



Embracing a Spirituality of Listening

ANN M. GARRIDO

The most treasured prayer of Jesus' people has long been and remains the Shema: "Hear O Israel, the Lord is God. The Lord is One." Jewish spirituality is grounded not in seeing or touching or tasting, but in hearing. No one exemplifies fidelity to this way of being in the world more than Joseph, as evidenced in today's gospel. Joseph is one who listens to what God's messenger says to him and immediately acts on it. He responds to the call to flee with Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Then, he responds to the call to return home with his family to Israel. As many have noted, Joseph never speaks in Scripture, but he certainly listens, and he certainly acts on what he hears.

Christmas is perhaps the noisiest season of the year. At gatherings of family and friends with festive music in the background, it often feels as if we are shouting over one another to be heard. It is a season when it can be hard to have deep conversations, even with God. Indeed, it can be such a busy season that sometimes our regular prayer practices fall by the wayside. But, if we do not make space in our daily lives to listen, might we miss messages that are important, even urgent, for us to hear, as in the case of today's gospel? Messages that require immediate response? What would it look like to carve out a bit of silence in this holiday season, to be like Joseph and regroup yourself in a spirituality of listening? ●



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
ANN M.
GARRIDO

Let the word of Christ dwell in you
richly, as in all wisdom you teach
and admonish one another, singing
psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
with gratitude in your hearts to God.

COLOSSIANS 3:16

Reflect

*Do I allow myself enough
silence, or am I tempted to fill
the silence with noise?*

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. 24-28, 31, 2025 and Jan. 1, 2026.

Re-opens Friday, Jan. 2. 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

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED: Dec. 25, 2025, through Jan. 1, 2026, inclusive

Re-opens Friday, Jan. 2. Phone messages will be checked on a regular basis.



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/gsmmoncton

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
#8	January 04, 2026	January 06, 2026	January 07, 2026
#9	January 18, 2026	January 20, 2026	January 21, 2026
#10	February 01, 2026	February 03, 2026	February 04, 2026

St. Bernard's Faith Formation Schedule

Confirmation Preparation Schedule

Session	Sunday: 2 PM - 3:15 PM
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
January 18, 2026	Hall/Church
February 08, 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.



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

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

St. Vincent's

ST. VINCENT'S OFFICE HOURS – Please be advised that St. Vincent's Parish Office will be closed from **December 25, 2025, to Thursday, January 1, 2026, inclusive**. Reopening on Friday, **January 2, 2026**. In case of an emergency, please leave a message on the office phone 506-536-1460. Voice mail messages will be checked periodically during the office closure. As well, email messages will be checked on a regular basis. May you enjoy a safe and happy Christmas with family and friends!

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):

Jan 4th, 2026, at 10am	Primary group session (gr. 1-3)
Jan 11th, 2026, at 10am	Primary group sessions (gr. 1-3)

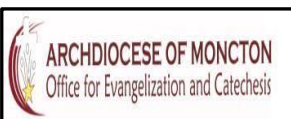
Sacramental preparations:

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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For questions and inquiries, please contact Cathy Crinnion at ccrinnion@yahoo.ca

St. Clement's

Thank you to all the bakers and ladies who helped organize the sweet plate fundraiser. 120 plates were prepared and we raised **\$2185**. Special thanks go to Jan Legere who organized the fundraiser.



Office for Evangelization & Catechesis
Trevor Droesbeck - 857- 4879 or adultfaith@diocesemoncton.ca
Karen LeBlanc – 387- 4198 or youth@diocesemoncton.ca

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.

Senior's Connect. Welcome to Senior's Connect. Our next gathering will take place on **January 15th at 10:30am, at Holy Family Parish Hall at 52 Falkland Street Moncton**. This month we will learn about Funeral planning both at funeral homes and in churches. Questions? Contact Karen LeBlanc at 387-4198 or email youth@diocesemoncton.ca.

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, 2026 (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!



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

Oscar Jacinto, Gregory Murphy, Len & Perry Wickham,
Yolanda Tristan, Emilio Famatid, Peter Leger & Paul LeBlanc



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

St. Bernard's

Peter Quach	Conrad Coughlan	Paul & Alma Melanson	Rosemarie Villarias	Romualdo Mesias
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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 29	9:30 AM	Anniv. Late Norma Chamberland	Family
Tues.	Dec 30	9:30 AM	Late Edith Murphy	Roberta Brine

Wed.	Dec 31	4:00 PM	Late Roger Thibodeah	Clarence and Maria Richard
Thurs.	Jan 01	11:00 AM	Late Ronald LeBlanc	Phyllis Christie
Fri.	Jan 02	9:30 AM	Anniv. Late Shirley Clement	Susan Clement
Sat.	Jan 03	4:00 PM	Patrick Lawlor	Linda and Jason
Sun.	Jan 04	11:00 AM	Anniv. Late George O'Dell	Richard and Donna Shaw
St. Clement's				
Sun.	Dec 28	11:00 AM	Special Intentions	Joanne Carroll
St. Vincent's				
Sun.	Dec 28	9:00 AM	For the People	
Thu.	Jan 1	9:00 AM	Vince Reinsborough	Conrad Coughlan
Sun.	Jan 4	9:00 AM	Late Irene LeClair	Florence Gaudet

OFFERINGS	
St. Bernard's Offerings: December 21, 2025, to be reported later.	
St. Clement's offerings: December 21, 2025, to be reported later.	
St. Vincent's offerings: December 21, 2025, to be reported later.	
<i>Thank you for your generous and continued support!!!</i>	



<i>In Memory</i>	<i>Donated By</i>
<i>Ralph, Florence and Peter Fahey</i>	<i>Family</i>
<i>Frank-Rose & Jeanette Arsenault, Harmon & Gladys, Bob Fogarty</i>	<i>Bill & Bernice Fogarty</i>
<i>Louise & Florence McKinley, Ann Breault, Ben & Olezine Arsenault</i>	<i>Robert & Helen McKinley</i>
<i>Jim Beek</i>	<i>Marie Beek</i>
<i>Minnie Burnett, George & Verna Perry</i>	<i>Ross & Sharon Burnett</i>
<i>Deceased members of the Hanson Family</i>	<i>Sherry Hanson</i>
<i>Charles (Chuck) Kinney, Carrol Family: Alice, James, Walter, Mabel & Kathleen</i>	<i>Jessie & Peter Kinney</i>
<i>Toma Mae Clark and Arsenault Family members</i>	<i>Linda & Moe Arsenault</i>

<i>Late Maureen Coyle</i>	<i>Madge Lund & Family</i>
<i>Kay & Louis Boudreau, Sam & Erma Ermen, Jeff Ermen</i>	<i>Sam & Donna Ermen</i>
<i>Deceased members of the Carter & Flanagan Families</i>	<i>Roy & Dee Dee Carter</i>
<i>Ruby & James Furlong</i>	<i>Phyllis Allain</i>
<i>The Stephen Family: Peter, Lanne, Gail</i>	<i>Dianne Stephen</i>
<i>Sid Wright</i>	<i>Mellie Wright</i>
<i>Janice Cormier</i>	<i>Norma Cormier</i>
<i>Cornelia de Winter, Terry & Gerry Gulliver</i>	<i>Peter & Monique Gulliver</i>
<i>Sebastian Michaud</i>	<i>Jeannine Michaud</i>
<i>Late Heather Beleski</i>	<i>Roger Bastarache</i>
<i>John Hay and his wife Emily & Family</i>	<i>Brenda Hay</i>
<i>Mom & Dad: Edna & Charles LeBlanc, Dorothy & Joseph Goosney</i>	<i>Paul & Vivian LeBlanc and Family</i>
<i>George & Zella O' Dell</i>	<i>Richard & Donna Shaw</i>
<i>Laura & Arthur Eveleigh, Mary & Nelson Green Sr., Donna Green</i>	<i>Mary & Nelson Green</i>
<i>Deceased Family Members</i>	<i>Jim & Dorine White</i>
<i>Gillis & Trites Family Members</i>	<i>Patricia Trites</i>
<i>Eleanor Beck</i>	<i>David & Lise Watts</i>
<i>Pasquine Lobo, Eliza Dsouza</i>	<i>Dsouza Family</i>
<i>James & Mary Fahey, Ernest & Margaret Fahey, Harry & Greta Fahey</i>	<i>James & Sharon Fahey</i>
<i>Lester Rossiter</i>	<i>Melda & Family</i>
<i>Thomas & Elizabeth Clements & Family</i>	<i>Doug & Noreen Martin</i>
<i>Roy C. Hopper</i>	<i>Juanita Hopper</i>
<i>The Deceased Members of the O'Brein & Scott Families</i>	<i>Michael & Joanne Scott</i>
<i>The Pitre, Keenan & Loubert Families</i>	<i>Edward & Sherran Pitre</i>
<i>Donald Wood</i>	<i>Jeanne Wood</i>
<i>Roger Berube</i>	<i>Esther, Noreen & Lynn</i>

Dear Padre,

I went to confession, and then, months later, my priest was removed for alcoholism and theft. Is my confession still worthy?

Your confession is not dependent on the worthiness or the unworthiness of the priest. Your confession is made to Jesus; the priest is a witness who pronounces the words of absolution that Jesus intended in the sacrament.

“From the moment that a sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the intention of the Church, the power of Christ and his Spirit acts in and through it, independently of the personal holiness of the minister” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1128).

The question of the efficacy of the sacrament and the unworthiness of the minister who performs the sacrament in the name of the Church is not new. During the time of persecution, in the early centuries of the Church, some people, including priests and bishops, avoided martyrdom by offering the required oblation to Caesar. Later, they repented and returned to the Christian community, a community that included the surviving family and friends of the men and women who were martyred. The question was asked, and with some animated energy, “How could these ministers who sinned to save their own lives now represent the Church?” The answer, arrived at with patience and discernment, is that the minister is only the representative of the sacrament, not the source of the sacrament. Jesus is faithful, even when his ministers have been unfaithful. ●



GERMINI

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

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



I think it is important for all of us to learn how to listen more, to enter into dialogue.

First and foremost, with the Lord: always listen to the word of God. Then also listen

to others, to know how to build bridges, to know how to listen without judging, not closing the doors [and] thinking that we have all the truth and no one else can tell us anything.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 11, 2025

Monday

December 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24–28
Lk 1:46–56

Tuesday

December 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24
Lk 1:57–66

Wednesday

December 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67–79

Thursday

December 25
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Is 52:7–10
Heb 1:1–6
Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14

Friday

December 26
St. Stephen, the First Martyr
Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59
Mt 10:17–22

Saturday

December 27
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1–4
Jn 20:1a, 2–8

Sunday

December 28
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17
Mt 2:13–15, 19–23

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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