



Embrace the Darkness

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

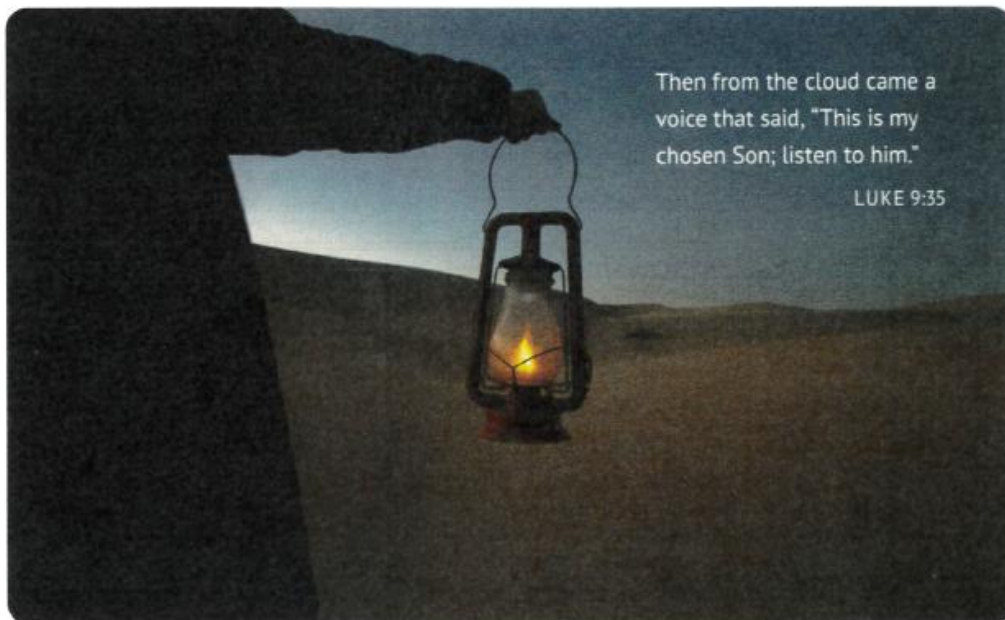
The darkness can be unsettling. As a child, my nightly bedtime ritual included checking beneath my bed as well as in the dark hall closet. One could never know what denizens of harm might be lurking there, hidden in the shadows. As adults, the darkness we fear is no longer what lies hidden about our home. Rather, the darkness we attempt to escape is the unknown forces that have the power to overturn our lives. It is the death of someone we love that plunges us into fear and loss, forcing us to somehow make our way, alone and unsure. It is the frightening medical diagnosis that has the ability to dismantle our planned future. It is the financial security that dissolves before our very eyes. In such darkness, we grope blindly to find our way.

The Book of Genesis notes that a trance came upon Abram, a terrifying darkness that enveloped him. The gospel relays how Peter, James, and John became frightened atop Mt. Tabor when they found themselves in a cloud that obscured their sight. Yet, the darkness became for each of them a place in which they came to know their God in a totally new way; it set them on a new path of faith. It is then that we, too, are forced to surrender: trust in our own wisdom.

Unable to see clearly what is in store for us, we can only rely on a new path, trusting that we will be accompanied by our God. ●

Reflect

When has life's darkness brought me to a new and deeper faith in God?



Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him."

LUKE 9:35

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. **CLOSED on Fridays.**
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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St. Bernard's Catholic Women's League

On March 17th, St. Bernard's CWL invites parishioners to join us for a St. Patrick's Day coffee party in the church hall following the 9:30 am Mass. Refreshments will be served, and Irish music will be playing on the CD player. For those who wish, a free offering bowl

will be available for donations for CWL projects, including parish repairs.

Please follow parish directions concerning cancellations due to inclement weather.

We look forward to seeing you. *St. Bernard's CWL*



Mass times / Intentions:				
St. Bernard's				
Mon.	Mar. 17	9:30 AM	Anniv. Late Lois Gallie	Gordie Gallie & Family
Tues.	Mar. 18	9:30 AM	Anniv. Late Kevin Walsh	Alison Smith
Wed.	Mar. 19	9:30 AM	For the People	
Thurs.	Mar. 20	9:30 AM	Late Doris Kingston	Aurella & Joseph Comeau
Fri.	Mar. 21	9:30 AM	Anniv. Late Donald Wood	Jeanne Wood & Family
Sat.	Mar. 22	4:00 PM	Late Minnie Burnett	Ross & Sharon
Sun.	Mar. 23	11:00 AM	Anniv. Late Zella O'Dell	Donna & Richard Shaw
St. Clement's				
Sat.	Mar. 22	4:00 PM	Peace in the World	Joanne Carroll
St. Vincent's				
Sun.	Mar. 23	9:00 AM	For the People	

OFFERINGS

St. Bernard's Offerings + PADs & online – March 8 & 9, 2025

Envelopes	\$4696.2	Loose	\$698.25	Karing Kitchen	\$140	Capital Fund	\$251.15
ReConnect	\$10	Syrian Relief	\$70	Ash Wed.	\$2256.85		

St. Clement's offerings – March 8, 2025

Envelopes	\$695	Heating	\$310		
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St. Vincent's offerings – March 9, 2025

Envelopes	\$1222	Loose	\$20	Maintenance	\$35	Ash Wed.	\$231	Fuel	\$5
Offering Envelopes	\$15	New Year's Day			\$10				

Thank you for your generous and continued support!!!

The Way of the Cross

The Way of the Cross will be prayed **during the holy season of Lent on Friday evenings at 6:30 PM**. All are invited and encouraged to attend. To make this prayer available to as many people as possible, we will celebrate it in the different churches according to the following schedule:

Fridays	March 28 and April 18	Immaculate Heart
Fridays	April 4	St. Augustine's
Fridays	March 21 and April 11	St. Bernard's

WOMEN'S IGNATIAN RETREAT-Theme "*Sent forth as apostles of Hope*"

April 3-6, 2025 @ Our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre, 67 Reid Road, Breadalbane, Prince Edward Island.

Cost: \$400.00 (\$420.00 after March 14) including room, board and materials.

Contact Tracy Jones: 902-439-1218 or email: stjosfamilycentre@gmail.com.

Deb D'Ettore: 506-961-3526 or email: d.ettoredeb07@gmail.com.



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

Lyle Hogan, husband of Annette, father of Shawn.

Michael Ahern, husband of Bernice; father of Todd, Tim and Trevor; grandfather of Viola.

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	John Glynn	Peter Quach	Jerome Escalona	Conrad Coughlan	Walter Best
Claire Struble	Maria Miller	Belinda Sarmiento	Sofio & Maria Floreta Conson	Stella Alcalen	
David Little	Deacon Ed West	Irene Cucalon	Georgette Thomson	George Grissom	
Dody & Jacklyn Placido					

St. Clement's

McGraw Family	Roger Collette	Olga Bateman	Genie Coates		
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St. Vincent's

Barb DeWitt	Leonard Burke	Deacon Frank Quinn	Leone Campbell	Art Chase	Vince Wood
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As well as those who have died including Huguette Tweed.



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.

What
God
Has Joined

What God Has Joined: Preparing for Marriage in the Catholic Church

Marriage preparation is a requirement for marriage in the Catholic Church. It is recommended that couples complete this preparation 6 months prior to their marriage date. This course discusses the important aspects of your relationship before you begin your lifelong journey together.

St. Bernard's will be facilitating a weekend marriage preparation program on the following dates:

Friday	May 30	7:00 to 9:00 PM
Saturday	May 31	9:00 AM to approximately 4:00 PM

Couples are required to attend both days. Cost of course & book inclusive: \$ 100.00 per couple.

You must pre: register to attend by emailing darlenemcgraw@rogers.com.

Space is limited so please register early.



EVENING PRAYER

Christians are called in baptism to be people of prayer, to pray always, praising God and pleading for the world. We, as children of God, are encouraged to be more cognizant of prayer during the Lenten 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 are welcome to gather for Evening Prayer at St. Bernard's on the following Thursday evenings during lent: March 20, 27; April 3 & 10 @ 6:00 PM.

St. Bernard's

**In case of
Inclement
Weather**



St. Bernard's Church Inclement Weather Policy

At least 1 hour before scheduled event:

Mass cancellation & any other closures will always be noted on:

Parish Website: www.stbernardschurch.ca

Parish Phone Message: by calling 506 857 0425

Facebook: facebook.com/gsmoncton. Call ahead or check website before heading out.

Mark Your Calendar

Carmelites	2 nd Saturday of the month: 9:30 AM
Prayer Group	2 nd Saturday of month & last Saturday of month after 25 th @ 7:00 PM
RCIA meeting dates	1 st and 3 rd Saturday of each month – 10:00 AM – 12 noon
Baptism preparation	Sunday, April 13, 2025 @ 1:30 PM
"Hello There"	Sunday March 30 th after mass
Marriage Preparation	Friday & Saturday, May 30 & 31, 2025 (for more details see announcement in bulletin).



Faith Formation

SESSIONS	LEVEL 1-3		LEVEL 4-6	
	Sun. @ 9:30 AM	Tues. @ 6 PM	Sun. @ 12:15 PM	Wed. 6 PM
14	March 23 rd	March 25 th	March 23 rd	March 26 th
15	April 6 th	April 8 th	April 6 th	April 9 th
16	April 27 th	April 29 th	April 27 th	April 30 th

Confirmation Prep. In-person session

Session # 5 Sun. Mar. 9th at 2 PM_Session # 6 Sun. April 6th at 2 PM -Session # 7th April 27th at 2 PM.



St Bernard's Sacrament Celebrations

Reconciliation: Saturday March 22nd @ 10 AM

Holy Communion: Sunday May 4th @ 11 AM

Confirmation: Sunday, May 11th @ 11 AM



Rite of Welcoming Candidates for Confirmation & Eucharist:

On Sunday, March 9, 2025, at the 11:00 AM Mass we celebrated the **Rite of Welcoming with our candidates** (baptized). In this Rite the candidates declared their intention to become members of the Church and were invited into our faith community. We in turn pledge to pray for them and journey with them as they continue to grow as disciples of the Lord. St. Bernard's candidates are: Luciana Abel-Ratovo, Brent Crosthwaite, Scott Miller.

Rite of Election / Enrollment of names:

The **Rite of election / enrollment of names** is the recognition of God's choice to call the catechumens (the unbaptized) for immediate initiation into the church. This rite usually coincides with the First Sunday of Lent which begins the immediate preparation for the celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. This rite occurred at St. Augustine's, Sunday, March 9, 2025, presided by Archbishop Guy Desrochers.

St. Bernard's catechumens, who are now known as the "elect" are: Lisa Arsenaault, Ryan Nagle, Terry Wellman, Avery Wellman and Scott Wright.

Please pray for: our Elect, Candidates, Sponsors, & RCIA team as their journey continues.



The Feast Light Gathering – March 16, 2025!

The **Light of Jesus Ministry** is a Filipino Catholic community committed to bringing God's love to everyone through vibrant worship, inspiring talks, and a welcoming faith family. As part of this mission, **The Feast Light** offers a smaller, intimate gathering where you can grow in faith and find encouragement for life's journey.

Join us on **Sunday, March 16, 2025** for our third Feast Light gathering at St. Bernard's Church. We begin with Mass at 11:00 AM (main church) followed by **The Feast Light at 1:00 PM at the Parish Hall**. Our third talk for the topic **"Rock bottom: Life Strategies from Life Tragedies,"** will explore how God

will heal your wounds- so that you can, in turn, heal others through your wounds. Come for an uplifting time of prayer, reflection, and fellowship.

Everyone is welcome! Invite your family and friends and be blessed. See you there!



Hello there! March 30th

Come get to know others in your parish community! Gather in the parish hall, after Sunday Mass for a quick hello!, with fellow parishioners for conversation, beverages, and snacks. Hope to see you there!!



Turn Debt into Hope : sign the petition!

In this Jubilee Year, Pope Francis calls on us to take part in the global **Turn Debt into Hope** campaign to *"forgive the debts* of countries that will never be able to repay them."

Knowing that 3.3 billion people live in countries that spend more on foreign debt repayment than on health or education, we must act! Sign the global petition calling for:

1. Canceling unjust and unsustainable debts
2. Reforming the global financial system to prioritize people and the planet
3. Establishing a binding and comprehensive debt framework within the United Nations

Please sign the petition in church or online at devp.org/debt.



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

LENT GOES TO THE MOVIES - Our Mondays @ The Movies film discussion group will meet every two weeks over Lent to discuss Lenten themes in popular films. **March 24th – A River Runs Through It**; and **April 7th– Thelma and Louise**. All discussions take place on Zoom at 10:00 am. Please contact Karen at 387-4198 or youth@diocesemoncton.ca to register. Everyone is welcome to join the discussion.

Welcome back to **SENIORS CONNECT!** Our next gathering will take place on **Thursday March 27th at 10:30 am** at Holy Family Church. We will have someone from the Alzheimer Society talking to us about "Understanding Behaviors". Questions? Contact Karen LeBlanc at 387-4198 or email youth@diocesemoncton.ca.

St. Clement's



Vina McGraw - Has turned 94 years young on March 14th.

We wish her health and happiness as she continues to be an important part of St. Clement's Parish. Vina has served St. Clement's as an organist, a cleaner, repair person, and always has rolls to give to others. We love her dearly and wish her all the best!

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. The Faith Formation schedule is as follows:

Sacrament of 1 st Reconciliation	Fri Mar 14 th @ 5pm
Elementary group sessions @ 10am	Sun Mar 23 rd , Apr 6 th & 27 th , May 4 th
Way of the Cross with Faith Formation group	Fri Apr 11 th @ 6pm
1 st Eucharist during Mass (contact Cathy for prep)	Sun May 11 th @ 9am
Primary group (grades 1-3) – please contact Cathy to discuss	

CALL FOR NEW ALTAR SERVERS AT ST. VINCENT'S

please contact Dennis Lambus at dlambus22@gmail.com.

WAY OF THE CROSS at St. Vincent's – Join us for one or for all of these special devotions of the Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings during Lent: March 7th, March 21st, March 28th, April 4th and April 11th, at 6pm.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE with Confession at St. Vincent's – On Friday March 14th at 6pm for all parishioners who have already celebrated first reconciliation. Resources to prepare are available at <https://www.diocesemoncton.ca/en/reconciliation>. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops also offer an Examination of Conscience on their website and scripture readings for reflection.

STORM CANCELLATIONS – Please note that if mass is cancelled for any reason, but mainly winter storms this time of year, a mass email will be sent out to all parishioners who have shared their email with the Parish Office. We realize there are some parishioners who do not have access to email, so we ask that if mass is cancelled, please call any parishioners you know who do not have email to alert them to the cancellation.

MASS CELEBRATION AT THE DREW NURSING HOME – On Monday, February 10, 2025, Fr. Carlos began celebrating Mass once per month at 3:00 p.m. with the residents of the Drew Nursing Long Term Care Home in Sackville. The following dates are also scheduled for Mass: Monday, April 7; Monday, May 5; and Monday, June 2. Everyone is invited to attend and celebrate mass with the residents of the Drew Nursing Home.

DONATIONS OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS – Thank you to all who have donated household items for the use of the Filipino newcomers in the past year.

As we very recently received a large gift of household furniture, we are currently putting a pause on accepting donations for the time being. However, if you have a kitchen table and chairs and/or like-new bedding for twin, double, or queen size mattresses, please be in touch with Lorraine at the Parish Office 506-536-1460 or stvince@nbnet.nb.ca.

Dear Padre,

*Does the Church teach how we should dress to go to Mass?
Maybe I'm just old-fashioned, but the way some people dress
seems very disrespectful.*

Church teaching, dogmas, doctrines, and creedal formulations are not the specific resources to consult in order to answer this question. It is properly a matter of discipline and practice, although the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* does direct that "bodily demeanor (gestures, clothing) ought to convey respect" (1387). There are many commentaries on what exactly "respect" might mean.

It would be very difficult to establish a universal dress code. The many different cultures, climates, and particular circumstances of a specific Catholic community make a dress code unmanageable. It seems that you judge the local practice not up to your standards. Your judgment may be correct, or you may have unreasonable expectations. There was a time when "Sunday best" was the established norm. In other communities, the expectation would be "business casual" as a bare minimum. Now, it seems standards and practices are very fluid and flexible. All of this being said, it is ultimately a pastoral concern, not doctrinal or dogmatic. Try not to allow how other people dress distract you from your purpose at Mass. While they may not look like you imagine they should, their prayer might be genuine and heartfelt. ●



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

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

After the labors of each day, it will do us good not to switch off the light in the room without placing ourselves in the light of God.... Wonder at the boundless love of God, who never tires of us and has the power to transfigure our days, to give them a new meaning, a new, unexpected light.

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 13, 2022



UNSPASH

Monday

March 17
Lenten Weekday
Dn 9:4b-10
Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday

March 18
Lenten Weekday
Is 1:10, 16-20
Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday

March 19
St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22
Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Thursday

March 20
Lenten Weekday
Jer 17:5-10
Lk 16:19-31

Friday

March 21
Lenten Weekday
Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday

March 22
Lenten Weekday
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday

March 23
Third Sunday of Lent
Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15
1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12
Lk 13:1-9

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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