

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., 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

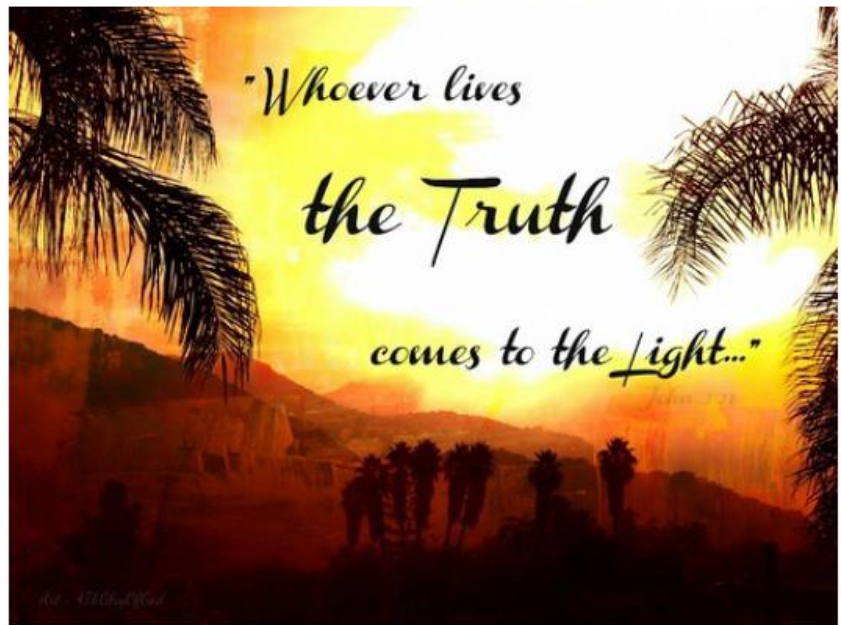
Confession

Wednesday: 5—5:45 PM
Saturday: 4—4:45 PM
Sunday: 8:15—8:45 AM
or by appointment

March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year B

But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works
may be clearly seen as done in God. John 3:21



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

Welcome!

Beloved sisters and brothers in Christ, today we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Lent in Church Year B. This Sunday is known as Laetare Sunday. What is Laetare Sunday? "Laetare" is Latin for "rejoice". So, Laetare Sunday is 'Sunday of joy'. Joy amidst our Lenten fast and penance. Laetare Sunday gets its name from the first few words of the Entrance Antiphon for the Mass of the day. "Rejoice, Jerusalem, ... Be joyful, all who were mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast" (Is. 66:10-11). "This Sunday was once called 'Refreshment Sunday', or the 'Sunday of the Five Loaves', for the miracle of the boy with loaves and fishes in the Gospel of John" (Wikipedia).

It is a wonderful midway point for us to recollect ourselves and to put our penitence in perspective once again.

Why does the Church invite us to rejoice in the midst of our Lenten observance? One of the reasons for Laetare Sunday is that it marks the half-way point of our Lenten journey, reminding us that Easter is enticingly near, the celebration of Christ's rising from the dead and the salvation He has won for us. It is a wonderful point on our Lenten journey for us to recollect ourselves and to put our penitence in perspective once again.

Our Gospel passage suggests yet another reason we should rejoice today. It says: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." God loved us into existence and redeemed us through the Death and Resurrection of the Son, so that through Him we may have eternal life". To have eternal life entails that we must leave the world of darkness, the world of evil and sin, and come into the world of light. We must model our lives after the example of Jesus. In a practical sense, it means that we must be prepared to step out of darkness and the lure of sin into the light for the love of God who sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. There is no middle ground. A choice must be made for or against the Son of God. This is the choice we all made at our baptism - for those who are already baptized, which we renew at all Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Masses when we reject sin and profess our faith in Christ Jesus: "Do you reject Satan?" "... I do"... "Do you believe in the God the Father, almighty, creator of heaven and earth?" "... I do."

But the unfortunate thing is that very many people have shown that they prefer darkness to light, as Christ notes in today's Gospel passage: "And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light". This conclusion of Jesus came out clearly at His judgement in Pilate's Court when the crowd demanded the release of Barabbas, a known criminal, and

the condemnation of Christ against whom they could not bring any credible accusation. Even Pilate himself, after cross examining Christ, declared that he found no case against Him. And yet they would shout down Pilate demanding for the condemnation of Jesus and the release of Barabbas. There was no other explanation for their bias against Jesus other than that they were bought over by the Chief Priests and the Elders. This is clearly a willful decision to take the side of darkness in preference to the light.

Sadly, in our world there are far too many Christians who are still held in darkness. Under this state they are prone to wicked deeds, for example, worship idols, murder, adultery, and fornication, stealing, lying, drunkenness, bribery and other evils. They are inclined to be filled with malice, envy, hatred and so forth. Those who indulge in these activities, in the words, prefer darkness to light and do not want to come towards the light, so that their works might not be exposed.

The truth is that nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. God will indeed "bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts" (1 Cor. 4:5). "For there is nothing hidden that will not become visible, and nothing secret that will not be known and come to light" (Mt. 8:17). Therefore, the challenge for all of us today is that we live in such a way that we are not ashamed to have "light" shine on our deeds. How does your life presently stand up under the searching light of God's scrutiny? On this "Rejoice Sunday" the only condition to be joyful and eventually to enter the joy that lasts forever at the end of our earthly pilgrimage is to live as a child of the light every second of our life.

Reflection questions:

Well, as I said at the beginning, we are exactly twenty-one days to Easter Sunday. Having gone thus far, it is time to pause and ask yourself, how you have lived out in your own life the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving?

What are some of the unhealthy habits that keep me away from God that have I gotten rid of?

Happy Laetare Sunday

May Saint Bernadette Soubirous, pray for us.

Fr Boh (Pastor)

PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING

General Fund	\$ 3908.25
Online Giving	\$ 1546.40
Maintenance	\$ 630.00
Outreach	\$ 477.00

THANK YOU FOR TAKING A STEP
TOWARD A LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Notices

Marriage Banns: First Call – I publish the banns of marriage between Alann Reyes and Crystal Ortiz, both of this Parish. If any of you know cause or just impediment why these persons should not be joined together in Holy Matrimony, you are to declare it.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting: A reminder to all Parish Councilors of their meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 6 PM in the Religious Ed building. Non interested members are welcome. But know that you have no veto power in case any vote is brought to the floor.

National Eucharistic Congress: July 17-21, 2024

Bishop Mark is inviting you to be part of a historic event in the life of our Catholic Church in this country – a National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis from July 17-21, 2024. The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is offering a package including a discounted rate for the full Congress pass. The registration deadline is March 15, 2024. For details, see the flyer at the front door of the Church or contact the Parish Office or Kevin Ferrell, Parish point person with the diocese.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

High School Book Club for Lent! This Sunday, March 10th from 12:15-1:15 PM. You do not have to be previously signed up to attend.

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.

St. Joseph Angels Cleaning out your closets? St Joseph Angels is currently in need of children's clothing and coats for boys and girls sizes 12 months up to size 5. When donating, please keep in mind that we do not have the space or need for sizes above 5. Thank you for your continued support! If you have items to donate, you can drop them off in the church office or call the Angels phone to schedule a time at 304-676-6433.

There will be a **Parish Council meeting** this Tuesday, the 12th, at 6 PM in the Religious Education Building.

There will be a **Social Concerns Ministry** meeting this Thursday, the 14th, after the 9 AM Mass. All are invited to attend.

FISH FRY THIS FRIDAY, the 15th. From 11 AM—5:30 PM. \$15—your choice of fish platter or fish tacos. Served with Frech fries, dessert, and a drink. Come out and support our parish.

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, March 10th**

8:15—8:45 AM Confession

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

10:15—11:45 AM Religious Education

11 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Msgr. Ansgar

12:15—1:15 PM High School Book Club

Tuesday, March 12th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Larry Missenis

10 AM Stitches from the Heart

6 PM Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 13th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Ansgar

5-5:45 PM Confession

6 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for Irene Davern***Thursday, March 14th**

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Kathy Reeser

9:30 AM Social Concerns

Ministry Meeting

Friday, March 15th

9:00 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Adoration following the 9 AM Mass

12 NOON Benediction

11 AM—5:30 PM Fish Dinner

6 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 16th

4—4:45 PM Confession

5 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for the People of the Parish***Sunday, March 17th**

8:15—8:45 AM Confession

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Kathy Reeser

10:15—11:45 AM Religious Education

11 AM Mass—Fr. Ansgar

Intention for Tom Ivory

12:15—1:15 PM High School Book Club

2:30 PM African Mass

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 11th—Is 65:17-21; Ps 30; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday 12th—Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday 13th—Is 49:8-15; Ps 145; Jn 5:17-30

Thursday 14th—Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106; Jn 5:31-47

Friday 15th—Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday 16th—Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7; Jn 7:40-53

Sunday 17th—Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

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.



An Evening of "Gathering"

A SPECIAL EVENING TO "TREAT" YOURSELF

ENJOY A 4 COURSE MEAL DESIGNED WITH YOU IN MIND!

A MENU OF HAND SELECTED SURF & TURF

THE NIGHT WILL START OFF WITH AN APPETIZER BOARD AND ARTISAN WINES
CULTIVATED AND PROVIDED BY GENEROUS PARISHIONERS.

YOUR SELECTION OF SOUP, HANDCRAFTED CRAB CAKES & FILET MIGNON TOPPED
OFF WITH ONE OF A KIND TIRAMISU CHEESECAKE OR BREAD PUDDING WITH
BOURBON VANILLA SAUCE



APRIL 12, 2024

6PM ~ 9PM

MENU



WINE STATION

APPETIZERS

SOUP

(YOUR CHOICE OF GNOCCHI OR SEAFOOD GUMBO)

HANDCRAFTED LUMP CRAB CAKES

W/ ROMOULADE SAUCE

FILET MIGNON

W/ AU JUS

GARLIC ROASTED MASHED POTATOES

GREEN BEANS WRAPPED IN BACON

FRESH BAKED BREADS

DESSERT

(HANDCRAFTED TIRAMISU CHEESECAKE OR
BREAD PUDDING W/ BOURBON VANILLA SAUCE)

\$40

PER PERSON

ALL WELCOME

*PURCHASE TICKETS AFTER ALL 3 MASSES

MARCH 16, 23 AND APRIL 6TH

OR EMAIL ANJANETTE AT:

ANJANETTEANDWAYNE@YAHOO.COM

CALL: 410-726-3265

ST. BERNADETTE CHURCH

HEDGESVILLE, WV



Vegetable Gardens at St. Bernadette's

Why should you consider growing vegetables either at the St. Bernadette's vegetable gardens or at your own home?



- **F**amily Community Service- Donate locally to organizations that relieve hunger. e.g., Hedgesville Loaves and Fishes, Martinsburg Union Rescue Mission, Immanuel's House, St. Vincent De Paul Society clients, Mary's Refuge, etc.
- **D**o Corporal Works of Mercy
- **L**earn or share knowledge of how to grow a better garden with other parishioners.
- **K**now precisely what went into growing the vegetables.
- **P**ossibly become part of a fresh produce distribution network which provides thousands of servings per year to those in need.
- **A**ssist home gardeners by gleaning their excess produce and tree fruits.
- **E**njoy a portion of the produce raised in your home at family meals.

During the 2023 growing season, 3 routine volunteers and 2 occasional volunteers worked in the St. Bernadette Vegetable Gardens with" Mother Nature" and Our Lord's blessing to produce about \$450 of fresh vegetables in an area smaller than a one car garage (about 150 square feet).

For this ministry to flourish, we need more parishioners, including children, to help. Garden work parties have already happened. If interested contact me soon.

CONTACT FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Bill Klover, retired farmer
12 years' experience leading the vegetable growing ministry in other parishes
email: william.klover@yahoo.com phone: 360 461-8836

Finance Council Update

February 2024

1. **Strategic Plan Committee** – Finances are in good shape, but we continue to have maintenance and capital needs to keep the facilities in excellent shape. Much of the work is done through volunteers, led by Joe and Elaine Comer. The Finance Council has established a Strategic Plan committee with the objective to develop a long term for the use of the Parish grounds. St Bernadette is within a high growth area of Berkeley County and as the parish grows a plan should be in place to accommodate the growth. The plan will define the need for any new or enlarged buildings and capital expenditures, along with estimates of future costs. Members include:
 - a. The Pastor
 - b. President of the Parish Council
 - c. Two members of the Finance Council
 - d. Maintenance Chair
 - e. Kitchen Chair
 - f. Two at-large members:
 - i. Pat Reeser
 - ii. Mike Weaver
2. **Catholic Sharing Appeal** – You will soon be receiving information on this year's appeal. The goal this year is like last year at \$20,995. The first 50% goes to the Diocesan program. Any money above \$10,498 will be sent back to St Bernadette, assessment free. Please continue our good record.
3. We just received another grant from the **Catholic Sharing Appeal** for the purchase of 9 **security cameras** for exterior views of our property. This is another benefit from the Diocese for reaching our goal. Please give generously.
4. We now have 20 parishioners that completed the **CPR/AED** training. They are prepared but all sincerely wish they will never be required. Congratulations to those! The AED was purchased with a grant from the Catholic Sharing Appeal.
5. **Special Collections** in March are for the Diocesan Priest Retirement Fund and the Pontifical Good Friday Holy Land Collection.
6. **Online giving** – This is an easy way to donate on a regular basis. All you need to do is hit the online giving button on the parish website and follow directions. If you need assistance, Lynette, in the parish office will assist. We currently have 65 active donors giving on a recurring basis.
7. **Finance Council Members:** If you ever have any questions, feel free to contact us.
 - a. Paul Guttman
 - b. Neil Shanholtzer
 - c. Jeff Ferrell

ST. BERNADETTE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FINANCIAL RECAP FOR 2021 -- 2023

INCOME

	2021	2022	2023
Sunday Collections	\$ 179,299	\$ 199,182	\$ 240,830
Capital & Maint	\$ 19,857	\$ 22,075	\$ 23,590
Memorials & Donations	\$ 87,063	\$ 56,257	\$ 61,993
Catholic Sharing Appeal	\$ 10,229	\$ 24,252	\$ 16,602
Fund Raising (Net)	\$ 4,788	\$ 6,519	\$ 6,641
Diocesan Collections	\$ 7,451	\$ 16,225	\$ 12,247
Non-Diocesan Collections	\$ 21,699	\$ 38,298	\$ 34,408
Other	\$ 3,376	\$ 4,216	\$ 13,810
Total Income	\$ 333,761	\$ 367,024	\$ 410,120

12/31/2023 Balance Sheet	
Checking	\$ 303,817
Reserves	\$ 128,210
Assets	\$ 432,027
Net Payables	\$ (47,573)

DISBURSEMENTS

Salaries & Benefits	\$ 80,471	\$ 108,538	\$ 111,180
Transportation	\$ 13,603	\$ 14,395	\$ 14,283
Office Expense	\$ 9,428	\$ 8,908	\$ 8,416
Rectory Food/Supplies	\$ 5,500	\$ 4,259	\$ 4,302
Liturgical Expenses	\$ 23,918	\$ 8,468	\$ 9,144
Ministries	\$ 7,051	\$ 12,825	\$ 21,248
Social Concerns	\$ 21,298	\$ 39,930	\$ 40,067
Utilities/Fees	\$ 20,380	\$ 24,599	\$ 20,042
Maintenance & Facilities	\$ 66,107	\$ 111,748	\$ 89,092
Diocesan Collections	\$ 7,451	\$ 16,225	\$ 12,247
Diocesan Fees & PHRA	\$ 17,232	\$ 16,713	\$ 20,536
Total Expenses	\$ 272,439	\$ 366,607	\$ 350,557

Net Cash Available	
12/31/2020	\$ 280,355
12/31/2021	\$ 320,081
12/31/2022	\$ 325,119
12/31/2023	\$ 384,454

NET INCOME \$ 61,322 \$ 417 \$ 59,563

COMMENTS: written on 1/31/2024 (It was a good year)

- Revenue increased significantly this year.** Sunday collections and maintenance capital both increased. Income received from the Catholic Sharing Appeal was less than the previous years, but we did achieve goal and received additional funds to purchase the AED located in the Narthex. This month 19 volunteers were trained and certified for CPR and the use of the AED in an emergency cardiac arrest.

Memorials and Donations increased. This includes donations from people over 72, who donate some of their required minimum distributions (RMD) from their IRA directly to St Bernadette as a tax advantage.

The **Other** category includes a one time receipt through the Diocese of \$7000 from the Govt COVID program, interest received on our reserve CD account, and other unassessed income such as stipends.
- The Parish financial position enabled us to increase our **Reserves in our CD account**. One reason for this is the assistance we have received from the Diocese in terms of **Grant Money**. By the end of 2023, we have received over **\$60,000**. This includes assistance for renovating McFadden Hall, the parking lot, the handicap walkway. We have several projects planned. They include installing a prayer garden and renovating the 2nd floor of the rectory after the damage from the burst pipes last year.
- Catholic Sharing Appeal** is a unique program in our Diocese. Each parish receives a goal. The first 50% of the goal stays at the Diocese to assist Bishop Mark in charitable and educational areas. No receipts stay at the Diocese office. Any money received from St Bernadette parishioners above 50% is returned to the parish, **free of the usual revenue assessments for Cathedralism and the the Priest Retirement and Health. WE NEED YOU TO SUPPORT THE CSA SO WE CAN ACHIEVE THE PARISH GOAL!** And continue to receive grant money. Our goal for 2024 is \$20,995. Based on past results, this goal is achievable.
- Expenditures** have been within reason. We continue to maintain our facilities. These expenditures would be much larger if not for the grant money and volunteers that have stepped forward. **Thank you volunteers!**

Diocesan fees include Cathedralism and PHRA. Cathedralism 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..
- St Bernadette is a growing Parish, with generous parishioners.** In addition to the many volunteer hours, **You** have donated money, food, clothing and sleeping bags for many in West Virginia, Berkeley County, World Missions, Ukraine and Cameroon. **Thank you for your generosity of your time, talent and treasure!**
- Our goals this year are to share your talents with our members, to begin a strategic plan process and to hire an accountant.

You can contribute on-line at www.stbernadettevw.org

Sunday Bulletins are also on this website

Finance Committee
 Neil Shanholtzer
 Jeff Ferrell
 Paul Guttman, Finance Chair
paulguttman@comcast.net