

The Catholic Community of Bradford

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

Rev. John Jacquel

Pastor

Rev. Edward Walk

Senior Associate

Our Mission: We are a Catholic Christian community committed to being welcoming, outreaching to the homebound and forgotten, while strengthening the faith formation of our youth and adult members in their faith journey.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

95 East Corydon Street, P.O. Box 2394

Bradford, PA 16701-5394



ST. BERNARD MASSES

Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:30 am

DIVINE MERCY CHAPEL MASSES

Monday & Thursday — 8:00 am & 9:00 am

Tuesday — 9:00 am Wednesday — 8:00 am

Friday — 12:10 pm Saturday — 9:00 am

Phone: (814) 362-6825

Email: office@stbernardcatholic.org

Website: www.stbernardcatholic.org

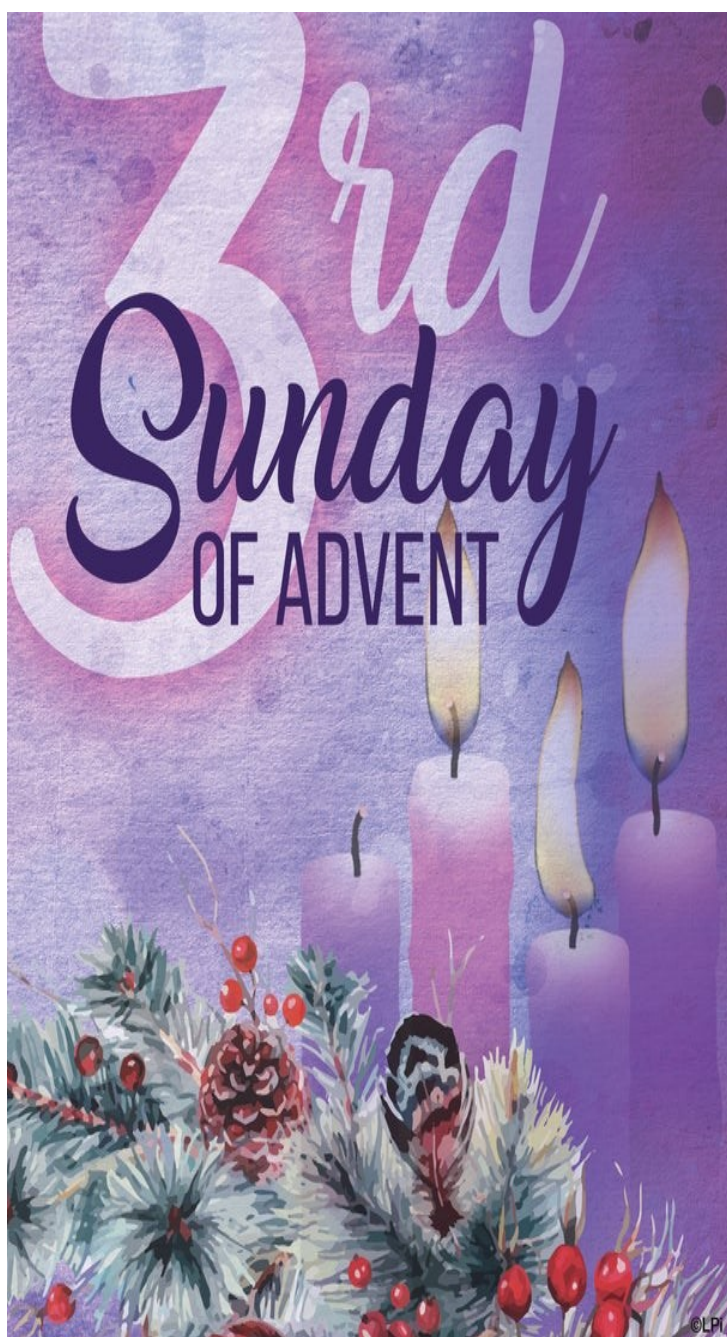
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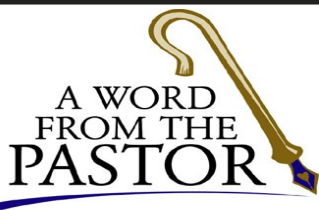
St Bernard of Clairvaux - Bradford, PA

LIVE STREAMING SUNDAY 10 AM

Youtube.com

St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Bradford PA





The great line from the movie "Poltergeist" (1989) is ... "I'm baaack!" Yes, I've returned from my 4-month sabbatical and I've missed the fall colors, the smell of the grapes (Erie County), and seeing the comets and northern lights. But we're preparing for something even greater – the return of the Lord – as we deepen our Advent observance (Christmas can wait).

We finished our silent directed retreat on Thanksgiving Eve (Nov 26) and I promptly took a road trip, refusing to join the millions flying home for the Feast. I enjoyed beef tips at IHOP in Santa Fé, instead. This Mission San Miguel there was founded in the early 1600's, that's a century before the Spanish founded the five missions along the San Antonio River.

I proceeded next day to Albuquerque and found ancient Indian and Spanish petroglyphs (pictures carved in the rock) as well as migrating sandhill cranes at the Nature Center along the swiftly flowing Rio Grande. On to Las Cruces for a hike into the Soledad Canyon on a glorious sunny clear blue sky. Thus, I toured my 49th state. Next year, North Dakota!

The days, weeks, and months of presentations, Masses, spiritual direction, faith sharing, community-building, reading, reflection, and rest went by so quickly - but not without a very therapeutic effect! I am very glad I could attend and very glad they had such a high caliber program at the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio.

Now, I look forward to the days, weeks, months, and years ahead here, to visiting my 50th state, and especially to the Return of the Lord to bring the fullness of blessings, life, and peace to our world. Come, Lord Jesus!

Fr. John



FATHER JOHN

Pew-Mentos (Ornaments made from the oak pews installed in St. Bernard Church in 1938). There are still a few additional ones available in the Parish Office for \$5 each.



SPECIAL ADVENT CONFESSIONS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, 2:00-3:00 PM



Children's Christmas Choir—The Youth Choir will be sharing their gift of singing for us at the Christmas Eve Mass at St. Bernards. The choir is directed by Ryan Cannon and assisted by Lynne Kuntz and Nancy Vinelli. The choir's next practice will be Sunday, December 14th at 11:45, during religious education. The final practice is Sunday, December 21st at 12:30 to 1:00 in the church. Thank you to all parents who make this possible.



FEED THE HUNGRY

We have a unit in the vestibule of the church serving as a food pantry. If you would like to contribute items please bring **NON-PERISHABLE** items only. Cans with easy open lids are appreciated. There are bins at the bottom where you can deposit **SMALL** toiletries, if you wish, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand cream, etc. Please **NO LARGE ITEMS**. Thank you! **If you know a family in need, please feel free to take advantage of this cupboard.**

Prayer for the Third Sunday of Advent

Dear Lord, Give us boldness as we move through the motions of the holiday season, to reflect and remind those around us of Your deep and abiding love for them. Allow them to encounter Your love, through us.

Amen.

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Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments—

Bullying is defined as any unwanted aggressive behavior by another youth or group of youths that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated. 20% of youth ages 12-18 experience bullying. When adults respond quickly to bullying behavior, they send the message that bullying is not acceptable. There are ways parents can make a positive difference. Parents can educate themselves on the signs that a child is being bullied or is a bully. Parents should keep the lines of communication open with their child and model for their child how to treat others. Encourage your child to be inclusive by welcoming others to join their activities and groups. For more information on how to prevent bullying in your community visit www.stopbullying.org. For additional resources visit www.eriecd.org/childprotection

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

Answer: St. Anne and St. Joachim.

©LPi

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Total Collection - Needed Weekly: \$ 10,072

Christmas Flowers..... \$ 3,390

December 7..... \$ TBA

Retirement Fund for Religious..... \$ TBA

2025 Combined CSA Assessment \$ 94,414

2025 CSA Collected \$ 75,854

Checks for CSA must be made out to St. Bernard.

Please do not COMBINE other payments with CSA.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS



*St. Bernard Sanctuary
Candle will be burning this
week in Memory of
William "Bill" Douglass*

Give the Gift of Engagement Encounter

Looking for a meaningful way to support a couple preparing for marriage? Give them the gift of **Engagement Encounter**—a weekend retreat that helps couples build a strong foundation for a lifetime together.

February 6-8, 2026 at St. Mark Catholic Center, Erie. This retreat fulfills diocesan marriage prep requirements and welcomes **Catholic and interfaith couples. Space is limited—early registration is encouraged.** Call the Family Life Office at **814-824-1261** or email: familylife@erieRCD.org Register and learn more: <https://www.eriecd.org/familylifeoffice/>

"A wedding is one day, but marriage is for a lifetime."

**PARENTING POINTERS** Advent is the season of **waiting**.

Don't hurry Christmas. Help your children practice patience this week. Use tools such as the Advent wreath or an Advent calendar to mark the time. Help your children wait by not celebrating before Dec. 25 – at least at home. (We can't control the rest of the world.) Decorate slowly and in stages. Wait to do the tree. Minimizing time in stores and TV commercials helps. (See *Christmas is Dec. 25*.)

PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTION—The Election takes place this weekend. Ballot Election forms along with "Meet the Candidates" sheets are at the doors. Ballots are due by the last Mass on the 14th. The top four vote winners will either be installed or reinstalled during the February 2026 meeting. Please pray for those who will be elected and those who are already serving on the Pastoral Council. Thank you for your participation!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Rosary Altar Society: Thursday, February 12th @ 6:30 pm

Widow's Group: TBA

K of C #403 : Tuesday, January 13th @ 7:00 pm

Cemetery Board: Wednesday, January 7th @ 11:00 am

Pastoral Council: Tuesday, December 16th @ 6:00 pm

Finance Council: Thursday, January 22nd @ 4:30 pm

SF 50+ Club: TBA

Liturgy Committee: TBA

Catholic Women's Club: Tuesday, January 6th @ 6:00pm
(Board Meeting) 6:30pm (Regular Meeting)



**The Bradford Council #403
of the Knights of Columbus**
www.koc403.com

Meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the parish office. **Please Note: Next meeting on January 13th.** Council members are urged to attend, and new members are most welcome.

THANK YOU TO OUR
ADVERTISERS

BRADFORD ECUMENICAL HOME, INC.
PLEASE GIVE THEM YOUR SUPPORT!

END OF YEAR ONLINE GIVING—As we embrace the winter season and its serene beauty, we invite you to consider offering a gift to St. Bernard. Your generosity during this time helps us continue our mission and support our community. Visit our parish website (www.stbernardcatholic.org) to make a one-time donation or to set up automated, recurring giving throughout the year. It's quick, easy, and convenient. Thank you so much for your generosity and support. Your contributions are a true blessing, and we are deeply grateful for your kindness.

MARRIAGE MOMENT "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." (Mk 13:33) Although death comes most often to the old, don't put off words and acts of love for later. We don't know how much time we have. Love your spouse today.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS—They gave their lives in service—now they need your help. For decades, women and men religious have cared for others, teaching, praying, and serving those in need. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your support ensures they receive the care they deserve. Let us now offer them the dignity they have so selflessly granted to others. Your generosity today is not just a donation—it's a way of thanking them for their lifelong service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious.



CATHOLIC WOMEN GROUP WILL BE SERVING FOOD & SOFT DRINKS IN GALLINA HALL. FOR A COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS GO TO FIRST NIGHT BRADFORD ON FACEBOOK.



The Special Cleaning Crew is going to meet Saturday, December 20th @ 10:00 am. If you would like to assist in this pre-Christmas deep cleaning of the Church, to ensure all is in good order for the holiday, please feel free to join in that day.



Grades 1-5 meet Sundays in Gallina Hall (11:00 am—12:15)
Dec. 14th & Jan. 11th

Grades 6-9 meet Sundays in Gallina Hall (5:45—7:15 pm)
Dec. 21st & Jan. 4th (Confirmation Class Only)



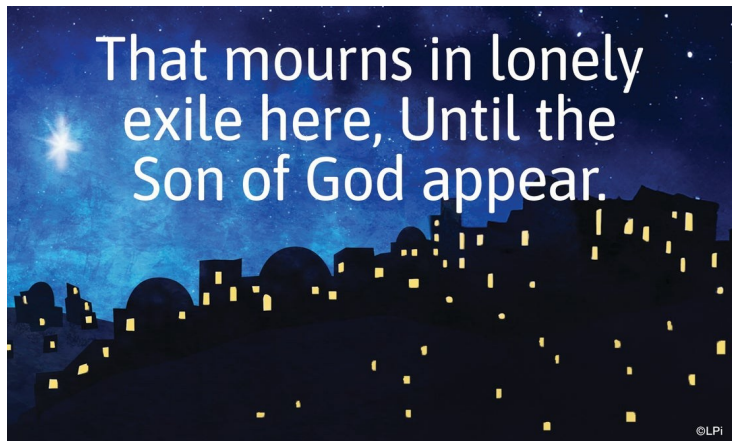
Advent Wreaths traditionally hold four candles (three purple and one pink). The candles represent Jesus coming as a light in the darkness. One candle is lit each Sunday until all four candles are lit. As Christmas draws nearer, each candle brings a little more light into the darkness. Sometimes a white candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to symbolize that Jesus is with us. This can be referred to as the "Christ Candle". Each of the candles represent an aspect of preparation during the season of Advent.

1st Week-November 30th—Prophecy Candle/Purple: Hope
Purple is the primary color associated with Advent. It symbolizes penance, preparation and sacrifice. During the first week of Advent we remembered the Old Testament prophets who foretold of Jesus' coming with hope and anticipation.

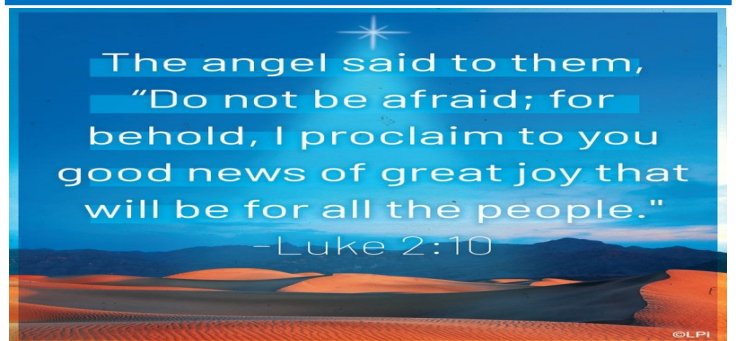
2nd Week-December 7th—Bethlehem Candle/Purple: Peace
During this week we reflected on our lives and focused on becoming better-versions-of-our-selves in preparation for Jesus' coming. We remember the journey Joseph and Mary took from Nazareth to Bethlehem. What has your journey toward Christmas been like so far?

3rd Week-December 14th—Shepherd's Candle/Pink: Joy
This third candle is pink and symbolizes rejoicing. During the third week of Advent we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas day. This Sunday is often called "Gaudete Sunday" as we reflect on the joy the shepherd's felt at the birth of Jesus. How is Jesus inviting you to experience greater joy this Advent?

4th Week-December 21st—The Angel's Candle/Purple: Love
During this final week of Advent we rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of his Son. We reflect on the good news of God's love brought to us from the Angel Gabriel. This is the last week to prepare our hearts for the joy of Christmas. Are you ready?



"The Advent season calls us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ." "Let us embrace the spirit of Advent by fostering peace and goodwill." **Pope Leo XIV**



**PASTORAL STAFF:**

Rev. John Jacquel, *Pastor*
Rev. Edward Walk, *Senior Associate*

LIVE STREAMING SUNDAY 10 AM

You Tube, **St Bernard of Clairvaux Bradford**

WEBSITE: <https://stbernardcatholic.org/>

FACEBOOK: **St Bernard of Clairvaux - Bradford Pa**

MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 2394, Bradford, PA 16701

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday thru Friday: 8:30 am to 4 pm

Gina Davidson, *Business Manager*

Email: business@stbernardcatholic.org

Elaine Doriguzzi, *Administrative Assistant*

Email: office@stbernardcatholic.org

CONFESSIONS:

St. Bernard — Saturdays from 3:15 to 3:45 pm before

4:00 pm mass; Thursday before First Friday from

4:30 to 5 pm; After 9 am mass on Saturdays.

Private appointments may be made by calling the **Parish Office 362-6825**.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (REP)

REP Coordinator: Cindy Greek

Students not attending Catholic school should be enrolled in REP programs. The Bradford Catholic Community Religious Education program is Grades 1—5 & Grades 6—9 (Confirmation). Please call the parish office for more information.



BULLETIN INFORMATION MUST BE RECEIVED IN WRITING BY NOON ON FRIDAY 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO BULLETIN DATE.

MEMBERSHIP: All Baptized Catholics should be registered, practicing and supporting members of a Parish. Only properly registered members appear on our parish list and are eligible to receive the benefits of parish membership for sacraments. Each parishioner is called upon to practice good stewardship of time, talent and treasure. If you are not currently receiving envelopes, you may not be registered. Call the Parish Office - we would love to meet you!

MARRIAGE: Couples need to contact a priest *at least six months before their wedding*. Registered and active participation needs to be considered before marriage.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:

We welcome all inquiries about the Catholic faith. This **RCIA** process begins in the fall of the year. Please call the Parish Office for further information.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK: Please call the Parish Office to request the Sacrament of the Sick for family members who are seriously ill. Communion for the sick is taken to the hospital, nursing homes, and the home-bound on a regular basis.

BAPTISM: Both parents must attend the Pre-Baptism Preparation Program. Please call the St. Bernard Parish Office for dates and times of upcoming class. Baptisms are scheduled after completing the program. Call the Parish Office to schedule the class and baptism. Godparents must be at least 16, confirmed and active, registered members of their parish.

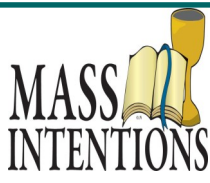
STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**Liturgical****Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors**

Organist St. Bernard	Rita Bennardi
	Michael Hicks
Resurrection Choir	Joan Raabe
God's Housekeepers	Parish Office
Liturgy	Fr. John B Jacquel

Parish Community

Pastoral Council	Craig Cuthbertson
Catholic Women's Club	Joan Yohe
Rosary Altar Society	Dawn Kozminski
Telephone Prayer Chain	Natalie Marasco (598-5565)

Cover photos of churches by LongArt Photography



WEEK OF DECEMBER 15TH—21ST

All daily masses are in the Divine Mercy Chapel (Including Saturday, 9am) (Subject to change) Weekend Masses in the Church

Monday, December 15th

SBC 8:00 am Kenneth Luke (Family)

SBC 9:00 am Anthony Danias (Barbara Boser)

Tuesday, December 16th

SBC 9:00 am Ed Kuntz (Morning Coffee/Breakfast Group)

Wednesday, December 17th

SBC 8:00 am Everly Family (Mary Ann Satterwhite)

Thursday, December 18th

SBC 8:00 am Stephen Piscitelli Jr. (Aunt Louise)

SBC 9:00 am All Parishioners

Friday, December 19th

SBC 12:10 pm Thomas Black (Bill & Tammy Black)

Saturday, December 20th

SBC 9:00 am Evelyn Taylor (Family)

SB 4:00 pm Joseph, Rena & Vicky Leo (Family)

Sunday, December 21st

SB 8:00 am Lucille Vinca (David Vinca)

SB 10:00 am William Bortorf Sr. (d) (Cindy Greek)

SB 11:30 am Jude Luke (Mr. & Mrs. Jack Kerr)

Weekly confessions: Saturdays after 9 am Mass & 3:15 to 3:45 pm before 4 pm Mass.

SPECIAL ADVENT CONFESSIONS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, 2:00-3:00 PM



Readings for the week of December 14th



Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/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, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 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 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24



DECEMBER 20TH, 2025

Saturday: St. Bernard 4:00 pm

LECTOR: Jean Truman

EM: Peggy Johnson **CUP:** Chris Pehonsky/Tammy Black

Servers: Bella & Giana Davidson

DECEMBER 21ST, 2025

Sunday: St. Bernard 8:00 am

LECTOR: Joan Yohe

EM: Deb Woodley **CUP:** Cindy Greek/Chris Pehonsky

Server: Dave Hill

St. Bernard 10:00 am

LECTOR: Jody Randolph

EM: Teri Everett **CUP:** Lynn Hogue/Beth Mongillo

Servers: Abigail Carlson/Jaxyn Eckstrom

St. Bernard 11:30 am

LECTOR: Craig Cuthbertson

EM: Kim Ditz **CUP:** Carol Vinca/Karen McClain

Server: Dan Cuthbertson



Please pray for those who are sick or suffering

Thomas Ackley, Virgil Anderson, Arnold Family, Dianne Barr, Mary Beth Behan, Nancy Black, Theresa Bond, Sue Bradley, Nancy Bukowski, Tim Burris, Michael Cagney, GiGi Carroll, Dominic "Frank" Cavallero, Dick Clark, Kelly Costello, Melissa Cox, Billie Cummins, Paul & Marianne Curcio, Charlotte Cuthbertson, Jennifer Smith Dawson, Gerry Davis, Josh Dawson, Christine DiStrola, Brady Dolan, Denise Douthit, Richard Douthit, James Drumm, Alliyson Feldman, Ferguson Family, John Fornataro, Stepheny Franco, Robin Fuller, Chip Giordano, Pat Girard, Donna Gocella, Janet Goebel, Tonya Graves, Anthony Haller, Paul Hamer, Jan Hancock, Melissa Hannon, John Hart, Jill Henry, Joy James, Craig Johnson, Judy Keenan, Lilly Keesler, Mary Keesler, James Kibby, Bill Kline, Craig Kloss, Lisa Komidar, Bob Kuntz, Chris Lechner, Don Long, Paula Louk, Judy Mazzeo, Susan McCann-Piganelli, Dan McCarthy, Pat McCormick, Anita Magnetti, Mariana Militelo, Virginia O'Brien, Mary O'Connell, Chris Pehonsky, Lois Pessia, John Pockey, Joan Pointon, Dan Popiel, Courtney Prentiss, John Pupo, Linda Rabineau, Donna Rail, Anne Reed, Virginia & Ed Reed, George Rhodes, Sandy Rhodes, Kathy Ryan, Jackie Schlegel, Steve Schmidt, Judy Signor, Steve Skaggs, Eileen Smith, Hailey Smith, Betty Soble, Rosanne Strotman, Alex Tingley, Molly Thompson, Carol Vinca, Damion Wasiewski, Heather Watson, Philip Weese & Family, Rick Wheaton, Matthew Whelan, Beckett Whitney, Jim Wineberg, Lisa Zurat.

May they be strengthened by the healing presence of God's Spirit.