

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. 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.

The Baptism of the Lord

January 12, 2025



SAINT BERNADETTE
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

The Baptism of the Lord

January 12, 2025

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

january

- 12 Sunday, THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**
• Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 11am
- 13 Monday, Weekday [Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church]**
- 14 Tuesday, Weekday**
• Live-streaming Mass for Christmas begins with the 4:30pm Vigil Mass
- 15 Wednesday, Weekday**
Please note, there is not 5pm Mass on Christmas Day
- 16 Thursday, Weekday**
- 17 Friday, Saint Anthony, Abbot**
• Adoration, 7pm in the church
- 18 Saturday, Weekday**
• Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 19 Sunday, SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
• Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 11am
- 20 Monday, Weekday [Saint Fabian, Pope and Martyr; Saint Sebastian, Martyr]**
- 21 Tuesday, Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr**
- 22 Wednesday, Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children**
- 23 Thursday, Weekday**
- 24 Friday, Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor**
• Adoration, 7pm in the church
- 25 Saturday, The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle**
• Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 26 Sunday, THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
• Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 11am
- 27 Monday, Weekday [Saint Angela Merici, Virgin]**
- 28 Tuesday, Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor**
- 29 Wednesday, Weekday**
- 30 Thursday, Weekday**
- 31 Friday, Saint John Bosco, Priest**
• Adoration, 7pm in the church

february

- 1 Saturday, Weekday**
• Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 2 Sunday, THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**
• Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 11am

announcements

Join us for our monthly (third Monday) **Taize Prayer Service** on **Monday night, 20 January 8 - 8:45pm**. Come for a peaceful moment of simple song and silence and pray for Christian Unity.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Prayer Service: Wednesday evening, January 22. Join Bishop Burbidge and other bishops of Christian churches in Virginia for the annual observance of the international Week of Prayer. Invite all your friends from other churches to join us at 7:30pm, followed by a light reception.

Saint Bernadette School will celebrate the start of Catholic Schools Week with an Open House being held on Sunday January 26. More details to come. See what Saint Bernadette School has to offer your family.

All adult parishioners who have volunteered in the past several years are invited to come to our **Night of Gratitude - Saturday, 8 February, 7-11pm**. Join us for an evening of hors d'oeuvres, drinks and dancing to the music of the **Andrew Thielen Big Band** of North Myrtle Beach. This is an opportunity to recognize and appreciate the work of parish volunteers. RSVP to Evelyn in the parish office by January 31. Details on page 12.

from the pastor

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

The God of power and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and welcomed you into his holy people.

He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation. As Christ was anointed priest, prophet, and king, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life.

All: Amen.

These are the words the celebrant says when anointing a newly baptized child with Chrism. Sacred Chrism is the oil consecrated by each bishop at the Chrism Mass during Holy Week, and in the same way the bread and wine are the forms under which the real Body and Blood of Jesus is present and received, so the Church teaches that under the form of Chrism it is the Holy Spirit who is present and received. At your baptism, you were anointed priest, prophet and king, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.

As priest, Jesus sanctifies, reestablishing the lost link between divinity and humanity; as prophet, he speaks - and is - the Word of divine truth; as king he leads us, the ultimate servant leader.

So many scriptural references fill our minds: This three part identity of Jesus is why he says, literally, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (literally, the life, the truth and the way). John the Baptist explained how his baptism was a baptism of repentance with water, but Jesus will come and baptize with water *and* the Holy Spirit.

Of course, it is Jesus himself whom we encounter in every sacrament, and I find it a powerful reflection to consider how it is his own Spirit that he pours into our hearts first in Baptism and Confirmation so that we can become him in Eucharist. He is our identity. "I must decrease, he must increase."

Remember - in the early years of the Church to become Christian well might be a death sentence. You wouldn't baptize an infant; you would wait until the candidate could run faster than Roman soldiers or outsmart them. The three sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) were received all at once as you may have experienced at the Easter Vigil Mass. Once Christianity was legal, infants were baptized.

In the western Church, only a bishop can confirm (in the Eastern Rite Catholic churches and the Orthodox Churches priests confirm), so that the separation we know between the first Chrism of Baptism and the full chrismation of Confirmation is our practice simply because bishops couldn't be everywhere all at once for baptisms.

We are incorporated (embodied) into the person of the Son. We all are baptized to serve as priests through our sacrificial efforts to bring people to God. We serve as prophets through our witness to the truth in word and deed. And we all serve as kings in our efforts to lead others—again through word and deed—to use their talents to advance the Kingdom of God (*Catechism*, 1241). It is so much more than just membership, though that, in itself, is perfectly beautiful.

It is the same Holy Spirit who enters the heart of every person baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and all are validly members of God's family. We are brothers and sisters with all the baptized. God cannot give himself partially: each newly baptized person is an entirely new creation as Jesus is. He is "begotten, not made" of the same substance (*consubstantial*) as the Father, as we profess in the Nicene Creed at Mass. He cannot be otherwise. But we who are baptized, though *made* by God, also become *begotten* of him as members of the Body of Christ. This is entirely new. It is also called the Mystical Body but I think the word *mystical*, for some, might not mean *real*. Don't buy it: you are the real deal.

We don't hear enough today about the common priesthood of the faithful, a popular topic in the documents of Vatican II. Or maybe you are not convinced because we put so much emphasis on the *ministerial* priesthood of ordained clergy. One of the things that Vatican II sought to do was restore the dignity and vitality of lay members of the Church and the important role that you are to fill in the life of the Church. The priest, though necessary, is no more important than anyone. It is not a matter of importance, really. That is what is meant by clericalism. He has, in God's mercy and by his willingness, been given a unique role as the servant leader of the faithful who has the responsibility to empty himself for you, as Jesus did. His identity is rooted, just the same as yours, in Baptism.

The Lord be with you. *Fr. Dom*



cardinal corner



**FORMING
HEARTS
& MINDS
IN CHRIST**



OPEN HOUSE TOURS
JANUARY 26, 2025
SUNDAY, 12 NOON-1:30PM

Saint Bernadette Catholic School is a flourishing PreK-8th grade parochial school, focused on forming hearts and minds in Christ. We believe in educating the whole child in a nurturing and joy-filled atmosphere. Our emphasis is on faith formation, academic excellence, and service to others. We invite you to tour our school and learn first-hand about our amazing community.

7602 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, VA
www.stbernschool.org
RSVP: registrar@stbernschool.org

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

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.

RE Program upcoming schedule

Regular classes: Jan. 14-15, 21-22, and 28. NO CLASSES on January 29 (Wednesday) due to FCPS student holiday. Saturday SPRED class, Jan. 25

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

Trinity House Gatherings

Did you miss our family-friendly Trinity House Gathering before Thanksgiving? Plan to join us for our next meeting on Saturday, January 25! This year instead of monthly parent religious education classes we are hosting Trinity House Gatherings designed to show you how to find Heaven in Your Home! Our next gathering (free dinner, parent video and discussions, kids crafts and activities, and dessert!) is on Saturday, January 25, from 6:00-8:00pm in the School Cafeteria. Watch the Trinity House trailer to see what it's all about: <https://youtu.be/m1BWdHRPP4w>. We will collect RSVPs by Sign Up Genius in January.

Volunteers needed

We are in need of more volunteers who can commit to classes on Tuesdays from 5:30-6:45pm or on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:15pm. In particular we need a fourth-grade catechist on Wednesdays and an aide for a multi-grade fourth-sixth grade class on Wednesdays, in addition to classroom aides on Tuesday and Wednesdays. We also would love a few more volunteers to help us with inside and outside security, patrolling hallways and helping with traffic control. Contact Lynn Jones for more information.

Living the liturgical year

This Sunday we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord... But what about our own baptisms? As baptized Christians, we are united with all Christians to spread the Good News of Jesus! Review your child(ren)'s baptism(s) with these fun activities from Look to Him and Be Radiant: <https://www.looktohimandberadiant.com/2013/07/reviewing-sacraments-baptism.html>

WorkCamp 2025

All 9th – 12th graders are invited to Diocesan Workcamp June 21-27, 2025. Workcamp is an annual event where hundreds of teens and adults work together to help make local homes warmer, dryer, and safer for those in need. This is a transformative experience for all involved, and you won't want to miss it! Please mark your calendars for a Workcamp Interest Meeting on Sunday, January 26th at 6:15pm in the Bradican Room. Teens who are interested in attending, or parishioners who are interested in helping in some capacity can email Grace Mee at grihl@stbernapar.org

Middle School Youth Ministry Next gathering January 15

All 6th-8th graders are invited to Middle School Youth Ministry every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month! Join us in the New Year on Wednesday, January 15th for

games, snacks, and fun from 6:45-8pm in the Gym. All middle schoolers are welcome, bring a friend!

Girls' Craft Night

All 8-12th grade girls are invited to join us for a craft night! We will each choose a word of the year and make beaded bracelets. Join us from 7-8:30pm on Monday, January 13.

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.

Women's Morning of Reflection January 18

All women of the parish are invited to a Morning of Reflection will begin at the parish 8am Mass on Saturday, January 18. Then join us in the Bradican room for snacks (coffee, tea, pastry and fruit), followed by Fr. Don's discussion on prayer. We will have time for small group discussion and some quiet time. We look forward to seeing you for an inspiring morning of faith and fellowship.

Calling altar servers

All boys and girls 4th grade to 12th grade are welcome to serve at the altar at Mass! In the interest of trying to be most accommodating to your schedules, we have put training for servers on Mondays 5-6pm on January 20, 27, and February 3. In the school, please sign up with Mrs. Bacon. Otherwise, please contact the parish office.

Calling Eucharistic Ministers

Consider serving as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion at Masses and for the homebound! The diocese will be announcing their training dates soon, and we would like to hear from you. We have about one-third the number of EMs pre-COVID, and we need to renew our roster as well as consider making Communion under both forms a possibility again. The first step is to talk with Fr. Don. Thank you!

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@stbernapar.org.

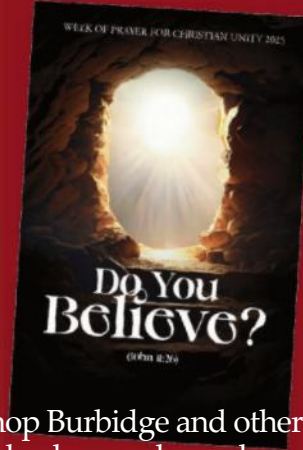
Our next monthly meeting will be Tuesday, January 14 at 7pm in the Bradican Room. It's game night! Bring a favorite board, card, or table game to play. Maybe you got a new game for Christmas that you can't wait to share. Come join the excitement and fellowship.

Monday, Jan. 20, is our next Dinner with Friends at 5pm, at Saratoga Pizzeria, 8050 Rolling Road. We meet for this casual meal on the 1st and the 3rd Monday of every month.

Saint Bernadette hosts the international

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025

Wednesday, January 22,
7:30pm



Join Bishop Burbidge and other bishops, leaders, and members of Christian churches in Virginia for the annual observance of the international Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Invite all your friends from other local churches to join us at 7:30pm, followed by a light reception.

The theme for the 2025 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was approved by the Catholic Church's Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches, in collaboration with the ecumenical monastic community of Bose in Italy.

This year's theme was chosen in recognition of the 1700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea (325), at which the words "I believe" were chosen to anchor the Creed as an instrument of universal Christian unity.

parish opps

Parish Offertory

12/22:
Offertory \$39,559

Christmas:
Offertory \$46,977
Facilities/Maintenance 5,801

12/29:
Offertory \$38,058

1/5:
Because of the snow, offertory information is not yet available

Catholic Charities' Christmas collection to date \$35,354

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 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.

night of gratitude 2025



**ALL PARISH VOLUNTEERS AND EDUCATORS ARE INVITED
TO OUR "NIGHT OF GRATITUDE,"
CELEBRATING the BEGINNING of the NEW YEAR,
IN THANKS of YOUR SERVICE to SAINT BERNADETTE CHURCH and SCHOOL.**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 at 7 O'CLOCK, in the SCHOOL GYMNASIUM.
HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES and DANCING
to the ANDREW THIELEN ORCHESTRA.**

RSVP to EVELYN BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, evargas@stbernapar.org

Saint Lucy Winter Food Drive for Catholic Charities February 1 - 2

Please mark your calendar for our next St. Lucy Project Food Drive the weekend of February 1-2. Blue Saint Lucy bags will be distributed after all Masses the weekend of January 25-26.

Almost a quarter of a million people in the Arlington diocese don't know where their next meal is coming from. As a way of giving thanks to God for the many blessings in our lives, please help those who are experiencing food insecurity by donating non-perishable food items.

The most needed items are: canned pasta (Chef Boyardee and Spaghetti O's), canned meat/tuna, canned corn, rice, dry beans, jelly, tomato products. NO GLASS JARS, PLEASE! Gift cards to Aldi, Walmart, and Giant are welcome as are cash donations or checks made out to CCDA with St. Lucy Project on the memo line.

2025 parish pilgrimage in the footsteps of Saint Paul September 24 - October 8

Have you ever wondered about those New Testament letters of Saint Paul and the cities surrounding the Aegean Sea?

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Day 1. Athens | 9. Ephesus |
| 2. Corinth | 10. Mykonos |
| 3. Cenchrea/Mycenae | 11. Santorini |
| 4. Piraeus to Volos | 12. at sea |
| 5. Meteora Monasteries | 13. Piraeus/Athens |
| 6. Berea/Thessaloniki | airport to Istanbul |
| 7. Philippi/Kavala | 14. Istanbul |
| 8. at sea | 15. return/Dulles |

As always we find the most interesting places for daily Mass and opportunities for spiritual growth.

We will explore the letters of Paul where he walked as well as consider the relationship with the Latin and Orthodox churches.

Base Cash Package Price: \$5,795
Base Credit Card Price: \$5,995
Single room supplement: \$2,795
Upgrades for staterooms/ balconies

For more information contact tour director Peter's Way Tours, 516-605-1551, peter@petersway.com.

Parish Baby Supplies Drive - January 11 - 26, 2025

We are hosting a baby supplies drive for Catholic Charities Migrant and Refugee Services, and Mary's Comfort, our parish ministry sheltering pregnant women in crisis. We are in great need of baby supplies for both causes. Scan the QR code to see our online wishlist. We can accept new and like-new items only, not items with any signs of wear. Items can be dropped off in the vestibule of the church or sent directly to the parish office beginning on January 12. Thank you for your generosity!

Inova is seeking spiritual care volunteers

Inova's Alexandria and Mount Vernon Hospital Volunteer Chaplain programs are inviting people of all faith traditions to join their team to help provide spiritual and emotional support to a diverse population of patients and family members. Lay or ordained members are welcome to apply. A thorough orientation and training is provided, along with regular ongoing education opportunities. Be assured that your safety and wellbeing are paramount. We function in ways that maximize your wellbeing and safety.

We are seeking:

- Compassionate, emotionally healthy individuals.
- Openness to supporting people of diverse spiritual, ethnic, lifestyle backgrounds. (Proselytizing, witnessing or attempting to convert are never permitted.)
- Are comfortable working with computers.
- A commitment of four hours per week. (Daytime/weekday only. No evening or weekend options at this time.)

Please contact us with any questions and/or to request an application form. For Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, contact refia.tonguc@inova.org and for Inova Alexandria Hospital, contact William.Tweedley@inova.org. Application deadline is February 15, 2025

and more



Message of His Holiness POPE FRANCIS for the 56th World Day of Peace

January 1, 2025

Forgive us our trespasses: grant us your peace

I. Listening to the plea of an endangered humanity

1. At the dawn of this New Year given to us by our heavenly Father, a year of Jubilee in the spirit of hope, I offer heartfelt good wishes of peace to every man and woman. I think especially of those who feel downtrodden, burdened by their past mistakes, oppressed by the judgment of others and incapable of perceiving even a glimmer of hope for their own lives. Upon everyone I invoke hope and peace, for this is a Year of Grace born of the Heart of the Redeemer!

2. Throughout this year, the Catholic Church celebrates the **Jubilee**, an event that fills hearts with hope. The “jubilee” recalls an ancient Jewish practice, when, every forty-ninth year, the sound of a ram’s horn (in Hebrew, *jobel*) would proclaim a year of forgiveness and freedom for the entire people (cf. *Lev 25:10*). This solemn proclamation was meant to echo throughout the land (cf. *Lev 25:9*) and to restore God’s justice in every aspect of life: in the use of the land, in the possession of goods and in relationships with others, above all the poor and the dispossessed. The blowing of the horn reminded the entire people, rich and poor alike, that no one comes into this world doomed to oppression: all of us are brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of the same Father, born to live in freedom, in accordance with the Lord’s will (cf. *Lev 25:17, 25, 43, 46, 55*).

3. In our day too, the Jubilee is an event that inspires us to seek to establish the liberating justice of God in our world. In place of the ram’s horn, at the start of this Year of Grace we wish to hear the “desperate plea for help” [1] that, like the cry of the blood of Abel (cf. *Gen 4:10*), rises up from so many parts of our world – a plea that God never fails to hear. We for our part feel bound to cry out and denounce the many situations in which the earth is exploited and our neighbors oppressed [2]. These injustices can appear at times in the form of what Saint John Paul II called “structures of sin” [3], that arise

not only from injustice on the part of some but are also consolidated and maintained by a network of complicity.

4. Each of us must feel in some way responsible for the devastation to which the earth, our common home, has been subjected, beginning with those actions that, albeit only indirectly, fuel the conflicts that presently plague our human family. Systemic challenges, distinct yet interconnected, are thus created and together cause havoc in our world [4]. I think, in particular, of all manner of disparities, the inhuman treatment meted out to migrants, environmental decay, the confusion willfully created by disinformation, the refusal to engage in any form of dialogue and the immense resources spent on the industry of war. All these, taken together, represent a threat to the existence of humanity as a whole. At the beginning of this year, then, we desire to heed the plea of suffering humankind in order to feel called, together and as individuals, to break the bonds of injustice and to proclaim God’s justice. Sporadic acts of philanthropy are not enough. Cultural and structural changes are necessary, so that enduring change may come about [5].

II. A cultural change: all of us are debtors

5. The celebration of the Jubilee spurs us to make a number of changes in order to confront the present state of injustice and inequality by reminding ourselves that the goods of the earth are meant not for a privileged few, but for everyone [6]. We do well to recall the words of Saint Basil of Caesarea: “Tell me, what things belong to you? Where did you find them to make them part of your life? ... Did you not come forth naked from the womb of your mother? Will you not return naked to the ground? Where did your property come from? If you say that it comes to you naturally by luck, you would deny God by not recognizing the Creator and being grateful to the Giver” [7]. Without gratitude, we are unable to recognize God’s gifts. Yet in his infinite mercy the Lord does not abandon sinful humanity, but instead reaffirms his *gift* of life by the saving *forgiveness* offered to all through Jesus Christ. That is why, in teaching us



the "Our Father", Jesus told us to pray: "Forgive us our trespasses" (Mt 6:12).

6. Once we lose sight of our relationship to the Father, we begin to cherish the illusion that our relationships with others can be governed by a logic of exploitation and oppression, where might makes right [8]. Like the elites at the time of Jesus, who profited from the suffering of the poor, so today, in our interconnected global village [9], the international system, unless it is inspired by a spirit of solidarity and interdependence, gives rise to injustices, aggravated by corruption, which leave the poorer countries trapped. A mentality that exploits the indebted can serve as a shorthand description of the present "debt crisis" that weighs upon a number of countries, above all in the global South.

7. I have repeatedly stated that foreign debt has become a means of control whereby certain governments and private financial institutions of the richer countries unscrupulously and indiscriminately exploit the human and natural resources of poorer countries, simply to satisfy the demands of their own markets [10]. In addition, different peoples, already burdened by international debt, find themselves also forced to bear the burden of the "ecological debt" incurred by the more developed countries [11]. Foreign debt and ecological debt are two sides of the same coin, namely the mindset of exploitation that has culminated in the debt crisis [12]. In the spirit of this Jubilee Year, I urge the international community to work towards forgiving foreign debt in recognition of the ecological debt existing between the North and the South of this world. This is an appeal for solidarity, but above all for justice [13].

8. The cultural and structural change needed to surmount this crisis will come about when we finally recognize that we are all sons and daughters of the one Father, that we are all in his debt but also that we need one another, in a spirit of shared and diversified responsibility. We will be able to "rediscover once for all that we need one another" and are indebted one to another [14].

III. A journey of hope: three proposals

9. If we take to heart these much-needed changes, the Jubilee Year of Grace can serve to set each of us on a renewed journey of hope, born of the experience of God's unlimited mercy [15].

God owes nothing to anyone, yet he constantly bestows his grace and mercy upon all. As Isaac of Nineveh, a seventh-century Father of the Eastern Church, put it in one of his prayers: "Your love, Lord, is greater than my trespasses. The waves of the sea are nothing with respect to the multitude of my sins, but placed on a scale and weighed against your love, they vanish like a speck of dust" [16]. God does not weigh up the evils we commit; rather, he is immensely "rich in mercy, for the great love with which he loved us" (Eph 2:4). Yet he also hears the plea of the poor and the cry of the earth. We would do well simply to stop for a moment, at the beginning of this year, to think of the mercy with which he constantly forgives our sins and forgives our every debt, so that our hearts may overflow with hope and peace.

10. In teaching us to pray the "Our Father," Jesus begins by asking the Father to forgive our trespasses, but passes immediately to the challenging words: "as we forgive those who trespass against us" (cf. Mt 6:12). In order to forgive others their trespasses and to offer them hope, we need for our own lives to be filled with that same hope, the fruit of our experience of God's mercy. Hope overflows in generosity; it is free of calculation, makes no hidden demands, is unconcerned with gain, but aims at one thing alone: to raise up those who have fallen, to heal hearts that are broken and to set us free from every kind of bondage.

11. Consequently, at the beginning of this Year of Grace, I would like to offer three proposals capable of restoring dignity to the lives of entire peoples and enabling them to set them out anew on the journey of hope. In this way, the debt crisis can be overcome and all of us can once more realize that we are debtors whose debts have been forgiven.

continued, next page

Message of His Holiness POPE FRANCIS for the 56th World Day of Peace

continued

First, I renew the appeal launched by Saint John Paul II on the occasion of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 to consider “reducing substantially, if not cancelling outright, the international debt which seriously threatens the future of many nations” [17]. In recognition of their ecological debt, the more prosperous countries ought to feel called to do everything possible to forgive the debts of those countries that are in no condition to repay the amount they owe. Naturally, lest this prove merely an isolated act of charity that simply reboots the vicious cycle of financing and indebtedness, a new financial framework must be devised, leading to the creation of a global financial Charter based on solidarity and harmony between peoples.

I also ask for a firm commitment to respect for the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, so that each person can cherish his or her own life and all may look with hope to a future of prosperity and happiness for themselves and for their children. Without hope for the future, it becomes hard for the young to look forward to bringing new lives into the world. Here I would like once more to propose a concrete gesture that can help foster the culture of life, namely the elimination of the death penalty in all nations. This penalty not only compromises the inviolability of life but eliminates every human hope of forgiveness and rehabilitation [18].

In addition, following in the footsteps of Saint Paul VI and Benedict XVI [19], I do not hesitate to make yet another appeal, for the sake of future generations. In this time marked by wars, let us use at least a fixed percentage of the money earmarked for armaments to establish a global Fund to eradicate hunger and facilitate in the poorer countries educational activities aimed at promoting sustainable development and combating climate change [20]. We need to work at eliminating every pretext that encourages young people to regard their future as hopeless or dominated by the thirst to avenge the blood of their dear ones. The future is a gift meant to enable us to go beyond past failures and to pave new paths of peace.

IV. The goal of peace

12. Those who take up these proposals and set out on the journey of hope will surely glimpse the dawn of the greatly desired goal of peace. The Psalmist promises us that “steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss” (*Ps 85:10*). When I divest myself of the weapon of credit and restore the path of hope to one of my brothers or sisters, I contribute to the restoration of God’s justice on this earth and, with that person, I advance towards the goal of peace. As Saint John XXIII observed, true peace can be born only from a heart “disarmed” of anxiety and the fear of war [21].

13. May 2025 be a year in which peace flourishes! A true and lasting peace that goes beyond quibbling over the details of agreements and human compromises [22]. May we seek the true peace that is granted by God to hearts disarmed: hearts not set on calculating what is mine and what is yours; hearts that turn selfishness into readiness to reach out to others; hearts that see themselves as indebted to God and thus prepared to forgive the debts that oppress others; hearts that replace anxiety about the future with the hope that every individual can be a resource for the building of a better world.

14. Disarming hearts is a job for everyone, great and small, rich and poor alike. At times, something quite simple will do, such as “a smile, a small gesture of friendship, a kind look, a ready ear, a good deed” [23]. With such gestures, we progress towards the goal of peace. We will arrive all the more quickly if, in the course of journeying alongside our brothers and sisters, we discover that we have changed from the time we first set out. Peace does not only come with the end of wars but with the dawn of a new world, a world in which we realize that we are different, closer and more fraternal than we ever thought possible.

15. Lord, grant us your peace! This is my prayer to God as I now offer my cordial good wishes for the New Year to the Heads of State and Government, to the leaders of International Organizations, to the leaders of the various religions and to every person of good will.



*Forgive us our trespasses, Lord,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
In this cycle of forgiveness, grant us your peace,
the peace that you alone can give
to those who let themselves be disarmed in heart,
to those who choose in hope to forgive the debts
of their brothers and sisters,
to those who are unafraid to confess their debt
to you,
and to those who do not close their ears to the
cry of the poor.*

From the Vatican, 8 December 2024

FRANCIS

[1] Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025 *Spes Non Confundit* (9 May 2024), 8.

[2] Cf. SAINT JOHN PAUL II, Apostolic Letter *Tertio Millennio Adveniente* (10 November 1994), 51.

[3] Encyclical Letter *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* (30 December 1987), 36.

[4] Cf. Address to Participants in the Summit of the Pontifical Academies of Sciences and of Social Sciences, 16 May 2024.

[5] Cf. Apostolic Exhortation *Laudate Deum* (4 October 2023), 70.

[6] Cf. Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025 *Spes Non Confundit* (9 May 2024), 16.

[7] Homilia de avaritia, 7: PG 31, 275.

[8] Cf. Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'* (24 May 2015), 123.

[9] Cf. Catechesis, 2 September 2020: *L'Osservatore Romano*, 3 September 2020, p. 8.

[10] Cf. Address to Participants in the Meeting "Addressing the Debt Crisis in the Global South", 5 June 2024.

[11] Cf. Address to the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – COP 28, 2 December 2023.

[12] Cf. Address to Participants in the Meeting "Addressing Debt Crisis in the Global South", 5 June 2024.

[13] Cf. Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025 *Spes Non Confundit* (9 May 2024), 16.

[14] Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti* (3 October 2020), 35.

[15] Cf. Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025 *Spes Non Confundit* (9 May 2024), 23.

[16] Oratio X, 100-101: CSCO 638, 115. Saint Augustine could even state that God remains constantly in our debt: "Since 'your mercy is everlasting', you deign by your promises to become a debtor to all those whose sins you forgive" (cf. *Confessions*, 5, 9, 17: PL 32, 714).

[17] Apostolic Letter *Tertio Millennio Adveniente* (10 November 1994), 51.

[18] Cf. Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025 *Spes Non Confundit* (9 May 2024), 10.

[19] Cf. SAINT PAUL VI, Encyclical Letter *Populorum Progressio* (26 March 1967), 51; BENEDICT XVI, Address to the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See, 9 January 2006; Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Sacramentum Caritatis* (22 February 2007), 90.

[20] Cf. Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti* (3 October 2020), 262; Address to the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See, 8 January 2024; Address to the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – COP 28, 2 December 2023.

[21] Cf. Encyclical Letter *Pacem in Terris* (11 April 1963), Carlen 113.

[22] Cf. Moment of Prayer on the Tenth Anniversary of the "Invocation for Peace in the Holy Land", 7 June 2024.

[23] Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025 *Spes Non Confundit* (9 May 2024), 18.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried . . .

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!" . . . Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. . . . Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

Amen.

Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

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

January

13 MONDAY

7am Kevin Kane
9am* Eber & Alexis Blanco
Heb 1:1-6/Mk 1:14-20

14 TUESDAY

7am Fr. Chris Yakkell
9am* Private Intention
Heb 2:5-12/Mk 1:21-28

15 WEDNESDAY

7am † Rizaldy & Luvisminda Peralta
9am* Brendan Murray
Heb 2:14-18/Mk 1:29-39

16 THURSDAY

7am † Feliciano Payabyab
9am* † Pauline Hergenroder
Heb 3:7-14/Mk 1:40-45

17 FRIDAY

7am Michael Mugno
9am* † Bartolome Cornilles
10am** † Miriam Roos
Heb 4:1-5, 11/Mk 2:1-12

18 SATURDAY

8am* † Francindo & Fepila Abellana
Heb 4:12-16/Mk 2:13-17
5pm* Christian Unity

19 SUNDAY

7am Carlina Mesina
9am* For the parish
11am* Fr. John Rooney
1pm Vargas Family
5pm † Dioscoro & Elizabeth Abellana
Is 62:1-5/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

* live-streamed Masses

** Mass at Greenspring Chapel

Masses next weekend

Jan 18	5pm	Fr. Cedric
Jan 19	7am	Fr. Don
	9am	Fr. Don
	11am	Fr. Jeb
	1pm	Fr. James
	5pm	Fr. James

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, Christy Perez Ayala, Barbara Baxter, Lorenzo Beitia, Benedi Family, Javier Blandon, Marvin Boord, Krista Buskey, Eleanor Butler, Josue Cabrera, Frank Caponegro, 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, Karen Mitchell, 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, Apolonia Rye, Sagum Family, John Sandidge, B. Schulz, Smith Family, Glendora Spinelli, Ailsa Squatrito, Laura Sutherland, Ellie Urmston, Holger Vargas, Mary Vago, Silvio Villena, Adrienne Vincent, James Washburn, 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.

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@stbernapar.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@stbernapar.org or call the office.

January is Poverty Awareness Month

During Poverty Awareness Month, join the U.S. bishops, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and the Catholic community in the United States in taking up Pope Francis' challenge to live in solidarity with the poor! [Daily reflections](#) (en [Español](#)) include ways to learn about poverty, get inspired by how communities are responding, and take action with others. You can also have the daily reflections emailed to you during Poverty Awareness Month! [Sign up here!](#)



If you are new to the parish or never had an opportunity to make a pledge or gift to our new Parish Life Center, the campaign continues. Please contact Fr. Don or Jean Corday in the parish office. Thanks for your support.

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