



"We saw his star at its rising and
have come to do him homage."

MATTHEW 2:2

Following Jesus Without a Star to Guide Us

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

"We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage" (Matthew 2:2) describes the spark that sent the Magi on their journey. Something unusual in the sky, interpreted as a sign of something wonderful—in response, they changed direction in their lives and devoted themselves to a completely different path. As wonderful as it might well be, a special star in the heavens is not the ordinary experience of how we learn to follow the Lord or discern his will. If only there could be a sign in God's universe for each of us, beckoning us forward, clarifying what we need to do, setting down the path that needs to be followed. Perhaps life would be much simpler. Or perhaps not?

Would it truly be less complicated if everything were made clear and certain? Is the manifestation of God's grace and blessings confined to the straight and narrow, or can we also experience God in the chaos—"in the weeds," so to speak. Human experience seems to suggest that life is more "gray" than "black and white." There is real grace in the journey, in making mistakes, even in choosing something that is incomplete. Thankfully, God's grace does not need perfection to be powerful. We can know and follow God's will for us in the ordinary moments of day-to-day living. We do not need the extraordinary or the dramatic. ●

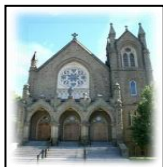


LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

How can I resolve to look for God in the unplanned, the unexpected, the interruptions?

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



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/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

The Christmas Season will come to an end with the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord Sunday, January 11, 2025. **A word of appreciation and sincere thanks** to all those who prepared the church, served in their various ministries throughout the season, and who have given so generously with their time, talent and treasure. There is so much generosity here at St. Bernard's and each and every act will be blessed and rewarded by the Lord. Thank you to all those who have remembered us, through the many cards, good wishes, prayers, treats, gifts. Heartfelt thanks! God Bless.

Father Damian, Father Carlos & St. Bernard's staff

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

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

St. Vincent's

2026 DONATION ENVELOPES – Please remember to pick up your boxed collection envelopes for 2026. They are located on a table on the right-hand side as you enter the church. If you do not already have boxed envelopes, please speak to Lorraine and a numbered box will be assigned to you.

2025-2026 SUNDAY MISSAL – Unfortunately there are no more 2025-2026 Missals being printed.

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.

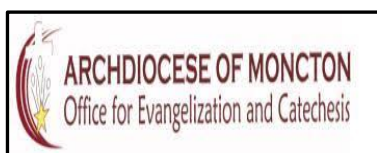
SACKVILLE FOOD BANK - Thank you to all who have donated to the Sackville Food Bank in the past year. We continue to collect non-perishable food and/or toiletry items for our local Food Bank. The donation basket is located on the right-hand side of the entrance to the church. In addition, if you have household items that you wish to donate, please consider giving them to the Second Chances Thrift Store located at 18 Lorne Street. All proceeds are forwarded to the Sackville Food Bank.

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
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, 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.*

Alma Melanson



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

St. Bernard's

Peter Quach	Conrad Coughlan	Paul 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: including Ronald Fahey

Mass times / Intentions:

St. Bernard's

Mon.	Jan 05	9:30 AM	For the People	
Tues.	Jan 06	9:30 AM	Anniv. Late Edgar MacKay	Alison Smith
Wed.	Jan 07	9:30 AM	Late Gregory Murphy	Aurella Comeau
Thurs.	Jan 08	9:30 AM	Late Irma Melanson	Mathieu, Lauvie & Manon
Fri.	Jan 09	9:30 AM	Blain Guimond	Mary & family
Sat.	Jan 10	4:00 PM	Late Joanne Bourque	K of C 1310
Sun.	Jan 11	11:00 AM	For the People	

St. Vincent's

Sun.	Jan 4	9:00 AM	Late Irene LeClair	Florence Gaudet
Sun	Jan 11	9:00 AM	Late Marie Gaudet	Catherine Shea

OFFERINGS

St. Bernard's Offerings: December 20 & 21 and 27 & 28, 2025 - Online portions to be reported later.

Reg Envelopes	\$8003	Karing Kitchen	\$45	Loose	\$1497.60		
Christmas Flowers	\$ 240	Archdiocese	257	For the Poor	\$30		
Good Friday	\$20	Bldg/Cap	\$690	Simbang Gabi	\$8617		
St. Bernard's Christmas Collection December 24-25, 2025							
Reg Envelopes	\$8357	Loose	\$3931				
St. Clement's offerings: December 24 & 25, 2025 and January 1, 2026 will be reported in January 11 bulletin.							
St. Vincent's offerings: December 21, 2025 December 24 & 25, 2025 and January 1, 2026 will be reported in January 11 bulletin.							
Reg Envs	\$1805.15	Loose	\$46.75	Maintenance	\$40	Christmas	\$255
Fuel	\$40	Christmas Flowers	\$90	Missal	\$5.25		
Thank you for your generous and continued support!!!							



<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Donated By</i>
<i>John, Susan & Chris Fortin</i>	<i>Chris, Heather & Katie Ferguson</i>
<i>Robert & Margaret Ferguson</i>	<i>Chris, Heather & Katie Ferguson</i>
<i>Celia & Hampford Hachey</i>	<i>Claire Hachey</i>
<i>The Legacy, Roberts, Gallagher & Cowan families</i>	<i>Christine Legacy</i>



Knights of Columbus Council 1310 Monthly Breakfast – 84 Broadway Street, Moncton
January 4th from 8:30AM - 12:30PM. \$12 for adults, \$5 for children. Menu includes bacon, ham, sausage, eggs, pan fries, baked beans, pancakes, toast, tea, coffee and juice.
All are welcome!



The Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit is on Facebook!
Like and follow our Facebook Page for updates and faith-sharing. There are three ways to locate our Facebook Page:
 In the Facebook search bar, type Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit of the Archdiocese of Moncton; or in your Google or Safari search bar, type facebook.com/gsmmoncton; or simply scan this QR Code.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

May 13 - 24, 2026

\$ 2795 only

Accompanying priests:

Fr. Carlos Jacinto and Fr. Jean-Guy Dallaire

Included in cost:

- *Return airfare from Moncton
- *Transfers by coach - Sarajevo -Medjugorje - Sarajevo
- *Accommodation based on double or triple occupancy with private facilities
- *Daily breakfast and dinner
- *Experienced professional local guide

Not included:

- *Taxes/security charges/fuel surcharges \$985.00
- *Optional Single room supplementary \$250.00

A deposit of \$700.00 guarantees you a spot.

Balance due March 16, 2026

Payment by e-transfer, bank transfer, or cheque - Rebate of \$250.00

EARLY BOOKING SPECIAL!

Book and pay in full now and avail a rebate of \$450.00.

For more information:

Hector Caissie

Tour Coordinator

506 857 2295

Demfer Travels Inc.

3085 Hurontario St. Suite 206

Mississauga ON L5A 4G2

Tel: 905 279 8000

Toll Free: 1-888-463-3637

email: remyp@sympatico.ca



Photo taken by Fr. Carlos Jacinto
May 19, 2025

Dear Padre,

I recently lost my husband of sixty years. I prayed for him through his four-year illness. Since he has died, I cannot pray. Any advice for me?

My heartfelt condolences on your profound loss. When someone we love dies, a part of us dies too. Sometimes, the trauma is so severe that it can even affect our relationship with God.

Psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross identified five stages of grief. In the denial stage, some people can't accept the reality of the death. It becomes too much to handle. In the anger stage, some may question their belief in God—especially if their prayer requests (such as, “Please God, if you heal my loved one, I will...”) weren't successful in the bargaining stage. People in the depression stage feel overwhelmed by the reality of the loss and may not always feel like connecting with others—even with God in prayer. However, in the acceptance stage, emotions stabilize, and a person comes to terms with their new reality. Nothing makes up for the absence of a loved one, but people manage to cope and live on.

It's because you loved so deeply that the loss feels so deep. God accepts you completely; God understands how you feel. He wants you to be at peace and live life fully. Our compassionate God yearns to help console you and offer assistance in your healing process until you can embrace him again in prayer. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



YANDRY FERNANDEZ PERDOMO / CATHOPIC

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Let us resolve to bring [God's] love everywhere, never forgetting that each of our sisters and brothers is a dwelling place of God and that his presence is manifested above all in the little ones, in the poor and the suffering, who ask us to be thoughtful and compassionate Christians.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 25, 2025



YANDRY FERNANDEZ PERDOMO / CATHOPIC

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

January 5
St. John Neumann,
Bishop
1 Jn 3:22–4:6
Mt 4:12–17, 23–25

Tuesday

January 6
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:7–10
Mk 6:34–44

Wednesday

January 7
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:11–18
Mk 6:45–52

Thursday

January 8
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:19–5:4
Lk 4:14–22a

Friday

January 9
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:5–13
Lk 5:12–16

Saturday

January 10
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:14–21
Jn 3:22–30

Sunday

January 11
The Baptism
of the Lord
Is 42:1–4, 6–7
Acts 10:34–38
Mt 3:13–17