

SAINT BERNADETTE CATHOLIC CHURCH



ST. BERNADETTE DIRECTORY

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

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

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

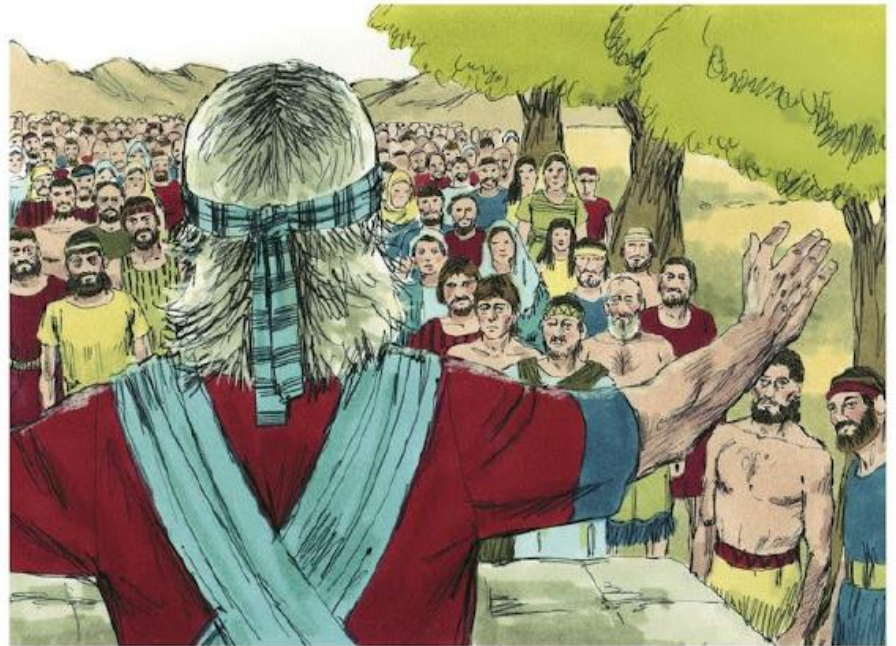
Sunday: 8:15—8:45 AM

or by appointment

August 25, 2024

21st Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

Joshua Gathered the Tribes



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

THEME: “Making the Right Choice”

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, welcome! Today we celebrate the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B. We have spent the last four Sundays listening to Jesus’ teaching about the Bread of Life. Today’s readings invite all of us to choose to stay or leave. The readings remind us that in our relationship with God, it is more important to make the right choice than it is to abuse the free will God has given all of us.

One thing is a constant in life: we make choices. Except for our kids, for whom adults, parents, or guardians make choices, all of us make choices every single day. We choose what clothes to wear. We choose what food to eat. We choose to worship at St. Bernadette. We choose which Mass to attend. We choose to be registered Republicans, Democrats, Independents, or none of the above. We choose whether to marry or not, who to love, and how to love them.

In the first reading, Joshua assembles the tribes of Israel at Shechem and reminds the people that they have the free will to even turn their backs on the Lord. In case you find pleasure in serving “the gods of the Amorites”, Joshua tells them, please be informed: “As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua’s example teaches us not to just go along with the choices made by others. Saint Paul, in our second reading, is crystal clear about the need for us, Christians, to make the right choice – to love and be submissive to one another. In the Gospel, the disciples are faced with a vital decision to stay with Jesus or to leave him. Neither Joshua nor Jesus pressurizes or manipulates the Israelites or the disciples. They give them the freedom to choose.

The same is true with us. God will not force or manipulate us into believing. He will not pressure us. Rather, Jesus offers Himself and His teachings and invites us to believe.

As adults, parents, and leaders within our faith community, we are invited to emulate Joshua and the disciples in making the right choice. When we make the right choice, as Joshua and the disciples did, we can cause others to rethink their ways and return to the Lord. Like Joshua, we must remind one another of the great miracles God has worked in our lives as we journey from our own Egypt of slavery to sin to the Promised Land of New Life in Christ.

Given the many options we have in life, there is only one good option, and that is to choose to follow Jesus no matter what. Reflecting on this Sunday’s readings, My Catholic Life! A journey of personal conversion! concludes: “Nothing in life is worth choosing over Christ. We should strive to discover this truth that He is the only one worth choosing”.

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

Seminarian Collection: Last weekend we started our annual seminarian collection. The money goes to aid the education costs of our men in formation. This year we are blessed with 17 men saying yes to discerning God’s will in the seminary to serve in the diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, if ordained priests. The cost of sponsoring a seminarian per year ranges between \$60,000 - \$70,000. You can still send in your donation if you haven’t yet done so. We are encouraged to pray for these men as well. Thank you for your generous support!

The University of Dayton is offering Two five-week courses on Faith Formation and Catechetical Certification Opportunities through the University’s Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) These courses are hybrid models. They are composed of both weekly live two-hour zoom lectures as well as a rich variety of online course materials and discussion experiences. The courses are being underwritten by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, who pays 100% of the tuition and the cost of any books associated with the courses. The course instructor is Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu. For further information or to register, please contact Dr. Stoicoiu at rodicastoiuhi@gmail.com.

WHAT’S GOING ON?

As we honor the fifth anniversary of the installation of Bishop Mark Brennan as the Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, we call upon the faithful to Celebrate Five with 5! This is an opportunity for us to commemorate Bishop Mark’s milestone year with gifts Christ taught us were the greatest to give – prayer and works of mercy. Throughout the year faithful will be able to go online to <https://dwc.org/celebrate-five/> and gift their five.

PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING—8/18

General Fund	\$ 2981.80
Online Giving	\$ 1988.28
Maintenance	\$ 320.00
Outreach	\$ 150.00

Attendance 5 PM—94 9 AM—133 11 AM—148

THANK YOU FOR TAKING A STEP TOWARD A LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP

WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON?

Mark your calendars: **OCLA** starts September 7th from 3—4:30 PM. **Religious Education** for Kindergarten through 8th grade will start Sunday September 8th 10—11:45 AM. If you haven't signed up yet and would like to attend either class, please call the Parish Office at 304-754-7830.

Our **annual Parish Picnic** will begin directly after the 11 AM Mass on Sunday, September 8th in the pavilion. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish to share. Fried chicken and desserts will be provided by the church.



September Birthdays Below is a list of those celebrating birthdays in September. If you see them when you are out and about, wish them a Happy Birthday!

Michelle Files	Elie Finney	Neil Shanholtzer
Gavin Huntsberry	Jeanmarie Heredia	Rebekah Keller
Jacqueline Strzemieczny	Elaine Comer	Sheree Redding
Eric Canby	Justin Farabaugh	Hathryn Beutler
John Batten	Anna Heredia	Justin Crotti
Patrick Cook	Eileen Sieftring	Richard Roscoe
Kolton Gearity	Alann Reyes	Bruce Fowler
Christine Sobinovskiy	Tobi Smith	Sharon Gautreaux
Lila Hey	Samantha Struemke	Jeffrey McCoy
Bryn Hey	Sharee Buberl	Thomas Sieftring
Thaddeus Ludwick	Susan Haggerty	Lori Felice
Gabriella Scalia	Carol Podeszwa	Lawrence Hudy
Raymond Burke	Matthew Redding	Marlene Hutton
Delayne Wilburn	Lee Ann Sansone	Ethan Williams
Jaxon Blackshear	Jane Batten	Theresa Britner
Patricia Nyzio	Louise Donato	Kristopher Domich
Tracy Stover	Matthew Fretz	Reese Ludwick
Norah Wine	Mark Gentry	Thomas Reid
George Kearns	Anastatia Gould	Zoe Lathwell
Michael Rivera	Cali Hart	Elijah Crotti
Andrew Soto	Aaron Nichols	Ann Gentile
Barbara Loeffler	Jacob Nichols	Steven Gulbranson

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Mary Cordelli, Sharee Buberl, Bonnie Hart, Kathy Skane, Msgr. Patrick Fryer, Randy Bookwalter, Ginger Spice, Walter Shenk, Robin Marlin, Betty Foley, Beverly Barrett, Tim Umrysz, Sharon Peterson, Theresa Comer, Betty Beniot, Hank Chase, Linda & Bernie Guy, Jackie Crouse, Kevin Lathwell, Dorothy Knipe, Rebecca Ramsey, Linda Spiker, Vicki Lowery, Eric Heartley, Michael Huey, Patricia Baker, Isabella Horning, Raymond & Connie Roscoe, Ruth Warner, Glenda Bonfila, Jammie Dobson, Jose M. Boursiquot

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, August 25th

8:15—8:45 AM Confession
 9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for the People of the Parish
 11 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for Jacqueline Oben (+)

Tuesday, August 27th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
 10 AM Stitches from the Heart

Wednesday, August 28th

9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar
 5-5:45 PM Confession
 6 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

Thursday, August 29th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for Jacquelin Oben (+)

Friday, August 30th

9:00 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for Fr. Boh—Happy Birthday
 Adoration following the 9 AM Mass
 12 NOON Benediction

Saturday, August 31st

4—4:45 PM Confession
 5 PM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar
Intention for Jacquelin Oben (+)

Sunday, September 1st

8:15—8:45 AM Confession
 9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for Nestorine Boh (+)
 11 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for Lois Jean Howard (+)

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: Tom Bibby, Lynette Kammerer, Carol Sloan, Sara Struemke, Jean Ridley, Linda Abrahamian, Maureen Sabol, Joe Comer, Paul Guttman, and Neil Shanholtzer

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 26th—2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12; Ps 96; Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday 27th—St. Monica; 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17; Ps 96; Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday 28th—St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18; Ps 128; Mt 23:27-32

Thursday 29th—Passion of St John the Baptist; 1 Cor 1:1-9; Ps 145; Mk 6:17-29

Friday 30th—1 Cor 1:17-25; Ps 33; Mt 25:1-13

Saturday 31st—1 Cor 1:26-31; Ps 33; Mt 25:14-30

Sunday 1st—Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Ps 15; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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.



YOUTH GROUP

KICK OFF WITH KAYAKING

Sunday, September 15th-
3pm- 7pm- Priest Field

**ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE
WELCOME TO ATTEND- PLEASE SIGN UP BY
FRIDAY, SEPT.6TH- SPACE IS LIMITED**

Bring a friend!

**CONTACT LINDA
ABRAHAMIAN FOR
MORE INFO OR TO
SIGN UP- 304-279-
2315,
LINDA.ABRAHAMIAN
@GMAIL.COM**

Will start with pizza and
a short talk



Parish Picnic

Sunday, September 8, 2024
11:30 AM to 3 PM

Join us for our yearly gathering of
Food, Fun, and Games

Sign-up in the Narthex no later than
September 5, 2023.

Include: Name, number attending,
and what side dish you will bring to share.

Our Hospitality Committee will provide: Fried
Chicken, Drinks, and Desserts (Cotton Candy too!)

Donations for prizes are needed for Bingo.
Please contact Cindy Lathwell with questions, 304-989-2040.

Please bring your own chair
and a serving utensil for your dish.





ST BERNADETTE 1ST HALF 2024 FINANCIAL REVIEW

As of June 30, 2024, St Bernadette's financial position is in good shape. Parishioners continue to support the parish, and this has enabled many projects to be accomplished. Compared to the same period last year, income was \$15K higher and expenses were about \$10K less. Projects costs were down

with the assistance of the Diocese.

Online donations continue to increase as more parishioners have been finding this a simple method of donating. Year-to-date, we have had 13 parishioners sign up, so there is now a total of 68 donating automatically on a recurring basis. THANK YOU!

Congratulations! For four years, we have successfully surpassed our goal for the Catholic Sharing Program (CSA). Why is this significant? During these four years, St Bernadette has contributed \$39K to support Diocesan charitable projects such as the Diocesan Youth Camp Carlo, tuition assistance in catholic schools, education of seminarians, and support of smaller parishes. That has not gone unnoticed by our Bishop. The CSA campaign has thus far returned \$62K, assessment free to St Bernadette. That is a savings to St Bernadette of \$6K. And because we are recognized for supporting Diocesan programs and paying our bills, we have applied for and have received \$10K in CSA grants and over \$100K in capital project grants.

The CSA campaign will still be ongoing for several more months. Even though we are above target, only 54 gifts were given. All additional funds are returned for St Bernadette's and a great response for our projects, to show we are active and that we support the work being done by the Diocese, our Bishop, and our Pastor. Cards are available in the Narthex or call the parish office.

Future – Many of the major projects have been completed by the volunteers in the parish. We are in the process of completing the renovation of the 2nd floor of the rectory. To plan for growth in our parish, a strategic plan committee has been put in place to develop a 5 – 10-year plan for infrastructure growth. On the reverse side, you will see our weekend Mass attendance. We are growing but not at the rate of growth in the community.

We are also open to any suggestions of new capital projects for evaluation. All ideas are welcome, even if we do not have the resources currently.

In case you have not heard, St Joseph Catholic Church in Martinsburg has announced its plan for starting a new Catholic High School in Berkeley County. This has created much excitement in the press and community.

THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO AND SUPPORT! You are welcome to refer any questions to any Finance Committee person referenced in the weekly bulletin.

WEEK-END MASS ATTENDANCE

PERIOD	MASSES	ATTENDANCE	AVERAGE
Jan thru June 2017	23	6876	299
July thru Dec 2017	31	9612	310
2017	54	16488	305
Jan thru June 2018	26	8062	310
July thru Dec 2018	26	7849	302
2018	52	15911	306
Jan thru Jun 2019	29	7885	272
July thru Dec 2019	26	7493	288
2019	55	15378	280
Jan thru Jun 2020	18	4272	237
July thru Dec 2020	25	4070	163
2020	43	8342	194
Jan thru Jun 2021	29	6007	207
July thru Dec 2021	29	7060	243
2021	58	13067	225
Jan thru Jun 2022	28	7281	260
July thru Dec 2022	25	7389	296
2022	53	14670	277
Jan thru Jun 2023	28	8650	309
July Thru Dec 2023	26	8900	342
2023	54	17550	325
Jan Thru Jun 2024	30	9636	321

YOU CAN HELP GROW OUR PARISH

As you can see from the numbers above, our attendance has grown, but not at the pace of growth in Berkeley County and in our near geographical area. These numbers include adults, children and babies.

Invite your friends to our services. If they or you want to learn more about the Catholic faith, there will be a new OCIA program beginning for that purpose. All are welcome to join. You can call Eric for more information 301-440-3295.