



Making Room for God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

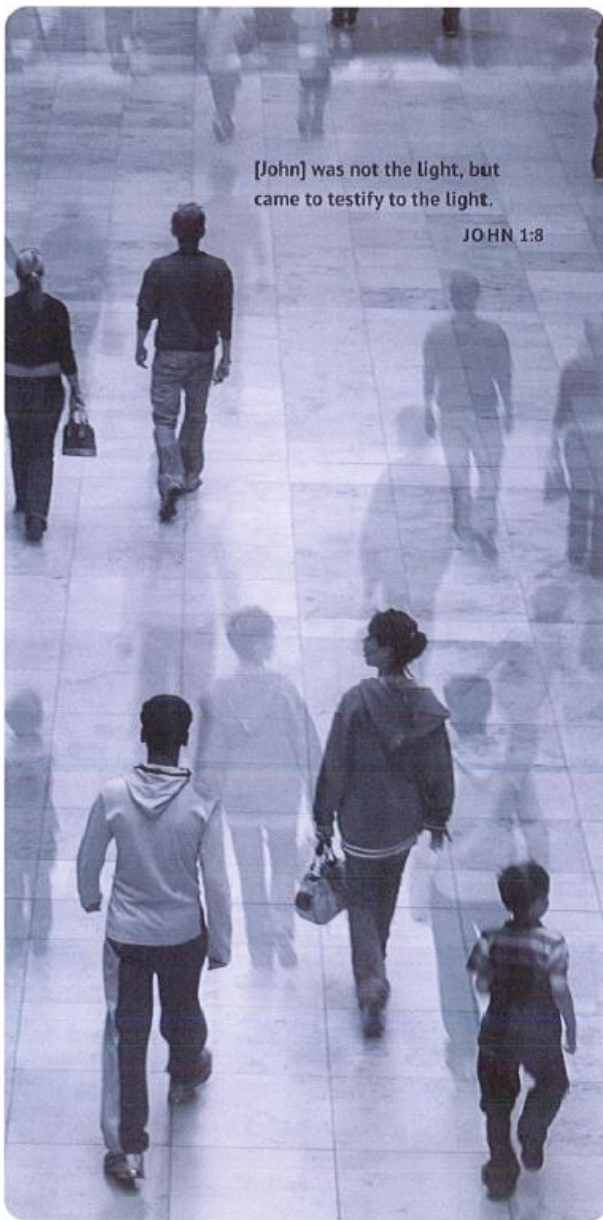
The story of John the Baptist is the story of taking a back seat to Jesus, of fading into the background so that Jesus might be the light. Fading out of the picture is something we may find ourselves doing more than once in our lives. Sometimes it's also a choice we have to make, even when it's painful.

Actor Nick Nolte talked about what it was like for him when he turned seventy; how his body would hurt and how painful it was to get out of bed some mornings. He told of how he cried when a longtime friend passed away and of the sadness death brings. But the worst part, he said, is coming to the realization that your children have grown up, are on their own, and don't need you the way they once did. His son has a family, and for him the family comes first, as it should be. That's the painful part, Nolte says, the letting go of your children because they are no longer yours; in reality, they never were.

From the perspective of faith, why do we need to fade into the background? To leave room for the hand of God in life, that's why. So that God can do what God does best, and so that we don't get in the way of it all. That is a task not only at the end of life but for all of life. ●

Reflect

When has it been difficult for you to fade into the background?



[John] was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

JOHN 1:8

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: Monday to Friday: 9:00 AM to 12 noon & 1-4 PM

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

Mass times / Intentions:

St. Bernard's

Mon.	Dec. 18	9:30 AM	Anniv. Late Ron Struble	Claire, Sherrie and Family
Thur.	Dec. 21	9:30 AM	Late Maria Carvalho	Tony and Brigitte Ouellete
Fri.	Dec. 22	9:30 AM	Late Richard and Melvina Christie	Phyllis Christie
Sat.	Dec. 23	4:00 PM	Anniv. Late Jean-Claude Fortin	Family
Sun	Dec. 24	11:00 AM	For the People	
Sun	Dec. 24	5:00 PM	Anniv. Late Bob Lennox	Jane and Family
Sun	Dec. 24	8:00 PM	Late John Olscamp	Claire Hachey
Sun	Dec. 24	10:00 PM	Late Grant Stevenson	Darlene McGraw

St. Clement's

Sat.	Dec. 23	7:00 PM	Prayers for all in need	Joanne Carroll
------	---------	---------	-------------------------	----------------

St. Vincent's

Sun.	Dec. 24	9:00 AM	For the People	
------	---------	---------	----------------	--



St. Bernard's Sacrament of Reconciliation regular schedule

Prior to weekday masses: Monday, Thursday. & Friday: 8:30 – 9:20AM

First Friday of the month: 8:00 – 9:00 AM

Saturdays: 1:00 PM

OFFERINGS

St. Bernard's – December 9 & 10, 2023

Envelopes	\$5,526.35	Loose	\$843.80	People in need	\$110.00
All Soul's	\$15.00	Karing Kitchen	\$19.55	Christmas Flowers	\$600.00
Food Bank	\$20.00	Christmas Offer	\$70.00	Capital Expenditures	\$560.00
Donation	\$40.00			Evangelization of the People	\$25.00

St. Clement's – December 9, 2023

Envelopes	\$240.00	Donations with Receipt	\$14.00
-----------	----------	------------------------	---------

St. Vincent's – December 10, 2023

Envelopes	\$1,113	Loose	\$35.00
Maintenance	\$30.00	Fuel	\$145.00
Christmas	\$25.00	Christmas Flowers	\$100.00

Thank you for your generous and continued support!!!

In Sympathy

*A time to mourn...
sincere sympathies to the families of:*

St. Bernard's

Kevin Wadup	Husband of late Brenda, Father of Chrystal, John & Sarah
Therese Wilson	Daughter of Huberte & late Rodrigue Richard, Mother of Lisa & Mathieu

And 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

Norm Gallant	Al Gallant	Judy Chiasson	Roger Berube
Patricia Devine	Margaret Manderville	Cecil Rigby	Nicolas Morales Smith
Gordie Gallie	Michel Saulnier	Corry Evers	Ray Leger
Harold O'Blenis	Paul Doiron		

St. Clement's

Vina McGraw	Gerard McGraw	Ophelia McGraw	Shadra McGraw
Arabella McGraw	Carol Murphy	Ken Murphy	Hudson Sweeney
Baby Owen	Corine Allen		

St. Vincent's

Lowell Brine	Vince Wood	Art Chase	Leone Campbell
Tim Nye			

And all who care for them...

The Good Shepherd Pastoral Ministry Team

Priest Administrator	Fr. Charles Broderick	charlesbroderick1@gmail.com
Assistant Priest	Fr. Carlos Jacinto	sbhf@rogers.com
Liturgy	Darlene McGraw	darlenemcgraw@rogers.com
Catechetics	Lorella Dunnett	Lorella_st.bernards@hotmail.com
Receptionist / bookkeeper	Geneva Rivera	sbhf@rogers.com
Social Justice	Claudia McCloskey	
Adult Faith	Andrew Wilson	
St. Bernard's Parish Staff		
Pastoral Associate/ liturgy	Darlene McGraw	darlenemcgraw@rogers.com
Receptionist / bookkeeper	Geneva Rivera	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	



The Filipino Community of the Archdiocese of Moncton invites everyone to join in our first ever ***Simbang Gabi*** in Moncton. ***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. In Moncton, I will preside at **Simbang Gabi Masses at St. Bernard's Church from December 15th to the 23rd at 7:00 PM**. All Masses are in English. The Filipino choir will lead the hymns. We will keep the parish's regular daily and weekend Mass schedule, and we are only adding the nine evening Masses. We will be honoured if you join us in these celebrations. May this season of anticipation and reflection fill your days with peace, joy, and the warmth of love.

– Fr. Carlos Jacinto, ***Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit***



"Scams and frauds skyrocket this time of the year. It's crucial to remain vigilant and protect us against potential fraud. Unfortunately, this festive time can attract the attention of scammers seeking to take advantage of our goodwill and increased online activity. **We would like to remind everyone that if you receive suspicious emails or text messages claiming to be Fr. Charlie, Fr. Carlos, or any of our parish staff, please be cautious and bring this our attention. Call our parish offices to verify any suspicious email. We wish you a joyful and secure Advent Season!**"

St. Bernard's

Mark Your Calendar

RCIA	Sat, Jan. 6 and 20: 10 AM
Baptisms Preparation	Sun, Jan. 21: 1:30 PM
Next Baptisms	Sun, Jan. 28: 1:30 PM
Carmelites	2 nd Sat of the month: 9:30 AM



Faith Formation Schedule

Tuesday Year 1-2-3 @ 6PM: Dec. 12

Wednesday Year 4-5-6 @ 6PM: Dec. 13



We are nearing the end of 2023!

It is a great time to make up for any Sunday offerings that you may have missed over the year. Together as a parish community we can meet St. Bernard's financial commitments for the year. Donations can be made by cash, cheque, and preauthorized payments. **All donations for 2023 must be received prior to December 31st to be included in 2023 taxation receipts. Thank you for your continued generosity!!**



Advent Evening Prayer (Liturgy of the Hours)

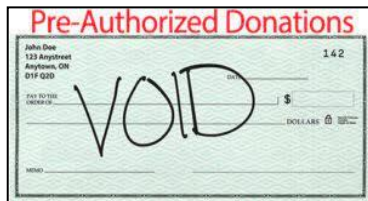
Christians are called in baptism to be people of prayer, to pray always, praising God and pleading for the world. **We are encouraged to be more cognizant of prayer during the Advent season. Why not try gathering with the faith community for Evening Prayer?** It only takes up a half hour of your time. We follow the format for Evening Prayer that is offered in our Catholic Book of Worship. **All parishioners of our parish unit are invited and encouraged to gather for the Evening Prayer (Liturgy of the Hours) on Thursday evening at St. Bernard's Church. December 21 @ 6:00 PM**



St. Bernard Music Ministry is joyfully accepting new voices to join in singing at 11AM Sunday Mass and 8pm Christmas Eve Mass. If you like to sing, please consider joining us! We need you! Please call Claire Hachey at 506-2277827



Gift Basket Raffle Winner – Congratulations to Hazel Robichaud Thanks to those who donated items for the basket, helped with selling tickets and all who purchased tickets \$1,719.00 was raised for the Capital Campaign.



PADS – If you would like to continue to donate to Capital Expenditure, you may also do this through the Pre-Authorized Debit system. Kindly contact **Geneva Rivera at 857-0425** or send an email to **sbhf@rogers.com** to register for St. Bernard's PADS. * Some have previously indicated and pledged to donate to the church either weekly, 1st or 15th of the month; we will contact you to confirm if your intention and debit schedule is still the same.



IN THE EVENT OF A STORM OR INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS WILL BE NOTED ON: ST. BERNARD'S WEBSITE: www.stbernardschurch.ca OR BY CALLING OUR PHONE LINE @ 857-0425

St. Vincent's

PRAYER CONDOLENCES– are offered to Art Chase and his family on the death of his wife Mary, who passed away at the Drew Nursing Home on Tuesday, December 12, 2023. May she rest in the arms of our loving God.

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS– If you wish to donate Christmas flowers in memory of loved ones, please place your donation in a plain envelope with relevant information, including your envelope number, in the collection basket. Names will be posted in the bulletin at Christmas.

CHALICE– John Blakely has recently reported that in the fall \$750 was forwarded to Chalice. This past week, an additional \$700 was forwarded, supporting the work of Chalice in Kenya. Many thanks to those who continue to give so very generously to this cause! The collection box is located on the left as you enter the church.

JOY TO THE WORLD! AND AWAY IN THE MANGER– Rehearsals for the bell choir (Joy to the World) and singing Away in the Manger continue. For further information, please call or email Karen Olscamp: 506-536-3050 or kolscamp@live.com.

FAITH FORMATION – In-person catechism sessions take place on Sunday mornings following Mass. For any participant or volunteer inquiries for the program, now until mid-May, please contact Cathy Crinnion at ccrinnion@yahoo.ca or 536-4470. Adults of the parish, no previous experience is necessary for you to share your time with our Faith Formation families, as a helper or as a catechist!

The Elementary group (grades 4 and up) will meet for their final Faith Formation session before the Christmas break on December 17th at 10am in St. Vincent's Hall. We wish everyone a peaceful and joyful Christmas season, filled with hope and love!

Sacramental preparation for First Eucharist and for First Reconciliation will take place in the winter and spring, and plans will be made in the new year with the families who are involved.

*Remembering our Deceased Family & Friends
with Christmas Flowers*



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** 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 mailed to the parish office. 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)

Dear Padre,

Was Jesus born in a stable or a cave? The Christmas scene in our church has Jesus born in a little shed, but in my friend's church it looks more like a cave. The Bible says Jesus was born in a manger, so just where was Jesus born?

The Christmas scenes, sometimes called Nativity scenes or crèches, vary from church to church. In Scripture, we find more details about the Nativity in Luke's Gospel, but even he simply says that Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because the inn was full (Luke 2:7).

In none of the Scriptures do we have any details about what the place looked like, but since a manger is a place where caregivers feed livestock, we can assume that Jesus was born in a stable of some kind. At that time, small caves sometimes were used as stables.

Nativity scenes, though, are not an attempt to present a historically accurate picture of where Jesus was born. Rather, scenes of the birth of Jesus remind us of the special love that God shows for us in sending the Son to us. We do not care so much about creating an exact picture of what took place as we do of beholding the beauty and wonder of God born among us. ●



THE OFFICE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, ATTRIBUTED TO JACOBUS COEN

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



DETAIL OF THE BISHOPRY ALIANCE BY MATTHIAS GRUBER/ARND BRONKHORST/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The Baptist is a model for those in the Church who are called to proclaim Christ to others: they are able to do so only by detaching from themselves and from worldliness, by not attracting people to themselves but directing them toward Jesus. This is joy: directing toward Jesus. And joy must be the characteristic of our faith.

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 13, 2020

MONDAY

December 18
Advent Weekday
Jer 23:5-8
Mt 1:18-25

TUESDAY

December 19
Advent Weekday
Jgs 13:2-7,
24-25a
Lk 1:5-25

WEDNESDAY

December 20
Advent Weekday
Is 7:10-14
Lk 1:26-38

THURSDAY

December 21
Advent Weekday
Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a
Lk 1:39-45

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

December 24
Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 Sm 7:1-5,
8b-12, 14a, 16
Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38

Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective

Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.