

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 10am—2pm; Fri 10am—12pm

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: 5:20—5:50PM

Saturday: 4—4:45PM

Sunday: 8:15—8:45 AM

or by appointment

September 17, 2023

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time



The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

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 calling all of us out of sin, God wants us to be like Him in love and in forgiveness. Our readings for this 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Church Year A, focus on one of the two most important godly virtues of love and forgiveness. They focus on forgiveness, except for the Gospel Acclamation in which Christ's commands to us: "love one another as I have loved you".

The two virtues – love and forgiveness – are inseparable, in my opinion. Genuine love is made possible by forgiveness and forgiveness is impossible without love. It is God's pure love that makes forgiveness of sins possible.

Forgiveness is, therefore, not something we earn or can expect to earn. It is not something we merit or deserve. It is not like a wage to which we are entitled after working a certain number of hours on the job. God's love is a product of His infinite mercy, compassion, and forgiveness of our sins. He did not send His Only Begotten Son to die on the cross for our sins because we earned it. As the Psalmist says, God is "kind and merciful, slow to anger and rich in compassion".

Today's readings are an invitation to all of us to examine our consciences and answer a few tough questions. How do we treat those fellow brothers and sisters whom we consider to be in our debt? Do we show them mercy and compassion? Or are we like the servant in today's gospel passage, who is quick to plead with the master (God) for forgiveness of his own debt; but shows no pity to his fellow servant who is indebted to him?

The clear message from today's readings is that we cannot pray to God for forgiveness of our sins while refusing to forgive one another. The story in our gospel passage (Mt 18:21-35) goes further. It warns that even the forgiveness we may have received shall be taken away from us and we shall turn over to the torture of Hell if we fail to forgive others their trespasses. In more practical terms, we should not expect forgiveness of our sins if we are unwilling to forgive our spouse for erring against us. God will not forgive us if we are unwilling to forgive our parents, our children, our siblings, our co-workers, our friends.

The Gospel message reinforces the counsel from the Book of Sirach. Our first reading (Sir 27:30-28:7) sounds the alarm bells on those of us who spend our lives tightly hugging "hateful things. God invites us anew today to set enmity aside, to stop hanging onto "wrath and anger" and advises against seeking vengeance: "The vengeful will suffer the Lord's vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail".

In answer to Peter's question, Jesus instructs us to forgive our brothers and sisters not just seven times; but seventy-seven times. Just in case you are trying to add up how many times your brother or sister has wronged you... let me quickly add that Jesus is not inviting us to keep a count of the number of times we have been wronged. Christ is not setting a limit to the number of times we should forgive one another. Christ is not saying should your brother or sister wrong you a 78th time, you should then say "bingo"! This time around I no longer have an obligation to forgive you. Quite the contrary.

In biblical numerology, the number seventy-seven really means countless or a limitless number of times. In other words, our duty as Christians to forgive should know no bounds, no limits. The very nature of covenant we have with "the Most High", as we hear in our first reading, is to "overlook faults". Saint Paul adds to it in our second reading (Rom 14:7-9) by reminding us that our lives do not belong to us: "None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself," he writes in his Letter to the Romans. "We are the Lord's," he adds "whether we live or die".

Let us pray that God should strengthen our faith to love one another as Christ has loved us and to forgive our brothers and sisters from our hearts as recommended by today's gospel - not only seven times, but seventy-seven or countless number of times. Only then can we pray and expect God to hear our own prayers for forgiveness of our sins. May we never lose sight of the fact that it is only when we forgive others from our heart that we can hope that we will not, like the wicked servant in the gospel, be cast into the hands of the torturers (in Hell) when our days in this world are over.

God bless you!

May Saint Bernadette Soubirous, pray for us.

Fr Boh (Pastor)

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Beloved sisters and brothers, welcome to Saint Bernadette! We gather around the table of the Lord to listen to Him speak to us in His Word and nourish us with the Bread of life. We welcome those who are worshiping with us for the first time. Please know we are glad that you chose to worship with us this weekend. Know that you are always welcome. For those who are new in the area and are looking for a parish family, consider joining Saint Bernadette.

Martinsburg's Vicariate Pastoral Council: We shall be electing two members from our parish community to serve in the Martinsburg's Vicariate Pastoral Council. This election will take place in our parish during the weekend of Saturday September 30th and Sunday October 1, 2023. Meanwhile we shall be accepting nominations throughout this week. Please, write the name or names of those who think can serve in this capacity and drop it in the box provided for this purpose in the Narthex or call the parish office during working hours 8 AM—2 PM Monday thru Thursday and 8 AM—12 PM Friday and give the name or names. This will enable us to contact those who have been nominated within the week and publish a list of those who have accepted the nominations on the Sunday Bulletin prior to the election dates of Saturday September 30th and Sunday October 1, 2023.

PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING

General Fund	\$ 4526.00
Online Giving	\$ 1192.90
Maintenance	\$ 591.00
Outreach	\$ 211.00

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

CONTINUED FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Volunteers needed to bring Holy Communion to the sick and housebound: I am grateful to all those who have been helping to bring Holy Communion to our brothers and sisters who are either sick or housebound (be they relatives, or friends, or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion). Volunteers are still needed to bring Holy Communion to our sister Kathleen Hall at the address: 55 Radcliff Dr. Falling Waters, WV 25429 every Tuesday. Please let me know if you are available to help.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Our next **Parish Council meeting** is this Tuesday at 6PM in McFadden Hall. All parishioners are invited to attend.

The Bereavement Ministry will be having a meeting on Thursday, September the 21st, immediately following the 9:00 AM Mass in the Religious Educational Building. New members are always welcome, please come and join us.

Encouraging our Youth to Be Active in Their Faith- Sunday, September 24th- 4 – 6 PM All middle and high school students are invited to the Youth Group event at JayDee's in Inwood on Sunday, September 24th from 4 – 6 PM. You are welcome to bring a friend. We will meet briefly over pizza to discuss our group and activities for the year, and then play miniature golf. For questions or to RSVP, please call the Parish Office at 304-754-7830 by Tuesday, September 19th. Or call or email, Linda Abrahamian 304-279-2315, linda.abrahamian@gmail.com.

The Cherub Ministry is still looking for parents interested in their younger children participating in fun activities throughout the year. Please fill out a registration form so that we can start to plan the activities accordingly. See flyer for more detail.

Annual Apple and Pumpkin Pie sales will be held the last weekend in September after all Masses. We need help making the pies on Thursday, September 28th and Friday the 29th. Meet April and the apple peelers after the 9 AM Mass.

Catholic Daughters, Martinsburg Court #392 is hosting bingo, a bake sale, basket sale, and silent auction to benefit Saint Joseph School on Sunday, Oct. 8, at Saint Leo Catholic Church in Inwood. Doors open at noon; games begin at 2 PM. Some proceeds will also benefit Saint Leo Catholic Church. Tickets cost \$30 in advance. For more information, call Judy at 703-928-4977 or email CDA392BINGO@gmail.com.

Saint Joseph School (SJS) is seeking a maintenance supervisor to keep the school buildings and grounds clean, in good repair and orderly condition, while supporting and advancing the mission of the school. The full-time position pays \$14 to \$18 hourly. To apply, please send a letter of introduction and resume to Principal Maria Byrd at mbyrd@sjswwv.org.

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, Victoria Porter, Bob Baker, Betty Beniot, Hank Chase, Freddy Highlands, Linda & Bernie Guy, Carol Bogacz, Jackie Crouse, Jean Ridley

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, September 17th**

8:15—8:45 AM Confession

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Religious Education Teachers

10:15—11:30 Religious Education

11 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

Intention for Mary Montaño

2:30 PM African Mass

Tuesday, September 19th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

9:30 AM Stitches from the Heart

5:15 PM Eucharistic Minister of
Holy Communion Meeting

6 PM Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 20th

9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

6 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

Thursday, September 21th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

9:30 AM Bereavement Ministry
Meeting—Rel Ed Bldg

Friday, September 22nd

9:00 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Nestorine Boh

Adoration following the 9 AM Mass

12 NOON Benediction

Saturday, September 23rd

9—10:30 AM OCIA

4—4:45 PM Confession

5 PM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

Intention for Edith Krieg

Sunday, September 24th

8:15—8:45 AM Confession

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Ernie Montaño

10:15—11:30 Religious Education

11 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for the People of the Parish

4—6 PM Youth Group at

JayDee's Family Fun Center, Inwood

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 18th—1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28; Lk 7:1-10

Tuesday 19th—1 Tm 3:1-13; Ps 101; Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday 20th—Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gön, Priest, and Paul Chông Ha-sang, and Champions, Martyrs; 1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111; Lk 7:31-35

Thursday 21st—St. Matthew, Apostle and evangelist; Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19; Mt 9:9-13

Friday 22nd—1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49; Lk 8:1-3

Saturday 23rd—St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest; 1 Tm 6:13-16; Ps 100; Lk 8:4-15

Sunday 24th—Is 55:6-9; Ps 145; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

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.

CHERUBS

This program is designed to work with our younger congregation members to help teach them the servant's heart through special activities and teachings. We would like to see this as an opportunity for the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten, that are not attending Religious Education, to learn about our faith.

If you are interested in your child/children participating in the program, please reach out to Sarah Bleigh or Shanna Fisher so that we can start to plan the activities accordingly.

Sarah Bleigh
(call or text) 304-886-9741

Shanna Fisher
(call or text) 240-382-9198

Child's Name _____ DOB _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Would you be interested in helping with the program? Yes / No



Special Thanks

A special thank you to all who helped make our summer events a huge success and a very fun time.

The picnic on Sunday was a well-attended event with lots of fun had by all who came. We had good food, fun games, and fabulous company in abundance -- with no rain! *Please save the date for September 8, 2024, for another great picnic celebration.*

Hospitality will be selling Pumpkin and Apple Pies September 30th and October 1st for \$12.00 each. These pies freeze well and if you are looking ahead to the holiday season buy yours now. **We need help making these pies. Plan to come Thursday, 9/28 and Friday, 9/29 after the 9 AM Mass to help peel apples and prepare pies.**

October 7th from 8 AM to 3 PM Hedgesville will celebrate their annual Heritage Day. St. Bernadette's will be selling pulled pork sandwiches and bake sale items.

Please come to support your parish and local community.

Hospitality Update

If you are interested in helping with any of the activities coming up, please fill out your name and email and phone number.

We will be in touch with you to answer any questions you may have about all we do here at St. Bernadette's.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



201 South Mary Street
Hedgesville, WV

Help Fill the Pantry 2023

September Bread and Eggs

Monetary donations are being accepted to assist with the purchase of bread and eggs.

October Hamburger Halloween Candy

Monetary donations are being accepted to assist with the purchase of hamburger.

*** Refrigerators and freezers are available**

Additional Pantry items are always needed

Pasta Sauce, Pasta, Canned Fruit, Soup, Peanut Butter,
Mac & Cheese, Canned Vegetables, Baked Beans, Rice, Syrup,
Pancake Mix, Cereal, Hamburger Helper

**Monetary donations can be made to St. Bernadette
Catholic Church with Loaves & Fishes on the memo line.**

**For more information contact:
Karen - 301-992-1368 or Bill - 571-216-9320**