

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 24, 2023

4th Sunday of Advent

Unto Us a Child is Born (Isaiah 9:6)



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

Reflection from "My Catholic Life": 'A Journey of Personal Conversion'.

The hour is nigh; the long-expected approach of our master will soon be at hand. As is naturally the case, we are hustling and scurrying about to set our homes in order and complete our final arrangements. We are much like King David in our first reading. We are aware of our blessings from God, and we seek to express our love to him and one another. We do so by buying and preparing things. And there is a true good in this, just as there was a true good in King David desiring to build the temple to the Lord on account of his blessings.

But what does the Lord say to David? You are not to build the temple. He does not say that he is wrong to desire to do so, but that the Lord will make known when it is the proper time. Instead, the Lord reminds David once more of the blessings he has bestowed upon David, and that he will bless David even further with an eternal inheritance. This is another way of God saying, I will serve you, David, your descendants, and the whole people of Israel. Likewise, for us, God is coming to serve us, to aid us. How good are we at accepting help? Do we allow people to help us, particularly when we want to be the ones offering help?

Furthermore, there is a reason why God does not accept David's offer to build the temple: David is a man of blood. He has been a warrior for much of his life, and he has made serious mistakes in his life. The Lord desires one with less "baggage" to build the temple. We must note, though, that God does not reject David as a person, because he knows the goodness in him and the desire of David's heart to seek the Lord. So, God affirms his goodness while also serving David so as to call David beyond himself. So too with us, the Lord affirms our good desire to serve one another, while also reminding us that we have sinned and he wants to minister to us so that he might heal us of our sins, if we would let him.

In a similar way, the Lord comes to Mary and announces the great work that he will do with and through her. He will do the impossible, she will become a mother while remaining a virgin. Not only that, but this child will fulfill the promise made to David; he will be the long-expected Messiah. The Lord comes to serve Mary and his people, and how does Mary react? Her heart was greatly troubled. Would we not respond in the same way if we heard such a message? If we heard God say that he was not only going to be so humble as to minister to us, but that in doing so he would do something so extraordinary and wondrous, how would we respond?

In her response to the invitation, she speaks plainly and directly: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." In this answer she conceives of the Holy Spirit, the Son of God becomes incarnate in her womb, and God dwells amid his people. The great mystery of salvation which St. Paul spoke of is set in motion. The humble ministry of God in flesh has begun. The recreation of creation begins with a young woman who accepted God's invitation to minister to her and in turn, through her, the whole world.

As with Mary, the Lord of the universe is about to arrive

and knock upon the doors of our hearts. We have had weeks to prepare for this moment. When he arrives, will we allow him to wait upon us at table? Will we allow the divine bridegroom to minister to us, his bride? May Mary's words be ready on our lips: "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Amen.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Pastor's Christmas Message to the Church.

Dear Parishioners,

I would like to take a moment to wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas. As we celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas, may Hope, Peace, Love and Joy be born in our hearts not just this Christmas day, but the whole year and beyond. This Christmas, as at every Christmas, we celebrate Christ's presence among us; Immanuel – God with us. May we be a people of faith and joy that rejoices in the light and hope that Christmas brings. May we be Christ's light to this world that can seem so lost in darkness. In the joy of this day, we welcome into our midst friends who have joined us for the first time to celebrate the Eucharistic Sacrifice. A special welcome to those who are returning to Church today from a long absence or even a short one, for whatever reason, may the joy of this celebration fill you. We pray that you will be part of our Eucharistic celebration every other Sunday of the coming year and beyond.

We lift to God members of our parish community who will be spending their first Christmas without the physical presence of a loved one due to death. We ask that God should comfort them with His loving presence and grant eternal rest to those who have died.

My sincere gratitude to each one of you for your commitment this year to make Saint Bernadette 'a place beautiful for God'. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all the volunteers who have worked so hard to make our Christmas celebrations truly wonderful. A special thank you to our office manager, and the devoted members of the various ministries in our parish and especially to those who work quietly, behind the scenes all the time to make our parish vibrant. Know that the giving of your time, talent, and treasure to the Lord continues to reflect God's presence in our community. I would like to challenge all of us to become more involved in the life of our parish. Know that it is not so much a question of giving more; it is a question of giving more of ourselves. It is with humble joy that I thank God for the honor to serve you as your Pastor. Thank you for all your support and prayers, they have kept me going.

I wish you a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with heavenly blessings of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy.

God bless, Fr. Boh, Pastor

PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING

General Fund	\$ 2646.00
Online Giving	\$ 1786.78
Maintenance.....	\$ 30.00
Outreach.....	\$ 130.05

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

The Blessing, Lighting, and Decorating of Our Christmas Tree



WHAT'S GOING ON?

The office will be closed Monday, December 25th, and Tuesday, December 26th, in 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.

Stitches from the Heart will not meet on December 26th or on January 2nd. We'll see you back on January 9th. All are welcome to join us at 10 AM every Tuesday in the Religious Education Building.

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.

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, Jackie Crouse, Kevin Lathwell, 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 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
Intention for Mary Hengemihle
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

Tuesday, December 26th
Office Closed

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Wednesday, December 27th

9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar
4-5:45 PM Confession
6 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

Thursday, December 28th

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for Jen Conley

Friday, December 29th

9:00 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for Christina Ndifor

Saturday, December 30th

4—4:45 PM Confession
5 PM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar
Intention for the People of the Parish

Sunday, December 31st

8:15—8:45 AM Confession
9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for Judy Copenhaver
11 AM Mass—Fr. Boh
Intention for Nestorine Boh

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. 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—The Nativity of the Lord; Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

Tuesday 26th—St. Stephen, first martyr; Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31; Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday 27th—St. Joh, Apostle and evangelist; 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97; Jn 20:1a and 2-8

Thursday 28th—Feast of the Holy Innocents, martyrs; 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Ps 124; Mt 2:13-18

Friday 29th—1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96; Lk 2:22-35

Saturday 30th—1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96; Lk 2:36-40

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.



2023 Christmas Flower Offering



Donated By: **In Memory Of:**

Bonnie & Ray Hart	Dillian Kube
Charles Deal	Dolores T. Deal, The Carr & Deal families
Vici Trauger & family	Trauger, Puch, Snider, Hessler, & McGill families
Anonymous	Charlotte G & Theodore R Sternemann <i>In Honor Of:</i> Missy Howard
Elizabeth Shaw	Carmen Shaw
Robin Marlin	Larry Marlin
Poplawski family	Chester Poplawski
John & Jane Batten	Deceased members of the Batten & Andrews family
Gene & Janice Stevens	Margaret K Schrier, James R Schrier
Monica Straley	Jim, Rose, Veronica, Straley & Raffala Ceraralo
James Wynkoop	Helen Wynkoop
Judy Boland	Gerald Boland
Ann & Dave Gentile	Vincent & Ann R Gentile & Peter Mathe
Sande & Rick Roscoe	Adele & Anthony Costa & John & Jane Roscoe
Pelletier family	Robert J Nyzio
Lee Ann Sansume	Jack Hose
Dorothy & Tom Foley	Kelsey Hafen