

2022 Guide Book & Directory

Saint Bernard of Clairvaux

Catholic Church

1 St. Bernard Lane | Bella Vista, AR 72715 | (479) 855-9069

St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic Church

1 St. Bernard Ln., Bella Vista, AR 72715

Phone: (479) 855-9069

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Email: office@bvstbernard.org

Web Site: www.bvstbernard.org



**Father Barnabas Maria-Susai,
Pastor**

Parish Staff

Pastor	Father Barnabas Maria-Susai
Deacon	Al Genna
Parish Manager	Russ Anzalone
Administrative Assistant.....	Christina Laughlin
Finance	Roxanne Birchfield
Office Assistant	Mary Powers
Religious Education	Kim Syverson
R.C.I.A Team	Dc Al Genna
Maintenance	Joe Moloney & Rick Hamersley
Music & Choir Director	Lucia Campbell
Praise Team Director	Sam Roller
Instrumentalist.....	Miles Barrett, Kathy Dederich, Deb Richter, Don Schmutz, Chris Tabat

Mass Schedule and Office Hours

Mass Schedule

Sunday	9:00a.m.
Saturday Vigil	5:00p.m.
Mon., Tues., Thurs., & Fri.	8:30a.m.
Wednesday	5:30p.m.
Holy Day Vigil	7:00p.m.
Holy Day	9:00a.m.

Reconciliation

Wednesday	4:45p.m.
Saturday	4:15p.m.
Sunday	8:15a.m.
Or by appointment by calling the Parish Office	

Parish Office

Monday-Friday	8:00a.m.-3:00p.m.
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Administrative Councils & Committees

Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council meets the 4th Monday of each month at 9:15 a.m. in the Parish Hall. The elected council members are responsible for reporting on their assigned club, organization or service area at each meeting and a financial update is presented by the Finance Council. Parish members are invited to attend the meetings. The council acts in an advisory capacity to the Pastor. Elections are held in February each year.

Finance Council

The Finance Council is responsible for advising the pastor on all financial matters in the parish. The council also advises on buildings and grounds issues through a subcommittee established as the Building & Maintenance Committee. The council develops and monitors the annual budget throughout the year. Membership on the council is by appointment of the Pastor and meets at 9:15 a.m. on the 3rd Monday of each month in the Parish Hall.

Columbarium

The St. Bernard Catholic Church Columbarium is available for the cremated remains of any member or former member of St. Bernard's or authorized members of the immediate family. Family members need to be Christian and there needs to be a Christian burial. Niches are available at a cost of \$500 each. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Parish Office.

Prayer & Devotional Groups

Adoration

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament focuses the heart and mind in prayer, with attention fixed on the mystery of the Eucharistic presence of Christ in church. Adoration takes place in the parish chapel in one-hour segments, from 6:00 a.m. to Midnight, seven days a week.

Daily Rosary

The Rosary is prayed each day of the week, one half hour before daily Masses in the chapel and one half hour before weekend Masses in the church.

Vocations Cross

The cross is presented at weekend Masses and returned to the church before the start of Mass on the following Saturday or Sunday. Those taking the Vocations Cross are asked to pray for vocations during the week. All parishioners are invited to sign up to take the cross home by contacting the parish office.

Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Any parish home may be enthroned to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The family places a representation (blessed picture or statue) of Jesus manifesting His Glorified Heart in a prominent place in their home. An act of consecration of the family to the Heart of Jesus, the enthronement is the climax of a three day set of prayers that take place in your home.

Parish Outreach

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion to the Homebound

The Body of Christ is taken weekly to those who are homebound and unable to attend Mass because of illness, handicap or age and to those who are hospitalized or residing in a nursing home or assisted living facility. Ministers are confirmed, registered members of the parish, and demonstrate a sense of reverence for the ministry and for the people to whom communion is given. Training is provided. Please contact the Parish Office if you, or someone in your immediate family, would like Communion brought to them or to volunteer as a home communion minister.

Respect for Life

This committee is dedicated to helping the unborn and helpless of our society. The regional Right to Life Committee of Northwest Arkansas works through education, prayer and service to educate Catholics about respect for life issues.

Project Compassion

The purpose of the Project Compassion Group is to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the ill, elderly and lonely of our parish family and to provide respite for their caregivers.

Services include:

- Staying with people for a short time so the caregiver can get a break, do errands or attend Mass.
- Providing meals after hospitalization or during an illness on a short-term basis.
- Visiting the shut-ins.
- Visiting the hospitalized and those in nursing homes.
- Assisting people with home needs such as periodic yard work and minor home repairs.
- Advising people as to community services that are available.
- Providing transportation as needed.



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ST. BERNARD'S COLUMBARIUM

*Niches are available to parish members
& former members. Also their immediate
family to inter their cremated remains.*

**To purchase niches, contact
Carole Richter at 479-282-1445.**

**For information contact
Tom Buchl at 479-640-6895
email: doc501_60@yahoo.com**



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a prayerful handiwork voluntarily created by parish artisans to be presented, with a blessing to those in need of comfort and healing. The shawls are knitted or crocheted using patterns of choice. Shawls are given to anyone who is ill, lonely, dying, in need of spiritual help or any other difficulties the person may be encountering. Recipients can live anywhere and be of any faith.

Shoebox Ministry

100 shoeboxes are filled monthly with toiletries, socks, reading material, notepad and pen, laundry soap, band-aids and other items that are either donated by parishioners or purchased by the ministry and given to the poor and homeless at 13 different shelters from Bella Vista to Fayetteville. Donations are always welcome from various parish clubs and generous parishioners.

Rosary Guild

The Rosary Guild ministry focus is to make and supply rosaries for the missions. We are affiliated with “Our Lady Rosary Makers” in Louisville, Kentucky. We meet every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. in the parish hall, room 203. We provide all supplies and instructions and welcome new members.

Food Pantry

Parishioners donate food on the first weekend of each month at Masses. Food is stored in the Parish Food Pantry located in the Parish Hall. The St. Bernard Food Pantry is open Tuesday & Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Boxes of food are available to those in need. Excess food collected is given to Care & Share in Gravette for distribution to the needy.

Blood Drive

The Knights of Columbus, Council #9514, coordinates a blood drive three times per year in the Parish Hall in support of the Community Blood Service. This drive helps to provide blood to 37 area hospitals in a four state area.

Tootsie Roll Project

Proceeds from this annual event assist children with learning disabilities in the area. The Knights of Columbus, Council #9514, schedules the project and arranges for volunteers.

Parish Education

Youth Religious Education & Sacramental Preparation

Students in K-8 and 9-12 meet on Sundays in the Chapel and then in the Education Center of the Parish Hall during the school year. The mission is to support and assist the pastor, the parents, and the parish family by providing the means and the occasion for our children to grow in their love for God and in their knowledge of Catholic doctrine and Christian principles. This is accomplished through weekly religious education classes, sacramental preparation, meaningful service projects, and occasional church-sponsored social activities.

R.C.I.A.

At St. Bernard, the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) classes are open to all who seek to learn the teachings that Jesus Christ left for His Church. We welcome:

- those who come for the first time to explore the Catholic faith on their faith journey
- those seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation so that they can be in full communion with the Church
- those who have been away from the Church and wish to take a new look at the faith
- those who are active in their faith wishing to develop a deeper understanding
- parishioners who would like to become sponsors and help bring these teachings to others

Each September these souls come as strangers on that Journey of Faith; soon they become friends, then family and then become part of our St. Bernard Community. We invite you to come and learn more about the Catholic Faith and become part of the RCIA family. All are welcome!!

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation meets periodically with the purpose of providing adults with a better understanding and deepening of their faith through experience, reflection, prayer and study. Announcements as to dates, times, and locations will be printed in the Parish Bulletin.

Little Rock Scripture Study and Other Scripture Programs

Various study programs meet different days and times in the Education Center of the parish hall and in private homes. The purpose is to develop a greater understanding of the Bible; an awareness of God's living presence in sacred Scripture, and an appreciation of how the Bible can be applied to daily life. Participants, with the aid of a Bible commentary and study guide, spend twenty minutes daily reading and reflecting on an assigned section of Scripture. Each group gathers weekly in small groups to pray and to share the fruits of their study followed by a wrap-up lecture, usually on videotape. Meetings are about 1 ½ hours long. All are encouraged and welcome to participate in these programs. Announcements as to dates, times, and locations will be printed in the Parish Bulletin.

“Get Ready to Hear” . . . A Preparation for the Sunday Homily

The purpose of the study is to prepare parishioners to hear the Gospel and the homily with a more informed ear. The study includes how each Sunday’s Scriptural selection fits historically in Jesus’ time; how it impacted Vatican II and how it is expressed in Catholic teaching in the Catechism. There is also a section on Catholic Theology and Spirituality as influenced by the Sunday Gospel. The sessions are Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Participants are emailed the study in advance and weekly attendance is as fits one’s schedule.

Missions/Retreats/Speakers

The parish seeks to provide ways that the parishioners can set aside time for prayer and reflection of their lives in the light of the gospel message and to consider relationships with God and others. Speakers are invited to lead parishioners to refresh faith, renew hope, change attitudes, gain new direction and grow in the love of Jesus. Missions are usually scheduled for Lent and Advent seasons.

Parish Library

Located in the Parish Hall, the St. Bernard’s Library is staffed by volunteers. Using the honor system, any parishioner can check out materials. Materials for children, teens and parents are available.

Serving the Parish

Sunday Hospitality

Volunteers serve coffee, punch, and donuts after 9:00 a.m. Mass each Sunday. This provides a great way for parishioners to come together in fellowship and to build community.

Welcoming Committee

The Welcome Committee makes every effort to help new parishioners feel at home in their new parish. New parishioners are welcomed throughout the year at Sunday Mass and at coffee & donuts in the Parish Hall following Sunday Mass.

Shepherd Groups

Formed in the summer of 1995 as one of the ways the parish could answer Pope John Paul II’s call to Evangelization, Shepherd Groups serve as a means of integrating new parishioners into the life of the parish through fellowship, provide a continued sharing of spiritual growth, and provide support to its members during times of illness or death of a loved one. Groups are formed by geographic region within the community and meet periodically for social and spiritual events.



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Liturgical Ministries

Liturgy Committee

The Liturgy Committee with the advice and approval of the Pastor, plans, coordinates and oversees the preparation of the church and sanctuary and plans the weekday and weekend liturgical celebrations and for all Holy Day or seasonal liturgies. The committee includes the leaders of each ministry and some at-large members from the parish.

Music Ministry

Our music ministry consists of traditional, contemporary and children's music. Our adult choir, open to high schoolers and adults, sing the traditional Christian music at the Sunday morning Mass. Rehearsal is on Wednesday evenings starting at 6:00 p.m. The Praise Team sings at the Saturday evening Mass singing contemporary Christian music for the young and the young at heart. Praise Team rehearsal starts at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings. Our youth sing at Sunday morning Mass three times a year. They rehearse Sunday mornings before their religious education classes.

We have Cantors that sing the Psalms at Mass and will lead congregational singing if the choir is not available. To be a cantor please contact the Director of Music to audition. Auditions are required because of singing alone and leading the congregation. New cantors are welcome. Instrumentalists are greatly needed. Instruments of all kinds. Please contact the Director of Music if you are willing to share your talent. "Come make a joyful noise unto the Lord" Singing, is twice praying.

Sacristans

The sacristan(s) maintains the plans of the liturgical planning team for the seasonal environment of the liturgical year and prepares the liturgical space for worship. They insure that sufficient numbers of hosts and wine are prepared for Mass and that all sacred vessels are purified and stored after Mass. They oversee day-to-day maintenance of liturgical objects, assist in the inventory and replenishing of needed items, and offers help in improving areas of the environment as necessary and in maintaining order in the sacristy.

Altar Servers

Youth and adult members of the faith community, 4th grade and older, who have received their first Communion, may serve as assistants to the celebrant at Mass. Ministry involves various duties including holding the sacramentary, setting the altar, leading processions, and in general, assisting with the sacred vessels for Mass. Training is provided.

Lectors

By boldly proclaiming the Scripture, lectors make God's word come alive during Mass for the community of the faithful.

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

Those assisting the celebrant in the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ during the Eucharistic liturgy are confirmed, registered members of the parish. Ministers show a sense of reverence for the Eucharist and have a sense of reverence to others. Training is provided.

Ushers

Ushering is more than taking up the collection, it is a ministry that includes welcoming, assisting parishioners in finding seats, helping parishioners with special needs, providing orderly procession for Communion, and assisting any who become ill.

Gift Bearers

Presenting the gifts to the altar during Mass is a privilege that is extended to all parishioners, especially in celebration of birthdays, wedding anniversaries, or death anniversaries. Although the Shepherd Groups provide the list of Gift Bearers by months of the year, preference will always be extended to those wishing to commemorate a special day. Just call the office to reserve your time.

All parishioners are invited to serve as gift bearers. The gifts of wine, bread and the Book of Petitions are brought forward to the presider at the Offertory. The gift of the offering of money is brought forward by the ushers.

Projectionists

Our parishioners enjoy being able to pray and sing along by seeing the words on our Church's overhead projection system. Our Projection Ministry provides a way for people to serve the entire parish by running the computer for the projection system for Masses and Funerals. To volunteer call Christina Laughlin at 855-9069.

Arts & Environment

This group cares for the environment of the sanctuary and chapel by designing special floral displays for weekends and special liturgies with appropriate color banners, clean altar linens, care of candles, etc.

Anointing of the Sick & Dying

When a person is in danger of death from sickness or old age, a request by the person or caregiver can be made to the parish office for the person to be anointed. If the Pastor is unable to administer this sacrament another priest will be contacted.

Baptism Preparation

Infant baptism is a sacrament of initiation that welcomes a child into our faith community of Catholic believers. A required preparation class is held for parents and those meeting the requirements as godparents. Baptism & preparation is by appointment through the Parish Office. Must be a registered parishioner for six months before class and baptism will be scheduled.

Marriage Preparation

Preparation must be arranged at least six months ahead of the planned marriage time. Must be a registered parishioner for six months prior to starting preparation. Please contact the parish office for further information.

Funeral Ministry

Our Funeral Ministers assist the family of a deceased member by coordinating preparations for the Funeral Mass or Memorial Service. They normally schedule a meeting with the family at the Church office to coordinate their requests within the procedures at St. Bernard.

Funeral Luncheons

Our Parish volunteers organize, solicit food dishes from parishioners and serve brunch/lunch after a funeral. This provides a way for the family and friends to come together to offer consolation and share memories. The Parish suggests that the family consider a donation to cover the expenses.

Tribunal Field Advocates

When a person considers pursuing an annulment, the first contact should be made with the Pastor. He will assign a Field Advocate to those seeking an annulment of marriage. These are trained and appointed laypersons, deacons, religious and priests throughout the diocese who assist petitioners in presenting a case to the Tribunal.

Clubs, Organizations & Activities

Women's Club

All women who are registered at St. Bernard Church are considered members. The Club provides fellowship and service through its many activities that include: speakers, social events, card and golf groups and the Holiday Craft Bazaar. Through its fund raising activities, the St. Bernard Women's Club assists the parish with various activities as well as monetary support. The club also donates to various charities outside the parish. Meetings are held the 2nd Friday of each month (September-May) following Mass. Dues of \$5.00 are requested.

Women's Club Games & Goodies

Table games, i.e., Canasta, Bridge, Mah Jongg or ??? for the ladies of the parish every 2nd Thursday of the month. We welcome singles, doubles and full tables; experienced players and those who want to learn a new game (instructors can be arranged). If you are new to the area and need to find some card-playing friends, this is the place. We have cards and scoresheets for many games.

Tables and beverages provided. We welcome snacks to share with the group. Admission is \$1 per person; funds are distributed to local charities via the Women's Club.

We play every 2nd Thursday, 11:30am until 3:30pm in the Parish Hall. Call Linda Hoppers 479-616-0268 for more information.

Women's Club Holiday Craft Bazaar

The Holiday Bazaar, sponsored by St. Bernard Women's Club, is an annual event that takes place in November. January through November, women of the parish gather on Tuesday of each week at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall to work on craft projects. Their creations are then sold at the Holiday Bazaar. The Bazaar is the principal fundraiser for the Women's Club. All women of the parish are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Men's Club

The Men's Club holds a breakfast/meeting the second Saturday of each month (Sept.- May). All men registered at St. Bernard Church are considered members and dues are \$5.00 per year. The club provides several social events for parishioners throughout the year. Proceeds from these activities and membership fees are used for contributions to local charities and Seminarians in the Diocese. Members also support the parish with special assistance on parish improvement projects.

Caring Friends

Caring Friends is a group of volunteer widows and widowers from St. Bernard. Their mission is to be proactive when a parishioner experiences the death of a spouse or loved one, by offering any help that they can with compassion and understanding, but also be respectful of the newly bereaved who may wish to be left alone. It is important for people to understand that their mission is threefold:

- Short term help during the funeral and immediately after
- Long term support after family members return home
- Social events several times a year

Golf Groups

Various parish golf groups play during the year. The groups include: Men's 9-Hole, Men's 18-Hole, Women's 9-Hole, Women's 18-hole, Couples 9-Hole. Please call the Parish Office for contact information.

Knights of Columbus-3rd Degree

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization founded in 1882 by Father Michael McGivny in New Haven, Connecticut. The four primary principles of the order are: charity, fraternity, unity, and patriotism. St. Bernard Council #9514 welcomes all new and transfer members. Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Knights of Columbus 4th Degree-John Paul Assembly

The assembly consists of members of the Northwest Arkansas 3rd Degree councils and is the patriotic arm of the Knights of Columbus. The 4th Degree Honor Guard is available for assembly, council or parish functions upon request and for wakes and funerals of deceased members. They meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

St. Bernard Book Club

The Book Club meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at noon in the Parish Library. Interested participants gather to enjoy an hour of discussion. A list of monthly book selections can be found on file in the Parish Library along with a list of currently active attendees. Newcomers to the group are most welcome.

Card Clubs

- Pinochle: Meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.
- Bridge: Meets the 3rd Monday of month, September - May, at 6:30p.m. in the Parish Hall.
- Mah Jong: Meets Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to Noon in the Parish Hall.

Bella Vista Community Outreach

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

AA meets Monday through Saturday at noon. They also meet Sundays at 5:00 p.m., Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m., Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and Fridays at 7:00 p.m. All sessions meet in a classroom of the Parish Hall.

Al-Anon

Meets Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Bingo Program

St. Bernard has sponsored a charity Bingo program for many years. It raises thousands of dollars a year for local charities including the NWA Women's Shelter, Children's Shelter, Bella Vista Courtesy Van, Village House Adult Day Care and several others. Bingo sessions are held on the first and third Thursday's of each month in the Parish Hall at 6:30 p.m. Sessions are open to the general public 18 years of age and older. About 70 parish members volunteer for this fun and very worthwhile program. Each works approximately one every three months or more often if they wish. Please call the parish office for more information or to volunteer.

Care & Share

Care & Share is a non-profit community outreach organization sponsored by local churches. They accept donations of nonperishable food, clothing, and household items. The Care & Share trailer is parked in St. Bernard's parking lot the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Donations can be placed in the trailer. Parish volunteers also staff the Gravette Care & Share store six weeks a year.