

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

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 3, 2023

1st Sunday of Advent

On the first Sunday of Advent the “Hope” candle is lit



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: "Prepare Your Heart for the Coming of Christ at Christmas"

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, Welcome!

It's hard to believe that we are only twenty days away from Christmas. Today is the first Sunday of Advent. This is also the beginning of the Church's Liturgical calendar year B. Advent is a very special time of the year (four weeks) that is set aside for the preparation of the nativity of Jesus Christ at Christmas. It is a season of hope and a period during which as Christians we await the fulfillment of the promise of God through his prophets. It is also a season of patient waiting and prayer. "Advent" is from the Latin word "adventus", which simply translates as "coming" or "arrival." As we begin this new Liturgical year, we move from the gospel according to Matthew to the gospel according to Mark, the shortest of the four canonical Gospels.

The Advent Season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today. The Advent season invites us to step away from what can be a frenzied time of parties, shopping, and holiday noise to consider how we commemorate the birth of Jesus, one of the holiest times in Christian faith. It is also a time to reflect on the triumphant return of Jesus at the second coming. But we can miss His presence because we are too distracted and busy doing things that do not really matter. That's why Jesus encourages us to 'stay awake', else we will miss Him when He comes. The world has many distractions, and these daily distractions make it very difficult for us to be constantly "watchful" and "alert." To think that we can divide our attention between the presence of God and the distraction of the world is an indication that we do not understand the attentiveness and watchfulness to which we are called. Being watchful and attentive simply means that God is central in our lives and is the motivation and purpose of all we do every day.

We cannot let the busyness of this season overshadow our spiritual preparation for a holiday designed to celebrate God's love and sacrifice — Emmanuel, God with us. We must prepare our hearts to receive and respond to the gift of Christ out of God's love for us. During these four weeks, what are we expected to do? We are expected to prepare for the birth of the messiah. It suffices to note that while we prepare physically, the most important must be the spiritual preparation. Advent season invites us to step away from what can be a frenzied time of shopping and holiday noise to consider how we prepare our hearts and homes to commemorate the birth of Jesus, one of the holiest times in our Christian faith. Ann Voskamp writes:

"We're ready for Christmas, not when we have all the gifts, but when we are ready for Christ—when we're ready to give all of ourselves to Christ."

Here are some practical suggestions as to how you can prepare your heart this Advent season for the celebration of Christ's coming to us at Christmas:

Seek the Lord in prayer. Set aside some quiet time in your heart in the busyness of daily life to be in communion with the Lord.

Create time to have some personal moments of reflection.

Celebrate the Sacrament of Confession.

Dear friends in Christ, it suffices to note that if we light up our houses and streets, without lightening up our lives spiritually for Christ to walk into it; if we prepare all things and places without preparing a manger for baby Jesus in our lives then, our preparation would not be complete.

Lord, give us the grace to prepare our hearts accordingly for your coming to us at Christmas. May you find us ready and watchful whenever you come.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Up Coming Events!

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting: This meeting has been slated for Tuesday, December 5th at 6 PM in the Religious Ed Building. All are invited to attend.

40-hour Adoration of the Blessed Eucharist: Dear Parishioners, make sure you sign up on the sign up found in the Narthex for the 40-hour Adoration of the Blessed Eucharist parish program from Wednesday, December 6th thru Friday December 8th. The program shall begin immediately after 9 AM Mass, followed by an introduction by Fr Boh.

Pope's Prayer Intention for December 2023: For persons with disabilities. We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

I wish you the very best this Advent season!

May Saints Bernadette and Francis Xavier, (Priest), pray and intercede for us.

Fr Boh (Pastor)

PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING

General Fund	\$ 3347.00
Online Giving	\$ 543.27
Maintenance	\$ 25.13
Outreach	\$ 295.00

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING A STEP TOWARD
A LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP**

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Please sign up to spend 30 minutes with Jesus during our 40 Hours of Adoration to be held December 6th—8th. See the sign up sheet in the narthex.

Reminder—Monday, December 8th, is The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be at 9 AM and we will finish our 40 hour Adoration with Benediction at 5:45 PM and Mass at 6 PM.

From July 17 to 21, 2024, the Church will gather as one American family in Indianapolis. 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. 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.

Sweats for Vets

Saint Joseph School is joining forces with the Animal Health Clinic of Funkstown, employer of an SJS parent; VFW Post 1177 in Leesburg, Va.; the Ancient Order of Hibernians; and Knights of Columbus Council 12791 in Potomac Falls, Va., to collect sweat suits for veterans hospitalized at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Martinsburg. If you would like to participate in Sweats for Vets, please bring **NEW** sweat suits (sets preferred) in all sizes (with a focus on XL, 2XL, 3XL and 4XL, and colorful sets for women) to the school office through **Friday, Dec. 15**. Please do not wrap the sweats, but instead tie each set with Christmas ribbon. If possible, please put your name on the label. Monetary donations also will be accepted in the form of checks written to Martinsburg VAMC. The sweats will be sorted at VFW Post 1177 on Dec. 26 and delivered to the Martinsburg VAMC on Jan. 20, 2024.

December Birthdays Below is a list of those celebrating birthdays in December. If you see them when you are out and about, wish them a Happy Birthday!

Jeffrey Ferrell	Colleen Liles	Benjamin Recchi
Mary Crotti	Lynette Kammerer	Jose Boursiquot
Francis Donato	Michael Kammerer	Elizabeth Conley
Joseph E. Wojcicky	Justin Gould	William Domich
Terry Melnick	Theodore Sternemann	Mary Osborne
Alicia Boswell	Shelley Bowling	Thomas Bibby
Joseph Guttmann	Evan Nichols	Victoria Burton
Gregory Hess	Anne Robertson	Timothy Stefanko
Kathy Heerd	David Copenhaver	James Nucilli
Jon Kempfer	Margarita Lannon	Rebecca Nucilli
Michael Weaver	Neoptolemos Melonas	Daniel Zaycosky-Null
Henry Bleigh	Gabriel Rodriguez	Joseph Tost
Donald Hicks	Neil Bellman	Jacob Shifflett
Aubrey Swisher	Betty Boyce	Phillip Wingerd
Jackie Cornell	James Cotter	

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, Tom Knutson, John Scofield

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 3rd**

8:15—8:45 AM Confession

9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

Intention for Helena Shenk

10 AM Donut Sunday

10:15—11:45 Religious Education

11 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for the People of the Parish

Tuesday, December 5th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Clinton Brown

10 AM Stitches from the Heart

6 PM Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 6th

9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

9:30 AM—Midnight Adoration

6 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

Thursday, December 7th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

9:30 AM—Midnight Adoration

Friday, December 8th

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

Intention for Clinton Brown

9:30 AM Adoration

6 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Nestorine Boh

Saturday, December 9th

9—10:30 AM OCIA

4—4:45 PM Confession

5 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Katherine Kuchinsky

Sunday, December 10th

8:15—8:45 AM Confession

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for the People of the Parish

10:15—11:45 Religious Education

11 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

Intention for Nestorine Boh

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. 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 4th—Is 2:1-5; Ps 122; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday 5th—Is 11:1-10; Ps 72; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday 6th—Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday 7th—St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; Is 26:1-6; Ps 118; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday 8th—The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Saturday 9th—Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday 10th—Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

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.