

SAINT BERNADETTE CATHOLIC CHURCH



109 West Main St. • PO Box 11 • Hedgesville, WV 25427

Phone: 304-754-7830 • Email: office@stbernadettewv.org
www.stbernadettewv.org

Register online at www.flocknote.com/stbernadettewv
Office Hours: Mon—Thurs 10 AM—2 PM; Fri 10 AM—12 PM
Office is located in the Religious Education Building

ST. BERNADETTE DIRECTORY

Pastor, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Boh

Parish Secretary, Lynette Kammerer

Music Director, Linda Abrahamian

Sacristan, Kevin Ferrell
kevin.a.ferrell@gmail.com

Religious Ed., Sara Struemke
reled@stbernadettewv.org

OCIA, Eric Colliflower

Finance Chairperson, Paul Guttman

Youth Ministry Coordinator, Linda
Abrahamian

Maintenance, Joe Comer

Knights of Columbus, Greg Hilleary
dustyboy1025@gmail.com

REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5 PM
Sunday: 9 AM & 11 AM
Tuesday: 9 AM
Wednesday: 9 AM & 6 PM
Thursday: 9 AM
Friday: 9 AM

Adoration every Friday after 9 AM Mass
with Benediction at 12 NOON

1st Saturday: 9 AM Mass
Rosary immediately following

Confession
Wednesday: 5—5:45 PM
Saturday: 4—4:45 PM
Sunday: 8:15—8:40 AM
or by appointment

April 19, 2026 Third Sunday of Easter



“And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.”
Luke 24:15-16

Mission Statement:

St. Bernadette Catholic Church is a Christian community in the Catholic tradition following the direction of the Holy Spirit in building the kingdom of God and the church in Hedgesville and beyond. Through Word, Worship, Ministry, and Service we celebrate our common faith given in baptism. Grateful for our faith, we seek to grow in love toward all. “It is by your love for one another that everyone will recog-

REFLECTION

The Gift of Understanding

With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" Luke 24:31-32

This passage above produced a unique blessing. Jesus opened the minds of the Apostles to the Scriptures in a new way. These were ordinary men who were given an extraordinary gift of understanding. It didn't come to them because of long study and hard work. Rather, it came to them because of their openness to Christ's powerful action in their lives. Jesus unlocked the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven to them. As a result, they suddenly understood truths that could never be learned on their own.

So, it is with us. The mysteries of God are vast and wide. They are deep and transforming. But so often we fail to understand. We often even fail to want to understand.

Think about those things in your life now, or in your past, that have left you confused. You need a special gift from the Holy Spirit to make sense of them. And you need this gift to make sense of the many good things of God found in the Scriptures also. This is the Gift of Understanding. It's a spiritual gift that unlocks the many mysteries of life for us.

Without the Gift of Understanding, we are left on our own to try to make sense of life. This is especially true when we are faced with hardship and suffering. How is it, for example, that an all-powerful and all-loving God can allow the good and the innocent to suffer? How is it that God can seem absent at times from human tragedy?

The truth is that He is not absent. He is centrally involved in all things. What we need to receive is an understanding of the profound and mysterious ways of God. We need to understand the Scriptures, human suffering, human relationships, and divine action in our lives. But this will never happen unless we allow Jesus to open our minds.

Allowing Jesus to open our minds takes faith and surrender. It means we believe first and understand later. It means we trust Him even though we do not see. St. Augustine once said, "Faith is to believe what you do not see. The reward of faith is to see what you believe." Are you willing to believe without seeing? Are you willing to believe in the goodness and love of God even though life, or a particular situation in life, does not make sense?

Reflect, today, upon the Gift of Understanding. Believing in God means we believe in a person. We believe in Him even though we find ourselves confused about particular circumstances. But this gift of believing, the gift of faith, opens the door to a depth of understanding that we could never arrive at on our own.

God of all Truth, give me the Gift of Understanding. Help me to know You and to understand Your actions in my life. Help me to especially turn to You in the most troubling moments of life. Jesus, I trust in You.

(from "My Catholic Life! A journey of personal conversion!")

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

25 Years of Grace: A Message from Fr. Boh
 "How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me? I will raise the chalice of salvation; I will call on the Lord's name."

Dear Parishioners,

With a heart overflowing with gratitude, I write to you as I celebrate the 25th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood today, Sunday, April 19, 2026. I was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Buea on Thursday, April 19, 2001, by Bishop Pius S. Awa (RIP). As I look back over these past 25 years, my primary sentiment is deep thanksgiving to God for the gift of this vocation.

Twenty-five years ago, when I lay prostrate in front of the altar at the ceremonial ground behind Sacred Heart Parish Church, Fiango, Kumba, which has since March 2016 been elevated to serve as the cathedral of the Sacred Heart Diocese of Kumba, I had no idea of the incredible journey God had planned. I am humbled to know that Jesus has used my hands and voice to bring His presence, mercy, and love to His people. The priesthood is truly a gift, and serving the people of God has been a blessing and the greatest joy of my life.

In my twenty-five years serving as a priest, I have met incredible faithful men and women. Each has shown me the love of Jesus in their own unique way. I can say that every parish and ministry in which I served has made an indelible impact on me, be it at Our Lady Queen of the Apostle Parish, Ikassa, Saint Michael Parish, Baseng, Saint Anthony of Padua Parish, Buea Town, Diocesan Pastoral Office, Buea, St John the Evangelist, Kumba Town, St Joseph, Tiko, and St Paul the Apostle, Kwakwa.

The Most Rev. Robert J. McClory, Bishop of the Diocese of Gary, once said, "Home is a place where one should be able to freely give and receive the love of God." St Bernadette is not just my gateway to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, WV, but it is my home – and it feels like home, too. Thank you for welcoming me into your lives—for allowing me to share in your joys, Marriages, First Holy Communions, Confirmations, Baptisms, and for letting me offer comfort during times of sorrow. Thank you for being a part of my story. Thank you for your love and encouragement. You have shared your gifts with me, and I am a far happier priest than I ever could have imagined. A priest cannot fulfill his mission alone; your faith, dedication, and companionship have sustained me throughout my ministry.

Finally, I want to thank my family, friends, and brother priests, deacons, and religious who have walked with me and encouraged me along the way. I believe that my parents, too, Papa Gregory Boh and Mama Paulina Nengtoh, are with us today, praying with us and for us. Wherever they are, I wish to thank them for the selfless and unconditional love they have shown me.

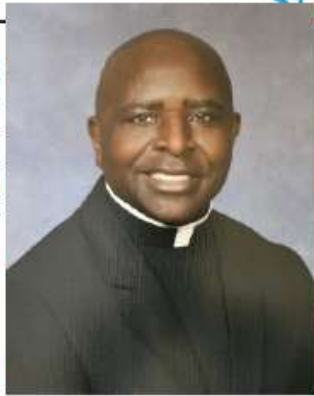
Thank you, Lord, for giving me wonderful parents. And thank you for the gift of my vocation to the priesthood. While I have strived to serve you, I am acutely aware of my own weaknesses, yet YOUR GRACE has been sufficient. As we look forward to the future, I ask for your continued prayers, that I may remain faithful to the "YES" I made on Thursday, April 19,

PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING FOR 4/12	
General Fund.....	\$ 4375.67
Online Giving.....	\$ 2497.03
Local Outreach.....	\$ 150.00
Easter Offering.....	\$ 555.00
Weekend Mass Attendance: 5 PM—98 9 AM—204 11 AM—170	
THANK YOU FOR TAKING A STEP TOWARD A LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP	

2001.

I am deeply grateful to all who helped organize and made this Silver Jubilee anniversary party of my priestly ordination memorable and to everyone for your prayers and for being part of my life. Your presence here today makes my 25th anniversary a special joy. Thank you for your continued support of my priesthood. May God bless you as only He can.

I was born and raised in Njinikom, Kom. My home parish is St Anthony of Padua, in the Archdiocese of Bamenda.



WEEKLY CALENDAR

A Note of Apology regarding Easter Triduum and Easter Sunday Masses
Dear Parish family,

I want to apologize to those who found the use of incense or its levels too high during our Easter Triduum and Easter Sunday liturgies. While intended to add to the solemnity of the liturgies, I understand that for several members of our congregation, it caused discomfort and made it difficult to pray or stay for the entire Mass. I sincerely apologize to those who were affected. While the Church uses incense to symbolize our prayers rising to God (Psalm 141:2), it is never my intention for this liturgical practice to create a barrier to prayer or worship.

I promise to be much more mindful of this in the future and will work with our sacristans to ensure our liturgies are welcoming to all, including those with sensitivities. We will clearly indicate in the bulletin and on the parish website which Masses will utilize incense. Generally, incense will be reserved for major feast days, funerals, or specific solemn occasions. We will ensure that there are always Masses available on the weekend that are incense-free to accommodate those with allergies or sensitivities.

Thank you for your understanding and for helping us make our church a welcoming home for all. Please know of my prayers for you and your families during this holy Easter season.

In Christ, Fr Boh

Sunday, April 19th

9 AM Mass
Intention for Aldo Della Mae (+)
10—11:45 AM Religious Ed
11 AM Mass
Intention for Father Boh (L)

Tuesday, April 21st

8:30 AM Mass
Intention for Marilyn McNally (L)
10 AM Stitches from the Heart

Wednesday, April 22nd

9 AM Mass
Intention for Wasil Speck (+)
4—5:45 PM Confession
6 PM Mass
Intention for John Bartrick (+)

Thursday, April 23rd

9 AM Mass
Intention for Mildred Speck (+)

Friday, April 24th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for Mike Kesecker (L)
Adoration following the 9 AM Mass
12 NOON Benediction

Saturday, April 25th

4—4:45 PM Confession
5 PM Mass
Intention for Bob Hullitte (+)

Sunday, April 26th

8:15—8:40 AM Confession
9 AM Mass
Intention for Thomas & Maria Dinh (+) and all Souls in Purgatory
10—11:45 AM Religious Ed
11 AM Mass
Intention for the People of the Parish



Your Faith Matters: Why is Incense Used in Catholic Mass?

In Catholic Mass, incense is a sacramental used to symbolize purification, sanctification, and the prayers of the faithful rising to heaven (Psalm 141:2). It represents the reverence and adoration due to God, creating a heavenly atmosphere while honoring the presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the altar, the Gospel, the priest, and the congregation. (By Luke Lancaster, in the Magazine "Catholic Answer", November 14, 2024).

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Mary Cordelli, Bonnie Hart, Kathy Skane, Msgr. Patrick Fryer, Randy Bookwalter, Walter Shenk, Helena Shenk, Robin Marlin, Betty Foley, Beverly Barrett, Hank Chase, Jackie Crouse, Vicki Lowery, Michael Huey, Raymond & Connie Roscoe, Glenda Bonfila, Jose M. Boursiquot, Joseph Bosco, Gary E. Manley, Maggie Keating, Sandy Robertson, James Wynkoop, Carol Bogacz, Fr. Ansgar, Marianne Henterly, Thomas Mackesy, Florence Dellasanta, Isabella Horning, Carl Drummond, Susan Clark, Betty Anne Powell, Mike Donato, Chuck Kinn, Maureen Sabol, John Anderson, Jeremiah Nichols

Please keep the sick and homebound, and those that have no one to pray for them, in your thoughts and prayers. You may call the Parish Office at 304-754-7830 to add a name to our Prayer List.

Sacrament of Baptism: Parents must be registered with the Parish Office and are required to attend a Preparation Session before the Baptism can be scheduled. To register for the Preparation Class, please call the Parish Office at 304-754-7830.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Will be held Wednesday evening from 5:00—5:45 PM, Saturday 4—4:45 PM, and Sunday 8:15—8:45 AM. Confession is also available by appointment at anytime. Please call the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

Order of Christian Initiation: The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults begins in August and ends in April. These classes are for members who wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. If you need to receive Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Communion, and/or Confirmation, and are interested in attending OCIA, please call the Parish Office at 304-754-7830.

Sacrament of Marriage: Engaged couples planning to marry at St. Bernadette Catholic Church should be practicing Catholics, participating in Sunday Eucharist regularly. Also they must participate in a Marriage Preparation Program. Call the Parish Office for information. At least six months notice is required. No date for a wedding will be set over the phone.

Holy Communion to the Sick and Homebound: When a Parishioner is confined to home or hospital because of illness or advanced age, call the Parish Office. We will be happy to make arrangements to bring Holy Communion.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: Upon request and Communally as scheduled.

Parish Membership: We give a heartfelt welcome to all new people moving into our Parish. You can get a registration form from the Parish Office or you can register on our website at www.stbernadettewv.org. Those who plan to move from our Parish Community are asked to inform us.

St. Bernadette Pastoral Council: Pat Winkelman, Chairperson; Cindy Lathwell, Secretary; Members: Lynette Kammerer, Carol Sloan, Sara Struemke, Jean Ridley, Linda Abrahamian, Maureen Sabol, Joe Comer, Kevin Ferrell, and Carol Bogacz

St. Bernadette Finance Ministry: Paul Guttman, Neil Shanholtzer, Jeff Ferrell, and Freddy Gibb

Ministries: If you are interested in training for any of the following ministries: Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Lector, Altar Server, or Usher, please contact the Parish Office.

Hospital Visits: Because of the HIPPA regulations, we are not notified when someone from our Parish is in the hospital. If you want a Priest to visit you, please contact the Parish Office yourself, have a close family member contact us, or ask someone at the hospital to contact us. Friends and neighbors do not make the decision for a Priest to visit the sick. It must be at the request of the family. If you are local, we can make the visit. If you are in Winchester, please let the hospital know that you want a priest or contact the local parish.

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday 20—Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119; Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday 21—Acts 7:51-8:1a; Ps 31; Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday 22—Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66; Jn 6:35-40

Thursday 23—Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66; Jn 6:44-51

Friday 24—Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117; Jn 6:52-59

Saturday 25—Feast of St. Mark, evangelist; 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89; Mk 16:15-20

Sunday 26—Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10

SAFE ENVIRONMENT CARING FOR GOD'S CHILDREN

To report an incident of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800-352-6513. In addition to civil authorities, to report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888-434-6237 or 304-233-0880. Please visit www.dwc.org under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.