



# Saint Bernard of Clairvaux Parish

**Rev. Alfred J. Lampron**  
*Pastor*

**PARISH OFFICE:**

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Peter Helmer, *Administrative Assistant*

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM

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**INFANT BAPTISM**

Kevin & Sandy Hayes 973-328-6552

**GRADE SCHOOL & JR. HIGH SCHOOL  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Call the Parish Office 973-627-0066

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

Frances Spilmann 973-627-1654

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Joan Moran 973-366-4974

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Raymond Dean 973-366-5874

**FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY**

Collection every week  
Joyce Welgos 973-625-1928

**PHYSICAL PLANT**

Michael Hardy 973-366-8435

**LECTORS**

Marty Siebold 973-989-1240

**CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

Sunday: The Lord's Day, Vigil Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Daily Mass: Monday, Wednesday - Saturday, 8:30 AM

**RECONCILIATION**

Confessions every Saturday, 4:00-4:30 PM and also  
at parishioners' convenience by appointment.

**CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE**

Arrangements are usually made one year in advance  
to properly prepare for marriage. Contact the Parish  
Office for an appointment.

**PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK**

Contact Parish Office for pastoral visits in the hospi-  
tal or at home. Eucharist ministers are able to visit the  
sick upon request. The Sacrament of the Sick can be  
celebrated anytime there is a need.

**PARISH REGISTRATION**

Registration Forms are located in back of the church  
or at the Parish Office. Please register so that we may  
serve you better.

**PARISH TRUSTEES**

Joan Moran  
Raymond Dean

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*March 22, 2020 • Fourth Sunday of Lent*



Sunday March 22, 2020

***Fourth Sunday of Lent***

9:00 Deceased Members of the Parish

10:30 John Mele

Monday March 23, 2020

***St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop***

8:30 Juan Correa, Sr.

Wednesday March 25, 2020

***The Annunciation of the Lord***

8:30 Leah & Louis Lindert

Thursday March 26, 2020

8:30 Lucy Russo

Friday March 27, 2020

8:30 Msgr. Ted Lee

Saturday March 28, 2020

8:30 People of the Parish

5:00 Andrew Stec

Sunday March 29, 2020

***Fifth Sunday of Lent***

9:00 Ray Kontner

10:30 Deceased Members of the Parish

**The inner word**

**What's in your heart?**

We are called, appointed, anointed by God to see the light and lead others out of darkness.

Ask yourself:

- What blocks me from seeing the light at certain times or in certain areas of my life?
- What areas of my life do I try to keep in the dark? Who or what am I shielding from light? Why?

- When have I helped another see better? How did they respond? When has someone tried to help me see better? What was my response?
- What one truth do I see most clearly in my life?

**March 22, 2020**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

*Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson*

The poet Ogden Nash definitely displayed his sense of humor when he interpreted a major truth of the Bible when he composed these pithy lines:

***How odd  
of God  
to choose  
the Jews.***

Lest my purpose of quoting Nash be misconstrued, the word “odd” here simply means “differing in nature from what is ordinary, usual or expected.” Among the other nations existing at the time, God could have made other choices from among the more dominant and sophisticated ones like Egypt, Assyria or Babylon. Instead He chose the Jews, with their relatively insignificant numbers; their odd monotheism, and their demanding ethics. They became, and remain God’s chosen people. We must remember that among their number are Joseph and Mary and Jesus; the Twelve Apostles; and Jesus’ cousin John the Baptist among others.

Within their little nation, the Jews made class distinctions. The religiously educated, such as the Pharisees and Sadducees, were assumed to be holier and therefore superior in many ways to the ordinary folk. Evidence of this appears in

the famous Johannine story of the unnamed blind man, read this year in the “A” cycle of Scripture Readings. The story is one of John’s “signs” or miracle stories, all featuring proofs of Jesus’ powers and identity. It also offers us good evidence that God’s choices usually differ from our own. We might never have picked a blind beggar as an example of an evangelist, which he became.

This whole matter of God’s choices at variance with ours is sprinkled so liberally all through both Testaments that we can safely call it a biblical theme. This weekend’s First Reading story of God’s choosing “ruddy and handsome young David, the baby of Jesse’s family” as Saul’s successor. We might well have picked one of the older more experienced sons. The Gospel story is complimentary to this one, as happens by design.

As we listen again to all the trials the stubborn Pharisees put the poor former blind man through without any joy expressed over his healing, it becomes obvious who the really blind people are. We get a significant clue as to what we can expect when we choose to respond to our baptism and witness to Jesus in our very secular culture. Just try explaining to a non-practicing Catholic why you do that, or even the reaction to the same from your own family.

Honest introspection inevitably leads us to conclude how odd of God it is that He chooses us to be His spokespersons, but that’s exactly what He has done. The question arises: what are we going to do about it?

How will we express our belief to various people? At times, will we speak or be silent, especially when silence is enough? Will you act or not? Will you be careful to think before speaking?

Here is a practical thought from the motivational speaker Tony Robbins. “If you talk about it, it’s a dream; if you envision it,

it’s possible; but if you schedule it, then it is real.”

**Reading I: I Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a**  
God chooses David, Jesse’s youngest son, to be His anointed one, and Samuel complies. This story also contains an element of fear of Saul.

**Reading II: Ephesians 5: 8-14**  
There is a clear contrast made between Christian and pagan life, in terms of light and darkness.

**The Gospel: John 9: 1-41**  
The essence of the “sixth sign” is not simply that a man’s sight is restored, but that light is given to one who has never had it. The Pharisees ironically illustrate true blindness, not of the eyes but of the heart.



*As a community of believers, who trust in God’s mercy, healing and strength, it is our duty to pray for those who are ill and infirm. The following parishioners or family members of our parishioners are in need of our prayers. We ask God to grant health and peace to: Lois Bateson, the Budwick family, Betty Cararo, Kathleen Carey, Danny Christensen, Barbara Dietrick, Linda Doshier, Dan Finkle, John Kunzweiler, Bernice Lawson, Noah Lorencovitz, Sara Maloney, Adeline Montanino, Nancy Orkin, Kathy Philips, Angela Rios,*

**Richard Rodimer, Annie Salzman,  
Andy Secallus, Frances and Jim  
Spilman, Pat Ambio and Maureen  
Tuccio.**

### *First Friday Adoration*

Everyone is invited to spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament in adoration each First Friday beginning after the 8:30 Mass until 6:00pm. There is a signup sheet in the church vestibule for each hour. Please join us on Friday, April 3rd, for this special prayer and devotion.

## **Lent 2020**

### *Fast and Abstinence*

Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In addition, all Catholics 14 years of age and older must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent. Fasting, as explained by the U.S. bishops, means eating only one full meal. Some food (not equaling another full meal) is permitted at breakfast and around midday or in the evening, depending on when a person chooses to eat the main or full meal. Abstinence forbids the use of meat, but not eggs, milk products or condiments made of animal fat.

### *The Way of the Cross*

Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Friday afternoon during Lent, beginning at 3:00 P.M. in the church. This traditional Catholic devotion is a meaningful way to grow closer to the Lord in His passion and death for our salvation. Please consider making this prayer a part of your spiritual journey during these forty days of renewal.



This Lenten season, each Catholic parish in the Diocese of Paterson will have Confession available every Monday evening March 2nd to March 23rd from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm on March 30<sup>th</sup>, we will have our Lenten Penance Service at St. Mary's in Dover, beginning at 7:00 pm. "Welcome Home" is a diocesan initiative to invite all Catholics to experience the grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confession is a wonderful opportunity to set aside our sinful ways and to draw closer to our Lord. If you have been reluctant to come to the Sacrament, have been away for some time or just found it difficult to get to a Saturday afternoon Confession time, this is a wonderful opportunity to re-connect with Christ and His Church. Don't be afraid! Information will be provided. Ask the priest to help you. Experience the gracious mercy of God!

[www.WelcomeHomeToHealing.org](http://www.WelcomeHomeToHealing.org)

### *Lenten Penance Service*

Our communal Reconciliation Service for Lent will take place at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, March 30th. This Sacrament, which is a celebration of the tender mercy of God in Jesus Christ, will be held at Saint Mary's in Dover. A number of priests, including Fr. Derek Anderson, Pastor at St. Mary's, and myself, will be available for individual confessions after our common prayer. Families are encouraged to make time to be together for this experience of worship and forgiveness. Celebrating and accepting God's pardon motivates us to reach out to others with a sincere offer of mercy and healing, mending broken relationships and welcoming those who have hurt or wronged us back into our lives. Acknowledging that we are all sinners, we rejoice in God's abundant compassion and His longing to welcome us home to the embrace of His peace. May our hunger for oneness with our loving and forgiving God send us "running," with joy, into the arms of Jesus' unconditional

and total love, ever grateful for the absolution we receive in this Sacrament of Penance. Mark your calendars now. ***Please be aware that there will not be individual confessions on that Monday night, Monday 30th, here at St. Bernard's, as part of the "Welcome Home to Healing" initiative.***

**TAIZE PRAYER**

All are invited to gather in candlelight for a time of meditative common prayer with singing that will continue in the silence of your heart. We all need to take a break from the stress of busy and hectic lives to experience a time of inner peace and reflective prayer. Join with parishioners of St. Clement Parish for an hour of prayer and song on this Friday, April 3rd at 7:30 P.M. in the Gathering Area. The music of Taize, a small ecumenical community in France, has circled the globe and is noted for its simple repetitive words that make quiet rhythm in the spirit.



***CRS Operation Rice Bowl***

**Meet Maria Ana**

Maria Ana and her brothers receive one meal a day at school, so that they can focus on achieving their dreams. How was education important for your future? How can you ensure that all young people have a chance to be educated? Visit: **[crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org)** for more.

***Chrism Mass***

This year's celebration of the Chrism Mass will take place on Monday night of Holy Week, April 6, 2020, beginning at 7:00 P.M. at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson. Bishop Serratelli extends an invitation to all people of the diocese to participate in this Eucharist. During the Mass our bishop will bless the Oil of Catechumens

and the Oil of the Sick and consecrate the Sacred Chrism for use in the sacramental life of the Church throughout the diocese.

***Easter Flowers for the Altar***

Once again, we will be memorializing Easter flowers to be used in Church. If you wish to remember loved ones with flowers, please fill out the form below, **PRINT** all names, mail it to the rectory, or drop it in the collection basket. Please have it reach us by tomorrow March 29, 2020. The names of those being remembered and donor's name will appear in the Easter Bulletin.

**Easter Flowers  
PLEASE PRINT ALL  
INFORMATION**

**In Memory of:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Or**

**For the Special Intention of:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Given By:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Donation Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## What's My Name?

The #WHATSMYNAME Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.

**#WHATSMYNAME**

In Remembrance of Samantha Josephson

## Mallory's Army Foundation

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