

# 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 Guttmann

**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 17, 2023

### 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

Rejoice in the Lord, always; again I say rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near.  
(Phil 4:4-5)



## 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 friends in Christ, this weekend we celebrate the third Sunday in Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is Latin for Rejoice! Today is appropriately called Gaudete Sunday because the coming of Israel's redeemer, our Savior is soon to be fulfilled with the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Thus, the theme of 'REJOICING' is central to our celebration today. It is a very special Sunday in the Church. The priest dresses in a pink chasuble, as well as the third candle of the Advent wreath, also pink, is lit to represent joy in anticipation of Christmas. It is particularly beautiful because within the atmosphere of attentively waiting for the arrival of the savior and austerity, the liturgy pauses to invite us to remember that we must look forward to it with joy; that is why it is called 'Sunday of joy'. And truly our Mass this day is one of rejoicing. From our entrance antiphon where we sing "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near," to our opening Collect, where we hear of celebrations and rejoicing and to our readings especially the first reading where the prophet Isaiah highlights the signs associated with the Messiah's arrival; healing to broken hearts, liberty to captives, and a year favored or blessed by the Lord.

What does it mean to be joyful? Joy, we should remember, is one of the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). To be joyful in the Christian sense is more than a happy feeling. It is a lasting emotion that comes from the choice to trust that God will fulfill his promises. It entails living an authentic Christian life; that is, turning away from sin and all that entices us, and returning to God wholeheartedly. Joy is not just an emotion but is also an internal spiritual disposition. It can persist in the harshest of circumstances because it depends on God and his promises. "Blessed are you when they insult you, persecute you, and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven" (Mt. 5:11-12). To live happily and walk joyfully before God we must be totally connected to Him in sincerity of purpose and integrity of life. This is a life of fruitfulness that comes from Christ Himself, and not from stereotyped observance of religious duties and stipulated rites.

The redeemed Christian should experience peace in this life, even amid the storms of life. I once watched a video of an Ethiopian Airplane that crashed shortly after takeoff. On board that airplane were two religious nuns who throughout all the moment of turbulent remained calm and apparently were in prayer as the plane made its way to its final crash. I could hear the screaming of the other passengers on board the airplane. These two religious nuns were at peace despite their imminent death. This is the kind of peace that one can have not because you like your life circumstances, but because you know God loves you, and He promises to be with you always, even into eternity. If you have a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ, God will equip you with His unique peace, that is not fragile, but will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus!

And so, we can ask ourselves, are we at peace? When we look at our lives, are we at peace? Amid the many

activities of this advent season, have we been at peace? And if not, why not? Our God is a God of peace, he gives peace, and as we grow in relationship with him, we will grow in peace. That is one of the key indicators of how we have progressed in our relationship with God especially during this Season of Advent.

God wants us to experience His peace in our hearts. May we make good use of these remaining days of Advent to prepare ourselves so that we can be joyful recipients of the peace that Christ brings to us at Christmas, a peace that this world cannot give.

God bless you!

May Saint Bernadette Soubirous, pray for us.

Fr Boh

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

**I want to remind you** that on Wednesday, December 20th from 4:00 pm to 5:45 pm, we will have Penitential Service in preparation for Christmas in the parish Church. Mgrs. Ansgar and I shall be there to help with your confession.

**At the request of Bishop Mark**, I would like to invite you to put on your calendar that we'll be having a special collection on the weekend of January 13-14, 2024, for the Holy Land region. The money collected will be sent to The Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), a papal agency for humanitarian and pastoral support. They will provide the essentials of water, food, and emergency kits on the ground in the Holy Land. CNEWA has offices in the region and know where and what kind of help is needed the most. May we continue to pray for peace and for all those who have suffered losses during this war. Details in our subsequent Bulletins.

**Christmas Tree Lighting:** We shall have our Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony today Sunday, December 17th, immediately after the 9 AM Mass in McFadden Hall. Please try to be part of this ceremony. Thanks in advance.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction:** "Could you not watch with Me one hour?" (Mt 26:40) Exposition and adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament takes place every Friday immediately after morning Mass and ends with Benediction at 12 NOON. Please come and spend some quiet time with our Eucharistic Lord!

**Finally**, I am very happy with the participation during our 40 hours adoration of the Blessed Eucharist and attendance at the Masses for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary last Friday, December 8th.

## PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING

General Fund .....	\$ 3112.00
Online Giving .....	\$ 4362.15
Maintenance .....	\$ 415.00
Outreach .....	\$ 475.00
Diocese .....	\$ 739.00

**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.

**The office will be closed** Monday, December 25th, and Tuesday, December 26th, for the observance of Christmas.

**Diocesan Collection for December 25th:** Catholic Charities West Virginia—Guided by God's love, Catholic Charities WV collaborates with community partners, parishes, and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change. For clarification, however, we want you to know that donations made to Catholic Charities WV remain at Catholic Charities WV. No portion of any donation that is given directly to Catholic Charities WV goes to the Diocese, nor is there any such expectation from the Diocese. Donors can rest assured that the funds given directly to Catholic Charities WV go to help those in need throughout the state of West Virginia.

**Monday, January 1st** is not a Holy Day of Obligation but we will have Mass at 9 AM to honor the Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God.

**Saint Joseph School is seeking a teacher's aide** for a classroom of toddlers. Aides support teachers in planning and implementing daily programs. Job responsibilities include ensuring the daily care of every child by following all licensing guidelines and the school's standards of care. Aides also help maintain a fun and interactive environment that is clean and organized. If you are interested, please send a résumé to Katie MacKinnon, PK director, at [kmackinnon@sjswv.org](mailto:kmackinnon@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, 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, Abby & Libby Conley

*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 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

#### Tuesday, December 19th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

10 AM Stitches from the Heart

#### Wednesday, December 20th

9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

*Intention for Jean Ridley*

4-5:45 PM Confession

6 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

#### Thursday, December 21st

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

#### Friday, December 22nd

9:00 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for Christina Ndifor*

#### Saturday, December 23rd

9—10:30 AM OCIA

4—4:45 PM Confession

5 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for the People of the Parish*

#### Sunday, December 24th

##### Christmas Eve

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for Christina Ndifor*

11 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

*Intention for Katherine Kuchinsky*

5 PM Nativity of the Lord Vigil Mass

Family Mass—Fr. Boh

7 PM Nativity of the Lord

Nighttime Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for June Williams*

#### Monday, December 25th

##### Christmas Day

##### Office Closed

9 AM Nativity of the Lord

Daytime Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for Michael Ridley*

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Parents must be registered with the Parish Office and are required to attend a Preparation Session 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 18th—Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72; Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday 19th—Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71; Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday 20th—Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Lk 1:26-38

Thursday 21st—Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 2:14-18a; Ps 33; Lk 1:39-45

Friday 22nd—1 Sm 1:24-28; (Ps) 1 Sm 2; Lk 1:46-56

Saturday 23rd—Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25; Lk 1:57-66

Sunday 24th—2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

### 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.