



## The Light Side of the Dark

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**T**here's something to be said for kindness. Often when we say to ourselves that something is an act of godliness, it's when someone is kind, especially when it seems to come out of the blue. It's what John the Baptist seemed to be thinking when he said we would be baptized with the Holy Spirit and with the sort of passionate fire that warms and gives off light. Henry James, the British novelist, once said that three things were important in life—the first, be kind; the second, be kind; the third, be kind. Long before Henry James said it, St. Paul wrote to the Christian community in Philippi: "Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near" (Philippians 4:5). God's presence seems to be nearer when someone is kind.

It is curious how in the darkest moments of life, the light of kindness shines more brightly. Natural calamities seem to bring out kindness toward those who suffer. So too, at times of personal tragedies or disasters, when others are grieving the death of someone they love, as well as countless other times when people find themselves lost in the dark. Little wonder then how during this time of year when the days are shortest, and the nighttime dark is longest, that the days of Advent and Christmas seem to be laced with kindness for one another. Then the veil that hides God from our eyes grows thinner, and we catch glimpses of "God with us." ●

### Reflect

***Have you made kindness  
a regular practice?***



**The peace of God that surpasses all understanding  
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.**

**PHILIPPIANS 4:7**

*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.**

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED: Dec. 23 to 26. Re-opens Friday, Dec. 27**

**Phone messages will be checked for emergencies.**

**Website:** [www.stbernardschurch.ca](http://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**

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

**St. Bernard's Parish Staff**

<b>Pastoral Associate/ liturgy</b>	Darlene McGraw	darlenemcgraw@rogers.com
<b>Receptionist / Bookkeeper</b>	Giredine Aguidi	sbhf@rogers.com
<b>Catechetical Coordinator</b>	Lorella Dunnett	Lorella_st.bernards@hotmail.com

**St. Vincent's Parish Staff**

<b>Parish Secretary</b>	Lorraine Horyl	
<b>Catechetical Coordinator</b>	Cathy Crinnion	

**St. Clement's Parish Staff**

<b>Parish Secretary</b>	Pam Van Egmond	
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Mass times / Intentions:				
St. Bernard's				
Mon.	Dec. 16	9:30 AM	Late Viola Parsons	Nancy Gallie
Tues.	Dec. 17	9:30 AM	Anniv. Late Martin Gillepsie	Suzan LeBlanc
Wed.	Dec. 18	9:30 AM	For the souls of Purgatory	Anna Tran
Thurs.	Dec. 19	9:30 AM	Anniv. Late Ron Struble	Claire, Sherrie & Family
Fri.	Dec. 20	9:30 AM	Special intention to all masses	Donna & Sam Ermen
Sat.	Dec. 21	4:00 PM	Anniv. Late Jean-Claude Fortin	Family
Sun.	Dec. 22	11:00 AM	For the People	
St. Clement's				
Sat.	Dec. 21	4:00 PM	For the People	
St. Vincent's				
Sun.	Dec. 22	9:00 AM	For the People	



**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!!

<b>OFFERINGS</b>									
<b>St. Bernard's Offerings + PADs &amp; online – December 7 &amp; 8, 2024</b>									
Envelopes	\$3115.55	Loose	\$835.10	Capital Expenditure	\$57.90				
Syrian Relief	\$20	People in Need	\$250	Karing Kitchen	\$280	Christmas boxes	\$150		
Diocesan Collection	\$20	Christmas flowers	\$470						
<b>St. Clement's Offerings – December 7, 2024</b>									
Envelopes	\$265	Collection	\$20	Donations w/receipt	\$1000	St. Barth. Cemet.	\$10.410		
<b>St. Vincent's Offerings – December 8, 2024</b>									
Envelopes	\$2395	Loose	\$10	Maintenance	\$45	Christmas	\$25	Fuel	\$35
Christmas Flowers	\$170	HR-SV Cemetery	\$500						
<b><i>Thank you for your generous and continued support!!!</i></b>									



**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....red 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).**

WITH DEEPEST  
*Sympathy*

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

**Judy LeBlanc**, wife of (late) Laurie, mother of Kathy.

**Alexis "Lexi" McDougall**, granddaughter of Deacon Frank Quinn.

*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	Sofio & Maria Floreta Conson	
Claire Struble	Marie Godin	Dee Dee Murphy	Stella Marie Alcalen	Belinda Sarmiento
John Glynn	Irene Cucalon	Gigi Pena	Peter Quach	Teresita Guzon

**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.**

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

## St. Bernard's

### Mark Your Calendar

<b>Carmelites</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat of the month: 9:30 AM
<b>Prayer Group</b>	2nd Sat. of month & last Sat. of month after 25th @ 7:00 PM
<b>RCIA</b>	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 December 19 @ 6:00 PM at St. Bernard's Church.**

### 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 31<sup>st</sup>. 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.



### CWL Raffle Winner!

Winner of the bedspread and painting is Gerry Harper. Thank you to all who supported this fundraiser and to Marie Godin and Donna Ermen who donated these prizes.

**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](mailto:reception@petermckeecentre.ca)

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

506-857-9121 / [smfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:smfoodbank@gmail.com)

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

506-386-7824 / [acac.albertcountyfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:acac.albertcountyfoodbank@gmail.com)

## St. Clement's

### Memorial remembrance:

Johanna Rommens in memory of Mien Rommens

Annette Carter in memory of Rudolph & Lorraine Legere

### Bad Weather:

If 4:00 pm mass on Sat. is cancelled due to weather. Please check your email for notification or call the parish where the cancellation will be noted.

## 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 & New Year's Mass Schedule*

#### *Tuesday, December 24, 2024 - Christmas Eve*

St. Bernard's	5:00, 8:00, & 10:00 PM <i>(please note: no 9:30 AM Mass)</i>
St. Clement's	4:00 PM
St. Vincent's	6:00 PM

#### *Wednesday, December 25, 2024 - Christmas Day*

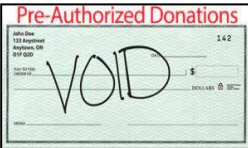
St. Bernard's	11:00 AM <i>(please note: no 9:30 AM Mass)</i>
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#### *Tuesday, December 31, 2024 - New Year's Eve*

St. Bernard's	4:00 PM <i>(please note: no 9:30 AM Mass)</i>
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#### *Wednesday, January 1, 2025 - New Year's Day*

St. Bernard's	11:00 AM <i>(please note: no 9:30 AM Mass)</i>
St. Clement's	11:00 AM
St. Vincent's	9:00 AM



**PADS** – If you would like to donate through the Pre-Authorized Debit system, kindly contact **Giredine Aguidi at 506-857-0425** or send an email to [sbhf@rogers.com](mailto:sbhf@rogers.com) to register for St. Bernard's PADS.



**YMCA ReConnect** provides short-term and long-term assistance through outreach to youth and adults who are homeless or at-risk of being homeless. YMCA Re-Connect is looking for donations of new or gently used sweaters, sweatpants, socks, hand / foot warmers and warm blankets. If you can donate any of these items to St. Bernard's Church, containers will be set up at the entrance of the church to receive these donations. We will ensure donations get to Re-Connect. Thank you in advance for your kindness.

### St. Vincent's

**FAITH FORMATION at St. Vincent's** – For any participant or volunteer inquiries for this program, including sacramental preparations, please contact Cathy Crinnion at [crrinnion@yahoo.ca](mailto:crrinnion@yahoo.ca) or 536-4470.

**The Faith Formation schedule is as follows:**

December 15<sup>th</sup> @ 10am

Elementary group – St. Vincent's hall

Elementary group will resume on January 12<sup>th</sup> 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 MASS** – St. Vincent's will celebrate mass on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Please arrive early as seating may be limited! There will be no mass on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 24.

**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](mailto: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** – *Thank you, thank you, thank you! These two words cannot be said often enough! Many people from the Amherst, Sackville, Dieppe, Moncton, and Riverview areas have been so very generous with donations of household goods and warm outdoor clothing for our friends from the Philippines.* To date, approximately 25 nurses have come to Sackville to work at the Drew Nursing Home. Some of them have arrived alone, and many of them have arrived with families! Starting again in February 2025, more will be arriving! 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](mailto: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.



ARCHDIOCESE OF MONCTON  
Office for Evangelization and Catechesis

Trevor Drosbeck - 857-4879 or [adultfaith@diocesemoncton.ca](mailto:adultfaith@diocesemoncton.ca)

Karen LeBlanc – 387-4198 or [youth@diocesemoncton.ca](mailto:youth@diocesemoncton.ca)

**ADVENT GOES TO THE MOVIES** – Our final film discussion for Advent on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> (*Agnes of God*) at 10:00 am via Zoom. Please contact Karen at 387-4198 or [youth@diocesemoncton.ca](mailto:youth@diocesemoncton.ca) to register.

**HANDEL'S MESSIAH:** Come early and enjoy a pre-concert talk guaranteed to get you in the mood for the evening's proceedings. Ensemble SFEM with the Ménestrel Singers of Musique Royale. Jimin Shin Dobson Music Direction & Baroque violin. Soloists: Christina Haldane Soprano, Hannah O'Donnell Alto, Kerry Burse Tenor, Alexander Dobson Bass. Concert at 7pm, pre-concert talks at 6.30pm. Tickets are \$35 general admission, \$20 for seniors, and \$10 for students.



### INVITATION: Solemn Opening of the Jubilee Year 2025

The faithful of the Archdiocese of Moncton are invited to take part in this important bilingual celebration, which will gather priests with the Archbishop for a three-part event on December 29, 2024: **1:30 PM – Saint Bernard's Church:** Gathering. **1:45 PM – Pilgrimage:** Walk toward the Cathedral. **2:00 PM – Our Lady of the Assumption Cathedral:** Solemn Mass. *hose with mobility limitations are welcome to proceed directly to the Cathedral.*

# Dear Padre,

*My family, friends, and coworkers seem to be uncomfortable when I tell them that I've been praying for them. Should I just keep it to myself?*

There is nothing fundamentally wrong with telling people you have been praying for them. Most people are probably grateful for such care and support. But it can be a little tricky. If the person believes the praying is actually a judgment and not a blessing, it may provoke a less-than-grateful response. This is where honest discernment on your part is invited. Are you coming across as prayerfully concerned, or is there some criticism or judgment in what seems to be an innocent blessing? People are able to perceive the difference.

Another consideration—and this is not at all unusual as a response in the culture of today—is that some people are very defensive about any religious expressions and do not react favorably. Think, for example, about the different reactions to “Merry Christmas” or “Happy Holidays,” which can often provoke the familiar idiom “them’s fightin’ words.” My best advice is to keep praying for everyone, as no one truly understands or fully appreciates the power of prayer. That being said, temper your announcement when you suspect it will not be well received. This demonstrates a grateful and blessed heart, which is what you intend and hope for, after all. ●



Illustration: Shutterstock

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21	December 22
<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
Nm 24:2–7, 15–17a Mt 21:23–27	Gn 49:2, 8–10 Mt 1:1–17	Jer 23:5–8 Mt 1:18–25	Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a Lk 1:5–25	Is 7:10–14 Lk 1:26–38	Sg 2:8–14 or Zep 3:14–18a Lk 1:39–45	Mi 5:1–4a Heb 10:5–10 Lk 1:39–45



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*[The crowd asked John the Baptist,] “What shall we do?”*  
*By suggesting this question, the Gospel reminds us of something important: life has a task for us.... Each of us—let us not forget this—has a mission to accomplish. So, let us not be afraid to ask the Lord: what shall I do?*

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 12, 2021