

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

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 Guttmann

**Youth Ministry Coordinator, Linda
Abrahamian**

Maintenance, Joe Comer

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—8:45 AM
or by appointment

April 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Lent

“Has no one condemned you?” She replied, “No one, sir.” Then Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more.” (John 8:10b-11)



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 recognize you as my disciples.”

—John 13:35

REFLECTION

Growing up in Njinikom, my village of birth in the northwest region of Cameroon, a common practice in my parish – Saint Anthony of Padua – but also across the entire Church Province of Bamenda, was to stop young girls or women who got pregnant outside of marriage from receiving Holy Communion. This punishment remained in effect until the birth and the baptism of the child born out of wedlock. Additionally, throughout the pregnancy, it was demanded of the girl or woman to attend weekday Masses every day. Every day after Mass, the girl or woman was required to go by the Parish Office so a record could be kept of her attendance. It did not stop there. The girl or woman was also made to do community work around the mission compound. This was typically how the day of the pregnant, unmarried Catholic girl or woman unfolded every single day during her pregnancy. Like I said earlier, the girl or woman was only readmitted to the Sacraments of the Church after the child was born and, more precisely, on the day the child was baptized.

Any unmarried student who was found to be with child, whether enrolled in a Catholic or public school, was equally punished with a suspension from school until she gave birth to her child. She was only allowed to return to school about a year after the child had been born.

Even in marital life, the woman tended to always be the scapegoat. The husband in a couple that had been married several or many years without the blessing of the fruit of the womb tended to blame the situation of their childlessness on the woman. One of my parishioners was so convinced that his wife, with whom he had been married many years, had to be barren that he decided to marry a second wife. Polygamy is legal in Cameroon. Two to three years later, the second wife had still not been blessed with the fruit of the womb. The man married a third wife and later a fourth wife. Behold, all three wives, hitherto believed to be barren, and the fourth got pregnant at the same time and gave birth to children over a period of two months.

The above stories about my native Cameroon speak to the kind of setting described in today’s Gospel story. In my village, as in Jesus’s time, it was often – if not always - the woman that paid society’s high price for sexual transgression. In the Gospel, the Scribes and the Pharisees bring a woman to Jesus caught as they say ‘... in the very act of adultery.’ The injustice of a macho society is difficult to hide.

If a woman is caught “in the very act of adultery,” she is obviously not engaged in adultery all alone. The man with whom she was engaged must have been clearly identified. A just society would ask the question about the whereabouts of the man with

whom she committed the adultery. Maybe the man had already been stoned to death by some other cohort, given that the Law of Moses equally held him responsible. This is a presumption because the Gospel doesn’t say what happened to the man. However, the real aim of the Scribes and the Pharisees in bringing this woman to Jesus was to set a political trap for Him. If Jesus pardoned the woman, they could accuse him of encouraging people to break the law of Moses. If Jesus approved of her being stoned, they would have reported Him to the Roman authorities since the Roman rulers alone had the authority to apply capital punishment.

Since Jesus knew this was a trap, his answer was a no answer. He let His silence speak by refusing to answer to take their bait. As they persisted in pressing for an answer, He said, “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” We are told that Jesus bent over and used his finger to write in the dust twice. Was He writing their sins in the dust? Was it such a listing of their sins that caused them to walk away? Once alone with the woman, Jesus said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She replied, “No one, sir.” Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore.” This is what the forgiveness of God is all about. Sinners are restored to dignity. They are healed. They are made whole again. They are given a second chance and a new future in Christ who calls us out of sin into new life.

To get forgiveness for our sins, we must be like the adulterous woman who does not deny the charges of adultery. Jesus treated her as He treats all of us - with mercy, compassion, and forgiveness. Like His message to the woman, Jesus is telling all of us today to turn from our sinful ways.

Unlike the Mosaic Law, which prescribed what must happen to the man caught in adultery, the church in the Church Province of Bamenda, Cameroon, as well as the schools, had no punishment reserved for the man responsible for the pregnancy. Happily, these practices are no longer in place. Sadly, our society has way too many other cases in which the woman gets blamed all alone. Today’s Gospel story teaches

PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING FOR 3/30

General Fund.....	\$ 4894.00
Online Giving.....	\$ 845.51
Maintenance.....	\$ 15.13.00
Local Outreach.....	\$ 26.00

Attendance 5 PM—98 9 AM—166 11 AM—115

THANK YOU FOR TAKING A STEP TOWARD A LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP

us that our Savior is more interested in restoring us to life than in taking our lives. That is why I invite all of us to join the Psalmist in exultation: "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy."
Fr. Boh

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"I am doing something new!" says the prophet Isaiah in our first reading (Is. 43:19). We are in a new month, the month of April. How time flies! We are almost coming to the end of Lent, with only fourteen days until Easter Sunday. We thank God for bringing us to this new month. We praise and thank God for His mercies and blessings bestowed upon us in the past month. For those of you for whom this month is very special because of one anniversary or the other, may you be filled with abundant blessings, joy, and fulfillment in every aspect of your life. Know that we will accompany you in your celebrations with our prayers.

Happy New Month♥

HOLY WEEK

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, which marks the beginning of Holy Week. Our full schedule for Holy Week 2025 is posted on our bulletin board and on the door of the church.

Chrism Mass: Bishop Mark will celebrate the Chrism Mass on Monday, April 14, 2025, at the Co-Cathedral in Charleston, WV, and Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at the Cathedral in Wheeling, WV. Both Masses begin at 4:00 PM. During this Mass, the priests, deacons, and representatives of the entire diocesan community gather around the bishop, who consecrates the sacred Chrism oil and blesses the oil of catechumens and the oil of the sick, used in various sacraments and rites throughout the year.

I wish you all a blessed Sunday!

May Saint Bernadette Soubirous pray and intercede for us!

Fr Boh (Pastor)

WHAT'S GOING ON?

The "Teen Mass and Class" that meets on Thursday mornings will not meet this Thursday, April 10th.

There will be no Confession next Sunday, Palm Sunday, before the 9 AM Mass.

Help stuff Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt, next Sunday, April 13th, after the 9 AM Mass.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Mary Cordelli, Sharee Buberl, Bonnie Hart, Kathy Skane, Msgr. Patrick Fryer, Randy Bookwalter, Walter Shenk, Robin Marlin, Betty Foley, Beverly Barrett, Tim Umrysz, Sharon Peterson, Betty Beniot, Hank Chase, Linda & Bernie Guy, Jackie Crouse, Kevin Lathwell, Dorothy Knipe, Rebecca Ramsey, Linda Spiker, Vicki Lowery, Michael Huey, Isabella Horning, Raymond & Connie Roscoe, Ruth Warner, Glenda Bonfila, Jose M. Boursiquot, Joseph Bosco, Richard Monroe, Gary E. Manley, Maggie Keating, Sandy Robertson, Irene Zarembo, Gail Sanders, Ruby

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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR



Sunday, April 6th

NO CONFESSION

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for the People of the Parish

10—11:45 AM Religious Education

11 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Kurtis Struemke (L)

Tuesday, April 8th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Nestorine Boh (+)

10 AM Stitches from the Heart

Wednesday, April 9th

9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

Intention for Rebecca Boh (+)

5-5:45 PM Confession

6 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

Thursday, April 10th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Friday, April 11th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention in Thanksgiving for Herbert Boh

Adoration following the 9 AM Mass

12 NOON Benediction

11 AM—5:30 PM Fish Fry

6 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 12th

3—4:30 PM OCIA

4—4:45 PM Confession

5 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for John Speck (+)

Sunday, April 13th

Palm Sunday

NO CONFESSION

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for the People of the Parish

11 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

Intention for June Williams (L)

Easter Flowers

Easter flowers and decorations for St. Bernadette Catholic Church are supplied through donations given by members in memory of deceased loved ones or in honor of the living. If you wish to make such a memorial, please complete the form below and place it and your gift in an envelope clearly marked EASTER FLOWERS and place it in the collection basket or turn it in at the office.

Make checks payable to **St. Bernadette Catholic Church** with **Easter Flowers** on the memo line.

PLEASE PRINT

IN MEMORY OF:

(name of deceased)

IN HONOR OF:

(name of living)

REQUESTED BY:

_____ please publish my gift in the bulletin

_____ do not publish my gift



Happy Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday

April 20th at 10:15 AM

All children are invited!

➤ We will be hiding the eggs at 8:15 AM that morning. Contact Sara Struemke at 307-712-0001 if you can help.



➤ We will be stuffing the eggs after the 9 AM Mass on Sunday the 13th in McFadden Hall. Any and all help is greatly appreciated.



Sincerely, Stoneheart: Unmask the Enemy's Lies, Find the Truth That Sets You Free (Insights for a Woman's Heart in the Spirit of the C.S. Lewis Classic, The Screwtape Letters)

By: Emily Wilson Hussem

Women's Study Group

We are considering a book study for the women of the parish and would love to know if you're interested! If you'd like to participate, please reach out to Sara at 307-712-0001.

We plan to offer two sessions each week—one on a weekday morning after the 9 AM Mass and another on a weekday evening after the 6 PM Mass (e.g., Tuesdays after the 9 AM Mass and Wednesdays after the 6 PM Mass). Both sessions will follow the same schedule, so you're welcome to attend whichever works best for you each week.

Women's Book Study, about the book

Uncover the lies of the Enemy so you can live a life of freedom, truth, and hope.

In the spirit of C. S. Lewis's classic *The Screwtape Letters*, author and speaker Emily Wilson Hussem shines a light on the lies and tactics Satan uses to burden modern women with doubt, fear, insecurity, and discouragement—and empowers you with the truth that will set you free.

Do you ever wonder why you constantly struggle with fear, insecurity, and an unrelenting sense of dissatisfaction? We're in the middle of an invisible spiritual battle against the enemy of our souls. Satan wants you to feel trapped and insecure rather than free and peaceful. He wants you to believe the lie that you are worthless, not God's beloved. He wants you to be distracted, exhausted, and confused to prevent you from living in the freedom you were created for.


Sincerely, Stoneheart is a compelling, imaginative portrayal of a senior demon coaching a junior demon about how best to deceive, distract, and enslave women, Hussem not only unmasks the Enemy's lies but empowers women to overcome those lies. As you journey through the eye-opening correspondences of *Sincerely*, Stoneheart, you will

- Identify the insidious web of lies and tactics that keep you from living into the freedom you were designed for
- Draw strength from the reality that you are not in this battle alone
- Become equipped to stand against the calculated, specific attacks on your heart that are especially prevalent today
- Learn to step into the life of meaning, joy, and freedom that God intends for you

The Enemy does not want you to be free. But no spiritual darkness, emotional weariness, or negative thought patterns can stand against the light of God's grace, truth, and hope. *Sincerely*, Stoneheart invites you to look with new eyes at your faith, your daily choices, and your self-image through the beautiful reality that your true identity—mind, heart, and soul—is beloved.

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  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, and Jeff Ferrell

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 7—Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Ps 23; Jn 8:12-20

Tuesday 8—Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102; Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday 9—Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; (Ps) Dn 3; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday 10—Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105; Jn 8:51-59

Friday 11—Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18; Jn 10:31-42

Saturday 12—Ez 37:21-28; (Ps) Jer 31; Jn 11:45-56

Sunday 13—Lk 19:28-40; Is 50:4-7; Ps 22; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14-23:56

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.