

[Elizabeth said to Mary,] "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

LUKE 1:45

## Feeling Our Way

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**M**ost of the time we find ourselves backing our way into the will of God, or maybe even feeling our way into it. There are times when the will of God is quite clear: Should I lie or tell the truth? Should I steal or not? Most often, however, the will of God is not so clear. Too often it becomes a question of how to negotiate an aspect of life that's been handed to us, often a reality we cannot escape. It may be an unwanted divorce, or a son or daughter in a questionable relationship, or an illness that dismantles one's life plans. On the one hand, it is not as if God hands out scripts that we are expected to live by. On the other hand, God is part of all that unfolds. Somewhere in the midst of that is the will of God, which is another way of saying somehow you and I need to negotiate what we never chose, but is now served up by life. Or is it served up by God? Or by our own doing? Or all of that? That's what I mean when I say we feel our way into the will of God.

It is what Jesus sorted out in the desert when he was tempted, "I come to do your will, O God." It is Elizabeth's story of an unexpected pregnancy in her old age. It is Mary saying "Yes" to an uncharted path. Living God's will seems mostly to be a sorting process. ●

### Reflect

*Have you responded with a whole-hearted "Yes" to God's will for you?*

*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](mailto:sbhf@rogers.com)

Office hours for next week:

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED: Dec. 23 to 27. Re-opens Monday, Dec. 30**

Phone messages will be checked for emergencies.

Website: [www.stbernardschurch.ca](http://www.stbernardschurch.ca)



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

Phone: (506) 536-1460 Email: [stvince@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto: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](mailto:stclement.stbartholomew@gmail.com)

Office hours: call office to verify

**The Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit**

**St. Bernard's PMT**

<b>Priest Administrator</b>	Fr. Damian Nwachukwu	<a href="mailto:sbhf@rogers.com">sbhf@rogers.com</a>
<b>Assistant Priest</b>	Fr. Carlos Jacinto	<a href="mailto:sbhf@rogers.com">sbhf@rogers.com</a>
<b>Liturgy</b>	Darlene McGraw	<a href="mailto:darlenemcgraw@rogers.com">darlenemcgraw@rogers.com</a>
<b>Catechetics</b>	Lorella Dunnett	<a href="mailto:Lorella_st.bernards@hotmail.com">Lorella_st.bernards@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Social Justice</b>	Claudia McCloskey	
<b>Adult Faith</b>	Andrew Wilson	

**St. Bernard's Parish Staff**

<b>Pastoral Associate/ liturgy</b>	Darlene McGraw	<a href="mailto:darlenemcgraw@rogers.com">darlenemcgraw@rogers.com</a>
<b>Receptionist / Bookkeeper</b>	Giredine Aguidi	<a href="mailto:sbhf@rogers.com">sbhf@rogers.com</a>
<b>Catechetical Coordinator</b>	Lorella Dunnett	<a href="mailto:Lorella_st.bernards@hotmail.com">Lorella_st.bernards@hotmail.com</a>

**St. Vincent's Parish Staff**

<b>Parish Secretary</b>	Lorraine Horyl	
<b>Catechetical Coordinator</b>	Cathy Crinnion	

**St. Clement's Parish Staff**

<b>Parish Secretary</b>	Pam Van Egmond	
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Mass times / Intentions:				
St. Bernard's				
Mon.	Dec. 23	9:30 AM	Late Elise & Henry Caissie	Hector & Cecile Caissie
Tues.	Dec. 24	5:00 PM	Late Irene MacInnis	Linda Lawlor
Tues.	Dec. 24	8:00 PM	Special intention for Fr Carroll	A Parishioner
Tues.	Dec. 24	10:00 PM	Late Pat Cormier	St. Bernard's CWL
Wed.	Dec. 25	11:00 AM	For the People	
Thurs.	Dec. 26	9:30 AM	Late Barb Noonan	Brendan & Denise
Fri.	Dec. 27	9:30 AM	Anniv. Late Jean Heather Beleski	Roger Bastarache
Sat.	Dec. 28	4:00 PM	For the People	
Sun.	Dec. 29	11:00 AM	Anniv. Late Wayne Currier	Grant & Madelaine Currier
St. Clement's				
Tues.	Dec. 24	4:00 PM	Peace to the World	Joanne Carroll
Sat.	Dec. 28	4:00 PM	Special intentions	Danielle Grant
St. Vincent's				
Tues.	Dec. 24	6:00 PM	Mary Jane Richard	Her daughter Marie Wood
Sun.	Dec. 29	9:00 AM	In Thanksgiving	Ashley



**We are nearing the end of 2024!**

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 2024 must be received prior to December 31st to be included in 2024 taxation receipts.** Thank you for your continued generosity!!

**OFFERINGS**

**St. Bernard's Offerings + PADS & online – December 14 & 15, 2024**

Envelopes	\$9291.82	Loose	\$784.75	Capital Expenditure	\$1418.33	
People in Need	\$105	Karing Kitchen	\$2377	Spec. Coll. Y	\$170	Christmas boxes \$703
Diocesan Collection	\$25	Christmas flowers	\$690	Evangelization of people	\$40	
Christmas	\$510	Syrian relief	\$10	Indigenous	\$350	

**St. Clement's Offerings – December 14, 2024**

Envelopes	\$165	Collection	\$20	Donations w/receipt	\$100	Christmas offering	\$205
Sweet Plate Fundraiser	\$1440						

**St. Vincent's Offerings will be reported in Dec.29 Bulletin.**

**Thank you for your generous and continued support!!!**



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

**Constance "Connie" Willden**, wife of (late) Gordon; mother of Kevin, Janice & Nancy, step-mother of Diana, John, Eric, & Dorothy.

*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**

Patricia Devine	Fr. Allison Carroll	Glen & Doreen McCluskey	Sofio & Maria Floreta Conson
Claire Struble	Marie Godin	Dee Dee Murphy	Stella Marie Alcalen
John Glynn	Irene Cucalon	Gigi Pena	Peter Quach
			Teresita Guzon
			Kathleen Crosby

**St. Clement's**

McGraw Family	Hudson Sweeney	Baby Owen	Emma Cormier	Deacon Frank Quinn
Angelia	Shawna Lane Ibbitson			

**St. Vincent's**

Barb DeWitt	Vince Reinsborough	Deacon Frank Quinn	Leonard Burke	Tim Nye
Vince Wood	Art Chase	Leone Campbell	Deacon Frank Quinn	Leonard Burke

*As well as those who have died including Yvonne Gallant, sister of Bob LeClair.*



**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.**

*Remembering our Deceased Family & Friends with Christmas Flowers*

Once again, this year, you are invited to make monetary donations for 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 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.**

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

## St. Bernard's

### Mark Your Calendar

<b>Carmelites</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat of the month: 9:30 AM
<b>Prayer Group</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. of month & last Sat. of month after 25 <sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM
<b>RCIA</b>	Resumes Saturday, January 4, 2025: 10:00 AM to 12 noon.



## Faith Formation

### Level 1-3 Sunday and Tuesday

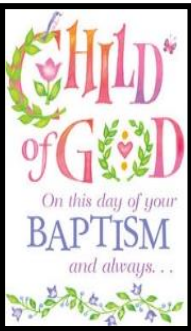
Session #8 Sunday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 AM, Tuesday Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, 6PM  
Session #9 Sunday, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>, 9:30AM, Tuesday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, 6PM  
Session #10 Sunday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9:30 AM, Tuesday, Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, 6PM

### Level 4-6 Sunday and Wednesday

Session #8 Sunday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, 12:15 PM, Wednesday Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, 6PM  
Session #9 Sunday, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>, 12:15 PM, Wednesday Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6PM  
Session #10 Sunday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 12:15 PM, Wednesday, Feb.5<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM

### Confirmation Prep. In-person session

Session # 3, Sunday Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM\_ Session # 4 Sunday Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM  
Session # 5 Sun. March 9<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM\_ Session # 6 Sun. April 6<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM\_ Session # 7<sup>th</sup> April 27<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM



**The Sacrament of Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, making us sons & daughters of God & members of the Body of Christ. The following children were welcomed into the Roman Catholic Church through the Sacrament of Baptism.**

**Sunday, December 14, 2024: Jake Daniel Boudreau, child Patrick & Amy**

**Sunday, December 15, 2024:**

**Liam Chase, child of Jacob & Anna**

**Fynn Michael Conlin, child of Jean & Rebecca**

**God bless them and their family in their lifetime journey of faith.**



*Congratulations to our six youths from St. Bernard's who have celebrated the sacrament of reconciliation for the first time on:*

**Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Markus Bernard, Pablo Mahecha-Rojas, Meabh Scully and Pdraig Scully.

**Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Lucia Marin and Marcela Marin.

*"Leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gifts" Matthew 5:24*

**Calling All Knitters** Yarn is available at the Parish office for knitters who wish to make hats, mittens, etc. for the Advent Mitten Tree. Thank you to all the dedicated past and present knitters!

## St. Bernard's



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

#### Tuesday, December 24, 2024 - Christmas Eve

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

#### Wednesday, December 25, 2024 - Christmas Day

St. Bernard's	11:00 AM <i>(please note: no 9:30 AM Mass)</i>
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#### Tuesday, December 31, 2024 - New Year's Eve

St. Bernard's	4:00 PM <i>(please note: no 9:30 AM Mass)</i>
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#### Wednesday, January 1, 2025 - 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



**For those who would like to have the sacrament of confession – confession time will be offered at St. Bernard's, Tuesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 AM.**

### ST. BERNARD'S CHURCH CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Due to the postal strike, January/February/March church contribution envelopes were mailed on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully you will be receiving them before January 1<sup>st</sup>. *Thank you all for your constant generosity to the pastoral unit!*



**PADS** – If you would like to donate through the Pre-Authorized Debit system, kindly contact **Giredine Aguidi at 506-857-0425 or send an email to sbhf@rogers.com** to register for St. Bernard's PADS.



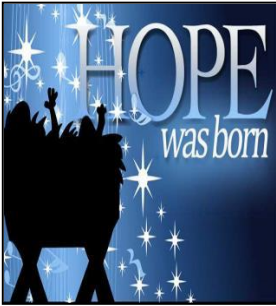
**YMCA ReConnect** provides short-term and long-term assistance through outreach to youth and adults who are homeless or at-risk of being homeless. YMCA Re-Connect is looking for donations of new or gently used sweaters, sweatpants, socks, hand / foot warmers and warm blankets. If you can donate any of these items to St. Bernard's Church, containers will be set up at the entrance of the church to receive these donations. We will ensure donations get to Re-Connect. Thank you in advance for your kindness.

## St. Bernard's



### *Christmas*

*The Christmas Season celebrates the birth of the Lord Jesus and the ways he manifested the presence of God among us. For the Church, only the Easter celebration of the Lord's death and rising is more important than the Christmas Season.*



*On behalf of all who serve the parishes of The Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit, best wishes for a happy, joyful, and holy Christmas season. At the same time, we remember and pray for those for whom this Christmas is a time of challenge and/or loss. May the peace of the newborn Jesus be in our world and in our hearts as we remember and celebrate His coming to save us.*

*Blessings, Fr. Damian and Fr. Carlos*

**For info. on Christmas food boxes contact one of the below based on where you live:**

**Moncton area:** Peter McKee Community Food Ctr., 475 St. George St, Moncton

506-383-4281 / [reception@petermckeecentre.ca](mailto:reception@petermckeecentre.ca)

**Dieppe area:** - Second Mile Food Bank, 243 Lewisville Rd., Moncton, N.B.

506-857-9121 / [smfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:smfoodbank@gmail.com)

**Riverview area:** Albert County Action Inc., 50 Runnymede Rd., Riverview, NB

506-386-7824 / [acac.albertcountyfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:acac.albertcountyfoodbank@gmail.com)



## St. Clement's

- Anyone wishing to donate flowers should bring them to the church prior to Dec. 24th.
- Christmas mass is to be celebrated at 4:00 Dec. 24th
- Thank you to all the ladies working on the sweet plate fundraiser.

### St. Vincent's

**FAITH FORMATION at St. Vincent's** – For any participant or volunteer inquiries for this program, including sacramental preparations, please contact Cathy Crinnion at [ccrinnion@yahoo.ca](mailto:crcrinnion@yahoo.ca) or 536-4470.

**The Faith Formation schedule is as follows:**

December 15 <sup>th</sup> @ 10am	Elementary group – St. Vincent's hall
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Elementary group will resume on January 12<sup>th</sup> 2025

Primary group (grades 1-3) – please contact Cathy to discuss

**PRAYERFUL CONDOLENCES** are extended to Bob LeClair and his family on the death of his sister, **Yvonne Gallant**, who passed away on December 9, 2024, in Summerside, PEI. May she rest in the arms of our loving God.

**FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS** – If you wish to donate to our Christmas Flower Fund in memory of a loved one, please put your donation in a plain envelope labelled "Christmas Flower Fund" with your name and mailing address on it, as well as the name of the person(s) to be remembered and drop it in the collection basket located at the entrance to the church. Names will be posted in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASS** – St. Vincent's will celebrate mass on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Please arrive early as seating may be limited! There will be no mass on Christmas Day, December 25, 2024.

**100 ANNIVERSARY OF ST. VINCENT CHURCH** – A small committee will be finalized in early January 2025 to get plans underway to collect more stories and bits of history from parishioners. If you have questions or information to share, please contact Rosemary at [rbarrass@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:rbarrass@nbnet.nb.ca).

**SUNDAY MISSALS 2024-2025** – Due to a higher demand this year, additional Sunday Missals 2024-2025 have arrived and are being offered to parishioners at a cost of \$6.75 each. Please see Lorraine at the entrance to the church.

**DONATIONS OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS** – *Thank you, thank you, thank you! These two words cannot be said often enough! Many many people from the Amherst, Sackville, Dieppe, Moncton, and Riverview areas have been so very generous with donations of household goods and warm outdoor clothing for our friends from the Philippines.*

To date, approximately 25 nurses have come to Sackville to work at the Drew Nursing Home. Some of them have arrived alone, and many of them have arrived with families! Starting again in February 2025, more will be arriving! We continue to accept household donations to help them set up their apartments. Suggested items are mattresses, box springs, and bed frames (all sizes), like-new bedding and warm blankets, small appliances, chests of drawers, kitchen tables and chairs, etc.

Please contact Lorraine at the Parish Office if you have any of these items that you would like to donate 506-536-1460 or [stvince@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:stvince@nbnet.nb.ca).

**SACKVILLE FOOD BANK** – With the rising cost of groceries, many local families are struggling to put nutritious food on the table. If you are able, please contribute non-perishable food items to our local Food Bank. Also needed are items such as toilet paper, tissues, paper towel, face soap, and dish and laundry detergent. The donation basket is located on the right-hand side of the entrance of the church.





Trevor Drosbeck - 857-4879 or [adultfaith@diocesemoncton.ca](mailto:adultfaith@diocesemoncton.ca)  
Karen LeBlanc – 387-4198 or [youth@diocesemoncton.ca](mailto:youth@diocesemoncton.ca)

**FORMATION FOR BAPTISM PREPARATION TEAMS:** To provide continuing formation for members of parish baptismal preparation teams, they are asked to gather on **Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish from 9:30 am – 12:00 noon**. This formation is relevant to new members of baptismal preparation teams as well as a refresher for existing members. Facilitated by Trevor Drosbeck and Mark Mahoney, the formation will follow the themes and guidelines outlined in **Pastoral Recommendations for the Baptism of Children**, and will involve the resource that has been used in our diocese for the past several years and will include a dialogue around working with parents, the rewards and challenges of being involved in the ministry; what's working and (maybe) what's not; as well as ways we can be more effective. Please contact Trevor at [adultfaith@diocesemoncton.ca](mailto:adultfaith@diocesemoncton.ca) or 857-4879 to confirm your attendance.



### INVITATION: Solemn Opening of the Jubilee Year 2025

The faithful of the Archdiocese of Moncton are invited to take part in this important bilingual celebration, which will gather priests with the Archbishop for a three-part event on December 29, 2024: **1:30 PM – Saint Bernard's Church:** Gathering. **1:45 PM – Pilgrimage:** Walk toward the Cathedral. **2:00 PM – Our Lady of the Assumption Cathedral:** Solemn Mass. *hose with mobility limitations are welcome to proceed directly to the Cathedral.*

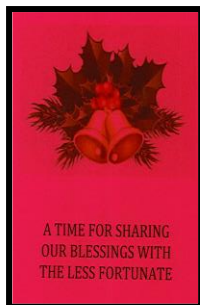
### Christmas Nativity Scene

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we invite you to a gathering of prayer and song at the **Christmas Nativity Scene in downtown Moncton** to honour the Holy Family and celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Join us for this time of reflection and joy around the manger, as we sing Christmas hymns and pray for peace and love in our hearts and in our families on Saturday December 28, 2024, at 6:30 pm at the Christmas nativity scene at Moncton city hall

Saint Jean-Paul II pastoral unit's Saint Ephrem Choir will guide us in song from 6:00 pm and during this celebration. Snacks and hot drinks will be served at Saint Bernard's Church, 43 Botsford Street, after the gathering.

Fraternally, Knights of Columbus of Greater Moncton



**The Karing Kitchen** is a registered charity operating a community soup kitchen in the basement of St. John's United Church, 75 Alma St., Moncton, NB. Serving hot meals daily for over 37 years to those who might not otherwise have one. **If you are looking for a gift giving idea....red Karing Kitchen Christmas cards are available at the entrance of St. Bernard's Church. Simply take out the white insert within the card, fill in your information, and attach your donation. Your donation can be given to a Karing Kitchen Board member or mailed as instructed. The red card then can be given to the person you are gifting (inside of the card says a donation was made to the Karing Kitchen in recipients name).**

## *2024 Christmas Flowers*



<i>In Memory Of</i>	<i>Donated By</i>
Minnie Burnett, Verna and George Perry	Ross & Sharon Burnett
Deceased members of Cassidy & Richard families	Paul and Diane Cassidy
Matthew & Mary McCourt	Bernie McCourt
Deceased members of Williams Family	Yvonne Williams
Deceased members of Gillis & Trites families	Patti Trites and Family
Maureen Coyle	Madge Lund & Family
Deceased members of Cormier and Steele families	Norma Cormier
Lester Rossiter	Melda & Family
Deceased members of Little Family	Pierre Little & family
Thomas & Elizabeth Clement & Family	Noreen & Doug Martin
Chuck Kinney	Jessie & Peter
Eleanor Beck	Family
Ralph, Florence & Peter Fahey	Family
Thomas & Edna Bryant Joseph O'Connor and all deceased parents	Neil & Carol Ann Bryant
Howard "Ticker" Shean	Irene
William & Pauline Dalton	Family
Val & Geneva Caissie	Bob & Paulette Buzzell
Les & Eleanor Buzzell	Bob & Paulette Buzzell
John Joseph "J.J." Murphy	Lorraine, John, Michaela, Adam & Noah
Roy C. Hopper	Family
Deceased members: Norma & Power & Martin families.	Gerry Power

## 2024 Christmas Flowers



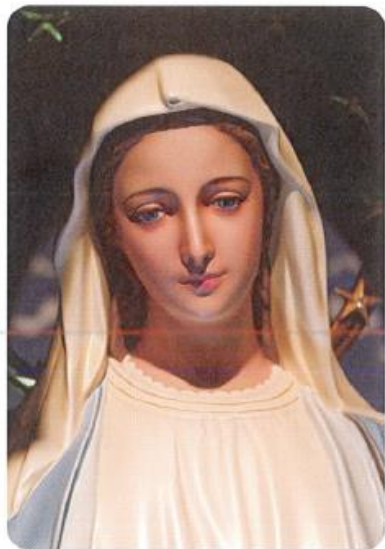
<i>In Memory Of</i>	<i>Donated By</i>
Edward & Viola Parks	Jim & Gayle Gallant
Philip Montford & Roger McCue	Lorraine Montford
Deceased members of Carter & Flanagan families	Roy & Dee Carter
Laura & Arthur Eveleigh Mary & Nelson Green Senior Donna Green	Mary & Nelson Green
Deceased members of Keenan, Haly Loubert & Pitre Families	Ed & Sherry Pitre
Shannon Smith	Alison Smith
Ray Mac Kinnon	Valerie Mac Kinnon
Corry & Nick Evers	Casey & Betty Evers
John & Ann Boom	Betty & Casey Evers
Sid Wright	Mellie Wright
Jeffrey Ermen & Katie Ermen	Sam & Donna Ermen
Roger Berube	Esther, Noreen & Lynn
Frank-Rose & Jeanette Arsenault Harmon, Gladys & Robert Fogarty	Bernice & Bill Fogarty
Jean Heather Beleski	Roger Bastarache
Louie & Florence McKinley Ben & Olezine Arsenault	Helen & Bob McKinley
Patsy Soulliere & Gloria Savoie	Terry, Linda, Jason, Todd & James

# Dear Padre,

## Where does the Hail Mary prayer come from?

The Hail Mary owes its origin to the rosary. The traditional story of the rosary was that Mary herself appeared to St. Dominic in the twelfth century and gave him the rosary with the promise that if he spread devotion to the rosary, his religious order would flourish. In the twelfth century, religious orders recited together the 150 psalms as a way to mark the hours of the day and the days of the week. In order to pray the psalms, though, people had to know how to read. People who didn't know how to read wanted to share in the practice, so the rosary, or praying on beads, began as a parallel prayer practice. It was a way that illiterate people could remember the Lord and his Mother throughout the day.

The first rosaries consisted of a string of 150 beads, and, much as we do now, a person would pass over each bead after saying a prayer, usually the Our Father. Later, people added the Archangel Gabriel's greeting—"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee"—and later still, Elizabeth's prayer we hear in today's Gospel—"Blessed art thou among women." Finally this prayer was added in the sixteenth century: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death." ●



The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 23 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Lk 1:57-66	December 24 <i>Advent Weekday</i> 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Lk 1:67-79	December 25 <i>Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)</i> Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14	December 26 <i>St. Stephen, First Martyr</i> Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22	December 27 <i>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i> 1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a, 2-8	December 28 <i>Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i> 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Mt 2:13-18	December 29 <i>Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i> Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 Lk 2:41-52

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Do I move forward with hope...? We can also ask for...the grace of a healthy sense of humor: it does so much good.... The first act of charity we can do for our neighbors is to offer them a serene and smiling face. It is bringing the joy of Jesus to them, as Mary did with Elizabeth.*

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 19, 2021