

**Saint  
Bernadette  
Ministry  
Catalog**

**2024 -20255**



**SAINT BERNADETTE**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

7600 Old Keene Mill Rd  
Springfield, VA 22152  
703-451-8576

[www.stbermpar.org](http://www.stbermpar.org)

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# Saint Bernadette Parish Life

## Here is a quick guide to getting involved.

from our  
pastor

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

It is that time of year when the ministries in the parish come together for a recruitment weekend inviting you to get involved in parish life in the coming year, in ministries of education (adults and children), liturgy, parish operations, social and charitable outreach, and parish life events.

We **thank you**, all of you who have stepped up and brought these ministries to life as much as we were able during the past couple of very difficult years, so that others might come and pray, learn and contribute to our Saint Bernadette Family in the many expressions of our love of God and care and compassion for his people. What you do makes a difference.

**N**ow that the pandemic is hopefully past, we must begin again the work of building and rebuilding parish life. I invite you to **consider where you will get involved** in being a vital part of our vibrant community of prayer, outreach and service.

In our parish life, the question is: **are we disciples, or not?**

There must be more to a parish community than simply providing for its members what they want or need. It is more than just the place where I go to fulfill my obligation for Mass and get the sacraments I am supposed to get.

The gifts we receive compel us to turn to others and share them. Only then does the Gospel live.

At Saint Bernadette we have about 4,000 registered families, of which fewer than half seem to be active. For years we required registration whenever a family had a sacramental request. Many of those families registered but never became a part of the active life of the parish in worship or service.

Today we are watching churches – all religious institutions, really – struggling with a real decline in active involvement. The pandemic only intensified a decline that was already well underway. Some write about this decline as if it were a good thing, a kind of “liberation” from organized religion which, they say, is a broken system that has failed in solving world problems for 2,000 years.

Recent statistics, even before COVID, showed that the “nones,” those who don't claim any specific church affiliation, had surpassed both Catholics and Evangelicals in number. This number grows as all denominations decline, with a growing subgroup of “nones” who are called “dones,” or those who formerly had been practicing, who are just *done*, they have had enough. Without actively choosing to do so, people just drift away.

This happens for many reasons, the first of which is certainly a lack of adequate faith formation. Also, there is sometimes an environment which is not based on unconditional love, but rather one that feels judgmental. It seems you have to meet a set of requirements before you can feel you belong. A hypocrisy is revealed when those in the churches themselves don't prove to be any better than those whom



they condemn. Anyone short of perfection may be made to feel not worthy of welcome.

There are also the overwhelming voices of popular culture among which the voice of Jesus becomes just another voice. Relativism has become a common mode of thinking: the perspective that knowledge, truth and morality exist in relation to cultural, social, or historical contexts which are always changing and therefore, likewise, truth and morality are not absolute. If true, then why need an institution that defends a standard of truth or morality?

Individualism of this modern age is eclipsing the value of community, which is foundational to understanding the Mystical Body of Christ.

But I think the greatest reason people drift away from the faith is that they simply forget that God put them on this earth *for a reason*: to be holy as he is holy, yes, but that holiness is meaningless unless your gifts are used in service for others to give God glory. You have to do something with them, or they atrophy.

### Cost of Discipleship

*What must I do to inherit eternal life?* The young man asks Jesus.

Having determined that the young man had faithfully followed all the

commandments and still sought more, *Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this statement, he went away sad, for he had many possessions.*

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Amen, I say to you, it will be hard for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."*

*When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and said, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible."*

*Then Peter said to him in reply, "We have given up everything and followed you. What will there be for us?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you that you who have followed me, in the new age, when the Son of Man is seated on his throne of glory, will yourselves sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life."*

For most of us, this is a pretty tall order, and it needs to be noted that Jesus was asking a lot from his innermost circle, the Apostles of Christianity who

went out for the first time across the known world with the Word of God. It does not mean, however, that we are called to any less of a commitment to love. We are called to give of ourselves without counting the cost. It can be as simple as offering a cup of cold water to one who is thirsty. We know that it is Jesus himself whom we serve when we care for one of the least of these, his sisters and brothers.

That young man went away sad, but it doesn't say he never came back. He just needed to choose to love others more than his stuff.

There is a profound difference between being a "follower" and a "disciple." I know people who delight in the fact that they have thousands of followers on Facebook but know full-well that in a pinch, those people would not be there for them. Followers have the ability to decide whether or not to engage, or simply scroll down the screen and disregard. So many people go through life as spectators.

The word *disciple* comes from the Greek word that the evangelists used for "student." Being a student requires a couple of things: a real desire to learn and a commitment to study, to work toward the goal. This requires *discipline*. The goal in mind is knowledge and understanding, to accomplish the ability to carry out a particular work that you want to do. God calls us, as well, to various tasks in serving him according to the gifts we have received. Those gifts are revealed to us in prayer and reflection, as well as our interaction with others in our community who might be able to recognize gifts in us we might not be able to see so clearly by ourselves. Our community is the constellation (the galaxy?) of the collective total of the gifts God has placed among us, together.

One of the purposes of this letter is to ask you to consider these questions: What are we doing. Why are we here?

Every year we report to the Diocese about all aspects of parish life. Every year in the section on "Community and Service" I am reminded of everything we are *not* doing. Perhaps some of you are already involved in some of these ministries which are not formally organized through our parish; if so, we would like to develop support for you. The survey states, "A basic expectation is that parishes provide the service of charity to others. The items below request the number of people in the parish who are involved in providing the service and the number who are served..." Sadly, in our response, we could only claim a few we know of.

If any of these are an area of ministry that inspire you to passionately respond, please contact me and, if able, we will develop a parish ministry!

**Addiction Services** – AA, NA, Opioid Addiction...

**Pregnancy Services** – newborn and mother support, counseling, parent-ing, prenatal care programs, support for individuals or families affected by abortion...

**Education and Enrichment** – care for migrants and refugees, literacy programs, childcare, head start-type programs, extended day, abstinence education, marriage promotion...

**Socialization and Neighborhood Services** – Camps, senior citizens programs, community organizing...

**Social Support Services** – services for the unemployed, homemaker services,

services for the homebound, transportation assistance, tuition assistance...

**Health-related Services** – parish nursing/health ministry, health-related support groups, blood drives, bereavement programs...

**Basic Needs Services** – Soup kitchens, home food delivery, holiday baskets/dinners, food collections, mortgage assistance, clothing drives/collections...

Imagine how powerful our witness of the Spirit could be in living the Gospel for all. All of these are ministries which will only develop out of the gifts and generosity of you, members of our parish family.

**O**ur priorities at Saint Bernadette in the coming years must be threefold:

**1** We must reach out to all our members with an evangelization of **faith formation**. People do not know the authenticity and integrity of the faith they are leaving behind. As I have often quoted, studies have shown that the average age of former Catholics, when asked when they decided to leave the Church, is 12 years of age. How do 12 year-olds make a decision about something they can't possibly understand, save for the influence of family and friends? Formation of our children, youth and parents is vital to their future and the future of Christianity, and is the responsibility of all parish members to provide.

**2** We can work on our **environment** to make sure that our **welcome** is authentic. I hear from many people that they choose Saint Bernadette because we are such a welcoming parish. I am very grateful. Pope Francis says a lot about the role of the Church as the

place where sinners and saints come to encounter Christ wherever they are on the path, welcomed by our unconditional love. This is not a denial of Church teachings, but rather a way all of us journey together seeking a deeper life with God and his precepts. A community based in love – there can be no healing, reconciliation, or growth in unity without love first.

**3** We need to make Christ known more in the culture around us. This means we need to develop **outreach** to all those in our wider community for whom our prayer, outreach and service will provide a witness to our faith in Jesus Christ. Ministry in the parish can not be only self-help programs for the benefit of the individuals who participate, but must also include the active seeking of all who are suffering, marginalized and forgotten, and peoples of different Christian denominations and faiths.

From the first year I have been at Saint Bernadette, I identified youth involvement in the life of the parish as a priority that must be supported by the entire parish community – not just with a stand-alone ministry for youth, but to assure that youth will be included in all the ministries of the parish. Likewise, rather than a separate and parallel Spanish-speaking community, all parish ministries should be developed in English and Spanish – and all the many other languages which reflect our multicultural parish family.

Beginning on page 5 is a list of ministry opportunities in the parish I invite you to consider discerning here God might be calling you to serve.

The Lord be with you.

*Fr. Dom*

## True Catholic stewardship is built on four pillars: (1) hospitality, (2) prayer, (3) formation, (4) service.



### hospitality

**We are all longing to be welcomed home.**

"When I was a stranger, you welcomed me." (Mt. 25-35) Jesus Christ teaches that whenever we welcome one of the least of our sisters and brothers, we welcome Christ himself. Parishioners of a discipleship parish seek to see the face of Christ in one another. With special vigilance, we must seek out and welcome new members to the parish family. A discipleship parish is a welcoming parish regardless of the parish demographics: large or small – urban, suburban or rural.

We are all prodigal children longing to be welcomed home. In a hospitable parish, parishioners and guests feel they belong and are appreciated. This is especially true if we were ever absent from church. Hospitality leads to a sense of "belonging." When we experience a warm and sincere welcome, we in turn become open to give ourselves to others. God is love, and gives love to each one of us. As God loves us, God calls us to love one another. This Divine Love flows through the heart of the faithful disciple to love others. When we are recipients of such love from others, we are attract-

Excerpts are from the document The Pillars of Stewardship, prepared by the Office of Stewardship, Catholic Diocese of Wichita KS, May 2004, and from "Live Jesus: Historical Background of the Introduction to the Devout Life," Armind Nazareth, MSFS, Studies in Salesian Spirituality, April-June 2005..

ed to follow this example. When others welcome us, we are open to welcoming others. This desire to welcome others is yet another gift of God. The most vibrant discipleship parishes are those in which parishioners know they are welcomed, which fosters a sense of ownership and personal involvement in lived discipleship to the parish family.

### prayer

**Personal and Communal.**

Prayer is essential to the Christian life. It is a vital and personal relationship with the living and true God and is the lifeblood of our faith. Without prayer, our faith will die. A discipleship parish strives to nourish the soul through prayer. "Prayer is as necessary to our souls as food is to our bodies." Prayer and the sacraments dispose a soul to receive God's abundant graces, which are necessary to grow in holiness. It is through prayer that we nurture our personal relationship with Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

While we find great fulfillment in giving ourselves to parish life, prayer purifies and intensifies the intention of the disciple. Prayer increases our yearning to receive the source and summit of our Catholic faith, the Eucharist. As a parish family, we gather together to worship and praise God in the Mass. Nourished by the Word of God and the Eucharist, we are strengthened as a parish family to go to serve the Lord. Discipleship is a

lived response of the disciple to follow this command.

There is a deep connection between the Eucharistic celebration and discipleship. In one of the prefaces of the Eucharistic Prayers it says, "Lord our desire to thank you is itself your gift." The third Eucharistic Prayer states, "All life, all holiness comes from you through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, by the working of the Holy Spirit... And so Father, we bring you these gifts. We ask you to make them holy by the power of your Spirit, that they will become the body and blood of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate this Eucharist."

All we are and seek to become is strengthened and becomes more perfect through the Eucharist. It is the Eucharist where we again recognize our total dependence upon God for everything. All that is good is a gift from him. It is not that we have loved him, but that he first has loved us by giving his Son.

In both our personal and communal prayer, we turn toward God to discern properly our talents and gifts. In a disciple's response, we place those gifts at the service of God and one another. At the heart of the disciple's prayer is the petition, "Thy Will be done."

## formation

### A life-long journey of conversion.

As the disciple grows in the life of prayer, God reveals himself more intimately in this personal relationship. The disciple also sees that the gifts received from God are to be shared and not buried. The disciple remains deeply rooted in humility, recognizing that the gifts one has been given come not from self, but from God. Those gifts are to be shared with others. Here lies the heart of the disciple's

personal response as a disciple – to share what one has received and to share with a generous, grateful and loving heart.

This formation of each individual becomes part of the formation of the parish community. As members of the Body of Christ, we recognize that we have a call from God to give. Inherent within each of us is the need to give; to move from selfishness to selflessness. This formation is a life-long journey of conversion. The discipleship parish journeys constantly in this formation of conversion. As one grows more deeply in this formation to a life of discipleship, the more deeply one loves as God loves us. This is true for the individual disciple and for the discipleship parish.

Such formation is a formidable task, involving education of the mind and conversion of the heart. To know the "discipleship way of life" does not make one live a "discipleship way of life." Formation includes quality education, but the knowledge itself is not enough. Ongoing Catholic education, (for children and adults), is important if we are to grow in our lives as disciples. This formation should include a proper knowledge and understanding of discipleship since it is a primary means to lead the faithful to holiness. Catholic schools, religious education, youth ministry programs, adult education offerings and parish discipleship committees are wonderful and essential places where this faith formation begins. Yet, they are not the only parish organizations responsible for this faith formation of parishioners to grow.

Every parish organization has a role to play in nurturing the faith formation of the parishioners. It is in this collective parish effort and grace of God at work through our sincere efforts that faith formation thrives. The meaning of faithful discipleship and how to live this way of

life is at the core of the disciple's response to the gift of faith we freely receive from our loving God.

## service

### To love as Christ loves, to serve as Christ serves.

Members of a discipleship parish are ready to minister to the varied needs of their own parish family as well as the needs of the wider community and Church. Just as members of a family come to help one of their own, a discipleship parish family serves those who are hurting or in need, doubting or seeking salvation. The parish family also comes together to celebrate, thank and to return God's gifts – all are needs of parishioners.

Like a blood family, the parish actually stands ready and eager collectively to wrap their arms around their brothers and sisters when they suffer in trial and/or celebrate special events in their lives. "God so constructed the body, that there may be no dissension in the body, but that all the members may be concerned for one another. If one member suffers, all members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all members share its joy." (1 Cor.12: 24b, 25-26)

We seek the parish family as a primary community to serve and to be served – to give and to receive. If a parishioner finds they can serve and be ministered to, they have little need to search elsewhere for this fulfillment. Likewise, they have recognized a place where their service is appreciated and utilized for the good of the Church.

But the members of a discipleship parish recognize that they also have a need to give beyond their own members. We have a need to serve and to give in the diocese, the community and the universal Church. Failure to have this understand-

ing leads to selfish parochialism, which is draining to a parish discipleship way of life. This is a challenge to some parishioners, who are willing to serve their own, but no outsiders. Interestingly, if this is the mindset of a particular parish, chances also exist that such a parish does not fully embrace the concept of hospitality.

To love as Christ loves and to serve as Christ serves, through the concrete practice of hospitality, prayer and formation, we will grow to become a true discipleship parish that lives Jesus.

### Stewardship involves all of life.

In their Pastoral Letter on *Stewardship, a Disciple's Response*, the U.S. bishops state:

*"The Christian steward is one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord."*

People often speak of stewardship in terms of Time, Talent and Treasure, but the truth is that stewardship involves all of life – body, mind and spirit, our material possessions, friendships, all we have. All we are and have is a gift from our Creator for us to use wisely and unselfishly to build up God's kingdom here on earth. Sharing our precious time, our energies and abilities, and our material resources must include the Christian virtues of prayerfulness, sacrifice and mercy. Although there is no law about tithing, it remains a rich tradition that is suggested by many Church leaders to help us establish a guide and a personal goal of how we plan to share our goods. Consider not only the idea of a financial tithe – what would it look like if we were to take what "free" time we have and commit a certain percentage of it to do works of mercy, or prayer?

If we were to speak more in terms of prayer, sacrifice and mercy perhaps we would recognize more than just a pressing need for these in our lives. Actually, they are duties and performing them is joyful for every true disciple and follower of Jesus Christ, whose own prayerful suffering and death on the Cross redeemed the world in love.

Virtues are good habits, disciplines, which order our desires and help us to practice a healthy self-denial in all aspects of our

lives. Disciples intentionally embrace spiritual and physical disciplines such as fasting and almsgiving, and generosity and loving kindness in order to make Jesus visible in our everyday world. They are also beneficial to us, personally: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Mt 5:7). The practice of mercy involves offering our time and talents to those in spiritual or physical need, as well as giving alms and supporting the programs that advance the mission of mercy of the Church.

## time

### Time may be the most precious gift of all.

Most of us feel we don't have enough time for all the things we want to do. Everyone is given the same amount of time: 24 hours each day, 168 hours each week. When it's gone, it's gone. The question is: *How do we choose to use our time?*

Intentionality helps us order our use of time, to be certain that we will have time for God, for our loved ones, for our community, and for those in need.

#### Consider making a concrete time commitment for the coming year:

- ▶ Time for prayer
- ▶ Time for relationships
- ▶ Time for service

## talent

### God doesn't make people without talents.

All of us are blessed with talents. We may not be aware of them, or they may not be developed. There might not be enough time to develop them all. We need to develop some of them wisely to bless the communities we belong to.

Also, God calls us to serve according to the gifts he has given us in baptism. Use this catalog to read about opportunities, and make a plan to get involved in at least one way.

What activities do I feel "bring me to life?" ▶ How can I apply them in the life of the Church? Consider responding generously.

## treasure

### What we have can draw us nearer to God,

or it can cause us to fall away. Do we own things or do they own us? A person with a gift of giving, instead of asking "How much should I give?" might ask "How much do I need to keep?"

The mission of the Church literally depends upon your giving. Again, giving needs to be intentional, not just random. Consider naming a goal for giving, some percentage of wealth which might be set aside for others.

How can I prayerfully set a goal for my giving? ▶ Am I able to give my first fruits to God, rather than just what may be left over?

*At Saint Bernadette, we hope to provide the best possible religious education for our parish community. Together, our programs can work as a resource, preparing our children, young adults, and adults for the sacraments and continuing to nourish our community's faith formation.*

*In addition to our core Religious Education program for parish children, this past year we offered:*

- RCIA – for all interested in joining the Catholic Church, 7:15-8:30pm Mondays in the Bradican Room;
- Parish 40 Hours Lenten Retreat with nightly conferences;
- Wednesday morning, Wednesday evening and Thursday morning Bible studies.

*As we expand our programs with the lifting of pandemic restrictions, these are the ministries and opportunities we plan to offer this year:*

### Adult Faith Formation

**Mission:** To provide ongoing, life-long, faith formation for adults within our parish community. This includes bible studies, parish missions, guest speakers, educational series, retreats, or days of reflection for parishioners.

**Time:** For parents of Religious Education students, classes are once a month during the student class sessions. For other adults, we have regularly scheduled and special formation events throughout the year.

**Coordinators:** Lynn Jones, Director of Faith Formation, [ljones@stbernpa.org](mailto:ljones@stbernpa.org) and Fr. Don Rooney, [frdonrooney@stbernpa.org](mailto:frdonrooney@stbernpa.org)

### ESOL: English as a Second Language

*Saint Bernadette partners with Catholic Charities, Diocese of Arlington – Hogar Immigrant Services to offer English and citizenship classes for our immigrant neighbors.*

**Mission:** To co-teach English language classes and/or tutor citizenship candidates. There are five different levels of English classes offered, and volunteers usually teach in pairs. Classes are held in Saint Bernadette School.

**Time:** Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7-9pm. Teachers commit to one night per week.

**Coordinator:** Diana Round, [diana.round@ccdca.net](mailto:diana.round@ccdca.net), (571) 208-1572 ext. 102.

### Religious Education, Kindergarten through 8th Grade and Sacramental Prep for High School Students

**Mission:** To partner with parents, the first and best educators of their children, in order to provide ongoing faith formation for all the children in the parish who are not enrolled in a Catholic School.

**Time:** Weekly commitment (if possible), plus initial training, including VIRTUS certification with a background check, and on-going catechist formation in the parish, while pursuing catechist certification for those in classroom roles.

**Talent:** A love of Jesus Christ, our Catholic faith, and the children is foremost, and a desire to share your faith with the children and families of our parish. Training and certification are made available which includes faith knowledge, sound education practices, and classroom management. Volunteers are needed to serve as catechists, aides, office and clerical volunteers, teen helpers, and hall/door monitors.

**Director:** Lynn Jones, 703-451-8576, [Ljones@stbernpa.org](mailto:Ljones@stbernpa.org)

### OCIA: Order of Christian Initiation for Adults Team

*Join our formation team for adults who are seeking full sacramental initiation in the Church.*

**Mission:** To facilitate the process of initiating new members into our Roman Catholic community of faith through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Providing personal presence which seeks to accompany Inquirers throughout the process of coming to the Sacraments.

**Time:** Mondays 7:15-8:30pm for weekly meetings with the candidates and some additional core team planning and formation meetings.

**Talent:** An ability to share your love of Christ and the Catholic faith with those seeking to become Catholic. Some teaching and leading of discussion groups is possible.

**Coordinators:** Tony Weilbacher, OCIA Volunteer [tonyweilbacher@gmail.com](mailto:tonyweilbacher@gmail.com), Fr. Don, [frdonrooney@stbernpa.org](mailto:frdonrooney@stbernpa.org), and Lynn Jones, 703-451-8576, [Ljones@stbernpa.org](mailto:Ljones@stbernpa.org) (admin support)

Spanish OICA Coordinator: Fr. Jeb Donelan, [frjebdonelan@stbernpa.org](mailto:frjebdonelan@stbernpa.org)

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  - High School Girls' Small Group
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  - Diocesan WorkCamp Volunteer

### Saint Bernadette School

*Are you looking for a way to give back or to make a difference? Come spend some quality time at Saint Bernadette School as together we Form Hearts and Minds in Christ—you will leave with a smile on your face and joy in your heart!*

We are looking for volunteers:

- *One-on-one Tutors*—work with a child or a small group, listening to him/her practice reading or going over flash cards
- *Art Room Assistants*—help with preparation and distribution of materials, cleaning up, and displaying our student's artwork.
- *Library Assistants*—check-out books, shelf books, or help prepare books for check-out
- *Technology Assistant*—we can always use an extra set of hands and eyes as young students learn to use technology. Help prepare materials, or guide students on learning technology concepts.
- *Science Lab Assistants*—help set up/organize materials for science labs and guide students through activities.
- Would you help with opening milk cartons and food packages and wiping tables in the lunchroom? This is a fantastic opportunity to meet your child's friends.
- Are you a scientist or engineer? Would you be interested in meeting with our middle school students to share your expertise to enhance the quality of their science fair projects?
- We have a need for substitute teachers--we will teach you what you need to know. A Bachelor's degree is required.

**Contact:** Dr. Kathleen Burges, Principal, 703-451-8696, [kburgess@stbernschool.org](mailto:kburgess@stbernschool.org)

### Bible Studies

*These Adult Bible studies offer a wide selection of possibilities for the group. All are welcome to participate.*

**Mission:** To grow in your spiritual walk with Christ by spending time with his Word in prayer and fellowship.

**Time:** Wednesday mornings, 9:45am-11:30am, Thursday mornings,

9:45am-11:30am

**Coordinators:** Maggie McKinley (Wednesday mornings), [office@stbernpa.org](mailto:office@stbernpa.org).

### Called and Gifted Program

*This program begins the process of becoming Intentional Disciples in our community life of spirituality and ministry. The workshop spurs a parish to move out of maintenance mode into mission. This program is for anyone in the parish who would like to discern gifts and seek answers to how God is calling you.*

**Mission:** To assist in the continued development of the Called and Gifted Program at Saint Bernadette Parish by establishing an organized process for implementation and fostering opportunities for small groups for discernment beyond the completion of the formal program.

**Time:** On-going commitment; primarily based on larger programmed events planned throughout the year.

**Talent:** Must have completed the Called and Gifted Workshop, organized, good communication skills and attentiveness to detail; have a good sense of our parish community, been involved in ministry(ies) and comfortable with both short/long timelines and event planning.

**Coordinator:** Rick Caporali, [rcaporali@stbernpa.org](mailto:rcaporali@stbernpa.org)

### Walking With Purpose (Women)

*A community of women seeking to grow in their knowledge of Scripture while deepening their relationship with Christ and connection to the parish community.*

**Mission:** Walking With Purpose is a national ministry devoted to bringing women closer to Christ and deepening their faith through Scripture-centered community.

**Time:** Weekly, small group Bible studies with women of all ages with regular large group meeting time. Studies start in early Fall but women are welcome to join at any point throughout the year.

**Talent:** Come as you are! No previous Bible study experience needed.

**Coordinators:** Renee Fuentes & Suyapa Shine, [StBernadetteWWP@gmail.com](mailto:StBernadetteWWP@gmail.com) or <https://bit.ly/StBernWWP>

### Youth Ministry (YM)

**Mission:** Saint Bernadette Youth Ministry is made up of those adults who have been called by God to help young people experience the transforming love of Christ and become missionary-disciples. We do this by providing a range of opportunities to be formed in the Catholic faith for 6th-12th grade teens in Springfield, VA. Our ultimate goal is to provide an avenue for every single teen in the parish to enter more deeply into their faith and parish community.

Several current opportunities to facilitate our youth programs are listed below. However, we are always looking for new adults who are willing to step up and use their gifts to inspire teens in the faith. If you have a gift or passion that you are excited to share please reach out to the Office of Youth Ministry. We would love to work on developing your idea for a new youth program!

**Time:** Youth programs/activities can be anywhere from a one-night event or a year-round weekly program.

**Talent:** A personal and active relationship with Christ and a love for the Catholic faith is of the upmost importance. An ability to minister to young people and a commitment to building a welcoming environment to help youth to form a personal relationship with Christ and his Church, and become integrated into parish life. A wide array of talents and personalities can be used with Youth. Please contact the Director of Youth Ministry to further discuss how your talents can be used to serve the youth of the parish.

**Coordinator:** Grace Rihl, Director of Youth Ministry, [grihl@stbernpa.org](mailto:grihl@stbernpa.org)

**Note:** *The Diocese mandates that all Youth Ministry adult volunteers (18+ years of age) be compliant with OPCYP Programs. Contact Grace Rihl for more information.*

### YM: Confirmation Team Leaders

**Mission:** To serve as a team leader to sixth, seventh and eighth graders who are preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. Leaders serve as spiritual mentors and coordinators of corporal and spiritual works of mercy projects which lead candidates into serving in the life of the Church. Loving adults are needed to witness their own faith and commitment to the Church and

inspire our young people to grow in their faith.

**Time:** 24-month commitment. Quarterly meetings with candidates to complete spiritual and corporal works of mercy and accompany them to the Confirmation retreat. Several formation meetings with staff and other Team Leaders. Chaperone the Confirmation retreat (day trip one Saturday in the late summer/early fall).

**Talent:** An ability to act as a mentor, witnessing your love of God and our life in the Church. Able to share freely and appropriately, and inspire faith.

**Coordinator:** Grace Rihl, Director of Youth Ministry, [grihl@stbernpa.org](mailto:grihl@stbernpa.org); Lynn Jones, Director of Religious Education, [ljones@stbernpa.org](mailto:ljones@stbernpa.org)

### YM: High School Events

**Mission:** To provide the opportunity for all 9th-12th grade teens in the parish and Springfield to come together for fun, fellowship and formation in the faith.

**Time:** The Office of Youth Ministry sponsors at least one activity per month. These include large group gatherings, trips and Diocesan events.

**Talent:** Adults willing to chaperone with an ability to act as a mentor, witnessing your love of God and our life in the Church. Able to share freely and appropriately, and inspire faith.

**Coordinator:** Grace Rihl, Director of Youth Ministry, [grihl@stbernpa.org](mailto:grihl@stbernpa.org)

### YM: High School Dinners

**Mission:** To provide an opportunity for all 9th-12th grade teens in the parish and Springfield to share a meal together at the parish.

**Time:** Event-by-event, as needed basis with plenty of notice.

**Talent:** Adults willing to chaperone with an ability to act as a mentor, witnessing your love of God and our life in the Church. Able to share freely and appropriately, and inspire faith.

**Coordinator:** Grace Rihl, Director of Youth Ministry, [grihl@stbernpa.org](mailto:grihl@stbernpa.org)

### YM: High School Boys' Catholic Life Community

**Mission:** Catholic Life Communities are

## EDUCATION MINISTRIES

committed, parish-based, single-sex high school communities of faith for guys and girls, that promote their spiritual, emotional, and social development in an atmosphere of Christian values and friendships.

**Time:** 7:30pm on Thursdays. *Please contact CLC Coordinator first before attending. Several CLC events are planned throughout the year including a yearly diocesan-wide CLC retreat, field trips, and pilgrimages.*

**Talent:** An ability to act as a spiritual, emotional, and life mentor; Knowledge on Church teaching in order to form and catechize the participating teens; Emotional strength to share deeply about one's life and encourage strong relationships among high school peers.

**Coordinators:** Jim Garster, [jgarster@verizon.net](mailto:jgarster@verizon.net), Mike Paquette, [mpaquette0@outlook.com](mailto:mpaquette0@outlook.com)

### YM: High School Girls' Small Group

**Mission:** To provide 9th-12th grade girls the opportunity to form relationships with other Catholic young women while being formed on a variety of topics in the faith.

**Time:** Weekly evening meetings (tbd).

**Talent:** Women with a personal and active faith, knowledge of church teaching, and a desire to build community among young women. The ability to facilitate discussion and assist in forming a community.

**Coordinator:** Grace Rihl, Director of Youth Ministry, [grihl@stbernapar.org](mailto:grihl@stbernapar.org)

### YM: Middle School Monthly Socials

**Mission:** We provide middle school students with a fun social experience at least once a month in order to build community among our 6th-8th grade teens. This could range from laser-tag or bowling, or having a themed party at St. Bernadette.

**Time:** One evening a month.

**Talent:** We are in need of volunteers who are excited to share their joy with young people, and have a heart for middle school aged kids.

**Coordinator:** Grace Rihl, Director of Youth Ministry, [grihl@stbernapar.org](mailto:grihl@stbernapar.org)

### YM: Diocesan WorkCamp Volunteers

**Mission:** To assist in the preparation, coordination and participation of our youth's WorkCamp experiences.

**Time:** Varies based on area of support. Can include volunteering the week of camp, weekend fundraising activities or planning meetings.

**Talent:** Many opportunities are available such as: contractor, team leader, fundraising coordinator, stakeholder, security, lunch prep, etc. All share in the coordination and execution of a powerful week-long service-oriented WorkCamp experience. Volunteers are needed to attend WorkCamp and provide leadership. Always in need of a contractor or someone who is very handy. The Diocese requires that each parish have one or two contractors attend WorkCamp—we need you! *No experience necessary but a willingness to witness Christ through your example to our youth is a must!*

**Coordinator:** Grace Rihl, Director of Youth Ministry, [grihl@stbernapar.org](mailto:grihl@stbernapar.org)

*Together we keep the Mass as the center of our worshiping community. All those who volunteer for liturgical ministries witness to the presence of Christ in our midst and strengthen us as a community centered on Jesus present in the Eucharist and in his living Word.*

*Within our liturgical ministries, we rely upon the gifts of the presider to lead us in worship, and the gifts of God's people to sing his praises, proclaim his Word, serve at his altar, welcome his people, care for his altar and his house, and assist in the distribution of Holy Communion, at Mass and to the homebound. There are many ministries and many gifts needed to support the liturgy in our parish.*

*We continue to encourage all members of St. Bernadette to participate fully, consciously, and actively in our liturgical worship and the life of our parish.*

### Altar Servers

**Mission:** A unique ministry by which boys and girls fourth grade and older can help spread the word and the love of Christ by assisting the principal celebrant during Mass. To be an Altar Server is a special honor and a great privilege. Opportunities are available for other liturgies as well, such as weddings, funerals, benediction, etc.

**Time:** Ideally two Masses per month. Arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of Mass. Initial training and formation sessions. Schedule is flexible and finding a substitute if needed is required.

**Talent:** A desire to serve God. Attentiveness, neat appearance, and reverence at Mass. Must be dependable.

**Coordinators:** Fr. Don, [frdonrooney@stbernapar.org](mailto:frdonrooney@stbernapar.org)

### Altar Society

**Mission:** To wash the sacred vessels, take home small linens (purificators, altar cloths, towels) for washing and pressing, change holy water at church entrances each week as well as sanitize font, wash font liners, and water plants at the altar.

**Time:** Various and numerous activities at different times weekly, or by the month.

**Talent:** A caring eye for detail.

**Coordinator:** Lillian Hidalgo, [lilces58@yahoo.com](mailto:lilces58@yahoo.com)

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

**Mission:** To assist in the distribution of the Holy Eucharist on Sundays, Holy Days and/or daily Mass, and to share ministry with the homebound and institutionalized.

**Time:** Schedule is flexible and finding a substitute is required. Diocesan and parish formation and training sessions also required. Generally, a 5-year term renewable once.

**Talent:** Love and reverence for the Holy Eucharist; ease in public settings, Catholic in good standing who has received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation). Must be invited to serve by the Pastor and formally mandated by Bishop Burbidge, usually annually July 1. *If you are interested, please contact Fr. Don directly for an appointment.*

**Coordinators:** Suyapa Shine, [suyashine@gmail.com](mailto:suyashine@gmail.com), Alicia Ramos, [alicia@ramosfamily.me](mailto:alicia@ramosfamily.me) and Fr. Don Rooney, [frdonrooney@stbernapar.org](mailto:frdonrooney@stbernapar.org)

### Eucharistic Ministers Service to the Homebound and Sick

**Mission:** To bring the Holy Eucharist, pray and visit with those who are homebound or institutionalized.

**Time:** Weekly commitment (if possible). 1-2 hours weekly. Annual Training.

**Talent:** Love and reverence for the Holy Eucharist; friendly and compassionate with the ability to comfort. Catholic in good standing who has received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation). Must be invited to serve by the Pastor and formally mandated by Bishop Burbidge, usually annually July 1. *If you are interested, please contact Fr. Don directly for an appointment.*

**Coordinator:** Suyapa Shine, [suyashine@gmail.com](mailto:suyashine@gmail.com) Jerry Faber, [faberg@verizon.net](mailto:faberg@verizon.net) and Fr. Don, [frdonrooney@stbernapar.org](mailto:frdonrooney@stbernapar.org)

### Hospitality: Greeters

*The role of a greeter is different from an usher, who works inside the church helping people to find seats and facilitates the flow of the offertory and processions. The greeter is at the door, helping people in, giving them liturgy sheets. This ministry is a most effective means of helping all to feel welcome, coming to Mass on Sundays*

## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

- Altar Servers
- Altar Society
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
  - Service to the Homebound/Sick
- Hospitality : Greeters
- Hospitality: Ushers
- Lectors
- Music Ministry
  - The Saint Bernadette Choir
  - Contemporary Choir
  - Spanish Choir
  - Youth Choir (Gr. 7-12)
  - Children's Choir (Gr. 1-6)
- Seasonal Decorators



and other special liturgies.

**Mission:** Welcome all parishioners and visitors to Mass with a warm smile and friendly greeting. Some greeters could stand outside and assist people who need assistance from their car to their pew. Distribute liturgy sheets and assist ushers as needed. Teens welcome!

**Time:** Weekly commitment desired, not required (arrive 15 minutes prior to Mass). Schedule is flexible. Initial training and annual meeting.

**Talent:** An ability to help people be aware they belong; a deep sense of Christ in all people.

**Coordinator:** Kathy Marchetti, [kathmarc@yahoo.com](mailto:kathmarc@yahoo.com)

### Hospitality: Ushers

**Mission:** To provide assistance to our fellow parishioners during regular Masses, Holy Days and also during special liturgical events. This assistance includes a variety of tasks such as extending greeting to all those that enter, seating people, assisting during Communion, taking up the collection and distributing the church bulletin at the conclusion of Mass.

**Time:** Weekly commitment (arrive 15 minutes prior to Mass). Initial training.

**Talent:** An ability to help people be aware they belong; a deep sense of Christ in all people.

**Coordinator:** Cedric D’Cruze, [cedric.ellistravel@verizon.net](mailto:cedric.ellistravel@verizon.net)

### Lectors

**Mission:** To proclaim the Scripture readings at Sunday and Weekday Masses, Holy Days and at other special liturgical events so that all can hear, simply, with reverence and understanding. This requires spending time with the Word before your assigned Mass. Adults and teens eligible.

**Time:** Sunday lectors usually serve twice a month, weekday lectors may serve weekly. All lectors participate in one annual formation session. Schedule is flexible and finding a substitute is required.

**Talent:** A love for God’s Word. A clear speaking voice and ease speaking in front of people.

**Coordinator:** Nancy Allard, [pn.allard@gmail.com](mailto:pn.allard@gmail.com) and Carmen Sanchez, [1222sanchcar@gmail.com](mailto:1222sanchcar@gmail.com)

### Music Ministry

*The music ministry welcomes singers and instrumentalists who want to share their gifts to help foster the sung prayer of our parish. We have five choirs that sing at Sunday (or Saturday evening) Mass and for special occasions. Below are the rehearsal and Mass times for each choir. If you enjoy singing or play an appropriate instrument and would like to contribute your talents to the parish liturgies in this special way, please contact us – we would love to have you join us!*

**Talent:** Love of music and wanting to share your musical talents in prayer.

**Director:** David Mathers, Director of Music Ministries, [dmathers@stbernapar.org](mailto:dmathers@stbernapar.org)

### Music: The Saint Bernadette Choir

The Saint Bernadette Choir sings for the Sunday 11am Mass from September to June, as well as Christmas Midnight Mass, liturgies of the Easter Triduum and other parish liturgies. Repertoire includes the broad range of excellent Catholic liturgical music including chant, polyphony, classical and contemporary hymns and choral works.

**Time:** Sunday 10:05am warm-up, Mass at 11am. Rehearsal Thursdays 7:30-9:15pm.

**Choir Director:** David Mathers, Director of Music Ministries, [dmathers@stbernapar.org](mailto:dmathers@stbernapar.org)

### Music: Contemporary Choir

The Contemporary Choir sings for the Sunday 9am Mass September to June as well as Christmas Eve, Easter Vigil and other parish liturgies. Repertoire includes the broad range of excellent Catholic liturgical music including chant, polyphony, classical and contemporary hymns and choral works. Choir includes SATB singers and a wide range of ensemble instrumentalists.

**Time:** Sundays, 8:30am warm-up, Mass at 9am. Rehearsals, Wednesdays 7:30-9:30pm.

**Choir Directors:** Sylvia and Bob Malinowski, [sylviamalinowski@gmail.com](mailto:sylviamalinowski@gmail.com)

### Music: Spanish Choir

The Spanish Choir sings for the Sunday 1pm Mass throughout the year as well as Christmas Eve and Easter, and

other parish celebrations. Singers who enjoy singing in Spanish, (both Spanish speaker and learners) and players of appropriate instruments are most welcome.

**Time:** Sunday 11:30am rehearsal, Mass at 1pm.

**Director:** Juan Pablo Rodriguez, [jprodri-guezy@gmail.com](mailto:jprodri-guezy@gmail.com) or (571) 216-8529

### Music: Youth Choir

**Grades 7-12.** Sing or play appropriate instruments for the Saturday 5pm Mass September to June, as well as Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday.

**Time:** Saturday 3:30pm rehearsal for Mass at 5pm.

**Choir Director:** David Mathers, [dmathers@stbernapar.org](mailto:dmathers@stbernapar.org)

### Music: Children’s Choir

**Grades 1-6.** Sings for the Saturday 5pm

Mass about once each month from September to June as well as Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday.

**Time:** Rehearsals every Thursday, 5:00-5:45pm.

**Choir Director:** David Mathers, [dmathers@stbernapar.org](mailto:dmathers@stbernapar.org)

### Seasonal Decorators

**Mission:** To prepare the church for primary liturgical seasons, creating designs that lead those attending Mass to enter more deeply into the Mysteries we celebrate.

**Time:** Usually the Saturday before a major feast day. Other dates as needed throughout the year.

**Talent:** An eye for design, able to lift, use ladders.

**Coordinator:** Fr. Don Rooney, [LITURGICAL  
MINISTRIES](mailto:frdon-</a></p>
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## OPERATIONS MINISTRIES

- Administrative Support
- Bishop's Lenten Appeal Committee
- Communications Committee
- Capital Campaign Committee
- Operations Committee

*Just as in any organization, there is a lot of "behind the scenes" work that must be done in order for our community events and projects to be completed. We are always in need of physical help, whether it is setting up, or cleaning up, stuffing envelopes, or answering phones. We are also responsible for keeping our facilities in working condition and making improvements as necessary.*

### Administrative Support

**Mission:** To assist in office tasks; help with large mailings, bulletin inserts, data entry, answering phone calls, etc.

**Time:** Varies with needs. Many one-time projects several times a year.

**Talent:** A warm and kind disposition and willingness to serve.

**Coordinators:** Rick Caporali, [rcaporali@stbernpa.org](mailto:rcaporali@stbernpa.org) and Evelyn Vargas, [evargas@stbernpa.org](mailto:evargas@stbernpa.org)

### Bishop's Lenten Appeal Committee

**Mission:** To plan and organize the annual Lenten Appeal. Encourage full participation through planning, publicity, and reporting.

**Time:** Annual event, January-May follow-ups. A few additional meetings.

**Talent:** Organization and leadership. Willingness to speak at Mass helpful.

**Contacts:** Ed Wyse, [ejwyse@yahoo.com](mailto:ejwyse@yahoo.com)

### Communications Committee

**Mission:** To spread the word about the good things happening at Saint Bernadette throughout the community. Help keep Parish Life announcements/Calendar of Events current on the parish website and in the local media and *Catholic Herald*, and bring our news to local assisted living facilities, hotels/motels and visitors' locations.

**Time:** Varies; 30 minutes to an hour weekly depending on the size of the

ministry team.

**Talent:** Great at Hospitality and knowledgeable of the Parish Community, able to deliver bulletins and flyers when necessary.

**Contacts:** Maria Paniagua, [mpaniagua@stbernpa.org](mailto:mpaniagua@stbernpa.org), Fr. Don, [frdonrooney@stbernpa.org](mailto:frdonrooney@stbernpa.org)

### Capital Campaign Committee

**Mission:** To cultivate the financial resources of our parish and community by developing and maintaining programs that secure funds for the continued service and maintenance of parish programs and facilities, with a particular focus on our capital campaign for a Parish Life Center.

**Talent:** Fundraising experience. Organized and friendly.

**Coordinators:** Fr. Don, [frdonrooney@stbernpa.org](mailto:frdonrooney@stbernpa.org), Rick Caporali, [rcaporali@stbernpa.org](mailto:rcaporali@stbernpa.org), Jean Corday, [jcorday@stbernpa.org](mailto:jcorday@stbernpa.org)

### Logistics

*Often there is a great need for assistance to accomplish the goals set by other committees and ministries, and Logistics facilitates their successful outcome. Sometimes we just need people to help set up and put away tables and chairs!*

**Mission:** To organize and coordinate volunteers as they are needed; to facilitate small groups programs; to assist in the planning and managing of maintenance and improvements of parish property. Also, facilitating the physical needs of major parish events/functions.

**Time:** Varies with needs.

**Talent:** No training is necessary, however, a diversity of expertise is very helpful.

**Coordinators:** Rick Caporali, [rcaporali@stbernpa.org](mailto:rcaporali@stbernpa.org)

### Catholic Advocacy Committee

*Our Advocacy Committee attends Catholic advocacy events in Richmond and promotes the annual Virginia Catholic Conference email registration drive, and works to raise awareness among the community to social justice issues and Catholic teachings.*

**Mission:** To serve as liaison to the Virginia Catholic Conference in coordinat-

ing parish activities to promote Catholic values in the public square. The Committee organizes our attendance at various Catholic advocacy events in Richmond and coordinates parish awareness on issues such as protecting life, care for the poor, predatory lending, human trafficking and immigration reform.

**Time:** Periodic meetings and events as they occur.

**Talent:** A passion to bring awareness to the parish and to actively participate in the promotion of Gospel values in society.

**Seeking a Coordinator.** In the interim, Rick Caporali, [rcaporali@stbernpa.org](mailto:rcaporali@stbernpa.org)

### ECHO: Ecumenical Community Helping Others

*ECHO is a non-profit, all-volunteer private agency whose purpose is to help people in need in our community. Since 1968 when it first started, ECHO's base of support has been religious congregations in Burke and Springfield. Those congregations appoint members to ECHO's board of directors and support its mission with donations of food, clothing, money, and work by volunteers. Through congregational donations as well as civic groups, charitable foundations and individuals ECHO helps those in need.*

**Mission:** : Assist people with food, clothing, household items, and financial assistance who suffer the effects of long-term poverty as well as people who are experiencing an emergency need.

**Time:** This varies depending on what you volunteer to do at/thru ECHO, as much or as little as you can spare.

**Talent:** Sort clothes, cashier, pick-up and deliver furniture. Ability to interact with applicants seeking financial assistance. Friendly demeanor and compassion for those in need of help.

**Coordinator:** Kathy Freund, Saint Bernadette Church interim ECHO representative, [mommc7905@aol.com](mailto:mommc7905@aol.com)

### ECHO: Can-A-Week

**Mission:** To coordinate parish contributions of non-perishable food (a can a week) and diapers, and/or time in delivering it to ECHO on a weekly basis. Our goal is 1,000 cans a week and often we do it, but we know we can do more.

**Time:** Just bring your contribution (staples, also high-protein items) when you come to Mass. Drop off and pick-up is from the vestibule. Volunteers are

asked to come 15 minutes before Mass and stay 10 minutes after to help put the food in the closet.

**Talent:** A desire to help provide people who have little with sustenance.

**Coordinators:** Al Pirowski, [al\\_trish@verizon.net](mailto:al_trish@verizon.net)

### Ecumenical/Interreligious Commission

**Mission:** To organize and promote unity among people of Christian faiths and between world religions represented in the community.

**Time:** Periodic meetings and events as they announced.

**Talent:** A desire to bring unity to those separated by religious profession.

**Coordinators:** Fr. Don, [frdonrooney@stbernpa.org](mailto:frdonrooney@stbernpa.org) and Rick Caporali, [rcaporali@stbernpa.org](mailto:rcaporali@stbernpa.org)

### Catholic Charities Volunteers

*Throughout the year Saint Bernadette is active in working for the initiatives of Catholic Charities in our diocese. We respond to programs and requests for food (Lucy Project) and clothing (Christ House), and many organizations in the parish are involved independently. If you would like to know more about how our parish is involved, please contact our liaison.*

**Mission:** To serve as a volunteer with any of the many programs offered by Catholic Charities.

**Time and Talent:** Depending on need, volunteer service could be at the parish or off-site.

**Liaison:** Jack and Claire Marshall, [cjmarsh219@live.com](mailto:cjmarsh219@live.com); Saint Lucy Food Drive Coordinator: Nancy Hoskins, [nanjeff@verizon.net](mailto:nanjeff@verizon.net).

### Refugee Assistance

**Mission:** To assist in providing furnishing and household supplies for new arrivals through the refugee resettlement office of the Diocese.

**Time:** Whatever time may be available; volunteers may also contact the office of Migration and Refugee Services for other opportunities in helping the refugee population with daily needs.

**Talent:** Willingness to meet needs of clients.

**Coordinator:** Rick Caporali, [rcaporali@stbernpa.org](mailto:rcaporali@stbernpa.org)

## OUTREACH MINISTRIES

## OUTREACH MINISTRIES

- Catholic Advocacy Committee
- ECHO
  - Can-A-Week
- Ecumenical/Interreligious Commission
- Catholic Charities Volunteers
- Refugee Assistance

*Believing in the presence of God in our midst, we proclaim the sanctity of human life and the dignity of the person by sharing in the mission of Jesus given to the Church. To this end, Saint Bernadette Church works with individuals, families and communities to help them meet their needs, eliminate oppression, and build a just and compassionate society.*

## PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

- Arimatheans
- Called and Gifted Program
- Coffee and Donut Sundays
- Friends in Need Committee
  - Funeral Receptions
- Hospitality (Receptions Committee)
- Knights of Columbus
- Knitting/Crochet Ministry
- Legion of Mary
- Lenten Small Groups Program
- Prayer Groups
  - Hearts on Fire Prayer Group
- Pro-Life Ministry
- Vocations Promoters
- Welcoming New Parishioners
- Youth Organizations (parish/school sponsored)
  - Boy/Cub Scouts Troop

*We welcome, connect and foster fellowship in the parish community. Parish Life is the very essence of Christ in action—loving, serving, praying and building God's kingdom through each other and the family of Saint Bernadette Parish.*

### Arimatheans

*A group who responds to the spiritual needs of families by representing the parish attending funerals and vigils, if possible.*

**Mission:** To pray for the deceased members of our parish at funerals, and be present as parishioners to the families in mourning. Arimatheans stay after the funeral and pray a rosary for the deceased.

**Time:** As needed, when funerals are scheduled, weekdays or Saturday mornings.

**Talent:** A desire to help people know that we are present in grief, to comfort them and pray for them.

**Coordinator:** Trish Pirowski, [al\\_trish@verizon.net](mailto:al_trish@verizon.net)

### Catholic Women's Group

*A group of parish women who gather together monthly for fellowship, spiritual growth, and service to our community.*

**Mission:** To build our parish community by meeting the social and spiritual needs of our members, and by serving our parish and greater community.

**Time:** Meet at 7pm on the second Tuesday of each month in the Bradican Room, and socially for Dinner with Friends on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month (except Christmas) at a local restaurant. Additionally, members may help serve dinner at Christ House, provide for Donut Sundays, help with distribution of St. Lucy bags, or support other parish activities.

**Talent:** An open heart and a willingness to serve and be served

**Coordinator:** Barbara Dalmut, [women@stbernpar.org](mailto:women@stbernpar.org)

### Coffee and Donuts Sundays

*All organizations / ministries in the parish are encouraged to sponsor a Sunday (or Sundays) to foster this feeling of community and to be in a position to answer questions about its ministry. For example, for the youth in our parish, works of mercy can be earned by assisting with Coffee and Donut Sunday. As another example, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts might sponsor the*

*Coffee and Donut Sunday on Scout Sunday, ECHO might be the sponsor when a second collection is for the support of ECHO, Saint Bernadette School can be the sponsor for Catholic School Week, etc. All parishioners (e.g., a family or group of families) are welcome / encouraged to volunteer. Groups who sponsor may keep whatever donations they may receive.*

**Mission:** To set up and serve coffee and donuts on Sunday morning in the vestibule after the first three Masses: assist in establishing, encouraging, and maintaining a sense of community and belonging among the parishioners and as a welcome for newcomers and visitors.

**Time:** Sunday mornings following the 9am and 11am Masses. The order for the donuts is placed by the parish secretary on Thursdays, based on input from the coffee and donut team leader or coordinator

**Talents:** Gifts of helping, hospitality, service.

**Coordinators:** Myra Musialkiewicz, [mmusialkiewicz@cox.net](mailto:mmusialkiewicz@cox.net)

### Friends in Need Committee

*This is a committee of parishioners who wish to be friends to anyone in need.*

**Mission:** To provide support for individuals or families in need of a meal or a ride. The group seeks to lend a helping hand wherever they are able.

**Time:** As needed when needed.

**Talents:** Gifts of helping, encouragement, service.

**Coordinator:** Kathy Freund, [mommc7905@aol.com](mailto:mommc7905@aol.com)

### Friends in Need: Funeral Receptions

**Mission:** To provide support for families in grief by setting-up and serving receptions held in the Bradican Room following funerals.

**Time:** As needed when funerals occur. Weekdays or Saturdays.

**Talents:** A desire to support a family in grief.

**Coordinator:** Kathy Freund, [mommc7905@aol.com](mailto:mommc7905@aol.com)

### Hospitality - Parish Receptions

*This is a new ministry to provide friendly receptions for parishioners, guests, visitors.*

**Mission:** To provide food and volunteers to set-up, clean-up and serve the food at various parish events.

**Time:** The time commitment depends on how often you volunteer to prepare food and/or serve at the various events throughout the year.

**Talents:** enjoy preparing and sharing food and a willingness to serve others.

**Coordinator:** Kathy Marchetti, [kathmarc@yahoo.com](mailto:kathmarc@yahoo.com)

### Knights of Columbus

*The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic men's organization designed to assist parishes through charity, unity and fraternity. Springfield Council 6153 supports Saint Bernadette in many ways throughout the year.*

*Knights are Catholic men committed to charity in action. You will find the Knights participating as ushers, choir members, extraordinary ministers of communion, lecturers, greeters for new family welcome as well as some lesser known, but very important ministries.*

*The Council also helps those in need through parish referrals and support family, youth, community and Church in prayer, treasure and action.*

**Mission:** To live by the principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism within the community of St. Mary Parish. The Knights of Columbus has the potential of being one of the most profound presences of charity and leadership in the parish, with your membership.

**Time:** Meetings held monthly. Additional charitable and community events are held throughout the year.

**Talents:** Catholic men over 18 years of age seeking fellowship and having a desire to grow in their faith and community outreach.

**Coordinator:** Grand Knight Sean Lenahan, [slenahankofc@gmail.com](mailto:slenahankofc@gmail.com)

### Knitting/Crochet Ministry

**Mission:** To help the very poor by donating our products to the less fortunate through charity organizations in the area, and at the same time have fun while meeting other knitters, making good friends, and sharing our favorite knitting skills. Our Ministry is now concentrating in making baby blankets, as it is the demand at the moment.

**Time:** Friday evenings from 5 to 7pm. Virtual meetings by Zoom, 1st, 2nd and 4th Fridays, in-person meetings the 3rd Friday of the month,

same time, at Saint Bernadette Church in the Bradican Room.

**Coordinator:** Lerick Kebeck: 703-477-1725 or [lsotelo0712@yahoo.com](mailto:lsotelo0712@yahoo.com)

### Legion of Mary

*The Legion of Mary is a lay Catholic organization whose members give service to the Church on a voluntary basis in almost every country. Weekly meetings are held where prayer and instruction are intermingled with reports and discussion. Additionally, every legionary completes a weekly apostolic work. These works include religious education, and visitation of families and the sick, in their homes, hospitals, and nursing facilities. The Legion also collaborates in apostolic and missionary undertakings sponsored by the parish*

**Mission:** To magnify the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active cooperation in the Church's work, under the guidance of a priest.

**Time:** Weekly meetings with additional apostolate works, about a four-hour weekly commitment.

**Talents:** Commitment to prayer and service.

**Monday 7pm (Coordinator:** Jerome Furlow, [jerome.furlow06@gmail.com](mailto:jerome.furlow06@gmail.com)

**Friday 7:45pm Coordinator (Spanish):** Florinda Reyes, [lilljctat@verizon.net](mailto:lilljctat@verizon.net)

### Lenten Small Groups Program

**Mission:** To develop and encourage small groups to gather weekly during Lent 2023 to share their faith and build community. "Affinity" Groups will be invited to meet in their homes or at work, or after work, and if they are comfortable doing so, participants may take turns acting as facilitator. "For where two or three are together in my name, there I am in the midst of them" (Mt 18:20). Small groups are a great way to make big churches feel smaller. Our Faith is very relationship oriented. Christ taught us that when we are present to each other, know one another, share what we have, support and encourage each other in love and faith, God will be with us in extraordinary ways.

**Time:** Groups will meet weekly throughout the season of Lent, (six weeks), approximately one or one and one-half hours per session.

## PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES



