

FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

December 18, 2011



**ST. BERNARD CHURCH**

1 SAINT BERNARD LANE \* BELLA VISTA, AR 72715

www.bvstbernard.org e-mail office@bvstbernard.org

office (479)855-9069 \* Fax (479) 855-9067

**Parish Staff****Fr. Barnabas Maria-Susai, IMS***Pastor***Phillip Fredrich***Parish Manager***Katie Green***Office Manager***Roxanne Birchfield***Finance***Kay Smith***Director of Youth Ministry***Howard Hunt***Director of R.C.I.A.***Ann Kedrowski***Choir Director***Musician***Dipendra Sunam***Joe Moloney***Maintenance***Office Hours**

Monday thru Thursday 8:00a.m.-3:00p.m.

(Office closed on Friday)

**Mass Schedule**

Sunday 9:00a.m.

Monday, Tuesday, 8:30a.m.

Thursday and Friday

Wednesday 6:00p.m.

Saturday (*Sunday Vigil*) 5:00p.m.Holy Day (*Vigil*) 7:00p.m.

Holy Day 9:00a.m.

**Reconciliation Schedule**

Wednesday-5:30p.m.; Saturday-4:15p.m.-

4:45p.m; Sunday-8:15a.m.-8:30a.m. Please call the Parish Office if an appointment is needed.

**Baptisms**

By appointment. Preparation classes required.

**First Communion**

Two years in a religious education class is required for the Sacrament of First Communion.

**Confirmation**

Two years enrolled and attending class is required for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Marriage**

Preparation must begin a minimum of six months before a proposed wedding date whether in this church or any other. Dates will be finalized after consultation with the pastor.

**Prayer Intention Book**

Special intentions may be recorded in the Prayer Intention Book located in the Lobby of the Church. The book is brought to the altar at presentation of the gifts.

**Hospitalized/Homebound**


The sick and homebound of the parish can arrange Holy Communion by calling the Parish Office. (855-9069)

**FOOD PANTRY**

Our food pantry is open for those in need on Tuesday each week from 9:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.

**NEW PARISHIONERS**

If you are new to our parish, we would like to welcome you and invite you to become a member of our parish. Membership cards are available in the Lobby or you may ask an Usher for one. You are always welcome to come by the office and register.

GIFT BEARERS	VOCATIONS CROSS		WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONT'D																						
<p><b><u>Saturday, December 24:</u></b> Russ &amp; Rosemarie Anzalone</p> <p><b><u>Sunday, December 25:</u></b> Tom &amp; Jan Greeson</p>	<p><b>December 24:</b> Paul &amp; Barbara Gergen</p> <p><b>December 25:</b> John &amp; Jeannene White</p> <p><b>MASS INTENTIONS FOR December 18 - December 24, 2011</b></p>		<p><b><u>12-20-Tuesday</u></b> 8:30a.m. - Mass 9:00a.m. - 1:00pm - Food Pantry open 11:30a.m. - 1:00p.m. - AA Mtg - Room 202a/b 7:00p.m.-8:30p.m.-Scripture Study (Wenzel) - Room 203</p>																						
<p>Phone Number (855-9069) and Extensions</p>	<p><i>Sunday (12-18-11) . . . For the Living and Deceased † members of Our Parish.</i></p>		<p><b><u>12-21-Wednesday</u></b> 11:30a.m.-1:00p.m. - AA Mtg - Room 202a/b 6:00p.m.-7:30p.m.- AA Mtg - Room 202a/b 5:30p.m.-Reconciliation 6:00p.m. - Mass 6:00p.m.8:30p.m.-Teen Youth Ministry Conference Room-Parish Office 6:30p.m.-9:00p.m.-Choir Practice 7:00p.m.-9:00p.m.-RCIA- Room 203</p>																						
<table border="0"> <tr><td><b>Office</b></td><td><b>100</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>Manager</b></td><td><b>101</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>Pastor</b></td><td><b>102</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>Finance</b></td><td><b>104</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>Volunteer</b></td><td><b>106</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>Education Bldg</b></td><td><b>107</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>Adoration</b></td><td><b>108</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>Kitchen</b></td><td><b>110</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>Library</b></td><td><b>111</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>Maintenance</b></td><td><b>112</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>Youth Ed</b></td><td><b>114</b></td></tr> </table>	<b>Office</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Manager</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>Pastor</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>Finance</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>Volunteer</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>Education Bldg</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>Adoration</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>Kitchen</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>Library</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>Youth Ed</b>	<b>114</b>	<p>12-19-11</p>	<p>† Ed Kircher By Betty Kircher</p>	<p><b><u>12-22-Thursday</u></b> 8:30a.m.- Mass 9:00a.m.-1:00-.m. -Care &amp; Share Trailer in parking lot 11:30a.m.-1:00p.m. - AA Mtg - Room 202a/b</p>
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<p><b>E-MAIL INFORMATION</b></p>	<p>Tuesday 12-20-11</p>	<p>Mary &amp; Cotton Finley By Marla Kilpin</p>	<p><b><u>12-23-Friday</u></b> 8:30a.m.-Mass 9:00a.m.-Our Lady of Refuge Prayer Group - Chapel 9:00a.m.-Noon - Mah Jongg</p>																						
<p><b><u>GENERAL MESSAGES:</u></b> office@bvstbernard.org <b><u>MANAGER:</u></b> manager3@bvstbernard.org <b><u>FINANCE:</u></b> finance3@bvstbernard.org <b><u>PASTOR:</u></b> barnabasmsusai@gmail.com <b><u>SECRETARY:</u></b> katie3@bvstbernard.org</p>	<p>Wednesday 12-21-11</p>	<p>† Josie Rolewicz By Jack McLeod</p>	<p><b><u>12-24-Saturday</u></b> 11:30a.m.- 1:00p.m.- AA Mtg.- Room 202a/b 4:15p.m.- 4:45p.m.- Reconciliation <b>5:00p.m.—Vigil Mass of the Nativity of the Lord</b> 6:00p.m.- 7:30p.m.- AA Mtg - Room 202a/b</p>																						
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>WE WELCOMED</b></p> <p><b>DECEMBER 3    286</b></p> <p><b>DECEMBER 4    497</b></p> </div>	<p>Thursday 12-22-11</p>	<p>† Patsy Dalton By Cathy Groseclos</p>	<p><b><u>12-25-Sunday</u></b> 8:15a.m.-8:45a.m. Reconciliation <b>9:00a.m.- Mass of the Nativity of the Lord</b> 10:30a.m.-12:00p.m.-Youth Education in Chapel and Hall</p>																						
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**WOMEN'S VOCATIONS RETREAT**

The Vocations Office of the Diocese of Little Rock is holding a Women's Vocations Retreat at St. John's Catholic Center in Little Rock over the dates of January 13-14, 2012. This is a 24-hour retreat dedicated to a woman's personal reflection of God's will in her life. There will also be opportunities to meet with religious sisters from the 12 religious communities at work in the Diocese.

For additional information, go to [www.dolr.org/offices/youth/cymcalendar.php](http://www.dolr.org/offices/youth/cymcalendar.php) and click on Women's Vocational Retreat or call Maria Izquierdo at (501) 664-0340.

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**LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE**

The search is on for the Longest Married Couple in the U.S. each of the 50 states and territories.

If you know a couple with a long marriage, please nominate them for this honor. This annual search is sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter. Deadline is January 5, 2012. More information can be found at [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org)

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**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2011**

Visit the Diocese of Little Rock website to find online resources to help you get the most from these holy seasons. Daily Mass readings and reflections, a calendar of events and holy days. Bible studies, blessings for your Advent wreath, Christmas tree and nativity, Christmas recipes, movies, family activities, the story of St. Nicholas, the meaning behind the "Twelve Days of Christmas" song and much more. Remember to visit the website regularly throughout the season because new features will be added as information becomes available-including the Christmas Mass schedule. Check it out today at [www.dolr.org](http://www.dolr.org)

**PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:**

**Marsha Bush  
Mary Lou Boerger  
Elva Douthat  
Norm Drimmel  
Tom Duffy  
Gene Gallea  
Fran Heinen  
Audrey Jurgens  
Don Rowe  
Fred Luecke  
Janice Manuel  
Ann Marlowe  
Michael Miciotto  
Ray Potkay  
Tom Welch  
Jewel Whelan**

**Pray for all who care for the ill and infirm.**

Remember the deceased of our parish.  
May they and all our departed loved ones  
rest in peace.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

December 18, 2011 through December 24, 2011

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25  
Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38  
Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45  
Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56  
Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66  
Saturday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79  
Sunday: **Vigil:** Is 62:1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]  
**Midnight:** Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14  
**Dawn:** Is 62:11-12; Ps 97; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20  
**Day:** Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

**RCIA UPDATE**

For those of you who want to learn more about the Catholic faith, the topic for our December 21st session is:

**Christmas and the Church  
The First Christmas,  
a movie of The Nativity Story”**

**“COME AND SEE”**

We meet at 7:00p.m. in the Parish Hall in Room 203.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!**



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**GIFT BEARERS NEEDED**

We are in need of gift bearers for all of the Saturday evenings in February. Both couples and singles are needed. Singles for Sundays are also needed. This is an honor and a privilege and if you are willing to serve, please contact Pat Swessel at 855-7460. Thank you.

**Please Note**

**The kitchen has several plates, dishes etc. that were left over from our recent events. Please stop by and pick up these items as soon as possible.  
Thank you.**



**BINGO**  
**6:30p.m. - Parish Hall**  
**Thursdays**  
**December 15th**  
**January 5th**  
**JACKPOT IS AT \$1000.00.**

**Men – Save the date!!**  
**Super Bowl Saturday, February 4th, 2012**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Arkansas Catholic Men’s Conference will be held at Christ the King Church in Little Rock. Speakers for this year’s conference are: Bill Moyer, Robert Rogers, and Mike VanVranken.

Come and experience their insights on “The Promised Land: Journey or Destination?” Bishop Anthony B. Taylor will celebrate First Saturday Mass at 7:50 am, Registration is from 8:30a.m. to 9:00a.m. and the conference concludes at 4 pm. Registration is \$30, which includes continental breakfast and lunch. Eucharistic Adoration will be held during lunch.

Wives...Conference attendance is an excellent Christmas gift idea for your husband and your sons!!

Need more information? Please e-mail to: [MenofFaithLR@hotmail.com](mailto:MenofFaithLR@hotmail.com), or find us at <http://www.facebook.com/MenofFaithLittleRock>. You can also contact Chris Fray (501) 831-6094, or Chuck Ashburn (664) 0340, ext. 368.

Our outstanding speakers will have limited numbers of their books and audios for sale the day of the conference. Sponsored by Men of Faith of Little Rock.

**YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

St. Bernard's Teens will provide a Christmas gift wrapping service for parishioners on Sunday, December 18th in the back of the Parish Hall during coffee and doughnuts. Bring your Christmas presents that need to be wrapped to the Parish Hall and our Teens will do a beautiful job. This service is free but we hope for donations for wrapping paper.

On December 18th, our children have a Christmas party and then go to Concordia to sing Christmas carols. We encourage all families with children to attend our Christmas Eve 5:00p.m. Mass.

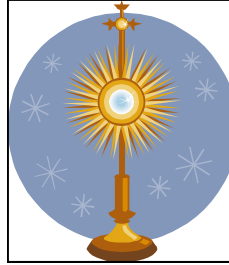
Christmas vacation for Religious Education will be December 21st to January 1st. Classes for the Teens resume on January 4th and on January 8th for PS - 8th grades.

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**HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE**

Holy Land Pilgrimage from April 9-20, 2012 with Fr. Greg Hart, Pastor of St. Joseph's, Tontitown, as chaplain. The price per person with double occupancy is \$4,163 and includes round trip airfare from North Arkansas Regional Airport, ten nights in first-class hotels, daily Mass, daily breakfast and dinner, two lunches, travel escort, deluxe motor-coach transportation. Our pilgrimage includes the following sites in the Holy Land: Tiberias, Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum, Mt. Tabor, Jericho, Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Petra in Jordan.

For more information and a brochure, email Travel Tyme at [info@traveltyme.com](mailto:info@traveltyme.com) or call 1-800-886-2151. A brochure of the trip may also be downloaded from St. Joseph's website [www.stjoetontitown.org](http://www.stjoetontitown.org) or you may contact Fr. Hart at [frgreghart@att.net](mailto:frgreghart@att.net) (479) 361-2612 and a brochure will be mailed to you. Come walk in the footsteps and experience the beauty of the



**ADORATION**

*Everyone Likes a Party. But a good party requires a good preparation. Heaven is the "The Ultimate Party" and this life is the preparation! One "surefire"*

*way to prepare is Eucharistic Adoration. St. Bernard's has a beautiful Perpetual Adoration Chapel where Jesus waits for you with burning love. Can you hear His invitation, "I thirst"?*

*Come for a little visit often. If you have a desire to make a deeper commitment to show your love, call 855-6285 or 876-2821 for further information.*

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**SUPPORT ELDERLY RELIGIOUS**  
**Retired Religious Need Your Support**

The collection at all masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be for the Clergy Welfare Fund. This fund provides retirement and health care benefits to retired and infirm priests around our diocese. Our priests spend every day of their adult lives as humble and devoted servants, doing God's work and serving us until age or infirmity calls them to retirement. Your contributions to the Clergy Welfare Fund make our priests' retirement possible. Please share with them the generosity that they continue to share with us.



### **TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

We are approaching the darkest, longest night of the year. For centuries, people in the Northern Hemisphere have kindled fires against the dying of the light, turning away the dark of the winter solstice, and leading the imagination to hope and new beginnings. It is thus easy to understand why these solstice celebrations of non-Christian Europe attracted the annual remembrance of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

In time the solstice migrated away from December 25, but the Christmas feast remained in place. From this day, a whole season of celebration developed, stretching from Advent through the days of Christmas, and even beyond to the February 2 blessing of the candles, and beyond that to March 25, the Annunciation, nine months before the next Christmas. Centuries ago, this was New Year's Day, and many reasoned that it was the date of Adam and Eve's fall, and the date of the Crucifixion.

The message is clear: don't let your Christmas be over too soon. Keep the lights blazing into January, and savor the meaning of the feast!



### **THE ETERNAL GOD**

King David wished that the ark of God might have a more permanent home. David may have envisioned something like the cedar palace where he resided. God had in mind something more: a throne where David's descendants would rule for ever, a kingdom where Jews and Gentiles alike would be welcome.

Mary's prayerful nature led to an even more disturbing message. She would conceive and bear a Son though she was not yet married. "How can this come about?" Mary wondered. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you," she was told (Luke 1:35).

Mary's acceptance of this difficult challenge ushered in this, the final age of God's reign. What was once a secret known only by chosen people like King David and his descendants must now be made clear to all so that, as Saint Paul wrote to the Romans, we can be brought to the "obedience of faith" "according to the command of the eternal God" (Romans 16:26).

**ST. SCHOLASTICA RETREAT CENTER**

St. Scholastica Gift Shop is now open regular hours: Monday-Friday from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and Saturdays (except second Saturdays) from 12:30p.m. to 3:00p.m. Sister Macrina Wiederkehr's new book, *Abide Keeping Vigil With the Word of God*, and her 2012 Calendar, *A Year of Grace*, are available individually or as a set (with a special discount.)  
For information call (479) 783-4147.

**Save the Date!** This year's Silent Directed Retreat, based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, will be held at St. Scholastica Retreat Center January 5-8, 2012. Make 2012 the year that you deepen your prayer life and grow closer to Jesus through this transformational four-day experience. For more information, or to register by December 15, call (479) 783-1135, visit [www.stscho.org](http://www.stscho.org) or e-mail [retreats@stscho.org](mailto:retreats@stscho.org)

Maryanne Meyerriecks  
Director of Communications  
St. Scholastica Monastery  
P.O. Box 3489  
Fort Smith, AR 72913  
(479) 783-4147  
Cell: (479) 414-2239



## Fourth Sunday of Advent Pray Before You Speak

Have you ever been told to “think before you speak?” Nathan seems to have spoken too soon when he told David to do whatever he wanted about building a house for the Lord. I suppose he was being respectful to his king, and it sounded like a good idea. But later that night the Lord gave him a message for David, that God did not need anyone to build a house for him; God would make David’s house (in the sense of family or descendants) last forever.

Nathan was a prophet and was expected to speak for the Lord. When he finally listened to the Lord, he got the message right. And that can be a lesson to us. Instead of just thinking before we speak, it could be a good idea to pray before we speak.

How many times have we said something in anger (or selfishness, fear, any strong feeling) that we wished we could take back? If you just think before you speak, you might just rationalize what you wanted to say in the first place. But if you take a little more time to bring your feelings to God, ask for his guidance and listen for what God would have you say, things might turn out a lot better.

God can also surprise us if we give him the chance: The kingdom (“house”) God was predicting was not a political one, but a universal one. Jesus fulfills this promise as the Son of God who came to proclaim the Kingdom of God. Jesus himself prayed to the Father often in his life.

And we can do the same. We pray before meals; why not pray before going to work? We can pray before making decisions about our family, getting engaged, taking a new job, buying a new house (car, HD-TV, etc.) When a friend or relative needs someone to talk to, we can pray that we listen well and say what God wants our friend to hear. When we are sorry for hurting someone, we can pray for forgiveness and even listen to God, for what we might do to make up to them. If we have enough faith to let God guide our lives, let’s take the time in prayer to listen for that guidance.

