

Understanding Parish Registration

St. Bernard Catholic Parish

3601 N 65th Street, Omaha, NE 68104

Parish Office / Rectory: (402) 551-0269

www.stbernardomaha.org

Being a registered member of a Catholic parish means formally enrolling as a recognized part of a specific parish community, rather than simply attending Mass there occasionally. Here is what it typically entails.

What Registration Means

Registration is the process of officially joining a parish by completing a form with your household information (names, address, contact details, sacramental status). It signals a commitment to belong to and support that particular faith community. While canon law technically assigns you to a parish based on your territorial boundaries (where you live), most parishes use registration as a practical way to identify and serve their active members.

Responsibilities of a Registered Member

Being a registered parishioner generally involves a commitment to live out the faith actively:

- **Sacramental participation** — Attending Sunday and Holy Day Mass faithfully, and participating regularly in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation.
- **Financial stewardship** — Supporting the parish through regular contributions (often tracked via envelopes or online giving), helping sustain its ministries, staff, and facilities.
- **Time and talent** — Volunteering in ministries such as lectoring, music, catechesis, hospitality, outreach to the poor, or parish committees.
- **Community life** — Participating in the life of the parish beyond Mass: faith formation, parish events, and fellowship.
- **Spiritual growth** — Ongoing prayer, formation, and living according to the teachings of the Church.

Practical Benefits and Reasons It Matters

Registration is not merely bureaucratic; it carries real pastoral and canonical significance:

- **Access to sacraments and services** — Parishes often require registration (and a period of active membership) before celebrating Baptisms, First Communion, Confirmation, and especially Weddings, since the parish must know and vouch for the person.
- **Sponsor and eligibility letters** — To serve as a godparent or Confirmation sponsor, most dioceses require a letter from your parish certifying you are a registered, practicing Catholic in good standing. This is only possible if you are registered and known.

- **Pastoral care** — Registration helps the parish stay in contact for home visits, anointing of the sick, emergencies, and life events.
- **Belonging and accountability** — It roots a person in a concrete community and makes the abstract idea of “the Church” tangible and local.
- **Tithing and tax records** — Registered members typically receive contribution statements for tax purposes.

A Note on Canon Law

Under the Code of Canon Law, membership in a parish is fundamentally determined by domicile or quasi-domicile — that is, by where a person actually lives (canons 100–107). A person acquires a parish and a diocese by residing within its territorial boundaries. Registration is a pastoral custom, especially common in the United States, that gives practical expression to this canonical reality and allows the parish to properly shepherd those entrusted to it.

In short, being a registered member means moving from being a visitor to being a committed, accountable, and cared-for member of a specific spiritual family — sharing in its worship, mission, support, and life.

St. Bernard Parish — Weekly Schedule

Mass Times

- **Saturday:** 5:00 pm (Sunday Vigil)
- **Sunday:** 7:30 am (no music) · 9:00 am · 10:30 am
- **Tuesday–Friday:** 8:00 am
- **Mass in French:** Every 4th Sunday at 12:30 pm

Confessions

- **Wednesday:** 7:00 am
- **Saturday:** 3:30 pm
- **By appointment:** Any time — call (402) 551-0269

Eucharistic Adoration

- **Wednesday:** 7:00 am

Parish Office

- **Phone:** (402) 551-0269
- **Email:** lrldley@stbernardomaha.org
- To confirm current office hours or to register as a parishioner, please contact the parish office.

Schedule as listed on the parish website, www.stbernardomaha.org.

To register with St. Bernard Parish, or if you have any questions about membership, please contact the parish office. We would be glad to welcome you and your family into our community.

Rev. Michael Gadache
Pastor, St. Bernard Parish
Omaha, Nebraska