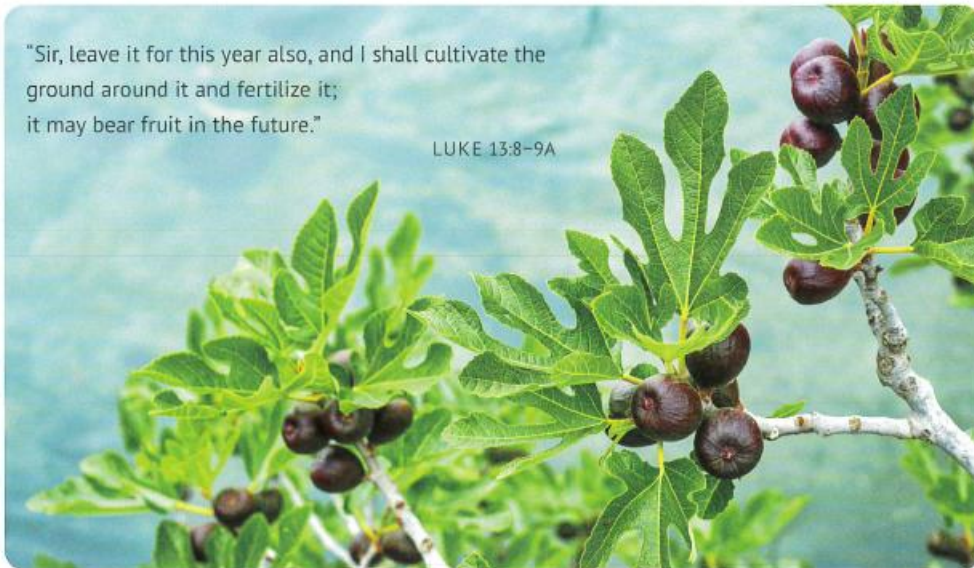




"Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future."

LUKE 13:8-9A



A Gardener God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Charles Baudelaire was a French poet and essayist in the mid-1800s. He once observed that life is like a hospital in which each patient is possessed by the desire to change beds. In other words, he thought everyone seemed to think life would be so much better if only they had a different set of circumstances, a different job, a different marriage, a different place in life. Like trees, however, not everyone grows and matures at the same pace. There are forty-year-olds who still act and think like teenagers, and there are ten-year-olds who have an attitude toward life like that of an elder. Over time, we all grow into the lives we're given.

In this week's Parable of the Barren Fig Tree, some think God is like the owner who planted the tree, as

if God is impatient with us to begin bearing fruit and quick to uproot us if we fail. A case could be made, however, for God to be the gardener who patiently fertilizes and nurtures. In the beginning, it was God who had a garden called Eden, filled with all kinds of trees and plants among which God walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the evening. After the resurrection, it was Mary Magdalene who went looking for the body of Jesus and mistook him for the gardener. It is God who hovers over us, watering and nudging and nurturing, waiting until in God's good time, we begin to bear fruit. ●

Reflect

**What needs nurturing in my life,
and what needs weeding out?**

Welcome to The Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit



St. Bernard's, 43 Botsford St., Moncton, NB E1C 4W9

Phone: (506) 857-0425 Email: sbhf@rogers.com

Office hours for next week:

Monday - Thursday: 9 AM – 12 noon & 1 – 4 PM. **CLOSED on Fridays.**

Website: www.stbernardschurch.ca



St. Vincent's, 63 Charlotte St., Sackville, NB, E4L 2Y5

Phone: (506) 536-1460 Email: stvince@nbnet.nb.ca

Office hours: Monday & Thursday @ 10 AM- 2 PM



St. Clement's, 14 Church St., Port Elgin, NB E4M 2C9

Phone: (506) 538-2262 Email: stclement.stbartholomew@gmail.com

Office hours: call office to verify

The Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit

St. Bernard's PMT

Priest Administrator	Fr. Damian Nwachukwu	sbhf@rogers.com
Assistant Priest	Fr. Carlos Jacinto	sbhf@rogers.com
Liturgy	Darlene McGraw	darlenemcgraw@rogers.com
Catechetics	Lorella Dunnett	Lorella_st.bernards@hotmail.com
Social Justice	Claudia McCloskey	
Adult Faith	Andrew Wilson	

St. Bernard's Parish Staff

Pastoral Associate/ liturgy	Darlene McGraw	darlenemcgraw@rogers.com
Receptionist / Bookkeeper	Giredine Aguidi	sbhf@rogers.com
Catechetical Coordinator	Lorella Dunnett	Lorella_st.bernards@hotmail.com

St. Vincent's Parish Staff

Parish Secretary	Lorraine Horyl	
Catechetical Coordinator	Cathy Crinnion	

St. Clement's Parish Staff

Parish Secretary	Pam Van Egmond	
-------------------------	----------------	--

WOMEN'S IGNATIAN RETREAT-Theme "*Sent forth as apostles of Hope*"

April 3-6, 2025 @ Our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre, 67 Reid Road, Breadalbane, Prince Edward Island. Cost: \$400.00 (\$420.00 after March 14) including room, board and materials.

Contact Tracy Jones: 902-439-1218 or email: stjosfamilycentre@gmail.com.

Deb D'Ettore: 506-961-3526 or email: d.ettoredeb07@gmail.com.

Mass times / Intentions:

St. Bernard's

Mon.	Mar. 24	9:30 AM	For the People	
Tues.	Mar. 25	9:30 AM	Living & deceased members of McLaughlin/Arsenault Families	JoAnn McLaughlin
Wed.	Mar. 26	9:30 AM	Special intention	Cecile & Hector Caissie
Thurs.	Mar. 27	9:30 AM	Late Leona Cormier	Tom & Karen Bourque
Fri.	Mar. 28	9:30 AM	Late Viola Parsons	Denis & Ailen Surette
Sat.	Mar. 29	4:00 PM	Anniv. Late Rey Mendoza	Michelle Sosa
Sun.	Mar. 30	11:00 AM	Anniv. Late Ben Evers	Jeanita & Family

St. Clement's

Sat.	Mar. 29	4:00 PM	For souls	Deodimo Bugtony
------	---------	---------	-----------	-----------------

St. Vincent's

Sun.	Mar. 30	9:00 AM	Gerard & Edna	Edgar & Rosie
------	---------	---------	---------------	---------------

OFFERINGS

St. Bernard's Offerings + PADs & online – March 15 & 16, 2025

Envelopes	\$4222	Loose	\$810.15	Karing Kitchen	\$27	Capital Fund	\$90
Share Lent	\$55	Syrian Relief	\$10	Ash Wed.	\$20	New Year's Day	\$30
Needs of Canada Church	\$30						

St. Clement's offerings – March 15, 2025

Envelopes	\$725	Tai Chi Rental	\$1200				
-----------	-------	----------------	--------	--	--	--	--

St. Vincent's offerings – March 16, 2025

Envelopes	\$1215	Loose	\$20	Offering Envelopes	\$5		
-----------	--------	-------	------	--------------------	-----	--	--

Thank you for your generous and continued support!!!

The Way of the Cross

The Way of the Cross will be prayed **during the holy season of Lent on Friday evenings at 6:30 PM.** All are invited and encouraged to attend. To make this prayer available to as many people as possible, we will celebrate it in the different churches according to the following schedule:

Fridays	March 28 and April 18	Immaculate Heart
Fridays	April 4	St. Augustine's
Fridays	April 11	St. Bernard's

In Sympathy

*A time to mourn.
Sincere sympathies to all who mourn the loss of a
loved one.*



*Ecclesiastes 3
Under every season there is a time...
A time to heal...*

St. Bernard's

Patricia Devine	Alix Karmar	Peter Quach	Jerome Escalona	Conrad Coughlan
Claire Struble	Maria Miller	Belinda Sarmiento	Sofio & Maria Floreta Conson	Stella Alcalen
Deacon Ed West	Irene Cucalon	Georgette Thomson	George Grissom	Dody & Jacklyn Placido

St. Clement's

McGraw Family	Roger Collette	Olga Bateman	Genie Coates		
---------------	----------------	--------------	--------------	--	--

St. Vincent's

Barb DeWitt	Leonard Burke	Deacon Frank Quinn	Leone Campbell	Art Chase	Vince Wood
-------------	---------------	--------------------	----------------	-----------	------------

As well as those who have died.

St. Bernard's Sacrament of Reconciliation regular schedule

Prior to Weekday Masses: Monday to Friday: 8:30 – 9:20 AM

Saturdays: 10:00 AM; First Friday of the month: 8:00 – 9:00 AM.

What
God
Has Joined

What God Has Joined: Preparing for Marriage in the Catholic Church

Marriage preparation is a requirement for marriage in the Catholic Church. It is recommended that couples complete this preparation 6 months prior to their marriage date. This course discusses the important aspects of your relationship before you begin your lifelong journey together.

St. Bernard's will be facilitating a weekend marriage preparation

program on the following dates:

Friday	May 30	7:00 to 9:00 PM
Saturday	May 31	9:00 AM to approximately 4:00 PM

Couples are required to attend both days. Cost of course & book inclusive: \$ 100.00 per couple.

You must pre-register to attend by emailing darlenemcgraw@rogers.com.

Space is limited so please register early.

LORD · JESUS



EVENING PRAYER

Christians are called in baptism to be people of prayer, to pray always, praising God and pleading for the world. We, as children of God, are encouraged to be more cognizant of prayer during the Lenten season. Why not try gathering with the faith community for Evening Prayer? It only takes up a half hour of your time. We follow the format for Evening Prayer that is offered in our Catholic Book of Worship.

All are welcome to gather for Evening Prayer at St. Bernard's on the following Thursday evenings during lent: March 27; April 3 & 10 @ 6:00 PM.

St. Bernard's

In case of
Inclement
Weather



St. Bernard's Church Inclement Weather Policy

At least 1 hour before scheduled event:

Mass cancellation & any other closures will always be noted on:

Parish Website: www.stbernardschurch.ca

Parish Phone Message: by calling 506 857 0425

Facebook: facebook.com/gsmoncton. Call ahead or check website before heading out.

Mark Your Calendar

Carmelites	2 nd Saturday of the month: 9:30 AM
Prayer Group	2 nd Saturday of month & last Saturday of month after 25 th @ 7:00 PM
RCIA meeting dates	1 st and 3 rd Saturday of each month – 10:00 AM – 12 noon
Baptism preparation	Sunday, April 13, 2025 @ 1:30 PM
"Hello There"	Sunday March 30 th after mass
Marriage Preparation	Friday & Saturday, May 30 & 31, 2025 (for more details see announcement in bulletin).

SESSIONS	LEVEL 1-3		LEVEL 4-6	
	Sun. @ 9:30 AM	Tues. @ 6 PM	Sun. @ 12:15 PM	Wed. 6 PM
14	March 23 rd	March 25 th	March 23 rd	March 26 th
15	April 6 th	April 8 th	April 6 th	April 9 th
16	April 27 th	April 29 th	April 27 th	April 30 th



Faith Formation

Confirmation Prep. In-person session

Session # 6 Sun. April 6th at 2 PM -Session # 7th April 27th at 2 PM.



St Bernard's Sacrament Celebrations

Holy Communion: Sunday May 4th @ 11 AM

Confirmation: Sunday, May 11th @ 11 AM



Rite of Welcoming Candidates for Confirmation & Eucharist:

On Sunday, March 9, 2025, at the 11:00 AM Mass we celebrated the **Rite of Welcoming with our candidates** (baptized). In this Rite the candidates declared their intention to become members of the Church and were invited into our faith community. We in turn pledge to pray for them and journey with them as they continue to grow as disciples of the Lord. St. Bernard's candidates are: Luciana Abel-Ratovo, Brent Crosthwaite, Scott Miller.

Rite of Election / Enrollment of names:

The **Rite of election / enrollment of names** is the recognition of God's choice to call the catechumens (the unbaptized) for immediate initiation into the church. This rite usually coincides with the First Sunday of Lent which begins the immediate preparation for the celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. This rite occurred at St. Augustine's, Sunday, March 9, 2025, presided by Archbishop Guy Desrochers.

St. Bernard's catechumens, who are now known as the "elect" are: Lisa Arsenault, Ryan Nagle, Terry Wellman, Avery Wellman and Scott Wright.

Please pray for: our Elect, Candidates, Sponsors, & RCIA team as their journey continues.

St. Bernard's



Hello there! Next weekend after Mass!

Hello there! Next weekend after Mass! Come get to know others in your parish community! Gather next Sunday, March 30th, after Mass in the parish hall with fellow parishioners for conversation, beverages, and snacks. See you there!!



EXTERNAL DEBT AND ECOLOGICAL DEBT: WHO OWES WHOM?

Peru is facing an ecological debt crisis as extractive industries, often foreign-owned, plunder its natural resources, harming the environment and human rights.

These industries contribute to the unjust enrichment of the Global North at the expense of the Global South. Thus, as countries in the Global South incur financial debts that further impoverish them, they are owed a mounting ecological debt by the Global North that is never settled.

Our partners, the Episcopal Commission for Social Action (CEAS) and the Institute Bartolomé de Las Casas (IBC) work closely with affected communities, advocating for justice and sustainable alternatives.

This Lent, discover the work of CEAS and IBC by reading our [Mini-magazine](#) and watching our testimonial video at devp.org/lent.



Trevor Drosbeck - 857-4879 or adultfaith@diocesemoncton.ca
Karen LeBlanc – 387-4198 or youth@diocesemoncton.ca

LENT GOES TO THE MOVIES - Our Mondays @ The Movies film discussion group will meet every two weeks over Lent to discuss Lenten themes in popular films. **March 24th – A River Runs Through It;** and **April 7th– Thelma and Louise**. All discussions take place on Zoom at 10:00 am. Please contact Karen at 387-4198 or youth@diocesemoncton.ca to register. Everyone is welcome to join the discussion.

Welcome back to **SENIORS CONNECT!** Our next gathering will take place on **Thursday March 27th at 10:30 am** at Holy Family Church. We will have someone from the Alzheimer Society talking to us about “Understanding Behaviors”. Questions? Contact Karen LeBlanc at 387-4198 or email youth@diocesemoncton.ca.

Gospel Study Group March 27th and 28th

Weekly in person or Zoom, Thursdays at **St. Lawrence O’Toole** 6:00pm followed by adoration at 7:00pm AND Fridays at **St. Augustine’s** 11:00am, followed by Mass at 12:00noon and adoration. For information contact Charlie Farrell at 857-4223 or charlie.farrell@qasmoncton.com.

For 4th Sunday of Lent click on the following links and read:

St. John Paul II Intro and Part Two RECONCILIATION AND PENANCE

https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_02121984_reconciliatio-et-

[paenitentia.html#:~:text=To%20speak%20of%20reconciliation%20and,good%20news%20of%20love%2C%20of](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_02121984_reconciliatio-et-paenitentia.html#:~:text=To%20speak%20of%20reconciliation%20and,good%20news%20of%20love%2C%20of)

Pope Francis 1st Angelus <https://www.popefrancishomilies.com/luke-chapter-15-17>

St. Vincent's

FAITH FORMATION at St. Vincent's – In-person catechism sessions take place on Sunday mornings following Mass. For any participant or volunteer inquiries for this program, including sacramental preparations, please contact Cathy Crinnion at ccrinnion@yahoo.ca or 536-4470. The Faith Formation schedule is as follows:

Elementary group sessions @ 10am	Sun Mar 23 rd , Apr 6 th & 27 th , May 4 th
Way of the Cross with Faith Formation group	Fri Apr 11 th @ 6pm
1 st Eucharist during Mass (contact Cathy for prep)	Sun May 11 th @ 9am
Primary group (grades 1-3) – please contact Cathy to discuss	

Call for new ALTAR SERVERS at St. Vincent's

please contact Dennis Lambus at dlambus22@gmail.com.

WAY OF THE CROSS at St. Vincent's

Join us for one or for these upcoming special devotions of the Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings during Lent: March 28th, April 4th and April 11th, at 6pm.

STORM CANCELLATIONS

Please note that if mass is cancelled for any reason, but mainly winter storms this time of year, a mass email will be sent out to all parishioners who have shared their email with the Parish Office. We realize there are some parishioners who do not have access to email, so we ask that if mass is cancelled, please call any parishioners you know who do not have email to alert them to the cancellation.

MASS CELEBRATION AT THE DREW NURSING HOME

On Monday, February 10, 2025, Fr. Carlos began celebrating Mass once per month at **3:00 p.m.** with the residents of the Drew Nursing Long Term Care Home in Sackville. The following dates are also scheduled for Mass: ***Monday, April 7; Monday, May 5; and Monday, June 2.*** **Everyone is invited to attend and celebrate mass with the residents of the Drew Nursing Home.**

DONATIONS OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Thank you to all who have donated household items for the use of the Filipino newcomers in the past year.

As we very recently received a large gift of household furniture, we are currently **putting a pause on accepting donations for the time being.** However, if you have the following items to donate: **kitchen table and chairs; double mattress, box spring, and frame; or like-new bedding for twin, double, or queen size mattresses.** please be in touch with Lorraine at the Parish Office 506-536-1460 or stvince@nbnet.nb.ca.

SACKVILLE FOOD BANK

If you are able, please contribute non-perishable food and/or toiletry items to our local Food Bank. The donation basket is located on the right-hand side of the entrance of the church.

Dear Padre,

May I receive Communion if I'm divorced and haven't gotten an annulment?

Yes, you may. Divorce, in itself, is not an impediment to the reception of Communion. Divorce, although regrettable because of the many ramifications that may be part of the experience, is not in itself a sin. There are situations when divorce may be the most loving choice and make it possible for all parties involved to live the lives God is calling them to live.

Remarriage, when a person is not free to marry because of the presence of a previous bond, is an impediment to the reception of holy Communion. Although this situation is more and more common, it does not mean that the law of the Church, representative of the teaching of Jesus, can be set aside. As part of the process of healing from your divorce and moving on with your life, you may want to seek an annulment, particularly if you think you might want to marry again. The annulment process can often be healing and a source of great blessing. It also provides a rare opportunity to reflect on what was lost as a result of the original divorce and what can be learned as a way of moving forward and building a second marriage that is strong and life-giving.

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/STEFANO

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
March 24	March 25	March 26	March 27	March 28	March 29	March 30
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>The</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>
2 Kgs 5:1-15b Lk 4:24-30	<i>Annunciation of the Lord</i> Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38	Dt 4:1, 5-9 Mt 5:17-19	Jer 7:23-28 Lk 11:14-23	Hos 14:2-10 Mk 12:28-34	Hos 6:1-6 Lk 18:9-14	Jos 5:9a, 10-12 2 Cor 5:17-21 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32



VATICAN MEDIA

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

I like to think that a nice name for God could be “the God of another possibility”.... [God] does not look at the achievements you have not yet reached, but the fruits you can still bear. He does not keep track of your shortcomings but encourages your potential. He does not dwell on your past, but confidently bets on your future.

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 20, 2022