

December 25, 2011

CHRISTMAS

"The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world."

THE READINGS:

Isaiah 9:1-6. *The people in darkness have seen a great light.*

Psalms 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13. *Today is born our Savior!*

Titus 2:11-14. *The grace of God has appeared to all.*

Luke 2:1-14. *The birth of Jesus.*

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat.	Dec. 24	4PM	Our Parishioners
		6PM	Our Parishioners
		12 Midnight	Our Parishioners
Sun.	Dec. 25	8:30	Our Parishioners
		10:30	Our Parishioners
Mon.	Dec. 26	9AM	Robert F. Black
Tue.	Dec. 27	9AM	Frederick Isdepski Christmas Remembrance
Wed.	Dec. 28	9AM	Souls in Purgatory Richard Dupont
Thu.	Dec. 29	9AM	Intention at the discretion of priest
Sat.	Dec. 31	4PM	Georgina Ferreira-Birthday Remem. Joao Corvelo
Sun.	Jan. 1	8:30	Jesse Costa – 3 rd Anniversary
		10:30	Margaret Hague & Maryann Rooney

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

LECTORS:

4PM	Susan Plonka Gary Guinen Sandi Sevigney	Paul Levesque
6PM	Jeannine Conroy Bob Viveiros Joyce Viveiros	Dennis Read
12Midnight	Denise Branco Carol Levesque Yvette Perry	Tony Branco
8:30AM	Mark Mello Bob Adams Pat Canto	Linda Rodrigues
10:30AM	Ellen Demetrius Joanna Levesque Opening	Ernie Benoit

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE COMMITTEE needs 4 or 5 additional chaperones to add to their teams. Each team chaperones every other month. All volunteers must be CORI screened. For more info on all Knights related events, call BILL MORIN at 617-835-2590.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES are available this week for those who would like to contribute Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one. These names will be memorialized at the main entrance throughout the Christmas Season. We thank the many parishioners who have given generously for our beautiful Christmas flowers in memory of their loved ones.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will be held on Monday and Wednesday from 9AM-Noon in the Prayer Chapel.

DINNER FOR TWO COUPON BOOKLETS are available again this year for \$30 each, buy 3 and get the 4th free. A great gift for that special couple even after Christmas. Contact CAROL LEVESQUE at 508-965-9832—or email her at carol.levesque@comcast.net. They are available after 10:30 Mass each week and can also be purchased in the Church Office.

ST. BERNARD'S CHURCH MORTGAGE

WILL BE PAID IN FULL THIS WEEK

BE PART OF THE CELEBRATION!

Thanks to people like you who have given generously of their time, talent and resources throughout the years we will soon be **DEBT-FREE!** **You are cordially invited to join in the celebration...Saturday, January 7th 2012.** Bishop George Coleman has graciously accepted our invitation to be the celebrant at 4:00PM Mass for this very special occasion. Following Mass our celebration continues at White's of Westport. Guests will be welcomed with cheese & crackers at 6:00PM and witness the official retiring of the mortgage. A full course family style dinner will be served afterwards. Soup, salad, top round of beef, Portuguese stuffed chicken breast with potatoes, vegetables du jour, rolls and butter, Dessert & coffee will be on the menu. A memento of this occasion will be given to each family. To help defray the cost of the evening, we will be selling tickets at a reduced rate of \$25 per person. **Tickets are on sale after ALL Masses THIS WEEKEND and your last chance to buy them will be next Sunday, January 1st. Purchase after Mass or in the Church Office until January 1st 2012. No tickets will be available after this date.** Reserved tables for groups of 8 or 10 are available. Dancing and presentations will follow the meal. Any questions, please call Sue Nordeste 508-644-5867.

Because of the significance of this occasion Volunteer Appreciation Night for 2012 will not take place.

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES – If you are 18 years or older and have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation and would like to, classes will be starting after the 1st of the year. Classes are held in different locations of the diocese at various times including a Saturday morning class in East Taunton. Although there is no fee, pre-registration is required and must be done through Fr. Mike in advance. Please call the rectory for info. Confirmation is required to be a sponsor for Baptism and Confirmation.

A REMINDER TO BOWLERS: Pot Luck Awards Banquet is Wednesday Dec. 28 at 6:00PM.

CLEANLINESS OF SEATS AND CHURCH – with the new use of pew cards for the Mass Translations, it is kindly asked that at the end of Mass to please put the pew cards at the end of the pews and do not place them in the book racks, as they tend to slide through the cracks and end up on the floor. For those who sit in the back on the folding chairs, just put them back on the seat and not on the floor. Thank you for your assistance in keeping the church tidy.

PLEASE USE THE NEW ST. VINCENT DE PAUL REFERRAL BOXES if you or someone you know needs assistance from our parish SVDP organization.

Family's Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Type of Assistance _____

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SCHOLARSHIP DINNER/ DANCE AND AUCTION will be held Saturday, March 24 at White's of Westport. The committee is soliciting gift cards, baskets, services, scratch tickets and so forth for their Auction. Sports tickets are always a huge hit as an auction item. If you receive gift cards for Christmas that "just aren't for you" perhaps you would consider donating them.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE is lit for the month of December for DOROTHY DIAS and JOSEPH DIAS JR.

THE MARY CANDLE is lit for the month of December in memory of JAMES HASKINS.

Please remember them in your prayers.

THE 2012 OUR LADY OF LOURDES SCHOOL CALENDARS are now on sale. Full of color photos of the students and their activities throughout the year, the calendar also features Churches in the greater Taunton area. For only \$10, each calendar purchased comes with a raffle ticket for a chance at two monthly drawings of \$50 each. For more information please contact Lisa Borges @ 508-880-0365 or Sr. Margretta @ 508-822-0357 or 508-822-3746.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DATES OF IMPORTANCE:

Dates for Confirmation for 2012 are: Monday, April 30th and Wednesday, May 2 - both ceremonies will be at 7PM with Msgr. Steve Avila confirming students. Mandatory 9th Grade Retreat will be Saturday, February 4th. Post retreat dinner will be held after the 4PM Mass the same day.

First Holy Communion Dates are: Sundays, April 29, May 6th, and May 20th, 2012. Mandatory Penance retreat day is Saturday, Jan. 28 from 9AM-2PM. Banner Day will be March 24th, at least one parent or guardian must attend also.

THE 2012 CATHOLIC CALENDARS HAVE ARRIVED!

Please take one home with you when you leave Mass today. They are located at all church exits.

PARISH EMAIL LIST: Many parishioners are on the parish email list and receive special announcements and updates for your information. If you would like to be included in this parish wide email list, please send your email address with your name to stbernardassonet@aol.com. This list will not be shared.

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS – Thank you for your continued generous response for food items for St. Anne's Food Pantry as they continue to serve those in need. Items can be left at the entrances of the church. Also the Freetown Food Pantry is grateful for the canned soups donated in a separate basket near the front door. Thanks for all you do to help those in need.

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT: The collection last weekend was \$3,183.67 with 220 budget envelopes used. \$2,113.00 was donated in budget envelopes along with the proceeds from the Meat Pie Supper \$495.98 which all went towards the Church Mortgage final payment. \$46 was given for building & maintenance and \$92 for utilities. **THE SECOND COLLECTION TODAY** is your Christmas offering for our parish and donations to the Parish Emergency Fund.

NEW YEAR'S JANUARY 1ST, 2012
FEAST OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD
HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION

Since this holyday falls on a Sunday, we will celebrate the usual weekend Mass schedule: Saturday, New Year's Eve 4PM, Sunday, January 1st, 8:30AM and 10:30AM.

THE SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK will go to the St. Vincent de Paul Society for their work with families who are struggling to make ends meet. Donations towards Building and Maintenance and Utilities can be made anytime during the month.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP will hold their monthly meeting in the Parish Library on Tuesday, December 27th at 6:30PM. This time of year can be extremely difficult for survivors to get through. Sometimes sharing your pain helps to ease it. Consider attending their meeting and give it a try. You are not alone.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS:

On behalf of all who serve you at St. Bernard's I first extend a warm welcome to our parishioners, your families and all who may be visiting us for Christmas Mass for the first time. I also extend to all of you the Blessings of this joyous season as we once again remember the humble birth of Christ in a stable, the one who is God, Hero, Wonder Counselor, Father Forever, and Prince of Peace. May the blessings of this season continue in your homes as you celebrate this wonderful feast of our salvation.

A Blessed Merry Christmas

Fr. Mike

And the Staff of St. Bernard Parish