

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

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent



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

“Be vigilant at all times and pray.” Luke 21:36a

Advent begins with a call to vigilance as reflected in the passage above. There are numerous Scripture passages that call us to this vigilance and anticipation of the Lord’s coming. Being vigilant means, also, that we are prepared. We are not caught off guard. Imagine if Christmas morning came and you woke up suddenly realizing that you forgot to prepare! Imagine if you had no gifts, no food purchased, and no plans were made. Of course you wouldn’t allow that to happen, right? Yet, we sometimes allow it to happen to our spiritual lives. We are often not prepared to celebrate the birth of Christ within our hearts.

The first week of Advent also keeps the focus on the Second Coming of Christ. Jesus will return, in all splendor and glory, to judge the living and the dead. We profess that fact every Sunday in our Creed. So, even though Advent is a time for the preparation of the celebration of the first coming of Jesus in the flesh, it is also a time to acknowledge that His first coming is ultimately fulfilled in His final glorious coming.

As Advent begins, reflect upon how ready you are for Jesus’ coming. Are you preparing for it with the same fervor that you prepare for Christmas - through shopping, cooking, decorating, etc.? Are you looking forward to that day when He will return? Are you preparing for the spiritual celebration of His birth? Are you awake and attentive to the numerous ways that God speaks to you daily?

If you find that you are not as prepared for His return in glory as you’d like to be, make this Advent a time when you get your heart ready. Commit to prayer, spiritual exercises, reflection, and attentiveness to His gentle and glorious voice.

Lord, as Advent begins, help me to put my eyes on You. Help me to open my ears to Your voice. And help me to open my heart to Your glorious presence. May I be attentive to You in every way You desire to come to me. Jesus, I trust in You.

(Cf ‘My Catholic Life!’ A journey of personal conversion!)

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Fellow pilgrims: Happy Advent Season! This Sunday, we begin the Advent season, a time of grace and preparation to receive Jesus in the manger of our hearts. With Advent, we have started a new liturgical year, and I am grateful that Advent is a full four weeks this year. That is the advantage of it falling on a Sunday. I pray that all of us will use this time of grace to grow in holiness and love. In this new year, we will read the Gospel of Saint Luke, a very profound Gospel. We thank God for His many blessings bestowed on us during the past Liturgical Year and pray for the grace to live the new Liturgical Year with deep faith and an increase of love for Him and our neighbor.

The word Advent comes from the Latin adventus, which means coming, or arrival. Therefore, Advent invites us to prepare ourselves to celebrate the great festivals of Christmas. One of the most symbolic traditions for the Advent season is the Advent Wreath with its colorful candles.

Purpose of Advent Candles – Joel Ryan in his article published Nov. 25, 2024, gives us an explanation of the Advent wreath and the purpose of the Candles.

The Advent Wreath is a reminder of the hope and joy that is coming. Advent wreaths are not exclusive to churches; many families and individuals have an Advent wreath at home and observe the tradition of lighting the candles for each Sunday.

The circular shape of the wreath represents the eternal nature of God—His never-ending love, mercy, and faithfulness. It also symbolizes the unending cycle of seasons and the continuous nature of time.

Its evergreen branches, which do not lose their leaves in winter, represent the everlasting life found in Christ. They are a symbol of hope and renewal, pointing to the promise of eternal life through Jesus.

The lighting of the candles is an important tradition during Advent. Each week, an additional candle is lit to symbolize the increasing anticipation and preparation for the arrival of Jesus. The light from the candles represents the light of Christ coming into the world.

First week of Advent, you light the first candle of your Advent wreath which symbolizes the theme of ‘Hope’. Second Week of Advent, you light the second candle of your Advent wreath which symbolizes the theme of Peace.

Third Week of Advent, you light the third candle of your Advent wreath which symbolizes the theme of Joy.

Fourth Week of Advent, you light the fourth candle of your Advent wreath which symbolizes the theme of Love.

On Christmas Day you light the white candle which symbolizes the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World.

Penitential Service: Sacramental Confession is one of the ways to prepare ourselves for the great celebration of Christmas. In this regard, I want you to mark your calendars. As part of our preparation for the Christmas celebration, we will have a Penitential Service on Monday, 23 December. Mgrs. Ansgar and I will hear con-

PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING FOR 11/24

General Fund.....	\$ 4074.00
Online Giving.....	\$ 1835.27
Maintenance	\$ 125.00
Local Outreach.....	\$ 325.00

Attendance 5 PM—90 9 AM—180 11 AM—113

THANK YOU FOR TAKING A STEP TOWARD A LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP

WHAT'S GOING ON?

fessions starting at 4 PM and lasting until 5:30 PM. Take advantage of this and enter ready to celebrate the Christmas holidays.

Today is DONUT Sunday. It is, as always, a beautiful day and a special moment to meet and share with one another. Please, do not hurry away immediately after Mass. Spare a few minutes of your precious time after Mass for some camaraderie over a donut and/or a cup of coffee in McFadden Hall.

During this month, we join Pope Francis in praying that this Jubilee Year strengthens our faith; that it helps us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives; and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Finally, today we begin a new month, the month of December. We thank God for bringing us to this new month. We are grateful for the blessings and graces we have received from Him in the last month, and we ask for His continuous blessings and guidance in this new and last month of the year 2024. For those who will be celebrating anniversaries this month, we accompany you with our prayers and best wishes.

I wish you and your family an Advent filled with joy and hope. God is good!

May Saint Bernadette Soubirous pray and intercede for us all!
Fr Boh (Pastor)

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

Jeff Ferrell	Nora Porterfield	Benjamin Recchi
Mary Crotti	Lynette Kammerer	Jose Boursiquot
Frank Donato	Michael Kammerer	William Domich
Joseph E. Wojcicky	Justin Gould	Mary Osborne
Carol Block	Ted Sternemann	Tom Bibby
Terry Melnick	Shelley Bowling	Vicky Burton
Alicia Boswell	Evan Nichols	Tim Stefanko
Joe Guttmann	Anne Robertson	Tom Block
Greg Hess	David Copenhaver	Denise Guinn
Jon Kempfer	Margarita Lannon	James Nucilli
Michael Weaver	Neo Melonas	Rebecca Nucilli
Donald Hicks	Gabriel Rodriguez	Daniel Null
Aubrey Swisher	Neil Bellman	Joseph Tost
Jackie Cornell	Betty Boyce	Jacob Shifflett
Colleen Liles	James Cotter	Phillip Wingerd

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, Betty Beniot, Hank Chase, Linda & Bernie Guy, Jackie Crouse, Kevin Lathwell, Dorothy Knipe, Rebecca Ramsey, Linda Spiker, Vicki Lowery, Michael Huey, Patricia Baker, Isabella Horning, Raymond & Connie Roscoe, Ruth Warner, Glenda Bonfila, Jose M. Boursiquot, Kenny DeHaven, Joseph Bosco, Kathleen McAndrews, Richard Monroe, Barbara Loeffler, Gary E. Manley, Maggie Keating

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, December 1st

8:15—8:45 AM Confession
9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
10—11:45 AM Religious Education
11 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

Tuesday, December 3rd

Giving Tuesday

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

Wednesday, December 4th

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

Thursday, December 5th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Friday, December 6th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention in Thanksgiving for the Parish
Adoration following the 9 AM Mass
12 NOON Benediction

First Saturday, December 7th

9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar
Rosary immediately following
3—4:30 PM OCIA
4—4:45 PM Confession
5 PM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for Ralph Moch (+)

Sunday, December 8th

2nd Collection—Retirement Fund for Religious

8:15—8:45 AM Confession
9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
10—11:45 AM Religious Education
11 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

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, 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 2—Is 2:1-5; Ps 122; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday 3—St Francis Xavier, Priest; Is 11:1-10; Ps 72; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday 4—Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday 5—Is 26:1-6; Ps 118; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday 6—Is 29:17-24; Ps 27; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday 7—St Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; Is 20:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday 8—Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

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.