

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST. BERNARD

615 H St. Eureka, CA 95501 (707) 442-6466

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Office Hours

Monday — Friday, 8am — 2pm
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FAX: (707) 443-0914

www.saintbernards.org



Mass Schedule at St. Bernard

Sundays: 10:30 am

Weekdays: 12:15 pm. Mon, Wed, Fri

Holy Days: Vigil 7:00 pm, 12:15 pm

Confessions: Wednesdays 1:00 pm-

& by appointment

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Wed. 1-9pm



St. Joseph Mission Church Mass Schedule

(Located on the corner of C & Henderson St.)

Saturdays: 4:00 pm. (vigil), Sundays: 7:30 am.

Weekdays: Tuesdays & Thursdays 7:30 am.

Holy Days: 7:30 am

Confessions: Saturdays 3:15-3:45 pm & by appt.

October 16, 2016, Sunday of Ordinary Time



That widow in Jesus' parable who kept badgering the judge to vindicate her cause—think of what she was up against. As a widow in the Ancient Near East she is without resources. Since the court of law (the city gates?) was entirely a male realm, we are to picture her as a lone woman amidst a noisy crowd of men. An oft-quoted description of Near Eastern litigation describes a raucous crowd of clients competing for the attention of a judge, who is surrounded by an array of personal clerks. Some clients gain access to the judge by supplying "fees" (bribes) to a particular clerk. The rest simply clamor. The fact that the woman is alone suggests that there is no male available in her extended family to plead her case. She is very much alone in an intimidating situation.

What is more, the judge is described as one who neither fears God nor is he capable of shame before men. He is moved only by bribery and this woman is either unwilling or unable to use that means. The only strategy available to her is persistence "While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being, because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me [literally, 'give me a blow under the eye']." He knows the woman is not going to give up; so he gives in.

There is no question regarding the point of this story. Luke introduces it, after all, by saying, "Jesus told his disciples a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary." But if the woman is supposed to be an example of how to pray, why does Jesus take the risk of paralleling God with a godless, shameless judge? This startling way of making a point is an example of what rabbis called *qal ivahomer* ("light and heavy")—an argument that reasons in this way: "If it is thus in the 'tight' situation, how much more in the 'heavy'?" Jesus uses this ploy elsewhere, for example, in another teaching on prayer, when he asks, "If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him" In other words, if the unstoppable widow can, by her persistence, win vindication from an unjust and godless judge, how much more will you get a response from a loving God?

But if God is, as a matter of fact, not a corrupt judge unreachable through appeals to justice and compassion, why the need for persistence? It may be that, from the human side, some situations simply require our involvement in prayer of petition over an extended time. The classic example of this is the prayer of Monica, the mother of the gifted but errant young man that the Church would eventually canonize as Saint Augustine. In his *Confessions*, Augustine acknowledges that it was the persistent prayer of his mother that facilitated his adult Christian conversion. His description of his own pre-conversion lifestyle portrays what we today may have good reason to identify as a sexual addiction

His conversion entailed not simply a decision to act differently but a healing from that addiction.

At this moment in our national history, we are being forced to recall another gifted and flawed man and another sort of Monica, presenting a kind of epiphany of our national need for healing in a variety of ways. A case can be made that we are seeing patterns of individual and collective addiction—sexual addiction, an investigative and legal process that outran its original purpose, a practice of partisan politics that lost a sense of the common good, and a media industry and public that indulged in frenzied feeding on the whole spectacle. But is it not possible that there is also a deeper call here to a persistent prayer for national healing?

Dennis Hamm, SJ

Today's Readings

Reading I: Exodus 17:8-13

Reading II: 2 Timothy 3: 14-4:2

Gospel: Luke 18: 1-8

Next Sunday's Readings

Reading I: Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18

Reading II: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Gospel: Luke 18: 9-14

Mass Schedule and Intentions

St. Bernard Church

10/16 Sun 10:30 am Fr. Eric Freed †
 10/17 Mon 12:15 pm Int. Chad Kryla
 10/19 Wed 12:15 pm Int. Jesus Nunez & Roberto Sandoval
 10/21 Fri 12:15 pm Hugo Pompati & Family †
 10/23 Sun 10:30 am Mass for the People

St. Joseph Hospital

10/18 Tue 11:30 am Anita Pera †
 10/20 Thu 11:30 am Lois Gardner †

St Joseph Church

10/15 Sat 4:00 pm Dec. Mem. ICF
 10/16 Sun 7:30 am Mass for the People
 10/18 Tue 7:30 am Helen Gieriek Scuri †
 10/20 Thu 7:30 am Morrison Gardner †
 10/22 Sat 4:00 pm Angelina DelGrande †
 10/23 Sun 7:30 am Hugo Pompati & Family †

Stewardship: The collection last weekend was **\$2,635** and Building & Maintenance Fund was **\$1,371**

THE SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND IS FOR WORLD MISSION SUNDAY. This World Mission Sunday 2nd collection, along with the other special collections throughout the year, is one of the profound ways we ordinary Catholics fulfill the evangelizing mandate given to us by the Lord... We stay-at-home missionaries make it possible for official ambassadors of the Church to go forth and evangelize.

Pray for the sick: Yvette Logan, Petra Cortec, Erin Ford, Ryan Pepper, Heather Walsh-Redner-Ringwald, Nancy Elgin, Kathi Branum, Allie, Isela Adams, Evelyn Avila, Jim Avila, Jeri Becksted, Nancy Brunner, Therese Dick, Ed Dickinson, Sr. Gertrude Connolly, Barbara Hayes, Elizabeth McCaskill, Paul Shabata, Ashley Suthlund, Nancy Tompkins, Patricia Tritten, Victor Vellejo, Jenie Wood and John Kusters

Parish News & Events This Week

- 10/17 Mon 6:15 pm** English Faith Formation for Children/St. Bernard Academy
- 10/17 Mon 7 pm** Baptism Prep Class /Parish Hall
- 10/18 Tue 12 pm** Knights /Cookhouse
- 10/19 Wed 7 pm** Grief Support/ Hospital Chapel
- 10/19 Wed 7 pm** Confirmation Prep/ Upstairs Parish Hall
- 10/20 Thu 7 pm** RCIA Upstairs Parish Hall

Children's Faith Formation News: Your children in Faith Formation are settling in nicely and it is hard to believe that a month has already gone by so quickly! We have a 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3/4th combined and also a 5th grade class with some absolutely wonderful catechists and aides volunteering to teach your kids. Please keep this program, the volunteers and your children in your prayers, that the Holy Spirit guide and bless all of them. Also, a big THANK YOU to all the kids and their families who participated in the Sacred Heart Parish Picnic activities, last weekend, it was a fantastic time! Peace in Christ, Melanie Broswick

Youth Ministry News Confirmation begins Wednesday, October 19th at 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm, 2nd Floor of St. Bernard's Parish Hall. Registration forms are in the back of the church. Please return them to either parish office. Confirmation is for students grades 6th-8th and or high school age who still need to receive the Sacrament. All Confirmation classes will be in English, and students will be from St. Bernard's and Sacred Heart. If you have any questions, please contact Analisa Alegria, Youth Minister, at 707-442-6466 ext. 103 or a.alegria08@gmail.com. Thank you.

RCIA/Come and See! Adults interested in becoming part of the Catholic faith or for full initiation through Eucharist and or Confirmation are invited to the St. Bernard parish hall upstairs on Thursday evening, 7pm.

Pastor's Corner

Fr Tom and Fr Eddie are away on retreat during the week and Fr Tom will return on Friday afternoon while Fr. Eddie takes a short vacation through Nov 4th.

I want to thank Fr Cloney and Fr Brady for covering while we are gone. If there are any emergencies please call St. Bernard's, 442-6466 to have the secretary or answering service contact a priest if there is an emergency.

MONDAY - WHAT IS SALVATION from the perspective of the early Church Fathers. Fr. David Anderson will have session #5 at St. Joseph Church in Fortuna at 7pm in the PAC. For more info call 725-1148



A BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF ST. MATTHEW will begin on **Thursday, Nov. 3rd** at Sacred Heart Rectory, 2085 Myrtle Ave. from **9-10 am** and Coffee and rolls will be served.

Registration is taking place at this time by phoning either parish office. The cost is \$10 per person. Bibles will be provided and a commentary is yours to keep.

HUMOR-SCHOOL: A little girl had just finished her first week of school. 'I'm just wasting my time,' she said to her mother. 'I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk!'

SUPER SATURDAY SALE-ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The St. Vincent de Paul Store at 528 2nd Street in Eureka will be hosting **SUPER SATURDAY SALES**, 22nd and 29th from 11- 5 p.m., each Saturday. Inventory must be reduced from an influx of furniture and other goods resulting from the closure of the Arcata store.

SONS OF ITALY POLENTA DINNER Join your friends at St. Bernard Academy at 5 p.m. on Sunday 10/30 for our delicious polenta and chicken dinner! Participate in the raffle featuring great prizes and check out our Italian table for exciting new merchandise! Tickets are \$15 - contact Richard Luzzi, 443-8669.

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that He gave His only Son,
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