

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: Mon—Thurs 10 AM—2 PM; Fri 10 AM—12 PM

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

OCIA, Theresa Highlands
tcmulberry@aol.com

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

February 25, 2024

Second Sunday of Lent, Year B

The Sacrifice of Abraham



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

Theme: Ultimate Sacrifice

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, welcome!

Today we celebrate the second Sunday of Lent, Church Year B. The Liturgy of the Word for this weekend Masses are closely related. They focus on obedience and the ultimate sacrifice.

In one of the parishes where I served in my native Cameroon, one day a young girl approached me and invited me to come to her home and talk to her parents. She had the feeling that God was calling her to serve Him as a religious. She told me that when she mentioned this to her parents (the father was a Catholic and the mother was a Baptist Christian), her parents warned her sternly never to mention that topic again in their home else they will disown her. This was a difficult task for someone just three years in the priesthood. I went to their home and was given a warm welcome. When I introduced the purpose of my visit, the smile on her parents' faces vanished. That did not deter me from finding why they were stopping their daughter from answering God's call. Their question to me was "If we had not given birth to her, she would not have even been born, talk less of become a religious. What Stella, our daughter is opting for, amounts to an abomination", the parents continued, "and we cannot allow that to happen under our watch. Becoming a religious means that she will not make her family and have children! That cannot happen!" I gently reminded them that God has blessed them with seven healthy children, and now He is asking you only for one out of the seven children and you are unable to make that little sacrifice for someone who has abundantly blessed your marriage. At the end of our two to three hours discussion, I succeeded to win over the girl's father – a Catholic Christian. Did I just say I succeeded? No, it wasn't I, but God. However, her mother remained adamant.

In our first reading from the Book of Genesis, Abraham is told by God to make an extreme sacrifice – that of his only son whom he dearly loved. Unlike the parents of Stella, Abraham does not hesitate, he takes his only son Isaac to the place of the sacrifice. This reveals the depths of Abraham's obedience to God. The story begs one question: if God put us to the test, as He did Abraham, would we pass the test? Would we have offered our only son as a holocaust to God? I am sure that most, if not all of us, would have reacted like the parents of Stella. We would want to know from God if he had forgotten that my son or daughter is my only child, and that it is unfair of Him not to have given me another child, not to talk of asking me to sacrifice him/her. We often wonder why God should choose to harvest where He has not planted. Remember this type of assessment of God in the story of the man who said to his Master "I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not

scatter (Mt. 25:24).

Abraham's willingness not to withhold his only son led God to provide him with an alternative: "a ram caught by its horns in the thicket". God, the first reading tells us, blessed Abraham abundantly, making his descendants as countless as the stars of the sky. God was on the side of his descendants as they conquered their enemies and made it possible for nations of the earth to find blessing through Abraham's descendants. Our blessings as Christians, stem from that blessing given that we are among the countless descendants of Abraham, our father in faith.

The story of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his only son prefigures the divine love of God, who effectively sacrificed His Only Begotten Son on the Cross of Calvary for our redemption. Through the sacrifice of His Only Begotten Son, God has won over many sons and daughters.

As with Abraham, God does not expect us to sacrifice our sons or daughters, or ourselves as holocausts. Notably during this season of Lent, God expects us to show our obedience and readiness to sacrifice for Him through fasting, almsgiving, and repentance for our sins. No sacrifice is too small. None is too easy to consent. God wants us to honor Him by giving our lives in the service of others as the young girl Stella in my story wanted to do and is now doing just that – serving the church and world as a religious in the imitation of Christ who gave up his life freely in the service of his brothers and sisters.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, may God help us to honor our Lenten pledges to fast from meat on Fridays; our promise to attend more Masses a week than the weekend Mass alone. Let us turn the money we save by skipping our favorable bottle of beer, or glass of wine and liquor to alms for the poor and the needy. Let us pray for strength to spend our lives for others.

Fr Boh
Pastor

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Will you be one of the 250 in the WV delegation?

There are still tickets available for the Eucharistic Congress being held in Indianapolis, IN in June. You must register by March 15th. See the flyer on the front door for more details.

PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING

General Fund	\$ 2542.00
Online Giving	\$ 1285.77
Maintenance.....	\$ 315.00
Outreach.....	\$ 108.00

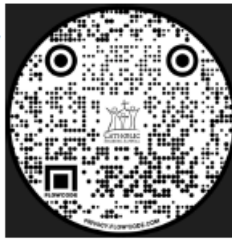
THANK YOU FOR TAKING A STEP
TOWARD A LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP

WHAT'S GOING ON?

High School Book Club for Lent! **This Sunday, Feb. 25 from 12:15-1:15 PM.** Join us for a special book study just for high schoolers this Lenten season. We will meet 2/25, 3/3, 3/10, & 3/17. We'll be diving into "**Humility Rules: Saint Benedict's 12-Step Guide to Genuine Self-Esteem**" by J. Augustine Wetta, O.S.B. Father Augustine, a high school principal, wrote this book specifically for teens, equipping them with lifelong skills to face life's challenges with strength in Christ. The book may be purchased online or ordered through us, at cost, for \$19.03. Financial assistance is available if needed. Text or call us at 307-712-0001 to let us know your high schooler will attend, so we can plan lunch accordingly. See you there! You do not have to be previously signed up to attend. - Billy & Sara Struemke

The **Cherub Ministry** is collecting donations of Easter candy for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt to be held directly after the 9 AM Mass on Easter Sunday. A basket can be found in the narthex.

Catholic Sharing Appeal 2024 has begun! It's a new year with a new goal. This year our goal is to raise \$20,995. Envelopes are available in the narthex. Remember that once we raise half of that money, the rest comes right back to St. Bernadette's free of diocesan fees.



A **diocesan collection** is scheduled for March 2-3, 2024, to support the Priests' Health and Retirement Association (PHRA), a fund that provides health insurance and retirement benefits to retired priests of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Please take a moment to reflect on the many years of service by our priests and how we can take this opportunity to thank them in a very particular way with a gift to the PHRA collection.

Long-Term Middle School Math Substitute Teacher Saint Joseph School (SJS) educates in the spirit of the Gospel, inspiring Catholic values, academic excellence, global awareness, and service to those in need. The ideal candidate would be one who embraces the SJS mission and who is looking for a place in which to be respected and supported while growing professionally. The long-term substitute math teacher must have solid classroom management skills, be responsible for developing learning activities and hands-on material, tending to individual student needs and communicating regularly with parents. Full-time until May 2024, with the potential for a permanent, full-time contract position. Please email a letter of introduction and résumé to Principal Maria Byrd at mbyrd@sjsvw.org.

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, Theresa Comer, Bob Baker, Betty Beniot, Hank Chase, Freddy Highlands, Linda & Bernie Guy, Jackie Crouse, Kevin Lathwell, Dorothy Knipe, Rebecca Ramsey, Abby & Libby Conley, Shane Terry, Linda Spiker, Carol Bogacz, Vicki Lowery, Wayne Montañó, Ron 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, February 25th

8:15—8:45 AM Confession
 9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar
Intention for Kathy Reeser
 11 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for the People of the Parish

Tuesday, February 27th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for Jackie Crouse
 10 AM Stitches from the Heart

Wednesday, February 28th

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

Thursday, February 29th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Friday, March 1st

First Friday
 9:00 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
 Adoration following the 9 AM Mass
 12 NOON Benediction
 6 PM Stations of the Cross
 Meatless supper

Saturday, March 2nd

First Saturday
 9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
 Rosary immediately following
 4—4:45 PM Confession
 5 PM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar
Intention for Irene Davern

Sunday, March 3rd

8:15—8:45 AM Confession
 9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar
Intention for the People of the Parish
 10:15—11:45 AM Religious Education
 11 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
 12:15—1:15 PM High School Book Club

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 5:20—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.

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: 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 26th—Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79; Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday 27th—Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50; Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday 28th—Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31; Mt 20:17-28

Thursday 29th—Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1; Lk 16:19-31

Friday 1st—Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday 2nd—Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday 3rd—Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42

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.



Help Fill the Pantry 2024

February

Ground beef
Spaghetti Noodles

Pasta Sauce
Parmesan Cheese

March

Hams
Gravy
Canned Vegetables
Brownie Mix
Seeds

Instant Mashed Potatoes
Canned Fruit
Jiffy Muffin Mix
Easter Candy

* Monetary donations for
Ground Beef and Hams are preferred

Additional Pantry items are always needed:

Pasta Sauce, Pasta, Canned Fruit, Soup, Peanut Butter,
Mac & Cheese, Canned Vegetables, Baked Beans, Rice, Syrup,
Pancake Mix, Cereal, Hamburger Helper

Monetary donations can be made to St. Bernadette
with Loaves and Fishes on the memo line

For more information contact:

Karen - 301-992-1368 or Bill - 571-216-9320



Loaves & Fishes

GROW YOUR OWN



The HACC (Hedgenville Area Community of Churches) is sponsoring a program to encourage folks to grow their own fresh vegetables. In the spring we will be distributing

Vegetable & Flower Seeds through
Loaves & Fishes.

But we need your help!

- 🍷 We will be collecting packets of **SEEDS** donated through the area churches.
- 🍷 Tomatoes, herbs, peppers, peas, beans, radishes, lettuce, flowers, etc. Last year's seeds are fine! Partial packs are welcome!
- 🍷 Please bring your seed donations to church by April 21 for distribution at the April 27th Loaves and Fishes

Thanks for your support!



ST BERNADETTE CHOIR

JOIN THE CHOIR FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Would you like to sing but do not have time to commit to every week? You can join us for just Holy Week and Easter. Practices will start in March. Call or talk after Mass to Linda Abrahamian, Music Director (304)279-2315

*Sing praise
to The Lord*

HOLY THURSDAY
GOOD FRIDAY
EASTER VIGIL OR EASTER
SUNDAY

**All you need
to bring is your
singing voice!**