

# SAINT BERNADETTE CATHOLIC CHURCH



## ST. BERNADETTE DIRECTORY

109 West Main St. • PO Box 11 • Hedgesville, WV 25427

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[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

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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—5:45 PM

Saturday: 4—4:45 PM

Sunday: 8:15—8:45 AM

or by appointment

## December 31, 2023

### Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



#### 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

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH  
December 31, 2023

Reflection "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly".

My best, or better put, the most inspiring homily I have ever preached was the second homily as a deacon. It was the practice in my Major Seminary in those days that the deacon to assist at Mass, be it in the Seminary Chapel or in the parish Church, had to present his homily to the main celebrant (a seminary formator) for his approval at least two days in advance, without which, you cannot preach. I was to assist on the first Sunday of Lent, and I did what was expected of me by the seminary roles. The main celebrant asked me to pick up my homily after breakfast that Sunday morning. It was good to go. When I finished proclaiming the Gospel at that Mass, it sounded to me like that was my first time reading that gospel text. My message that morning was quite from the message I had in prepared and rehearsed homily.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. In other versions it says: "Let the message of Christ, in all its richness find a home in you" (Col. 3:16). Richness and home are the two words that attract me most. Saint Paul wishes the Colossians that the message of Christ in all its richness may find a home in them. You may come to the realization of the richness of the message of Christ if on a Sunday you have had the privilege to attend two or three masses and listen to different priests give their reflection on the same passage of Scripture. I have the privilege of listening to members of our Gospel Sharing Group share what and how God's Word has touched them during our gospel sharing every Monday evening. It's quite amazing how varied messages can emerge from the same biblical passage, with each one of the messages taking its relevance from the same text. It is at such moments that I discover that the wealth of the gospel message is enormous indeed. You can return repeatedly to the same scripture passage and discover, upon each return, that you stumble upon another perspective to the passage which did not occur to you at earlier readings. This was my experience as a deacon on that First Sunday of Lent.

If the message of Christ in all its richness is to make its home in us, then we must look to our respective families today to see if they are modelled after the Holy Family of Nazareth, if they also qualify to be referred to as Holy families in their respective turns. We could see that the message of God in all its richness had its home in Joseph when we consider his role in the Holy Family. He was able to allow God to talk him into acting on what he thought to be the most civil way of reacting to the horrible discovery he made about Mary's pregnancy, which he played no role in. How many of us can allow God to talk us into letting go of premeditated lines of action which look answerable and responsible in the eyes of men but worthy of moderation when put before God? How many spouses would return to loving-relationship with their spouse if they discovered that they were carrying a pregnancy or another woman was carrying a pregnancy, which they played no role in their coming about or their spouse cheated on them?

We can be quick to say that the Holy Family's case was

different, that the child they found between them was God. You and I know today that Jesus is the Son of God, but I can assure you that this was not so with either Joseph or Mary, from the very beginning. Their knowledge of Christ grew with time. But, before then, they were simple parents who were disposed to act not on human instincts but were ever open to God. The fact is that, if you make room for God to influence your decisions, you will grow to discover that God comes to identify with you, as was the case with Joseph and Mary. May the feast we celebrate today dispose us to make room for God in our practical decisions so that the message of God in all its richness may indeed find its home in us and bear fruit in us.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today is the last day of the year 2023. Tomorrow, we begin the new year 2024. Happy New Year to you! Each new year's day the Catholic Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. 'Mother of God' is a title derived from the Greek word "Theotokos", which means "God-bearer". Mary's divine motherhood was proclaimed at the Council of Ephesus in 431: 'That in Christ there are two natures, one divine and one human, but only one person'. Mary being chosen by God, the Father, to bring Jesus Christ into this world, and her willingness to do so is great cause for celebration. This is not a holy day of obligation in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, WV this year, therefore, Mass attendance is not required.

At the start of this new year, as is the case every year, we all have our hopes and expectation for the new year, but God alone knows what the year holds for us, and He alone can fulfill these hopes and dreams. It is appropriate, therefore, that we seek the intercession of Mary and her prayers on our journey through the new year. She is always ready to help us in obtaining those graces from her Son Jesus. May God give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet whatever challenges lie ahead of us in the new year.

**A Word of Gratitude** Dear Parishioners, permit me use this medium to say once more 'thank you' for the generosity that you have shown throughout the year regarding your support to St. Bernadette parish. Thank you for your sacrifices and commitment to our parish. I pray God to bless and reward you for your dedication and devotion to our beloved parish.

Thanks for your support to me in the form of cookies, cakes, cards, prayers, and so many thoughtful gifts. This continues to be a great source of strength and encouragement for me. I wish you and your families a blessed, peaceful, healthy, and prosperous New Year in 2024.

## PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING

General Fund .....	\$ 2847.00
Online Giving .....	\$ 1841.27
Maintenance.....	\$ 60.00
Christmas Collection .....	\$ 4583.00

THANK YOU FOR TAKING A STEP TOWARD  
A LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP



## CONTINUED FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

We are reminded of the First Friday and First Saturday Devotion. Each First Friday and First Saturday of the month, we must make a Communion of Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

**The Pope's Prayer Intention for January 2024 - For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church:** Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

My sisters and brothers in Christ, with hope and strong faith in God, let us go forward through this New Year of 2024. May Our Lady Queen of Peace cover us with her mantle. Amen.

Saint Bernadette Soubirous, pray for us. Fr. Boh (Pastor)

## WHAT'S GOING ON?

Fr. Ansgar sends a heartfelt THANK YOU! to all those who were so generous to him over the holidays.

**The office will be closed** Monday, January 1st, in observance of New Year's Day.

**Stitches from the Heart** will not meet 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** we will have Mass at 9 AM to honor the Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God.

**Save the Date:** January 15th from 11 AM—6 PM Fried Chicken Dinner at St. Bernadette's!! Watch out for our flyer.

**January Birthdays** Below is a list of those celebrating birthdays in January. If you see them when you are out and about, wish them a Happy Birthday!

Mary Cay Hess	Vincent Gould	Mary Beth Cornell
Alexander Wakelin	Kristopher Domich	Kaitlyn Canby
Michael Liberto	Marie Hogue	Robbie Glover
Ana Finney	William Ulicny	Gloria Grimsley
Atalim Kao	Tara Liles	Joseph Comer
Breanna Weaver	Ava Cotter	Kyle Ayers
Marcus Huntsberry	Lawrence Stritch	Lisa Zier
Noah Nucilli	Madison Atha	Natalie Copenhaver
Ronald Robertson	Richard Wine	Rebecca Folk
Melinda Warburton	Jeremiah Nichols	Clara Wine
Natalie Britner	Isabella Warburton	Zachary Kammerer
Alana Boyce	Melissa Carter	Anna Opal MacKinnon
Scott MacKinnon	Sylvia Montgomery	Michael McGuire
Tara Wilburn	Tyler Hott	Jean Ridley
William Struemke	Jackson Divver	Andrew Britner
John Robertson	James Bell	Karen Barnhouse
Matthew Beutler	Kelly Divver	Wayne Montano

## 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 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*

**Monday, January 1st**

**New Year's Day**

**Office Closed**

9 AM Nativity of the Lord

Daytime Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for Michael Ridley*

**Tuesday, January 2nd**

**Office Closed**

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

**Wednesday, January 3rd**

9 AM Mass—Msgr. Ansgar

*Intention for Tom & Bernice Mackesy*

5-5:45 PM Confession

6 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

**First Thursday, January 4th**

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for Jen Conley*

**First Friday, January 5th**

9:00 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

Adoration following the 9 AM Mass

12 NOON Benediction

**First Saturday, January 6th**

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for those who are persecuted*

Rosary immediately following

4—4:45 PM Confession

5 PM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for the People of the Parish*

**Sunday, January 7th**

8:15—8:45 AM Confession

9 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for Lynette Kammerer*

11 AM Mass—Fr. Boh

*Intention for Donald Wood*

**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 1st—Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God; Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday 2nd—Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church; 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98; Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday 3rd—1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98; Jn 1:29-34

Thursday 4th—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious; 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98; Jn 1:35-42

Friday 5th—St. John Neumann, Bishop; 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100; Jn 1:43-51

Saturday 6th—1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38

Sunday 7th—The Epiphany of the Lord; Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

## 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.