

# ST. BERNADETTE

8200 W. Denver Ave. • Milwaukee, WI 53223

# OUR LADY OF GOOD HOPE

7152 N. 41<sup>ST</sup> St. • Milwaukee, WI 53209

# ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

8661 N. 76<sup>TH</sup> Pl. • Milwaukee, WI 53223



MEMBERS OF NORTHWEST MILWAUKEE CATHOLIC PARISHES



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE GOOD NEWS  
PROCLAIMED  
**TO THEM.**

— MATTHEW 11:5 —

©LPI



## St. Bernadette

[stbernadette@nwmcp.org](mailto:stbernadette@nwmcp.org)

Office: 414-358-4600



## St. Catherine of Alexandria

[st.catherine@nwmcp.org](mailto:st.catherine@nwmcp.org)

Office: 414-365-2020



## Our Lady of Good Hope

[olgh@nwmcp.org](mailto:olgh@nwmcp.org)

Office: 414-352-1148

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

DECEMBER 14, 2025 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Bulletin Deadline Changes

Weekend	Deadline, 10:00AM
December 20-21	was December 4
December 27-28	was December 10
January 3-4	was December 15

## Parish calendar scheduling

Parish organizations, groups, and committees: Our three parishes are blessed with many gatherings and ministries. To keep our shared calendar accurate and to ensure harmony in the use of parish facilities, we ask that all meetings and events be scheduled through the parish offices. Since the offices work together to maintain one calendar, please send your 2026 dates and times to your parish office promptly, along with the contact person for any scheduling concerns. This way, we can keep our parish life running smoothly.



### Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24  
4:00PM at StB, BIS, StCA,  
StMM, OLGH  
December 25  
10:30AM at StMM

## Adult formation on FORMED

Deepen your relationship with God to know Him better.  
December 14 ~ Adore: Advent with Fr. John Burns  
Week Three: <https://app.formed.org/app/videos/1887663?cid=1129019>

**Give gifts**  
from our  
**advertisers**  
this holiday season!



*St. Bernadette:* All those on the long-term prayer list in the Book of Assembly Prayer and posted in the gathering area

*St. Catherine of Alexandria:* All those on the long-term prayer list posted at the back of church

*Our Lady of Good Hope:* Jane Kirst, Marie Lore, and all those on the long-term prayer list posted at the back of church

## Submit Christmas Memorials



A Christmas Memorial is a gift for the parish in memory of a loved one. Donations for Christmas Memorials, in whatever amount you choose, may be placed in the collection basket or sent to the parish office anytime before December 15. Please include the legible names of your departed loved ones to be held in memory and your name to receive credit for the donation. Identify it as Christmas Memorial. Your loved ones' names will be remembered on display in the back of church at OLGH and StCA or in the gathering area at StB, and they will be mentioned in the Prayer of the Faithful at the Christmas Masses.

## Eucharistic Adoration

December 16, 2:50-3:50PM at StB  
December 20, 2:50-3:50PM at OLGH  
January 8, 10:50-11:50AM at StCA

## Gospel reflection: Third Sunday of Advent

Even John the Baptist, the fearless prophet who boldly proclaimed the coming Messiah, experienced moments of doubt from the darkness of his prison cell. His question—"Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"—echoes the honest uncertainties that arise in our own hearts when circumstances don't unfold as we expected. Jesus doesn't rebuke John's doubt; instead, He responds with evidence of His kingdom breaking into the world: the blind see, the lame walk, the poor hear good news. This Third Sunday of Advent reminds us that faith doesn't mean the absence of questions, but rather bringing those questions directly to Jesus and watching for His response in the transformation happening around us. The Messiah John announced didn't come as a conquering warrior but as a healer of broken bodies and hearts, challenging our assumptions about how God works in the world. Jesus honors John as the greatest born of women, yet declares that even the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater—a stunning promise that God's grace elevates us beyond what any human achievement could accomplish. As we light the third Advent candle of joy, we're invited to rejoice not because our circumstances are perfect, but because God is faithfully at work even when we can't fully see or understand His ways. In our own prisons of worry, disappointment, or confusion, may we follow John's example: bring our honest doubts to Jesus and wait with open eyes for the signs of His kingdom all around us.  
~ Blessings, Fr. Mark Payne



## Our calendar raffles are back for 2026!

We're thrilled to announce that even though we expect to be a merged corporation as of July 1, St. Bernadette and St. Catherine of Alexandria are still able to hold calendar raffles for the full year of 2026.

Let's kick off the season with joy and generosity:

- Calendars are \$25 each.
- Daily prizes range from \$25 to \$100.
- Winning tickets go back in the hopper—you can win more than once!
- They make perfect Christmas gifts—easy for you, meaningful for them.

Calendars will be available in the back of each church after Masses, at events such as StB fish fry and bingo, and in any parish office. Please consider purchasing calendars for yourself, your friends, and your loved ones this holiday season. Your support helps our parishes and spreads cheer all year long.

We must sell enough tickets by December 31 or the raffles cannot be held. Let's make this year's raffles a joyful success!

## Continental breakfast at StB

Continental breakfast will be served in the StB cafeteria after Mass next Sunday. Please join us for doughnuts and beverages.



4:30-7:00PM in the StB cafeteria

December 19	February 20	March 20	April 17
January 16	March 6	April 3	May 15

## Donations needed for the food pantry

Our pantry is grateful for the support of NWMCP! We are stronger when we work together. *For December, we are asking for donations of boxed potatoes (mashed, au gratin, scalloped, etc.) and boxed cereal.* Please bring nonperishable food items and leave them in the drop-off containers at any of our parishes. Thank you for making it possible to feed more needy families in our neighborhood.

## Catholic trivia

**Question:** According to tradition, what are the names of Mary's parents?

**Answer:** St. Anne and St. Joachim

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## Congratulations to our StB Calendar Raffle winners

12/01/25	Jeff Schmidt
12/02/25	Mike Thorn, Jr.
12/03/25	Kathy Brengosz
12/04/25	Holly M. Wright
12/05/25	Sarah Jabara
12/06/25	Maureen McFadden
12/07/25	Gary Clark

## Congratulations to our StCA Calendar Raffle winners

12/01/25	Ben Kolo
12/02/25	Nate Bognar
12/03/25	George Mason
12/04/25	Matthew Forsberg
12/05/25	Karly Volz
12/06/25	Jack Conrad
12/07/25	Franciscan Missions

## Hmong New Year Mass celebration

All are invited to join the StB Hmong community's New Year Mass celebration on Saturday, December 27, at 10:00AM. Potluck to follow Mass.

## On our journey to become one parish, pastoral care is available

Rev. Mark, Pastor: 414-358-4600, ext. 143

Rev. Francis, Associate Pastor: 414-461-6073

Br. Joe Pense, SDS, Pastoral Associate: 414-461-6073

Mary Dahl, Pastoral Minister: 414-365-2020, ext. 301

Together, this team stands ready to nurture our faith and to bring peace into our lives and the lives of those around us. If you or someone you know needs pastoral support, contact your parish office to connect with someone on our pastoral team.

*God, grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
Courage to change the things I can;  
And wisdom to know the difference.*

## Prayer for Advent - Peace

Come, Lord Jesus!

Bring Your peace to our world. Inspire reconciliation, heal divisions, bind wounds, rewrite scripts. You are the Prince of Peace; bring that light into every space. Amen. ©LPi

*"Consult not your fears, but your hopes and dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do." ~ Pope Saint John XXIII*

## A Christmas Message: Coming Together in Hope

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we approach this holy season, I want to speak directly to what many of you may be feeling about our Christmas Day celebration. This year, we will gather together as one community at St. Margaret Mary Parish for our Christmas Day Mass, rather than celebrating at each of our individual parish sites.

I know this decision brings mixed emotions, and I want you to know that I hear you and understand your concerns.

For our beloved parishioners of St. Catherine of Alexandria and Our Lady of Good Hope, this Christmas may carry particular weight. The thought that this might be among your last Christmas celebrations in these sacred spaces—churches where you were baptized or married, where you've mourned loved ones and rejoiced in countless blessings—brings a very real sadness. These walls hold your prayers, your memories, and generations of faith. The grief of potentially losing your sacred space is not something to dismiss lightly, and I acknowledge how difficult this is.

Yet even in this difficulty, I ask you to consider what we are moving toward, not just what we may be leaving behind.

The decision to celebrate Christmas Day together at one site is not about convenience or logistics alone. It is an invitation—an invitation to experience something we have not fully known before: the strength and joy of true unity. By bringing together the choirs, musicians, and faithful from all five parishes, we will create a celebration that reflects the fullness of who we are becoming. We are not five separate communities that have a common geographic location; we are one family in Christ, learning to recognize ourselves in one another.

This Christmas gathering is a practice run for our future. As we face the reality of merging communities, we must learn to move freely among our neighboring parishes, to see beyond “my church” to “our Church.” The Christmas story itself is about God breaking through barriers—heaven touching earth, divine meeting human, shepherds and kings worshiping side

by side. Our coming together embodies that same spirit of unexpected unity.

I understand that change, especially when it touches the places most sacred to us, can feel like loss. But I believe that the future holds more promise when we gather together as one than when we remain separate. In our unity, we find strength. In our shared worship, we discover renewed purpose. In our willingness to journey together, we honor the Christ child who came to gather all people to himself.

This Christmas, as we join our voices in one sanctuary, we are choosing hope over fear, communion over isolation, and a shared future over a fragmented past. We are saying yes to something larger than any one of us or any single parish community.

I invite you to come with open hearts. Greet someone you don't know. Sit beside someone from another parish. Let the music wash over you—the combined voices of our choirs, the harmonies we can only make together. See in this gathering a glimpse of the kingdom of God, where all are welcome and all belong.

The road ahead may not be easy, but we do not walk it alone. We walk it together, guided by the light of Christ, who was born to bring us home to one another and to God.

May this Christmas be for all a celebration of Emmanuel—God with us—and may we be for each other a sign of God's abiding presence.

With prayers and hope for our shared journey,  
Rev. Mark Payne

*Pastor of StB, BIS, StCA, OLGH, and StMM Parishes*



## Schedule of Masses & Intentions

Sunday, December 14, 2025: 3rd Sunday in Advent

8:30AM FA at StCA (Praise): \*Foster & Gladys Braby

10:30AM FA at StB (Praise): \*Dumke family

\*Nick & Joanne Nigro

Monday, December 15, 2025

No Mass

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

4:00PM RM at StB: \*Rogelio & Olivia Castro

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

8:15AM FA at OLGH: \*Agnes Zagorski

Thursday, December 18, 2025

12:00PM MP at StCA: \*Nguyen family

Friday, December 19, 2025

No Mass

Saturday, December 20, 2025

3:00PM Sacrament of Reconciliation at OLGH

4:00PM MP at OLGH: FATP

Sunday, December 21, 2025: 4th Sunday of Advent

8:30AM MP at StCA: \*Lorraine Jacobs

10:30AM MP at StB: \*Resop, Stapelfeldt, Odenbrett, & Westenberger families

MP = Fr. Mark Payne

FA = Fr. Francis Assisi

AJ = Fr. Alan Jurkus

RM = Fr. Roman Mueller

FATP = For all the parishioners of StB, BIS, StCA, StMM, OLGH

## Parish Staff

Fr. Mark Payne, Pastor:

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Northwest Catholic School, Nick Lee, Principal:

414-352-6927; www.nwcschool.org



## This Week at Our Parishes

Sunday, December 14, 2025

- New member registration & donut Sunday, after Mass at StCA-GR
- Blood pressure screening, after Mass at StCA-GR
- Christian Formation classes, 12:00PM at StCA-school
- Bingo, 5:00/6:00/7:00PM at StB-cafeteria

Monday, December 15, 2025

- Intercessory prayer group, 9:30AM at StB-LMR
- Advanced tai chi, 9:30AM at OLGH-NH
- January 4th bulletin announcement deadline, 10:00AM
- Beginner tai chi, 11:00AM at OLGH-NH
- StB/OLGH StVdP mtg, 1:00PM at StB-LMR
- Christian Formation Cmte meeting, 6:00PM at StMM
- OCIA class, 6:00PM at StCA-GR

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

- Preparing bag lunches for the homeless, 9:00AM at StB-LMR
- *33 Days to Eucharistic Glory* book read/discussion, 9:00AM at OLGH-room 2
- Strength Training for Seniors, 2:00PM at StCA-GR
- Adoration and rosary, 2:50PM at StB

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

- StCA StVdP meeting, 8:30AM at StCA-food pantry
- Intermediate tai chi, 9:15AM at OLGH-NH
- Seated tai chi, 10:15AM at OLGH-room 2
- Pastoral Council meeting, 6:00PM at StB-LMR

Thursday, December 18, 2025

- Pulpit announcement deadline, 12:00PM
- Evangelization Cmte meeting, 6:00PM at StMM

Friday, December 19, 2025

- Prayer shawl ministry, 1:00PM at StCA-GR
- Fish fry, 4:30-7:00PM at StB-cafeteria

Saturday, December 20, 2025

- *A Place at the Table* viewing and discussion part 2, 9:30AM at StB-cafeteria
- Adoration, 2:50PM at OLGH
- Blood pressure screening, after Mass at OLGH

Sunday, December 21, 2025

- Continental breakfast, after Mass at StB-cafeteria
- Christian Formation classes, 12:00PM at StCA-school
- Bingo, 5:00/6:00/7:00PM at StB-cafeteria

## Readings for the Week of December 14, 2025

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

Thursday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Saturday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-6/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-2