

# SAINT BERNADETTE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

Phone: 304-754-7830 • Email: [office@stbernadettewv.org](mailto:office@stbernadettewv.org)

[www.stbernadettewv.org](http://www.stbernadettewv.org)

Office Hours: Monday—Friday 10am—2pm

Office is located in the Religious Education Building

## ST. BERNADETTE DIRECTORY

**Administrator**, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Boh

**Parish Secretary**, Lynette Kammerer

**Music Director**, Linda Abrahamian

**Sacristan**, Kevin Ferrell  
[kevin.a.ferrell@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.a.ferrell@gmail.com)

**Religious Ed.**, Deb Mackesy  
[reled@stbernadettewv.org](mailto:reled@stbernadettewv.org)

**RCIA**, Theresa Highlands

**Finance Chairperson**, Paul Guttman

**Youth Ministry Coordinator**, Linda  
Abrahamian

**Maintenance**, Joe Comer

## MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday: 9 AM & 11 AM

Saturday: 5 PM

Tuesday: 9 AM

Wednesday: 9 AM & 6 PM

Thursday—Friday: 9 AM

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

1st Friday: Perpetual Adoration of the  
Blessed Eucharist after 9 AM Mass  
with Divine Mercy & Benediction at 3 PM

1st Saturday: 9 AM  
Rosary immediately following

Confession  
Wednesday: 5:20—5:50PM  
Saturday: 4—4:45PM  
Sunday: 8:15—8:45 AM  
*or by appointment*

## December 11, 2022 Third 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**

Theme: “And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.” It was Christmas eve. Joseph and his family, like every other Catholic family in my native village, Njinikom, Cameroon, had gathered at St. Anthony of Padua Parish Church for the Christmas vigil Mass which began at 11 pm. As people walked out of the church after mass, they saw that a house was on fire about two miles away from the church. I must note here that there’s no ‘911’ or a Fire Department in my village that one can call in such moments. Given that it was pitch-dark in the village, with no electricity, the flames of the fire lighted up the entire area drawing everyone’s. Spontaneously, people started moving towards the direction of the fire. As they moved, I overheard people asking rhetorical questions such as “whose home is it?”. It turned out that it was the home of Joseph. Joseph was the leader of St. Vincent de Paul, also a member of St. Jude Apostolate, and a member of the parish choir. He was well known in the village as a very kind and generous man. Always visiting the homes of the poor and the elderly bringing them food and other needs on behalf of these groups. Joseph died two weeks after the fire incident from a massive stroke. Joseph’s wife took offense at the Lord and stopped coming to church. “And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.” Have you ever taken offense at the Lord?

In today’s gospel passage we are told that “When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?’” Some people have taken this question of John the Baptist to mean that he could not imagine himself languishing in prison whereas Christ went about enjoying himself. They therefore think that this message from John is an expression of frustration and disappointment. John has heard that he is performing miracles. Why doesn’t he use his miraculous powers to set him free and vindicate him? Doesn’t prophecy say that one of the signs of the Messiah is that he will set prisoners free? Naturally, John would expect to be one of the first beneficiaries. They think that John shared in the political ambition of his people and therefore looked forward to the one he preached, the expected Messiah, to act according to the script: to raise his own army and restore the glory of the people of God. His message was therefore seen as a reminder to Jesus that he should begin his actual business – part of which would include seeing to it that he was set free from prison to come.

“Are you the one who is to come, ...?” This is a very pertinent question. This question continues to haunt every disciple. Maybe, this question haunted Joseph leading up to his illness and subsequent. And from all indications, it must have haunted the widow leading to her decision to leave the church. Even if they didn’t question, I overheard right there at the scene of the fire asking, “Why God? How can you allow this to happen to somebody when he is at Mass? A nice and good man like Joseph? In the light of all these, Jesus’ response to John’s disciples is significant – ‘happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.’ There are people who expect Jesus to change them and the entire world as with a magic wand. Jesus knew that such people are going to be disappointed in him because his mission was no such thing. Does Christ not still cross our expectations of him in this regard?

Are we not often vexed with Him that He has not forcibly and miraculously intervened in our lives as individuals and as a family - in that illness, in the job opportunity, in that job promotion, etc.

Jesus’ message back to John was, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ...” Yes, I am indeed the Messiah. But please do not take offence at me if all your expectations are not met. Blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me. This is His response to us in every given situation of our life. Fr Boh

**FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR’S DESK**

**Eucharistic Exposition** is offered Fridays in the Church immediately after 9:00 am Mass and ends with Benediction at 12 noon. During Eucharistic Adoration, it is appropriate to do any of the following.

1. Read and reflect on readings from the Bible or other spiritual writings
2. Pray the Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, or any other favorite devotions
3. Converse with God through spontaneous prayer
4. Sit quietly and listen or just enjoy being in the presence of Christ

**Holy Father’s prayer intention for December 2022:** We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

**Lighting of the Christmas Tree:** This ceremony shall take place immediately after the 9 am today, Sunday, December 11th, 2022, at the McFadden Hall. The use of the Christmas tree is relatively modern. Its origins are found in the medieval mystery plays that depicted the tree of paradise and the Christmas light or candle that symbolized Christ, the Light of the world. According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany.

**40th Anniversary Celebration:** Thanks to all who joined in our 40th anniversary celebration last Sunday. Special thanks to the members of the African Catholic Community for their massive presence and for their participation in the singing. Kudos! to the Hospitality Ministry for a job well done.

**Advent Penitential Service:** – Our Advent Penitential Service will be on Tuesday December 20th. Mgrs. Ansgar and Fr Boh will be available to hear confessions beginning 5 pm – 7 pm. All are invited to prepare for Christmas spiritually and encounter God’s mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING GIVING SUMMARY**

General Fund.....	\$ 4834.00
Online Giving.....	\$ 689.14
Capital Improvements .....	\$ 670.00
Diocesan.....	\$ 50.00
Outreach.....	\$ 306.00

## WHAT IS GOING ON?

**Christmas Flower Offerings** can be made using the envelopes provided in the narthex. Please have your envelopes returned by December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**2022 Contributions** must be submitted before Monday, December 26th in order to be counted towards the 2022 tax year.

Weekly and special collections can be made with online giving. Visit our website at [www.stbernadettewv.org](http://www.stbernadettewv.org) and click the blue Online Giving button at the top-right of the page.

**Catholic Charities** is in dire need of the following items for their pantry (all items are purchased from donated funds and are used solely for those in need):

Bleach Tablets (WalMart)

Laundry Detergent (Pods)

13 Gallon Trash Bags

Dishwashing Soap

Soap (mild brands – no Zest or Irish Spring)

Shampoo (3 in 1 is preferred - shampoo, conditioner, body wash) If not, individual items will do.

Conditioner

Deodorant (men and women)

Razors (men and women)

Toothpaste

Shaving Lotion

Toilet Paper

Cleaning Supplies (Pine Sol, Fabalouso or another liquid cleaner)

All donations are sincerely appreciated and very much needed. Our needs are year-round. If you are unable to shop, cash donations will enable us to shop for you. Items can be dropped off at the Catholic Charities office at 224 South Queen Street, Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Donations can be mailed to Catholic Charities, Attention: Laura Brigantic, 224 South Queen Street, Martinsburg, WV 25401.

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is currently accepting applications for the **Permanent Diaconate Formation Program 2023-2028**. Applications will be accepted until April 15, 2023. The application and additional information may be found at <https://dwc.org/directory-listing/permanent-diaconate-formation-office-of/2275/>. For questions, please feel free to contact the diocesan Office of Permanent Diaconate Formation: Deacon John Yaquinta, Coordinator, [jyaquinta@dwc.org](mailto:jyaquinta@dwc.org), or Tina High, Secretary, [thigh@dwc.org](mailto:thigh@dwc.org) or (304) 233-0880, ext. 271.

## PRAYERS REQUESTED

Linda Guy, Bernie Guy, Mary Cordelli, Rose Stefanko, Sharee Buberl, Bonnie Hart, Margaret Kistner, Angela Ramsey, Kathy Skane, Msgr. Patrick Fryer, Randy Bookwalter, Kathy Weaver, Ginger Spice, Monica Straley, Joe Schlegel, Vicki Lowery, Walter Shenk, Isabella Horning

*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 11th**

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for Lynette & Michael Kammerer*

10 AM Tree Blessing/  
Lighting/Decorating

No Religious Education

11 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for Lyle (Cam) Tabb*

**Tuesday, December 13th**

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for Souls in Purgatory*

10 AM Stitches from the Heart

**Wednesday, December 14th**

9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

*Intention for Rosalie Gallagher*

5—5:45 PM Confession

6 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for Claudette DuPont  
Ginsburg*

**Thursday, December 15th**

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for Souls in Purgatory*

**Friday, December 16th**

9:00 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for William Nara*

Adoration following the 9 AM Mass

12 NOON Benediction

**Saturday, December 17th**

9—10:30 AM RCIA

4—4:45 PM Confession

5 PM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

*Intention of Souls in Purgatory*

**Sunday, December 18th**

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for the People of the Parish*

10:15—11:30 AM Religious  
Education

11 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

*Intention for Souls in Purgatory*

2:30 PM African Mass

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Parents must be registered with the Parish Office and must have regular attendance at Sunday Mass for at least six months and are required to attend a Preparation Class 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 5:20—5:50 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.

**Rite of Christian Initiation:** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA—15 years or older) and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC—7 to 14 yrs. of age), begins in August and ends during the Easter Vigil. These classes are for members who wish to enter in full communion with the Catholic Church. If you need to receive Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Communion and/or Confirmation, and are interested in attending RCIA/RCIC, 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](http://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, Deb Mackesy, 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 12th—Our Lady of Guadalupe; Zec 2:14-17; or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; (Ps) Jdt 13; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday 13th—St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr; Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday 14th—St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church; Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Ps 85; Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday 15th—Is 54:1-10; Ps 30; Lk 7:24-30

Friday 16th—Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Ps 67; Jn 5:33-36

Saturday 17th—Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72; Mt 1:1-17

Sunday 18th—Forth Sunday of Advent; Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

### 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](http://www.dwc.org) under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.

# Loaves & Fishes Donations Needed



201 South Mary Street  
Hedgesville, WV

***As we prepare for the food pantry  
distribution for Christmas on December  
17th***

***We need help with the following  
donations:***

***Spaghetti Pasta and Sauce  
Stove Top Stuffing  
Gravy***

***Box Macaroni and Cheese  
Brownie or Cake Mix  
Oatmeal or Cereal  
Peanut Butter and Jelly***

***Monetary Donations are being accepted  
for the Christmas hams***

***If you wish to donate a ham or ham  
certificate (must include phone number  
associated to the Bonus Card), please  
contact***

Karen 301-992-1368 or Bill 571-216-9320



**Catholic Charities West Virginia is on a mission to end poverty, one family at a time.**

**Join us! Please donate.**

- Give to the Christmas masses
- Donate online at:  
[www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org)
- Mail donations to: 2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*  
- Acts 20:35



## OUR YOUTH GROUP HELPING THOSE IN NEED



**On Saturday, our Youth Group cooked and served lunch for those in need at the Martinsburg Rescue Mission. Many thanks to our teens, April Canby for her assistance and guidance in the kitchen, and Celeste and Terry Stotler for donating all the food.**

## Advent Week 1 Eucharistic Meditation: The Great Light



**This Eucharistic Meditation is designed to help you spend 30 minutes to an hour in meditation and silent prayer with Jesus during Eucharistic Adoration.**

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The grace I seek: to know Jesus is the light of my life

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Pause for a few moments, and allow yourself to become aware of Jesus' gift of himself in the Eucharist. Realize that at this very moment, the Lord of Life is gazing upon you with great love. Allow yourself to receive his loving gaze. You are his beloved child ... rest in his loving gaze.

Thank Jesus for the gift of himself in the Eucharist.

**Ask for the grace:** Jesus, help me to know and to believe that you are the light of my life.

### **Scripture Meditation**

Read slowly, 3-4 times. Allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this passage.

*"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." Isaiah 9:1*

**Reflection Question:** What is the darkness in my life that needs the radiance of a great light to cast it out? How does Jesus want to be this light in my life right now? (Allow yourself to sit with these questions for a while, being attentive to how the Lord is speaking in your heart, before you move to the next scripture passage.)

Read slowly, 3-4 times. Again, allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Let the Holy Spirit speak to you in a personal way through this passage.

*"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12*

**Reflection Question:** Gazing upon the Eucharist, ask Jesus how he wants to be the light of your life right now. Ask him to help you to be receptive to his light and to let him into those dark places where he desires to shine.

Remain in silence with the Lord. Allow him to speak in the silence, in your heart. Receive his presence. If it helps, write down what you sense the Lord communicating to you during this time of prayer.

**Closing Prayer:** May the splendor of your glory dawn in our hearts, we pray, almighty God, that all shadows of the night may be scattered and we may be shown to be children of light by the advent of your Only Begotten Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. (Collect, 2nd Saturday of Advent)

**Sunday Mass Connection:** This Sunday, offer the darkness in your life/heart with Jesus to the Father at Mass. Ask for a deepening of the grace to let Jesus be the light of your life.