

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 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

“Prepare the way for the Lord.” Luke 3:4



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

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

Last week, we started the season of Advent. We said that Advent is a period of special preparation for God’s coming among us. If you take a walk or drive around your neighborhood during this period, you will notice that most homes are already adorned with outdoor Christmas decorations. In the City of Hedgesville, the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony took place last Friday, December 6th. Here at Saint Bernadette, we shall have our Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony next Sunday. These are some of the things that some people strongly believe are the best way to prepare for the celebration of Christmas. But this is not the kind of preparation recommended for us Christians.

What kind of preparation are Christians to make? Last Sunday, we were told that to be prepared for Christ’s coming, we must ‘be vigilant at all times and pray.’ Today, the readings tell us more about what this means. In the Gospel, John the Baptist repeats what the Prophet Isaiah had said many years before; “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth.” In the first reading, the prophet Baruch also speaks like Isaiah, he says, “For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground.”

Do these words have any meaning for us today? What do they ask from us in our lives? In other words, how can we straighten up? What are the holes in our lives that must be filled in? If you take an honest look into your life, you can find the answers. When the council or the federal government notices that there’s a bump or a pothole on the road, ‘they set to work immediately’ to ensure that the bump or the pothole is taken care of or fixed. The same call to action is addressed to us, especially during this season of Advent. We are invited to remove any obstacle and prepare the way for positive change in our lives, by addressing personal flaws, reforming negative behaviors, and actively seeking to live a righteous life, essentially paving the way for spiritual growth and a closer relationship with God; just like a road crew would level uneven terrain to create a smooth path for travel.

My dear brothers and sisters, even if you have not started preparing yourself spiritually it's not too late. Start today and make good use of the remaining three weeks of this season of Advent to straighten up the bends, fill in every valley, and level every mountain

in your life, then you shall “be pure and blameless for the day of Christ”, as Saint Paul tells us in our second reading.

May God give us the grace of humility to admit that we are basically selfish and that we fall short of what God wanted us to be when He gave us the precious gift of life. May the Holy Spirit empower us so that we can purge our hearts of whatever has made us fall short of the glory of God. Amen!

Happy Advent!
Fr Boh (Pastor)

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

Dear Parishioners, welcome!

On this Second Sunday of Advent, we light the second candle on the Advent Wreath, the Candle of Peace. Like the first candle, it is also purple. This candle, called the Bethlehem Candle, symbolizes peace and preparation, reflecting Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem and the peace that Christ’s birth brings. Peace is a central theme of the Advent season. Peace is something we all need to think more about. During this week, the Church invites us to pray for peace. “For a child is born to us, a son is given to us, upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace” (Is 9:5)



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: This feast will be celebrated on Monday, December 9, 2024, and is a holy day of obligation. This is because December 8, 2024, falls on the Second Sunday of Advent, which has liturgical precedence over the Immaculate Conception. We have scheduled two Masses in our parish church at 9 AM and 6 PM.

Parish Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony: We are reminded of our Parish Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony in McFadden Hall immediately after the 9 AM Mass next Sunday. All are invited.

PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING FOR 12/1

General Fund.....	\$ 3693.00
Online Giving.....	\$ 836.26
Maintenance.....	\$ 1067.13
Local Outreach.....	\$ 606.00

Attendance 5 PM—70 9 AM—175 11 AM—113

THANK YOU FOR TAKING A STEP
TOWARD A LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP

African Catholic Community Mass, Sunday, December 15, 2024: Please, join the African Catholic Community of the Eastern Panhandle next Sunday, December 15, for their monthly Mass in our parish Church beginning at 2:30 PM. At that Mass, a member of the Catholic Women's Association (CWA) shall be dedicated. There will be dinner served at the McFadden Hall immediately after Mass. Come one, come all.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be observed on Monday, 12/9, at 9 AM and 6 PM. This is a Holy Day of Obligation.

The office will be closed on Monday, 12/9, in observance of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Christmas Flower Memorial envelopes are available in the narthex.

All are welcome to join us for a Social Concerns Ministry Meeting this Thursday, 12/12, after the 9 AM Mass in the Religious Education Building.

Save the Date!
Sunday, December 15
After the 9 AM Mass

Join us for a joyful morning as **Religious Education students** decorate the parish Christmas tree! Celebrate the season with **coffee and cookies** while enjoying fellowship with fellow parishioners. Let's come together as a parish family to prepare our hearts and parish for Christmas's beauty. We hope to see you there!



Something exciting is coming...
 Watch our weekly bulletin! An opportunity to shape the future of our parish is on the horizon. Stay tuned!

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

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 8th

2nd Collection—Retirement Fund for Religious

8:15—8:45 AM Confession

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention of Judy McNamara (+)

10—11:45 AM Religious Education

11 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention of the People of the Parish

Monday, December 9th

Holy Day of Obligation — Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Office Closed

9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

Intention for Sally Buikema (+)

6 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

Tuesday, December 10th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Jorge Machado (+)

10 AM Stitches from the Heart

Wednesday, December 11th

9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

5-5:45 PM Confession

6 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

Thursday, December 12th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Lynette Kammerer (L)

9:30 AM Social Concerns

Ministry Meeting—RE Bldg

Friday, December 13th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Michael Kammerer (L)

Adoration following the 9 AM Mass

12 NOON Benediction

First Saturday, December 14th

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 the People of the Parish

Sunday, December 15th

8:15—8:45 AM Confession

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

10 AM Tree Lighting—

McFadden Hall

11 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

2:30 PM African Mass



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

1311 BYRON STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 230
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003

October 24, 2024

Dear Brothers in Christ,

As you are aware, December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of the United States of America. This year, December 8th falls on a Sunday, specifically the Second Sunday of Advent. Referring to the Table of Liturgical Days, Sundays in Advent always take precedence in order of importance. Therefore, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception has been transferred to Monday, December 9. It has been customary in the United States of America that when a Holy Day fell on a Monday, the obligation to attend Mass was abrogated. However, because there was some uncertainty as to whether this was permissible according to Canon Law, the USCCB sought clarification from the Holy See Dicastery for Legislative Texts.

On October 10, 2024, the Bishops of the United States received a memo outlining the response from the Dicastery. Their response states that the Solemnity “must be observed as a day of obligation on the day to which it is transferred.” Therefore, despite what your liturgical calendars read or what you may have heard, December 9, 2024, is a Holy Day of Obligation. Because it falls on a Monday, it is important to keep in mind that Sunday, December 8th is the Second Sunday of Advent. Therefore, you may not celebrate a vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday evening, because that is still considered the Second Sunday of Advent. All Masses for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception are to be celebrated on Monday, December 9th this year. I ask that you please share this information with your parishioners.

If you have any further questions regarding the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Worship and Sacraments.

Thank you for your service at the altar and your dedication to caring for the faithful by providing them with opportunities to fulfil the obligation.

Fraternally in Christ,

+Mark E. Brennan

+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

December Calendar

Monday, December 9th

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
9 AM & 6 PM Mass

Monday, December 23rd

4 – 5:30 PM Advent Penitential Service

Tuesday, December 24th

9 AM Daily Mass in Religious Ed Building
4:30 Caroling
5 PM Nativity of the Lord: Vigil
7 PM Nativity of the Lord: Night

Wednesday, December 25th

9 AM Nativity of the Lord: Day
No Confession
No 6 PM Mass this day

Tuesday, December 31st

9 AM Daily Mass
6 PM Anticipated Mass for
The Solemnity of Mary

Wednesday, January 1st

9 AM Mass for The Solemnity of Mary
No Confession
No 6 PM Mass this day

All other daily and weekend
Mass times remain the same.

Christmas Flower Offering

Christmas flowers and decorations for St. Bernadette Catholic Church are supplied through donations given by members in memory of deceased loved ones or in honor of the living. If you wish to make such a memorial, please fill out the envelope found in the Narthex and place your gift in the collection basket or turn it into the Parish Office by **Sunday, December 22nd.**



Reverse

ADVENT CALENDAR

Give

Each day, add an item to a box. After Christmas, bring your box to McFadden Hall and our elves will bring the completed boxes to Mary's Refuge.



<p>PRAY FOR OUR ADVISORY BOARD</p>	<p>BODY WASH FOR WOMEN</p>	<p>HAIR BRUSH</p>	<p>BODY LOTION FOR WOMEN</p>	<p>PRAY FOR OUR BABIES</p>
<p>SINGLE TO-GO POWDER DRINK MIXES</p>	<p>POST-IT NOTES</p>	<p>PRAY FOR OUR MOTHERS</p>	<p>SHOWER CLEANER</p>	
<p>PRAY FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS</p>	<p>MAGIC ERASERS</p>	<p>INFANT TYLENOL</p>	<p>DISH SOAP & SPONGE</p>	
<p>DIAPER CREAM</p>	<p>KLEENEX</p>	<p>13-GALLON TRASH BAGS</p>		
<p>LYSOL WIPES</p>	<p>TODDLER FEEDING SET (NOVA/UNISOL/PORE)</p>	<p>DEODORANT</p>		
<p>SIPPY CUPS</p>	<p>PAPER TOWELS</p>			
<p>LAUNDRY DETERGENT (ONE & ONLY FREE, HEAT SENSITIVE)</p>	<p>PRAY FOR OUR STAFF</p>	<p>BABY WIPES</p>		
	<p>TOILET PAPER</p>			

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 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 9—Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday 10—Is 40:1-11; Ps 96; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday 11—Is 40:25-31; Ps 103; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe; Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; (Ps) Jdt 13; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Friday 13—St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr; Is 48:17-19; Ps 1; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday 14—St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church; Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday 15—Zep 3:14-18a; (Ps) Is 12; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

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.