

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., Sara Struemke
reled@stbernadettewv.org

OCIA, Eric Colliflower

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 16, 2025

Second Sunday of Lent

Be a friend of the Cross of Christ



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

Scripture Insights – Second Sunday of Lent

The first reading tells of God’s promises to Abraham that he would have numerous descendants, and that those descendants would possess the land of Canaan. As a pledge of his fidelity God made a solemn covenant with him. In the second reading Paul urges his converts to remain faithful to Christ and promises them that one day they will share in his glory. The Gospel is Luke’s version of the Transfiguration. We are invited to listen to Jesus, the beloved of the Father.

Theme: Conduct Yourself as a Friend of the Cross of Christ

My reflection on this Second Sunday of Lent is centered on the second reading drawn from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians. In the reading, Paul warns the Philippian and by extension, all of us, against being counted among the many who “conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ”. When we hear the expression; “enemies of Christ,” we might think of members of other religious sects. No! The enemies of the cross of Christ are those who set their minds on earthly things. Their delight is found in the things of this world. Whose citizenship is not in heaven,” as St Paul says. But as Saint James warns us, “... that friendship with the world is enmity with God. Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” (Jas. 4:4)

Permit me to make this clarification; the cross that Paul is referring to in this passage should not be taken to mean a material cross. It is not anything made in the shape of the cross. Therefore, the enemies of the cross of Christ are not members of other religious sects, it is anyone who has made or makes the world his/her friend. It is anyone who has set his/her mind on earthly things. It is anyone who is focus on the things of this earth instead of the matters of eternity. The enemies of the cross of Christ, pursue material prizes and possessions that will one day be gone. They are consumed with the here and now instead of living a life that will count for eternity. They are living according to the flesh.

The enemies of the cross of Christ would prostrate themselves before a wooden cross and adore it but turn their back to the cry of the poor and the needy. They don’t see any need why resources or any form of aid should be channeled to people who have nothing to offer in return. They will boast of saving so much which others would have given away to the detriment of their brothers and sisters, and yet are the first on the communion line on Sunday morning. These are those, says Saint Paul, who boast of things which they ought to be ashamed. Whose “glory is in their ‘shame’” and whose “minds are occupied with

earthly things”. Such will know damnation. Their “end is destruction,” writes Saint Paul.

By contrast, friends of the cross of Christ “await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ”. If we want to be counted among the friends of the cross of Christ, we must accept the Lord as “our light and our salvation” says the Psalmist. If we are friends of the cross of Christ, then we must know that “our citizenship is in heaven”; not in this world, says the Apostle Paul.

The first reading gives us Abram, later renamed Abraham by God as our model. Abram, as a true friend of the Lord, “put his faith in the Lord, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness”. Abraham abandoned everything he owned and his father’s household, to go to the land that God will show him. He is given to us as the perfect example of total surrender and trust in the Lord when he was willing to sacrifice his only son. The reason he is referred to as “our father in faith”.

The gospel gives us another dimension of friendship with Christ, that is, we must follow Christ not only up to the mountains of joy and in his moments of glory but also back down into the valley of tribulations and his crucifixion and death in Jerusalem by carrying our cross daily and following Him. If we are not only ‘good weather’ friends with Christ, then after our earthly pilgrimage, He will “change our lowly body” to “conform with his glorified] body”, and then we can behold Christ in his glory and majesty and exult: “Master, it is good that we are here” our true and eternal homeland, heaven.

May Saint Bernadette Soubirous, pray and intercede for us! Amen

Happy Sunday!

Fr. Boh (Pastor)

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Wednesday, March 19: The church celebrates the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He is the Patron Saint of our diocese.

Catechism classes every Thursday after morning mass followed by Lectio Divina.

Stations of the Cross every Friday at 6 PM.

PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING FOR 3/9

General Fund.....	\$ 3250.78
Online Giving.....	\$ 1181.77
Maintenance	\$ 615.00
Local Outreach.....	\$ 750.00
Diocesan Collection—Disaster Relief	\$ 275.00

Attendance 5 PM—98 9 AM—155 11 AM—117

THANK YOU FOR TAKING A STEP TOWARD A LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP

The Pope's Prayer Intention for March – For families in crisis – Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

May God bless you all and let us continue to pray for peace in the world.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Knights of Columbus will meet Tuesday, March 18th, at 7 PM in the Religious Education Building. All current Knights of Columbus and anyone interested in joining the new St. Bernadette's Knights of Columbus Council are invited and encouraged to attend.

Next week's 2nd collection is for the Diocesan Priest's Retirement Fund that provides support for retirement benefits and medical expenses, assists in the cost of nursing home stays, and provides group living expenses for the diocesan priests who have served the people of our diocese as their vocation in life.

Attention Homeschool High Schoolers! All homeschool high school students are invited to help form their own Christian community! We'll build this together based on what you want, centering it around **Father Boh's educational classes** held most Thursday mornings. Here's the plan: **9:00 AM** – Attend **weekday Mass** on Thursdays. **After Mass** – Join **Father Boh's educational class**. **Following Class** – Gather briefly in the **Great Room of the Religious Education Building** for conversation and fellowship. Students are welcome to bring a breakfast bread or other items to share. We'll meet for a few weeks to see what works best and shape the structure moving forward. Join us as we build something meaningful together! **Concludes at 10:45 AM.**

Join the Choir for Holy Week and Easter. Do you like to sing but cannot make a long term commitment? Then just join the choir for Holy Week and Easter! Practices start in March. After Mass you can talk to our Music Director, Linda Abrahamian. 304-279-2315 or call the Parish Office.

Attention all middle and high school girls! Join us for lunch with the Franciscan Sisters. Sunday, March 23rd, from 12:30—1:30 PM in the St. Joseph school cafeteria. Sr. Sarah Rose and Sr. Rita Clare will share stories and teach how to hear God's call for our lives. RSVP to Linda Abrahamian at 304-279-2315 or call the Parish Office. RSVP by Monday, March 17th.

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, Richard Monroe, Gary E. Manley, Maggie Keating, Sandy Robertson, Irene Zarembo, Gail Sanders

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 16th

8:15-8:45 AM Confession
 9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for Angela Gentile (+)
 10—11:45 AM Religious Education
 11 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar
Intention for JoAnn and Butch Rogers
 2:30 PM African Mass

Tuesday, March 18th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
 10 AM Stitches from the Heart
 7 PM Knights of Columbus

Wednesday, March 19th

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

Thursday, March 20th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Friday, March 21st

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
 Adoration following the 9 AM Mass
 12 NOON Benediction
 11 AM—2 PM Fish Fry
 6 PM Stations of the Cross
 after Stations Meatless Supper

Saturday, March 22nd

3—4:30 PM OCIA
 4—4:45 PM Confession
 5 PM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

Sunday, March 23rd

2nd Collection for Diocesan Priest's Retirement Fund
 8:15-8:45 AM Confession
 9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for the People of the Parish
 10—11:45 AM Religious Education
 11 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar
Intention for JoAnn Small (+)



🌟 Parish Announcements 🌟

🥚 Easter Egg Hunt – Donations Needed!

Our **Easter Egg Hunt** is just around the corner! 🌟 We need **wrapped candies** 🍬 or **small treats** 🍪 to help fill the Easter eggs. It's always a joy to watch our little ones rush to gather these bright eggs 🥚, reminding us of the renewed life we celebrate at Easter. Please drop off your donations in the **specially marked area of McFadden Hall**. Thank you for your generosity! ❤️

🙏 Stations & Supper – March 21 🕒

All **Youth Group**, **High School Students**, and **Young Adults** are invited to join us **this Friday, March 21**, at **6:00 PM** for **Stations & Supper**. 🙏🍴 Please bring a **potluck dish** to share! If you're coming with just a friend or two (rather than your whole family), bring **one dish** to share among you. Let's come together in **joy** 😊 and **unity** 🤝 as the future of **Christ's Church!**



🌟 The Scrutinies –

A Time of Prayer for Our Catechumens

Next weekend, we begin celebrating the **Scrutinies** with our **OCIA catechumens**.

Please **pray** 🙏 for them as they enter this final stage before becoming members of our Catholic family.

📖 Understanding the Scrutinies: A Journey of Grace for the Elect

For three Sundays in Lent—the **3rd, 4th, and 5th**—we celebrate the **Scrutinies**, special rites for those preparing for **Baptism** 💧. While the term "Scrutiny" may sound intense, these moments are actually filled with **deep prayer, healing, and grace** ✨.

Since the early Church 🏰, these rites have been an essential part of preparing new Christians for Baptism. Originally, catechumens underwent **daily examinations** by bishops, who prayed over them to **free them from sin's power**. Over time, these practices evolved into the three **Scrutinies** we observe today.

During each Scrutiny, the **elect**—those preparing for Baptism—join us for the **Liturgy of the Word** 📖, hearing Scripture that calls all of us to **deeper conversion**. Before the **Liturgy of the Eucharist**, they are **dismissed** to reflect further on God's Word, reminding us that full unity with Christ's Body comes through **Baptism**.

✂️ **And thank goodness we're no longer in medieval times!** ✂️

Back then, catechumens weren't just dismissed; they had to **kneel outside on dirt and stone** 🗿 for the remainder of Mass, **praying in whatever weather** ☁️❄️☀️ the Lord provided. **Imagine explaining that today!** Instead, our catechumens now leave for a **much more comfortable** 😊 place of reflection.

These Scrutinies are encounters with **God's mercy** ❤️, not judgment. Through **Scripture** 📖, **intercessions** 🙏, and the **laying on of hands** ✋, we ask Christ to **strengthen** what is good in them and **free them** from anything that hinders their relationship with Him.

As a parish **family** 🏡, we are called to **pray for and support** 🤝 the elect. Their journey reminds us of our own **baptismal call**—to **turn away from sin** 🚫 and **embrace the light of Christ** ✝️. Let's walk with them in prayer 🙏 as they take these final steps toward full communion in the Church!



We celebrated Msgr. Ansgar's 92nd birthday this past week. Happy Birthday, Monsignor. We appreciate you more than you will ever know.



Saint Joseph School
Martinsburg, WV

Full-Time maintenance supervisor sought for St. Joseph School in Martinsburg The maintenance supervisor is responsible for keeping the school buildings and grounds clean, in good repair, and orderly condition, while supporting and advancing the mission of the school. Please email a letter of introduction and résumé to Principal Maria Byrd at mbyrd@sjswv.org.

St. Joseph High School is seeking a qualified and enthusiastic high school biology teacher to join our founding faculty. The ideal candidate will have a strong background in science education, be skilled in creating engaging and challenging lesson plans, and be willing to be part of a collaborative and mission-driven school community. This is a unique opportunity to be part of a new school and contribute to building a dynamic and inspiring learning environment. Please email a résumé, cover letter and three professional references to Deacon Patrick Michel, Ed.D, head of school, at deaconpat@stjosephwv.org.

The Youth Leadership Association at Saint Joseph School - Martinsburg is holding a **Rada Cutlery fundraiser** for club events and service projects. If you would like to support them, please use this link: <https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=8623893.7ea1149>. The online sale ends Monday, March 31.



Are you looking for a way to help your community?

Help Us Serve at Mary's Refuge!

We are seeking dedicated volunteers to support our mission:

- Certified Dietitian/Nutritionist: Assist 1-2 hours weekly to provide guidance for healthy living.
- Alumni Coordinator: Build connections and offer support to past residents.
- Volunteer Coordinator: Help organize and manage our amazing volunteer team.

Your skills can make a difference! If interested, please send an email to life@marysrefuge.com.

All volunteers must complete the Virtus program, a background check, and attend volunteer training.



St. John Bosco Children's Fund

www.sjbcf.org

Season of Lent 2025

Dear SJBCF Sponsors and Friends,

Lenten greetings! I hope you are doing well. As most of you know, the season of Lent is a 40-day period of time set aside each year for us to deepen our prayer life, exchange bad habits for life-giving ones and to do good for those in need. Lent prepares us to celebrate the Lord's resurrection at Easter. It is similar to the season when grapevines and fruit trees are pruned, the result of which is the production of more fruit.

Speaking of more fruit, I am pleased to report that, thanks to your generosity, SJBCF is supporting 57 students this year. In the Dominican Republic, we assist 13 elementary and secondary students, as well as 10 college students. In Haiti, we support 24 elementary and secondary students, as well as 10 college students.

Sadly, the situation in Haiti continues to be devastating. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, "*Haiti faces a multidimensional crisis with continuing gang violence, mass displacement and severe humanitarian needs. Despite efforts toward stability, the situation remains dire, demanding urgent international solidarity.*" Please continue to pray for Haiti. Though life in the Dominican Republic is not as severe as it is in Haiti, more than 40% of the population lives in poverty. In both countries, poverty is a major factor in determining whether children complete their education.

In October 2024, I traveled to the Dominican Republic to meet with many of our elementary, high school and college students. The highlight of the trip was attending the college graduation ceremony for three of our sponsored students. Thanks to you, those three escaped the cycle of poverty and are making a positive impact on their families and communities.

With your help, we can continue to provide a positive future for children and young adults in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The students and their families are deeply grateful for your generous support.

Peace and all good,

Henry "Hank" Grimsland
Director, St. John Bosco Children's Fund
hankgrimsland@gmail.com
845-594-5597

Congratulations to the three students in the Dominican Republic who graduated in October 2024!



Many of our sponsored students in Haiti and the Dominican Republic:



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 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 17—Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79; Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday 18—Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50; Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday 19—Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary; 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Thursday 20—Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1; Lk 16:19-31

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

Saturday 22—Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday 23—Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; Ps 103; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9

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.