

ST. BERNADETTE DIRECTORY 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 Guttmann
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

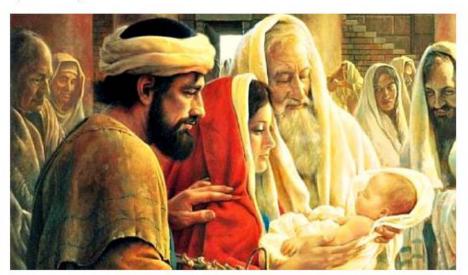
Adoration every Friday after 9 AM Mass with Benediction at 12 NOON

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

February 2, 2025 Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (Luke 2:22)



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

Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews who obeyed the Law of Moses. Jewish Law prescribed that two ritual acts needed to take place for a firstborn son. First, the mother of a newborn son was ritually unclean for seven days, and then she was to "spend thirty-three more days in a state of blood purity" (Leviticus 12:2-8). During these forty days she was not to "touch anything sacred nor enter the sanctuary till the days of her purification are fulfilled." For this reason, today's feast has at times been called the "Purification of Mary." Second, the father of the firstborn son was to "redeem" the child by making an offering to the priest of five shekels so that the priest would then present the child to the Lord (see Numbers 18:16). Recall that the firstborn male of all the Egyptians, animals and children, was killed during the tenth plague, but the firstborn males of the Israelites were spared. Thus, this offering made for the firstborn son in the Temple was a way of ritually redeeming him in commemoration of protection during that plague. Since Jesus was presented in the Temple for this redemption, today's feast is now referred to as the "Presentation in the Temple."

"Candlemass" is also a traditional name given to today's feast because as early as the fifth century, the custom of celebrating this feast with lighted candles had developed. The lit candles symbolized Simeon's prophecy that Jesus would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles." Lastly, this Feast has been referred to as the "Feast of the Holy Encounter" because God, in the Person of Jesus, encountered Simeon and Anna in the Temple.

Today's feast is celebrated in our Church forty days after Christmas, marking the day that Mary and Joseph would have brought Jesus into the Temple. Though Mary was pure and free from sin from the moment of her conception, and though the Son of God did not need to be redeemed, Mary and Joseph fulfilled these ritual obligations.

At the heart of this celebration is the encounter of Simeon and Anna with the Christ Child in the Temple. It is in that holy encounter that Jesus' divinity is manifested by a human prophet for the first time. At His birth, the angels proclaimed His divinity to the shepherds, but in the Temple, Simeon was the first to understand and proclaim Jesus as the Savior of the World. He also prophesied that this salvation would be accomplished by a sword of sorrow that would pierce the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Anna, a prophetess, also came forward and "gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem" (Luke 2:38). Thus, these ritual acts were also a moment in which Jesus' divine mission was made manifest to the world.

As we celebrate Mary's ritual purification and Jesus' ritual redemption, we should see them as acts in which we are called to participate. First, each of us is unworthy of entering the true Temple of the Lord in Heaven. Yet we are invited to enter that Temple in union with Mary, our Blessed Mother. It was her consent to the will of God that opened the door of God's grace to us all, enabling us to spiritually become Jesus' "mother" by allowing Him to be born in our hearts by grace. With her, we are now able to appear before God, purified and holy in His sight.

We must also see Saint Joseph redeeming us as he presented Jesus in the Temple. In offering Christ Jesus to the priest to offer Him to the Father, Saint Joseph also presents all who strive to live in union with Jesus. The hope is that, like Simeon and Anna, others will see God alive within us and experience the Savior of the World through

Ponder, today, your soul being the new temple of the Lord, and acknowledge your need to be purified and offered to the Father in Heaven. As Christ continues to enter the temple of your soul, pray that He will shine forth for others to see so that, like Simeon and Anna, they will encounter our Lord within you.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, welcome! You may have asked yourself before why we use incense at church? Someone answered that question eloquently, thus: "Because God likes it." It was His idea, really, and when He gave the instructions for the Tabernacle to Moses on top of Mount Sinai, He spent a lot of time talking about incense in the Tabernacle, to be offered every morning and evening (Ex. 30:1-8). When King Solomon was explaining his plans to build the Temple in Jerusalem, the first thing he mentioned was that it would be for the burning of incense before God (2 Chr 2:4). The burning of incense was a beautiful part of the worship of God throughout the Old Testament.

This practice of burning incense continued into the New Testament. In the first chapter of the Gospel According to Luke, Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, has chosen to burn incense in the Temple, and the angel Gabriel appeared to him and foretold the birth of John the Baptist beside the altar of incense (Lk 1:8-11). And at the Nativity of Our Lord, one of the three gifts the Wise Men offered to the Lord was incense (Mt. 2:11). The entire life of our Lord was a fragrant offering pleasing to God the Father, and most especially the way He gave Himself up for us in love as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God (Eph 5:2).

My attention has been drawn to the fact that the burning of incense affects them health wise. I would like to thank those who have brought this to my attention. Henceforth, we will keep everyone informed on when incense will be used and at which Mass. Please, note that incense will always be used during the Exposition of the Blessed

PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING FOR 1/26

General Fund\$	3084.00
Online Giving\$	626.14
Maintenance\$	
Local Outreach\$	215.00

Attendance 5 PM-97 9 AM-162 11 AM-81

As of February 1st-311 active families and 702 total members

THANK YOU FOR TAKING A STEP TOWARD A LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP Sacrament, Benediction, and Funeral Masses.

World Day of the Sick: This was started by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1982 and is an observance in the Catholic Church for prayer and solidarity with those who are ill. The day aims to remind everyone to see in the sick, the face of Christ and to offer one's suffering for the good of the Church. Each year, the day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes, celebrated as a liturgical feast by Catholics. Saint Bernadette's World Day of the Sick 2025, will take place Friday, February 7, 2025, at 9 AM in the Parish Church.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

The second collection next week is labeled Church Missions within the United States. It is used for evangelizing the Black and Indian 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.

We've seen an increase in interest in our OCIA process. If you or anyone you know is discerning this journey, please reach out to Sara at the office. We would

love to see those on the OCIA journey to form a strong Christian community as we walk this path together.

Social Concerns would like to extend a very big THANK YOU to all those who have helped with Hedgesville Loaves and Fishes in the past months. Your willingness to help has been tremendous. Thank you from our Social Concerns Ministry and the other Hedgesville Area Churches. Your generosity has not gone unnoticed.



<u>‡ February Birthdays</u> Below is a list of those celebrating birthdays in February. If you see them when you are out and about, wish them a Happy Birthday!

Cynthia Lathwell Blake Gentry Lucianna Wakelin Matthew Atha Alykha Sheghanka Ivo Zamora Alaithea Domich Martha Glover Patrick Finney Shaun Dunn Joseph Walker Sylvain Kao Anthony Lathwell Frank Buberl Shelley Zalek Lawrence Hudy Ariadne Domich Robert Warburton Dylan Lathwell Kevin Lathwell Jake Lathwell Colleen O'Neill David Irwin Ryan Haggerty Vimi Walker Jose Rodriguez Suzy Kinn Carolina Ortiz-Gonzalez Michael Korrigan Sergio Flores Joshua Hudy Darren Keller Mary Beth Kearns Colin Weaver Ashton Kammerer Mabelle Burke James Donato Ann Eggleton Fergus Farabaugh Susan Fawcett Zony Manongdo William Stegmaier

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Mary Cordelli, Sharee Buberl, Bonnie Hart, Kathy Skane, Msgr. Patrick Fryer, Randy Bookwalter, 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, Joseph Bosco, Kathleen McAndrews, Richard Monroe, 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, February 2nd Donut Sunday

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh 10—11:45 AM Religious Education 11 AM Mass—Fr. Boh Intention for the People of the Parish

Tuesday, February 4th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh 10 AM Stitches from the Heart

Wednesday, February 5th

9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar 5-5:45 PM Confession 6 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

Thursday, February 6th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Friday, February 7th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh Adoration following the 9 AM Mass 12 NOON Benediction

Saturday, February 8th

3—4:30 PM OCIA
4—4:45 PM Confession
5 PM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for Bill Wright and his family

Sunday, February 9th Second Collection for Church Missions within the US

8:15—8:45 AM Confession
9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for Kathy Reeser (+)
10—11:45 AM Religious Education
11 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Young Adult Ministry at St. Joseph Parish





The Young Adult ministry will be hosting a "meet Deacon Travis Moger" night on Monday, February 10 at 7 PM in Lackey Hall.

Deacon Moger, a former Baptist minister, Navy Chaplain and author, is now a candidate for the priesthood and is scheduled to be ordained this spring 2025.

When asked about his conversion to Catholicism, Travis explained: My decision to join the Catholic Church came after much prayer and study. I wrote my doctoral dissertation about the Protestant Reformation as seen through the eyes of a traditional Catholic priest who remained faithful to Rome. An intensive study of the Bible and Christian history convinced me that the Catholic Church is the "one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church," the ark of salvation founded on the rock of St. Peter and entrusted with the faith handed down by Christ and his apostles. I find her authority, doctrine, sacred liturgy, moral teachings, and prayer life in line with the teachings of the Bible and the historic Christian faith.

Pizza will be served at the meeting so please RSVP by February 8th. We want to make sure that we have plenty of pizza for everyone.

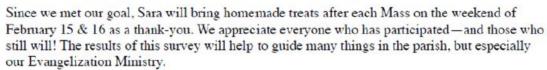
The Young Adult Ministry at St. Joseph Parish welcomes all young adults who would like to deepen their Catholic faith and be part of a joy-filled community.

RSVP Hank Grimsland at 845-594-5597 or email at hankgrimsland@gmail.com

DMI Survey - Final Days to Share Your Voice!

The Disciple Maker Index (DMI) Survey is almost at a close! February 6 is your last chance to include your thoughts in this vital survey about parish life and growth. We've reached our goal,

but let's add the icing to the cake and make it even sweeter!





Mount 2000 - Root for Our Youth!

Next weekend, February 7-9, our youth will be attending Mount 2000, a powerful retreat experience. Let's root for them and pray for a spiritually enriching weekend! (Yes, that's a little nod to the Super Bowl on Sunday!)



March for Life - A Powerful Witness!

This year's March for Life was a success! Thousands braved the frigid cold to pray for continued pro-life legislation across our nation. Pilgrims came from as far as California and Canada to stand for life.

We're especially proud of the three youth from St. Bernadette who attended-

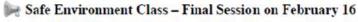
seeing their passion for protecting life at all stages was inspiring! We hope to have even more parishioners join us next year.



Religious Education Corner

No Religious Education Classes on Sunday, February 9!

Due to several teachers chaperoning Mount 2000, there will be no classes on February 9. Enjoy this extra family time, and we'll see you back in class on February 16!



Our final Safe Environment class for Kindergarten through Confirmation will take place on February 16. All students should attend, whether they are participating in the lesson or opting out. The lesson is brief (10-15 minutes), and a fun activity will be available for those whose parents opt them out.

This program reinforces the Catholic Church's commitment to protecting our youth. Lessons are age-appropriate, and parents are welcome to review the Diocesan-provided lesson plans. These discussions help children understand that their religious education teachers and volunteers are safe adults to turn to if needed.

Mark Your Calendar!

Join us for our Parish Lent Preparation Session on Sunday, March 2. More details to come.

> Help Us Support the Supporters of Hospice Patients This Valentine's Day!

Our Religious Education program is collecting donations for Hospice of the Panhandle. Please bring all items to Sara's office by Wednesday, February 5.

Requested Donations (individually wrapped, store-bought only):

Sranola bars & protein bars

iii Snack-size popcom, chips, & pretzels

grant Single-serving packs of nuts & trail mix

Snack cakes, brownies, & cookies

Hard candies, candy bars, & gum

Thank you for helping us spread love and kindness!

ST. BERNADETTE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FINANCIAL RECAP FOR 2021 -- 2024 St. Bernadette Mission became a Parish on September 3, 2020

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INCOME		2021		2022		2023		2024				
Sunday Collections	\$	179,299	S	199,182	\$	240,830	\$	261,070	-			
Capital & Maint	\$	19,857	\$	22,075	\$	23,590	\$	23,650				
Memorials & Donations	\$	87,063 10,229	\$	56,257 24,252	\$	61,993 16,602		58,890 22,245	12/31/2024 Balance Sheet			
tholic Sharing Appeal	\$		\$									
Fund Raising (Net)	\$	4,788	5	6,519	\$	6,641	\$	9,146	Checking	\$	198,974	
Diocesan Collections	\$	7,451	\$	16,225	\$	12,247	\$	16,708	Reserves	S	300,511	
Non-Diocesan Collections	\$	21,699	S	38,298	\$	34,408	5	36,137	Assets	\$	499,485	
Other	\$	3,376	\$	4,216	\$	13,810	\$	6,593	Net Payables	\$	(39,783)	
Total Income	\$	333,761	\$	367,024	\$	410,120	\$	434,438				
DISBURSEMENTS												
Salaries & Benefits	\$	80,471	\$	108,538	\$	111,180	\$	117,389				
Transportation	\$	13,603	\$	14,395	\$	14,283	\$	14,745				
Office Expense	\$	9,428	\$	8,908	\$	8,416	\$	14,822	Net Cash Available			
Rectory Food/Supplies	\$	5,500	S	4,259	\$	4,302	\$	4,620	12/31/2021	\$	320,081	
Liturgical Expenses	S	23,918	\$	8,468	\$	9,144	5	14,210	12/31/2022	\$	325,119	
Ministries	\$	7,051	\$	12,825	\$	21,248	\$	15,769	12/31/2023	\$	384,454	
Social Concerns	\$	21,298	5	39,930	\$	40,067	\$	38,133	12/31/2024	\$	459,702	
Utilities	\$	20,380	\$	24,599	\$	20,042	\$	27,258				
Maintenance & Facilities	\$	66,107	\$	111,748	\$	89,092	\$	70,943				
Diocesan Collections	\$	7,451	\$	16,225	\$	12,247	\$	16,813				
Diocesan Fees & PHRA	\$	17,232	5	16,713	\$	20,536	\$	23,092				
Total Expenses	\$	272,439	\$	366,607	\$	350,557	\$	357,794				
NET INCOME	S	61,322	\$	417	5	59,563	5	76,644				

COMMENTS: written on 1/31/2025

- Revenue has increased each year since becoming a parish.
 Exceeding our Catholic Sharing Appeal Goal resulted in over \$22,000 returned to the parish.
- 2.) The Parish financial position enabled us to increase our Reserves in our CD and money market accounts.
- 4.) Expenditures have been within reason. Utilities and insurance are increasing every year. We continue to maintain our facilities. These expenditures would be much larger if not for Diocesan grant money and the volunteers that have stepped forward. Thank you volunteers!

Diocesan fees include Cathedraticum and PHRA.

Cathedraticum is a tax on assessable income usually used by Bishops to fund chancery operations. Our Diocese is different in that the tax is entirely returned to small parishes to support wages, benefits, and operations in areas where collections are insufficient. The base tax rate is 3%. The PHRA is an insurance program for Diocesan Priest Health and Retirement. It is funded by Parishes at a base rate of 6% of assessed income plus a monthly premium for each priest in the Parish.

- 5.) Our Strategic Plan Committee has been busy this year determining long term needs if the Parish continues to grow. The first priority is to expand the religious education building as more children come into the program. We also lost several classrooms when the offices were removed from the rectory. Any expansion will probably require a fund drive and/or a mortgage. The second priority will be how to enlarge the church building if necessary.
- 6.) St Bernadette is a growing Parish, with generous parishioners. In addition to your many volunteer hours, YOU have donated money, food, clothing and sleeping bags for many in West Virginia, Berkeley County, and the World.

Thank you for your generosity of your time, talent and treasure!

Finance Committee
Neil Shanholtzer
Jeff Ferrell
Paul Guttmann, Finance Chair
paulguttmann@comcast.net



Please see the next page for examples of your generosity and information on the St Bernadette Parish Scholarship Fund.

Parish Generosity

Our St Bernadette Parishioners are very generous. In addition to the volunteer hours you gave to all our ministries, here are some examples from 2024.

- 1. Donated food items, supplies, Gala sponsorships and over \$3000 to Mary's Refuge.
- 2. Donated \$4,300 to St Vincent dePaul Society.
- 3. Donated food items each month plus \$4,425 to Hedgesville Loaves & Fishes.
- 4. Donated \$1,200 to CCAP Loaves & Fishes.
- 5. Donated many delicious dishes for the bereavement luncheons.
- 6. Food items and prepared meals for Immanuel House
- Volunteers prepared the ground, planted and harvested over \$700 of fresh vegetables for the kitchen at the Martinsburg Rescue Mission.
- 8. The youth group served dinner at the Mission.
- 9. Social Concerns group
 - a. provided sleeping bags for the homeless.
 - b. \$1,900 in local outreach in Martinsburg and seniors at Kings Daughters.
 - Provided Christmas gifts for children under the Star project plus \$1000 each to Bethany House and Mary's Refuge.
 - d. Donated \$1,000 to Catholic Charities of WV.
- Stitches from the Heart group knitted scarves, hats and shawls for local distribution and sent 7 cartons to those in need in Asheville, NC.
- 11. Donated over \$17,000 for the Bishop of Kumba, Cameroon.
- Donated \$30,145 to the Catholic Sharing appeal, resulting in \$19,650 being returned to the Parish for its
 use on maintenance and capital projects.
- 13. Donated \$16,800 to the 20 Diocesan second collections. This included \$3500 in disaster relief and \$2,500 for Catholic Charities and overseas relief, \$2,600 for religious and diocesan priests' retirement funds, and \$1,850 after the Little Flower missionary spoke at mass.

St. Bernadette Parish Scholarship Fund

An endowed scholarship fund has been established with the West Virginia Catholic Foundation. The income and principal of the Fund shall be used and distributed specifically for scholarship support for graduating students who are registered, active parishioners at St. Bernadette Parish in Hedgesville, W.Va., who desire to attend any public or private college or university for a 2-year or 4-year program. The amount of the scholarship(s) will depend on the fund value each year. It is anticipated that the first awards will be for the 2025-2026 school year. A screening committee will determine the criteria, the amount and the nominated candidates each year. These will be provided by the committee when established.

Donors may make gifts of cash or property acceptable to the WV Catholic Foundation by mentioning the Fund to the Executive Director. Cash can be given by writing St Bernadette Scholarship in the memo line of the check or refer to the Account # 1015026668. Correspondence and checks should be sent to:

Mr. Bryan Minor, Exec Director WV Catholic Foundation P.O. Box 230 Wheeling, WV 26003 **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

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday 3—Heb 11:32-40; Ps 31; Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday 4—Heb 12:1-4; Ps 22; Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday 5—St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr; Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Ps 103; Mk 6:1-6

Thursday 6—St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs; Heb 12:18-19, 21-24; Ps 48; Mk 6:7-13

Friday 7—Heb 13:1-8; Ps 27; Mk 6:14-29

Saturday 8—Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Ps 23; Mk 6:30-34

Sunday 9—Is 6:1-2a, 3-8; Ps 138; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 5:1-11

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.

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.