

Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 20, 2024



The Twelve Apostles, fresco by Enrico Reffo, 1914
San Dalmazzo Church, Turin, Italy



SAINT BERNADETTE
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 20, 2024

welcome



SUNDAY MASS	Saturday Vigil in church 5pm (live-streaming) Sunday 7am, 9am, 11am, 1pm (Spanish), 5pm
DAILY MASS	Mon.–Fri., 7 & 9am (live-streaming); Sat., 8am (live-streaming) Holy Days of Obligation, as announced
LIVE-STREAMING	Monday–Friday, 9am; Saturday, 8am; Vigil Sat., 5pm and Sundays 9 & 11am
DEVOTIONS	Adoration & Benediction, Fridays, 7-8pm (church) Rosary after 9am weekdays/8am Saturday Masses in church Taizé Prayer Service, 3 rd Mondays, 8-8:45pm (church)
CONFESSION	Sat., 3:30-4:30pm, or by appointment. English and Spanish Confessions
PARISH OFFICE	703-451-8576, fax 703-269-1121 office@stbermpar.org Monday–Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm
	Pastor, Fr. Don Rooney frdonrooney@stbermpar.org Fr. Jeb Donelan frjebdonelan@stbermpar.org Fr. James Waalkes frjameswaalkes@stbermpar.org Deacon Orlando Caicedo
	Pastoral Associate, Rick Caporali rcaporali@stbermpar.org Business Manager, Linda Patterson lpatterson@stbermpar.org Music Director, David Mathers dmathers@stbermpar.org Executive Assistant, Evelyn Vargas, evargas@stbermpar.org Admin. Asst., Maria Paniagua, mpaniagua@stbermpar.org Secretary, Janet Chávez-España
SAINT BERNADETTE SCHOOL	703-451-8696, fax 269-1121 Principal, Dr. Kathleen Burgess school@stbermpar.org Assistant Principal, Emily Reid Registrar, Heidi Thomes
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	703-451-8576 Director, Lynn Jones Ljones@stbermpar.org Admin. Asst., Victor Mendez vmendez@stbermpar.org
YOUTH MINISTRY	703-451-8576 Director, Grace Rihl grihl@stbermpar.org
BAPTISMS	Saturday, 10am. 1 st and 2 nd Saturdays in English; 3 rd Saturday in Spanish. Parish registration is encouraged for parents. Class attendance is required. Please contact the parish office to schedule at least four weeks in advance. All required paperwork must be submitted before a baptism may be scheduled.
WEDDINGS	Sat., 12 & 2pm. Parish registration encouraged; contact a priest at least six months in advance of desired date.
JOIN US	You are welcome! Registration forms are available in the church vestibule, office, or online www.stbermpar.org .
	Articles for the bulletin must be submitted to the parish office no later than first thing Friday morning, ten days before publication date. bulletin@stbermpar.org .

calendar

october

- 20 Sunday, TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
• Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 11am
- 21 Monday, Weekday**
• Parish pilgrimage to France begins, until November 2
• Taize prayer for unity in the church, 8pm
- 22 Tuesday, Weekday [Saint John Paul II, Pope]**
- 23 Wednesday, Weekday [Saint John of Capistrano, Priest]**
- 24 Thursday, Weekday [Saint Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop]**
- 25 Friday, Weekday**
• Adoration, 7pm in the church
- 26 Saturday, Weekday**
• **ECHO YARD SALE** starting at 8am in the gym
• Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 27 Sunday, THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
• Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 11am
- 28 Monday, Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles**
- 29 Tuesday, Weekday**
- 30 Wednesday, Weekday**
- 31 Thursday, Weekday**
• **ALL SAINTS' DAY** Vigil Mass 7:30pm, Holy Day of Obligation

november

- 1 Friday, ALL SAINTS' DAY - Holy Day of Obligation**
• Masses at 7 and 9am, Noon, and 7:30pm (bilingual)
- 2 Saturday, ALL SOULS' DAY**
• Masses for All Souls' at 8 and 10am
• Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 3 Sunday, THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
• Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 11am
- 4 Monday, Saint Charles Borromeo, Bishop**
- 5 Tuesday, Weekday**
- 6 Wednesday, Weekday**
- 7 Thursday, Weekday**
- 8 Friday, Weekday**
• Adoration, 7pm in the church
- 9 Saturday, The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**
• Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 10 Sunday, THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
• Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 11am

announcements

ALL SAINTS' DAY, Friday, November 1, is a Holy Day of Obligation. We will follow our usual Holy Day schedule: Vigil Mass Thursday evening, Oct. 31 at 7:30pm, and Masses on November 1 at 7 and 9am, Noon, and 7:30pm (bilingual)

The **All Souls' Day (Saturday, November 2) Masses** will be offered at 8am and 10am for all our deceased. Remember loved ones in the **All Souls' Day Novena of Masses.** All Masses November 2-10 will be offered for those included in the novena. Remembrance envelopes in which you may include the names of your deceased family or friends are in the vestibule of the church and parish office. To participate please fill out one of the envelopes with your donation and return them to the parish office before Nov. 2.

Join us for our monthly (third Monday) **Taize Prayer Service** on Monday night, October 21, 8 - 8:45pm. Come for a peaceful moment of simple song and silence and pray for unity.

from the pastor

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

As you might know, week-before-last I participated in an ecumenical forum for a group now 20 years in existence, Christian Churches Together. At the CCT Forum were 40 different denominations and the topic was the Holy Spirit and what the Spirit is saying to the churches. How do we authentically share what we ourselves hear from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit does not deny himself from anyone who asks.

Here are the three statements and leading actions that concluded our week together:

1. The Holy Spirit anoints each individual, not for their own sake, but toward communion. The charisms of each must be identified and acknowledged to build up the Body of Christ to full stature, each and every person equally. To deny this Spirit in the other is the cause of division: you are somehow less than I. This is the systemic problem of racism, genocide, discrimination and colonialism. *Action:* We must trust that the Holy Spirit can do / is doing / will accomplish this work of perfecting us toward the transformation into divine nature, or *theosis*, of all people. This positive anthropology needs to be introduced as a light into the darkness of our world.
2. We must hold each other accountable to this sacred trust. "Who but the Church can help us understand history as the People of God?" asked a bishop of the Church of God in Christ at Mason Temple in Nashville. If we aren't writing our own stories they will be rewritten by others. We must preserve this truth / history for our youth who desire to know it and connect more deeply in community. *Action:* We must witness to, and record the truth which forms the narrative of our history, and our identity in faith.
3. We must affirm the process of *receptive ecumenism* which we have experienced together this week. (Receptive ecumenism is a dialogue for the sole purpose of listening intently to, and receiving the truth spoken by others about themselves so that we may grow together. It is basically what the Church calls the *synodal* process.) This week, we have focused on the Spirit, we have listened better and trusted more than any forum before. It is an effective method of dialogue and we have used the model more effectively and grown into, and with each other. *Action:* Commit to bringing this method of dialogue to our own community and between communities after we return home.

So let's start with ourselves. I propose this question for your dialogue in your homes and gatherings: Why is the number of Christians (Catholics) declining? Why are so many of our children losing heart and leaving? Why have so many people simply given up? (This is a question that people of all religions are asking.)

I was having a conversation with a colleague just recently. He said that he has been wondering about the reason so many people who are unaffiliated with any particular religion, who claim to be "spiritual" but not "religious."

He said to me, "I wonder sometimes if I am 'religious' but not 'spiritual'?" The silence that followed was itself a dialogue, so much to say and not really knowing how to say it.

What if we have not given an example to others of the Spirit that must necessarily form the foundation of our religious practice? Religious rites aren't rites of passage or gestures that define us in some sort of cultural way. But isn't that how they often define the life of the Church, really, in our practice?

An onlooker who might be uncatechized, or poorly catechized, who is watching us might interpret an empty observance of rites and laws without the exchange of love responding to God's outpouring of love as nothing more than hypocrisy. Not attractive, the shell of religion might seem to most to be an empty, superfluous (even dishonest) waste of time – especially for a person who is seeking a living relationship with the Divine who they might glimpse is seeking them.

I've talked about this before: is the Church – is our community – based on compliance? Or commitment? Going through the motions, frankly, just gets old. Some people may have super powers of slogging through it for years, but that isn't what Jesus is asking of us. He wants our hearts, he wants us to have life, his life, to the full. He wants to turn our discipline into discipleship so that the truth, beauty and goodness we have found in him goes out to all the world.

He wants us to listen intently to and receive the truth he is speaking to our hearts so that we may grow together, first with him, then with one another. Commit first to bringing this method of dialogue into your own life of faith. Maybe we will discover together that our being in God together is the most precious part of life.

The Lord be with you. *Fr. Dom*

Student Council elections

In addition to providing students with a strong academic program, Saint Bernadette Catholic School offers students a wide variety of activities and opportunities in which to participate. Whether interests lie in art, music, or sports, there is something for everyone. We would like to take this opportunity to highlight one of our student leadership opportunities, Student Council Association.

Student Council Association, or SCA, is a group of elected students who come together to promote education, community, service, and school spirit within the walls of Saint Bernadette. Our student council consists of four officer and three commissioner positions that may be held by students in grades seven and eight. Fourth through eighth grade homerooms elect one homeroom representative and an alternate to represent them on the council and act as a liaison communicating ideas.

Each year, these students campaign and deliver speeches to the student body.

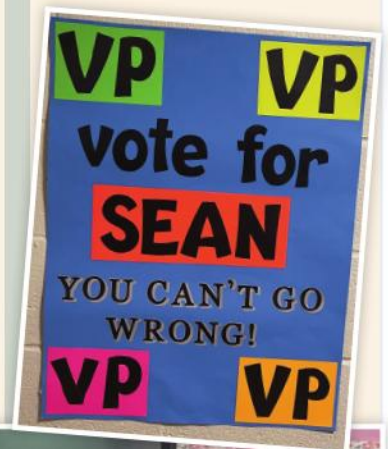
The Student Council Association meets throughout the year to plan school projects and events. In the past, they have organized dress down days to raise money for charity and sponsored food and clothing drives. Members collaborated to suggest ideas for spirit weeks and Catholic Schools Week. SCA representatives assisted during school activities, such as Open House.

Elections for the 2024-2025 school year took place on Thursday, October 3, 2024. We are so proud of all of the students who campaigned and ran for office and would have been blessed to have any of our candidates represent our school. We congratulate our elected council members and look forward to working with them throughout the school year and witnessing their leadership at Saint Bernadette.

cardinal corner



FORMING
HEARTS
& MINDS
IN CHRIST



religious education

Weekly update

Please contact Lynn Jones, Director of Religious Education, at 703-451-8576, ext 136, or Victor Mendez, Administrative Assistant, at 703-451-8576, ext 138.

RE regular schedule:

Tuesday Session
5:30–6:45pm

Wednesday Session
6–7:15pm

Special Tuesday Session
for Confirmation Fall 2024
7-8:15pm

RE Program upcoming schedule

Regular classes: Tues./Wed., Oct. 22/23.

Continue TOBET *The Body Matters* unit.

SPRED Class: Sat., Oct. 26

Family Faith Formation (monthly): Oct. 27

Regular classes: Tues./Wed., Oct. 29/30.

Continue TOBET *The Body Matters* unit.

Regular classes: NO CLASS Tuesday, November 5 due to Election Day and FCPS Holiday. Wednesday, November 6: Classes will be held as usual from 6-7:15pm.

Email vmendez@stbernapar.org or Lynn Jones, Ljones@stbernapar.org for more information.

Religious Education 2024-2025

Our Tuesday session runs from 5:30-6:45pm, our Wednesday session runs from 6-7:15pm, and our special Tuesday session for Confirmation Fall 2024 runs from 7-8:15pm.

For complete dates for the year, please see the calendar that was sent home in the colored folder in your child's materials they received on their first day of class.

RE Class Instructions

All parents are responsible for understanding the policies in the Religious Education Program Handbook which is available on the parish website under the Religious Education tab <https://www.stbernapar.org/learning>. For arrival, parents should plan to park in the lower parking lot and bring your child to door #1 of the school, or you may drop off along the curb next to the school gymnasium. For pickup, a parent or responsible adult must be present-- if you are running late

we stay with your child until you arrive as we are not allowed to just let them go. Please do NOT park along the curb at dismissal-- park your car and pick up your child from Door #1.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Our Sunday 9am Mass Children's Liturgy of the Word program is very popular! *All children must be pre-registered to participate.* For more information, or to volunteer to be an adult catechist or aide with CLOW, please contact CLOW Coordinator Kathryn Melton at yanezka@gmail.com.

TOBET The Body Matters unit in progress

Our students in kindergarten through high school, except Family Faith Formation, SPRED, and Confirmation 2024, are studying The Body Matters curriculum this month. The student books are to be returned at the end of the month or you will be charged a \$15 fee for replacement. For more information about this program, see the Parent Guide enclosed in your child's colored folder sent home the first day of classes, or go to <https://tobet.org/the-body-matters/> to learn more

Living the liturgical year

All Saints' Day is a Holy Day of Obligation on November 1 when we remember all the holy people who have modeled the faith for us. For your children, what better way to learn about the saints than to pick one as their costume for Halloween! Go over to Catholic Icing and be inspired by the great ideas in the All Saints' Day Costume Directory at <https://www.catholicicing.com/all-saints-day-resources-for-kids/>

youth ministry

Stay in touch:

Text/Email Updates: Sign-up at flocknote.com/stbernyouth or text "stbernyouth" to 84576.

Follow us on Instagram
[@stbernyouth](https://www.instagram.com/stbernyouth)

Email our director of youth ministry, Grace Rihl, at grihl@stbernapar.org with any questions you may have.

High School Tuesday Socials

All High Schoolers are invited to join us for games, snacks, fun, and discussions on the faith every Tuesday from 7-8:30pm in the youth room! All are welcome, bring a friend!

High School Boys Catholic Life Community

Join other Catholic high school boys in this community of faith, prayer, and fellowship. New attendees are always welcome, every Thursday from 7:30 to 9:15pm in the youth room.

Bishop Ireton presents *A Man for All Seasons*

Bishop Ireton High School's Theater Arts Department presents *A Man for All Seasons*, November 15, 16, 17 and 22 at 7pm, and November 23 at 2pm in Garwood Whaley Auditorium at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria, VA 22314. Tickets and further information available at <https://www.bishopireton.org/fine-arts/theater-arts>.

CYO Sports (for 3rd-8th Graders)

Joining sports teams can be a rewarding experience for young athletes. Saint Bernadette's CYO sports offers a variety of options, including cross country, tennis, track & field, basketball, cheer, and volleyball, fostering both physical fitness and teamwork. Participating in CYO sports not only helps in developing athletic skills but also emphasizes the importance of faith, sportsmanship, discipline, and community involvement. These programs often create a supportive environment where players can build lasting friendships and learn valuable life lessons. Whether your child is looking to improve their skills, stay active, or simply have fun, joining a CYO sports team can be a great way to achieve their goals. **CYO sports are open to children who attend St. Bernadette's school or are enrolled in the parish's religious education program this school year.**

Registrations are now open for **Fall and Winter** seasons. Please register at <https://reg.sportspilot.com/106541/leagues>.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your CYO Reps - Gina Soriano (gvsoriano@gmail.com) or Catherine Luby (catherineeluby@gmail.com).

Catholic Women's Group Upcoming events

Come and enjoy warm fellowship and great food. No need to RSVP. For more information, please email us at women@stbernpar.org.

Monday, October 21 is our next Dinner with Friends at 5pm at Saratoga Pizzeria, 8050 Rolling Road. We meet for this casual lunch on the 1st and the 3rd Monday of every month.

Tuesday, October 22 is our next Lunch with Friends at noon, at Milano's Family Restaurant, 6230 Rolling Road. We meet for this casual lunch on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

Women's Walking with Purpose Bible Study

Walking With Purpose Women's Bible Study ministry returns October 8 and 10 with *Discovering Our Dignity*, a 22-week study of women in the Bible. Connect with Scripture and learn from the stories of women in both the Old and the New Testament. Separate morning and evening sessions of *Discovering Our Dignity* will take place in the Bradican Room on **Tuesdays from 9:45-11:30am and Thursday from 7:00-8:30pm beginning October 8 and 10**, respectively. The book fee is \$25 and the suggested hospitality fee is \$10. [Register at https://stbernadettewp.wixsite.com/stbwwp](https://stbernadettewp.wixsite.com/stbwwp)

Support Hurricane Relief

Hurricane Helene made landfall as a devastating Category 4 storm, leaving widespread destruction across the Southeast. Local Catholic Charities Agencies are on the ground providing life-sustaining assistance. Catholic Charities USA is accepting donations to support and assist in humanitarian relief efforts in response to the devastation wrought by Hurricane Helene. Donations to Catholic Charities USA can be made by visiting link: <https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/?form=helene>.

Seven Sisters Apostolate

The Seven Sisters Apostolate is a call for women to strengthen the Church by ensuring a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of our parish priests. Learn more at sevensistersapostolate.org.

Last year, this Apostolate came to Saint Bernadette, and we have a Seven Sisters Apostolate team pray for Fr. Don every day of the week! We also have a list of substitutes who are willing to offer a Holy Hour when called upon. We are seeking seven sisters each for Fr. James and Fr. Jeb. It is one hour a week, anytime during your day, an hour to spend with our Lord in front of the Tabernacle or in Adoration at any Catholic Church. Please contact Trish Pirowski at 1986sailboat@gmail.com for more information.

in the comm- unity



Parish Offertory

Offertory 10/13	\$ 33,955
Tuition Assistance	3,672

Thank you for your faithful support!



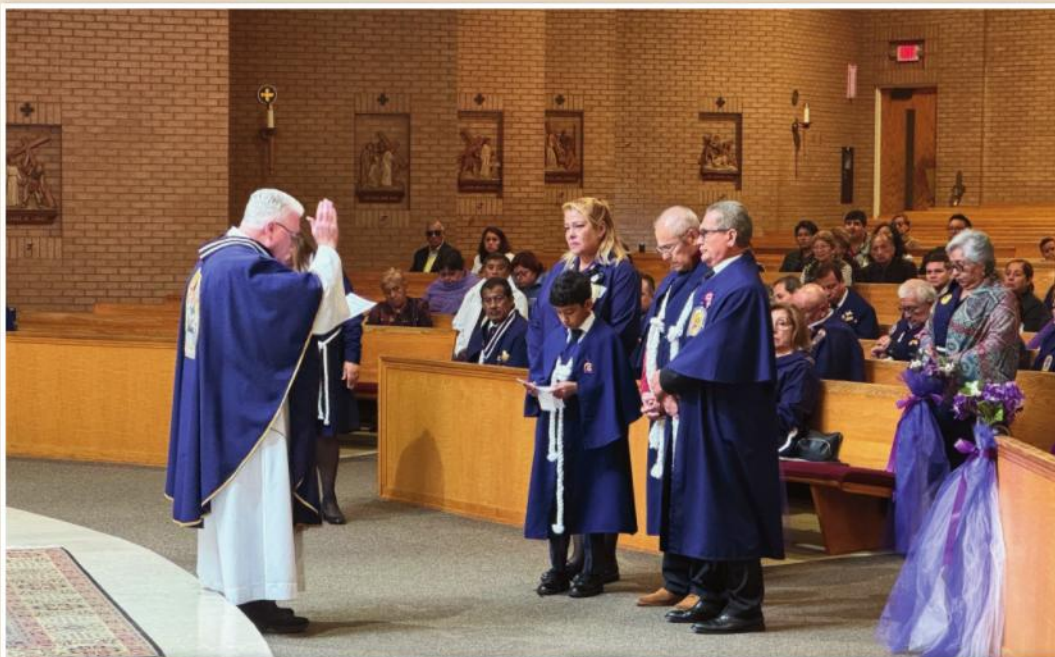
Consider using Faith Direct to make your parish contributions through either direct debit to your checking account or through credit cards, the same way you may make car or tuition payments. Faith Direct also offers personalized offertory cards to replace your envelopes for the collection basket. You may enroll securely online. Visit www.faithdirect.net or call (866)507-8757. Our parish code is VA70.

fiesta del Senor de los Milagros, the Lord of the Miracles

On October 20, 1655 a terrible earthquake crushed the cities of Lima and Callao, and Lima was destroyed, all except for a neighborhood wall on with this street art painting, which remained untouched. It survived several more earthquakes, ultimately, and faith in the miraculous image of Christ crucified became a symbol of the faith of the people in the protection of God. It was taken into the streets in procession where thousands of people came to give homage to this patronal icon. It is one of the oldest Catholic traditions in Peru and today is one of the largest processions in the world.

The image of Jesus crucified was painted in the 17th century by Benito or Pedro Dalcon, an African man enslaved and forcibly taken from Angola.

Saint Bernadette's Brotherhood of the Lord of the Miracles of Northern Virginia hosted the Mass, the procession which followed, and the dinner and cultural celebration in the gym.





El 20 de octubre de 1655 un terrible terremoto arrasó las ciudades de Lima y Callao, y Lima quedó destruida, excepto un muro del barrio donde se encontraba esta pintura de arte callejero, que permaneció intacto. Finalmente sobrevivió a varios terremotos más y la fe en la imagen milagrosa de Cristo crucificado se convirtió en un símbolo de la fe del pueblo en la protección de Dios. Fue sacado a las calles en procesión donde miles de personas acudieron a rendir homenaje a este icono patronal. Es una de las tradiciones católicas más antiguas del Perú y hoy es una de las procesiones más grandes del mundo.

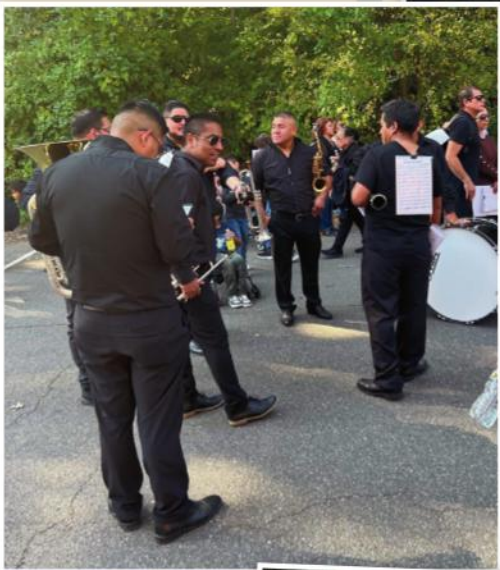


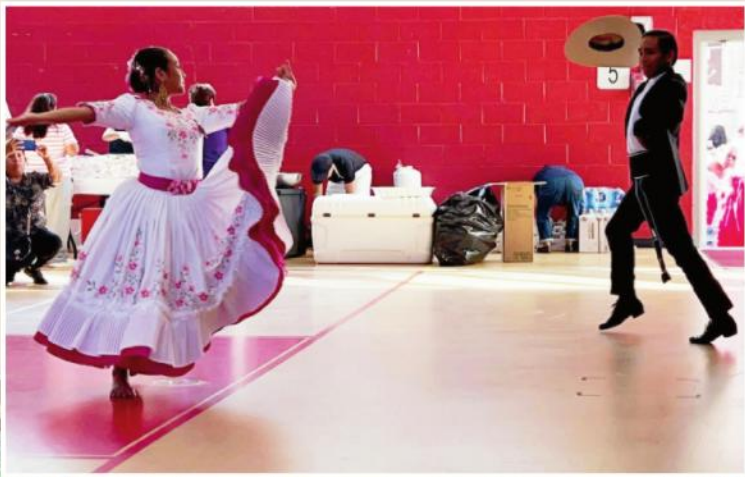
La imagen de Jesús crucificado fue pintada en el siglo XVII por Benito o Pedro Dalcón, un africano esclavizado y sacado a la fuerza de Angola.

La Hermandad del Señor de los Milagros de Virginia del Norte de Santa Bernadette organizó la misa, la procesión que siguió y la cena y celebración cultural en el gimnasio.



**fiesta del
Senor
de los
Milagros
feast of
the Lord
of the
Miracles**





uscgb: forming consciences for faithful citizenship



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This bulletin insert along with five others was approved by the body of U.S. bishops in November 2023.

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1 Pope Francis, Meeting for Religious Liberty with Hispanic Community and Other Immigrants, September 26, 2015.

2 *Gaudium et Spes* (The Church in the Modern World), no. 16. See also, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1785.

3 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2239-40.

The Role of the Church in American Political Life

The Church is the body of Christ, who reigns as king over all Creation. Everything, including political life, belongs to Jesus Christ, and so participation in political life belongs to the mission of the Church. Our mandate is to 'go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation' (Mk 16:15). . . . Here, 'the creation' refers to every aspect of human life. . . . 'Nothing human can be alien to it.'

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 181, quoting *Aparecida Document*, no. 380

Our national tradition of religious freedom permits and encourages all people of faith to bring the insights of their religious traditions to bear on political matters. As Pope Francis affirmed during his visit to the U.S., “Religious liberty, by its nature, transcends places of worship and the private sphere of individuals and families. . . . Religion itself, the religious dimension, is not a subculture; it is part of the culture of every people and every nation.”¹

“If society is to have a future, it must respect the truth of our human dignity and submit to that truth. . . . A society is noble and decent not least for its support of the pursuit of truth and its adherence to the most basic of truths” (*Fratelli Tutti*, no. 207). The truths that guide public life can be known by natural reason. The sanctity of human life, the equal dignity of all individuals, the obligation to protect the vulnerable, the nature and purposes of sex, marriage, and family—these are not exclusively “religious” truths, but truths that all people of goodwill can come to know without the aid of revelation. Our Catholic faith sheds light on these truths, and so we have a duty to bring that light to our nation.

Many Parts, All One Body

The bishops and their pastoral collaborators each have distinct roles in the

Church’s mission. The bishops have the responsibility to govern the society of the Church, hand on doctrine and tradition, and administer the sacraments. The laity are called to bring the gospel to bear on the world. While many laity are involved in roles of leadership and service within the Church, it remains primarily the role of the laity to advocate for justice, to serve in public office, and to inform daily life with the gospel. “The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society is proper to the lay faithful” (*Deus Caritas Est*, no. 29).

Participation in political life requires judgments about concrete circumstances. While bishops together with their coworkers help form the laity in accordance with basic principles, they do not tell the laity to vote for particular candidates. On these often complex matters, it is the laity’s responsibility to form their consciences and grow in the virtue of prudence to approach the many and varied issues of the day with the mind of Christ.

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

Conscience is “a judgment of reason” by which one determines whether an action is right or wrong (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1778). It does not allow us to justify doing whatever we want, nor is it a mere “feeling.” Conscience—properly formed according to God’s revelation and the teaching of the Church—is a means by which one listens to God and discerns how to act in accordance with the truth.² The truth is something we receive, not something we make. We can only judge using the conscience we have, but our judgments do not make things true.

It is our responsibility to learn more of Catholic teaching and tradition, to participate in Church life, to learn from trustworthy sources about the issues facing our communities, and to do our best to make wise judgments about candidates and government actions. These decisions should take into account a candidate’s commitments, character, integrity, and ability to influence a given issue. Thus equipped, and further impelled by our sense of patriotism, we exercise our right



and duty to vote and otherwise to participate actively in public life.³ By forming our consciences for faithful citizenship, we can better pursue the common good and thus obey the command of our Lord to love our neighbors.

The Common Good

In their statement on Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, the Catholic bishops of the United States identify the four main principles of the Church's social teaching and apply them to some concrete issues. This is not to tell the faithful for whom or against whom to vote, but instead to help them form their consciences in accordance with God's truth as they approach this often-challenging decision.

The four main principles are the Dignity of the Human Person, the Common Good, Solidarity, and Subsidiarity. They are all interrelated. This bulletin focuses on the Common Good, and the other three principles are covered in three other bulletins in this series.

The Common Good is “the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily.”¹ Human dignity is respected and the common good is fostered only if human rights are protected and basic responsibilities are met. Every human being has a right to life, a right to religious freedom, and a right to have access to those things required for human decency.

Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to ourselves, to our families, to the larger society, and to the earth.² In short, we should seek “to build that kind of society where it is easier for people to be good.”³

In the midst of a “throwaway world” in which some members of the human family “can be readily sacrificed for the sake of others considered worthy of a carefree existence,” Pope Francis urges us to build a “culture of encounter” in which those most in need receive our greatest concern and attention. We must “place at the center of all political, social and economic activity the human person, who enjoys the highest dignity, and respect for the common good.”⁴

As we seek to imitate the Good Samaritan, who was neighbor to all, we pursue the Common Good in order that every individual and all people can flourish.⁵

- Marriage and the family are the central institutions of social life – the primary school of virtue, where we first experience common rather than merely individual goods – and so these institutions should be supported and strengthened.

- Likewise, as one human family dwelling in our common home, we must hear “both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor” and respond to climate change with actions to better protect creation for our brothers and sisters now and in generations to come.⁶

- Accepting the entire world as a gift from the Father, and as our common home includes accepting our bodies as God's gift, whereas thinking that we enjoy absolute power over our own bodies turns, often subtly, into thinking that we enjoy absolute power over creation.⁷

- We recognize and protect the right to religious liberty, our first and most cherished freedom. The protection of conscience and religious liberty is an indispensable element of the common good – a fundamental human right that knows no geographical boundaries.⁸

- While the common good embraces all, those who are weak, vulnerable, and most in need deserve special concern, which the Church describes as the preferential option for the poor.⁹ Laws and policies must prioritize those who struggle to make ends meet and must preserve the social safety net and promote decent jobs, affordable housing, and childcare.

Pope Benedict XVI writes in *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth): “To desire the common good and strive towards it is a requirement of justice and charity.” We must be attentive to the common good “juridically, civilly, politically and culturally” in the life of society. “The more we strive to secure a common good corresponding to the real needs of our neighbors,” he writes, “the more effectively we love them.”¹⁰

Prayer Before the Election

Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our state and country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community.

We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty. We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned, men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender.

We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom.

We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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1 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1906, citing *Gaudium et Spes* (The Church in the Modern World), 26.

2 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, 49, 51.

3 Peter Maurin, as quoted by Dorothy Day. See *All the Way to Heaven: The Selected Letters of Dorothy Day* (New York: Random House, 2010), 457.

4 Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti* (On Fraternity and Social Friendship), 18 and 232.

5 Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 66.

6 Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* (On Care for Our Common Home), 49. See also: Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth), 48-52, and Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum*, 58 and 60.

7 Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, 155.

8 St. Pope Paul VI, *Dignitatis Humanae* (Declaration on Religious Freedom), 6; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1907.

9 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, 53.

10 Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*, 7.

uscgb: forming consciences for faithful citizenship



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1 Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti* (On Fraternity and Social Friendship), 8.

2 Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 107. See also: Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth), no. 45.

3 USCCB, "Letter and Policy Recommendations Supporting Women and Children," October 26, 2022.

4 St. John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life), 8, 15, 18, 23, 94. See also: Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 18-21.

5 Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love), 56.

6 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*, 3-8.

7 Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 263-270. See also: *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, 84.

8 Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* (Joy of the Gospel), 53.

9 Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 22.

10 Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*, 45-47.

11 Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 106.

Dignity of the Human Person

This bulletin focuses on the Dignity of the Human Person, and the other three principles are covered in three other bulletins in this series.

Because each human person is created in the image and likeness of God, each one of us possesses innate and inviolable human dignity. This dignity is present in each person from the moment of their conception and throughout their lives.

As Pope Francis has emphasized, human dignity is central to building a society in which we are "brothers and sisters all."¹

Every human being has the right to live with dignity and to develop integrally; this fundamental right cannot be denied by any country. People have this right even if they are unproductive, or were born with or developed limitations. This does not detract from their great dignity as human persons, a dignity based not on circumstances but on the intrinsic worth of their being. Unless this basic principle is upheld, there will be no future either for fraternity or for the survival of humanity.²

Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, no. 107

The dignity of the human person is the foundation for a moral vision of society.

As we seek to imitate the Good Samaritan and become neighbor to all, we must work to protect the dignity of all, especially those who are most vulnerable.

As we engage in the public square with a well-formed conscience:

- We work to protect the most vulnerable—children in the womb who are in danger of abortion—while also standing in radical solidarity with mothers.³ Building on their bond of flesh and kinship, and on the network of family, neighbor, and community relationships in which they are situated, the Church actively assists mothers and their children to have a brighter future.

- We continue to protect the dignity of our sister or brother who is elderly, disabled, or ill by strongly rejecting euthanasia and assisted suicide. These practices are symptoms of a "throwaway culture," in which children of God of inestimable worth are cast aside as worthless.⁴

- Likewise, we must recognize the inherent dignity of the migrant and refugee. In our country now, that means comprehensive immigration reform that offers a path to citizenship, treats immigrant workers fairly, prevents the separation of families, maintains the integrity of our borders, respects the rule of law, and addresses the factors that compel people to leave their own countries.

- We support the dignity of the person, created male or female; therefore, we oppose a gender ideology that fails to recognize the difference and reciprocity between man and woman.⁵

- Racism attacks the dignity of the human person by denying that we are all equally made in the image of God, so we must overcome racism in our hearts as well as in our systems and institutions.⁶

- We continue to seek reform of the criminal justice system and to end the use of the death penalty. We support common sense measures to reduce gun violence.⁷

- Finally, we seek to prevent and remedy any aspects of an "economy of exclusion,"⁸ which "does not hesitate to exploit, discard, and even kill human beings,"⁹ and to work instead toward an "economy of communion" rooted in ethical concern.¹⁰

"Social friendship and universal fraternity" Pope Francis writes, "necessarily call for an acknowledgement of the worth of every human person, always and everywhere."¹¹ Through our political participation, our accompaniment of those in need, and the witness of our daily lives, may we support the worth of every person, created in God's image.





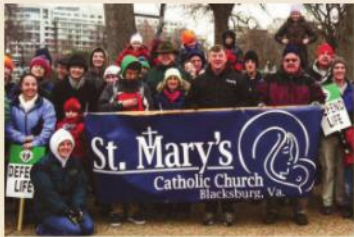
Four Principles of Catholic Social Teaching*

The central and enduring themes of Catholic social teaching are organized under four principles that provide a moral framework for decisions in public life.

www.vacatholic.org

The Dignity of the Human Person

Human life is sacred. The dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. Direct attacks



on innocent persons are never morally acceptable. In our society, the gravest example is abortion. Euthanasia, assisted suicide, human cloning, in vitro fertilization

and the destruction of embryos for research are others. Protecting the dignity of life also includes overcoming poverty, ending use of the death penalty, and opposing racism, torture, unjust war, human trafficking and all activities that contribute to the “throwaway culture” identified by Pope Francis.

The Common Good

The common good is achieved when social conditions allow people to reach their fulfillment more fully and easily. It



upholds the fundamental right to life, which makes all other rights possible. It asserts the right to food, shelter, education, employment, health care, housing, freedom

of religion and conscience, and family life. It requires an economy that serves people, not the other way around. It calls on employers to uphold the dignity and rights of workers by offering productive work, decent and just wages, adequate security in their old age, the choice of whether to organize and join unions and the opportunity for legal status for immigrant workers. Workers should contribute a fair day's work for a fair day's pay, treat employers and co-workers with respect and contribute to the common good. This principle requires we protect and care for all of God's creation, especially the most vulnerable among us, and the earth, our common home.

Subsidiarity

The human person is social. The family is the fundamental building block of society, based on marriage between a man



and a woman, a sanctuary for creation and nurturing of children. Policies and programs should defend, strengthen and respect this foundational unit and uphold parents'

rights and responsibilities to care for and educate their children. Further, every person and association has a right and duty to actively shape society and promote the well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. Subsidiarity means that society's larger institutions should not overwhelm or interfere with smaller or local ones. These larger institutions are obliged, however, to protect human dignity and meet human needs when smaller institutions cannot adequately do so.

Solidarity

We are one human family, despite our national, racial, ethnic, economic and ideological differences, called to love our neighbor as ourselves. We must work to



eradicate poverty, disease and racism; and welcome immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers who are seeking employment, safety, education and

a better life for their families. Solidarity requires preferential concern for the poor. A basic moral test of any society is how it treats those who are most vulnerable. This preferential option for the poor and vulnerable includes all who are marginalized – unborn children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and terminally ill, victims of injustice and oppression and immigrants.

**Adapted from Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, Nos. 44-56, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2015.*

ECHO News for October/November 2024

ECHO Fall Yard Sale ECHO's annual Fall Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, October 26, here at the gym, from 8am to noon. Bargain shoppers and treasure hunters will find a gymnasium full of housewares, toys, fashion accessories, jewelry, electronic equipment, picture frames, wall art, and more! The two yard sale events each year are primary sources of funds for ECHO to carry out its mission of helping people in need in our community.

Jingle bells so soon? The ECHO elves must go to work now to prepare the Holiday Gift Shop. ECHO needs donations of new toys (not gift-wrapped, please) for children ages 0-15 for this festive program. Donations should be made no later than December 6 and may be chosen from our Amazon wish list and delivered directly to ECHO or delivered

to our donations door. The wish list is most easily accessed through our website, www.echo-inc.org/wishlist-on-amazon which will be made available by Oct 15. Popular items are baby dolls, scooters with helmets, soccer balls (sizes 3,4,5), riding toys, and family board games. See a complete list of suggestions at ECHO's website under the "Donate Goods" tab.

Cleaning out your kitchen shelves?

ECHO's Housewares Department needs glass drinking glasses, white coffee mugs, white hand towels, bath towels, medium sized pots and frying pans.

The Clothing Department needs new or clean, gently used, warm clothing for boys or girls in sizes 4 - 20, children's sneakers, and adult coats and jackets in all sizes.

The Food Pantry needs personal hygiene items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, and toilet paper as well as all kinds of non-perishable foods.

ECHO, located at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, is open on weekday mornings from 9:30am to 12:30pm and Tues., Wed. and Thurs. evenings from 7 to 9pm.

Mary's Comfort zoning approved

Mary's Comfort, a ministry sheltering pregnant women in crisis, has had our third bedroom approved for use by the Fairfax County Board of Zoning Appeals! The Board was very complimentary of our mission. This home is made possible by the generosity of the Saint Bernadette parishioners! Please visit our website (www.maryscomfortva.org) to help with funding future homes. Or, send an email to: FacMgrMC@gmail.com or to maryscomfortva@gmail.com.

Saint Paul VI HS open house

St. Paul VI Catholic High School, Chantilly, VA invites families to learn more about our caring, Catholic community where we inspire the extraordinary in one another. Register for our fall Open House on Sunday, October 27, 2024, from 1-3pm at www.paulvi.net/openhouse. Visit our website www.paulvi.net/admissions to learn more.



ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSE PRE-K to Middle School

Interested in joining the Saint Bernadette Catholic School community?
We focus on faith formation, academic excellence, and community service.

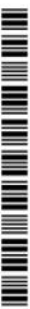


School Tours Offered | October 24, 2024 | 9am to 11AM
Tours are 40 minutes each covering Pre-K to Middle School

Reserve your slot at
<https://bit.ly/SaintBOpenHouse> OR email registrar@stbernschool.org

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**Porto Charities Special Kids/
Special Needs Campaign
October 26-27**



Next weekend, October 26-27, we'll have a second collection for Special Kids/Special Needs that will benefit Porto Charities, a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing access to diocesan Catholic schools for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. All proceeds will go directly to establish and advance inclusive education programs in Catholic Schools throughout the Diocese of Arlington for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Please consider donating to this important collection at Mass or online at: <https://www.portocharities.org/2ndcollection>

**World Mission Sunday 2024
October 20th**

YOUR GIFT HELPS SUPPORT:

- 38,140 Seminarians**
- 8,750 Shelters/Orphanages**
- 12,000 Health Centers**
- 844,000 Catechists**
- 258,540 Religious Sisters**

**SHARE THE FEAST:
*Give Now***

**World Mission Sunday Oct. 20:
"Go and invite everyone to the banquet"**

"Go and invite!" Pope Francis tells us Mission is a tireless outreach to invite others to the Lord's banquet. Holiness reminds us that mission implies a continuous outreach to all people, not only by going out, but also by inviting each one in a personal way to meet the Lord.

We must go to the ends of the earth, with perseverance and without forgetting that we must incarnate a tireless commitment to the mission of evangelization.

"Everyone:" The universal mission of Christ's disciples in the fully synodal and missionary Church.

In a divided world, the Gospel remains a unifying force, calling people to meet and rejoice in harmony in the midst of diversity. Mission includes a special concern for the marginalized, echoing the parable's invitation to "all, good and bad."

It is crucial to remember that we are in a period calling for a renewal of strength and to be a fully synodal and missionary Church, affirming that synodality and mission are interconnected.

"To the wedding feast:" The eschatological and Eucharistic dimension of the mission of Christ and the Church

In the parable, the banquet represents a symbol of the definitive salvation in the Kingdom of God:

The invitation to the banquet is linked to the Eucharistic table, where believers share the Body and Blood of Christ, anticipating the final banquet.

What is WMS?

World Mission Sunday is a special day that unites Catholics worldwide in prayer, solidarity, and support for the Church's mission efforts. Always celebrated on the second to last Sunday of October, this year it will be marked on **October 20th**.

What does TPMS do?

Among other things, the **Pontifical Mission Societies** champion World Mission Sunday to support the work of missionaries who bring the compassion of Christ to 1,150 territories where the Gospel has not yet been received, has been only recently embraced, or is courageously upheld in the face of persecution.

We can all help

World Mission Sunday is an opportunity to gather in solidarity and respond to our vocation to **share the joy of the Gospel** with our brothers and sisters in need. We all can be participants of Christ's message of salvation through prayer, charity and celebration.

Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

Please call the office also if you would like to request a Mass sooner, that is not announced.

October

21 MONDAY

7am Judith Wilson
9am* Lucy Gonzalez
Eph 2:1-10/Lk 12:13-21

22 TUESDAY

7am Narges Yekta
9am* † Lucille Lynch
Eph 2:12-22/Lk 12:35-38

23 WEDNESDAY

7am † Betty Parks
9am* † Carlos Bravo
Eph 3:2-12/Lk 12:39-48

24 THURSDAY

7am † Elmie Verzosa
9am* † Zachary Lopez
Eph 3:14-21/Lk 12:49-53

25 FRIDAY

7am † Nathan Salgado Conde
9am* † Salome Tantoco
10am** † Will Thorpe
Eph 4:1-6/Lk 12:54-59

26 SATURDAY

8am* † Aquilino Montoya
Eph 4:7-16/Lk 13:1-9
5pm* † Elenita Dizon

27 SUNDAY

7am † Walter Beck
9am* † Maria & Reginald Smith
11am* † Raymond Cornelius, Jr.
1pm † Maria Elena Guerra
5pm For the parish
Jer 31:7-9/Heb 5:1-6/Mk 10:46-52

* live-streamed Masses

** Mass at Greenspring Chapel

Mass intentions are available, please call the parish office or request intentions online.

Masses next weekend

Oct 26	5pm	Fr. James
Oct 27	7am	Fr. James
	9am	Fr. Jeb
	11am	Fr. James
	1pm	Fr. Cedric
	5pm	Fr. Jeb

Parish Prayer List

It has been a long while since we have updated this list. If anyone is listed here who no longer needs to be included, please call the office.

Christopher Ayala, Ron Baker, Barbara Baxter, Lorenzo Beitia, Benedi Family, Javier Blandon, Marvin Boord, Krista Buskey, Eleanor Butler, Josue Cabrera, Victoria Castro Guerra, Hyung Ji Choi, Kathleen Cobb, Emilio A. Conde Hernandez, Joaquin Cortez, Mary Crossin, Fernando Cruz Conde, Jessica Curtis, Russell Cykoski, Celine D'Cruze, Deeney Family, Joanne DeAngelis, Pierre Deslauriers, Ron & Karen Dietz, Nick Domahoski, Sean Duffy, Evans Family, Debbie Field, Thomas Fitzgerald, Paul Flapper, Richard & Veronica Flynn, Mario and Mark Fortin, Jerome Furlow, Elvira Gaudamus, Jim Gribshaw, Bill & Leona Harron, Andres Hernandez, Lauren Hicks, Shawn Hoisington, Elizabeth Howarth, Matthew Ianuzzi, Masaharu Ishii, Jack Judd, Sage Kalper, Astania Kamau, John Kelly, Theresa Khim, Mike Kidwell, Tim Kirk, John Kochersperger, Large Family, Melissa Lavelle, Lawler Family, Teodora Lim, Sharon Lord, Robert Madison, Minka Malnikof, Alice Martin, Tim McCarthy, Katherine Mehigan, Ken Miller, Jeremy Monsanto, Jonathan Mundell, Mike Mundell, Kathleen Maxwell, Ted Musialkiewicz, Kathleen Murray, Shamsun Nahar, Steve Nelson, Mike Nolen, the Noonan family, Sarah Norton, JoAnne Plavchan, Corina Portillo, Daren Perry, Evan Robish, Joanna Robson, Apollonia Rye, Sagum Family, John Sandidge, B. Schulz, Henry Shinol, Smith Family, Glendora Spinelli, Ailsa Squatrito, Laura Sutherland, Ellie Urmston, Holger Vargas, Mary Vago, Silvio Villena, Adrienne Vincent, Margaret Wyse, Earnest Yambot, Yessenia Zelaya Diaz.

Pro-Life Witness

The Saint Bernadette Pro-Life Committee invites you to pray the rosary and be a witness to the sanctity of life on Tuesday or Saturday mornings in front of the abortion facility at 2616 Sherwood Hall Lane in Alexandria (ample free parking across the street). We legally, peacefully, and respectfully gather for an hour starting at 10am; no sign-up or commitment required. Questions? Email Tom Palumbo at tompalumbo@outlook.com.

Prime Time Single Catholics

We are a social group, mostly aged 60 and over. (35 to 59? Ask about our free associate-membership group.) Meet us for: Square Dancing (most Tuesdays); Thursday lunch (Oct. 24); Christ House meal (Oct. 26); St. Mary's Cemetery tour (Oct. 27); dinner in Alexandria (Oct. 27); Annual Dinner Dance (Nov. 16). For details, visit our website: bit.ly/ptsc. With questions or to RSVP, email Tom at ptscnva@gmail.com

Planned giving: make a gift of appreciated assets

Consider a gift of stock or any other appreciated asset as a donation to Saint Bernadette Catholic Church and School. In exchange for a gift of a long-term appreciated asset, you can receive an income tax deduction for the current market value and avoid capital gains taxes on that appreciation. Your gift will support the Church, School, or the Make All Things New Campaign. For more information, please contact Rick Caporali at rcaporali@stbernpar.org or call the office.

Remember us in your will or trust

The next time you review your will or trust with your attorney consider adding a provision to donate a portion of your assets to Saint Bernadette Church and School. Your gift will be greatly appreciated. For more information, please contact Rick Caporali at rcaporali@stbernpar.org or call the office.

Assisted hearing devices at Mass

Our new sound system will function as before. We apologize the transmitter was not working last weekend. You can purchase your own device at Amazon for about \$15. Program the FM frequency to 72.3mh. The link and model are provided here for your convenience. [Retekess PR13 Portable FM Radio, Pocket FM Radio Receiver, AAA Battery Powered Personal Mini Stereo Radio with Earphone and Lock Key](#)



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