

SAINT BERNARD

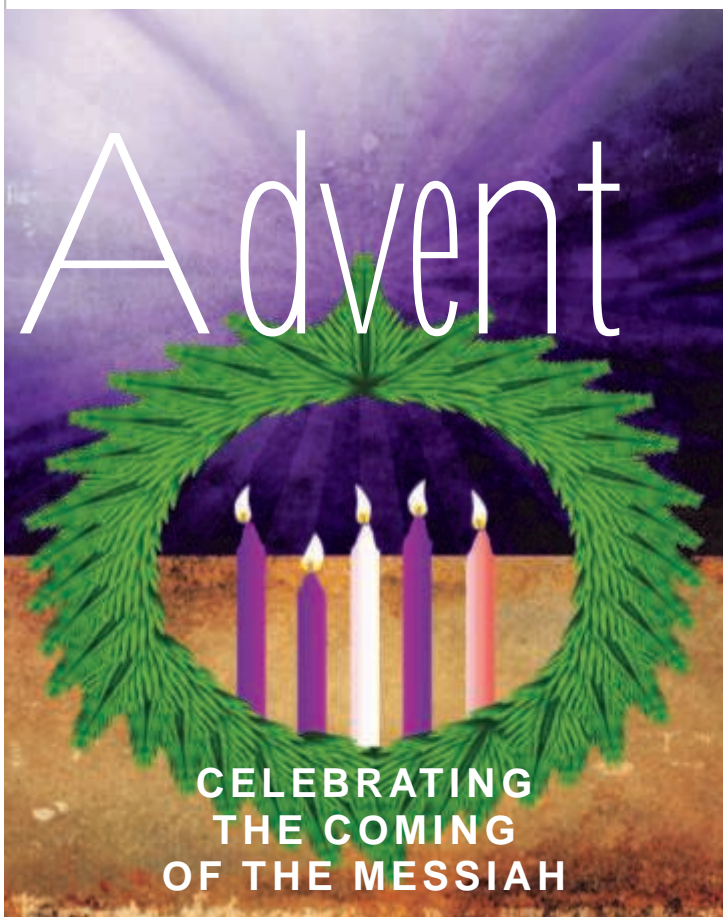
December 18, 2011
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Parish



1617 WEST PINE STREET • **APPLETON, WISCONSIN 54914**

Parish Office 739-0331/Fax 749-9771 • Faith Formation Office 739-8912 • www.stbernardappleton.org



Parish Office..... 920-739-0331
Faith Formation Office..... 920-739-8912
General email.... stbernard@stbernardappleton.org
Pastor..... Father Dennis Ryan
Deacons..... Maury Reed, Bob Vincent
..... Shuying (Joe) Vang and Mike Eash
Director of Liturgy and Music Rhonda Uschan
Director of Faith Formation Maurine Overesch
Elementary Coordinator Kathleen McDonald
Youth Minister Mary Snyder
Volunteer Coordinator..... Julie Kresal
Visit www.stbernardappleton.org for a complete staff listing.

Weekend Mass Times: Saturday, 4:30 pm
Sunday, 8:00 am & 10:00 am

PROMISE

Jesus
is the fulfillment
of God's
promise.

R S V P

Sacraments and Prayer Needs

Confessions.....Saturday, 9:00 am
BaptismsContact the Parish Office to make
arrangements for classes and Baptism.

Wedding Arrangements made six months in advance
Communion Calls.....Call the Parish Office

Urgent Prayer Requests
please contact Delaine Van Linn.....734-0538

Adult Confirmation/Becoming Catholic
please contact Father Dennis at the Parish Office
Nursery.....10:00 Sunday Mass

Small Groups website www.oursmallgroups.com

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday8:30-5:00
Friday.....8:30-Noon

PARISH HAPPENINGS

No Coffee and Donuts Sunday, December 25

THE LADIES OF ST. BERNARD CHARITY GRANT APPLICATION

The 2012 Ladies of St. Bernard Charity Grant applications are now available at the Parish Office. The deadline for acceptance is December 29. Grants will be made at the January business meeting. If you have any questions, contact Virginia Sitter, 731-5118.

MEN OF ST. BERNARD PARISH

Mark your calendars for the Men of St. Bernard kick-off meeting, Tuesday, January 17. Check-in is from 5:30 pm until 6:00 pm. Refreshments and dinner will be served. Please call the Parish Office and let us know that you are planning to attend.

Thank You From St. Vincent de Paul

The members of St. Bernard's "St. Vincent de Paul group" would like to thank our parish members for their generous donations at Thanksgiving. Your financial gifts will help the less fortunate that we serve everyday. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being so generous.

Help St. Bernard By Using SCRIP

Consider purchasing Scrip for the gas and groceries you purchase every week. We have the following gifts cards on hand: **Copps/Pick'nSave, Festival, Woodmans, Kwik Trip** and Express Gas. We can also pre-order for many other stores. Place your order one weekend and pick up the following weekend. To date we have raised over \$2,600. Thank you.

Volunteers are needed to help sell Scrip after weekend Masses (need only work one Mass) or at the Wednesday Night Cafe. To volunteer or for more information, call Darlene at 739-5296 or Tim at 731-2258.

St. Bernard Gift List

The Parish maintains a Gift List which has items that are not covered on the regular budget. If you would like a copy of the Gift List, stop at the Parish Office.

Landscaping	\$300 (remainder of the cost for landscaping done this fall)
Round Folding Tables	\$155 each
Long Folding Tables	\$90 each
Cart for Folding Chairs	\$245

Pro-Life Corner

We are called to give an uncompromising witness to the Gospel of Life. Archbishop Raymond Burke

Readings for Christmas

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-25/Mt 1:1-25
Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ti 3:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18

*"Welcome and inspire ALL to share
Christ's love through FAITH and SERVICE"*

Children's Liturgy of the Word, January 22

The next Children's Liturgy of the Word is January 22. Children ages 4 through the 4th grade are invited. Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place during the 10:00 Mass.

Prayer Room A group of people will be available to pray with you in the Marian Chapel after the 8:00 and 10:00 Masses.

Every Sunday the Hmong Community gathers in the Lounge to celebrate the 10:00 Mass.

MASS TIMES & MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 17

4:30 pm Mass Lucille Weyenberg

Sunday, December 18

8:00 am Mass Daniel and Hans Schnettler

10:00 am Mass *Youth Hosted Liturgy*

Jo Ann Bechard

Living and Deceased Members
of St. Bernard Parish

Monday, December 19

✠8:00 am Liturgy of the Word

Tuesday, December 20

8:00 am Mass Delores Wycoco

Wednesday, December 21

8:00 am Mass ✠ Deceased Relatives
of Marcella Band

Thursday, December 22

8:00 am Mass ✠ Ken Koehnke

Friday, December 23

8:00 am Mass Edwin Wycoco

Saturday, December 24

4:00 pm Mass Craig Wheeler

10:00 pm Mass Living and Deceased Members
of St. Bernard Parish

Sunday, December 25 *The Nativity of the Lord*

8:00 am Mass Alice & Vernon McGinnis

10:00 am Mass Christina Lenhardt

BAPTISM CLASS

Baptism class will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 6:30-8:30 pm. Families who are planning a Baptism in the near future should call or stop by the Parish Office to register for classes. All parents need to attend a preparation session before the celebration. We encourage you to attend even before your child has arrived.

ADULT & YOUTH NEWS

FAITH FORMATION, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21/28
Christmas break, there is no Faith Formation.

GATHER IN THE SPIRIT

Gather in the Spirit will meet on Monday, 6:30 pm in the Lounge. All are welcome to come and pray with the Gather in the Spirit Group. To learn more about this group, call John or Barb at 731-3856.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Children who have signed up for the Children's Christmas pageant will meet on Tuesday, December 20, 6:30 pm in the Church for the final meeting and rehearsal. Any questions contact Rhonda at 739-033 or uschan@stbernardappleton.org.

NEW SMALL GROUP STARTING IN JANUARY AFTER 50 SPIRITUALLY EMBRACING...

A new small group based on the book, "After 50 Spiritually Embracing Your Own Wisdom Years" by Robert Wicks will be held on January 22, 29 and February 5 after the 8 am Mass. The group is open to all ages but especially to those 50 and older. The book encourages readers to seek and embrace God as the center of their lives, to care for others and to nurture their lives in simple ways. To learn more, call Gerri at 739-2538.

December Holiday Calendar

Friday, Dec. 23 - Parish Office is closed

Saturday, Dec. 24
9:00 am Reconciliation
Christmas Eve Masses, 4 & 10 pm

The Children's Pageant is at the 4 pm Mass. At 3:30 enjoy music from Carolers in the Narthex and at 3:40 the Children's choir sings. Before the 10 pm Mass the adult choir presents a short concert beginning at 9:30 until the Mass begins. (Plan to arrive early for these Masses as the Church fills early.)

Sunday, December 25
Christmas Day Masses, 8 & 10 am

Small ensemble groups provide music for both Christmas morning Masses. For the 8 am Mass, music begins at 7:45. For the 10 am Mass, music begins at 9:45.

Monday, December 26 - Parish Office is closed
No Liturgy of the Word

Saturday, December 31 -
No 9:00 am Reconciliation

New Years' Masses are the regular weekend Mass times.
Saturday, 4:30 pm and Sunday, 8 & 10 am

Monday, January 2 - Parish Office is closed



DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2011

The IRS indicates that contributions are deductible in the year made. In order to be in compliance, St. Bernard Parish must follow the IRS rules.

To receive credit for your donations given in 2011, date your check for 2011, place it in the collection or bring it to the Parish Office on or before December 30th. For a cash donation, stop in the Parish Office on or before December 30th so you can receive a receipt. For online donations, visit www.stbernardappleton.org and click on the *Online Giving* button. Remember, you must make your transaction in 2011 in order to receive credit for 2011.

Stock transactions must take place with your stock broker on or before December 30th, 2011.

CALENDAR

Saturday, December 17

Reconciliation, 9:00 am.....Church
Alanon, 10:00 am.....Room 111

Sunday, December 18

Children's Choir rehearsal, 9:15 am.....Activity Ctr.

Monday, December 19

Card Players, 1:00 pm.....Janssen Ctr.
Gather in the Spirit, 6:30 pm.....Lounge

Tuesday, December 20

Children's Pageant Mtg./Rehearsal, 6:00 pm
.....Church

Wednesday, December 21

Prayer Shawl Group, 1:00 pm.....Janssen Center
Choir rehearsal, 6:30 pm.....Music Room

Thursday, December 22

Friday, December 23

OA Group, 10:00 am.....Room 112
Parish Office is closed

Saturday, December 24

Reconciliation, 9:00 am.....Church
Alanon, 10:00 am.....Room 111

Sunday, December 25

Monday, December 26

Parish Office is closed

The Parish Office is Closed, Dec. 23 & 26
The Parish Office will be closed on Friday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 26. The building is closed on December 26.

Bulletin announcements for December 25 are due on Thursday, Dec. 16 by 5:00. Email to khankes@stbernardappleton.org.

Thank you to our Bulletin Advertisers

We want to thank our bulletin advertisers who make our Sunday bulletin possible for our parish. Their ads not only pay for our bulletin but St. Bernard also gets a revenue-check once a year from LPI, the bulletin publisher. This year the check was \$2,000. Please remember to thank our advertisers by doing business with them.

Stewardship Reflection

In today's Gospel, Mary finds out she will conceive Jesus. Christmas is right around the corner but, much like Mary in today's Gospel, we are still in waiting.

A young Jewish girl, Mary would have been very familiar with the expectant hope for a Messiah. So, you can imagine how flustered, fearful, and even a bit confused she might have been when the angel Gabriel appeared to her, announcing that she had been chosen to bear the long-awaited Savior.

Mary exclaimed, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

There is so much we can learn from Mary's response. She recognized her life was not truly her own. She surrendered to God's will. What a powerful witness of the amazing things God can accomplish through us as stewards, when we give ourselves to Him in service, when we surrender our lives to Him.

Because of Mary's "yes" to God, the Lord will continue the good work He began in her. The reading from 2 Samuel today communicates this same message. The Lord had done great things for King David – protecting him from his enemies, and more, and, when David sets out to build a temple for the Ark of the Covenant, the Lord reminds him that He is source of all good things, He is the giver of all good gifts, and He promises to care for His people.

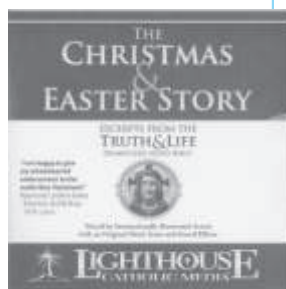
Much like David and Mary, we all play a role in Salvation History. We are God's instruments, His disciples through whom many will come to know Him. He has given us so many good gifts, and it is our responsibility, as stewards, to make a free-will decision, much like Mary did, and allow Him to work through us, to use the gifts He has given us to show forth His glory, living lives that bear witness to His goodness.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

We have been contacting references of parishioners who have had background checks completed through the Protecting God's Children process. We only contact the names given as references and ask three questions. 1) How long have you known this person? 2) What is your relationship to this person? 3) Is there anything in this person's background or in your feelings that would suggest that you have a concern about this person working with children, youth or vulnerable adults? We appreciate the many parishioners and community members who have answered our calls. We at St. Bernard Parish are concerned about having a safe environment for everyone. If you have further questions about the background check process please call Colleen at 739-0331.

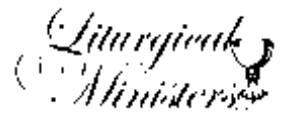
Lighthouse CDs

For the adults that Santa will be visiting this Christmas, a Lighthouse CD would make great stocking stuffer. Many topics are available. A \$3 donation is appreciated.



NEW LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULE AVAILABLE

The Liturgical Minister Schedule for January through May, 2012 is now available on-line. All liturgical ministers with e-mail will receive the schedule electronically through the ministry schedule program. Please make sure you sign in to the ministry schedule program to access the complete schedule and roster of ministers in your area. If you do not have e-mail, pick up a schedule at the Welcome Counter. Questions can be addressed to Rhonda, 739-0331 or email ruschan@stbernardappleton.org.



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS MEMORIAL

If you would like to remember a loved one this Christmas with a donation to our "Christmas Decorations Memorial Fund", please fill out this form, place it in an envelope marked "Christmas Decorations Memorial" and place the envelope in the regular collection basket or bring it to the Parish Office. Your donations will be used to purchase decorations for the Church this Christmas Season.

From _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

AMOUNT: _____



STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCIAL SHARING

	Week	Fiscal YTD	Total
*Envelope	15,699	YTD Actual Envelope	339,024
Weekly Target	16,058	YTD Budget Envelope	385,385
		*Envelope Over/(Under)	(46,360)
Loose	752	YTD Loose	13,563
Budget Loose	731	YTD Budget Loose	17,538
		Loose Over/(Under)	(3,976)

Marriage Encounter Looking for a weekend away, for just the two of you? A Marriage Encounter Weekend offers you this experience. It's a time to renew your relationship, away from the everyday distractions of life. It's an opportunity to strengthen your communication and promote greater intimacy in your life together. "Discover Each Other Again", more deeply, honestly and warmly. February 10-12 at the Norbertine Center for Spirituality in DePere. Later weekend dates are also scheduled. For more information and to obtain an informational brochure, contact Sue & Dennis Amtmann, 920 544-5166 or visit the website at www.gbme.org.

Angels at Christmas

It seems that angels are everywhere at Christmas. In today's Gospel Gabriel comes to Mary to announce that she will bear the Savior. In other stories at this time of year, an angel comes to Zechariah and Elizabeth to announce the birth of John the Baptist. An angel appears to Joseph to tell him to welcome Mary into his home. Angels appear to the shepherds to proclaim the birth of Christ, and to the Magi to warn them to flee from Herod after they have presented their gifts to the newborn King.

In our popular culture, angels adorn the Christmas cards we send, are put up on our front lawns, and festoon the house in various decorations. In an argument that reflects the different perspectives of the two Gospel stories of the birth of Jesus, families debate what will sit atop the Christmas tree: a star-which reveals the birth of Christ in Matthew's Gospel-or an angel-which heralds the birth of the Savior to the shepherds in the story written down in Luke.

Mary was hardly the first to be visited by an angel. They have a solid history in the Bible. But Mary's quick assent to the will of God is an example for all of us who follow Christ. She was willing to accept what God wanted of her, that is, to become the mother of his Son. And it was the angel that conveyed the message.

So with all of the images of angels that surround us at this time of year, it might be good to ask ourselves who are the real angels in our lives. As with Mary, there may be people around us who give insight into the will of God for us. As with the Magi, there may be people who give us warnings about the paths to follow in life. As with Joseph, there may be those who give specific direction about what is right. They are all our angels.

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Coming Soon
Service Sunday,
January 8 at the 10:00 Mass

Invite a Friend to Mass



Saturday, Dec. 24, 4:00 & 10:00 pm
Sunday, Dec. 25, 8 & 10 am

December 24, 4:00 and 10:00 Masses
4:00 pm - **The children's choir begins singing at 3:45.**
A children's pageant is part of this family Mass.
10:00 pm - The St. Bernard choir sings at this beautiful, serene Mass. The choir will begin singing at 9:30.
December 25, 8:00 and 10:00 am Masses
Ensemble groups provide music for both of the Masses; they begin 15 minutes before Mass.

Advent



Quietly, in whispered
softness the curtain of night
descends. A restless world
stands hushed,
a special
time begins...



ATTENTION LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Liturgical Ministers Needed for Christmas Masses

4 pm Children's Mass & 10 pm Mass - Dec. 24
and

8 am & 10 am Masses - Dec. 25

All liturgical ministers (communion, lectors, servers, ushers and greeters) please sign up on-line in the Ministry **Schedule Program.** If you don't have email, you may sign up in the Sacristy. Contact Rhonda with questions, 7369-0331 or ruschan@stbernardappleton.org.