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St. André Bessette Parish

Sunday Masses:

Saturday 4:00 pm at Holy Cross
Sunday 9:00 am at St. Bernard
11:00 am at St. Rose of Lima (Live Stream)

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday 6:30 pm at St. Bernard
Wednesday 6:30 pm at St. Rose of Lima
Thursday 9:00 am at St. Bernard followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until noon, Benediction and close
Friday 9:00 am at St. Rose of Lima followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until noon, Benediction and close

Confessions:

St. Bernard:
Tuesday 6:00 - 6:20 pm (prior to the 6:30 pm Mass)
Thursday 9:40 - 10:30 am (during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament)
First Friday of the month - 7:00 - 8:00 pm

St. Rose of Lima:
Wednesday 6:00 - 6:20 pm (prior to the 6:30 pm Mass)
Friday 9:40 - 10:30 am (during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament)
First Saturday of the month - 10:00 - 11:00 am

Holy Cross:
Saturday 3:30 - 3:50 pm (prior to the 4:00 pm Mass)
... or by appointment

Parish Office:

Lynette McMullin 902-860-0475
strose@standrebessette.net
Tuesday to Friday: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Coordinator, Faith Formation

Maria MacDonald 902-576-2192 maria.mcdonald@standrebessette.net

Communications (Bulletin): standrecommunication@gmail.com
Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

www.standrebesette.net

WECOMING COMMUNITIES OF FAITH AND WORSHIP

St. Bernard Church, Enfield
St. Rose of Lima Church, Fall River
Holy Cross Church, Middle Musquodoboit

Pastor
Fr. Gerald David
frgerald@standrebessette.net

Deacon
Rev. Mr. Dan Bowden
dangbowden@gmail.com

Parish Offerings:

To register with our parish Pre-Authorized Debit program, please contact Claire at the St. Bernard office. You can also e-transfer contributions using stbernardsenfield@gmail.com. These are alternatives to the traditional collection envelopes, which of course are still available.

Second Sunday of Advent – December 10, 2023



Comfort, O comfort my people. These beautiful words from the opening line of today's First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah – the words of God's intention and instruction. God is patiently waiting for each of us to come to repentance, to accept His grace and mercy. Too often God is accused of being so slow to act. It is our willingness to hasten to Him to seek repentance, to seek His mercy, to seek His grace, that is slow. We are slow to act upon His offer. He holds what we need and invites us to open ourselves to the very gift. The Gospel has John the Baptist, whose supreme role was to prepare hearts and minds to be open to receive Jesus when he came. John the Baptist reminds us that the one who is to come, Jesus, will baptize us with the Holy Spirit once we submit to his message of forgiveness. Let's prepare our hearts and make ready to receive all that Jesus Christ came to bring. Let's not waste anymore time on the things that don't matter, the stuff we tend to idolize over the presence of God in our lives. Let's be ready and not ignore the Lord Jesus Christ's transforming power! Happy second week of Advent!!!

Advent Gathering & Appreciation — I want to thank Lynette McMullin and Maria McDonald for organizing a wonderful Lay volunteer appreciation morning at the office/residence in Fall River. It was great to see so many come and enjoy some refreshments and mingle as we enter into this season of preparation for Christmas. There are so many individuals who do so much among all the churches, and we say thank you so much for assisting our Parish to become St. André Bessette. Wednesday morning was a great opportunity to get together before everyone's schedules get so busy with many things preparing for the celebration of Christmas. A **big Thank You to ALL** and a very Happy Advent Season. May all of you and your loved ones be blessed at Christmas and throughout the New Year!!!

Thank you, Claire Guyette — This Sunday afternoon (December 10) from 2 to 4 pm, you are invited to drop by St. Bernard Parish Hall, located in the basement of the Church, for a gathering to thank Claire Guyette for her 9 years of faithful service as Parish Secretary at St. Bernard, and these last three years at St. André Bessette Parish. Claire has generously worked above and beyond, and her commitment and dedication, to what I'm sure she would call a ministry, was tremendously appreciated by many. Thank you, Claire, for your faith and for your commitment to the Church and to the people of St. André Bessette Parish.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) — Please keep in your daily prayers our RCIA process and those who are discerning through this process to fully enter into the Roman Catholic Faith. Over these next weeks, we will continue to delve into the life of Faith, especially through the Sacraments, Holy Scripture, the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the Saints. We continue to meet each Thursday at St. Bernard Church from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

Additional Times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent

- St. Bernard Church (Enfield)
 - Saturday, December 16, from 10:00 to 11:00 am
 - Tuesday, December 19, following the 6:30 pm Mass (7:00 to 8:30 pm)
- Saint Rose of Lima Church (Fall River)
- Wednesday, December 20, following the 6:30 pm Mass (7:00 to 8:30 pm)
- We will also continue to offer the regular scheduled times for Reconciliation.

Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Mass Schedule

This year, the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve. Masses for the **Fourth Sunday of Advent** will be as follows:

- Saturday, December 23** — 4 pm @ Holy Cross and 6 pm @ St. Rose of Lima
- Sunday, December 24** — 9 am @ St. Bernard

Our **tentative** Masses for **Christmas 2023** will be as follows:

- Sunday, December 24** — 4 pm @ Holy Cross, 6 pm @ St. Bernard and 7 pm @ St. Rose of Lima
- Monday, December 25** — 10 am @ St. Bernard and 11 am @ St. Rose of Lima

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Giving Tree — From now until Christmas, you will see a St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Giving Tree at the entrance of both St. Rose and St. Bernard Churches. Please take an ornament and donate either a gift card, gas card or cash to help those less fortunate in our local community. Donations can be put in a SVDP envelope or in the collection basket.

St. Vincent de Paul Society
Phone: 902-476-8626
Email: ssvdpfallriver@gmail.com

Donations directly to St. Vincent de Paul Fall River can now be sent by e-transfer at SSVDPFallRiver@gmail.com. Please ensure that you include your name and full address in the "message" section of the e-transfer for a receipt.

More facts about the St. Vincent de Paul Society:

1. We are a Catholic lay organization that tries to see Christ in the poor.
2. The number of persons assisted this year is almost equivalent to those serviced by Feed NS.
3. This year, the Society provided assistance to 4,000 households, over 11,000 persons (7,400 adults and 3,800 children).
4. Through its volunteers, the Society provided more direct financial aid to persons living in poverty than any other local charity.

Father Eric Theriault Christmas Gift Ministry for Mental Health & Addictions Program — Donations are being accepted for the inpatients and residents of the Nova Scotia Hospital, Abbie J. Lane, East Coast Forensic Hospital, and Community Transition Program. A list of suggested items can be found on the green sheets at the entrance of the church. Organizers ask that gifts be unwrapped, new (not used), and unscented. There are more male clients than female clients. Thank you for bringing great cheer from the community during the holiday season.

Caring & Sharing — Adopt a family by contacting Allison Gilby at caringsharingaaf@gmail.com or call Pam Hutchinson at 902-476-7982. Monetary donations can be sent c/o 50 Old Enfield Road, Unit 2, Enfield, NS B2T 1C9 or e-transferred to caringandsharinhants@gmail.com. Additional details can be found on the letter posted on the bulletin board.

The Musquodoboit Valley Foodbank — The foodbank is getting ready for Christmas and anticipating needing to meet more needs than ever. Please consider helping this year with a monetary donation, non-perishable food, toiletries, socks, mittens, and toys for the Angel Tree. We will also need lots of cookies. Financial donations can be e-transferred to mvfoodbank2020@gmail.com.

Christmas Flowers at St. Rose of Lima — To make our church festive for the Christmas season, please consider a monetary donation for flowers in memory of a loved one. Place your donation in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers," include your name and the name of your loved one, and place it in the Sunday collection. Make cheques payable to St. André Bessette Parish. A list of those being remembered will be displayed on the bulletin board at the entrance of the church.

Decorating St. Bernard for Christmas — Parishioners are invited to make donations of flowers, or money for flowers, in memory of loved ones.

Christmas Remembrance Tree — The St. Rose of Lima CWL is beginning a new Christmas tradition to remember and pray for our deceased loved ones during the Christmas Season. Christmas ornaments with the name of a deceased loved one can be ordered and will be placed on a Christmas Tree located in the church. These loved ones will be remembered in all of the Masses offered from the first Christmas Mass until Epiphany. After the last Mass, those who ordered an ornament can collect it and take it home to place on their own Christmas tree the following year. The CWL will be accepting donations for the ornaments. The CWL ladies will be at the entrance of the church beginning Sunday, December 3rd until Sunday, December 24th to accept the names of your loved ones.

Mass Intentions for the week of December 11 to 17, 2023
 Tuesday, December 12 @ 6:30 pm (St. Bernard) - David King †
 Wednesday, December 13 @ 11 am (Magnolia Nursing Home) - Patricia Zinck †
 Thursday, December 14 @ 9 am (St. Bernard) - Rita Landry †
 Friday, December 15 @ 9 am (St. Rose of Lima) - Deacon Chris and Diane Coffin
 Saturday, December 16 @ 4 pm (Holy Cross) - Ben Clattenburg †
 Sunday, December 17 @ 9 am (St. Bernard) - For the people
 Sunday, December 17 @ 11 am (St. Rose of Lima) - Carole Friesenhan



Family Faith Formation News

St. Rose of Lima Family Formation Christmas Party - **Sunday, December 10 @ 9:45 am in Mitchell Hall**
 St. Bernard Family Formation Christmas Party - **Sunday, December 17 following the 9:00 am Mass in the Hall**
 All parishioners are invited to come and share in the festivities!

St. Rose of Lima
 Home Lesson - December 17
 January classes resume on January 7, 2024

St. Bernard
 Classes at St. Bernard - December 10
 Home Lesson *anytime leading up to Christmas
 January classes resume on January 14, 2024

St. André Bessette's First Annual Kitchen Party — On behalf of our entire Parish, I want to thank the Ways and Means Committee for organizing a fantastic gathering on Sunday, November 26 at the Enfield Legion. What talent was demonstrated and gathered in for such an occasion. It was a great afternoon of relaxation, and an opportunity for the Parish to come together and enjoy time together and to watch and listen to some very talented individuals. So, to those who so diligently and wonderfully worked together to make the afternoon what it was – A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!!!! To all who came to support this event, a big thank you also. May we look forward to more of these opportunities to build the Parish of St. André Bessette. May God Bless you all!!! ...Fr. Gerald

St. Bernard CWL Membership Fees — Fees (\$35) for January 1 to December 31, 2024 are now being accepted. Pay by January 1 and you could win back your dues!

St. Rose of Lima Knights of Columbus Christmas Tree Lot — The lot is moving next door to the Sobeyes Gas Bar in Fall River. This



St. Rose of Lima Grand Knight Gary Curtis presents a \$1000 donation to Anne Marie Kelly, Beacon House Food Bank, in memory of late Grand Knight, Francis White, who passed away in December 2022.

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