

# Save the Date! April 23-24 - Bloomin' Festival

**St. Bernard**

# Happenings



**St. Bernard Preparatory School**

**February 2022**

## Bernardians March for Life

Fifty-six St. Bernard students, chaperones and teachers loaded two charter buses on Wednesday afternoon, January 19, 2022 headed to Washington, DC to participate in the annual March for Life Rally at the capital.

After driving through the night, the group began their tour on Thursday with a visit to the Arlington Cemetery, followed by Holy Mass at Mary, Queen of Apostles in

Alexandria, VA. The rest of their day was spent visiting the Bible Museum, the Smithsonian, and concluded with dinner at restaurants near the hotel.

Friday began with breakfast at the hotel, and another busy day. The day began with Holy Mass at the Basilica of St. Mary in Alexandria, VA. Before leaving the Basilica, the group had Silent Prayer and Confessions. Then, they

visited the Vietnam Memorial, Lincoln Memorial and the Korean War Veterans' Memorial. After lunch, they attended the March for Life, then enjoyed a stroll through the National Harbor. They topped off the evening with ice-skating at the Wharf.

Saturday was spent at the Franciscan Monastery and the National Art Gallery. The group concluded their trip with a Tour and Mass at the

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*Sr. Gianna Casino, LIHM, Pepper Hastings, and Madison Moody*

## St. Bernard Monks Celebrate 50th Jubilees

On a beautiful autumn day, the monks of St. Bernard Abbey joined with clergy, friends and family to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of three of their members. In 1971 Br. Charles Manning, O.S.B., made his vows as a Benedictine and also that year Abbot (Ret.) Cletus Meagher, O.S.B., and Abbot Marcus Voss, O.S.B., were ordained to the priesthood. It was a joyous occasion that brought people to St. Bernard from as

far away as California to celebrate with the honorees. Concelebrants included Bishop J. Mark Spalding of Nashville, TN, Bishop (Ret.) Robert Baker of Birmingham, AL, and Bishop Steven J. Raica of Birmingham, AL, who was the main celebrant and delivered the homily. Also included in the concelebrants was Abbot Placid Solari, O.S.B., of Belmont Abbey, NC.

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### 50th Jubilee Celebrants

(l-r): Abbot Placid Solari, OSB, Abbot (Ret.) Cletus Meagher, OSB, Bishop (Ret.) Robert Baker, Bishop Steven J. Raica, Bishop J. Mark Spalding, Abbot Marcus Voss, OSB, and Br. Charles Manning, OSB.

## St. Bernard Bloomin' Festival Set For April

The tradition continues as St. Bernard prepares for the 38th Annual Bloomin' Festival Arts and Crafts Fair scheduled for the weekend of April 23-24, 2022. St. Bernard is getting ready to welcome near 200 artisans and thousands of patrons to our campus for this annual two-day festival of arts and crafts, with food, music and entertainment for all.

Festival Director, Joyce Nix is excited to add new artisans to the list. "Everything from pottery and ceramics, to stained glass, woodwork,

birdhouses, jewelry, clothing, dolls, brooms, fresh ground cornmeal and grits, to funnel cakes, kettle corn, roasted almonds, fudge, cookies, and St. Bernard's Best Bread will be available. We encourage you to visit Ave Maria Grotto in all of its springtime splendor and take advantage of reduced rates of only \$4 per person for the entire weekend."

At the conclusion of the festival on Sunday afternoon, April 24, St. Bernard will give away a 2022 Jeep Renegade

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# St. Bernard Happenings

## 38th Bloomin' Festival April 23-24

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from Cullman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, a Roku streaming stick, an Oral-B electric toothbrush, weather forecast Station, and a weather radio.

Tickets are in the mail for a suggested donation: \$5 per ticket or \$25 for a sheet of 6 tickets. For every ticket purchased you will become eligible to win. Now more than ever, these donations are vital to the operation of St. Bernard Prep School.

A Festival admission donation of \$7 per person is requested at the gate. To keep up-to-date with event plans, follow the festival on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/bloominfestival>.

Feel free to visit our website to purchase tickets. Sponsorship information is available on the website too. Your support helps the school community carry out this time-honored, highly anticipated St. Bernard tradition. For more information, visit the festival website at [www.bloominfestival.com](http://www.bloominfestival.com).

## Friends, Alumni Thanked for Blues & BBQ Support

The 5th Annual Bernard Blues and BBQ could have stood better weather, as brutally cold wind and rain on Saturday forced people to stay inside. However, Sunday provided more pleasant temperatures and sunshine.

Friends of Saint Bernard along with faculty, staff and students braved the cold rain on Saturday to support the works of talented artist and craftsmen from across the Southeastern United States. Others joined on Sunday to shop and enjoy fine barbeque and some of Alabama's finest

entertainment provided by Earl "Guitar" Williams and the Juke Band; and The Sinners.

Artisans on hand provided everything from fashion jewelry, hats, and clothing to wind chimes, flower arrangements, metal art, baskets, pottery, woodturning, lawn furniture, and stained glass just to mention a few. "While we have seen better weekends weather wise, we were delighted and thankful for all who braved the elements to support the school and our talented vendors," Festival Director Joyce Nix said. "Our vendors made sure to thank customers and some even offered appreciation by discounting prices as a gesture of kindness for shopping in the rain. I don't think anyone left hungry as the school served fresh fried spiral potatoes, funnel cakes, strawberry waffles, caramel apples, smoked chicken, and bbq pulled pork and ribs, hamburgers, hot dogs and polish sausages. Others contributed to the food chain with Nanny's fresh squeezed lemonade, cinnamon roasted nuts, fresh fudge and of course Bernard's Best cinnamon raisin bread."

Children and adults enjoyed the festival as they paraded in costume on Sunday afternoon for the annual costume contest. Awards were presented in categories ranging from Best overall, funniest, scariest, cutest and most original.

At the conclusion of the show on Sunday, Frances Boike of Hanceville was declared the grand prize winner of \$10,000. Pat Ivey, Hanceville was the winner of \$1,000; Nathan Fuchs, Hanceville, AL claimed the \$500 prize while Deacon Ken Kreps, Cullman; and Rami Awwad, Tuscumbia, won \$250 and \$100 respectively.

Fr. Joel Martin, President and Headmaster of St. Bernard Prep joined Nix in thanking everyone for their much needed support, including the hundreds of hardy volunteers that came out, despite the drizzle and cold, to make the festival a success.

"We appreciate all support received from our alumni, friends, and surrounding states. You are all invited to return next spring as St. Bernard Prep hosts the 38th Annual Bloomin' Festival on April 23-24, 2022."

## Third Annual Christmas At The Grotto Delights

The 3rd Annual Christmas at the Grotto began on November 26th and ran for 15 nights, ending on December 31st. Close to 7,000 people from all over Alabama and the southeast attended this year's festivities and represented a significant increase over last year's attendance.

"We had roughly 7,000 people come though the Grotto this year and that was close to a 1,500 overall increase from the previous year," said Roger Steele, the Director of the Grotto. "We think this is a great sign for the continued growth of the event for the foreseeable

future."

For this year, the event featured several changes, including expanding the event to 15 nights, lighting up the entire park and the quad, plus the addition of horse-drawn wagon rides on two nights. "We wanted to make sure we had several dates this year to account for any bad weather and also just give our visitors several options throughout the Christmas season to visit us," said Steele. "We also had the entire park covered with Christmas lights and extended the lighting to the quad for our wagon rides - I think people really enjoyed it."

The highlight of the event

occurred on December 17 & 18, which featured wagon rides, Johnny's BBQ, Gregorian chants by St. Bernard's very own monks and Craig Mann's dulcimer ensemble group. "We were blessed by live music performed by our monk choir and Dr. Craig Mann's dulcimer group," said Steele. "The weekend was made even more special for our visitors by the addition of wagon rides through the campus and also the arrival of Johnny's BBQ food truck - we were so happy to see tons of families and also people from out of town."

With the success of this year's event, plans are already being made to expand for next year. "We hope to add more wagon rides throughout campus," said Steele. "We also hope to expand lights inside and outside the park and also add more food vendors on certain nights."

The future of Christmas at the Grotto is very bright. Not only will it continue to bring needed resources to the Abbey, but it will also continue to bless our visitors with the real meaning of Christmas.



*Scene from Christmas at the Grotto*



*Fr. Joel Presents Frances Boike with Grand Prize at 5th Annual Blues & BBQ*



# St. Bernard Happenings

## Veterans Honored at St. Bernard Prep November 11

St. Bernard students honored their favorite veterans during a Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 11 in the Abbey Church.

The ceremony began with Mass in at 9:30 a.m. followed by the presentation of Colors by the Honor Guard from the City of Cullman.

Student Council President, Claudia Fallin lead the service with a welcome and the introduction of the guest speaker, who is a grandparent of St. Bernard Prep's Senior Maggie Holsomback - (Ret.) United State Navy Lieutenant Commander Richard Ritz.

Commander Ritz is a retired Naval Officer with 32 years of service. He held every rank from seaman recruit to Commander, and is the only Naval Officer that

made a career teaching Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape to Naval pilots and aircrew man. He was the first Officer in Charge of the Jungle survival school in the Philippines and later the OIC of the cold weather survival school in Brunswick Maine. He also has a lot of experience serving on board the aircraft carrier USS Ranger. Commander Ritz walked us through his entire career covering some very interesting events as well as lessons learned.

After Ritz presentation, St. Bernard Band director, Jonathan Farley, played "Taps" during a moment of silence for all veterans.

Fr. Joel recognized all veterans individually and as a group before the crowd

dismissed and headed to the flag pole in front of the Swisher Science Building for the raising of the flag.

School Resource Officer, Don Slocumb assisted by Claudia Fallin raised the flag as the St. Bernard Choir sang the

"Star Spangled Banner."

Following the ceremony, a reception was held in the school.



*Veterans Day Participants*

Standing l-r: Fr. Joel Martin, Richard Crabb, US Navy Lieutenant Commander Richard Ritz (Ret.), Dale Woodard, Officer Don Slocumb, Henry Arndt, Tom Kalen, Jack Metrock, John Gissell and Fr. Linus Klucsarits.

## Honor, Merit Roll

### Fall Semester 2021 - 2022

#### Honor Roll

##### Grade 9

Chavez, Roselyn  
Cortes-Villegas, Saray  
Gaspar, Nathaniel  
Hazard, Marissa  
Hines, Rowan  
Kerber, Madi  
McBride, Abby  
Smith, Willa

##### Grade 10

DeCicco, Scarlett  
Gil, Audrey  
Powell, Emma  
Tafazoli, Amelia  
Tombo, Andrew  
Watwood, Sydney  
Wu, Ethan

##### Grade 11

Bissot, Cole  
Chiodo, Gabriella  
Cockerham, Mary Ella  
Cortes-Villegas, Adrian  
Garcia, Natalie  
Gil, Charles  
Hazard, Elizabeth  
Morris, Ashley  
Pautler, Xavier  
Stidham, Allison

##### Grade 12

Fallin, Claudia  
Gutierrez, Enrique

Holmes, Riley  
Holsomback, Maggie  
Keith, Joseph  
McBride, Maddie  
Pascual-Contreras,  
David

Pechon, John  
Sammon, Joseph  
Schartung, Merrilee  
Waites, Morgan  
Watson, Piper  
Whaley, Campbell

#### Middle School

##### Grade 7

Arndt, Karly  
Cron, Alexis  
Daly, Sean  
Myers, Sam  
Sanders, Tessa

##### Grade 8

Bissot, Reid  
Guthery, Parker  
Lewis, Gavitt  
Marks, Josh  
Morris, Abel  
Nacilla, Alexander  
Roberson, Charli  
Woods, Sarah

#### Merit Roll

##### Grade 9

Bello, Logan  
Cron, Dylan  
Daily, Carter  
Daly, Cash  
Garcia, Matthew  
Guevara, Camila

Nguyen, Jade  
Rogalski, Anna  
Shadowens, Joey  
Shealy, Presley  
Stewart, Allie

##### Grade 10

Adams, Walter  
Burrows, Brad  
Hernandez, Cesar  
Lyons, Will  
Penner, Ezra  
Sidley, Caroline

##### Grade 11

Arriaga, Jiovany  
Garcia, Brianna  
Hilb, Jacob  
Powell, Ethan  
Tran, Peter

##### Grade 12

Gershfeld, Adrian  
Parrish, David  
Shu, Xiran  
Whaley, Emma  
Woods, Mollie  
Zatarain, Jose

#### Middle School

##### Grade 7

Adams, Ruth  
Crabb, James  
Gutowski, Emilie  
Kretzschmar, Logan  
Tillitski, Lily  
Zimmerman, Gabriel

##### Grade 8

Chamblee, Katie  
Fallin, Nic  
Parrish, Aaliyah

**SAINT BERNARD  
PREP SCHOOL**  
CULLMAN, ALABAMA

CO-ED BOARDING AND  
DAY SCHOOL - GRADES 7-12

OPERATED BY THE BENEDICTINE  
MONKS OF ST. BERNARD ABBEY

# OPEN HOUSE

**FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2022**  
**10:00AM-2:00PM**

**Financial Aid**  
Available for Those  
Who Qualify!

Contact  
Admissions Director  
Fr. Linus Klucsarits, O.S.B.  
(256) 255-5890  
[admissions@stbernardprep.com](mailto:admissions@stbernardprep.com)

[stbernardprep](https://www.facebook.com/stbernardprep)

[stbernardprep.com](https://www.stbernardprep.com)



# St. Bernard Happenings

## St. Bernard Summer Camp to Return in June

Interested in summer camp? Look into Camp St. Bernard which is held annually on the grounds of St. Bernard Abbey and Prep School. Arriving Sunday afternoon and dismissing on the subsequent Friday, campers enjoy a variety of activities including archery, arts and crafts, basketball, canoeing, fishing, horseback riding, kayaking, low ropes, swimming and tennis. Alumni and current students serve as camp counselors.

Camp Director, John Arndt, said, "Camp St. Bernard is a great place especially for those who are coming to summer camp for the first time. Campers stay in the residence halls used by St. Bernard Prep School during the school year and provide a wonderful environment for all ages."

"Camp St. Bernard is chocked full of great times! Every morning, afternoon, and evening campers are given a chance to meet new people, try a new experience, or spend time with an old friend," continued Mr. Arndt. "All campers have the opportunity to try their hand at each of our activities throughout the week."

Located on the campus of St. Bernard Abbey, campers open and close the day with prayer, have opportunities to say morning



prayers with the monks, make a rosary to take home, and celebrate Mass once a week. Campers of all faith backgrounds are welcome.

Meals are served in the Dining Hall, where the staff can accommodate most dietary needs and work to make sure campers have plenty of energy for all the activities.

Day campers are also welcome. Day camp session are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The 2022 Camp Schedule is as follows:

June 5-10	Ages 6-12
June 12-17	Ages 8-12
June 19-24	Ages 10-14
June 26-July 1	Ages 10-14

Each week a maximum of 104 campers are accepted. The camp staff includes 20 counselors and 3 adult administrators.

Boarding Camp cost is \$500 per session; Day Camp is \$250. See website for sibling and double session discounts.

Register online at [www.campstbernard.com](http://www.campstbernard.com) or call 256-739-6682 \*7110 for more information.

## March for Life Pilgrimage 2022

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Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Sister Therese Lopez, LIHM, who served as pilgrimage coordinator, said, "This march is ultimately a pilgrimage for a just and holy cause: the sanctity of human life. We are the voice of the voiceless. We march for those who cannot march. We are pro-life and also pro-eternal life, giving witness to the gift of life and most of all to the One who gives it."

For Senior Campbell Whaley, the trip was more than just seeing the monuments, snow and many more attractions. "It's about taking a stance for those who cannot. It's an attempt to convince those in power to realize that the act of abortion is wrong and a change must come."

Riley Holmes looks forward to March for Life every year. "I love the cause

and it makes me feel like I'm a part of something magical."

Enrique Gutierrez said, "The March for Life is a great way for people to express their opinions on abortion and why it should be banned. As a Catholic school, this is a great way for us to show our support in getting abortion banned in every state of America in a peaceful manner. I have gone to the March for Life once and it was amazing to see everybody coming together and supporting pro-life."

Their journey back to Cullman was delayed by a few hours as one of the buses from Holy Spirit Parish broke down. SBP students generously gave up one bus so it could rescue those who were stranded.

After reflecting on their five day journey, students were happy they made the trip and had the opportunity to be a voice for the voiceless.



March for Life Highlights (l) With the Capital in the background, "The Voice of the Voiceless". (r) Visit to DC was finished with Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.



# St. Bernard Happenings

## Thirty Days of Thanks and Giving Exceeds Goal

Thirty Days of Thanks and Giving - a seasonal online campaign that celebrates St. Bernard has exceeded its goal of \$25,000 under the leadership of Tyler Hooper, (PS'08) Director of Development. Each day in November leading up to Giving Tuesday, Hooper celebrated St. Bernard and shared some of the many reasons to be thankful.

Hooper said Saint Bernard has many reasons to celebrate, but the main reason is "our people." Hooper sent out an email each day to school parents, friends and alumni spotlighting an important person, mission, event or happening at St. Bernard.

This year, 30 Days of Thanks and Giving's emphasis is on the classroom - raising money for our new Classroom Grant Program. Earlier in the year, Hooper reached out to all SBP teachers to develop a "wish list" of up to three of the most needed items for their classrooms.

All items requested through this project have undergone an approval process. Hooper said, "Every item that a teacher, nurse, or librarian will purchase with our donors' gifts as part of this program has been reviewed and determined to be an actual need by our school leadership. We were very intentional in making sure every dollar a donor gives will be used on classroom needs by our teachers."

Items approved through this grant program include math kits and graphing calculators, copies of novels and textbooks for several classes, Chromebook charging carts, science lab balances and safety aprons, geography map making software, new sheet sets for the nurses' office, band chairs and instruments, photography equipment for journalism, costumes for the spring drama production, and Wall Street Journal subscriptions to supplement economics classes.

Eighty-four donors made gifts totaling \$27,789, 111% of our goal. This generous support will have immediate, transformative impact for St. Bernard as every single dollar raised goes directly to fund school grants for our teachers, nurses' office, and library.

Hooper stated St. Bernard can now provide for every item on teachers', nurses', and librarian's wish lists, and then some. "Because friends answered our call and gave so generously, grants will be awarded for approximately \$1,200 each -- \$200 more than anticipated!"

"On behalf of Abbot Marcus, Fr. Joel, and the entire administration, faculty, staff, and students of SBP, thanks you for giving, thank you for supporting us, and most of

all, thank you for loving St. Bernard. Your philanthropy has made a true difference here at SBP," concluded Hooper.



### Students Benefit from 30 Days of Thanksgiving

Science Instructor Martha Wells is pictured with students Gabbi Chiodo and Ashley Morris unwrapping a new torso for use in class with funds from the 30 days of Thanksgiving Campaign. Each teacher received over \$1,200 to purchase instructional items for their classrooms.

## St. Bernard Holds Thanksgiving Service

St. Bernard students were honored to host ministers from their home churches to take part in the school's annual Thanksgiving Service at St. Bernard Prep. Since the group was unable to gather last year,

it was especially nice to see old – and some new – faces joined for the traditional service of Thanksgiving.

Clergy took part in the service composed of prayers, psalms, Scripture readings and

hymns. Students offered thanks and petitions to God as they lay symbols of the various aspects of their lives before the altar of the monks' abbey church.

After several Scripture readings were heard in four different languages representing some of the various cultures of the students, Fr. Patrick Cullen of Nazareth House in Birmingham offered a reflection on the gospel passage about the ten lepers whom Jesus cured, and of which only one returned to say thank you. After reflecting on the other nine and their reasons for acting the way they did, he asked – Which one are you? By words or actions, do you say thank you, or not – that choice is yours, Cullen said.

Instrumental music was provided by St. Bernard Prep School's band, headed by Jonathon Farley, and choral music was provided under the direction of Mrs. Ashleigh Russell, who also served as organist for the service.

St. Bernard Prep School President, Fr. Joel Martin, O.S.B., said, "This is an

opportunity for all of us in the school community to give thanks to God for the many gifts we have received, and to do so along with those pastors, ministers, and priests who are so important in the lives of our students. These men and women are very busy, so we

are all impressed with and grateful for their taking time to join us in going to God with thankful hearts and minds."

The service was followed by a dinner for all guests, students, faculty, and staff. The guest clergy were served by the students.



### Thanksgiving Service

Standing Front (l-r): Fr. Joel Martin, OSB, Br. Thomas Jones, OSB; Sr. Elizabeth Meadows, OSB, Sacred Heart Monastery; Sr. Mary Theresa Lopez, LIHM, and Fr. Patrick Cullen, Nazareth House, Birmingham. Back row (l-r): Rev. Charles Merrill, Annunciation of the Lord Church – Decatur; Rev. John Richter, St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church – Cullman; Rev. Jay Gardner, Grace Episcopal Church – Cullman; Rev. Raul Posada Valencia, Sacred Heart Church – Cullman; and Rev. Jose B. Chacko, St. James Church – Gadsden.



*Fr. Joel accepted gift baskets from Maybrit Freudenberg of Germany and guest parent - Former CYE host, Katrina Kennedy.*



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# St. Bernard Abbey news

## St. Bernard Monks Celebrate 50th Jubilees

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In his homily Bishop Steven J. Raica emphasized three aspects of the lives of the jubilarians: thanksgiving for all that God has done, renewal in the on-going work of God's Spirit and joy that comes with the Lord's presence in our lives. Bishop Raica commended the monks on their 150 years of combined service stating there will still be many surprises ahead. He concluded by saying, "We are thankful for your response to God's call and your vibrant steadfast witness of faith. May we walk together sowing seeds of hope and love as we fulfil our respective calling from the Lord himself."

After the ceremony, a reception was held outdoors on the campus Quad and was catered by IZ Catering of Birmingham, AL.

Music for the occasion was provided by the St. Bernard Choir under the direction of Mrs. Ashley Russell. Rebecca Whited served as organist.

Altar Servers were from St. Bernard Prep School's Knights of the Altar.

### Abbot Marcus J. Voss, O.S.B.

Born and raised in Cullman, AL, the son of Joe and Catherine Voss. Attended St. Bernard Prep School 1957-60 and graduated from Cullman High School in 1961. Enrolled at St.

Bernard College 1961-66 graduating summa cum laude with a BA degree in Philosophy and a minor in Business Administration. Earned a Masters of Divinity from St. Louis University in 1970 and a Masters in Spirituality from Creighton University in 1981. Ordained to the priesthood 1971 and from 1971-2019 served in the weekend ministry throughout Alabama. Was the Abbey Choir Master 1971-1991 and published a four-volume "Book of Hours" for use in the monastic choir. Has been a member of the Senior Council since 1971. Appointed Sub-Prior 1977-82. Served as registrar of St. Bernard College/Southern Benedictine College 1970-78 and was Campus Minister in 1979. Appointed Director of the Abbey Formation Program 1979-86 and also served as the Business manager of St. Bernard Abbey 1995-2008. Has served as a Visitor for the American Cassinese Congregation since 1988. Assigned as the Headmaster of St. Bernard Prep School 1986-92, President 1992-2011 and Development Director 1992-2019. In 2019 elected the 10th Abbot of St. Bernard Abbey.

### Abbot Cletus D. Meagher, O.S.B.

The fifth of six children of Oscar A. and Mildred (Sommers) Meagher born November 15, 1944 in Cleveland, Tennessee. Primary school education was under the tutelage of the Nashville Dominicans at Notre Dame Grammar School in Chattanooga, TN. In 1958 entered St. Bernard Preparatory Seminary and graduated in 1962 – last graduation class of St. Bernard Prep until re-establishment in 1984; continued seminary studies at St. Bernard College Seminary 1962-1964;

entered St. Bernard Abbey in 1964 as novice and professed vows in 1965; resumed college studies, graduating in 1967 with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and minors in Psychology and English. Completed theological studies with a Masters of Divinity from St. Louis University in 1971 and ordained Priest in May of that same year.

As a monk, served the monastic community in various capacities, viz. Sub prior, Prior, Novice Master / Formation Director, Procurator (treasurer) and member, of the Senior Council. In ministries of St. Bernard, taught theology at St. Bernard College/Southern Benedictine College 1971-1979, served as chaplain at Sacred Heart Monastery, campus ministry at St. Bernard College, Cullman College, Southern Benedictine College, appointed pastor to Sacred Heart Parish (Cullman) 1986-1995, appointed member of Presbyterial Council of Diocese of Birmingham, elected Ninth Abbot of St. Bernard Abbey in May 1995, served in that capacity until retirement from that Office in July 2019. In retirement has served as Spiritual Director and Confessor.

Beginning October 2021 will serve as Pastor of St. Michael Parish, St. Florian, Alabama, the proto-parish of St. Vincent Archabbey/St. Bernard Abbey in Alabama.

Abbot Cletus is a Golden Jubilarian of profession as a monk and priest; a Silver Jubilarian as Abbot.

### Br. Charles Manning, O.S.B.

The son of John J. Manning and Margaret Murray Manning, Br. Charles is the second of three sons. He is a  
(Continued on next page)



*Abbot Marcus Voss Family*

(l-r): Michael and Gay Voss, Abbot Marcus Voss, OSB, Marcella Voss Bailey, Shannon and Pat Bailey.



*Abbot Cletus D. Meagher Family*

(l-r): Donald (Don) Meagher, Catherine (Cathy) Rymer, Mary Anne Lyles, J. Stephen (Steve) Meagher. Not pictured: James (Jim) Meagher.



*Br. Charles Manning Family*

(l-r): Seated: Margie Floyd, Connie Floyd, Kathy Manning, Meg Manning. Standing: John Stagg, Mike Milton, David Floyd, Br. Charles, Sammy Manning.



# St. Bernard Abbey news

## From the Abbot's Desk...

"Ora et Labora" (Pray and Work) is the expression that's often used to describe the Benedictine way of life. When Archabbot Boniface Wimmer founded the American-Cassinense Congregation, there were two kinds of work he especially encouraged for his monks, viz., the establishment of schools and work in pastoral ministry. When St. Bernard Abbey was founded in 1891, these were his marching orders to our monks. Within a year, our founding fathers and brothers had established a school and were serving in parishes throughout north Alabama.

Over the years, monks of St. Bernard have served in parishes in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia and Ohio. Our schools have included a grade school, a middle school, a high school, a Junior College, a 4-year Liberal Arts College and a 4-year School of Theology.

Fr. Luke Fazi, O.S.B., of happy memory, is a classic example of a St. Bernard monk who dedicated himself to these ministries for over fifty years. Many of us remember him as our high school principal, our Latin teacher, our coach, our Athletic Director and the list

goes on. Regularly, he accepted assignments at parishes throughout the southeast and he especially enjoyed assignments in Memphis, his home town.

As we close our 130th Anniversary, I thank God for the dedicated service given by Fr. Luke and all the monks who have given their lives to the "Ora et Labora" Benedictine way of life. In our day, I'm grateful for the monks who work in the various ministries we have here on our campus. Many of these same monks go out on weekend assignments to celebrate Mass and administer the sacraments in many parishes throughout the Southeast.

I'm also grateful to the large number of dedicated men and women who make up the St. Bernard family and who work along side of the monks. These include the faculty and staff of our school, the workers in our Grotto, Retreat Center, Physical Plant, Kitchen, Farm and those who clean and maintain our campus. Another addition to our St. Bernard family is the host of volunteers and Benedictine Oblates who answer the call whenever there's a need.

Of major importance to our St.

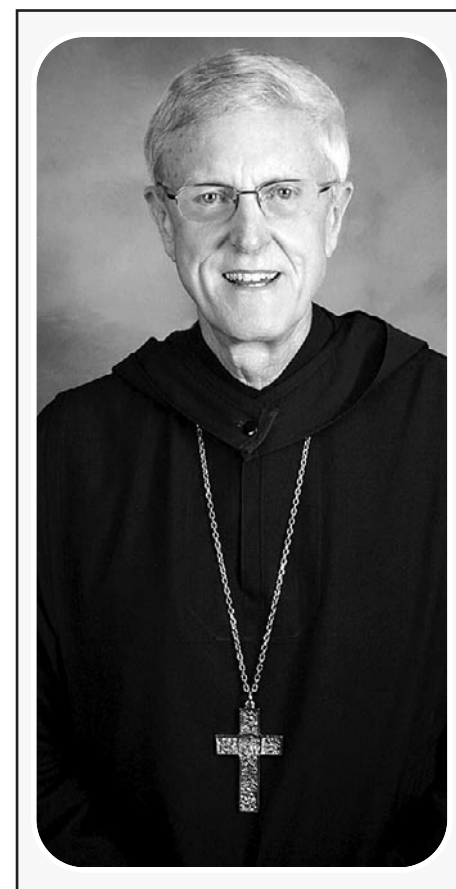
Bernard family are all of you who are our many alumni, benefactors and friends. I am deeply grateful to all of you, who have so generously supported us financially especially in these difficult years of the pandemic. You are a significant part of the firm foundation on which our financial house has been built. Much of the growth, vigor and new life that's so evident on our campus today has come because of your solid support and generosity. I cannot thank you enough for all you are doing for St. Bernard.

Most of all, I am deeply grateful to God who daily blesses all of us who are dedicated members of the St. Bernard community. All that we do depends on his grace and creative love. As we begin this New Year, I pledge our commitment to continue living the Benedictine charism of Ora et Labora. In all that we say and do, may God be gloried now and all the days of our lives.

Asking God's blessing always,

*Ab. Marcus, M.*

Abbot Marcus, O.S.B.



Rt. Rev. Marcus J. Voss,  
O.S.B., Abbot

## 50th Jubilees

(Continued from previous page)

native of Knoxville, Tennessee, where he attended catholic schools under the direction of the Sisters of Mercy. He graduated from Knoxville Catholic High School in 1969 and entered St. Bernard College the following fall. He entered St. Bernard Abbey and professed first vows July 11, 1971. He graduated from St. Bernard College with a BA in Biology 1974. After graduation, he studied physics at Loyola University, New Orleans, where he lived with the Jesuits in formation. After college graduation, he worked for one year in the Biology department at St. Bernard College before attending graduate school. He earned a MS in Aquatic Biology from the University of Tennessee in 1978. While at the university he lived with the Paulist Fathers and made life-long friends in their community. After graduate school, he served at the Registrar the last year of Southern Benedictine College 1978-79. During this time, he taught high-school "Sunday School" at Sacred Heart Parish, Cullman. After the college at St. Bernard closed, he taught sciences at St. Augustine College, Nassau Bahamas 1979-1980. He returned to St. Bernard to open the St. Bernard Retreat Center in 1981. He served on the Diocesan School Board for a number of terms beginning in 1979 to 2018.

At various times, he has served the monastic community in the formation program, on the senior council, as the chapter and senior council secretary, and in the business office. He was the first non-priest to be appointed Sub-prior of the Abbey by Abbot Hillary Dreaper. Over the years he has enjoyed working on the campus grounds and landscaping, planting a number of trees on campus. He was a member of the planning committee for the opening of St. Bernard Prep School 1983. When St. Bernard Prep School opened in 1984, he taught Biology and Physics in the Prep School 1984-2018. He was appointed the Treasurer (Procurator) for St. Bernard Abbey 2019 and serves in that position at present.



Fr. Linus Klucsarits, O.S.B.,  
and Abbot Marcus Voss, O.S.B.

## Fr. Linus Named Prior

Fr. Linus Klucsarits, O.S.B. was recently named prior of St. Bernard Abbey. As prior, Fr. Linus will assist Abbot Marcus in the day to day operation of the abbey and will also stand in for the abbot when he is away. Fr. Linus will continue his work as admissions director for the school and novice master in the abbey.

Fr. Linus has been a monk at St. Bernard Abbey since 2011. Before entering religious life, Fr. Linus had a career working with the Deaf and was a sign language interpreter in his native Pennsylvania.

Please pray for Fr. Linus as he takes on his new responsibilities as prior of St. Bernard Abbey.



8

# St. Bernard Sports

## Varsity Girls Basketball

Front row (l-r): Charli Roberson, Mary Ella Cockerham, and Emma Osborne. Back (l-r): Assistant Coach Dow Nichols, Amelia Tafazoli, Sarah Woods, Annabelle Marte, Emma Powell, and Coach Luke Yarbrough.



## Middle School Boys Basketball

Front - James Crabb, and Josh Marks. Back row (l-r): Gabriel Zimmerman, Parker Guthery, Gavitt Lewis, Abel Morris, Aiden Hays, Sam Myers.

## Varsity Boys Basketball

Front (l-r): Peter Tran, Emmanuel Santiago, Jiovanny Arriaga, and Gavitt Lewis. Back row (l-r): Jose Zatarain, Nic Fallin, Jack Janasak, Will Lyons, and Diego Garcia.





# St. Bernard Sports



## Girls Bowling

(l-r): Claudia Fallin, Piper Watson, Mollie Woods, Maggie Holseback, Riley Holmes, Merrilee Schartung, and Alice Shu.

## Cheerleaders

Front row (l-r): Emma Whaley, Piper Watson, Riley Holmes (co-captain), Claudia Fallin (captain), Ashley Morris (co-captain). Back row (l-r): Alice Shu, Maggie Holseback, Abigail McBride, Gabbi Chiodo, Coach Elicia Fallin, Karly Arndt, Maddie McBride, Merrilee Schartung, and Mollie Woods.



*Homecoming King Diego Garcia*  
*Homecoming Queen Xiran Shu*



## Homecoming Court

(l-r): Sophomore Class – Ashton Lindsey and Audrey Gil; Senior Class – John Pechon, Riley Holmes, Morgan Waites, Merilee Shartung, Diego Garcia, Xiran Shu, David Pascual, and Piper Watson; Juniors – Charles Gil and Natalie Garcia; and Freshmen – Georgia Metrock and Tom Fu.



# St. Bernard Alumni news



*Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Gapultos*

## Congratulations



*Champ Crocker Family*

**Champ Crocker** (SBP '94) was recently recognized for having served ten years on the Cullman Regional Hospital Foundation Board. He is also running as a Republican candidate for Cullman County District Attorney. Champ is a trial lawyer and owns his practice, R. Champ Crocker, LLC. He resides in Cullman with his wife Emily and two son, Henry and Charles.

**Levi Schaefers** (SBP '11) was promoted at UAB from a Researcher II to a Researcher III and couldn't be happier to continue working in the Fungal Reference Lab. He also started back at UAB for the Spring 2022 semester pursuing his second bachelors degree.



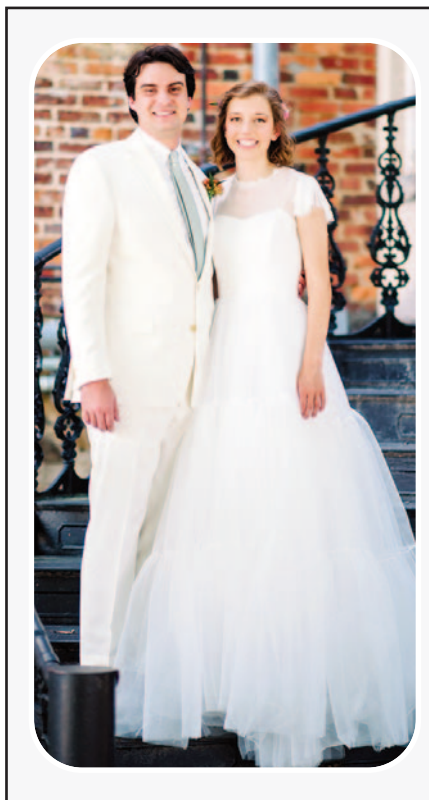
*Levi Schaefers*

## Weddings

**Glenn Gapultos** (PS '2000) and **Sandra Chan** were married on October 23, 2021 in New Orleans. Father Joel Martin and Abbott Marcus Voss officiated the ceremony at St. Francis Church. The reception was held at the New Orleans Museum of Art. This was their third attempt after two cancellations due to the pandemic, which made the celebration that much sweeter.

**Sophia Rataj** (SBP '16) and **Mark Jaunet, Jr.** were married in the St. Bernard Abbey Church on Saturday, August 28, 2021. Several monks and many visiting clergy, along with numerous guests, were present for the Sacrament of Matrimony. Sophia hails from Birmingham and after graduating from St. Bernard Prep, studied at

Loyola University, New Orleans, where she met her husband Mark, who is a New Orleans native. Having both graduated from Loyola, the couple now resides in Berkeley, California, where Mark works in material engineering and Sophia pursues graduate studies at the Jesuit School of Theology.



*Mr. and Mrs. Mark Jaunet*

**A1C Elijah Price** (SBP '18) and **Alexis Molina**

of San Antonio, Texas were married July 11, 2021. Elijah and Allie are currently stationed at Whiteman AFB in Missouri. Elijah is the son of Stacey Price, Business Manager at St. Bernard Prep and Jason Price of Cullman.



*Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Price*

## New Arrivals

**Molly (Misegades)** (PS '13) and **Eric Guyer** on the birth of their son, **Ellis Brian Guyer** who was born November 19, 2021 weighing 7 lbs 4 oz and measuring 20 inches long. Ellis joins his big sister Rory at their home in Tuscaloosa, AL.



*Ellis Brian Guyer*



*Hunter Family*

**Miriam (Stella)** (PS '05) and husband **Patrick Hunter** on the birth of their daughter, **Millie Gianna**, who was born December 16, 2021. Millie weighed 7 lbs 4 oz and was 21.5 inches long. She joins her two sisters and brother at their home in Valdosta, GA where her dad is a special education high school math teacher, and referees college soccer. Both parents are certified transformational health coaches and run their international health coaching business together!

**Christopher Presto** (PS '10) and wife, **Cynthia** welcome the arrival of their firstborn son, **Maverick Philip**, who was born on December 29, 2021 weighing 6 lbs 2 oz and was 21.5 inches long. He is the nephew of SBP **Johnathon Presto** (PS '13). His grandparents are Philip and Karen Presto and Gary and the late Myra Bailey of Cullman.



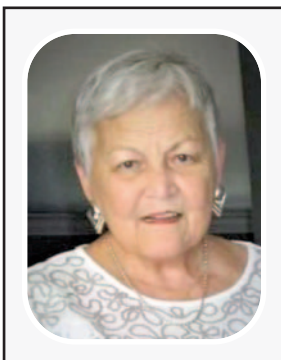
*Maverick Philip Presto*



# St. Bernard Alumni news

## In Memoriam

**Barbara Hawthorne**, passed away on January 11, 2022 at the age of 75 at home in Paducah, KY. Barbara is survived by her husband of 52 years, James Hawthorne; daughter, **Kelly** (SBP '92) (**David**) **Minor** of Paducah; son, Jim (Lauren) Hawthorne of Budd Lake, New Jersey; one brother, Ed Grafenstine of Burlington, New Jersey; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



*Barbara Hawthorne*

and turned it into a global corporation, passed peacefully with his family by his side on October 24th, 2021. He was 88 years old. Styslinger was born in Birmingham, Alabama, and attended St. Paul's Elementary and St. Bernard Preparatory School in Cullman, Alabama where he was in the seminary program. Those formative years developed his deep faith and lifelong friendship with countless priests and monks. After graduating from St. Bernard, he enrolled in the engineering program at the University of Alabama where he was a member of Theta Tau Engineering Fraternity. In 1952, following his father's untimely death, Styslinger assumed control of Alabama Truck Equipment Co., at the age of 19. Initially, he maintained the company's focus on building truck-mounted utility bodies for Alabama Power as well as specialized compartments for dairy, bakery and dump trucks. In 1973, during the energy crisis, Styslinger made the critical decision to have the company begin designing, manufacturing and selling its own products to electric and telecommunications utilities. Since that "make or break" decision in the early '70s, Altec began a truly remarkable growth period that continues to this day. Altec currently provides products and services in more than 100 countries around the world. Lee was active within the business community, serving on many boards and receiving many recognitions and honors. He and his wife, Catherine, were known for their extensive philanthropic work. He is survived by his wife, Catherine Styslinger and his sister Margaret Yount; by his children, Lee Styslinger, III (Kelly), Jon Styslinger (Babbie), and Mark Styslinger (Jennifer); and by his grandchildren, Paul, Scott, Leo, Temple, Sarah, Jon, Jr., Matthew, Mac, Claudia, Stella and Lydia

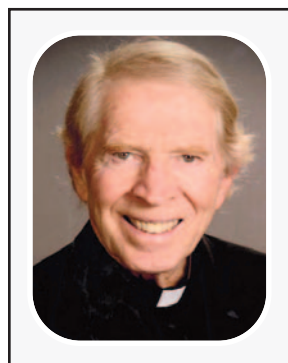


*Lee Styslinger, Jr.*

ultimately not be his calling. He finished his studies at St. Bernard College with degrees in philosophy and mathematics. Ed enjoyed a long and rewarding 38 year career as a NASA aerospace engineer at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. In the historic days of planning the Apollo flights to the moon, he was a member of the storied Mission Planning and Analysis Division and was part of the team that accurately computed the trajectories that placed the crews in the correct lunar orbit for landing. In the final years of his NASA career, he worked in the project office that developed the tools and techniques for extra-vehicular activity, critical to the success of many Space Shuttle and International Space Station missions. He is survived by his wife Phyllis Stanley Svrcek, children Jennifer Svrcek (Ian Wilson), Jocelyn Svrcek Watson (Barry Watson), Tricia Svrcek Pharr and Trey Svrcek (Alison Svrcek); stepchildren Hatch Wefing (Cindy Wefing) and Heidi Wefing; sister Joann Svrcek Fagan and brother Patrick Svrcek (Karen Svrcek); seven grandchildren and two step-grandsons.



*"Sonny" Svrcek*



*Monseigneur Thomas D. Kirk*

**Monseigneur Thomas D. Kirk**, age 78 of Memphis, TN, died on December 22, 2021 in his hometown of Knoxville, TN. Father Kirk was a Parish Priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Memphis for 52 years. He completed his seminary studies at St. Bernard College of Cullman, AL and St. Mary's of Baltimore, MD. He was ordained in 1969. After his ordination, Fr. Kirk requested to be sent to St. Teresa Little Flower in Memphis during the civil rights movement to bring calm

to the city and a place of peace. He also served at St. Joseph, Sacred Heart, Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, St. Mary's, Savannah and St. Mary's, Jackson. He is survived by his brothers Stephen L. Kirk, Jr. (Gerry), Joseph Billington Kirk (Helen), Father John L. Kirk, Philip Anthony Kirk (Suzanne); sisters, Anne Gallegos (Eloy), Joan Lyttle (Russ); 30 nieces and nephews; and other extended family and friends

**Lee Styslinger, Jr.**, the visionary founder of Altec, Inc., who took his father's small truck equipment company

**Edward Joseph Svrcek, Jr.** died on September 8, 2021. Throughout his life Ed engaged in various acts of service especially for the homeless and the poor. In college he was drawn to the seminary, but priesthood would



### *The St. Bernard-Sacred Heart Alumni Association of Pensacola*

gathered for it's annual Christmas Party on December 11, 2021 at V. Paul's Ristorante in downtown Pensacola. Honored guest was Abbot Marcus Voss, OSB. Pictured (l-r), Carlos Melville (SB '69), Cheryl Melville, Ray Engle (SB '65), Theresa Soderlind Harrell (SH '71), Dr. Jacque LeBeau (SB '70), Margaret Bruno LeBeau (SH '68), Jerry Fell (SB '64), Mary Ann Fell, Abbot Marcus Voss (SB '65), Linda Broadus, Pat Broadus (SB '70), Woody Soderlind (SB '66), Larry O'Donnell (SB '71), and Clancy O'Donnell. (Not pictured Mike Mrony (SB '70).

# SAVE THE DATE

## ST. BERNARD ALUMNI REUNION JUNE 23-26

*Watch your email for more information.*

*If you would like to receive our monthly e-news, give us a call (256) 739-6682 or email*

*rgongre@stbernardprep.com*



# St. Bernard Happenings

## Giving Day Set for March 21

The St. Bernard Development Office is pleased to announce that St. Bernard's third annual Giving Day is set for Monday, March 21, 2022 – the Feast of St. Benedict. Chief Development Officer Tyler Hooper (PS '07) said, "I am very excited to announce the return of Giving Day! We had an overwhelming response from our donors last year, exceeding our \$40,000 goal by over \$20,000. We are so grateful that the St. Bernard Family stepped up and answered our call again. Even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, our

donors saw the value in our need to continue supporting our students."

Giving Day 2021 raised \$60,213 for the St. Bernard Educational Foundation. This year the event will again support the Foundation with an increased goal of \$50,000. Hooper noted the importance of the Foundation to St. Bernard, "As we celebrate St. Bernard's 131st year and continue to endure this pandemic together, it is critical that the Foundation continues to receive support so that we can provide a quality education to our many

deserving students with financial need. Donor support is a major part of ensuring that St. Bernard is here to serve for generations to come."

While Giving Day is designed to fundraise in 24 hours, donors are invited to make their gifts well in advance of March 21. Hooper said, "OneCause will again serve as our site host for Giving Day online donations. We plan to open the site to accept donations beginning in early March and continue through the end of the month. Once the Giving Day site

is live, donors will be able to securely make gifts instantly, read answers to our most frequently asked questions, and more." Donors may also give by mailing a check to: St. Bernard Prep School, Attn: Tyler Hooper, 1600 St. Bernard Dr. SE, Cullman, AL 35055. When making a gift by check, please note on the memo line that your gift is for Giving Day 2022.

**Returning for 2022:** Make a gift of \$131 or more to Giving Day and you will receive a special St. Bernard Giving Day Christmas ornament – exclusively available again to Giving Day donors! The design will be different from last year's edition and is a great way to start a collection from year to year.

Hooper said he issues a challenge to all St. Bernard alumni, friends, and family to participate – no gift is ever too small. Another way you can help

us reach our Giving Day goal is to participate in your company's charitable giving match program, if offered. Contact your HR department or the St. Bernard Development Office if you have questions. To learn more about Giving Day visit [stbernardprep.com/giving-day](http://stbernardprep.com/giving-day). If you would like to learn more about the Development Office's work, contact Tyler Hooper at (256) 255-5857 or [thooper@stbernardprep.com](mailto:thooper@stbernardprep.com).

About the Foundation: The St. Bernard Educational Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization incorporated in 1998 to support the ongoing educational ministry of St. Bernard Preparatory School. The foundation's goals align with the St. Bernard legacy of providing an exceptional education to all who have a love of learning and the drive for achievement.



*Chief Development Officer Tyler Hooper*

**SAINT BERNARD**  
**GIVING DAY**  
**3.21.22**

**Making a difference in 24 hours.**

## Drawdown Dinner Set for February 12

The St. Bernard Saints Drawn Down - Benefit Dinner has been set for Saturday, February 12th!

Annually, the St. Bernard Athletic Boosters host this fun dinner to offset the cost of athletic events, uniforms, supplies and travel needs for the teams. Tickets are \$100 each which include dinner-for-two catered by Dreamland BBQ, beverages, and a chance to participate in the events of the night including games, hold-out-ticket, bingo, silent auction, and the opportunity to win \$10,000!

Doors open at 5 p.m. and the event continues until the last ticket is drawn. Tickets are limited.

To purchase tickets contact Leah Messick at [lmessick@stbernardprep.com](mailto:lmessick@stbernardprep.com) or text 256-962-0620. Must be 21 years of age or older to attend.

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