

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 23, 2025

Third Sunday of Lent

“I am who am.” (Exodus 3:14)



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

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Reflection:

This is the name by which the Israelites will know me: "I am who am", God told Moses. This response by God to Moses got me thinking of the importance of names. There is something about a name. Names matter. According to Advance Learner's English Dictionary 'name' (noun) is "a word or words that a particular person, animal, place, or thing is known by, addressed, or referred to.

The first gift most of us received as babies soon after our birth is our name. One scholar has said of names that they "... identify us". Our names are "worn on everything from our personalities to neatly filed documents in a doctor's office." They are often the first thing people learn about us, and they can shape how others perceive us.

Names are important. Very important. We can all remember a time when we felt insignificant or belittled when someone whom we presumed should have known our name forgot it. Or that moment when we were mistaken for someone else. That is why we go to great lengths to protect our names. And rightly so. The book of Proverbs says, "A good name is more desirable than great riches, and high esteem, than gold and silver" (Proverbs 22:1). That is why our parents pick our names carefully. Many of us are named after well-known saints. At Confirmation, we pick yet another name of a saint and pray that we could be more like them in our Christian living.

In many traditional African societies, naming ceremonies are held for every newborn baby. In most African countries, that naming ceremony takes place on the eighth day following the birth of the child - at the beginning of the child's second week on earth, given that most African societies have an eight-day week. In such societies, the naming ceremony announces the birth of the new-born, introduces the child to his or her extended family and the larger community, and above all, it confers on the child a name. The name tends to be passed down through generations or is coined to reflect the circumstances surrounding the child's birth. The name is often chosen by a grandparent. For example, one of my nieces was named "Ma'tika'amafughasimboma", which translates 'What is it that I can give to the Lord'. The choice of this name was influenced by the fact that my elder sister was in marriage for over thirteen years before she and her husband were blessed with the fruit of the womb. There is something about a name.

We can be certain that no English person names their child Edric without thinking about the meaning of the name, which is "power and good fortune". No Irish person names their child Liam without giving thought to the fact that the name means "strong-willed warrior and protector". The Bible has numerous passages that leave us in no doubt that the naming of a child is serious business. On the eighth day after John the Baptist's birth, during his circumcision ceremony, their relatives and neighbors were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother insisted he be called John as the angel Gabriel

had instructed. They answered her, "There is no one among your relatives who has this name" (Lk 1:61). Zachariah, we are told, asked for a tablet, and wrote, "John is his name" (Lk 1:60b). The angel Gabriel also instructed the Virgin Mary to name the child Jesus.

Our names, including names in the Bible, are often seen as a reflection of a person's character, destiny, or purpose. For example, when God called Abraham to leave his native land, Ur, he changed his name from Abram to Abraham, meaning, "The Father of Many Nations". Jacob's name was changed to Israel, symbolizing his new identity and relationship with God. Moses in Hebrew, is a verb which means "to pull out/draw out". When Saul had his conversion on the Road to Damascus, he assumed the name 'Paul' reflecting his new identity and his mission of taking the gospel to the Gentiles. The name Christ, that is attached to Jesus, means "the Messiah" or the "Anointed" one.

To understand better why names matter so much, it is helpful to think about what we would not like to be called. I am not sure that anyone of us would like to name his or her child Devil, or Hitler, or Judas, or Osama bin Laden... for obvious reasons.

In today's first reading God reveals his name to Moses, "I am who am". By this name, God introduces Himself to the children of Israel who were enslaved in Egypt as their deliverer. "I am who am" is in the present tense, emphasizing God's presence and involvement in their lives and by extension in ours as well. The name means that you will see who I am and what I can do for you. This name emphasizes God's self-existence and independence. He is not defined by external factors or circumstances, but by His own inherent nature. It reminds us of God's sovereignty, power, and love. He feels passionately about the problems of his people and will intervene to 'liberate'. Throughout their sojourn in the desert, God remained true to the meaning of this name, fighting and providing for them every step of the way.

My dear brothers and sisters, today, God is giving you a special gift, the gift of His name; "I am who am". It's like God were giving you His private phone number or complimentary card. You can always reach out to me at any time, especially in your time of need. This is an assurance of a special relationship He has with you. "I am who am" - I am there for you. I am the unchangeable God. Are you in distress? Are you going through a difficult moment in your marriage or in your relationship?

PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING FOR 3/16

General Fund.....	\$ 3326.00
Online Giving.....	\$ 2499.02
Maintenance	\$ 45.00
Local Outreach.....	\$ 55.00

Attendance 5 PM—104 9 AM—185 11 AM—105

THANK YOU FOR TAKING A STEP TOWARD A LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP

Are you contemplating divorce or suicide? Know that He hears you as He heard the children of Israel: "I have ... heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers, so I know well what they are suffering. Therefore, I have come down to rescue them." God is passionate as far as your struggles and difficulties are concerned. He loves you despite your sinfulness. He is inviting all of us to be the Moses of our time. He is sending you, He is sending me, to those who are abused and discriminated against.

My beloved brothers and sisters, in your prayers today and this week, thank God for the gift of your name, especially the name 'Christian'. Ask that He may help you to appreciate the significance and meaning behind your own name, and to use it as a reminder of your identity and purpose. Amen!

Some questions for your meditation this week:

What is the story behind your name? What does it mean to you?
 How does your name reflect your identity, values, or personality?
 Saint Bernadette Soubirous, pray for us.
 Fr. Boh (Pastor)

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Tuesday, March 25: The church celebrates the Solemnity of The Annunciation of the Lord. We will have our daily Mass at 9 AM. It is a solemnity but it is not observed as a holy day of obligation. However, we strongly encourage you to attend Mass if your schedule permits.

Fr. Boh will be in Wheeling, WV on Wednesday, March 26th, for Chrism Mass. Consequently, **there will be no Confession or 6 PM Mass this Wednesday evening.**

Stations of the Cross: Join us for the Stations of the Cross every Friday at 6 PM during Lent. This devotion will help you deepen your spiritual journey and prepare you for the celebration of Easter.

Gospel Sharing and Discussion: Join us in MacFadden Hall on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, to read, meditate, share, and discuss the reading for the 4th Sunday of Lent. We'll begin with the Rosary Prayer at 7 PM.
 Happy Sunday!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

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 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.

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, Ruby

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 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—Fr. Boh
Intention for JoAnn Small (+)

Tuesday, March 25th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
 10 AM Stitches from the Heart
 7 PM Gospel Sharing & Discussion - McFadden Hall

Wednesday, March 26th

9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar
Intention for Florence Hartmann (+)
NO CONFESSION OR 6 PM MASS

Thursday, March 27th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
 9:30 AM Teen Religious Ed Class
 9:30 AM Bereavement Ministry Meeting in McFadden Hall

Friday, March 28th

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 29th

3—4:30 PM OCIA
 4—4:45 PM Confession
 5 PM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for the People of the Parish

Sunday, March 30th

8:15-8:45 AM Confession
 9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
 10—11:45 AM Religious Education
 11 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

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 24—2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42; Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday 25—Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord; Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday 26—Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147; Mt 5:17-19

Thursday 27—Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95; Lk 11:14-23

Friday 28—Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81; Mk 12:28-34

Saturday 29—Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51; Lk 18:9-14

Sunday 30—Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

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.