

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 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.” (Phil 4:4)



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

Purification by the Fire of God

John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Luke 3:16-17

Again, this Sunday, we are given the glorious witness of St. John the Baptist. In this sermon of John, he says that Jesus will come and baptize "with the Holy Spirit and fire." The image of being baptized "with fire" is a good one to reflect upon. It especially reveals to us the deep purification Jesus desires for our souls.

What does it mean to be purified? For one thing, the purification of our soul hurts. But it hurts in a sweet sort of way. Turning from sin and growing closer to God requires great sacrifice and surrender. And it requires that we allow God to do powerful things within us. And the most powerful thing God wants to do is purify us.

Our Catholic faith reveals to us the reality of Purgatory after we die. Purgatory is said to be a place of much spiritual pain, but again, in a sweet sort of way. It's painful in the sense that we are stripped of all that we hold on to that God wants us to let go of. It's painful in the sense that we endure a complete transformation of who we are and what we love. We learn to love God and God alone. And in the embrace of our love of God, we come to love all people.

It's also sweet because, as we are purified, we grow infinitely closer to God and grow in holiness. This lifts the burden of sin and frees us to love as we ought.

But our purification ought not to start only in Purgatory. We are all called to enter that process of purification here and now. We are called to heed the words of John the Baptist today and repent of all that keeps us from the holiness of life.

Reflect, today, upon the purification to which God may be calling you. What is it that you hold on to that He wants you free of? Commit yourself to the purifying fire of God's love and let that love cleanse you in this Advent season.

Let us pray: Lord, I do long to have my soul purified by You. I do desire the holiness of

life. Help me to begin this process here and now so that I can begin to experience the joy and freedom You have in store for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, fellow pilgrims, welcome!

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent with the theme of "JOY". This third Sunday of Advent is traditionally referred to as "Gaudete Sunday." Gaudete is the Latin word for "Rejoice!" On this Sunday, we take a short pause from the mostly penitential, somber nature of Advent and rejoice in the nearness of the celebration of Christmas. The lighting of the rose-colored candle marks this joyful spirit, the third candle on the Advent wreath, and the priest wears rose-colored vestments instead of the typical violet. Joy is central to Advent, as it reflects the excitement and gratitude for the coming of Jesus, who brings salvation to the world. In Luke 2:10, His birth is announced to the shepherds by the, saying, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the City of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord." This message captures the joy of Advent: God's promise fulfilled in the birth of Christ.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, this week, we are invited to reflect this joy through kindness, gratitude, and to radiate the light of Christ to those around us.

Confessions and the 6 PM Mass this coming Wednesday have been canceled. Fr Boh shall be joining the priests and deacons of Martinsburg's Vicariate for a meeting with Bishop Mark in Priestfield beginning at 6 PM.

PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING FOR 12/8

General Fund.....	\$ 4011.89
Online Giving.....	\$ 1397.52
Maintenance.....	\$ 245.00
Local Outreach.....	\$ 1751.00

Attendance 5 PM—84 9 AM—189 11 AM—109
Registered Families—306 Total Members—697

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING A STEP
TOWARD A LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP**

Parish Advent Penitential Service: Please, plan to attend our parish penitential service on Monday, December 23rd. Mgrs. Ansgar and I will hear confessions in the parish Church from 4 PM to 5:30 PM. Make this your Best Advent ever by experiencing the mercy and grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation!

Please, JOIN US! The African Catholic Community of the Eastern Panhandle will be having their monthly Mass this afternoon, Sunday, December 15th, in the parish Church. The mass will begin at 2:30 PM. Dinner will be served in McFadden Hall immediately after Mass. Come one, come all!

Happy Sunday!

May Bernadette Soubirous, pray and intercede for us!

Fr Boh (Pastor)

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Christmas Flower Memorial envelopes are available in the narthex.

Your Voice Matters! Something special is growing at St. Bernadette's! Reflect on your journey of faith and prepare to share how we can grow together as a parish family. Exciting details next week!



Get your St. Bernadette's Church Merch! Visit www.sbcc.hauink.com to place your order today. Pre-order now. Production begins January 6, 2025.

As you may know, our Social Concerns Ministry plays a big role alongside other area churches for our local Hedgesville Loaves and Fishes. Next Saturday, the 21st, is the December monthly distribution. Many hands make light work and your help would be greatly appreciated. Arrival times vary depending on where you are able to help. Please call St. Bernadette's Parish Office, if you are interested.

Please have all 2024 contributions in by Sunday, 12/29, in order for them to count towards your 2024 tax year.

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, 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, Sandy Robertson, Irene Zaremba

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 15th

8:15—8:45 AM Confession
 9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for Irene Zaremba (L)
 10 AM Tree Lighting—
 McFadden Hall
 11 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar
 2:30 PM African Mass

Tuesday, December 17th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for Susan Harrison (+)
 10 AM Stitches from the Heart

Wednesday, December 18th

9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar
Intention for Karen Bennett (L)
Confession Canceled
Mass Canceled

Thursday, December 19th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for Jammie Dobson (L)

Friday, December 20th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for the Mackesy family
 Adoration following the 9 AM Mass
 12 NOON Benediction

Saturday, December 21st

4—4:45 PM Confession
Intention for the People of the Parish
 5 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

Sunday, December 22nd

8:15—8:45 AM Confession
 9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for Sue Comer (+)
 10:15—11:45 AM Religious Ed
 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 16—Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25; Mt 21:23-27

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

Wednesday 18—Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72; Mt 1:18-25

Thursday 19—Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71; Lk 1:5-25

Friday 20—Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Lk 1:26-38

Saturday 21—Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33; Lk 1:39-45

Sunday 22—Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

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.