

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 19, 2023

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

“Love your enemies and pray for those that persecute you.” (Mt 5:44)



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

There’s a popular story, told and retold, by older generation priests in the Ecclesiastical Province of Bamenda, in my native Cameroon. It is the story of two priests who worked in a parish and lived together in the same parish rectory. The two had a misunderstanding which led to a complete breakdown in their relationship. The situation degenerated so badly that they were no longer on speaking terms. They did not speak to each other; not even to greet. They won’t pray or sit down to share a meal together. As time went on, it became more noticeable to some parishioners that the relationship between their priests wasn’t the best. However, no one mustered the courage to go to the priests and express their worry or concern.

After several months of living and working under such a tense atmosphere, the associate pastor decided to go to the pastor to ask for forgiveness.

Those who tell the story point out that the associate did not strike the match that lit the fire of hatred between the two brother priests. Hard hearted, the pastor rebuffed the associate, passing off all opportunities or attempts to make peace. The associate did not give up. He heeded Jesus’ words in the Gospel of Matthew 18:15–16: “If your brother sins [against you], go and tell him about his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses”. The associate invited a parishioner he considered the best friend of the pastor to talk to him. The pastor would not listen to that parishioner. The final opportunity came on a Sunday morning. Coincidentally, that Sunday happened to have been the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, and the associate pastor grabbed it.

The story goes that as the associate pastor walked past the pastor’s apartment that Sunday morning, he noticed that the pastor’s door was open. The associate peered in and saw the pastor pacing up and down his living room, reading aloud to himself, the homily he was going to preach that Sunday. The associate pastor cried out in a very loud voice: “I wonder how I am going to preach on love and forgiveness today given the fact that I am unable to forgive my fellow brother, priest”.

The pastor heard the loud cry of the associate clearly and found himself unable to resist that inner voice that kept telling him: “Put away your pride and ask for forgiveness”. He immediately threw the copy of the homily he was reading on the floor, ran out and, catching up with his associate, fell on his knees and asked for forgiveness. The associate pastor readily accepted, pleading for forgiveness in his turn.

The Scripture readings for today issue three calls to us. We are to be holy, for the Lord our God is holy. We are not to deceive ourselves with the wisdom of this age. And we are to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. When Jesus says: ‘love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you’, He is setting/creating a new standard for relationships for all His followers. The first reading from Leviticus suggests that the religious leaders of the time taught that it was permissible—possibly even mandatory—to hate one’s enemies. But Jesus challenges His followers to

love their enemies and pray for those who persecute them... because this is the way the heavenly Father acts.

We have heard this teaching of Jesus over and over. But we must all agree “it is easier said than done. Forgiveness is difficult. Whence the saying: ‘to err is human; to forgive, Divine’. Forgiveness doesn’t come naturally to anyone. God is telling us that it is basically the one who is injured... the one that is hurt who must do the forgiving. It is not easy to love and forgive an abusive spouse or one who almost killed you. Indeed, it is not easy to forgive that parent who unleashed his/her fiery temper on you, or who instilled fear in you. It is not easy to forgive that parent who abandoned you when you still needed parenting, etc. However, Jesus tells us to love, not only those who love us back, but even those we consider enemies, because this is the way our heavenly Father acts. God is calling us to renounce whatever right we think we have to anger, retribution or revenge. We are not only to forgive our enemies, but also to pray for those who persecute us. If we do this, we are giving ourselves and others a gift. In his book, *Forgiving What You’ll Never Forget*, Dr. David Stoop writes: “Only forgiveness can free the heart from the burden of the past, releasing us to be what God wants us to be.”

This is what happened to the two priests in our story above. The forgiveness they sought and gave to each other transformed their old selves causing them during Holy Mass later that Sunday morning to simply switch out their well-prepared and rehearsed sermons to their congregations with their own authentic experience of the healing beauty of experiencing forgiveness that morning. Their message was practical, and well received. Their congregation rose in thunderous applause as they finished narrating how they had found, given, and received forgiveness that morning. Like these two priests, you don’t have to look far for the one Jesus is asking you, this very day, to love and even pray for. You might be sharing the same roof with that person. It may be the person with whom you share the same room... the same bed. It could be the one seated next to you in church, or the one next to you at the family dinner table, or the one in the same classroom, or in the next cubicle to you at work, etc.

May God help us to put away our pride and readily forgive those who have wronged us. This is the only way that you can be holy, as the Lord, your God, is holy (Lev. 19:18), and “perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt. 5:48).

PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING

General Fund.....	\$ 2264.60
Online Giving.....	\$ 1120.89
Capital Improvements	\$ 280.00
Diocesan	\$ 329.00
Outreach	\$ 100.00

THANK YOU FOR TAKING A STEP TOWARD A LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Welcome brothers and sisters! Today we gather as a family of Saint Bernadette on this Seventh Sunday Ordinary Time, Year A to thank God for His blessings on us as individuals and as a parish community. We welcome in a special way those who are worshiping with us for the first time. Thank you for choosing to worship with us today.

Please mark your calendars for the following upcoming events.

Ash Wednesday – February 22, 2023. This day (Ash Wednesday) is considered the first day of Lent. The season of Lent is a 40-day period of reflection and prayer leading up to Easter Sunday. It includes a 40-day fast with Sundays excluded (because they're already considered feast days). Lent is a time to free ourselves from the sins that prevent us from truly experiencing God's love.

A Guide for Lent: Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by everyone 18 years and older, who has not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, enough to maintain strength, may be taken, according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but consuming liquids, including milk and juices, is allowed. Abstinence is observed by everyone 14 years of age or older. On days of abstinence, no meat is allowed. Note that when health or the ability to work is affected, the law does not apply. Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays during Lent, and Good Friday are days of abstinence. If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, other suitable forms of self-denial are encouraged.

Stations of the Cross: This devotion shall hold every Friday in the Parish Church from 6 pm. This popular devotion provides us with an opportunity to reflect on Jesus' death and the sacrifice He made for us.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is every Friday from 9:30 am – 12 noon. During this Season of Lent show your love for Jesus by committing every Friday to come to Adoration.

WHAT IS GOING ON?

Disaster Relief Collection—Catholic Relief Services is supporting local partners in their efforts to provide urgent relief and assistance for long-term recovery after a 7.8 magnitude earthquake devastated large areas of southern Turkey and northwest Syria. Bishop Brennan is calling for a special collection to be held on Ash Wednesday. Disaster Relief envelopes can be found in the narthex. Please write Disaster Relief on the memo line of your check made out to St. Bernadette Catholic Church.

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

**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—Fr. Boh

Tuesday, February 21st

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Holy Souls in Purgatory

9:30 AM Stitches from the
Heart

6 PM Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 22nd**Ash Wednesday**

9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

5—5:45 PM Confession

6 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Holy Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, February 23rd

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Holy Souls in Purgatory

Friday, February 24th

9:00 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Holy Souls in Purgatory

Adoration following the 9 AM Mass

12 NOON Benediction

6 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 25th

9—10:30 AM RCIA

4—4:45 PM Confession

5 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for The People of the Parish

Sunday, February 26th

8:15—8:45 AM Confession

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Theresa Highlands

10:15—11:30 AM Religious Ed

11 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Glenn Dindinger

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 20th—Sir 1:1-10; Ps 93; Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday 21st—Sir 2:1-11; Ps 37; Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday 22nd—Ash Wednesday; Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday 23rd—Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1; Lk 9:22-25

Friday 24th—Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday 25th—Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86; Lk 5:27-32

Sunday 26th—First Sunday of Lent; Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Ps 51; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

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.

Reflection Afternoon for Middle and High School Girls with the Franciscan Sisters



Saturday, March 18th- 12:00pm- 3:30 PM-
St. Joseph School Cafeteria

All girls from 6th- 12th grade are welcome to come spend an awesome afternoon with the Sisters as they talk about prayer, their vocations and our Eucharistic Lord. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP St. Bernadette Parish Office, (304)754-7830 or Linda Abrahamian, (304)279-2315, linda.abrahamian@gmail.com by Wednesday, March 15th.