



Behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

MATTHEW 2:1B-2

In Search of God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

We are always in search of something or other, it seems—an intangible something that tends to shift and change over the course of our lives, like the tumbling pieces of a kaleidoscope. Sometimes, it is love we seek. Other times, meaning. Or inner peace, freedom from anxiety or guilt. Or perhaps freedom from all that ties us down. And sometimes, it is God we seek. Like the Magi, we too are on a quest for the Holy One.

One afternoon, Tom, a high-school sophomore, stopped by. He asked if we could talk about God—or, more exactly, about what God was like. He had been in a study hall, waiting for the bell to ring, when the person behind him asked, "When you die, do you think you're going to see God?" Tom said he thought he would, but then the other student replied, "Well, you won't, because God doesn't have a body. There isn't something to see."

The bell rang, Tom said, and they never finished the conversation. Tom wondered whether God had a body or not, and, if not, then what was God like? Tom was searching for a God that made sense amidst galaxies and black holes and light years of time, but also a God who was personal and knowable and lovable. He wasn't sure how to put the two together. He had become one of the Magi on a journey to find God. ●

Reflect

Where are you on your journey to know and discover 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 for next week:

Monday - Thursday: 9 AM – 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 | |
|-------------------------|----------------|--|

| Mass times / Intentions: | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|----------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| St. Bernard's | | | | |
| Mon. | Jan. 6 | 9:30 AM | Late Paul Breau | KoC Council 1310 |
| Tues. | Jan. 7 | 9:30 AM | Late Greg Murphy | Fred & Blanche Begin |
| Wed. | Jan. 8 | 9:30 AM | Deceased family members | Conrad Coughlan |
| Thurs. | Jan. 9 | 9:30 AM | Late Peter Sinclair | Hector & Cecile Caissie |
| Fri. | Jan. 10 | 9:30 AM | Late Blain Guimond | Mary |
| Sat. | Jan. 11 | 4:00 PM | Anniv. Late Howard Shean | Wife Irene |
| Sun. | Jan. 12 | 11:00 AM | Anniv. Late Harold Woods | Evelyn Woods |
| St. Clement's | | | | |
| Sat. | Jan. 11 | 4:00 PM | For our benefactors | |
| St. Vincent's | | | | |
| Sun. | Jan. 12 | 9:00 AM | Late Greg Murphy | Fred & Blanche Begin |

OFFERINGS

St. Bernard's Offerings + PADs & online – December 21, 22, 28 & 29, 2024

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|------|
| Envelopes | \$22,830.3 | Loose | \$1403.10 | Christmas Offer | \$3125.00 | | |
| Needy fund | \$80.00 | Christmas Flow. | \$535.00 | Capital Exp. | \$961.25 | | |
| Karing Kitchen | \$178.00 | Donation | \$4150.00 | Christmas boxes | \$5.00 | | |
| Canadian Ch. | \$10 | Evangelization of people | \$10 | Diocesan coll. | \$43.60 | All souls | \$10 |

St. Bernard's Offerings + PADs & online – December 24, 25, & 31, 2024 & January 1, 2025

| | | | | | |
|----------------|--------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Envelopes | \$3337 | Loose | \$4548.55 | Christmas Offer | \$5605.00 |
| Karing Kitchen | \$5.00 | Christmas Flow. | \$50.00 | Capital Exp. | \$253.25 |

St. Clement's – December 21, 24 & 28, 2024

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------|------------------------|--------|--------------------|-------|
| Envelopes | \$440 | Collection | \$190 | Christmas Offering | \$330 |
| Donation w/receipt | \$630 | Sweet Plate Fundraiser | \$1775 | | |

St. Vincent's offerings – December 24 & 29, 2024 and January 1, 2025, will be reported in next Bulletin.

Thank you for your generous and continued support!!!



**IN THE EVENT OF A STORM OR INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS
WILL BE NOTED ON: ST. BERNARD'S WEBSITE: www.stbernardschurch.ca
OR BY CALLING OUR PHONE LINE @ 506-857-0425**

WITH DEEPEST
Sympathy

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

Gerald "Gerry" Cormier, husband of Lillian.

Teresita Guzon, aunt of Rocky Estandarte (Margaret).

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 | Kathleen Crosby | Glen & Doreen McCluskey | Belinda Sarmiento |
| Claire Struble | Marie Godin | Dee Dee Murphy | John Glynn |
| Irene Cucalon | Gigi Pena | Peter Quach | Kathleen Crosby |

St. Clement's

| | | | | |
|---------------|----------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------------|
| McGraw Family | Hudson Sweeney | Baby Owen | Emma Cormier | Deacon Frank Quinn |
| Angelia | Shawna Lane Ibbitson | | | |

St. Vincent's

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

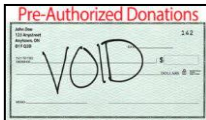
As well as those who have died including David Marks.



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.



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** 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. Bernard's

Mark Your Calendar

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

| Sessions | LEVEL 1-3 | | LEVEL 4-6 | |
|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | Sun. @ 9:30 AM | Tues. @ 6 PM | Sun. @ 12:15 PM | Wed. @ 6 PM |
| 8 | Jan. 5 th | Jan 7 th | Jan. 5 th | Jan 8 th |
| 9 | Jan. 19 th | Jan. 21 st | Jan. 19 th | Jan 22 nd |
| 10 | Feb. 2 nd | Feb 4 th | Feb. 2 nd | Feb.5 th |

Confirmation Prep. In-person session

Session # 3, Sunday Jan. 19th at 2 PM_ Session # 4 Sunday Feb. 9th at 2 PM

Session # 5 Sun. March 9th at 2 PM_ Session # 6 Sun. April 6th at 2 PM

Session # 7th April 27th at 2 PM.

Explanation of the 2025 Jubilee logo:

The cross of Christ is the hope that cannot ever be abandoned because we are always in need of it, especially in the most difficult moments.

The Cross, in the shape of a sail, is transformed into an anchor that imposes itself over the waves in motion. A universal symbol of Hope.

The figures represent humanity from the four corners of the World. They are embracing each other to illustrate the solidarity between the peoples, as the first holds onto the cross.

The rough sea is a reminder of the difficulties of the pilgrimage of life. Often, personal events as well as those of the world, press on us more intensely, demanding a greater hope.

ST. BERNARD'S CHURCH CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Due to the postal strike, January/February/March church contribution envelopes were mailed on December 19th. Hopefully you will be receiving them before Jan. 1st.

Thank you all for your constant generosity to the pastoral unit!



St. Bernard's



The Christmas Season will come to an end with the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord Sunday, January 12, 2025. **A word of appreciation and sincere thanks** to all those who prepared the church, served in their various ministries throughout the season, and who have given so generously with their time, talent and treasure. There is so much generosity here at St. Bernard's and each and every act will be blessed and rewarded by the Lord. Thank you to all those who have remembered us, through the many cards, good wishes, prayers, treats, gifts. Heartfelt thanks! God Bless.

Father Damian, Father Carlos & St. Bernard's staff



Knights of Columbus Council 1310 Monthly Breakfast - 84 Broadway Street, Moncton January 5th from 8:30AM - 12:30PM. \$12 for Adults, \$5 for children. Menu includes: bacon, ham, sausage, eggs, pan fries, baked beans, pancakes, toast, tea, coffee and juice. All are welcome!



"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. Damian, Fr. Carlos or any of our parish staff, please be cautious and bring this to our attention. Call our parish offices to verify any suspicious email.**

The Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit is on Facebook!

Like and follow our Facebook Page for updates and faith-sharing.

There are three ways to locate our Facebook Page:

In the Facebook search bar, type **Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit of the Archdiocese of Moncton**; or in your Google **or** Safari search bar, type **facebook.com/gsmoncton**; **or** simply scan this QR Code.



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

FORMATION FOR BAPTISM PREPARATION TEAMS: To provide continuing formation for members of parish baptismal preparation teams, they are asked to gather on **Saturday, January 26th at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish from 9:30 am – 12:00 noon.** This formation is relevant to new members of baptismal preparation teams as well as a refresher for existing members. Facilitated by Trevor Droesbeck and Mark Mahoney, the formation will follow the themes and guidelines outlined in **Pastoral Recommendations for the Baptism of Children**, and will involve the resource that has been used in our diocese for the past several years and will include a dialogue around working with parents, the rewards and challenges of being involved in the ministry; what's working and (maybe) what's not; as well as ways we can be more effective. Please contact Trevor at adultfaith@diocesemoncton.ca or 857-4879 to confirm your attendance.

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:

Elementary group will resume on January 12th 2025

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

SUNDAY MISSALS 2024-2025

Due to a higher demand this year, additional Sunday Missals 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 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.

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.

Dear Padre,

I'm into horoscopes. A friend told me that astrology is nonsense and against the Catholic faith. What do you say?

Stargazing is as old as the human race. We know with certainty that ancient Chaldea was known for its stargazers. Many of the constellations' names originated during that time. Some scholars believe that the three wise men who came from the East to pay homage to the newborn Savior were themselves Chaldean stargazers.



Astrologers believe that the zodiac signs under which we were born largely control our human destiny. The Christian objection to astrology is that it insults almighty God, who alone knows the future. God alone, in cooperation with the free will of humans, controls the future. To suppose that stars, planets, animals, or inanimate objects can, independent of God, direct or influence our lives opposes the first commandment: "I am the LORD your God.... You shall not have other gods beside me" (Exodus 20:2-3).

The Old Testament clearly spells out that it is vain to imagine "either fire, or wind, or the swift air, or the circuit of the stars, or the mighty water, or the luminaries of heaven" as "the governors of the world" (Wisdom 13:2).

Don't give credit to or blame the stars for what you do and who you are. See past them to the God who made them, and who made us, and who cares for all creation.

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

God made us: brimming with desire, directed, like the Magi, towards the stars.... We are what we desire. For it is our desires that...drive our lives forward, beyond the barriers of habit, beyond banal consumerism, beyond a drab and dreary faith, beyond the fear of becoming involved and serving others and the common good.



CNS PHOTO

HOMILY, ROME, JANUARY 6, 2022

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

January 6
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 3:22-4:6
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday

January 7
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:7-10
Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday

January 8
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:11-18
Mk 6:45-52

Thursday

January 9
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:19-5:4
Lk 4:14-22a

Friday

January 10
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:5-13
Lk 5:12-16

Saturday

January 11
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:14-21
Jn 3:22-30

Sunday

January 12
The Baptism of the Lord
Is 42:1-4, 6-7
or Is 40:1-5, 9-11
Acts 10:34-38
or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22