



Say to the fearful of heart:
Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God,
he comes with vindication;
With divine recompense
he comes to save you.

ISAIAH 35:4



The Gift of Questions

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

We sometimes imagine that a sign of a strong faith is firm conviction and freedom from doubt. However, despite our imaginings, the authentic experiences of saints and ordinary people alike seem to point in another direction. The question of John the Baptist today—"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:3)—suggests that John is filled with questions, and these are important questions because they are asked from the depths of King Herod's prison, which is not exactly the place of idle musings or concerns.

If John, who is a great saint and a man who encountered Jesus and witnessed the powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit at his baptism, can have a question, doesn't it suggest that questions are acceptable—perhaps even needed? Perhaps questioning is an indication of faithfulness, not a lack of faith. Questions do not suggest that something is missing; rather, they confirm that something is growing and developing. The Baptist could just have easily said, "Jesus, you are doing and saying more than I ever imagined possible. Please help me to understand," or, to quote an unnamed saint, "I do believe, help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24).

God will not shatter, and faith will not collapse, because you have questions or doubts.

Experience suggests that questions and doubts strengthen our belief and our commitment to a life of faith. ●



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
FR. THOMAS M.
SANTA, CSSR

Reflect

Do I welcome questions, mine and others, as a way to grow in faith?

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

Parish Office hours:

Monday to Friday @ 9 AM – 12 PM & 1 PM – 4 PM

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED: Dec. 24, 2025, through Jan. 2, 2026

Re-opens Monday, Jan. 5. Phone messages will be checked for emergencies.



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 Website:

gsmoncton.ca

Facebook page:

facebook.com/gsmoncton

The Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit

St. Bernard's Parish Staff

Priest Administrator	Fr. Damian Nwachukwu	sbhf@rogers.com
Assistant Priest	Fr. Carlos Jacinto	sbhf@rogers.com
Pastoral Associate / Liturgy	Maricel Rubio	sbliturgy@gmail.com
Office Administrator	Genevieve Alo	sbhf@rogers.com
Bookkeeper	Linda Arsenault	bookkeepersbgsp@gmail.com
Catechetical Coordinator	Lorella Dunnett	Lorella_st.bernards@hotmail.com

St. Vincent's Parish Staff

Parish Secretary	Lorraine Horyl	stvince@nbnet.nb.ca
Catechetical Coordinator	Cathy Crinnion	ccrinnion@yahoo.ca

St. Clement's Parish Staff

Parish Secretary	Pam Van Egmond	stclement.stbartholomew@gmail.com
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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.

St. Bernard's

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 @ 7PM
RCIA meeting	2 nd & 4 th Saturday of each month: 10 AM to 12 noon
CWL meeting	February 15, 2026

Session	Sunday: Year 1-2-3 @ 9:15 AM Year 4-5-6 @ 12:15 PM	Tuesday: Years 1-2-3 @ 6 PM	Wednesday: Years 4-5-6 @ 6 PM
#7	December 14, 2025	December 16, 2025	December 17, 2025
#8	January 04, 2026	January 06, 2026	January 07, 2026
#9	January 18, 2026	January 20, 2026	January 21, 2026

St. Bernard's Faith Formation Schedule

Confirmation Preparation Schedule

Session	Sunday: 2 PM - 3:15 PM
December 14, 2025	Service- no gathering
January 04, 2026	Session #4 – Gathering in the hall
February 01, 2026	Session #5 – Gathering in the hall

Holy Communion Preparation for Children Schedule

Session	Sunday: 2 PM
December 14, 2025	Hall/Church
January 18, 2026	Hall/Church

St. Bernard's CWL

CWL 2026 Membership Dues.

Reminder to members that our 2026 membership dues are payable to National Office by Dec. 31st. If paying by cheque, please make your cheque payable to St. Bernard's CWL. **Please do not place dues in the church collection baskets.** If any member wishes to have her dues picked up, please call **Donna Shaw on 506-382-0503.** Thank you for helping us meet our Dec. 31st deadline.

Advent Mitten Tree

While items may be donated all year, it is particularly important during the cold winter months to be able to share **warm hats, mitts/gloves, scarves and socks** with those in need of all ages. We deliver these to the **Pregnancy Center, Headstart, schools and shelters** as well as to outreach programs for those living outside. These may be left at the main entrance of the church or be placed on the **Mitten Tree** set up by the elevator during the Advent season. Thank you in advance for your kindness.

St. Bernard's Simbang Gabi 2025

Dear Friends,

The Filipino Community of the Archdiocese of Moncton invites everyone to join in our **Simbang Gabi** celebrations. **Simbang Gabi**, a Tagalog phrase that literally means "**Evening Mass**," is the Filipino traditional novena Masses offered for nine consecutive evenings before Christmas Eve. It is a spiritual journey for Filipinos, a time of reflection, devotion, and anticipation as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Centred on the Eucharist, the **nine Masses honour the Blessed Mother Mary**, who carried Our Lord Jesus in her womb for nine months. How is it different from a daily Advent Mass? On Simbang Gabi Masses, the priest wears white festive vestments, and the Gloria is sung.

We invite you to **St. Bernard's Church** from **December 14th to the 23rd at 7:00 PM** for these evening Masses, which will be celebrated in English, with hymns beautifully led by the Filipino choir. Please note, our parish's regular **daily and weekend Mass schedules will remain unchanged**, with these nine special evening Masses added for the season. We would be deeply honored to have you join us in these celebrations.

With blessings,
Fr. Carlos Jacinto





The Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 – Christmas Eve

St. Bernard's	5:00PM, 8:00PM & 10:00 PM <i>(please note: no 9:30 AM Mass)</i>
St. Clement's	4:00 PM
St. Vincent's	6:00 PM

Thursday, December 25, 2025 - Christmas Day

St. Bernard's	11:00 AM <i>(please note: no 9:30 AM Mass)</i>
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Wednesday, December 31, 2025 – New Year's Eve

St. Bernard's	4:00 PM <i>(please note: no 9:30 AM Mass)</i>
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Thursday, January 1, 2026 – New Year's Day

St. Bernard's	11:00 AM <i>(please note: no 9:30 AM Mass)</i>
St. Clement's	11:00 AM
St. Vincent's	9:00 AM

Remembering our Deceased Family & Friends with Christmas Flowers & Wreaths

Once again, this year, you are invited to make monetary donations for our Christmas floral arrangements in memory of deceased loved ones. All monies contributed will be used to purchase flowers that will decorate our church throughout the Christmas season. If you would like to donate funds for **Christmas flowers and Wreaths** in memory of a loved one, you may do so by completing the information below & placing it with your donation in a plain envelope. That envelope can be put into the collection basket at mass or dropped off at the parish office during regular office hours. Names will be in the Christmas bulletin. **Thank you to all those who donate to this yearly project.**

Indicate parish:	St. Bernard's	St. Clement's	St. Vincent's
In Memory of:			
Donated by:			
Address:			
\$ Amount		Envelope # (if applicable)	

St. Vincent's

2025-2026 SUNDAY MISSAL – Due to high demand, the parish office has received a request for additional 2025-2026 Sunday Missals. Please contact Lorraine at the parish office 506-536-1460 or stvince@nbnet.nb.ca if you wish to receive a 2025-2026 Sunday Missal. Cost will be \$5.25 per Missal.

PRE-AUTHORIZED DEBIT PROGRAM – Thank you to the many parishioners who have financially supported St. Vincent's during the past year. An easy way to donate is through the Pre-Authorized Debit system. Enrollment cards are available at the entrance to the church or by contacting Lorraine at the Parish Office 506-536-1460 or stvince@nbnet.nb.ca.

✪ JOIN OUR PARISH CHOIR – ALL ARE WELCOME! ✪ – For info, please contact **Karen Olscamp**, kolscamp@live.com, or **506-536-3050**.

ROSARY – You are invited to join a group of faithful parishioners who gather to pray the Rosary in St. Vincent's chapel every Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

PARISH CALENDAR – Please consult the calendar at the entrance to the church for upcoming events.

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 to the church. In addition, please note that a **new thrift store** has opened at **18 Lorne Street** and is accepting donations of household items, clothing, etc. All proceeds are forwarded to the Sackville Food Bank.

FAITH FORMATION at St. Vincent's

The Rite of Enrollment was celebrated with the Confirmation candidates at Mass on November 30th, which starts a special journey to deepen their faith and relationship with Jesus! Let us pray for and with these youth, their sponsors, their parents, and their catechists.

The Faith Formation schedule is as follows (location is St. Vincent's Hall):

Dec 14 th , 2025, at 10am	Elementary group (grades 4+), continues after Christmas break
Jan 4 th , 2026, at 10am	Primary group sessions (gr. 1-3)

Sacramental preparations:

Confirmation gatherings (service to others: January to April and beyond)	January 11th, February 1st, February 22nd, March 15th, March 29th, April 5th (gatherings start at 6:30pm) Confirmation at Mass on April 12, 2026
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Questions? contact Cathy Crinnion at ccrinnion@yahoo.ca

St. Clement's

Please bring any **flowers or plants you wish to give in memory of loved ones** for Christmas, to the church prior to **Dec. 23rd**, including the person's name.

If mass is cancelled due to weather - it will be decided **by 9:00 am on Sun.** morning. Parishioners will be emailed AND a recording will be left on the church phone stating the cancellation.

MASS BEING HELD AT 4:00 CHRISTMAS EVE!



INVITATION: Let us fully embrace the final weeks of the Ordinary Jubilee 2025

Throughout this year, we have celebrated the 2025 Jubilee under the theme Pilgrims of Hope, responding to Pope Francis' calls to rekindle hope in our world. This Jubilee year has offered a unique opportunity to obtain the Jubilee Plenary Indulgence, a powerful expression of God's infinite mercy, inviting us to live forgiveness and grace in a deeply transformative way.

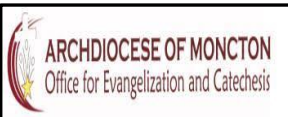
To allow the greatest number of faithful to obtain the Jubilee indulgence, it may be received during the Sunday Masses of the 4th Sunday of Advent, on December 20 and 21, in every parish of the diocese, by those who fulfill the required conditions: sacramental confession (on the same day or within two weeks before or after the Mass), reception of Holy Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Roman Pontiff and of the Church.

Finally, the Holy Year will conclude with a solemn bilingual diocesan celebration, gathering priests around the Archbishop, on December 28 at 2:00 p.m., at Our Lady of the Assumption Cathedral. Priests will be available starting at 1:15 p.m. for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This celebration will be the final opportunity to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence.

I personally invite you and warmly encourage you to join us for this special moment that unites us with the worldwide community. This Eucharistic celebration is an opportunity to give thanks to the Lord for all He has accomplished throughout this year of prayer and conversion. Truly, hope does not disappoint!

+ Guy Desrochers, C.M.

+Most Rev. Guy Desrochers, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Moncton



Office for Evangelization & Catechesis

Trevor Drosbeck - 857- 4879 or adultfaith@diocesemoncton.ca

Karen LeBlanc - 387- 4198 or youth@diocesemoncton.ca

ADVENT GOES TO THE MOVIES – All are invited to join us as we journey through Advent using faith themes from popular films. We will meet virtually on Zoom on **15th** (Joyeux Noel). **Zoom sessions** go from **10:00 am until 11:30 am**. Contact **Karen** at **506-387-4198** or youth@diocesemoncton.ca for more information.

There will be a **COMMUNITY MEMORIAL** for all the homeless who have died in the past year in the greater Moncton area. It will take place on **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH AT 3:30PM AT VICTORIA PARK**. Come join us as we recognize and remember those who are unmourned.

COFFEE FOR CAREGIVERS, is an opportunity for fellowship with others providing care for an adult spouse, family, or friend with needs. Please join us as we gather on the following dates: **January 8th and 22nd at Holy Family Church Hall at 2:00 pm.** Contact **Mike Jeffries 506-851-1271 or Karen at 506-387-4198.** Everyone is welcome.

Gospel Study Group: December 18th and 19th:

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@gasmoncton.com.

For Fourth Sunday of Advent click on the following links and read:

St. John Chrysostom - https://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf110.iii.v_1.html

Pope Francis - <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2022-12/pope-francis-angelus-4th-sunday-advent-saint-joseph.html>

Third Sunday of Advent

Praying for the mission with "The Star Flowers of Saint Thérèse": At Mass on **December 27 and 28**, a new prayer booklet will be distributed in our parishes. This is a diocesan initiative to pray for the missionary renewal of our Archdiocese. The **booklet invites us to pray especially for families, the sick, the poor, migrants, and those who are distant from the Church**, using the Word of God, litanies, and the mysteries of the Rosary. In this way, each member becomes a humble leaven of the Gospel for our diocese. **Your donations will be greatly appreciated and will be used to help with printing costs.**

St. Bernard's Marriage Apostolate — Marriage Enrichment Activities

This winter we're offering two opportunities for couples to reconnect and be renewed.

1) Love & Respect — 10-Week Zoom Video Study

Thursdays, 7:00 PM (AST) • Jan 8 – Mar 12, 2026, • Online

Facilitators: Joe & Deb D'Ettore

Based on Dr. Emerson Eggerichs' bestselling program, Love & Respect unpacks the biblical insight of Ephesians 5:33, that she most deeply desires love and he most deeply needs respect, and gives practical tools to improve communication, break the "crazy cycle," and build an "energizing cycle" of grace at home.

- Registration: **\$10/couple** (includes electronic workbook + Zoom invite)
- Miss a night? Sessions are recorded so you can catch up later.
- Register: Email atvnonno@gmail.com

2) Marriage Enrichment Retreat @ Villa Madonna (Rothsay, NB) "Love that Reflects Heaven:

Encountering God in Our Marriage"

Feb 13–15, 206 (Check-in Fri 5:30 PM; Check-out Sun after lunch)

Speakers include Joe & Deb D'Ettore, Fr. Carlos Jacinto, and guests.

Retreat highlights: inspiring talks, couple reflection & prayer, Mass, Confession, Spiritual Direction, Renewal of Marriage Vows, Valentine's celebration, and fellowship with other couples.

- Early Registration (by Dec 15): **\$200/couple**
- Standard (Dec 16 onward): **\$250/couple**
- Includes: Two nights' accommodation, all meals, and retreat materials
- Limited spots, register now: atvnonno@gmail.com

Thanks to our generous donors for helping keep costs low. Questions?

Email: atvnonno@gmail.com.

Come be refreshed, because your marriage matters!

Video series **« Journey through Advent » 2025**, which includes reflections on the readings for each Sunday of Advent. The videos are available on the CCCB website.

In English: <https://www.cccb.ca/announcement/journey-through-advent-video-series-to-introduce-and-reflect-on-the-season/>

Links to the videos will be sent out **every Monday** for the upcoming **Sunday celebration**.



A time to mourn...

sincere sympathies to all who mourn the loss of a loved one.

Oscar Jacinto, Gisele Landry, Emmett Leger, Normand Melanson, Bernard McCourt,
Gregory Murphy, Len & Perry Wickham, Edgardo Laurente
Yolanda Tristan, Emilio Famatid & Peter Leger



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

St. Bernard's

Marie Therese Desrochers	Rosemarie Villarias	Conrad Coughlan	Honesto Madrid
Peter Quach	Romualdo Mesias	Paul & Alma Melanson	

St. Clement's

McGraw Family	Sharon Wall	Lorraine Doiron	Ron Drisdelle
Erika Doiron	Margaret Schriver	Cullen Flood	Elaine Black

St. Vincent's

Alvin Bernard	Vince Wood	Leone Campbell	Kathy Mattatall
Art Chase		Barb DeWitt	Leonard Burke

And those who have died:

Mass times / Intentions:

St. Bernard's

Mon.	Dec 15	9:30 AM	Late Pat Lane	McDonald family
Tues.	Dec 16	9:30 AM	Late Peter Leger	Erin Leger
Wed.	Dec 17	9:30 AM	Deceased Family Members	Conrad Coughlan
Thurs.	Dec 18	9:30 AM	Late Barry Dickie	Bernie McCourt
Fri.	Dec 19	9:30 AM	Late Roger Berube	McInnis Family
Sat.	Dec 20	4:00 PM	Anniv. Late John Fortin	Family
Sun.	Dec 21	11:00 AM	For the People	

St. Clement's

Sun.	Dec 14	11:00 AM	For Peace in the World	Joanne Carroll
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St. Vincent's

Sun.	Dec 14	9:00 AM	Safety & well-being of all first responders	Family of the late Irene LeClair
Sun.	Dec 21	9:00 AM	Irene Bourque	George & Family

OFFERINGS

St. Bernard's Offerings: December 7, 2025 - Online portions to be reported later.

Envelopes	\$ 4543	Loose	\$ 967.40	Sunday Missal	\$ 115
Karing Kitchen	\$ 65	Moncton Archdiocese	\$ 5	Christmas Donation	\$ 250
Christmas Flowers	\$ 785	Candles	\$ 194	People in Need	\$ 75
Capital Expenditure	\$ 952	Thanksgiving	\$ 300	All Souls	\$ 20

St. Clement's offerings: December 7, 2025

Envelopes	\$ 265	Collection	\$ 20	Donation without receipt	\$ 200	Mass books	\$ 60
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St. Vincent's offerings: December 7, 2025

Envelopes	\$ 1,235	Loose	\$ 63.90	Maintenance	\$ 145	Offering Envelopes	\$ 10
Christmas Offering	\$ 25	Fuel	\$ 265	Diocese Special Collection	\$ 5		

Thank you for your generous and continued support!!!

Dear Padre,

Does the Bible say that Mary was in her sixth month of pregnancy at the Annunciation?

The announcement of Jesus' birth in Luke begins, "In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph...and the virgin's name was Mary" (Luke 1:26-27). This Scripture passage taken out of context could possibly give the impression that "in the sixth month" refers to Mary. However, it refers to Mary's cousin Elizabeth, who was in the sixth month of her pregnancy with John the Baptist. The proper context is a few verses before this one that reads, "Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months" (Luke 1:24).

Regarding Mary's pregnancy, at the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel tells her, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" (Luke 1:31, 35). Gabriel also informs Mary, "And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren" (Luke 1:36).

In general, women already in their sixth month of pregnancy would likely be aware of their condition, and it would not be easy to conceal from others. ●



Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 15	December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21
<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Mt 21:28-32	Gn 49:2, 8-10 Mt 1:1-17	Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-25	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Lk 1:5-25	Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38	Is 7:10-14 Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

There are many settings in which the Christian faith is considered absurd.... Yet, precisely for this reason, they are the places where our missionary outreach is desperately needed. A lack of faith is often tragically accompanied by the loss of meaning in life, the neglect of mercy, appalling violations of human dignity, the crisis of the family, and so many other wounds that afflict our society.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 9, 2025