

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

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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 24, 2023

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time



The Late-arriving Workers, from Art in the Christian Tradition

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: "We Must Not be Envious Because God is Generous".

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
The joy of parents overflows when their unemployed son or daughter finds gainful employment. That joy overflows when that son or daughter is recruited on an open-ended contract, allowing them to keep their jobs until retirement or until they choose to quit or resign.

Our readings for this weekend Masses, remind us that God is running a job fair that has extended an open-ended contract to all of us. All of us have been invited by God to enter full employment in his vineyard. The job comes with full pay in the joys and happiness of Heaven, not only for a lifetime, but for all eternity.

Today's gospel passage (Mt 20:1-16a) reassures us that the job fair God is running for his vineyard is open for hiring at all hours: at dawn; at nine o'clock; during the noon hour; during the mid-afternoon, or just before the close of business. The bottom-line is God does not want us to be idle. Rather, He wants us working in his vineyard and He promises us full pay in the joys and happiness of Heaven, whether we are hired in the first hour or during the last hour of business.

The ongoing strike by United Auto Workers who are mounting pressure on the Detroit Big Three auto makers – Ford Motor Company, General Motors, and Stellantis – to offer fair salaries, highlight how human beings reward each other compared to how God rewards us. The best part of the open-ended contract God has extended to us is in the certainty that God is just, and his generosity is boundless. Unlike human beings, God will reward all of us justly.

We are, therefore, not to be jealous of any fellow Christian just because we think that they worked for only a short time in God's vineyard but will be as handsomely rewarded as those Christians who toiled in the vineyard all their lives. As human beings, we think that it would be just and fair for the workers who toiled from the very first hour to be rewarded at a higher pay scale than those who worked only during the last hour. God's generosity gives us "what is just" should never be compared to the generosity of human beings who tend to be stingy with generosity.

Lest any of us should get comfortable thinking that they will be first by joining God's workforce last; lest any of us be misguided into waiting until the last hour of our lives to be hired into God's vineyard, the Prophet Isaiah in our first reading (Is 55:6-9) warns that it may be too late to find God or join God's work force.

Accordingly, the Prophet Isaiah encourages all of us to "seek the Lord while he can be found, call him while he is near". For, while God is "generous in forgiving" our transgressions; while God "...is near to all who call upon him", we will not know any of God's forgiveness unless we "turn to the Lord for mercy". We are encouraged to return to a God "who is generous in forgiving." And it is in this context of forgiveness and mercy that Isaiah says, "My thoughts are not your thoughts ... my ways are above your ways." We are never to compare God to human beings. For God's thoughts are not our thoughts. What are our

thoughts? Usually, we think of strict justice, fair dealings. We could say we stick to the rules. We do not cheat but we do not want to be cheated either. We do not want to be losers, so we make sure other people won't have from us more than they deserve – "in all justice" we say. God is more than just, He is generous. And this is not easy for us to understand. God is so much greater than our understanding. He Himself tells us very clearly as the prophet Isaiah notes: "As high as the heavens are above the earth so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts".

We know this, yet at times, we would like to tell God what He should do. We may not speak out loud what is in our minds, but we think: "If I were God, I would do things differently". When we hear today's gospel, we may think: "He is just, yes, but ..." "Yes, but ..." This may suggest that we feel a little jealous. Perhaps Jesus could tell us as He did to the worker: "Why be envious because I am generous?"

Let us pray for the humility to recognize that whatever reward we will receive from God is just and is given, freely, to us by God. Our reward is not earned by how many hours or how many days or years we convince ourselves that we have toiled in the vineyard of God in this world. Let us pray for the grace not to be envious when God shows his generosity to all, even those we think are not deserving of God's love, recognizing that God's ways are not our ways; nor are God's thoughts our thoughts.

God bless you!

May Saint Bernadette Soubirous, pray for us.

Fr Boh (Pastor)

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear brothers and sisters, welcome!

A special welcome to those worshipping with us for the first time. We hope you enjoy your stay with us and please come again.

Martinsburg Vicariate Pastoral Council: We are currently accepting nominations for two members of our parish community to serve on the Martinsburg Vicariate Pastoral Council. A box has been provided for you in the Narthex to drop off the name or names of those you have nominated. The election will hold next Sunday October 1, 2023, after the 9 AM Mass. Please be generous to avail yourself to serve our parish in this role if elected. Thanks in advance.

Wednesday Evening Mass: We are reminded that we have Holy Mass in our parish church every Wednesday at 9 AM and at 6 PM. The evening Mass is preceded by confessions from 5—5:45 PM.

PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING

General Fund	\$ 2249.00
Online Giving	\$ 1960.53
Maintenance	\$ 25.00
Outreach	\$ 159.00

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

WHAT'S GOING ON?

The Martinsburg Vicariate includes 13 parishes, 2 chapels, and 1 school in the WV Panhandle and is led by the Very Rev. Timothy J. Grassi, Vicar Forane. **The Vicariate Pastoral Council** serves as a representative body to these parishes, chapels, and school in the ministry of education, service, worship, and stewardship providing continuity of the Diocesan mission between its members.

Weekend of September 24th – Take nominations for Martinsburg Vicariate Council

Weekend of October 1st – Vote for 2 representatives from St. Bernadette's

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.

The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (SCN) have been invited to St. Bernadette's to speak as part of the annual Missionary Cooperation Plan 2023. Sister Susan Gatz will speak at all Masses next weekend, September 30th and October 1st, on behalf of the SCN ministries which began in the United States in 1812, expanded to India in 1947, Belize in 1975, Nepal in 1979, Botswana in 2000, and Kenya in 2021.

The Sisters of Charity Nazareth were founded in Bardstown, Kentucky in 1812: Through their ministries of healthcare, education, and social service, SCNs carry the message of Christ's love to those who most need help throughout the world. (Learn more about the ministries of the SCN Congregation at www.nazareth.org.)

The Sister will share stories about their ministries here in the United States as well as in their foreign missions and invite us to be a part of their ongoing commitment by participating through our prayers and financial assistance. A special collection will be taken up for their missions. We know that, as always, you will be as generous as you can.

The Youth Group will participate in a Life Chain in downtown Martinsburg on Sunday, Oct. 1st from 2 – 3 PM. Life Chain is a peaceful gathering of prayer and public witness. The purpose is to bring Christian people together in prayer to end abortion. Life Chain is not political or confrontational. We will be on the corners of King St and Queen St and will begin with a short group prayer a few minutes before.

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@sjswv.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 24th**

8:15—8:45 AM Confession

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for the People of the Parish

10:15—11:30 Religious Education

11 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Ernie Montaño

4—6 PM Youth Group at

JayDee's Family Fun Center, Inwood

Tuesday, September 26th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Thomas Mackesy

9:30 AM Stitches from the Heart

Wednesday, September 27th

9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

Intention for Bernice Mackesy

6 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

Thursday, September 28th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Friday, September 29th

9:00 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Nestorine Boh

Adoration following the 9 AM Mass

12 NOON Benediction

Saturday, September 30th

9—10:30 AM OCIA

4—4:45 PM Confession

5 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for Margaret Walker

Sunday, October 1st

8:15—8:45 AM Confession

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Intention for the People of the Parish

10 AM Donut Sunday

10:15—11:30 Religious Education

11 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

Intention for Nestorine Boh

2—3 PM Life Chain—downtown
Martinsburg

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 25th—Ezr 1:1-5; Ps 126; Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday 26th—Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Ps 122; Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday 27th—St. Vincent de Paul, Priest; Ezr 9:5-9; (Ps) Tb 13; Lk 9:1-6

Thursday 28th—Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149; Lk 9:7-9

Friday 29th—Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, archangels; Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab; Ps 138; Jn 1:47-51

Saturday 30th—St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church; Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; (Ps) Jer 31; Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday 31st—Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32

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.