

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: 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

Religious Ed., Deb Mackesy
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 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Joseph's Dream



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

Today is the 4th Sunday of Advent, when we light the final purple candle of our Advent wreath, signifying the last week of prayer and penance as we anticipate the birth of our Savior. This final candle is known as the “Angel’s Candle,” symbolizing peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.” May we open to the peace that Christ brings at Christmas. Some churches light this candle of peace on the Second Sunday of Advent instead of the fourth Sunday. No matter what the church tradition, we can assuredly know that virtues such as love, hope, peace, joy, and faith are important in the Christmas story as well as in our daily walk with Christ. Which ever we celebrate on whatever Sunday of Advent, we know all of them are important hallmarks of the Christian faith and journey.

Our readings on this fourth Sunday of Advent, share stories about four holy people, hopefully inspiring all of us to emulate their faithfulness in leading faithful lives in obedience to God’s will. Our first reading gives us the example of Ahaz, who declined putting God to the test. In our second reading, Saint Paul writing to the Romans, accepts his fate not only as a prisoner but as a slave for Christ. Our gospel passage recalls the total trust and faith Mary and Joseph had in God, doing with their lives as the Angel of God commanded of them.

Biblical stories about such great men and women of faith make it sound easy to do God’s will. The truth is that doing God’s will is not easy. Many Bible stories teach us so. It was not easy for Abraham to leave the land of his birth for the Promised Land. It was not easy to be Joseph, sold into slavery in Egypt by your own brothers. It was not easy to be Job, suffering through one calamity and disease after another. It was not easy to be any of the prophets, apostles, or martyrs who were ultimately executed. It was not easy to be Moses, leading a rebellious people for decades crossing the desert. You bet, it was not easy to be Mary or Joseph. Obviously, it was not easy to be Jesus either. When He cried out: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” from the cross, it was not because it was not hard.

The Virgin Mary was in an ordeal finding herself with child. How was she to explain her pregnancy and why would Joseph believe her? That is why God sent the Angel Gabriel to Mary and Joseph to explain that which our human brain cannot even fathom. That is why we have Guardian Angels. We are told in today’s gospel passage that when Joseph awoke, he did as the Angel had directed him to do. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Dream is a means through which God spoke to gentlemen. However, the noise of our world has deafened most people from hearing God speak to them through dreams. The question for us is: Do we hear God speaking through our dreams? And if we hear, do we do what He has commanded us to do? Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God’s plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God

Success demands three things. Firstly, we need God’s grace to give us a share in the great faith and fear of the Lord shown by Mary and Joseph.

Secondly, we must recognize that nothing – absolutely nothing - is impossible with God. That means, we must embrace “the impossible” when it happens in our own lives. Thirdly, we must recognize that God alone blesses us with the fruit of the womb and at the time of His choosing. Saint Joseph remains a shining example of marital nobility, dignity, and gentility. He knew what it means for a husband never to disgrace his wife in public. It is because of this, that he is referred to as a “man of honor”. May he be an inspiration to all couples in our parish to find the grace to deal with each other quietly and with dignity.

Permit me conclude this reflection with these words of Fr. Ben Agbo: “As a Christmas gift,” he says, “please give your spouse respect, trust and the benefit of the doubt before you think of other material gifts”. May God’s love which we celebrate at Christmas role our hearts and minds.

Happy Sunday
Fr Boh

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR’S DESK

Greetings beloved sisters and brothers in Christ!

Welcome to Saint Bernadette! A special welcome to those worshipping with us for the first time and those returning after a long period of absence. The countdown for Christmas has entered its final week. We are exactly seven days away from celebration the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the light of the world. We are coming to that realization that God is in our midst. As the gospel of Matthew says: “... and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us’” (Mt. 1:24). The fourth week in Advent is traditionally the week of peace. Christians often refer to Jesus as the “Prince of Peace.” May the peace He brings be a reality in our world.

Please, mark your calendars for the following:

Penitential Service: Wednesday, Dec 21, 2022, from 4 pm – 5:45 pm. Holy Mass at 6 pm.

Saturday, December 24, 2022: Christmas vigil Masses 5 pm and 7 pm. No confessions at 4 pm.

Sunday, December 25, 2022: 10 am Holy Mass

Friday, December 30, 2022: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. There will Mass at 9 am and at 5:30 pm.

Eucharistic Adoration: Exposition immediately after 9 am Mass and ends with Benediction at 12 noon. Tolkien says: “The Blessed Sacrament is the one great thing to love on earth. To sit at his feet in adoration is the one thing necessary”. We are reminded Eucharistic Adoration every Friday after Mass until 12 noon.

PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING
GIVING SUMMARY

General Fund.....	\$ 2957.00
Online Giving.....	\$ 1367.63
Capital Improvements	\$ 600.00
Diocesan.....	\$ 225.00
Outreach.....	\$ 3314.00

THANK YOU FOR TAKING A STEP TOWARD A
LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP

WHAT IS GOING ON?

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

Lynette will be out of the office Christmas week, December 26—January 3rd. There will be **limited coverage** during this time. Please call before you come in.



The **office will be closed** on January 2nd in observance of New Year's Day.

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

Saint Joseph School is seeking a teacher aide for kindergarten for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year and beyond. The position is effective Jan. 2, 2023. The candidate must have prior experience as a teacher aide or assistant teacher and will work collaboratively with classroom teachers to implement curriculum with children of all abilities and ensure safety, supervision and school policy compliance. A high school diploma or equivalent academic credential is required. The preferred applicant will act as an example and motivator toward the fulfillment of the Catholic philosophy of the school. The applicant agrees that the employer has the right to dismiss the aide for public rejection or violation of the official teachings, and for any violations of the employee handbook policies. If you are interested in this position, please email your resume to Meg Partington at mpartington@sjsww.org.

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, or Tina High, Secretary, thigh@dwc.org or (304) 233-0880, ext. 271.

Pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes Please join His Excellency, Bishop Athanasius Schneider, as well as Fr. Timothy Huffman and Fr. Bradley Greer, of the Diocese of Steubenville, on a pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes June 9-18, 2023. Space is limited. For more information, please visit www.qohtours.com or call 1-800-213-4295.

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR



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

Intention for Thanksgiving for Support of Family and Friends of Marcelinie Eta Oben

Tuesday, December 20th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for June Williams

10 AM Stitches from the Heart

Wednesday, December 21st

9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

4-5:45 PM Penitential Service

6 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Claudette DuPont Ginsburg

Thursday, December 22nd

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Claudette DuPont Ginsburg

Friday, December 23rd

9:00 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Haydee Puertas

Adoration following the 9 AM Mass

12 NOON Benediction

Saturday, December 24th

No Confession

5 PM Christmas Vigil Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for the People of the Parish

7 PM Christmas Night

Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention of Alex Abrahamian

Sunday, December 25th

No Confession

10 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

Intention for Michael Ridley

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. 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 Guttmann, and Neil Shanholtzer

St. Bernadette Finance Ministry: Paul Guttmann, 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 19th—Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25A; Ps 71; Lk 1:5-25

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

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

Thursday 22nd—1 Sm 1:24-28; (Ps) 1 Sm; Lk 1:46-56

Friday 23rd—Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25; Lk 1:57-66

Saturday 24th—2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89; Lk 1:67-79

Sunday 25th—The Nativity of the Lord; Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

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
Christmas Party
Sunday, January
8th from 6 – 8 PM
St. Joseph School

If you are in middle school or high school, we invite you to attend to find out what we are about. You are welcome to bring a friend, too!

To help plan for food, please RSVP to the Parish Office, (304) 754-7830 by Wednesday, January 4th OR email or call Linda Abrahamian at linda.abrahamian@gmail.com or (304)-279-2315.