

# 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](mailto:office@stbernadettewv.org)

[www.stbernadettewv.org](http://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](mailto:kevin.a.ferrell@gmail.com)

**Religious Ed.,** Deb Mackesy  
[reled@stbernadettewv.org](mailto:reled@stbernadettewv.org)

**OCIA,** Theresa Highlands  
[tcmulberry@aol.com](mailto:tcmulberry@aol.com)

**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 Saturday: 9 AM Mass  
Rosary immediately following

Confession

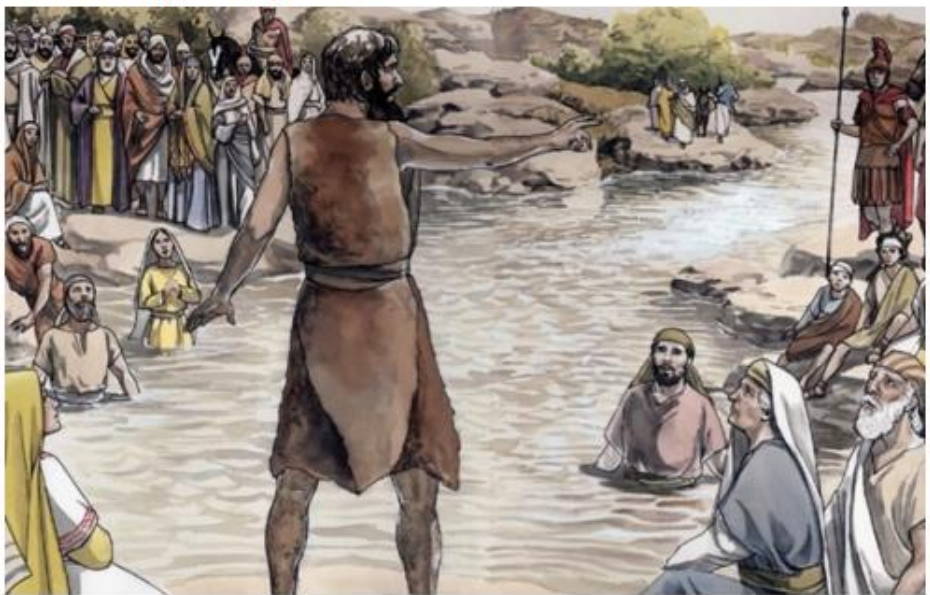
Wednesday: 5—5:45 PM

Saturday: 4—4:45 PM

Sunday: 8:15—8:45 AM  
*or by appointment*

## December 10, 2023 2nd Sunday of Advent

*A voice of one crying out in the desert:  
“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths.”*



### Mission Statement:

St. Bernadette Catholic Church is a Christian community in the Catholic tradition following the direction of the Holy Spirit in building the kingdom of God and the church in Hedgesville and beyond. Through Word, Worship, Ministry, and Service we celebrate our common faith given in baptism. Grateful for our faith, we seek to grow in love toward all. “It is by your love for one another that everyone will recognize you as my disciples.” —John 13:35



## REFLECTION

Theme: "Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God."

Sisters and brothers in the Lord, welcome! Today the Church celebrates the Second Sunday of Advent, Year B. According to the tradition of the Church, today we light the second purple candle that is a symbol of faith. Where do we find comfort when life is overwhelming? How do you handle the news that you are being laid off? When your marriage begins to unravel, or your children live in rebellion, how do you fight the depression and loneliness? We've all experienced times in our lives when we have felt fearful or anxious about the future. We feel a sense of helplessness because we worry about things that are out of our control.

In the morning of Thursday, January 18th, 2018, I received a call from a friend back in Cameroon informing me that my rectory was firebombed by government security forces early that morning. When this news was later confirmed with pictures, I was overwhelmed. I shared the sad news with Fr. Pooch, and he immediately invited my elder brother and I for lunch during which his primary concern was how I was feeling, if I had heard from my bishop and what he is doing about the situation. He also wanted to know what can be done to help me deal with the present situation. This approach by Fr Pooch was very comforting and reassuring. Like I have said, we have all experienced moments of despair in our lives when we are anxious about the future.

The Israelites—God's chosen people were much like you and me. They battled despair as they lived in Babylonian captivity due to their own covenant unfaithfulness. They have been there for seventy years. There were only a small number of the Jews who survived in this far-away land, they were trying desperately to hold on to their memories of their God and his Word—a God who seemed as dead as their land and their hopes. They knew they deserved to be where they were, but now they wondered if God would ever hear their prayers again. And then, in that hopeless situation, God once again spoke a word to his people. God sent a message through the prophet Isaiah that gave Israel new life and new hope: "Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God." Tell them to get ready. They're going home. "Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the Lord double for all her sins." These are comforting words of the Lord to a people in despair and they are meant to arouse a sense of confidence in his people and urge them to put their trust in God. Isaiah worked hard to dissuade the people of Israel from trusting in man, in the power and might of the princes of this

earth and rather turn to God with all their heart.

In the midst of all our hopelessness, St Peter, in the second reading, gives us a message of hope: "Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, ... and elements melted by fire. ... But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." This is the reason Saint Peter is not worried by what will precede the emergence of this new order, as horrible as it may seem.

Like the Israelites, we have turned away from God and today's Gospel message challenges us to a change of heart, just as John the Baptist said to the hosts of people who streamed to the wilderness to listen to his message. He told them that someone would be coming after him who would be greater than he was. So, "Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths." In the same way, if all of us open our hearts to welcome Christ by turning away from all our sins and wrong doings, if we become God fearing and God loving community, then we will have a wonderful celebration of the birth of Immanuel – God with us. This should bring comfort.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

**40 Hours of Adoration:** The scheduled adoration program went pretty well. We thank all those who signed up for the various hours.

**Eucharistic Revival Pilgrimage:** From July 17 to 21, 2024, the Church will gather as one American family at the 10th National Eucharist Congress in Indianapolis, IN. We are asking YOU to volunteer to represent St Bernadette. The entry ticket to the venue will be provided by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, WV. St. Bernadette's will pay for your transportation and lodging—food will be the only thing not provided. Please come to the Parish Office or call and give your name(s) so that we can contact the diocese for the entry ticket(s). Thanks in advance for accepting to represent our parish.

**African Community Mass:** Please join the African Catholic Community next Sunday for their monthly Mass at 2:30 PM in the parish church.

## PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING

General Fund .....	\$ 5962.00
Online Giving .....	\$ 1196.15
Maintenance .....	\$ 753.00
Outreach .....	\$ 1398.00
Diocese .....	\$ 150.00

THANK YOU FOR TAKING A STEP TOWARD  
A LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP



## WHAT'S GOING ON?

Our Christmas schedule is posted on the front door and our Facebook page. Please remember that Christmas Eve Mass does not fulfill your Sunday obligation. Other daily Masses and Saturday and Sunday Mass times will be as usual.

The Decorating Ministry will need help moving flowers from McFadden Hall after the 11 AM Mass on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. Please meet them after Mass if you can help.

Our Youth Group has been busy. Youth Group is open to all students from 6<sup>th</sup>—12<sup>th</sup> grade. Call the Parish Office to get involved.



Lunch at the  
Rescue Mission in  
Martinsburg

Annual Coat Drive



Fun gym night and crafts



## 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, Carol Bogacz, Jackie Crouse, Kevin Lathwell, John Scofield, PJ Yurish, Dorothy Knipe, Rebecca Ramsey

*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, December 10th**

8:15—8:45 AM Confession

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for the People of the Parish*

11 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for Nestorine Boh*

**Tuesday, December 12th**

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for Melanie Missenis*

10 AM Stitches from the Heart

**Wednesday, December 13th**

9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

*Intention for Karen Mruk*

6 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

**Thursday, December 14th**

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

**Friday, December 15th**

9:00 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for Nestorine Boh*

**Saturday, December 16th**

9—10:30 AM OCIA

4—4:45 PM Confession

5 PM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

*Intention for the People of the Parish*

**Sunday, December 17th**

8:15—8:45 AM Confession

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for Katherine Kuchinsky*

10 AM Tree Lighting & Decorating

11 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

*Intention for Nestorine Boh*

2:30 African Mas

*Fr. Pooch has indicated that he is not available to celebrate Mass with us until the end of April 2024.*



**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 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](http://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 35:1-10; Ps 85; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday 12th—Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe; Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; (Ps) Jdt 13; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday 13th—St Lucy, Virgin and Martyr; Is 40:25-31; Ps 103; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday 14th—St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church; Is 41:13-20; Ps 145; Mt 11:11-15

Friday 15th—Is 48:17-19; Ps 1; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday 16th—Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday 17th—Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; (Ps) Lk 1; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

### 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](http://www.dwc.org) under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.

# Christmas Flower Offering

Christmas flowers and decorations for St. Bernadette Catholic Church are supplied through donations given by members in memory of deceased loved ones or in honor of the living. If you wish to make such a memorial, please fill out the envelope found in the Narthex and place your gift in the collection basket or turn it in to the Parish Office by **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**.

