

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 10am—2pm; Fri 10am—12pm

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., 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: 5:20—5:50PM

Saturday: 4—4:45PM

Sunday: 8:15—8:45 AM

or by appointment

July 23, 2023
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time



The Parable of the Weeds Among the Wheat

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In the Boh compound in my native village, Njinikom, Cameroon, still stands an avocado tree that we once encouraged our dad to cut down because it was producing very bad avocados. Our father did not yield to the pressure our mom and all of us brought to bear on him. Two or three years later, turned out that the avocado tree we had wanted our dad to cut down, started producing the best avocados of all the three avocado trees we had in our compound.

Our readings for this weekend's liturgy remind us of God's immense mercy and His forbearing patience. The first reading (Wisdom 12:13, 16-19) highlights that God "cares for all" of us. He governs us "with much lenience" and is "lenient to all". He, who is "master of might", judges us "with clemency", would "permit repentance" for our sins, and does not punish anyone unjustly. The reading closes with a warning in the form of advice: "those who are just must be kind".

Patience, care, leniency, clemency, forgiveness of wrongs done or of sins committed and tampering justice with kindness are all virtues that all of us, notably the most powerful in our world tend to lack. We often complain about the evil in the world and wish God would uproot all evils and those who perpetrate them.

Unlike God, whom the psalmist acclaims as "merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in kindness and fidelity", many of us who wield only a little bit of power over our brethren tend to abuse that power or use it maximally. We think that not to use it, is to show that we don't possess it. But contrary to this human approach, the reading from the Book of Wisdom tells us that even though God possesses all power, God is not a tyrant. He is so gentle that no challenge to His power can provoke a violent response, as is the case with human dictators or strongmen.

A beautiful illustration of this fact, which is at the same time a wonderful illustration of the difference between us and God, is found in our gospel passage today. The man who sowed the seed is surely God and see how He contains with the impatience of his servants (represent us), who take a great interest in the field and go to their master and asked to uproot the weeds immediately. The master's answer to the request reveals God's attitude towards the evil that exists in the world, in the Church, and in every individual.

Unlike us, humans, God does not consider anyone of us as irredeemably evil or as purely good. Like the weed which the master of the field allows to grow with the wheat, God is patient with us in our evil ways and gives us a long rope to draw in the hope that we would turn from evil. He allows both evil and good to grow and thrive in our world, pending the time of judgment when the Angels will be sent out to separate the lamb

from the sheep; those who have been saved from those who are condemned to the fires of Hell.

The big lesson to draw from today's readings is the need for us to be patient with one another. Those who wield power should combine it with justice and kindness. Jesus is telling us that good and evil will always grow together, and it will be like that to the end of time. The separation will not happen now, or today, or this year. It was thanks to our dad's patience that we were able to enjoy and continue to enjoy the good avocados that this so called 'good for nothing tree', according to our judgment produced and is producing.

Permit me to end this reflection with these words of Flor McCarthy: "While we distinguish clearly between good and evil, we must aim at being as understanding and tolerant as God is. The time for judgement is not yet. The Kingdom of God is still at the growing stage. Now is the time for conversion. People can change. We can change" (New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies, Year A). May God help us to become little more as He is. Amen.

God bless you!

May Saint Bernadette Soubirous pray for us.

Fr Boh, Pastor

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Welcome to St Bernadette! This weekend we celebrate the 16th Sunday in Ordinary time. A special welcome to those brothers and sisters who are worshiping with us for the first time. Thanks for choosing to worship with us this weekend. You are always welcome.

Since the demise of my sister-in-law, Nestorine Boh, several people have asked me how they can help. People can make a donation to St. Bernadette's in memory of Nestorine or they can contribute to a GoFundMe page to help offset the costs of her funeral and burial.



PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING

General Fund	\$ 4396.00
Online Giving	\$ 1801.39
Outreach.....	\$ 268.00

THANK YOU FOR TAKING A STEP TOWARD
A LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP

WHAT'S GOING ON?

St. Bernadette's would like to thank Huse Electric for the wonderful job they did updating the lighting in the church, narthex, and vestry this past week. The staff was talented, professional, and very accommodating. They went above and beyond the job at hand to brighten up the entire building. THANK YOU!

Vacation Bible School will be held August 7th, 8th, and 9th from 5 PM—8 PM. This is a FREE event with dinner included. Please find sign-up sheets in the narthex. Call the Parish Office if you have any questions.

Tickets for our Crab Feast Fundraiser are on sale this weekend before and after all Masses. Tickets can also be purchased in the Parish Office during working hours. Mark your calendars for August 10th from 4 PM—8 PM.

Catholic Daughters Martinsburg Court # 392 would like to invite any lady eighteen and over to our August 8th meeting at 6:30 PM at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 108 W. Stephen St., Martinsburg, WV. You may contact Monica Straley Court Regent at 304-240-4901 or email Monica at mlstraley05@gmail.com. Thank you and hope to see you there.

If you are:

- Non-Catholic who wants to find out more about the Catholic Faith
- Want to join the Catholic Church through Baptism, or Profession of Faith
- Were baptized Catholic as an infant but never received religious education, Confirmation, or First Eucharist

OCIA is for you. Classes start Saturday, August 12th. Call the Parish Office to sign up today.

St. Bernadette Religious Education Program is looking for **Substitute Teachers** for all grades. Religious Education starts September 10th. Please call the Parish Office if interested. Thank you.

Saint Joseph School is seeking:

Teachers' aides for its infant/toddler and prekindergarten programs

Substitute teachers for all grades

Long-term substitute for second grade

Please send a letter of introduction and résumé to Principal Maria Byrd at mbyrd@sjsvw.org.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Mary Cordelli, Sharee Buberl, Bonnie Hart, Angela Ramsey, Kathy Skane, Msgr. Patrick Fryer, Randy Bookwalter, Ginger Spice, Joe Schlegel, Walter Shenk, Isabella Horning, Robin Marlin, Betty Foley, Beverly Barrett, Cathy Poplawski, Tim Umrysz, Theresa Comer, Victoria Porter, Bob Baker, Theresa Highlands, Betty Beniot, Hank Chase, Monica Straley, Freddy Highlands, Margaret Klover, Virginia Brock, Daniel Niedzwiecki

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, July 23rd

8:15—8:45 AM Confession

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Virginia Brock

11 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Jene Traficante

Tuesday, July 25th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Nancy Corrigan

Wednesday, July 26th

9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

Intention for Edward J. Hickey

5—5:45 PM Confession

6 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

Thursday, July 27th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Friday, July 28th

9:00 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Adoration following the 9 AM Mass

12 NOON Benediction

Saturday, July 29th

4—4:45 PM Confession

5 PM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

Sunday, July 30th

8:15—8:45 AM Confession

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for the People of the Parish

11 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

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 Guttmann, and Neil Shanholtzer

St. Bernadette Finance Ministry: Paul Guttmann, 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 24th—Ex 14:5-18; (Ps) Ex 15; Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday 25th—St. James, Apostle; 2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126; Mt 20:20-28

Wednesday 26th—Sts. Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Ex 16:1-5, 9-15; Ps 78; Mt 13:1-9

Thursday 27th—Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b; (Ps) Dn 3; Mt 13:10-17

Friday 28th—Ex 20:1-17; Ps 19; Mt 13:18-23

Saturday 29th—Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus; Ex 24:3-8; Ps 50; Jn 11:19-27

Sunday 30th—1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12; Ps 119; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52

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.