

*By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. 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.*

# Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 6, 2025



Christ and the woman taken in adultery, Lucas Cranach the Elder, 1532  
Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest

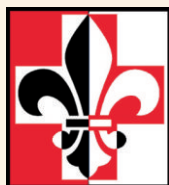


**SAINT BERNADETTE**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

# Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 6, 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 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <a href="mailto:frdonrooney@stbermpar.org">frdonrooney@stbermpar.org</a> Fr. Jeb Donelan <a href="mailto:frjebdonelan@stbermpar.org">frjebdonelan@stbermpar.org</a> Fr. James Waalkes <a href="mailto:frjameswaalkes@stbermpar.org">frjameswaalkes@stbermpar.org</a> Deacon Orlando Caicedo
	Pastoral Associate, Rick Caporali <a href="mailto:rcaporali@stbermpar.org">rcaporali@stbermpar.org</a> Business Manager, Linda Patterson <a href="mailto:lpatterson@stbermpar.org">lpatterson@stbermpar.org</a> Music Director, David Mathers <a href="mailto:dmathers@stbermpar.org">dmathers@stbermpar.org</a> Executive Assistant, Jean Corday <a href="mailto:jcorday@stbermpar.org">jcorday@stbermpar.org</a> Executive Assistant, Evelyn Vargas, <a href="mailto:evargas@stbermpar.org">evargas@stbermpar.org</a> Secretary, Janet Chávez-España
SAINT BERNADETTE SCHOOL	703-451-8696, fax 269-1121 Principal, Dr. Kathleen Burgess <a href="mailto:school@stbermpar.org">school@stbermpar.org</a> Assistant Principal, Emily Reid Registrar, Heidi Thomes
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	703-451-8576 Director, Lynn Jones <a href="mailto:ljones@stbermpar.org">ljones@stbermpar.org</a> Coordinator of Religious Education, Arlyn Agasen, <a href="mailto:aagasen@stbermpar.org">aagasen@stbermpar.org</a> Admin. Asst., Victor Mendez <a href="mailto:vmendez@stbermpar.org">vmendez@stbermpar.org</a>
YOUTH MINISTRY	703-451-8576 Director, Grace Mee <a href="mailto:gmeee@stbermpar.org">gmeee@stbermpar.org</a>
BAPTISMS	Saturday, 10am, 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturdays in English; 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <a href="http://www.stbermpar.org">www.stbermpar.org</a> .  Articles for the bulletin must be submitted to the parish office no later than first thing Friday morning, ten days before publication date. <a href="mailto:bulletin@stbermpar.org">bulletin@stbermpar.org</a> .

# calendar

## april

- 6 Sunday, FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
• Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am, 11am and 1pm in Spanish
- 7 Monday, Lenten Weekday [Saint John Baptist de la Salle, Priest]**
- 8 Tuesday, Lenten Weekday**  
• **Parish Lenten Penance Service** with 16 priests, 6:30pm in the church
- 9 Wednesday, Lenten Weekday**  
• “The Light is On” confessions, 6:30 - 8pm, church
- 10 Thursday, Lenten Weekday**
- 11 Friday, Lenten Weekday [Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr]**  
• **Soup Supper**, 6pm in the cafeteria  
• **Stations of the Cross**, 7pm in the church  
• **Estaciones de la Cruz**, 8pm in the church
- 12 Saturday, Lenten Weekday**  
• Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 13 Sunday, PALM SUNDAY of the Passion of the Lord**  
• Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am, 11am and 1pm in Spanish
- 14 Monday of Holy Week**
- 15 Tuesday of Holy Week**
- 16 Wednesday of Holy Week**  
• “The Light is On” confessions, 6:30 - 8pm, church
- 17 Thursday, HOLY THURSDAY** - See p. 7 for full schedule  
• Morning Prayer and Office of Readings, 8am. No morning Masses today.  
• **Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper**, 7:30pm, church. See p.7 for full schedule  
• **Eucharistic procession to the gym**, following Mass until midnight
- 18 Friday, GOOD FRIDAY of the Passion of the Lord** - See p.7 for full schedule  
• Morning Prayer and Office of Readings, 8am. No morning Masses today.  
• **Tre Ore**, 12 - 3pm in the church, limited confessions  
• Stations of the Cross, 3pm in the church  
• **Via crucis**, 4pm in the church  
• **Pasión y Veneración de la Santa Cruz**, 5pm in the church  
• **The Passion, and Veneration of the Holy Cross**, 7:30pm in the church
- 19 Saturday, HOLY SATURDAY and EASTER VIGIL** - See p.7 for full schedule  
• Morning Prayer and Office of Readings, 8am. No morning Masses today.  
• Blessing of Easter food, 10am  
• **Easter Vigil Mass**, 8:30pm.
- 20 Sunday, EASTER SUNDAY** - See p. 7 for full schedule  
• Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am, 11am and 1pm in Spanish  
• There is NO 5pm Mass today.
- 21 Monday, Monday within the Octave of Easter**  
• Taizé prayer for unity, 8pm. All are Welcome!
- 22 Tuesday, Tuesday within the Octave of Easter**
- 23 Wednesday, Wednesday within the Octave of Easter**
- 24 Thursday, Thursday within the Octave of Easter**
- 25 Friday, Friday within the Octave of Easter**

## announcements

**81%**  
of goal

### Bishop’s Lenten Appeal

We’re at 81% with 564 pledges—that’s only 14% participation... Just drop your pledge envelopes in the basket at Mass or at the office, or visit [www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA). Please indicate you are a parishioner here and it will count toward our parish goal of \$560,000.

**Now accepting applications for PRE-Kinderergarten in our school.** Interested in joining our school community? We focus on faith formation, academic excellence, and community service. Visit our website: [www.stbernschool.org/admissions-process/](http://www.stbernschool.org/admissions-process/)

Adults who, for whatever reason, are catechized but have never received the sacrament of Confirmation are invited to contact the office. Fr. Don will be planning a series of classes during the Easter Season in preparation for Confirmation with Bishop Burbidge on Pentecost Sunday.

All Saints Church Multi-Car Raffle is still in full swing. Four vehicles will be raffled along with a \$20,000 cash drawing, plus o+ther cash drawings. The final deadline for ticket returns is April 29. The drawings begin at 1pm Saturday, May 3, at All Saints Parish in Manassas. Please return all tickets by mail directly to All Saints in the envelope provided.

### Lenten Observances

**Fasting:** Food equivalent to one regular meal, one small meal – Ash Wednesday and Good Friday

**Abstinence:** No meat – ALL Fridays

**Parish Soup Suppers:** Fridays in Lent, 6pm

**Stations of the Cross:** Fridays, 7pm in English, 8pm in Spanish, in the church

**Lent Confessions:** Wednesdays, 6:30-8pm, Saturdays, 3:30-4:30pm (as usual). *Please plan confessions early in the season to avoid running out of time.*

**Parish Penance Service:** Tuesday, April 8, 6:30pm

## from the pastor

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

Last Saturday evening I spoke to the women of the parish at the Night of Reflection hosted by the Walking with Purpose group. It is not something I find particularly comfortable normally, but for whatever reason, it was easy. I had the sense that the room was filled with goodness. Here are all the people who, generally, keep things running around here and support the mission and ministries of the parish.

The theme for this year was “Discovering our Dignity.” I first apologized that this would even be necessary. Dignity is not something that should be lost or left to discover. Particularly with the roles of women in society (and especially the Church), it has not been a great record. Lay people don’t often seem to matter much, let alone women. I write about this a lot.

Look at the roles of women in the parish. 95% of our teachers and nearly that many catechists shoulder the primary responsibility of the parish in educating our children in the faith. Not to mention pretty much every other ministry. Pope Francis has been very vocal about how women have equal value in roles that lay people hold in the Church and has appointed women to major leadership positions in the Vatican. The whole concept of synodality (which has been largely ignored in this country) has to do with the idea that we should be listening more, and talking less. Every one’s voice is important.

It gets really complicated when prayer is the context. God the Father isn’t male, he isn’t a creature. He is a community of three in a perfect sharing of equal persons. We have picked up a lot of weird ideas about God – and about ourselves – from others who also have unhealthy images of God and self-image. Is God adversarial, instilling fear, a punisher, indifferent, having favorites? Our human relationships can easily color our imagination when we think about ourselves and God. How is my self knowledge, self image? Am I even “good enough” to ask God for something? Should I even expect a response?

Our experiences of being judged, shamed, feeling unimportant, ignored, all play into

the way we see ourselves when we “stand before” God in prayer. Is the point here that I must please God in order to get what I want? It is a complex psychology. Of course we want to please God, not because he needs to be pleased (he’s just fine without us, too) but because that is us, living fully into our role alive in him.

Think of the burning bush. Nothing competitive there, fire and bush perfectly compatible. The fire is being a fire, the bush, a bush. A marvel for Moses to see.

Cycle C in the readings of Lent is awesome. We had the temptation in the desert, the transfiguration of Jesus, the burning bush, the prodigal son, and the woman “trapped” in adultery.

Neither the prodigal son nor the woman in adultery would be considered people of dignity, perhaps an understatement. But look what happens to them when they realize they are loved completely, unconditionally, anyway?

The father in last week’s Gospel was the one who was truly prodigal. He gave away his love recklessly. Son: “I have sinned against heaven and against you... I no longer deserve to be called your son, treat me like a hired worker.” The dad can’t not love that boy. The father is love itself. The son realizes his dignity was there all along, though he didn’t know himself and made some really bad choices. He discovers his dignity in his honest self-knowledge, his sin, his humility and his welcome back. The other brother is blind to his own dignity because he somehow never got to know his father and blames it all on him. Maybe he was spending too much time with his friends.

The woman in today’s Gospel was clearly set up (where is the man?) but was guilty as charged. They wanted to destroy Jesus but didn’t mind if she got destroyed in the process. “Moses commanded that we stone such women. What do you say?” People who live lives like this aren’t aware of their dignity. For the first time, after all have left, she knew what dignity was, in the unconditional love of Jesus. “Where are they? Has no one condemned you? Neither do I: now go, and don’t sin any more.” It was her new beginning.

The Lord be with you. *Fr. Dom*

## Honoring Our Military-Connected Students

April is the Month of the Military Child, and as a Virginia Purple Star designated school, we take great pride in celebrating and honoring our military-connected students through a variety of special events and activities.

More than 20% of our students are military-connected, meaning they have at least one parent who is currently serving or retired from the military. Many of our faculty and staff, both from the school and the parish office, also have military ties, whether as spouses, retired service members, or grown military-connected children themselves. This deep connection to the military community strengthens our commitment to supporting both our students and their families.

As a designated Purple Star School, we are committed to ensuring that military families feel welcomed and supported from their very first day with us. Whether these students are with us for one year or many, we are privileged to teach and learn from them, celebrating their resilience and strength every step of the way.

In recognition of these remarkable students, we have planned a series of special activities throughout the month

of April. Our celebration will begin with "Purple Up" day, when students, faculty, and staff wear purple to demonstrate our love and support. The color purple symbolizes the unity of all U.S. military branches, blending the colors of each: blue for the Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard; green for the Army; and red for the Marines.

In addition to Purple Up day, each year in April, we host many activities such as a pizza party for our active-duty military-connected students as a special gesture of support and recognition. The entire school comes together to decorate the building with thank-you banners, showing our gratitude. We also will continue the tradition of creating a Heroes Wall to honor all our military families, both past and present, with staff and faculty proudly displaying photos of their own military family members, too.

Our appreciation extends beyond just honoring them during this month. We also recognize the contributions of our military parents throughout the year. We begin each school year with a Military Welcome Dinner, followed by a special Veterans Day program and donut reception. We are truly honored to serve as a home away from home for our military families. May God continue to bless and strengthen them in their service and sacrifices.

## cardinal corner



**FORMING  
HEARTS  
& MINDS  
IN CHRIST**

### Now enrolling PRE-Kindergarten

Interested in joining our school community? We focus on faith formation, academic excellence, and community service.

We are now accepting applications for the 2025-26 school year. Visit our website: [www.stbernschool.org/admissions-process/](http://www.stbernschool.org/admissions-process/)



# religious education

## Weekly update

Please contact Lynn Jones, Director of Religious Education, at 703-451-8576, ext 136; Arlyn Agasen, ext 132, or Victor Mendez, Administrative Assistant, at ext 138.

## RE regular schedule:

Tuesday Session  
5:30–6:45pm

Wednesday Session  
6–7:15pm

## CYO TRACK & FIELD REGISTRATION

GRADES: 3RD - 8TH

# youth ministry

## Stay in touch:

Text/Email Updates: Sign-up at [flocknote.com/stbernyouth](https://flocknote.com/stbernyouth) or text "stbernyouth" to 84576.

Follow us on Instagram @stbernyouth

Email our director of youth ministry, Grace Mee, at [gmeem@stbermpar.org](mailto:gmeem@stbermpar.org) with any questions you may have.

## RE Program upcoming schedule

Regular classes: Apr. 8-9, 22-23.  
Easter Break: April 15-16  
NO Saturday SPRED class, Apr. 12.  
Sunday Family Faith Formation Class: Apr. 6.

## CRS Rice Bowls

Our students received Rice Bowls at classes at the beginning of Lent. The Rice Bowls are intended to raise funds for the good works of Catholic Relief Service through family Lenten sacrifices. If possible, convert any small bills and coins to a check made out to Saint Bernadette Church with "CRS" in the memo line. Plan to return the rice bowl on April 8 or 9.

## Trinity House Family Donut Social

Mark your calendars! Plan to join us on

Sunday, April 27, in the school cafeteria for fellowship, hospitality, and kids' activities after the 9am Mass! Come visit with other parish families while you enjoy coffee, juice, and donuts while your children do some fun activities with volunteers.

## Living the liturgical year

Do you feel like Lent has passed you by? It's not too late to observe the season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for a few weeks! To engage your children in doing good things for others during this penitential season, make this easy Crown of Thorns-- every time they do a good deed, they can remove a thorn from Jesus's crown! <https://www.catholicicing.com/how-to-make-an-easy-and-cheap-crown-of-thorns-for-lent/>.



REGISTER HERE:  
[HTTPS://REG.SPORTSPILOT.COM/106541](https://reg.sportspilot.com/106541)

GRADES: 3RD - 8TH

SPRING MEET DETAILS  
MAY 17TH

@ BISHOP O'CONNELL

COMPETE IN 1600M, 200M, TURBO  
JAVELIN, LONG JUMP, ETC.

NO PRACTICES REQUIRED  
COST = \$18

REGISTER BY 4/25

## Middle School Youth Ministry Next gathering April 16

All 6th-8th graders are invited to Middle School Youth Ministry every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month! Join us for games, snacks & fun from 6:45-8pm in the Gym. All middle schoolers are welcome, bring a friend!

## 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!

## WorkCamp adult volunteers still needed

-- 1 woman to serve as an Adult Crew Leader for the week June 21-27  
-- 1 contractor to supervise the repairs performed at the resident's home June 22-26.  
Please contact Matthew Frey with any questions: [matthew\\_c\\_frey@yahoo.com](mailto:matthew_c_frey@yahoo.com) or 571-265-5258.

## Summer Theatre Program 2025: it's Anything Goes!

Director of our Summer Theatre Program, Bill Molino, has announced that the musical for this summer will be *Anything Goes*, the 1934 Broadway classic with music and lyrics by Cole Porter which became pop and jazz standards including "Anything Goes," "You're the Top," "All through the Night," and "I Get a Kick out of You." Dates for auditions are soon to be finalized. Stay tuned!



# Holy Week 2025 *Semana Santa*



## Holy Thursday

APRIL 17

(No morning Mass; no hay misas por la mañana)

**8AM**  
**Office of Readings and Morning Prayer (Liturgy of the Hours)**

**7:30PM**  
**Mass of the Lord's Supper (bilingual)**

The concelebrated Mass of the Lord's Supper commemorates the institution of the Eucharist and the Priesthood by Jesus at the Last Supper. The commandment of love is symbolized by the Mandatum, or foot washing, where Jesus teaches, "As I have done, so must you also do." Parishioners are encouraged to join in the ancient Procession of the Blessed Sacrament to its place of repose in the gymnasium, where adoration will continue until midnight as we accompany Jesus in his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

### Misa de la Cena del Señor

(Misa Bilingue) La Misa de la Última Cena del Señor, recuerda la institución de la Eucaristía y el Sacerdocio por Jesús. Su mandamiento de Amor está simbolizado por el Mandatum, o la Lavadura de los Pies, cuando Jesús enseña: "Como he hecho, como deben hacer también." Todos son invitados para participar en la procesión del Santísimo Sacramento a su lugar de reposición en el gimnasio, donde adoración va a continuar hasta a medianoche, y acompañamos a Jesús en su agonía en el Jardín de Getsemané.

**11:45PM**  
**Night Prayer (Liturgy of the Hours)**  
Night Prayer will conclude Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel.



## Good Friday

APRIL 18

(No morning Mass; no hay misas por la mañana)

**8AM**  
**Office of Readings / Morning Prayer (Liturgy of the Hours)**

**12-3PM**  
**"Tre Ore" - the Seven Last Words of Jesus in meditation and song**  
(limited confessions will be available)

**3PM**  
**Stations of the Cross (English)**

**4PM**  
**Via Crucis (en español)**

**5PM**  
**La Pasión y Veneración de la Santa Cruz (español)**

En la liturgia de Viernes Santo, nos reuniremos en observancia de la muerte salvífica de Cristo, y leeremos el evangelio de su Pasión, oraremos por la iglesia universal, y veneraremos su Cruz en un rito muy antiguo. Recibimos, también, la Eucaristía, preparada en la Misa de Jueves Santo.

La ofrenda hoy es para el mantenimiento de los lugares santos en Tierra Santa.

**7:30PM**  
**The Passion and Veneration of the Holy Cross (English)**

We assemble in observance of Christ's saving death, by reading the narrative of his Passion, praying for the Universal Church, venerating his Cross in this ancient Rite and receiving Holy Communion which was consecrated on the previous evening at the Mass of the Lord's Supper.

The Good Friday collection assists the maintenance of the Shrines in the Holy Land.



## Holy Saturday

APRIL 19

(No 8am or 5pm Mass;  
no hay misas a las 8am ni 5pm)

**8AM**  
**Office of Readings and Morning Prayer (Liturgy of the Hours)**

**10AM Easter Foods Blessing**

**8:30PM**  
**The Vigil of the Resurrection of the Lord (bilingual)**

What Sunday is to the week, Easter Sunday is to the year. This holiest of nights we celebrate the victory over death and promise of eternal life given to us by Jesus Christ in his resurrection from the dead. The Liturgy includes the Service of Light, the Vigil of Readings and Psalms, the Celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation for those who have prepared all year for initiation in the Catholic Church, and Liturgy of the Eucharist. Please note the unusual time that we begin: it marks the end of twilight and the beginning of Easter Sunday.

### La Vigilia

Esta noche, la más santa, celebramos la victoria sobre la muerte y el promesa de la vida eterna dado a nosotros por Cristo en su resurrección de la muerte. La liturgia incluye el Servicio de la Luz, la Vigilia de las Lecturas y Salmos, la Celebración de los Sacramentos de la Iniciación, el Bautismo y la Confirmación para los que han preparado todo el año para ser recibidos por la iglesia Católica, y la Liturgia de la Eucaristía.

## Easter Sunday

APRIL 20

**7, 9, AND 11AM, AND 1PM (SPANISH)**

**The Resurrection of the Lord**

Please note: there will be NO 5PM Mass on Easter Sunday!

# liturgy



## Fasting, Abstinence, and Prayer: Soup Suppers & Stations of the Cross

Lent is a special time of quiet and personal reflection as well as a time in which the parish comes together to observe special devotions and gatherings.

Remember, Fridays are days of abstinence from meat.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence, which means no meat and we eat only one full meal and two small meals not equalling one full meal, with no snacks in between.

Join us for our parish Lenten Soup Suppers on Fridays at 6pm! Then we celebrate the Way of the Cross, or Stations of the Cross, on Fridays at 7pm in English, and 8pm in Spanish in the church.

## Confessions

Our special [Parish Penance Service](#) with 16 priests will be held on Tuesday, April 8 at 6:30pm in the church. Please plan to join us.

Confessions will be available also on Wednesday nights, 6:30-8pm and the normal time, 3:30pm on Saturdays. Please plan to come earlier in the season so as not to encounter limited opportunities later.

## Thoughts on the Liturgical Proclamation of the Passion

*David Mathers*

Soon, we will again experience the liturgical proclamation of the Lord's Passion on both Palm Sunday and Good Friday. This gives us the opportunity to think about several things. First, what is really going on during the Liturgy of the Word at Mass and what is our role, the role of the baptized and gathered assembly? Second, how does the reading of the Gospel Passion narratives Palm Sunday and Good Friday express or fulfill the purpose the Liturgy of the Word? Finally, how are we to think about the Jewish people, in the context of our proclamation of Jesus' Passion and our Holy Week remembrance, our celebration, of Jesus' death and resurrection?

One of the most consequential results of the liturgical renewal that followed the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) was the dramatic expansion in the amount of scripture we experience at Mass. Before the reforms, at any Mass there were only two readings – the first reading, almost always from one of the apostolic letters (epistles), and the Gospel reading. The Old Testament was very rarely read. Moreover, the same readings were used every year. Now on Sundays and Solemnities we have three readings: most often Old Testament, epistle and Gospel. And the readings repeat every three years instead of every year.

Another change was that the reading of scripture became a more substantial and important part of the Mass. It is now always done in the vernacular language rather than Latin, and always out loud rather than in a hushed voice. The priest (or deacon) is now required to give a homily on Sundays and Solemnities and is instructed to preach on the readings and how they connect with the Christian life. The Universal Prayer (General Intercessions), which had not been part of Mass for many centuries, are also intended to connect the scripture we proclaim to our life beyond the church doors. Before the liturgical renewal, the readings were considered a preliminary portion, sometimes called the "foremass" and the obligation to attend Mass was satisfied as long as you arrived for the Gospel reading.

But what is the purpose of the Liturgy of the Word, and what is our role in the liturgical action? Listening to and receiving the Word of God of it and allowing it to spiritually form us in the Christian Life is certainly fundamental. But not only receiving, as members of the Body of Christ we all also proclaim the Word. In fact, when the scripture is read, we are witnessing and celebrating the Word as much as we are allowing it to penetrate our hearts. The Church proclaims the Word, and our presence and witness is part of that proclamation.

You can do the proclaiming and celebrating better if you brush up on the readings before you come to Mass. In fact, if you prepare and then listen rather than read along in the missalette or your missal – now this can take some getting used to – you can feel your participation in the proclaiming/celebrating even more deeply. Give it a try for a few Sundays, read up ahead of time and just listen and remember. You might find it very satisfying, even thrilling.

This brings us to the Passion. Now, the Passion is a very long Gospel reading to which, since Vatican II, has been given a little dramatization by dividing up the narration and the various voices of the dialogue. However, it's important to understand that the Passion read in the liturgy is *not* a reenactment. This can be counterintuitive: we do it on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, the days when the events narrated took place. On Palm Sunday we hold palms like the crowd did when Jesus entered Jerusalem. We have a special procession. Despite these realities, like any Gospel reading, the Passion is not a reenactment, but is for our spiritual formation and is our proclamation of God's sacred Word to the world.

For several years, now, at Saint Bernadette, as at many other parishes, we have invited members of the assembly to not read aloud the words of the crowd during the Passion. This is for three main reasons. It helps counter the idea that the Passion is a reenactment. It allows everyone to put down the missalette and just listen and participate in the proclamation. And it honors those who feel uncomfortable saying the words of the crowd. (Folks shouldn't feel pressured to do something





that is not actually an official part of the liturgy, anyway.)

Finally, the words of the crowd draw us to thinking about our Jewish sisters and brothers. It is critically important to understand Catholic teaching that “the crimes during the Passion of Christ cannot be attributed, in either preaching or catechesis, indiscriminately to all Jews of that time, nor to Jews today. The Jewish people should not be referred to as though rejected or cursed, as if this view followed from Scripture” (USCCB Committees on Divine Worship and Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs).

The Passion narratives, especially the one from the Gospel of John, have been used for centuries and even now to justify discrimination, persecution, and the most drastic of crimes against the entire Jewish people. Christians must take steps to reject this. When an entire church of Christians says the words ascribed to the Jerusalem crowd during something that already resembles a reenactment, it can reinforce the erroneous thought that all the Jewish people are responsible for the death of Christ, fueling antisemitism.

The proclamation of the Passion is one of the most memorable and meaningful events of our annual cycle of celebrations. It is ultimately a proclamation of God’s love for all people made present to us through his Son’s triumph over sin and death: a love for all people that we proclaim to all people as baptized members of Christ’s Body.

## Calling all softball players

The Parish fields a softball team in the Fairfax County Adult Softball League, Church Division, sponsored by our Knights of Columbus council. We are seeking men and women over the age of 18 who may wish to participate. Games are played in the Centerville area on weeknights from April through June, usually one night per week. If you have experience and a desire to compete, please reach out to Mark Price at 703-894-8300 or email at [mnpprice@verizon.net](mailto:mnpprice@verizon.net). We are especially in need of younger players to remain competitive. You do not need to be a member of the Knights to play.

## 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](mailto:women@stbernapar.org).

Monday, April 7 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.

Our next **monthly meeting will be Tuesday, April 8** at 7pm in the Bradican Room. We will start with refreshments and an update from Kathleen Moyer on Mary’s Comfort. Our business meeting will include the planning for new activities. Then it’s book exchange night. Clear off those bookcases and stacks of books. Bring as many as you like and trade for something new.

## Return Rice Bowls by April 11

As we near the end of these 40 days, let us reflect on what our Lenten journey has meant for us and how the pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving impact not only our lives but also the lives of our sisters and brothers in our local community and around the world. As we strive to live in true global solidarity and are nourished by the Bread of Life, let us share bread for life to ensure everyone has enough to eat.

To Donate please visit <https://tinyurl.com/34sdsxz4> or take and return a Rice Bowl from the church vestibule. Please return no later than April 11, 2025. Checks should be made payable to Catholic Relief Services.

## Did you miss Confirmation?

Are you an adult Catholic who would like to be confirmed this spring? If you are baptized, have received the Eucharist, and consider yourself well-catechized in the faith, contact the parish office to sign up for our Adult Confirmation class. This class will consist of four classes to prepare you to be confirmed. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred by Bishop Burbidge at the diocesan adult Confirmation Mass Pentecost Sunday on June 8, 2025. If you have questions, please contact Lynn Jones, DRE, at [Ljones@stbernapar.org](mailto:Ljones@stbernapar.org).



## Parish Offertory

March 30:  
Offertory \$35,208  
Catholic Relief Serv. 3,709

*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](http://www.faithdirect.net) or call (866)507-8757. Our parish code is VA70.*

## Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

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

### April

#### 7 MONDAY

7am James Washburn  
9am\* † Ghin Dao  
Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62/Jn 8:12-20

#### 8 TUESDAY

7am † David Kozak  
9am\* † Constancio Tomas  
Nm 21:4-9/Jn 8:21-30

#### 9 WEDNESDAY

7am Martha Bozanic  
9am\* † Lawrence Ledoux  
Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Jn 8:31-42

#### 10 THURSDAY

7am † James Peters  
9am\* Deacon Gerard Anthony  
Gn 17:3-9/Jn 8:51-59

#### 11 FRIDAY

7am † Lester Peters  
9am\* † Lionel Gaudin  
10am\*\* † George Walker  
Jer 20:10-13/Jn 10:31-42

#### 12 SATURDAY

8am\* † John Bozanic  
Ez 37:21-28/Jn 11:45-56  
5pm\* † Clifford Randolph

#### 13 SUNDAY

7am † Souls in Purgatory  
9am\* For the Parish  
11am\* † Domingo Oriola Jovellana  
1pm Cecilia & Jorge Acosta  
5pm For healing of our country  
Lk 19:28-40/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Lk 23:1-49

\* live-streamed Masses

\*\* Mass at Greenspring Chapel

### Masses next weekend

April 12	5pm	Fr. James
April 13	7am	Fr. Cedric
	9am	Fr. James
	11am	Fr. Don
	1pm	Fr. Jeb
	5pm	Fr. Jeb

## Parish Prayer List

Jessica Curtis, Sean Duffy, Paul Flapper, Mark Fortin, Shamsun Nahur, Kamden Harriet, Alisa Squatrito, Jerome Furlow, Joanne DeAngelis, Jim Gribshaw, Pierre DesLauriers, Frank Caponegro, Krista Buskey, Helena Larsen, Cristy Perez Ayala, Amy Greenlee, Larry Lawrence, Thomas Fitzgerald, Adrian Vincente, Evan Robish, Kathryn Yeager, Scott Kendrick.

## 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](mailto: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 parish hall Capital Campaign. For more information, please contact Rick Caporali at [rcaporali@stbernpar.org](mailto:rcaporali@stbernpar.org) or call the office.

### Remember us in your will or trust

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

## 2025 Bishop's Lenten Appeal *Abounding in Hope*

Thank you to those who have pledged to the Bishop's Lenten Appeal! If you have yet to make your gift, please prayerfully

reflect on your blessings and consider making a commitment. The BLA unites as a diocesan family to support programs, ministries and services which help tens of thousands of people. Every donation, large or small, is essential. You may mail a pledge, go online to [arlingtondiocese.org/BLA](http://arlingtondiocese.org/BLA) to make a gift.

## Mary's Comfort update

Mary's Comfort guests are spending time with their new babies and starting to plan for what comes next. We would like to give a special thank you to the Knights of Columbus for their support in helping one of our guests to be able to drive again. Many hands makes light work in helping these moms and babies. If you can offer a few hours a week please email [maryscomfortva@gmail.com](mailto:maryscomfortva@gmail.com) with a brief summary of your interest and your contact information. Visit our website for more details about our program: <https://www.maryscomfortva.com>.

## High School updates

**Bishop Ireton HS Theater: Guys and Dolls!**  
April 11 and 12 at 7pm; April 6 at 2pm. 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria, VA 22314. See <https://www.bishopireton.org/fine-arts/theater-arts>; Direct Ticket Link: <https://bihs.booktix.com/>

**John Paul the Great HS: Peter Pan**  
Friday, April 11 and 23 at 7pm; April 13 at 2pm. 17700 Dominican Drive, Potomac Shores, VA Tickets are available for purchase here: <https://jpthegreat.booktix.com/>

### John Paul the Great Summer Camps

June-August 2025: registration is now open! Sign your elementary and middle school-age children up for a variety of athletic and enrichment camps during the summer months. For registration and more details, please visit: <https://www.jpthegreat.org/apps/pages/summeractivities>



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