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Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 18, 2020

Turn your ear to me, Lord,
and hear me.

PARISH STAFF

FR. RICK LAMBERT,
PASTOR
LAURA BRICKSON,
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
CAROL AMUNDSON,
OFFICE MANAGER
MARGARET RASMUSSEN,
RELIGIOUS FORMATION
COORDINATOR
MISTY MEHRKENS,
YOUTH MINISTER
CAROLYN HOLECEK,
RCIA COORDINATOR
MITCHELL HOARD,
BUILDING AND GROUNDS

DIOCESAN VICTIMS
ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR
CINDY HULST, LSW
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(SAFE, CONFIDENTIAL LINE)

MASS IS CELEBRATED ON THE WEEKENDS AT:
5:00 P.M. ON SATURDAY
SUNDAY AT 8:30 A.M.
(LIVE STREAMED)

PLEASE REFER TO "THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH" FOR THE TIMES OF THE WEEKDAY MASSES

THOSE WISHING TO CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE ARE ASKED TO CONTACT THE PASTOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO THE INTENDED DATE OF THE CELEBRATION

NOTES FROM FR. RICK:

THE PARISH FAMILY OF ST. BERNARD'S EXTENDS PRAYERFUL SUPPORT to the Bruce Hall family at his death. May the Lord grant him eternal life!

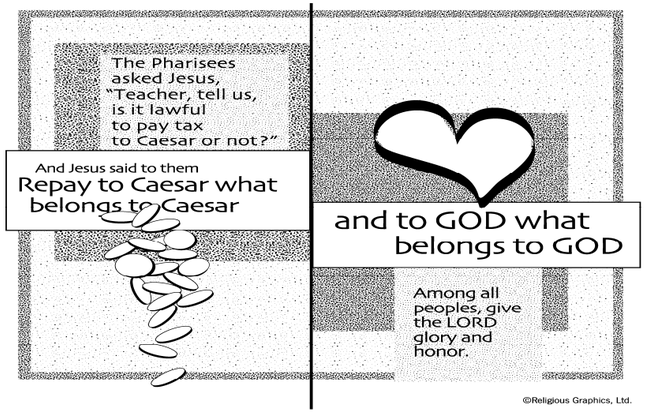
WE WELCOME THROUGH THE WATERS OF BAPTISM
Chaygyn Reese Strand, son of Tyler & Tevia Strand; *Madelyn Simone Wavra*, daughter of Kolt & Breanna Wavra. May they always live for the Lord!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! Sincere appreciation to those who helped take care of the parish lawn, flowers, and bushes over the summer months. Also, I want to thank those who shared their beautiful flowers from their gardens throughout the summer. They beautifully enhanced our worship space. Please know our gratitude!

40 ROSARIES FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN Throughout the month of October the Rosary is being prayed in each parish of the Diocese of Crookston on an assigned day. The intention of this Rosary is for respect for life from conception to natural death. ***St. Bernard's has been assigned Saturday, October 24th, 2020. We will pray the Rosary at 4:30 p.m.***

MUCH GRATITUDE to those who helped in any way with our "Curbside" Fish Fry! COVID can't stop us! Way to go Team St. Bernard!

"May God the Holy Spirit move within us and give us eyes to see with, ears to hear with, and hands that your work might be done."
~ St. Dominic



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THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

19 - Monday - Ephesians 2:10—Psalm 100:1-5—Luke 12:13-21
No Mass Today

20 - Tuesday - Ephesians 2:12-22—Psalm 85:9-14—Luke 12:35-38
8:00 A.M. Mass –Special Intention R
8:30 A.M.- 10:00 P.M. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

21 - Wednesday - Ephesians 3:2-12—Isaiah 12:2-6—Luke 12:39-48
7:00 A.M. Finance Council Meets
5:15 P.M. Mass –Family of Mike & Cindi Wavra
5:45 P.M. Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:45 P.M. Rosary
6:30 P.M. Grades 6 & 7 RE Classes
8:00 P.M. Men's Prayer Group

22 - Thursday - Ephesians 3:14-21—Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 11-12, 18-19—Luke 12:49-53
8:00 A.M. Mass + Julie Kaiser
8:30 A.M. -10:00 P.M. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

23 - Friday - Ephesians 4:1-6—Psalm 24:1-6—Luke 12:54-59
7:00 A.M KC Rosary
8:00 A.M. Rosary
8:30 A.M. Mass + John Dullea

24 - Saturday - Ephesians 4:7-16—Psalm 122:1-5—Luke 13:1-9
4:00 P.M. Sacrament of Reconciliation
4:30 P.M Respect Life Rosary
5:00 P.M. Mass - For the People

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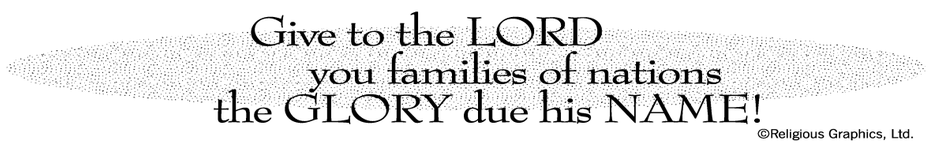
25 – THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: Exodus 22:20-16—1 Thessalonians 15c-10—Matthew 22:34-40
8:00 A.M Rosary
8:30 A.M. Mass - Bernie & Evie Huot Family
9:20 A.M. Sunday School Classes
Second Grade Safe Environment



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Please remember those who have asked for our prayers:

Mrs. Rosalie Burda, Marguerite Barth, Brian Williamson, Tony Dorn, Sr. , Lowell Arlt, Gary Arlt, Ed Walseth, Madeline Baumann, Merlin Stone, Darlene Gast, Rodney Wayne, Donna Kotaska, Fred Sorenson Jr., Timmy Nelson, Tom Miller, Elaine Radniecki, Rachael Carlson, Carlos Diaz, Tim Przybylski, Penny Radniecki Kalar, Duane Lusignan, Jannelle Knott, Brian Huerd, Gordon Peterson, Frank Miller, Fern Melby, Theresa Linnertz, Randy Winter, Alayna Espeseth, Michael Andersen, Andrea Dowers, Gail Hjelle, David Carlson, Kim Osowski, Larry Schaefer, Bev Oski Hayes, Mikey Hedegard, Kristi Jobe, Dave Jobe, Patrick Odette, Mae Derosier, Matthew Kaiser, John Parent, Anda Pretty On Top, Renee Miller, Cheryl McClenahan, Jeremy Johnson, Dan Dowers, Faye Brinkman, Lisa Swanson, Grace Rundell, Judy Langhorst, Michael Kruse, John Barry, Corey Refshaw, Marion Arneson, Richard Perrault, Mary Ann Dentz, Katherine Salwei, Emily Novacek, Marty Torgerson, Paul Fladland, Gary Lane, Jane Palm, Micki Taddy, Gerald Kostrzewski, Lori Kristo, Sherrill McDonald, Dennis Srnsky, Katy Seed, Doreen Dargon, Vernon Peterson, Sharon Kozojed, Cindi Determan, Sr. Edwine Gerou, Candace Schafer, Wanda Murphy, Mary Larson Mary Ann Lambert, Bonnie Audette, Kay Burkel, Lowell Burkel., Renee Omann, Jolie Martinez, Judy Taylor, Jeanette Forfang, Crosby Gerszewski, Patty Anderson, Audrey Berard, Delphine Ottesen, Nancy Gardner, Grace Bohnenkamp, Pete Christianson, Angie Kayfes, Adeline Borowicz, Donald Knutson, Jerry Holmaas,

If you wish to have someone placed on the prayer list OR would like a name removed, phone the parish office (681.3571).

RELIGIOUS FORMATION NEWS

By Margaret Rasmussen
Margaret.Rasmussen@stbernardstrf.com

Senior High students please pick you your RE books in the front entry of the church asap!

Packets for Home School Sunday School students are ready to pick up in front entry of the church.

Oct. 21*- 6:30 pm Grades 6 & 7 RE*
Safe Environment grades 6 & 7
Oct. 22 - 7:00 pm Repeat Zoom Meeting Grades 9 & 10
Students Safe Environment & class information
Oct. 25*- 9:20 am Sunday School*
Safe Environment grade 2
Oct. 28 *– 6:30 pm Grades 6 & 8 RE*
Safe Environment Grade 8
Nov. 1 *– 9:20 am Sunday School*
Safe Environment Grades 3-5
Nov. 4 *- 6:30 pm Grades 6 & 7 RE*
Together in Spirit- Diocesan Zoom Night 7 pm Grades 8-12

Blessed is She

"He said to the man with the withered hand, "Come up here before us."" ~ Mark 3:3

Is there something you're keeping from the Lord right now? An area of your life or heart that you haven't quite discussed with Him? Something you're afraid to bring to Him?

Or maybe you've been avoiding Him in a more passive way. Are you turning to the distraction of social media, the unrest of the world, or the overwhelm of your daily duties instead of turning to Him in regular, consistent prayer?

This is something we all encounter in the spiritual life—this sort of avoiding God, whether aggressively or nearly without notice. But as soon as we become aware of it, we should do what we can to counter it. And it begins simply by just...beginning.

Tell Him why you're avoiding Him *The first response we can make to Jesus' unending invitation into intimacy is by willing to be vulnerable. Come to Him and just tell Him about it. Come honestly. Come without pretense. Just come to Him and tell Him everything.*

Receive the Sacraments *To counter the avoidance, come to Jesus in the Sacraments. Go to a weekday Mass, get to Confession, go to Adoration (of course, if possible, at this time). Time away from God's presence in the Sacraments wears on our souls. Let's encounter Him intimately there.*

Stop trying to handle it *Finally, rely on yourself less. So often, we avoid the Lord because we are trying to handle a particular situation on our own. Maybe we are trying to handle our entire lives on our own. But that leaves no room for growth in our souls. When we are filled with ourselves, our own strength, and our own will, there is no room for His grace. So, let's try to let go of our illusion of control and surrender ourselves to Him—even the thing we don't want to talk to Him about.*

YOUTH NEWS

By Misty Mehrkens
Misty.Mehrkens @ stbernardstrf.com

Hello Young Church!

Last Wednesday, October 7th, was the ***Together in Spirit*** kick-off. It was so nice to "see" so many St. Bernard's youth participating! Thank you so much to all that emailed Margaret and I with the CALL TO ACTION!

The MC, Joe Melendrez, shared his story, kept everyone engaged with songs, discussion and, of course, offered door prizes, but he also encouraged us to be committed to Jesus and say YES to Him. ☺ What does that look like for you? This Diocesan wide virtual event will be offered on the 1st Wednesday of every month until March (with a couple extras thrown in here and there.) Our next TIS event will be on Wednesday, November 4th, at 7:00 pm, with Emily Wilson as the keynote speaker for the evening. The Zoom link that worked for the kick-off event will work for all future TIS events. If you need the link again, please let me know and I'll be sure to send it to you.

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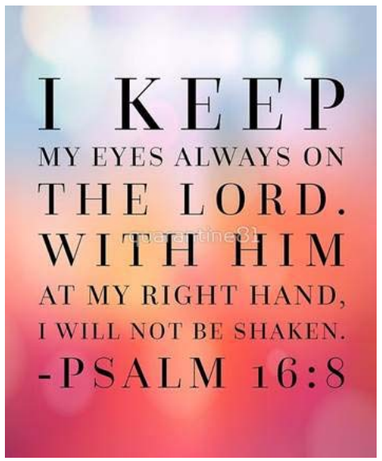
How do you introduce yourself to others?
Usually, we include some information about what we do and where we are from. Is that the whole of our identity? Of course not! What we do and where we are from are just two of many ways that we can describe ourselves. All of these identifying factors ("I'm from …," "I play ……," "I'm … years old," etc.) complement each other to create the whole of our identity. The Pharisees were trying to trick Jesus into answering that you could only be one: a good citizen OR a good believer. But Jesus answered them – and reminds us – that we can be more than one thing at one time!
We can do worldly things like pay taxes, go to school and follow the rules, but do them in light of our identity as Christians. Jesus also reminds us that God is the source of our life and of everything on earth. We must respond with gratitude to the gifts He has given us.

This week, think about what shapes your identity. What makes you, you? Consider the things you are involved with at school and church. How do they influence your choices?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"Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's". (Matthew 22:21)

Everything we are and everything we have belongs to God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has given each of us. All God is asking is that we give back a portion of what He gave us. This is the essence of Stewardship. God should be our first priority in everything. All else comes second, especially our money.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of sexual misconduct on the part of a priest, deacon, or individual representing the Diocese of Crookston, its parishes, or its schools, your first call should be to law enforcement. In addition, the diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator is available at 218-281-7895 (24 hour confidential number).

Are you unable to leave your home to get groceries or other supplies? Do you know someone who cannot get out because they are sick or they are vulnerable? If so, the Knights of Columbus wants to help you and your loved ones. During this pandemic the Knights of Columbus will gladly pick up your shopping for you and deliver to your home. For more information please call Mark Christiansen at (218)556-0037.

If your gardens are producing more that you'll need, St. Bernard's Hot Lunch Program would be glad to accept and serve your abundance! We are working diligently to ensure good, nutritional meals and could use extra vegetables, apples, etc. Please bring what you have to the kitchen in the church hall. Thank you!

St. Bernard's Building Campaign

Pledged to Date: $ 2,791,240.59

Received to Date: $ 1,457,058.76

St. Bernard's Church is Offering Online Giving. For additional information , or to sign up, visit our website: www.stbenardscc.org

SUNDAY STEWARDSHIP
Sunday, October 11, 2020

Weekly Offertory Total…….$ 8,882.00
Weekly Offertory Budget……..$10,363.00

Excess/Shortfall…….. -$ 1418.00

Year-To-Date-Collected……..$124,814.94
Year-To-Date-Budget…… $155,445.00

YTD Shortfall to Budget…….. $ 30,630.06

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Parishes pay an annual subscription rate of $15.67 per household for all services but opt-in is required for eOND. Subscribing is as simple as providing your name and email address so do not delay! Visit >> www.crookston.org/subscribe

Knights of Columbus Coats For Kids

The Knights of Columbus will be holding their "Coats for Kids Drive" for the remainder of October.
The donation box will be in the parish hall sometime this week. If you have any extra children's coats in good shape, please consider donating them for the needy children of our community !

Thank you!

DID YOU KNOW?
The CARES ACT provided a charitable giving incentive.

It established a new, above-the-line deduction (universal or non-itemized deduction that applies to all taxpayers) for total charitable contributions of up to $300. The incentive applies to contribution made in 2020 and would be claimed on tax forms next year. The bill also lifted the existing cap on annual contributions for those who itemize, raising it from 60 percent of adjusted gross income to 100 percent. Consult with your tax advisor.

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;"

Listen with your spouse for God's message of love by exploring a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME)** weekend.

The next weekends are: Nov 13-15, 2020 in Virtual Weekend, MN and Feb 12-14, 2021 in Buffalo, MN. Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at: **northmnwwme.org** or contact us at applications@northmnwwme.org or 888-455-3496.

ST. BERNARD'S SCHOOL

Scholarship
RAKE-A-THON

On Wednesday, October 28, the students from St. Bernard's School in collaboration with the Knights of Columbus in Thief River Falls will be raking lawns of seniors and others in the community who need assistance. This as an opportunity for our students to help those in need. It is a tangible way for the children to live out the mission of the school and "Go Make a Difference."

Residents who receive this service are nominated by church, school, and community members. Usually they are seniors, or families who have experienced illness, loss, or other hardships. A final selection is made by the Rake-A-Thon committee. The school hopes to serve approximately 5-10 homes this year. The students in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade will rake yards, while the preschool and prekindergarten students spruce up the area around the school and church.

St. Bernard's theme, "Go Make a Difference" was inspired by the Steve Angrisano song by the same name. Service is a key component St. Bernard's School where students ask, "How can we 'Go Make a Difference' in ourselves, our school, our family, our community, and our world?"

Support the Scholarship Fund

Through your generous Rake-A-Thon sponsorship, you can "Make a Difference" in the life of a child by contributing towards the St. Bernard's Scholarship Fund. This way we can work together to ensure a quality St. Bernard's education for ALL children! Just mail or drop off your donations at the school office 117 Knight Ave. N., Thief River Falls, MN 56701, place the donation in the Sunday collection (clearly marked Rake-A-Thon or Scholarship, or donate online at http://www.stbernardsschooltrf.org. Go to "online Giving at the bottom of the page and then the Rake-A-Thon button. Thank you so very much for all of your support for St. Bernard's School!

Would you like your lawn cleaned?

Please call the school office at 218-681-1539 or email laura.brickson@stbernardstrf.com if you would like to be considered or want to make a recommendation of someone in the Thief River Falls area who could use our help. Please contact us as soon as you can because the slots will fill up quickly.

RCIA
RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

RCIA JOURNEY OF FAITH

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT SESSIONS

Growing in faith is a lifelong process!

Would you like to enrich your prayer-life, grow in your relationship with God, become an intentional disciple of Christ, and uncover the wonderful treasures within the Catholic faith?

All are welcome, whether you are a person desiring to enter into the Catholic faith through Baptism, seeking full communion in the Catholic faith (for those already baptized), a "cradle Catholic", a convert to the Catholic faith, or an adult Catholic desiring Confirmation, **you are welcome to begin a wonderful journey of faith through the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation) weekly sessions just waiting for you!!!**

Experience God's tremendous love through a variety of ways to pray, spending time with Sacred Scripture, and discovering the richness of the Catholic Church! Come and learn about the Holy Mass, the Sacraments, and how to live out the Christian faith as we strive to become a pleasing aroma before our God.

To arrange an inquiry session or for more information, please contact Carolyn Holecek 688-0811.

SOLACE AND STRENGTH IN THE SORROW OF MISCARRIAGE

It is estimated that one out of four pregnancies ends in miscarriage. This loss can have a profound effect on the mothers, fathers and families of the children who pass away, and many of us may be unsure how best to respond to those who are hurting. Joanne shares a personal story of her experience comforting a family going through this heartache.*

While working in my parish office one day, I received a call from our local hospital, where a mom had been admitted with fetal distress. I was grateful that our parish priest, Fr. Thompson, was able to go to the hospital with me to visit this young mother, Amanda. Arriving in her room, we learned that labor was going to be induced because her baby had already died. My head was swimming as I was overcome with what Amanda must be feeling at this difficult time.

At first, I wasn't sure what to do. But then, as a mother myself, I knew how to respond. I stroked her hair and rocked her in my arms. Amanda's husband David, who was traveling, had been notified and was on his way. When he arrived we stepped back, giving the couple a private moment to cling to one another. Eventually, David turned to us and asked, "What do we do?"

Fr. Thompson's response was drawn from deep within the compassion of Mother Church. While the young couple's world was spinning out of control, he offered something they could hold onto—God's unconditional love. He opened the Bible, asked me to read Psalm 139, and offered prayers of blessing.

I also talked to Amanda and her husband about what might happen next, encouraging them to see and hold their baby, take pictures and create keepsakes. Fr. Thompson explained opportunities for a funeral and burial service. Burying those who have died at any age is seen by the Church as a corporal work of mercy. Therefore, the Church encourages a funeral rite for children whose baptism was intended by their parents, but who died before being baptized.

As the doctor came in, we prayed with Amanda and David, and then left the room during the delivery. We stood outside the door praying the Rosary. The stillness of the night was not disturbed by the joyful sound of a newborn's cry. Instead, it was punctuated with a grief-stricken mother's sobbing.

The doctor spoke to us as he came out of the room with tears streaming down his own face. He said, "I can be the guide to physical healing, but their greatest need is spiritual healing. I am so grateful you are here." We stepped back into the room where we stood in silence and cried with Amanda and David, sharing a powerful moment of awe and grief.

After some time, I spoke to the parents of God creating this little one with them, and of how important their child was and would continue to be to us all. I spoke of God weeping with them, comforting them in the midst of their grief. I asked if they had named him. David's tears ran down his face and splashed onto the tiny baby as he whispered, "William." Fr. Thompson gently touched William's forehead and made the Sign of the Cross with the water of his dad's tears. We spoke of God's love for William, and we commended his soul to God.

Later on, we assisted Amanda and David in connecting with a funeral home and planning a funeral, graveside service and burial for little William. The family found comfort in traditional burial prayers adapted to fit a baby's life and death.

People often assume that the needs of a family in this situation are mostly medical, and that the hospital or medical staff will take care of things. However, miscarriage includes emotional, relational and spiritual suffering that requires assistance from family, friends and church leaders. The immediate need is to help the family become familiar with their options for providing a time and place to acknowledge the dignity and worth of their child. These include simple rites like naming and commendation ceremonies, funeral rites and burial or entombment.

Death may separate us physically, but it does not end the relationship; these moments help strengthen a relationship with the child in a way that will be helpful for long-term healing. They also give the broader Church a chance to grieve and remind others of the significance of this child, who is entrusted for all eternity to the Lord. A parish community can also support grieving families and honor the lives of their little ones in other ways. Public support might take the form of an annual memorial service or a memorial plaque in the church with the names of the babies who have passed away.

Personal support is also essential. Some people become exhausted from their grief and are unable to maintain household chores. Their lack of energy makes it hard to keep up with everything, so providing meals or doing laundry or other chores can help the family meet their common daily needs. Other times, simply being present is what's needed. Another woman who lost her child through miscarriage said the best response she experienced came from a friend who said, "I came to cry with you" and presented her with a bag full of tissue boxes.

Many people in their grief have almost a compulsion to talk. They desperately want someone to know what they are going through, and repeating the story of their loss over and over can be part of the healing process. The role of the comforter is to listen and reassure them that their thoughts are normal, not to supply them with answers. Many consolers experience feelings of inadequacy when they have no answers or words of wisdom. They may make statements that are not meant to be theologically flawed or hurtful, but often are. While these comments are meant to take away the pain, simply saying, "I am deeply sorry your baby has died," might often be the best thing to say.

Although we may feel unsure how best to comfort those who mourn, we must stand with them in their time of suffering. Miscarriage touches the lives of many people, yet all too often this tragedy remains unaddressed. This lack of response not only often leads to unresolved grief, but also fails to clearly manifest our belief that each person, from conception onward, is precious and unique. The death of babies through miscarriage is a time to honor their lives and to support their grieving families. Amanda and David were greatly assisted and comforted by family, friends and a parish community who helped them to memorialize and cherish William. As members of a community of faith ourselves, let us comfort those who mourn as we look forward together to a time when all tears are dried and our families are whole once again.

**The story of Joanne, Fr. Thompson, Amanda, David, and William (their names are changed for their privacy) is just one example of the many lives touched by a miscarriage. To find out what pastoral resources may be available in your local area, contact your diocesan office for more information. For liturgical resources, the Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers, Revised Edition (Washington, DC: USCCB, 2007) includes an order of blessing of parents after a miscarriage or stillbirth and The Order of Christian Funerals: Vigil, Funeral Liturgy, and Rite of Committal, Bilingual Edition (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2004) includes prayers for a stillborn child and his/her parents.*

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