



ST. BERNARD CATHOLIC CHURCH

219 East Bridge Street - Breaux Bridge, LA 70517
(337) 332-2159

Project Updates

May 1, 2024
St. Joseph the Worker

Dear St. Bernard Parishioners,

Happy feast of St. Joseph, the Worker! Today's feast reminds us of the dignity of labor and calls us to imitate Jesus, who was known as "the carpenter's son." St. Joseph stands as a mentor and example for all who work for a living. He also reminds us of the spiritual work necessary for the protection and advancement of the Church. Our Lord reminds us, "Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life" (Jn 6:27).

The primary work of a parish includes *the worship of God*, *the celebration of sacraments*, and *the teaching and preaching of the Gospel*. Parishes are called to live out the Catholic faith and provide for the spiritual needs of parishioners. Our parish provides for those needs by offering the liturgy in a dignified manner, quality sacramental preparation and formation, and plentiful opportunities for parishioners to grow in their faith and enjoy fellowship with one another. Parishes also have been given the responsibility to assist Catholics in living out the missionary mandate given by Christ. "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19).

Answering the call of Christ, I am excited to share with you a development in the outreach work of St. Bernard Church. As you know, our parish acquired our new property across the street in 2022. Since then, much labor has gone into the complete restoration and renovation of that building. The renovations are nearing completion in time for the space to be utilized this summer.

The newly renovated building will be referred to as the **St. Joseph Oratory and Café**. As you know, St. Joseph is the universal patron of the church, and our parish has a sustained devotion to him. He is a model for young men and a protective father for young women. His love for Jesus and Mary make him an ideal example for every Christian.

In the mid-1800s, St. John Bosco saw the need for young people to experience education rooted in kindness and encouragement. **St. John Bosco opened an oratory that emphasized community, education, faith, and leisure.** Our **St. Joseph Oratory**, a multi-use section in the building, will



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emphasize these same core values. Another section of the building will be known as the **St. Joseph Café**. The café will function as a comfortable and welcoming area for small groups and bible studies for all ages as well as after-school activities. It will not operate as a business but simply as a friendly and approachable meeting area.

Our parish will be offering a series of summer camps in which the Borel Center and the Oratory will be utilized. During the fall semester, the “programming” for the Oratory will begin with opportunities for students to learn new life skills, enjoy a safe and pleasant environment, explore new aspects of our faith, and grow in knowledge and love for one another and the community. **In addition to the Msgr. Borel Center, the St. Joseph Oratory and Café will become a space to facilitate the continued growth of our parish.** We look forward to sharing with you further details about the St. Joseph Oratory and Café in the upcoming months.

Thank you for your support of the 175th Anniversary Campaign, which has directly facilitated the purchase and renovation of the St. Joseph Oratory and Café building. Thank you for your ongoing support of the ministerial efforts of St. Bernard Church. We will continue to strive to follow the path the Lord has prepared for us and respond to his invitation to preach the Gospel to all.

In Jesus and Mary,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Fr. Garrett McIntyre'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping line extending from the end of the name.

Fr. Garrett McIntyre
Pastor of St. Bernard Catholic Church