

SAINT BERNADETTE CATHOLIC CHURCH



ST. BERNADETTE DIRECTORY

Administrator, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Boh
Deacon, Marcus Pressl
Parish Secretary, Lynette Kammerer
Music Director, Linda Abrahamian
Sacristan, Kevin Ferrell
Religious Ed., Deb Mackesy
RCIA, Theresa Highlands
Finance Chairperson, Paul Guttman
Youth Ministry Coordinator, Linda Abrahamian
Maintenance, Joe Comer

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday: 9 AM & 11 AM
Saturday: 5 PM
Tuesday: 9 AM
Wednesday: 9 AM & 6 PM
Thursday—Friday: 9 AM

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

1st Friday: Perpetual Adoration of the
Blessed Eucharist after 9 AM Mass
with Benediction at 5 PM

1st Saturday: 9 AM
Rosary immediately following

Confession
Wednesday: 5:20—5:50PM
Saturday: 4—4:45PM
Sunday: 8:15—8:45 AM
or by appointment

109 West Main St. • PO Box 11 • Hedgesville, WV 25427
Phone: 304-754-7830 • Email: office@stbernadettewv.org
www.stbernadettewv.org

Office Hours: Monday—Friday 10am—2pm
Office is located in the Religious Education Building

April 3, 2022
5th Sunday of Lent, Year C

The Adulteress before Christ a painting by Giambattista Pittoni



Jn 8:1-11

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

We are nearing the end of this season; next Sunday is Palm/Passion Sunday. One thing to ask, though, is, how is your Lent going? For me right about the finishing line Lent seems to drag on. It is easy to lose focus as we near the finishing line. That is why we need to remain focused on the horizon before us. Holy Week is soon upon us! Let's focus on giving honor to the Christ who has journeyed with us throughout this difficult season and who loves us more than his own life. Saint Paul in today's second reading from the Letter to the Philippians, full of optimism for the future encourages us to remain focused on our goal as Christians, which is heaven.

The reading gives us the example of Paul who, a Pharisee, and a strict observer of the law, thought that salvation could be earned by following the traditions of the elders. One day he discovered Christ and from then on, all that before he thought so much of, lost all importance for him and he came to consider it "rubbish". He was born and raised in a city where he watched games, races, and fights in the amphitheater, and this had a strong influence on him that he equates our life in Christ as believers with a racecourse. He says that to get to where we are going, which is heaven, we should forget what lies behind us but strain forward to what lies ahead – the goal. He encourages us to press on towards it as best we can. To do this, we need to hold on to God's word as our guide, intensify our prayer life and have an unshakeable faith in Christ. Paul ends up admonishing us to look always to what God wants us to look at, that is, good things, and not spend any time looking at things that will hold us back or distract us on our journey towards this goal.

Let us pray for the faith in Jesus Christ and the courage to push on "to what lies ahead" no matter what comes. We are barely thirteen days away from the great celebration of Easter. Woo-hoo!! Dear friends in Christ, let us stay focus on the journey we started on Ash Wednesday.

Happy Sunday! Have a blessed week.

Fr. Boh

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK

We wish to welcome those visiting us for the first time. Thanks for choosing to come worship with us today. We hope that you feel right at home and please come again. If you wish to register, please pick up a registration form from the Narthex or you can register online by visiting www.stbernadettewv.org

The Pope's Prayer Intention for April 2022: Join the Pope to pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

Wednesday Masses: We have two Masses on Wednesday at 9 am and 6 pm. The 6 pm Mass is preceded by confessions at 5 pm. Please, take advantage of this especially as we prepare for the celebration of the Lord's Passion, death, and resurrection.

Stations of the Cross: Please, be reminded that every Friday during Lent, Stations of the Cross are conducted in the parish church at 6 pm. We are also reminded that fasting and abstinence are observed on all Fridays of Lent by all Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59. Those bound by this rule may take only one full meal; two smaller meals are permitted as necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid food between meals, is not permitted.

Veiling or covering of crosses, statues, and images: Why do Catholics veil crosses, statues, and images in Church during Lent? I know most of us would be wondering why crosses, statues and images have been veiled or covered in our church whereas this has not been the practice. This tradition is not limited to those who attend the Latin Extraordinary Form of the Mass, but it is universally accepted in the United States in both the Ordinary and Extraordinary Forms. Covering crosses, statues and images or "veiling" with unadorned violet opaque cloths begins on the Saturday before the 5th Sunday of Lent. It is an older custom of the Church that remains an option even to this day. Many Churches veil crosses, statues, and images in red or purple cloth during the last two weeks in Lent. This period is traditionally known as Passiontide when we focus more intentionally on the coming events of Holy Week. Covering over the crosses, statues, and images in our churches is a kind of "visual fast" or the "fast of the eyes" and a reminder of this solemn liturgical season. The joy of the Easter celebration is visually communicated when the crosses, statues and images are un-veiled, and the church is beautifully decorated for the Easter celebration.

Blessing of Palms: This will take place at the start of all our next weekend Masses. Palms will be provided.

PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING
GIVING SUMMARY

Reg. Envelopes	\$ 2403.00
Online Giving	\$ 318.15
Capital Improvements & Maintenance	\$ 50.00
Diocesan Collections	\$ 1095.00
Poor Box	\$ 70.60
Loaves & Fishes	\$ 75.00
Mary's Refuge	\$ 100.00

THANK YOU FOR TAKING A STEP TOWARD A
LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK CONTINUED

Easter confessions: Tuesday, April 12th, and Wednesday, April 13th, from 5 PM to 7 PM. These will be the only 2 days for individual confession this week.

Holy Week Mass Program

Holy Thursday: 7 PM Mass with Washing of the Feet. Please sign up in the Narthex. Open to all men, women and children.

Good Friday Service: Stations of the Cross starting at 5:30 PM with service at 6 PM

Holy Saturday Mass: at 8 pm

Easter Sunday: 9 am, 11 am and 2:30 pm for the African Community—all are invited.

WHAT IS GOING ON?

Social Concerns is collecting gently used and new blankets, sheets, towels, and toiletries for the homeless from now until April 23rd. Place donated items in the box located in McFadden Hall. See the flyer in the bulletin for more details.

The **Gardening Committee** is looking for volunteers to help with spreading bagged mulch in our gardens on Friday, April 8th, from 10AM-12 NOON. We will also be doing some minor clean-up around the grounds. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Last call for SYNOD packets! Please return your completed packet by April 10th. Our final listening sessions are planned for April 3rd from 12-1 PM and April 9th from 6-7 PM. You can call the Parish Office to reserve your spot or just show up.

Join the Choir Only for Holy Week and Easter

Do you love to sing, but cannot commit to the choir full-time? Then please consider joining us for Holy Week and Easter! We are practicing next Sunday, March 27th at 10 am and on Monday, March 28th at 7 pm. Call or email Linda Abrahamian, (304)279-2315 or linda.abrahamian@gmail.com to sign up or for more information. You can also speak with her after one of the Masses.

A thousand thank yous! The **Day of Caring for Mary's Refuge** on March 19th surpassed our expectations and hopes many times over. Forty-seven volunteers from St. Joseph, St. James the Greater, St. Leo and St. Bernadette were on site. Driven, determined, committed, the entire three-story building was cleared in one afternoon. There were demolition crews working at the same time. All bathroom fixtures, bedroom sinks, and the kitchen were removed. A new laundry room was begun. The camaraderie and sense of purpose was palpable. What was most touching and inspiring, were the shared stories of our parishioners, who attended the school, been present with the sisters in the Convent and witnessed generations of their families attend. This is indeed a loved Mission for all. Our deepest gratitude to all of you, we are humbled by your loving support.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, April 3rd

8:15—8:45 AM Confession

9:00 AM Mass

Intention for the People of the Parish

10:30-11:45 AM Religious Education

11 AM Mass

Tuesday, April 5th

9 AM Mass

10 AM Stitches from the Heart

Wednesday, April 6th

9 AM Mass

5:20—5:50 PM Confession

6 PM Mass

Thursday, April 7th

9:00 AM Mass

Friday, April 8th

9:00 AM Daily Mass

Adoration following the 9 AM Mass

12 NOON Benediction

11—2 PM Fish Fry Lunch

6 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 9th

4—4:45 PM Confession

5:00 PM Mass

Intention for Bill Mulvey

Palm Sunday**Sunday, April 10th**

8:15—8:45 AM Confession

9 AM Mass

Intention for the People of the Parish

11 AM Mass

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Bernie Guy, Mary Cordelli, Rose Stefanko, Sharee Buberl, Chris Ridley, Bonnie Hart, Margaret Kistner, Angela Ramsey, Kathy Skane, Deb Nichols, Tommy Mackesy, Jammie Mackesy, Msgr. Patrick Fryer, Randy Bookwalter, Kathy Weaver, Jerry Wargo, Nancy Barnholt, Isabella Blackshear, Ginger Spice, and Colleen O'Neill

*Please keep the sick and homebound in your thoughts and prayers.
You may call the Parish Office at 304-754-7830 to add a name to our Prayer List.*

Sacrament of Baptism: Parents must be registered with the Parish Office and must have regular attendance at Sunday Mass for at least six months and are required to attend a Preparation Class 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 also available by appointment at anytime. Please call the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

Rite of Christian Initiation: RCIA (for children 15 and older and adults) or RCIC (for children 7-14 yrs of age). For more information call the Parish Office at 304-754-7830. Preparation for receiving First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation, 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 Guttmann, and Neil Shanholtzer

St. Bernadette Finance Committee: Paul Guttmann, Kacie Morrell Humbert, 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 for assistance.

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.

THIS WEEK'S SUGGESTED LEARNING ON

FORMED

For the adults: Symbolon:

Part 1, Session 5: Who Is Jesus? Just a Good Man or Lord of Our Lives?

For the kids: Lent with Brother Francis. He will post a daily reflection every day of Lent.

Find this week's post on our Facebook page and leave your review in the comments. Links for videos can be found there as well. www.facebook.com/StBernadetteWV

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday 4th—Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62; Ps 23; Jn 8:12-20

Tuesday 5th—Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102; Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday 6th—Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Daniel 3; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday 7th—Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105; Jn 8:51-59

Friday 8th—Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18; Jn 10:31-42

Saturday 9th—Ez 37:21-28; Jeremiah 31; Jn 11:45-56

Sunday 10th—Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion; Lk 19:28-40; Is 50:4-7; Ps 22; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14-23:56

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 one of the Bishop's designees at 888-434-6237 or 304-233-0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Fr. Dennis Schuelkens, ext. 270 or call the Office of Safe Environment at 304-230-1504. Please visit www.dwc.org under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.



CAN YOU HELP????

Social Concerns will be collecting gently used/new blankets, sheets, towels and toiletries for the homeless.

We will be collecting them for three weeks starting

April 3rd – April 23rd.

Some of these items will be distributed to the homeless in the fields.

The other items will be given out at the Outreach program on

April, 26th 5:00 PM

St. John's Lutheran Church,

101 west Martin Street, Martinsburg WV.

This is a good time for spring cleaning and to help those in need.

Please place all your items in the box in McFadden Hall.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.



HOSPITALITY NEWS FOR SPRING

To all Parishioners: You are invited to help us out in the months ahead. Please consider joining us as we prepare to celebrate the Easter Season.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

1. **Final Lenten Fish Lunch Sales on April 1 and April 8.**

2. Sunday Donuts: Thank you Vickie Reid and Jean Ridley for volunteering to host donuts Sunday April 3, 2022

We still need volunteers for the First Sunday of May, June, July, and August.

3. April 24, 2022--Religious Education Teacher end-of-year lunch. We always treat the teachers to lunch thanking them for their hard work and dedication teaching our young people in the faith.

Two volunteers needed to help with this lunch.

4. May 1, 2022--First Communion will be held on Sunday May 1st. We will have a reception in McFadden Hall after 11 a.m. Mass.

We need 2 or 3 volunteers to help set up and serve cake and drinks for this reception.

5. May 19, 2022--Confirmation will be held at 6 p.m., Thursday, May 19th.

Two volunteers needed to help with a dinner for the Bishop after Confirmation.

6. May 22, 2022--There will be a reception for the Confirmation class and their families in McFadden Hall after 11 a.m. Mass.

We need 3 volunteers to help with set up and serving.

Please call any of us with your questions or to volunteer to help.

April Canby 304-995-7745 Carol Sloan 304-975-1572

Bob Kucharek 304-433-0807

PARISH ASSESSMENTS

5 Things You Should Know

What exactly happens to the money you donate at your parish on Sunday?

Where does the money go?

How is it spent?

Here are five important things you should know about the Diocesan Assessment and what it means at your parish.

THE NUMBERS

91 cents of every dollar (or more in many instances) stays right in your parish. The Diocese does, however, assess some collections in the parish.

6% of the Diocesan Assessment is used to fund the Priest Health and Retirement Fund (PHRA). This money does not come to the Diocese but rather is allocated to a separate entity. It is used to support our priests as they age and leave active ministry and enter retirement.

3% of the assessable income is Cathedraticum. This is what is used to provide operational support for the Diocese. The assessment in our Diocese is one of the lowest in the country. What we receive in assessments that the Diocese collects is not alone sufficient to sustain Diocesan operations. The 3 percent is returned to parishes in need, such as mission parishes or parishes that have difficulty covering parish operations through their collections. The assessment is also used to support Catholic Charities West Virginia and Catholic Education.

DEDUCTIONS

Just like with taxes, there are deductions referenced above. Under the current structure, parishes are able to maximize their offertory income by taking advantage of the following deductions:

- The first \$100,000 of offertory and memorial contributions are exempt from the 3% and 6% assessments.

YOUR OFFERTORY DONATION

3% - Cathedraticum

"Amount of parish funds assessed annually by the Diocese."

6% - Priest Retirement Fund

"Non-Diocesan Held"

91% - Stays with Parish



- The first \$150,000 of parish support given to the school is deducted from assessable income.
- The first \$50,000 of parish support given to a Catholic high school is deducted from assessable income.
- The first \$100,000 of total bequests received in a calendar year are exempt.
- The first \$750,000 of principal and interest paid on a DWC or bank loan is deducted from assessable income.
- Approved capital campaign donations are exempt from assessment.

These deductions, which total more than \$1 million, are a great benefit to parishes as they reduce the amount parishes are assessed and increase the resources available for parish needs.

HOW IT IS SPENT

Cathedraticum is given right back to parishes. Currently, only about 75% of parishes across the Diocese are able to pay Cathedraticum. As noted in the recently released audit report, the Diocese collected \$346,339 in Cathedraticum for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021. The receipts from cathedraticum combined with Diocesan Funds subsidized parishes and schools at an expense of \$4,173,384. None of the Cathedraticum collected by the Diocese is used to fund Chancery operations. Cathedraticum is also not used to pay legal fees or settlements.

2ND COLLECTIONS

Second collections are not assessed. These funds are collected for specific agencies outside the Diocese and the parish. Unless conducted by the parish for debt reduction, building funds, etc., the second collection is strictly a pass through the funds are not retained by the parish or the Diocese, but forwarded to the appropriate agency.

SCHOOLS

School funds and fundraisers are NOT assessed by the Diocese. Tuition payments, donations to schools and school fundraising revenues are not assessed by the Diocese in any form. Any Catholic Schools donation goes directly to the school and is used solely by the school for the benefit of students.

To review the
Independent Auditors' Report,
Audited Financial Statements,
and Notes to
Financial Statements
please visit

www.dwc.org

ST. BERNADETTE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FINANCIAL RECAP FOR 2018 – 2021

INCOME

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Sunday Collections	\$ 221,254	\$ 198,530	\$ 172,756	\$ 179,299
Building/Mort/Organ/Maint	\$ 43,429	\$ 34,015	\$ 39,112	\$ 19,857
Memorials & Donations	\$ 53,874	\$ 52,441	\$ 13,200	\$ 87,063
Catholic Sharing Appeal	\$ 8,806	\$ 4,437	\$ 5,383	\$ 10,229
Fund Raising (Net)	\$ 5,207	\$ 6,931	\$ 3,986	\$ 4,788
Other	\$ 1,957	\$ 2,773	\$ 14,595	\$ 3,376
Total Income	\$ 334,526	\$ 299,127	\$ 249,032	\$ 304,611

12/31/2021 Balance Sheet	
Checking+	\$ 345,009
Prepaid Insurance	\$ 8,262
Payables	\$ (33,190)

DISBURSEMENTS

Salaries & Benefits	\$ 80,931	\$ 85,400	\$ 90,798	\$ 94,985
Transportation	\$ 13,475	\$ 13,748	\$ 12,840	\$ 13,603
Office Expense	\$ 4,643	\$ 3,668	\$ 9,167	\$ 9,428
Rectory Food/Supplies			\$ 4,930	\$ 5,500
Liturgical Expenses	\$ 7,481	\$ 6,210	\$ 11,454	\$ 23,918
Ministries	\$ 6,207	\$ 19,019	\$ 5,646	\$ 6,890
Utilities/Fees	\$ 21,020	\$ 22,343	\$ 24,625	\$ 20,380
Maintenance & Facilities	\$ 29,030	\$ 21,526	\$ 48,227	\$ 66,107
Diocesan Fees & PHRA	\$ 160	\$ 3,306	\$ 10,797	\$ 17,232
Mortgage Interest	\$ 3,000	\$ 187		
Mortgage Principle	\$ 167,294	\$ 19,826		
Total Expenses	\$ 333,241	\$ 195,232	\$ 218,484	\$ 258,044

NET INCOME

	\$ 1,286	\$ 103,894	\$ 30,548	\$ 46,568
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Net Cash Available	
12/31/2017	\$ 139,083
12/31/2018	\$ 143,717
12/31/2019	\$ 311,819
12/31/2020	\$ 280,355
12/31/2021	\$ 320,081

COMMENTS:

- 1.) Sunday collections continue on a downtrend and this year we have lost 2 of our largest contributors. Net income increased from 2019 after the mortgage was paid. Total spent on construction and loan interest for the Narthex & kitchen, Church & Education building, not including accoutrements, was \$1,143,000. Loans of \$735K were paid early in 7 and 10 years. This saved St Bernadette parishioners about \$200,000.
The source of the money for buildings and interest was operating funds plus:

1)	McFadden House donation	\$119,409
2)	Building and Mortgage Funds	755,483
3)	IRA Charitable Deductions	99,737
4)	Bishop's Diocesan Fund	100,000
		<u>\$1,074,629</u>
- 2.) Ministries include religious education, youth ministry, social concerns, hospitality and bereavement. It does not include an additional \$21,700 collected from parishioners as a pass through for social concern causes such as Loaves & Fishes, Poor Box, Christmas Stars, Quilt Raffle for homeless. In addition, parishioners gave over \$7500 in Diocesan Collections which is not included in these numbers because it is passed through to the Diocese.
- 3.) In 2021 St Bernadette reached 130% of its Catholic Sharing Appeal goal of \$16,165. Therefore over \$10,000 was returned to St Bernadette with no fees assessed.
- 4.) The major project in 2021 was the renovation of the rectory, last done 14 years ago. In 2022, we will be demolishing the building next to the church at 107 W Main. We also plan to install a new sound system. And we hope you are enjoying the new color bulletins thanks to a new color laser printer. The cost of these were received from the Diocese for technical grant requests. Several other Capital projects are in the beginning stages of planning and estimating.
- 5.) Parishioners have expressed concern about money going to the Diocese. The Cathedralricum is assessed to assist smaller churches especially in Southern WV. An example is the \$100K gift we received towards our Education Building. We are also assessed to help fund the (PHRA) Priest Health and Retirement system. Please see the Bulletin insert.
- 6.) Questions regarding our finances should be directed to our Finance Council. Additional information can be obtained through the Parish Office, our Facebook Page and website (www.stbernadettewv.org).
- 7.) In 2022, let's not forget to participate in the Synodal Process, Catholic Sharing Appeal, Formed.org, Sacraments and care of our properties. **Thank you for your generosity of your time, talent and treasure.**



CATHOLICDISTANCEUNIVERSITY

Renew Your Mind Online

CDU partners with the diocese to offer free non-credit continuing education courses for catechists and those involved in parish ministry. Visit www.pathlms.com/cdu to browse the rich collection of courses and register. Be sure to use the diocesan access code, CDU20DIOCESEWC, during checkout to receive your **free tuition!**

cdu.edu

**Would you like to delve more deeply into your faith?
Look more closely at what Catholics believe?**

Then this course may interest you!!

Survey of Catholic Doctrine Apr 25-May 15
(registration opens Mar 9)

This course will look at some of the major doctrines of the Catholic Church. Participants will come to a better understanding of the Trinity, original sin, church, salvation history, and the communion of saints. We will look at the meaning of magisterium, ecumenism, eschatology, and other Catholic terms.

By the end of the course we will have:

- Understood some arguments for the existence of God.
- Defined revelation as God's communication with us
- Articulated why the Trinity is the central mystery of our Christian faith and life.
- Articulated how Scripture speaks of God as creator
- Described original sin as a condition we are born into where we are inclined toward choosing evil
- Understood Jesus as God's self-revealed
- Understood the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church
- Understood the role of the Church in God's plan of salvation and the relationship of the Catholic Church and other religions
- Articulated how Mary and the saints are models of Christian holiness
- Described the Church's teachings in the area of eschatology

This course will be facilitated by Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu, it is offered through the VLCFF program of the University of Dayton and underwritten by the Diocese, which will cover the tuition and the book. To register please contact Jeanne McKeets at jmckeets@dwc.org



St. Bernadette's Parish Annual Report

My name is Patrick Winkelman and I am current Parish Council President. Today, I want to share a status of the Parish with you. My wife, Shannon, and I have been members of St. Bernadette's for 5 years. It has been amazing to watch the growth and changes in the parish during this time.

Let me start with our Financial Update. The Finance Council does a great job managing the budget and funds received. Thanks to everyone who contributes and to those who gave extra for the building and capital improvement funds over the many years. With this, I want to encourage everyone to give as they are able. Every little bit helps. Our weekly collections are ~\$3500 while the parish expenses are ~\$5000 per week. In the past this difference has been covered by special donations and gifts to the parish, but we can't rely on those each year. It is important that as a parish we cover our financial responsibilities. Weekly envelopes are available through the Parish Office and the parish has an On-Line Giving Tool if you wish to have a direct deduction taken from your bank account. A more detailed financial report is included in the bulletin.

As I mentioned earlier, there have been a lot of changes and growth at St. Bernadette's. In the past 2 years, we have gone from being a mission under St. Joseph's Parish to our own parish. The opportunities to go to Mass, receive the sacraments, and spend time with our Lord have increased. We have Wednesday evening Mass at 6:00, Adoration on Fridays, First Saturday Mass, and increased opportunities for the Sacrament of Confession. Please take advantage of these. In addition, the parish has welcomed the African Catholic Community with a 3rd Sunday afternoon Mass and our youth participates in a 9:00 am Sunday Mass once a month.

There are many ways for each of us to be involved St. Bernadette's. We need more lectors, ushers, choir members, and altar servers. These are great ways to participate at a higher level in the Mass and share your talents with the Lord. Through these ministries, you will be blessed through meeting new people, learning more about the Mass, and developing your own talents.

In addition to participating in the Mass, St. Bernadette's has numerous committees that need your support. Social Concerns is involved with several local charities and supporting the needy in our parish. (Loaves and Fishes, Immanuel House, & home bound parishioners). The Hospitality Committee plans the many wonderful food events (such as Friday fish lunches, apple pie sales, soup sales, & Heritage Days). The Bereavement Committee supports our parish families after the loss of a loved one through notes/cards, a bereavement lunch, & the All-Souls Day Memorial. St. Bernadette's is blessed with both a very active Youth and Cherub Group that participate in charity events across the community and fun, social events like bonfires and movies. I know many of you may think, "I don't have time or can't attend these meetings." These committees can use your help through donations, volunteering for one activity, doing work at home, or preparing for an event. It takes a village, in this case a parish, to make a difference and each gift of time, talent, or treasure can have a big impact on our community.

The Parish Council is planning a Ministry Fair in the future to provide you with more information on all the committees and activities here at St. Bernadette's.

Let me finish by giving an update on the project work recently completed and what is coming for the rest of the year. The Parish Office has been relocated to the Education Building. The Rectory has been given a much-needed face lift and renovations. The maintenance shed and storage areas have been cleaned out. A new St Bernadette's Catholic Parish sign will be installed welcoming everyone. We have received grants from the Dioceses for improvements to the sound system, a new color printer, a portable PA system, and IT/security improvements. The parish purchased the abandoned property next door, and it will be removed within the next few months. Plans will be discussed as to what this space will be used for in the future. There are plans to renovate McFadden Hall and complete maintenance on our parking lot. If you would like to help with any of these projects, please reach out to me or Joe Comer.

In closing, is it great to see everyone back at Mass. After 2 years of Covid, masks, and social distancing, let us pray that Covid is gone and we can return to normal life. Let's encourage fellow parishioners and Catholics to come back to Mass here. We need your ideas on how to reach out to the new families moving into the area. How do we make St. Bernadette's Parish known in the community? Also, as a Parish Council we are interested in what programs you want to see or ideas you have for the parish.

In closing, the Parish Council wants to extend its deep gratitude to everyone here at St. Bernadette's. You are truly making this a rich and thriving Catholic Parish. With your continued support, the parish will continue to grow and reach more people in the area. Our mission is to spread the word of God and invite people back to God's flock. I encourage you to follow the St. Bernadette's Facebook page and read the weekly bulletin to stay current on all the activities and events.