11:00 AM	For the People	
St. Clement's				
Sat.	Dec. 14	4:00 PM	Special intention	Joanne Carroll
St. Vincent's				
Sun.	Dec. 15	9:00 AM	Special Intention	Ashley



We are nearing the end of 2024!

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 2024 must be received prior to December 31st to be included in 2024 taxation receipts. Thank you for your continued generosity!!**

OFFERINGS									
St. Bernard's Offerings + PADs & online – November 30 & December 1, 2024									
Envelopes	\$6522	Loose	\$964.40	Capital Expenditure	\$2422	Indigenous	\$20		
Syrian Relief	\$35	Special Collection	\$50	Karing Kitchen	\$55	People in Need	\$140		
Christmas	\$170	Christmas boxes	\$35	Christmas flowers	\$70				
St. Clement's Offerings – November 30, 2024									
Envelopes	\$895	Collection	\$20						
St. Vincent's Offerings – December 1, 2024									
Envelopes	\$2905	Loose	\$16	Maintenance	\$160	Christmas	\$5	Fuel	\$195
Thank you for your generous and continued support!!!									



The Karing Kitchen is a registered charity operating a community soup kitchen in the basement of St. John's United Church, 75 Alma St., Moncton, NB. Serving hot meals daily for over 37 years to those who might not otherwise have one.

If you are looking for a gift giving idea....

Karing Kitchen Christmas cards are available at the entrance of St. Bernard's Church. Simply take out the white insert within the card, fill in your information, and attach your donation. Your donation can be given to a Karing Kitchen Board member or mailed as instructed. The red card then can be given to the person you are gifting (inside of the card says a donation was made to the Karing Kitchen in recipients name).



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

Eloy Lavoie, father-in-law of Leslie (Marc) Lavoie.

And to all who mourn the loss of a loved one.



*Ecclesiastes 3
Under every season there is a time...
A time to heal...*

St. Bernard's

Patricia Devine	Fr. Allison Carroll	Glen & Doreen McCluskey	Roque Pacatang Waban	
Julie Waban	Claire Struble	Marie Godin	Dee Dee Murphy	Ramon & Myrna Penas
Sofio & Maria Floreta Conson		Stella Marie Alcalen	Belinda Sarmiento	

St. Clement's

McGraw Family	Hudson Sweeney	Baby Owen	Emma Cormier	Diane Jones
Genie Coates	Olga Bateman	Deacon Frank Quinn	Shawna Lane Ibbitson	Angelia

St. Vincent's

Barb DeWitt	Vince Reinsborough	Deacon Frank Quinn	Leonard Burke	Tim Nye
Vince Wood	Art Chase	Leone Campbell		

As well as those who have died.



St. Bernard's Sacrament of Reconciliation regular schedule

Prior to Weekday Masses: Monday to Friday: 8:30 – 9:20 AM

Saturdays: 10:00 AM; First Friday of the month: 8:00 – 9:00 AM.

Remembering our Deceased Family & Friends with Christmas Flowers

Once again, this year, you are invited to make monetary donations for Christmas floral arrangements in memory of deceased loved ones. All monies contributed will be used to purchase flowers that will decorate our church throughout the Christmas season. If you would like to donate funds for **Christmas flowers** in memory of a loved one, you may do so by completing the information below & placing it with your donation in a plain envelope. That envelope can be put into the collection basket at mass or dropped off at the parish office during regular office hours. Names will be in the Christmas bulletin. **Thank you to all those who donate to this yearly project.**

Indicate parish:	St. Bernard's	St. Clement's	St. Vincent's
In Memory of:			
Donated by:			
Address:			
\$ Amount	Envelope # (if applicable)		

St. Bernard's

Mark Your Calendar

Carmelites	2 nd Sat of the month: 9:30 AM
Prayer Group	2 nd Sat. of month & last Sat. of month after 25th @ 7:00 PM
RCIA	Resumes Saturday, January 4, 2025: 10:00 AM to 12 noon.



Advent Evening Prayer (Liturgy of the Hours)

Christians are called in baptism to be people of prayer, to pray always, praising God and pleading for the world. **We are encouraged to be more cognizant of prayer during the Advent season. Why not try gathering with the faith community for Evening Prayer?** It only takes up a half hour of your time. We follow the format for Evening Prayer that is offered in our Catholic Book of Worship. **All parishioners of our parish unit are invited and encouraged to gather for the Evening Prayer (Liturgy of the Hours) on Thursday evenings at St. Bernard's Church. December 12 & 19 @ 6:00 PM.**



Sessions for Fall 2024

Sun. Level 1-2-3 @ 9:30 AM and Level 4-5-6 @ 12:15 PM:

Dec. 15 - **Tues. Level 1-2-3 @ 6PM:** Dec. 17.

Wed. Level 4-5-6 @ 6PM: Dec. 18.

Confirmation In-Person Session: Dec. 15.



2025 CWL Membership

Dues are payable by December 31st. Dues remain at \$32.50. For members who have not yet paid their membership fees, dues can be paid at our upcoming meeting on Sunday, December 8th or by calling Donna Shaw at 506-382-0503 to arrange for pick up of your dues. If paying by cheque, kindly make your cheque payable to St. Bernard's CWL. Thank you.

Notice of
St.
pm in the
annual
set up



CWL Meeting

Bernard's CWL will hold its December meeting on Sunday, **Dec. 8th at 2:00- 4:00 parish hall, preceded by the Rosary at 1:30 pm.** The meeting will also be our St. Nicholas party. Bring your favorite finger food to share. A money tree will be with donations going to Christmas Boxes in collaboration with Food Depot. Bring a baby item if you would like to support a single mother. Raffle draw will take place. New members welcome!



Calling All Knitters

Yarn is available at the Parish office for knitters who wish to make hats, mittens, etc. for the Advent Mitten Tree. Thank you to all the dedicated past and present knitters!

For info. on Christmas food boxes contact one of the below based on where you live:

Moncton area: Peter McKee Community Food Ctr., 475 St. George St, Moncton

506-383-4281 / reception@petermckeecentre.ca

Dieppe area: - Second Mile Food Bank, 243 Lewisville Rd., Moncton, N.B.

506-857-9121 / smfoodbank@gmail.com

Riverview area: Albert County Action Inc., 50 Runnymede Rd., Riverview, NB

506-386-7824 / acac.albertcountyfoodbank@gmail.com

St. Bernard's



Simbang Gabi 2024

Dear Friends, the Filipino Community of the Archdiocese of Moncton invites everyone to join in our **Simbang Gabi** celebrations. **Simbang Gabi**, a tagalog phrase that literally means “Evening Mass,” is the Filipino traditional novena Masses offered for nine consecutive evenings before Christmas Eve. It is a spiritual journey for Filipinos, a time of reflection, devotion, and anticipation as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Centred on the Eucharist, the nine Masses honour the Blessed Mother Mary, who carried Our Lord Jesus in her womb for nine months. How is it different from a daily Advent Mass? On Simbang Gabi Masses, the priest wears white festive vestments and the Gloria is sung. We invite you to **St. Bernard's Church** from **December 15th to the 23rd at 7:00 PM** for these evening Masses, which will be celebrated in English, with hymns beautifully led by the Filipino choir. Please note, our parish's regular daily and weekend Mass schedules will remain unchanged, with these nine special evening Masses added for the season. We would be deeply honored to have you join us in these celebrations.

With blessings, Fr. Carlos Jacinto, The Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit



The Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit Christmas Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 24, 2024 - Christmas Eve

St. Bernard's	5:00, 8:00, & 10:00 PM
St. Clement's	4:00 PM
St. Vincent's	6:00 PM

Wednesday, December 25, 2024 - Christmas Day

St. Bernard's	11:00 AM
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Please note: Someone is posing as Fr. Damian Nwachukwu with messages such as below. Do not respond to such email requests.



Fr. Damian Nwachukwu <revfr4540@gmail.com>
To: darlenemcgraw@rogers.com



Complement of the seasons,

What are your plans for today? I have a request for you to help me manage! I'll await your response!

Blessings,

Fr. Damian Nwachukwu



Trevor Droesbeck - 857-4879 or adultfaith@diocesemoncton.ca
Karen LeBlanc – 387-4198 or youth@diocesemoncton.ca

ADVENT GOES TO THE MOVIES – Please join us as we meet via Zoom to discuss four films and their connection to our faith and the Advent season; Dec. 9th (*Babette's Feast*); and Dec. 16th (*Agnes of God*). Each discussion will be held at 10:30 am on Zoom. Please contact Karen at 387-4198 or youth@diocesemoncton.ca to register.

THEOLOGY ON TAP – Our next Theology on Tap event will take place on Monday, December 9th, 6:30 PM at Mai Asian Restaurant in Moncton. Our guest speaker for this session will be Eugene Aucoin, who will be speaking about his new book “*Beatitudes: 8 Steps to Inner Peace and Happiness.*” Contact Karen at 387-4198 or youth@diocesemoncton.ca to register.

St. Vincent's

FAITH FORMATION at St. Vincent's – In-person catechism sessions take place on Sunday mornings following Mass. For any participant or volunteer inquiries for this program, including sacramental preparations, please contact Cathy Crinnion at ccrinnion@yahoo.ca or 536-4470. For parishioners who are past Confirmation, no previous experience is necessary for you to share your time with our Faith Formation families, as a helper or as a catechist!

The Faith Formation schedule is as follows:

December 15 th @ 10am	Elementary group – St. Vincent's hall
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Elementary group will resume on January 12th 2025

Primary group (grades 1-3) – please contact Cathy to discuss

CONFESSION – Please note that a time for confession may be requested with Fr. Damian following our 9:00 a.m. mass on Sunday, December 22, 2024.

CHRISTMAS EVE MUSIC AT ST. VINCENT'S – Our Music Leader, Karen Olscamp, has once again graciously offered to organize music with our youth for our Christmas Eve mass at 6PM.

“Christmas is coming and that means special invitations to children and youth of our parish to join in Music Performances. **“Away in a Manger”** will be offered with no age limit. And for school aged children, **“Joy to the World”** will be offered with our hand bells. Both songs will be performed on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals will be held Saturday mornings, December 14 and 21, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

In addition, Karen has offered to organize a **Youth Choir** (Grades 4-12) to prepare a song or two for the Advent/Christmas season. Perhaps your son or daughter can play a musical instrument that they would like to add to the singing. Rehearsals would be approximately 45 minutes in length and would begin in early December. Rehearsal day and time remain flexible and will be determined in consultation with parents.”

All of these activities will require considerable preparation on Karen's part, so she asks parents of interested children and youth to register with her as soon as possible. Karen Olscamp kolscamp@live.com 506-536-3050.

WHITE GIFT SUNDAY – Today December 8, 2024, is White Gift Sunday at St. Vincent's. If you have forgotten to bring your white gift, please contact the Parish Office at 506-536-1460. Gifts will be taken to the United Church this week for packing.

100 ANNIVERSARY OF ST. VINCENT CHURCH – A small committee will be finalized in early January 2025 to get plans underway to collect more stories and bits of history from parishioners. If you have questions or information to share, please contact Rosemary at rbarrass@nbnet.nb.ca.

SUNDAY MISSALS 2024-2025 – Due to a higher demand this year, additional Sunday Missals 2024-2025 have arrived and are being offered to parishioners at a cost of \$6.75 each. Please see Lorraine at the entrance to the church.

DONATIONS OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS – Starting this week, more Filipino nurses and their families are arriving to work at the Drew Nursing Home here in Sackville. We continue to accept household donations to help them set up their apartments. Suggested items are mattresses, box springs, and bed frames (all sizes), like-new bedding and warm blankets, small appliances, chests of drawers, kitchen tables and chairs, etc. Please contact Lorraine at the Parish Office if you have any of these items that you would like to donate 506-536-1460 or stvince@nbnet.nb.ca.

SACKVILLE FOOD BANK – With the rising cost of groceries, many local families are struggling to put nutritious food on the table. If you are able, please contribute non-perishable food items to our local Food Bank. Also needed are items such as toilet paper, tissues, paper towel, face soap, and dish and laundry detergent. The donation basket is located on the right-hand side of the entrance of the church.

Cradle Mattress to be given away!

As a gift to a family expecting a new little one: A hand fashioned wooden cradle {that can rock} in excellent condition, with custom mattress. Please call 506-388-5713.

Dear Padre,

If Christmas is on December 25, why is the Immaculate Conception on December 8, rather than sometime in March?

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception asserts that Mary was free of the stain of original sin from the time she was conceived in her mother's womb. Jesus was also free of the stain of original sin and his conception by Mary is referred to as the Incarnation of Christ. Mary's Immaculate Conception is often confused for Christ's Incarnation.

In the Church's liturgical calendar, Mary's conception is celebrated on December 8; her birthday is celebrated exactly nine months later on September 8. Likewise, Christ's conception is celebrated on March 25 on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord; his birthday is celebrated exactly nine months later on December 25.

Mary's Immaculate Conception was celebrated many centuries before Pope Pius IX defined it as dogma on December 8, 1854: "The doctrine that maintains that the Blessed Virgin Mary in the first instant of her conception, by a unique grace and privilege granted to her by Almighty God, in consideration of the merits of Jesus Christ the Savior of mankind, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore must be firmly and constantly believed by all the faithful" (*Ineffabilis Deus*). In fact, eight years before, in 1846, the bishops of the United States had already adopted the Immaculate Conception as the patronal feast for Catholics in this country.



Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 9 <i>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Gn 3:9–15, 20 Eph 1:3–6, 11–12 Lk 1:26–38	December 10 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 40:1–11 Mt 18:12–14	December 11 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 40:25–31 Mt 11:28–30	December 12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> Zec 2:14–17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab Lk 1:26–38 or Lk 1:39–47	December 13 <i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i> Is 48:17–19 Mt 11:16–19	December 14 <i>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i> Sir 48:1–4, 9–11 Mt 17:9a, 10–13	December 15 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Zep 3:14–18a Phil 4:4–7 Lk 3:10–18



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

By calling us to conversion, John urges us to go “beyond” where we presently are; to go beyond what our instincts tell us.... Let us ask for the grace to believe that with God things really do change, that he will banish our fears, heal our wounds.... Let us ask for the grace of hope....

HOMILY, ATHENS, DECEMBER 5, 2021