

## St. Bernard Church

615 H Street • Eureka, CA 95501

Mass Schedule:

10:00 am **Sunday**

12:15 pm **Daily**

Eucharistic Service: Monday & Thursday

Confessions at St. Joseph Church Every Saturday 3:00 pm

Holy Days/Vigil Mass 5:30 pm

## St. Joseph Church

Henderson & C Street • Eureka, California

Mass Schedule:

8:00 am **Sunday**

7:30 am **Daily**

Eucharistic Service: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

3:00 pm **Saturday Reconciliation**

4:00 pm **Saturday Vigil**

## Parish Office

707-442-6466

707-443-0914—fax

Office Hours:

Monday–Friday 9 am to 3 pm

Bulletin Deadline, Wednesday–Noon

Email: [office@saintbernards.org](mailto:office@saintbernards.org)

## Parish Clergy

Fr. Eric Freed, Pastor

Frank Weber, Permanent Deacon

Phillip Salazar, Permanent Deacon

## Deacons' Office

707-442-5615

For Baptism Preparation (2nd Sunday of each month after 10 am Mass),

Marriage, Bereavement and Youth Confirmation

## RCIA—Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Coordinator Dianne Luzzi, 707-442-8812

## CCD—Religious Education

Pre-K–8th, Sundays 8:15 am

St. Bernard Elementary School

Coordinator Debbie David, 707-443-1143

## St. Bernard Catholic Schools

Pre-Kindergarten–Twelfth grade

222 Dollison Street, Eureka

707-443-2735

## Respect Life Committee

Coordinator Allen Rode, 707-445-3653

Crisis Pregnancy? 1-800-395-HELP

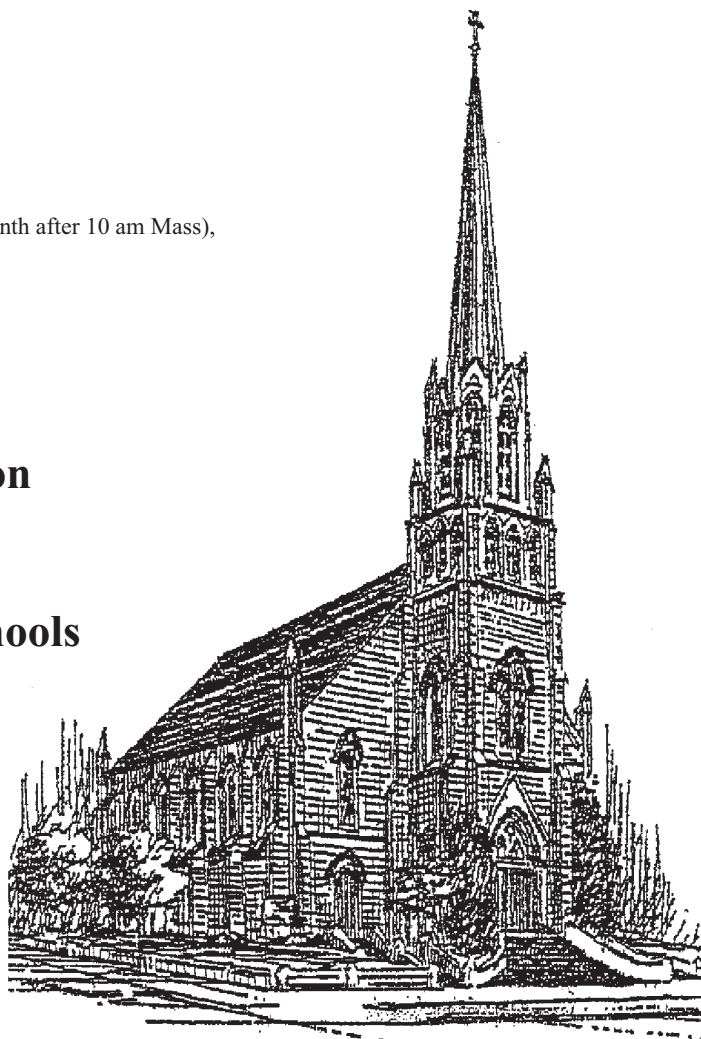
[www.HumboldtProLife.com](http://www.HumboldtProLife.com)

## Music Ministry

Choir Practice, Thu. 6:00 pm

Music Director, Issa Stemler

707-840-9514



Check out our web page at [www.saintbernards.org](http://www.saintbernards.org)

Dec. 4th 2011

2nd Sunday of Advent

Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December:  
That the nations of the earth, through knowledge and mutual respect, may grow in harmony and peace.

WEEKLY

SERVICES & INTENTIONS

**St. Joseph Church**

12/03	Sat	4:00 pm	† Laura Smith
12/04	Sun	8:00 am	Mass for the People
12/05	Mon	7:30 am	Eucharistic Service
12/06	Tue	7:30 am	Eucharistic Service
12/07	Wed	7:30 am	Int. Billy Simera
12/08	Thu	7:30 am	Immaculate Conception Mass
12/09	Fri	7:30 am	Int. Josephine Silva
12/10	Sat	4:00 pm	† Donald Michael

**St. Joseph Hospital**

12/06	Tue	11:30 am	† Soul in Purgatory
12/08	Thu	11:30 am	No Mass

**St. Bernard Church**

12/04	Sun	10:00 am	Int. Mary Davey
12/05	Mon	12:15 pm	Eucharistic Service
12/06	Tue	12:15 pm	† Pauline Morris
12/07	Wed	12:15 pm	Int. Carrie Hart & Family
12/07	Wed	5:30 pm	Vigil Mass
12/08	Thu	12:15 pm	Immaculate Conception Mass
12/09	Fri	12:15 pm	† Brother Fred Buerman

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Thursday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> is a holy day of obligation. Vigil Mass will be Wednesday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

**This Week's Meeting & Events**

12/08	Thu	7:00 pm	RCIA/Rector's
12/10	Sat	10:00 am	Choir Practice

**Advent Area Penance Services**

St. Mary Church -Arcata	Tue. Dec. 13	6:30 pm
St. Bernard Church & Sacred Heart	Wed. Dec. 14	5:30 pm

**Ferndale Portuguese Annual Beans & Linguica Dinner**  
Sunday, Dec. 4 at Portuguese Hall, Ferndale  
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Benefits Portuguese Hall Repairs.  
Donations: \$12 Adults, \$6 Children (ages 6-12). The city of Ferndale also lights its Town Christmas Tree on this evening. Please come and enjoy a family fun evening.

**Finance Corner** Last weekend the plate collection was **\$3,035.**

**Stewardship Corner**

John the Baptist's call to repentance is echoed in the U. S. bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship: "Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live—the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards."

**Leave a Legacy**

One of our most important obligations as stewards is to provide for the needs of loved ones, charities and church after our death. Do you have a will? Have you reviewed & updated it recently? Now is the perfect time to contact your attorney about your estate planning.

**Pancake Breakfast** benefiting St. Bernard's Maintenance Fund is today Sunday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am until 11:30 am at St. Bernard Parish Hall. Menu is pancakes, scrambled eggs, ham or sausage, applesauce, coffee and orange juice. Adults \$6 and children under 12 \$3.



**New Pews!**

When you get a chance, check out the refurbished pews at the front of St. Bernard Church. They are beautiful! We received enough pledges for ten pews. If you would like to pledge to have a pew refurbished, mail check to office, at 615 H Street, Eureka, CA 95501, or put in collection basket marked "PEWS". Cost per pew, \$350. Thank you so much for allowing us to keep our churches in such good condition.

**RCIA -The Rite of Acceptance**

Today marks the initial rite in the journey begun by inquirers into our Catholic faith - the candidates' first acceptance of the gospel. They have responded to God's call and are eager to continue the way of faith toward full initiation into the church. Please welcome them and keep them in your prayers. Their names will be announced next week.

Dec. 4th 2011  
2nd Sunday of Advent

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:**



Evelyn Avila, James Avila, Patricia Ayers, Teresa Blake, Pauline Blankenhip, Kathi Branum, Donna Clemons, Mary Davey, Quinta Genovali, Elsie Godinho, Jim & Jackie Hill, Lynn Johnson, Riley Moran, John G. Perrone, Joanne Hebert Ray, Robert Resor, Donna Selsor, Joe Simera, Rosemary Simera, Jan Sundquist, William Taylor, David & Angela Timmerman, Lindy Timmerman, Greg Weigel, Seth Woolf, and all our brothers and sisters in need of prayer and healing.

**Wednesday Night Study Sessions**

Fr. Eric Freed's popular seminars are every Wednesday except the last Wednesday of the month. They will be held at the Newman Center just up the hill from Health Sport in Arcata at 700 Union St at 7:30 pm. This session will be on the letters of St. Paul. Fr. Eric Freed is the pastor at St. Bernard's parish. He is also in residence at the Newman Center in Arcata. Call 442-6466 for questions.

**PRAYER LINE** Need a prayer for a loved one in need? Contact the St. Bernard Parish Prayer Line. Need a prayer of thanksgiving for a prayer answered? Contact the St. Bernard Parish Prayer Line. Every prayer is answered by God in HIS time. Your prayer intentions this week may be called into Toni, who has new hours. You can reach her 24/7 at 445-3616.

**Youth Group meetings for St. Bernard and Sacred Heart youth are held weekly at the Youth Building at Sacred Heart Church from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm on Sunday nights. Youth ages 12 and up are welcome to attend. Please fill out a registration form upon attendance.**

**Christmas Eve Pageant:** The first organization/ practice for the **Children's Christmas Eve Pageant** will take place On Saturday, December 10 at 10:00 am, in St. Bernard Church. Costumes will be distributed, and roles assigned. The pageant takes place during the 4:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve. All children are encouraged to participate. For more information, call Debbie, 443-1143.

**Ferndale Christmas Holiday Season.....** Plan to join in the Ferndale holiday spirit. During your evening of fun in Ferndale, and prior to viewing the "*Ferndale Christmas Lighted Tractor Parade*", treat yourself to a comforting hot dinner at the 7th Annual "*Old Fashioned Chicken Dinner*". It will be held on Sunday, Dec. 18 at the Ferndale Community Center at the end of Main Street in Firemen's Park. Dinner will be served from 4 to 7 PM with a full menu which includes: baked chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable, homemade French bread, beverage and dessert. Adults: \$12; Children 10 and under: \$6. Take-out meals will be available at the same price. Reservations are recommended. Phone: 786-9717 or email: [mimib3@suddenlink.net](mailto:mimib3@suddenlink.net). Tickets will also be available at the door. This event is sponsored by the Ferndale Assumption Parish with proceeds going to the Assumption Church Building Fund.

**Save the DATE!!** Sat. Dec. 17 Sacred Heart-St. Bernard Christmas Dinner to Support the Youth. Panchanga Mexicana is hosting 6:00 pm Social - 6:30 pm Dinner at the Sacred Heart Parish Center. Tickets are \$35 each. Hearty Menu: Chicken strips, potatoes, peppers, jalapenos & onions cooked Mexican stew-style; Garden Salad, Mexican dessert-Flan, & soft drinks. Red wine at each table. Margaritas & beer also available for purchase. Vegetarian meals upon request. HOLIDAY ATTIRE REQUESTED.

**Cocoa/Coffee Christmas Party** December 11<sup>th</sup> after 10:00 Mass, the Italian Catholic Federation is hosting their annual Christmas Party. Everyone is invited for a lite brunch with refreshments. It is rumored that Santa will be there! Don't miss the fun and fellowship. (Please share your blessings with others by bringing non-perishable foods for the needy.)

The Knights of Columbus Assembly #56 thanks everyone for all their support of our firewood raffle. The winner was Gary Cormier.

Keep "CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" cards are available from the Knights at the Advent Fair.

Mark your calendar! St. Bernard Parish will be making a church directory. Family and/or individual photos will be scheduled for January 19th, 20th, or 21st. Free 8x10 and Parish Directory for each participating family.

Check out our website at: [www.saintbernards.org](http://www.saintbernards.org)

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# Growing in FAITH™

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December 2011

## One Minute Meditations

### Grow in prayer

Our prayer life can mature and grow when we pray for intentions outside ourselves. For example, we can pray for victims of war, the sick who suffer in great pain, people who don't believe in God, and for those in jails and prisons whether we know them or not. The best kind of prayer is the kind that comes from the heart.

### Immaculate Conception

Mary was prepared from her conception to become the mother of God. December 8th is the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the day we celebrate that she was conceived in St. Ann's womb without Original Sin. It is a Holy Day of Obligation and Catholics are required to attend Mass. Praying a Rosary would be an additional way to honor the mother of our Savior.

### Pray for life

Throughout your Christmas celebrations, please pray that all nations will come to respect life from conception to natural death.



## Open your heart to the Christmas promise

This time of year is full of promise and the Bethlehem star reminds us of our hope for a future of peace in our own hearts and the hearts of the world. But we cannot achieve this peace on our own. We must open our hearts to the promise of Christmas.

*"One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again"* (Isaiah 2:4). Violence flourishes if the world accepts it as inevitable.

The world can change if the love of the Christmas child takes root in our hearts. Peace flows from hearts that love.

*"The poor will eat their fill; those who seek the Lord will offer praise"* (Psalm

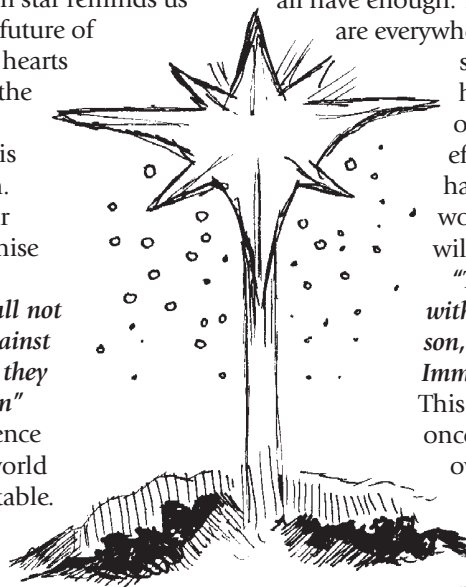
22:27). Peace spreads more easily when all have enough. These days the poor are everywhere and people are

struggling to hold onto hope. If we each make our holiday charitable efforts a year-round habit, perhaps the words of the psalmist will come true.

*"The virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel"* (Isaiah 7:14). This Christmas we can once again rekindle our own sense of innocence

and hope. Try to experience the new life promised with the

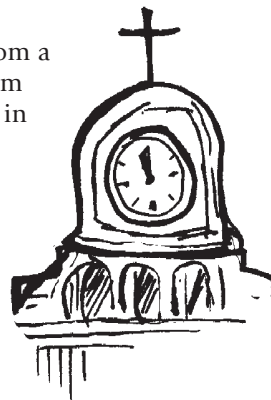
birth of the Christ child and be like the young girl long ago who believed that nothing is impossible when God is involved.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do some parishes offer Midnight Mass on Christmas?

Midnight Mass grew from a custom where people from the countryside gathered in the early monasteries on Christmas Eve to attend Confession, sing hymns, and to participate in the Eucharist. Afterwards, a feast lasted well into Christmas morning.

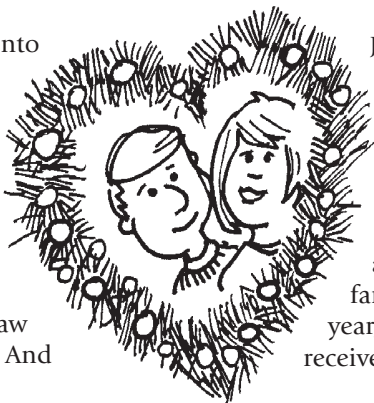


Midnight Mass, or Mass close to midnight, gathers us together to greet the newborn Christ Child. The readings for the liturgy of Midnight Mass proclaim the birth of Christ but also remind us that he came to offer salvation to all people.

## Love is the reason for this season

At Christmas time, we are asked to reach into ourselves and bring out only what is kind, generous, and loving. To help, remember that an unimaginable love is the reason for this season.

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life"* (John 3:16). God loves us so much that he denies us nothing that will draw us to him in Heaven, not even his only son. And



Jesus' love is so great that he became one of us so we can share more fully in the Father's love.

*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"* (John 1:14). At Christmas, we celebrate the moment when God chose to share our experience in the world. And we are asked to reach beyond our friends and family to share God's love with the world. This year, your gift to Jesus can be a heart ready to receive and spread his love.

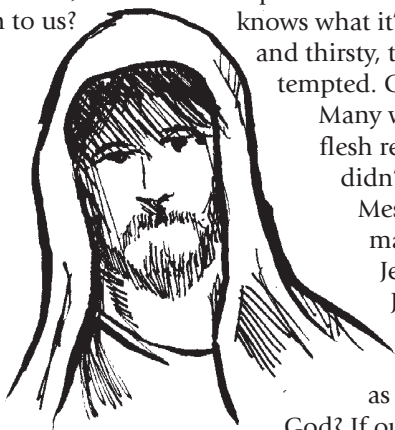
### from Scripture

#### John 1:1-18, Who Is Jesus?

On December 25 we celebrate the birth of Jesus. But just who is Jesus and what does he mean to us? This question has been asked for thousands of years.

John tells us in this Gospel. Jesus is the Word, the Second Person of the Trinity. He is the source of life. He enlightens us about God and his nature. Grace and truth come to us through Christ. To know Jesus is to know God.

At the same time Jesus took on our



humanity. He lived as we live. He experienced what we experience. He knows what it's like to be hungry and thirsty, to be tired, to be tempted. God understands us.

Many who saw Jesus in the flesh rejected him. They didn't recognize him as the Messiah. We each have to make a choice about Jesus. Do we choose Jesus as our personal

Messiah, our savior? Do we live our lives as if we are children of God? If our answers are "yes," then Jesus is the one to whom we turn for enlightenment and grace.

### Q & A Is it okay to miss Mass on Sunday if I am busy?

*The Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) says, "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass" (CCC,



2180). "Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin" (CCC, 2181). This excludes those who cannot attend for unavoidable reasons such as illnesses or

infirmity, for example.

Life can get so busy that when Sunday comes around each week, it becomes just another day to run errands or catch up on chores. Yet, God intended the Sabbath (Sunday for Catholics) to be a holy day of rest for us when we reconnect with him. That's one of the reasons he gave us the Third Commandment.

Attending Mass each week is not just something we have to do, it is something we get to do. At Mass, each faithful Catholic is fed with abundant graces. We know that our Lord is truly present in the Eucharist, and we receive his body and blood in this Sacrament. The Mass is a precious gift to us. Try not to miss even one.

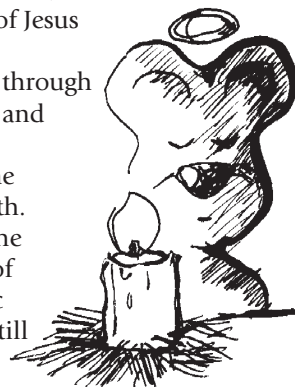
### Feasts & Celebrations

**Dec. 9 – St. Juan Diego (1548).** A simple, humble Native American who became a faithful Christian, Juan Diego was visited by the Blessed Virgin. She asked him to petition the bishop of Mexico for a chapel in her honor, and gave him roses for the bishop as a sign. When the roses were emptied from Juan's tilma (cape) before the bishop, it retained the beautiful image of the Blessed Mother.

**Dec. 14 – St. John of the Cross (1591).** As a Carmelite, St. John led a reform in the Order to encourage more prayer and simplicity. Because of a

misunderstanding, he was jailed for nine months, but some of his beautiful spiritual writing came from this experience. His mystical-poetical reflections showed his love of prayer.

**Dec. 21 – St. Peter Canisius (1597).** Born in Holland, he was ordained into the Society of Jesus and worked strenuously through his writings and teachings to safeguard the Catholic faith. His work, *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, is still used today.



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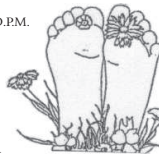
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