# Saint Bernard Church

## October 18, 2026
## Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Rev. David F. Gaffney, Pastor**

Rev. John E. Unsworth, Pastor, Emeritus
Rev. Albino Barrera, OP Weekend Assistant
Rev. Charles Maher, Weekday Assistant
Rev. Joseph Pescatello, Weekend Assistant
Rev. Alfred Ricci, Weekday Assistant

**Pastoral Assistant**: Angelo Giacchi
**Business Manager**: Brandy O'Donnell
**Elementary Faith Formation:** Dawn Masterson
**Youth Faith Formation**: Christina Pichette
**Music Director:** Alison Shea

**Mass Schedules**

**Weekends**
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM

**Sundays**
7:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:30 AM

**Weekdays**
8:00 AM Monday through Friday

**Address:** 275 Tower Hill Road
North Kingstown, RI 02852

**Phone :** 401-295-0387

**E-mail**: sbc.pastor@aol.com (Fr. Gaffney)
sbc.bus@verizon.net (Brandy)
sbc.pa@verizon.net (Angelo)

**Web**: www.stbernardnk.org

**Hours:** Mon - Tues: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Wednesday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Thursday & Friday: Closed

**Baptism:** Please call Angelo at the Parish Center for information about scheduling and preparation.

**Communion to the Sick:** Please notify us of those sick and in need of Communion at home.

**Marriage:** Please call 10 months in advance.

**Holy Orders:** Tel: 401-831-8011
www.catholicpriest.com

**Project Rachel:** Post abortion counseling
Tel: 401-421-7833, ext. 118

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturdays 4:00 PM

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Following Tuesday's 8:00 AM Mass until 11:00 AM

**Family Faith Formation Program**

Our programs provide parishioners of all ages opportunities for learning, growing and living our Faith through common experiences, age-specific learning and interactive sharing. Please call the Parish Center for information regarding any of our programs or email:

First Communion Grade 2:
sbcreligiouseducation@gmail.com

Pre-Confirmation Grades 6 & 7 and Confirmation Grades 8 & 9: sbc.teenff@gmail.com

Gospel Weeklies Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, :
stbernardgospelweeklies@gmail.com

# ***Ponderings***

Our "Respect Life" month of October continues. There is a moral framework that goes back quite a few years known by the phrase, "Seamless Garment". The metaphor comes from John 12:23 referring to Jesus' undivided robe. The soldiers did not "split" the robe Jesus had been wearing before he was crucified. In the context of the "Respect Life" movement it identifies an approach that is comprehensive----it applies to a wide variety of 'life issues'. One of the champions of this "seamless garment" approach was the late Cardinal Joseph Bernadin. He developed this approach into a public-policy framework called a 'consistent ethic of life' which links a variety of moral issues under the principle that all human life is sacred and must be protected.

Some of the core principles of this "seamless garment" approach are: The Sanctity of All Human Life—life must be defended from conception to natural death. Consistency Across Issues—opposes abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, unjust war and systemic injustices harming vulnerable populations. Holistic Moral Reasoning—encourages Catholics to apply the same moral logic to all threats to life. Social Justic Integration—includes poverty, immigration, healthcare and economic inequality as life issues.

The 'seamless garment' approach is basically common sense Catholic Social Teaching. It puts the human person at the center of things, instead of things such as possessions and ideologies the center of the human person. It insists that the Church's teaching is a unity in which both the interconnectedness of revelation and a certain hierarchy of truth has to be respected in living out our approach to the love of neighbor.

This approach would see that every human life is sacred and the goal is not merely, "Not killing innocent human life"(a bare minimum), but a flourishing of human life (in keeping with Jesus' promise of abundant life." Bernadin, in a lecture in 1974 entitled, "A Consistent Ethic of Life: Continuing the Dialogue" said, "nuclear war threatens life on a previously unimaginable scale; abortion takes life daily on a horrendous scale; public executions are fast becoming weekly events in the most advanced technological society in history; and euthanasia is now openly discussed and even advocated. Each of these assaults on life has its own meaning and morality; they cannot be collapsed into one problem, but they must be confronted as pieces of a larger pattern."

Bernadin continued, "A consistent ethic of life does not equate the problem of taking life (e.g. through abortion and in war) with the problem of promoting human dignity (through human programs of nutrition, health care and housing). But a consistent ethic identifies both the protection of life and its promotion as moral questions. It argues for a continuum of life which must be sustained in the face of diverse and distinct threats."

The great truth of the inter-relatedness of the Church's teaching sometimes gets flattened (so that in some quarters, if you oppose the death penalty you need not care about the killing of unborn children), while in other quarters opposition to the death penalty or concern about the environment or poverty is taken as a sign that one is a 'liberal' who must therefore approve of abortion. Both of these parodies lose sight of exactly what the 'seamless garment' actually asserts: that the dignity of the human person compels us to accept all of what the Church teaches in its social doctrine, not just pluck out the threads we like.

This commonsense balance that emphasizes both the inter-relatedness of human life and human dignity and the proper hierarchy of various issues is at the core of the 'seamless garment' thinking because it is at the core of Catholic Social Teaching. It is long past time for Catholics of all stripes to embrace the whole of Catholic teaching and not merely the parts that suit us.

--Fr. Gaffney

We welcome families to bring their children—our youngest parishioners in their strollers to Mass.

# Mass Intentions

**MONDAY, October 19**
8:00 AM – ***Edward & Joan Keenan***

**TUESDAY, October 20**
8:00 AM – ***Joseph Laurino***
by his daughter Lisa

**WEDNESDAY, October 21**
8:00 AM – ***Julia Buckley***

**THURSDAY, October 22**
8:00 AM – ***Holy Souls of Purgatory***
by Lisa Hull

**FRIDAY, October 23**
8:00 AM – ***Jennifer Nygaard***
***2nd Anniversary***
by the Wells Family

**WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

**SATURDAY, October 24**
5:00 PM – ***Mary Di Donato***

**SUNDAY, October 25**
7:00 AM– ***Parishioners of St. Bernard***

8:30 AM – ***Barbara O'Connor***
by her family

10:30 AM – ***Lois Scialo Ellis***
***6th Anniversary***
by her husband

## All Souls Day Memorial Mass

On **Monday November 2nd, 2026 at 7:00 PM** there will be a special Mass for all those who have died in the parish during the past year. Please join us as we remember our parishioners who have had their funeral Mass celebrated in our Parish since November 1, 2025. Also, if you know of someone dear to you who has died in the past year and would like them mentioned at this Mass, please call the office at 295-0387 and leave us the name before Monday, October 26.

## Funeral Planning Workshop

The Month of All Souls invites to take an honest look at our journey from this life to the next. It invites to look at our own mortality with faith and trust in God. The Church, through our Funeral Rites helps us on this passage. The time of planning for the Wake, Mass of Christian Burial and Committal Prayers at the ceremony can bring us comfort. Some of you have had to do this planning for a loved one. This includes planning the Funeral Mass. We are offering parishioners (of all ages) to come to a Funeral Planning Workshop to be held on Friday, November 6th at 1:00 p.m. in the parish center. Why do this "beforehand"? A few reasons: You will select the readings and music that you would want; you will take that burden away from family members; it will ensure that you do have a Funeral Mass at your passing; it will bring you a sense of peace. Some of you have made 'pre-arrangements' with Funeral Homes. We will have a funeral home representative at this workshop to answer 'general questions' about funeral planning, especially pre-arranging a funeral.

"Red, White and Blue" for our nation's 250 Anniversary was the theme for the Quilters in planning this year's quilt---which will be raffled in November. Remember to send in your raffle tickets.

## Parish Support

| | October 4, 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| **Basket** | **$11,249.00** | **$7,896.00** |
| **ACH** | **$4,195.10** | **$5,889.00** |
| | **October 11, 2026** | **2025** |
| **Basket** | **$5,934.00** | **$5,022.00** |
| **ACH** | **$2,965.00** | **$2,744.00** |
| **YTD** | **$178,372.00** | **$187,798.00** |

## Debt Reduction Collection

September Total: $4,234.00
Year-To-Date: $10,158.00
Thank you for your generous response to this monthly collection!

## North Kingstown Food Pantry:

"Your thoughtful donations of 322 pounds of food to the North Kingstown Food Pantry during the month of September 2026 is so appreciated. Thank you"

## Prout Open House

The Prout School will be holding an Open House for Admissions on Sunday, October 25 from 12-3pm. Register online at: **theproutschool.org** . Come meet faculty, students, and coaches. Tour the campus. Learn about our outstanding academics, amazing arts programs and athletic opportunities.

## Bishop Hendricken Open House:

Bishop Hendricken High School will be hosting an Open house on Sunday, October 25th, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and an Information Night on November 10th at 6:00 p.m. These events will give families the opportunity to tour our facilities and receive information on our academics, admission procedures, financial aid, student life, transportation and college placement.

## Young at Heart

**Monday, October 19, at noon** in the parish hall.

## Monday SPRED Group

**Monday, October 19, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm**
in the parish hall.

## Grief Group

**Upcoming dates:**

**Monday, October 19**
**Tuesday, November 10**
**Tuesday , December 22**

**6:30pm to 7:30 pm**
in the large conference room.

## Tuesday SPRED Group

**Tuesday, October 20, 6:00pm-8:00pm** in the parish hall

## Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, October 21

9:00 am – 12:00 pm in Parish Hall or

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm in large conference room

## Adult Choir

**Thursday, October 22nd,** 6:45pm—8:15pm in the large conference room.

## St. Vincent de Paul

**Saturday, October 24th,** 9 am to 4 pm in the parish hall.

## ***Faith Formation***

A BIG thank you to all those families who have already registered for the upcoming school year! We are looking forward to a joyful and blessed year of Faith Formation with your child and family.

* 10/18/26 - Grades K,1,3,4,5 : 1st In-person Gospel Weeklies Classes
  Next class: 11/1/26
* 10/25/26- Grades 2, 6,7,8,9 : 1st Sacramental Preparation Classes

If you have not registered yet, please register online at
**www.stbernardnk.org/religious-education-registration/**
In order for us to plan for the program year, please register on our website as soon as possible Upon your review of the documents should you have any questions, please contact the Faith Formation Office at 295-0387 or email at: sbcreligiouseducation@gmail.com

## ***Halloween Bags***

The weekend of 10/24-10/25 Youth Ministry will be selling Halloween Bags for a suggested donation of $10 a bag. Bags will include glow sticks, stickers, crafts, candy and other assorted Halloween themed items. All proceeds will go to Youth Ministry for programming and towards the summer trips.

## ***Summer Trips Informational Meeting:***

At the Coffee and Donuts after the 10:30AM Mass on 11/15, Christina will be around to talk to any student or parent interested in participating in our 3 available summer trips in 2027. For more information on our summer trips please go online to https://www.stbernardnk.org/youth-ministry/. At the meeting, Christina will be able to provide further information and answer any questions.

Golf Tournament: A Great Success once again! Thank you to Mike Benson, Dan Byrne and their committee in planning a wonderful tournament. Thank you to all the sponsors, the golfers and all others who supported this event!

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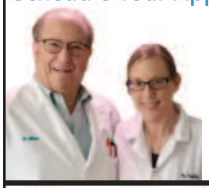

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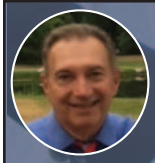

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