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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 Lynette at the parish 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.

Third Sunday of Advent – December 17, 2023

Gaudette Sunday (Joy Sunday) – The Entrance Antiphon for today's Mass contains the beautiful words, *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near.* (Phil 4: 4-5) Truly a reason to rejoice always, the Lord is near! We so very much need to heed these words today as we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent – the joy in our hearts as we acknowledge that the Lord is near, the joy that is formed in our souls when we submit to God and surrender to Him, in all things. God's nearness, concretely given to us in His Son Jesus in the flesh, who is Emmanuel, is sufficient to fill us with that JOY that can never be taken from us, while all else is fleeting and passing. John the Baptist came to prepare all of our hearts to be ready to receive God who is so near, by acknowledging our need for God who can do all things, repenting of our sins and rejoicing with a heart and soul filled with the Love of God. On this Third Sunday of Advent let's reflect more deeply on the nearness of our God.

Claire's Retirement – I would like to thank the St. Bernard CWL and all who assisted in organizing last Sunday afternoon's party for Claire Guyette. It was a great opportunity to gather and give thanks to Claire personally for her generous and kind administrative and business office work. For those of you who were not able to make the gathering, please be sure to express your thanks to Claire when you see her. Once again Claire, thank you so much for all you have done and for being the person you are! May God Bless you graciously and give you peace, serenity, and time to relax in your retirement. ... Fr. Gerald

Message from Claire – I would like to express my gratitude to everyone for the outpouring of good wishes, cards and gifts I have received over the past few weeks since my retirement, and for the lovely retirement party put on by the parish on December 10th..I am overwhelmed and deeply touched! Thank you and God Bless you all!

Additional Times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent
St. Bernard—**Tuesday, December 19**, following the 6:30 pm Mass (7:00 to 8:30 pm)
St. Rose of Lima — **Wednesday, December 20**, following the 6:30 pm Mass (7:00 to 8:30 pm)
Father will also continue to offer the regular scheduled times for Reconciliation.



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
Note change: **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

CWL Bazaar Basket Winners

The following names were drawn at Mass at St. Rose of Lima last Sunday morning.
Preserves — Barry Dalrymple Christmas — Lucille Mahoney
Golf — Marcella Milligan Picture and Scarf — Dot Lutz

Newly Baptized in our Parish — Let us pray for Ethan James Andrecyk and his parents Penney and Matthew as Ethan is baptised this weekend at St. Bernard. May we embrace them with our love and prayers and welcome him joyfully into our community of faith.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) — Note that the group will not meet on Thursday, December 28. Gatherings will resume on Thursday, January 4 – same time, same place. 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.

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.

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

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

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 Society of St. Vincent de Paul is beginning construction of a 40-bed shelter next to Hope Cottage in Halifax to address the homeless situation in HRM.

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 caringandsharinghants@gmail.com. Additional details can be found on the letter posted on the bulletin board.

The Musquodoboit Valley Foodbank — Please consider helping this year with a monetary donation, non-perishable food, toiletries, socks, mittens, and toys for the Angel Tree. They also need lots of cookies. Financial donations can be etransferred to mvfoodbank2020@gmail.com.

Christmas Remembrance Tree — The St. Rose of Lima CWL has started 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 on Christmas Eve. 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 next year. The CWL will be accepting donations for the ornaments. The CWL ladies will be in the entrance of the church until Saturday, December 23, to accept names.

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 has moved next door to the Sobeys Gas Bar in Fall River. This is a collaboration with the Burgess Family Tree Lot. If you are purchasing a real tree, please consider them.

Thank you from Beacon House — They have reached (and exceeded) their goal of 100 cans of turkey gravy for the Food Bank Christmas Baskets. Any extra that comes in now will be considered, well, *gravy!* There was also a significant amount of other food donations brought to the CWL Bazaar and to the Beacon House Bin last weekend. On behalf of Beacon House clients and the volunteers who fill the food orders, thank you!

Christmas Carolling — There will be carolling inside the EH Horne School (248 Highway 2, Enfield) this **Sunday, December 17, at 2:00 pm**. It is being led by the St. Bernard Folk Choir. Refreshments to follow.

Free Community Christmas Dinner — In the spirit of the season, St. Thomas Anglican Church (3534 Hwy 2, Fall River) is hosting a community Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day at 1:00 pm. This is a free Christmas dinner with all the fixings, and all are welcome. They don't want anyone to be alone this Christmas. They do offer the option to take out or dine in. **Pre-registration is required at 902-860-0092.**

Mass Intentions for the week of December 18 to 24, 2023

Tuesday, December 19 @ 6:30 pm (St. Bernard) - Wayne Keddy †
Wednesday, December 20 @ 6:30 pm (St. Rose of Lima) - Jean-Nil and Ann Chabot
Thursday, December 21 @ 9 am (St. Bernard) - Ed LaPierre †
Friday, December 22 @ 9 am (St. Rose of Lima) - Charles Landry †
Saturday, December 23 @ 4 pm (Holy Cross) - John Cairns †
Saturday, December 23 @ 6 pm (St. Rose of Lima) - For the people
Sunday, December 24 @ 9 am (St. Bernard) - Arsenaault and Benere Families

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Family Faith Formation News

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who made their *First Confession* last weekend. Please continue to pray for them and their families as they move toward their First Holy Communion in May 2024.

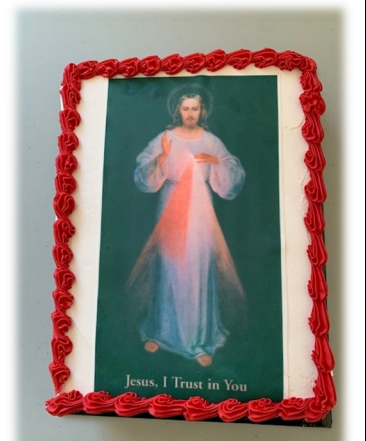
John Daigle
Alexander Day
Kiya Ellis
Cole Fredericks

Ava Heinrichs
Kaya Wiktorek
Rose Rudolph
John Prim

Maria Kempis
Xara Kihungi
Valentina Czartoryski Matos

Special thanks to the St. Rose of Lima CWL for providing the beautiful cake for the joyful celebration. Our most heartfelt thanks to Fr. Gerald and to Fr. Yves Marchildon, CC who made it all possible and for making the service so beautiful.

St. Bernard classes resume on Sunday, January 14, 2024.
St. Rose of Lima classes resume on Sunday, January 7, 2024.
Confirmation Class resumes on Sunday, January 7, 2024 following the 11 am Mass at St. Rose of Lima.



Children and youth from the parish will be presenting a **Nativity Pageant** as part of the Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass on **Saturday, December 23 at 6 pm** at St. Rose of Lima. They hope you will attend and enjoy their story and lovely songs!

May 17– 27, 2024: Pilgrimage to Medjugorje, where Our Lady has been appearing daily for 42 years. Cost of \$3570 includes all airport taxes, security, fuel surcharges, airfare from the Moncton/Halifax, (twin or triple) accommodation, daily breakfast and dinner and experienced local guide. (Optional single room supplement, \$250/p.) INFO: Hector Caissie at hectorcaissie@gmail.com or 506-857-2295.



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