

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

Pastor, 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 Saturday: 9 AM Mass
Rosary immediately following

Confession

Wednesday: 5:20—5:50PM

Saturday: 4—4:45PM

Sunday: 8:15—8:45 AM
or by appointment

February 12, 2023

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

A Continuation of the Sermon on the Mount



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

In our daily lives, we are called to abide by state law, federal law, taxation law, etc. Our society rewards us with freedom if we uphold the laws. They punish us if we violate it. If the law says, “don’t drink and drive”, but we ignore it, we may get away with it once or twice or many times. However, eventually, the long arm of the law catches up with us and consequences follow.

As with the state or federal government, God has given us laws/commandments to guide us on our earthly pilgrimage. God’s law – indeed, “God’s wisdom, mysterious, hidden” - is not to be compared with the laws of “the rulers of this age” because they “are passing away”, says Saint Paul in our second reading.

The first reading from the Book of Sirach reminds us that God has neither given us “license to sin” nor “to act unjustly”. Instead, God has blessed us with a share of His “immense wisdom” to choose wisely. He has endowed us with Free Will to choose between “fire and water..., life and death, good and evil”. If we choose to ‘trust in God’, we shall be saved; if we choose to keep His commandments, we shall live, writes Sirach. “Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord”, says the Psalmist.

Our gospel passage – a continuation of the Sermon on the Mount – disabuses those who lived in expectation that the coming of the Messiah would usher in a new Israel in which they would have freedom not only to disregard the laws of the Roman Empire which colonized them but also the many laws handed down by the prophets. Jesus says to them and to all of us: “Do not think I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill”.

As a guide for leading holy lives, in faithful obedience of God’s laws, Jesus invites us to disregard earthly yardsticks of holiness because “not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law”. Jesus was preaching to His contemporaries who considered the scribes and Pharisees as the golden standard in holiness. He urges them and all of us to rise above the letter of the law: “Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven,” Jesus warns.

Jesus wanted to show us that external compliance of the law is not the thing that matters but total commitment. He uses four of the six “it was said... but I say this to you” to draw home his message. He warns us of the dreadful punishment that awaits any-

one who knowingly breaks any of his commandments or causes others to do the same. We are invited to rise above the external compliance of the law. It is possible for you to do a good deed to a person you hate just to retain your esteem before men. Or it is possible for a child to follow the instructions of a parent externally and do the dishes whereas internally he/she is not doing the dishes. Christ would approve of this type of behavior. He prefers to see our heart involved in whatever we are doing – that is total commitment and not just an external compliance.

The Christian must be a Christian and nothing short of it. This is why Christ encourages us to let our ‘Yes’ to be ‘Yes’ and our ‘No’ to be ‘No’. Thus, there can hardly be a greater disservice to Christianity than oath-taking. Christians who lead one another to oath-taking show that they are like salt that has lost its taste because it means that mutual confidence is absent among them, that their ‘Yes’ can no longer be taken to mean ‘Yes’.

Jesus has laid bare before us the way to eternal bliss and the way to eternal damnation. It is up to each one of us, using our Free Will, to make the choice. Every choice we make brings us closer to God or away from Him. However, if we choose the path that leads to damnation and teach others to do same, Jesus says we “will be called least in the kingdom of heaven”.

May God give us the grace and the courage to use our Free Will to always make choices that will bring us to that eternal happiness. Fr Boh

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, Welcome. I hope you had a blessed week. We thank God for the gift of yet another week. We gather around the altar of the Lord this Sunday as a family of Saint Bernadette to listen and meditate on God’s Word and to be nourished with His Body and Blood. We pray that God may pour out his blessings on us and our loved ones, grant healing to the sick and eternal rest to all the dead.

Have a wonderful week. You are in my prayers.

PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING

General Fund	\$ 3280.25
Online Giving	\$ 1117.40
Capital Improvements.....	\$ 1042.00
Diocesan	\$ 45.00

THANK YOU FOR TAKING A STEP TOWARD A
LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP

WHAT IS GOING ON?

Distinction for Second Collections

The diocesan website, www.dwc.org, states that, “We as Catholics are part of a universal Church – one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. As part of this universal Church we are to support the pastoral care in our Diocese, in Dioceses across the country and around the world. We do this by supporting the Collections and Appeals approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Bishop Brennan for specific needs of the Universal Church. These collections have taken on the name of Second Collections and go beyond our tithing to our own parish. These collections are used or forwarded to the appropriate agency for the specific collection intention.”

On **January 15th**, the Second Collection was for the **Church in the Developing World**. This collection will be split between the Church in Latin America, Church in Central and Eastern Europe, and the Church in Africa. This collection supports pastoral programs as awarded by the Subcommittee in these areas. Projects include the work of evangelization, formation of laity, religious and seminarians, as well as youth ministry and catechesis. Funding is limited to programmatic expenses and excludes building construction except in cases of emergency.

Our next Second Collection is this weekend, **February 12th**. This is called **Church Missions within the United States**. This mission is for evangelizing the Black and Indian (native American) peoples of the United States. The funds are distributed as grants to dioceses throughout the United States, supporting and strengthening evangelization programs which otherwise would cease.

Donations to the “Second Collections” can be made using the envelope provided by mail or online at www.stberandettewv.org. Click “online giving” then “Diocesan Collection”, click sub-fund and select the collection that you wish to donate to. Donations can be made at any time throughout the month. Collection remittances are paid to the Chancery 6 weeks after the date assigned for each collection.

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, Joe Schlegel, Walter Shenk, Helena Shenk, Isabella Horning, Brenda Inclima, Robin Marlin, Betty Foley

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, February 12th**

8:15—8:45 AM Confession

9 AM Mass—Fr. Pooch

Intention for Floyd Middleton

10:15—11:30 AM Religious Ed

11 AM Mass—Fr. Pooch

*Intention for the Souls in Purgatory***Tuesday, February 14th**

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Elaine Jenks

9:30 AM Stitches from the Heart

Wednesday, February 15th

9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

5—5:45 PM Confession

6 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for Joan Martin Morris***Thursday, February 16th**

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for Evan Snyder***Friday, February 17th**

9:00 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Ashton Kammerer

Adoration following the 9 AM Mass

12 NOON Benediction

Saturday, February 18th

9—10:30 AM RCIA

4—4:45 PM Confession

5 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for the People of the Parish***Sunday, February 19th**

8:15—8:45 AM Confession

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for James Kevin and Lois Ann O'Neill

10:15—11:30 AM Religious Ed

11 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

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. 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 13th—Gn 4:1-15, 25; Ps 50; Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday 14th—Sts. Cyril, Monk and Methodius, Bishop; Gn 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10; Ps 29; Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday 15th—Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Ps 116; Mk 8:22-26

Thursday 16th—Gn 9:1-13; Ps 102; Mk 8:27-33

Friday 17th—Gn 11:1-9; Ps 33; Mk 8:34-9:1

Saturday 18th—Heb 11:1-7; Ps 145; Mk 9:2-13

Sunday 19th—Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; Ps 103; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

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.



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
St. Joseph Conference
2022 Report to the Parishes

In 1999, the then pastor of St. Joseph Church, Father John DiBacco, proposed that our parish form a conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. A regional SVdP officer visited Martinsburg and some 35 + parishioners attended the formation session. As St. Bernadette was then a Mission of St. Joseph Parish, the jurisdiction of the conference was established to include Martinsburg, Hedgesville, Falling Waters, and Marlowe. Services are still provided to all of those areas.

Twenty-four years later, the St. Joseph Conference continues to thrive in its mission to offer spiritual development to its members and assistance to those in need in our community. During the more than two decades of the conference's existence, over one half million dollars has been collected and distributed to families and individuals who have asked for help.

In 2022, the conference received \$21,000 in donations from St. Joseph and St. Bernadette parishioners and \$3000 from the SVdP Thrift Store in Wheeling. \$25,400 in assistance was provided to 178 supplicants, totaling 260 individuals, and \$500 was contributed to disaster relief following the floods in other parts of WV. Payments provided helped with utility bills, rent, auto repairs, transportation, furniture, household items, and medical care and supplies. Four families comprised of seven adults and children who were living in vehicles were assisted in obtaining substantial housing.

YOU make this possible through your generosity. Our "overhead" is minimal and consists of a monthly cellphone bill and our annual insurance and business license fees. All of our members are volunteers. The eight individuals comprising our conference performed over 1,100 hours of volunteer service last year.

The current financial situation, fueled by inflation, has resulted in a sharp increase in requests for assistance over the last two months. In order to continue our support to those in need, we need YOUR continued generous contributions.

New volunteers are always encouraged to join St. Vincent de Paul and are welcomed. If you are interested in participating in our missionary work among the poor, please call the conference at 304-671-0569. One of our members will return your call and invite you to our monthly meeting. Many hands make light work!

Thank you for your support and may God bless you for your generosity.

Edward Wilson

President, St. Joseph Conference, Society of St. Vincent de Paul