

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

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 19, 2025



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The Last Judgement ceiling mosaic ceiling at the Baptistry of Il Duomo in Florence c. 1225



SAINT BERNADETTE
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 19, 2025

welcome



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

calendar

october

- 19 **Sunday, TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
 - Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm in Spanish
- 20 **Monday, Weekday [Saint Paul of the Cross, Priest]**
 - **Taizé Ecumencial Prayer Service**, 8pm in the church, please join us!
- 21 **Tuesday, Weekday**
- 22 **Wednesday, Weekday [Saint John Paul II, Pope]**
- 23 **Thursday, Weekday [Saint John of Capistrano, Priest]**
- 24 **Friday, Weekday [Saint Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop]**
 - Adoration, 7-8pm in the church
- 25 **Saturday, Weekday**
 - Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
 - **Confirmation Mass**, 10am, Church ~ Please pray for our Confirmandi
 - Cub Scout Popcorn Sales after all Masses , Church Vestibule
 - Box of Joy Distribution after all Masses this weekend, Church Vestibule
- 26 **Sunday, THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
 - Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm in Spanish
 - Cub Scout Popcorn Sales after all Masses , Church Vestibule
 - Box of Joy Distribution after all Masses this weekend, Church Vestibule
- 27 **Monday, Weekday**
- 28 **Tuesday, Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles**
- 29 **Wednesday, Weekday**
- 30 **Thursday, Weekday**
- 31 **Friday, Weekday**
 - Adoration, 7-8pm in the church

November

- 1 **Saturday, ALL SAINTS** *(Not a Holyday of Obligation this year,)*
an additional **Mass at 10am** has been added for the Feastday
 - **ECHO YARD SALE** starting at 8am in the gym
 - Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 2 **Sunday, ALL SOULS' DAY**
 - Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm in Spanish
- 3 **Monday, Weekday [Saint Martin de Porres, Religious]**
- 4 **Tuesday, Saint Charles Borromeo, Bishop**
- 5 **Wednesday, Weekday**
- 6 **Thursday, Weekday [Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin]**
- 7 **Friday, Weekday**
 - Adoration, 7-8pm in the church
- 8 **Saturday, Weekday**
 - Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 9 **Sunday, THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA**
 - Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am, 11am and 1pm in Spanish

announcements

Don't forget, if you haven't, to return your Commitment Card for parish ministry. Pray, serve and give, for the coming year. Please drop it in the mail or bring it by the office.

All Saints' Day: Saturday November 1st is not a Holy Day of obligation this year. Because it is still an important feast, we will add a 10am Mass on Saturday morning.

All-Souls' Day Masses on Sunday, November 2 follow our regular Sunday Mass schedule. Our All Souls' Novena of Masses envelopes are in the vestibule of the church and the parish office. Please return them by October 31.

The **ECHO Yard Sale** is Saturday, November 1, 8am until noon.

Support our Work of Mercy ~ Rise Against Hunger

SILVER DINER
Parish Dining Night Out, Monday
October 20, Silver Diner, 5-8pm

MALEK'S
Pizza Palace

Parish Dining Night Out, Monday
October 27, Malek's Pizza, 4-9pm
Mention Saint Bernadette when ordering!

from the pastor

"I am convinced that the preferential choice for the poor is a source of extraordinary renewal both for the Church and for society, if we can only set ourselves free of our self-centeredness and open our ears to their cry."

—

Pope Leo XIV, Apostolic Exhortation DILEXI TE, October 4, 2025

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

If you didn't have a chance to join with our Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters in last week's celebration, I thought I would print a shortened text of my homily:

Today, we gather to celebrate one of the most profound and moving devotions in the Catholic world — *El Señor de los Milagros*, the Lord of the Miracles. This feast, born in the heart of Lima, Peru, centuries ago, has become a symbol of unity, hope, and faith that transcends national borders. It is a devotion that speaks powerfully not only to the Peruvian people but also to all who know what it means to endure suffering, to search for belonging, and to trust in God amid uncertainty — especially our brothers and sisters who have journeyed far from their homeland to seek a better life.

The story of the Lord of the Miracles begins in the mid-17th century in the humble neighborhood of Pachacamilla, on the outskirts of Lima. This was a community of Afro-Peruvian slaves — people without power or wealth, but rich in faith. One of them, whose name history has not preserved, painted an image of the Crucified Christ on a mud wall — not as a famous artist, but as a servant of God. He depicted Jesus nailed to the cross, with the Holy Spirit above and the Father's presence radiating from heaven. Beneath the cross stood the Virgin Mary and Mary Magdalene, mourning yet believing.

In 1655, a massive earthquake struck Lima, destroying much of the city. Buildings crumbled, walls fell — but that painted wall with the image of Christ remained standing, untouched by the devastation. People saw in this a sign — a miracle — and began to gather there to pray. Later, when attempts were made to remove or repaint the image, it could not be erased. The devotion grew, especially after more earthquakes confirmed what the faithful already knew: God was present in this image, offering comfort and hope to the afflicted.

Over time, a chapel was built, and each October, processions began through the streets of Lima. The faithful carried a large copy of the image on their shoulders, dressed in purple habits of penance and devotion. Even today, October in Peru

is known as the "Purple Month," a time when millions walk through the streets in prayer, incense, and song — honoring Christ crucified as the Lord of the Miracles, the God who does not abandon His people. Christ is not distant or detached, but suffering with his people. He is the Christ who stands firm even when the world shakes. His wall did not crumble, because his love does not crumble.

That is the message our world desperately needs today. We live in times of upheaval — not only from natural disasters, but from spiritual, emotional, and social ones. Families are separated, economies are unstable, and faith can feel fragile. Yet in the midst of this uncertainty, Christ remains. His cross still stands. His mercy still flows.

God is not absent from the lives of the poor, the migrant, the laborer, the mother struggling to raise her children in a new country. No — he is there, in the middle of it all, enduring with us, blessing our tears, and transforming them into hope. For so many immigrants, especially those from Latin America, the Lord of the Miracles has become a companion on the journey — a reminder of home, but also a reminder of God's nearness. When one leaves one's homeland, crosses deserts or oceans, learns a new language, and works tirelessly to provide for loved ones, it can feel as though everything familiar has been shaken — just like Lima in that earthquake. Yet, as in that story, the Lord's image remains standing.

He is the Christ who walks with the migrant, the one who knows what it means to have no place to lay his head. He understands the pain of being misunderstood, the anxiety of providing for family, the longing for dignity and justice. But he also offers strength, hope, and solidarity.

The Lord of the Miracles invites us to solidarity. He calls the whole Church — not only Peruvians or Latinos — to recognize the face of Christ in every person who suffers, especially the immigrant and the poor. The miracle is not only that a wall did not fall — it is that a community was born around that image, a community that cared for one another and became a living sign of God's mercy.

The Lord be with you, *Fr. Dom*



Thanks to our volunteers!

Saint Bernadette Catholic School thrives because of the incredible dedication of our parent volunteers, who pour their hearts into making our school community vibrant and welcoming.

Our Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) is the backbone of so many events. From staffing the ever-popular Bingo night to feeding class retreat attendees, providing delicious Cardinals Nest snacks for our hardworking staff, and driving successful fundraising efforts, the PTO's contributions were invaluable. Their energy and commitment bring joy and connection to our school family.

A special shoutout goes to our Room Moms, who consistently go above and beyond for class-sponsored activities. The highlight of October was undoubtedly the Parish Picnic, where each classroom came together to sponsor a fun-filled activity, led by the Room Moms. The day was bursting with excitement, thanks to stations like the nail painting booth, cake walk, pumpkin bowling, and crowd-favorite bounce houses. Every

single activity was 100% run by our amazing Saint Bernadette Catholic School community, showcasing the spirit of togetherness that defines us.

We were also thrilled to see so many Saint Bernadette alumni, now in high school, return to volunteer at the picnic. Their enthusiasm and willingness to give back warmed our hearts and reminded us of the lasting impact of our school's values.

Thank you, volunteers, for making these moments possible. Your time, talents, and love for our school shine brightly!



cardinal corner



FORMING
HEARTS
& MINDS
IN CHRIST



religious education

Weekly update

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

youth ministry

Email our director of youth ministry, Grace Mee at gme@stbernpar.org, or our assistant director JP McLaughlin at jpmclaughlin@stbernpar.org with any questions you may have.

CYO winter sports

CYO Basketball registration is open until October 20. Please click [here](#) to register.

CYO Cheer registration is open until October 31. Please register [here](#).

If you have questions about our CYO Program please contact Gina Soriano, gvsoriano@gmail.com or Catherine Luby, catherineeluby@gmail.com

RE Program upcoming schedule

Regular classes: Oct. 21-22, 28-29
Confirmation 2025 Rehearsal: Oct. 23 at 6:30-8:00pm
Confirmation Mass: Oct. 25, 10am
Sunday Donut Social: Oct. 26 after 9am Mass

Volunteers for 2025-2026

We are still in need for volunteers (assistant catechists, teen catechists, and hall monitors). If interested, please contact the Religious Education Office or fill out the Volunteer Form on the website <https://stbernpar.org/religious-education-volunteers/>.

Living the liturgical year

On October 22, we celebrate the Feast Day of Pope St. John Paul II. He was known for his warmth, wisdom, and deep love for humanity. He encouraged the laity to "Be Saints in the World," to "Open Wide the Doors to Christ," and to become agents of Christian Unity and interreligious dialogue. He was an inspirational Pope who sought to bring his papacy to the laity, especially the young people. Help your children get to know St. Pope John Paul II by watching this link: <https://youtu.be/y9lYvkmY874>. Celebrate his feast day with a Polish feast with pierogis and polish sausages.

High School Diocesan RALLY - Sunday, October 26 -- register by October 19

This annual event is an opportunity for the young Church in the Diocese of Arlington to gather each year to for fun, entertainment, prayer, and to celebrate the Catholic faith. RALLY includes Mass with Bishop Burbidge, Eucharistic Adoration, inspirational speakers and entertainers, breakout sessions, inflatable games, music, and more! The cost is \$25, and adult volunteers are needed. Contact Grace Mee at gme@stbernpar.org for information on how to register.

High School Tuesday Socials

All high schoolers are invited to join us for Tuesday Socials every Tuesday from 7-8:30pm! Meet in the youth room (in the parish office) for games, ice cream, and a discussion on the faith. Contact Grace Mee for more information!

Middle School Youth Ministry

Next gathering - November 5
All 6th-8th graders are invited for games, snacks, and fun every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month! Meet in the school gym from 6:45-8pm.

CYO Basketball and Cheer 3rd to 8th graders

Register for Basketball by Monday, October 20: <https://reg.sportspilot.com/106541>

Register for Cheer by Friday, October 31: <https://reg.sportspilot.com/106541>

Basketball registration fees: 1 child, \$125. 2 or more children, discounted fees.

- Basketball teams must have a minimum of eight players. Once a number of players reaches 16, we split the teams into two and will hold evaluations.
- Games are played either Saturday or Sunday around the Diocese. Most teams will have one game per week.

- At least one practice per week. Days and times to be determined after registration closes.

- Once the Diocese determines the number of teams and leagues, they will then decide which teams can play and which cannot -- all depending on gym space. Not to worry -- if you register your child and their team cannot play, we will issue a full refund.

Questions: email Gina Soriano (gvsoriano@gmail.com) or Catherine Luby (catherineeluby@gmail.com).



Faith Direct is upgrading to ParishSOFT Giving

Starting on October 7, Faith Direct upgraded to ParishSOFT Giving. All account and payment information will transfer securely.

Flexible giving schedules: if you give weekly, your donation will now be withdrawn weekly, not bundled into one monthly charge. If you prefer monthly, you can update your schedule at any time.

More control over gift timing: You're no longer locked into the 4th or 15th of the month. You can choose the day and frequency that works for you.

Catholic Women's Group upcoming events

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

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

Walking with Purpose - Women's Bible Study

Come as you are - you are welcome here! Walking with Purpose Women's Bible Study ministry returns October 14 and 16 for a 22 week study. Join us for "Touching the Divine" to explore the qualities of Jesus revealed through the Gospel of John. This study draws us into a deeper relationship with Jesus as we reflect on his life and personality. WWP Bible studies combine personal study with small group discussion, linking our everyday challenges to the solutions given to us through the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church. Make authentic connections with other women!

Separate morning and evening sessions will take place in the Bradican Room. Tuesdays from 9:45-11:30am and Thursdays from 7-8:30pm beginning October 14 and 16, respectively. The book fee is \$25 and the suggested hospitality fee is \$10. Register at <https://stbernadettewwp.wixsite.com/stbwwp>



Fundraising event at Malek's Pizza Palace

Monday, October 27, 4 - 9pm.

Please join us for our Restaurant Night at Malek's Pizza Palace to support our Saint Bernadette **Rise Against Hunger ~ Week of Service Event!**

25% will come back to Saint Bernadette! Please mention Saint Bernadette when placing an order!

Dine-in, Carry-out Delivery and Catering orders qualify!

Remember to mention the Saint Bernadette, so that we get credit for your order! We can't wait to see you there! 703-451-6969

We are invited to daily rosary

A message from Bishop Burbidge:

As you are aware, October is traditionally observed by the Church as the month of the Holy Rosary. Our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV made a special appeal to all the faithful, inviting us to pray the Rosary daily throughout the month of October for the cause of peace in our world.

I ask you to join me in supporting the Holy Father's request by taking up the Rosary each day, whether individually, as families, or in parish communities. The Rosary is one of the most powerful devotions entrusted to us by Mary, our Mother, and in these turbulent times, it remains a sure path to peace, conversion, and deeper love of Christ.

Mass and Healing Prayer Service Tuesday, October 28

At Diocesan Healing Ministry, we are delighted to announce that the next liturgy, on October 28 at 7pm celebrates the 35th anniversary of this service to the community. St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, 3305 Glen Carlyn Road, Falls Church. Fr. John Melmer of St. John the Beloved Church of McLean will celebrate. Confessions will be available. For more information, please contact Richard Schaad, 703-455-6131.

**please,
join us**

Parish Offertory

October 12:	
Offertory	\$ 39,063
National Shrine	4,626

Thank you for your faithful support!



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

rise against hunger fundraising



**FEED YOUR FAMILY WHILE
SUPPORTING OUR EVENT**

Help Fund our Week of Service

20% of incremental sales will go to our parish meal packing event when you Dine-In or order To Go

SAINT BERNADETTE CATHOLIC CHURCH

October 20, 5-8pm

Silver Diner Springfield

6592 Springfield Mall, Springfield, VA 22150

Order ToGo at SilverDiner.com or call 703-924-1701

Carryout, Car Hop Curbside, or Delivery



See if your employer will match a gift

Corporations who would not usually match giving to churches or religious institutions might be interested in supporting this

international feeding outreach. Donations may be made directly to Rise Against Hunger and restricted for use supporting our program. If you have any questions, please contact Rick Caporali in the parish office for assistance.

Bishop's statement on Pope Leo's Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi te*

We rejoice in receiving today Pope Leo's Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi te*. I encourage all the faithful to read our Holy Father's exhortation in its entirety, in a spirit of reflection and prayer.

At its heart, *Dilexi te* proclaims that Christian love has no limits. It bridges divides, brings healing, and unites us as one family in the Lord. May the Holy Father's words inspire each of us to deeper love for others, especially the poor and those in most need.

The full text can be found at <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/apost-exhortations/documents/20251004-dilexi-te.html>

John Paul the Great High School open house

Save-the-date! John Paul the Great's Fall Open House will be held on Sunday, November 2 from 1-4pm. This year's Open House will be fun for the whole family! Learn more about our rigorous college-preparatory curriculum, competitive athletics, inspiring visual and performing arts, and abundant extracurricular opportunities! We look forward to introducing you to our unique Bioethics program as well as our beloved House System and robust Special Services! Meet students, faculty, and coaches to learn more. RSVP Today! Use the following link to RSVP: https://jpthegreat.fsenrollment.com/portal/new_inquiry

The need for food continues to grow and never diminish every month since the beginning of the pandemic. Food aid has presented an enormous challenge. Every can, every box, every bar of soap helps us meet the challenge. Join us in our commitment to end local hunger!

Mary's Comfort update

Thank you for your continued prayers for the guests who reside at Mary's Comfort. We hope you might consider volunteering with us? The opportunities available include a Volunteer Coordinator, Database Manager, Shelter Director and Fundraising Coordinator. The commitment of time can

be very flexible and most of the work can be completed remotely. For more information, visit: <https://www.maryscomfortva.org/> and email us at maryscomfortva@gmail.com. Thank you for your prayerful support as we strive to shelter and support expecting mothers in crisis.

Thank you!

The 23rd Annual Springfield Knights of Columbus Council 5K Fun Run and Walk on October 4 was a great success with nearly 250 runners and walkers from the community and parish. Special thanks to the Saint Bernadette Parish School teachers and students, Boy Scout Troop #995, Confirmation students and the Knights. Net proceeds for this event will be split between the Parish School and KOVAR (a KOC charity for the intellectually disabled). See you next year!

High School Placement Test

8th grade students attending public schools or non-Catholic private schools who are interested in attending Catholic High Schools in the Diocese of Arlington need to take the High School Placement Test (HSPT). The date, time and locations are:

TEST DATE: Sat., November 15, 2025

TEST SITES: Bishop Ireton High School, Alexandria, Bishop O'Connell High School, Arlington, St. Paul VI High School, Chantilly, Saint John Paul the Great High School, Dumfries

TEST TIME: 8:30am – 12 Noon

FEE: contact high school

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS: Any 8th grader attending public school, non-Catholic private schools, or Catholic schools outside the Arlington Diocese (students who attend parish schools in the Diocese take the same test at their school site).

REQUIREMENTS: Students must register on-line on the high school's website. The registration must be completed on-line by the high school's registration deadline. The testing fee should accompany the registration.

For students who are prevented from taking the test on November 15, there will be an additional testing date on Sat., December 6 at all four high schools (Snow Date – Dec. 13, 2025), from 8:30am to noon.

ministry updates

el señor de los milagros

october 11

Please see Fr. Don's Pastor's Letter this week for an explanation of these photos.







Rise Against Hunger is coming to Saint Bernadette in November!



We are now seeking donations to purchase the raw ingredients and pack **150,000 life-changing meals** to fight world hunger.

Join the movement!
Your gift will have life-changing
impact on a child!



SAINT BERNADETTE
CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

For more information contact: rcaporali@stbernpa.org or jcorday@stbernpa.org



or visit the parish website
for more information - stbernpa.org

Saint Bernadette Church and School Rise Against Hunger Week 2: our diocesan Corporal Work of Mercy ~ “feed the hungry” (Mt 25:35)

Saint Bernadette Church is partnering with Rise Against Hunger in response to Bishop Burbidge’s invitation for all parishes to perform a corporal Work of Mercy. With your support, we will host a meal packing event at Saint Bernadette November 13-15, 2025.

Our parish goal is to raise \$75,000 to purchase the raw ingredients to pack 150,000 life-changing meals. Please support our parish’s effort to fight global hunger, with prayer, financial support or volunteer service. It starts with a meal.

In collaboration with Saint Bernadette School this act of solidarity reflects the Gospel call to “feed the hungry” and serves as a visible witness of the Church’s mission in action.

The ways we’re accomplishing this goal - Why it matters!



Nourishing lives Safety nets

While long-term food security projects take root, communities facing hunger still need to meet their basic needs today. We provide nutritional support through Rise Against Hunger meals, which contain [20 vitamins and minerals](#), and local regional procurement, which procures foods locally, to meet community needs. The link for more information is <https://riseagainsthunger.org/articles/nutritional-value-of-meals/>

These safety net programs not only provide nourishment, but also support education, skills training, and health services that support the difficult journey out of poverty. As communities continue to experience a lack of access to food, we are working to expand our efforts to consistently provide nutritious food through educational settings to over 6 million people by 2025.

Current Countries Engaged: Burundi | Democratic Republic of Congo | Ghana | [Haiti](#) | [Honduras](#) | India | Kenya | [Madagascar](#) | [Nicaragua](#) | [Philippines](#) | [Somaliland](#) | [South Africa](#) | [Tanzania](#) | [Timor-Leste](#) | Uganda | [Vietnam](#) | Zimbabwe

how rise
against
hunger
works

election info from bishop

Virginia Catholic Conference voter resources online

Elections for Governor, Lieutenant Gov., Attorney General and all 100 Virginia House of Delegates seats are coming this fall. Election Day is November 4. Early voting begins September 19. To prepare, please visit our Election Resource hub at <https://vacatholic.org/action-center/Election2025/>. There you can view,

download and print the following materials:

- [Pre-election letter](#) issued by VA bishops
- Candidate Comparisons for [Governor](#), [Lieutenant Governor](#) and [Attorney General](#)
- "Proposed Constitutional Amendments: Be Vigilant!" flyer
- Info about how to register and other key information
- ["Four Principles of Catholic Social Teaching"](#)



VOTE THIS NOVEMBER FOR PRO-LIFE DELEGATES

Extreme Abortion Amendment to the Virginia Constitution

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

This November, every seat in the House of Delegates is on the ballot. The legislators we elect will decide whether the "*Fundamental Right to Reproductive Freedom*" amendment is advanced or stopped.

The Fundamental Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment goes far beyond what *Roe v. Wade* allowed:

- Parental consent laws in jeopardy
- Abortions up to birth guaranteed
- Religious liberty threatened
- Health of women and girls at risk
- Taxpayers could be forced to fund abortion



Learn more and take action

Please prayerfully consider voting for pro-life legislators now.



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARLINGTON

Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life

To learn more or to host an info session
at your parish, please contact us:
respectlife@arlingtondiocese.org | 703.841.2550



From the Office of Vocations

National Vocation Awareness Week is the first full week of November. Seminarians will speak in parishes on the weekend of November 8-9. There are many events this fall for discerners. **If there are any men ages 16-35 who might be considering a vocation to Priesthood, contact Fr. Don by email and register for a dinner with Bishop Burbidge on October 24.**

November 15: High School boys
Quo Vadis Father-Son visit to St. John Paul II Seminary (fathers are welcome but not required)

November 21-23: Adult Men
Weekend trip to Mount St. Mary's Seminary

December 21: Adult Men
Advent Day of Recollection for Discerners

December 21: Adult Women
Advent Day of Recollection for Discerners

Contact our Vocations Director, Fr. Noah Morey, at (703) 841-2537

Prime Time Single Catholics

We are a social group, mostly aged 60 and over. (35 to 59? Ask about our free associate group.) Meet us for: Thursday lunch (Oct. 23); Ocean City Beach Days (Oct. 24-27); serving meal at Christ House (Oct. 25); ancient cemeteries tour/dinner in Alexandria (Oct. 26); Annual Dinner Dance (Nov. 15). For details, visit our website: bit.ly/ptsc. With questions or to RSVP, email Tom at ptscnva@gmail.com

St. Martin de Porres Senior Center call for Volunteers

Catholic Charities St. Martin de Porres Senior Center is looking for volunteers with various opportunities. SMdP provides services to prevent isolation of seniors and promote their wellness, independence, and happiness. Volunteers are needed for breakfast and lunch; activities, arts and crafts, exercise instructor, computer/tech instructors, nutritionist, and more opportunities listed online at <https://www.cdda.net/seniorservices>. Center hours are Monday-Friday from 9am - 1:30pm. Flexible schedules based on availability. SMdP is located at 4650 Taney Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304. Contact maria.mellor@cdda.net; phone: 703-751-2766

ECHO clothing program

Knowing that cold winter blasts are on the way, ECHO's Clothing Department is hoping for donations of winter coats in all sizes, winter gloves for boys, sneakers for children in sizes 1 through 6, sneakers for men in sizes 7 and 8, and new athletic socks in all sizes. The Housewares Department needs bath and hand towels, king- or queen-sized comforters, and large or medium pots and pans. The Food Pantry is grateful for all donations of non-perishable foods and personal hygiene items. We especially need toothbrushes, shaving cream, masa flour, dried beans, instant coffee, and canned protein items such as salmon, Spam, sardines, or chili. ECHO, 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, is open to receive donations on weekdays between 9:30am and 12:30pm and on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings between 7 and 9.

Support our tinysaints ONLINE FUNDRAISER!



From **October 1–31, 2025**, all shoppers at www.tinysaints.com will have the option to select Saint Bernadette Catholic School (eighth grade) from a dropdown menu during checkout to support our eighth-grade fundraiser. Saint Bernadette Catholic School will receive 20% of sales.

Purchase items for your child's classroom and teachers! Follow this link for teachers' wishlists: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084FAFA92BA1F-E3-58671096-tiny>



you are invited

"I am convinced that the preferential choice for the poor is a source of extraordinary renewal both for the Church and for society, if we can only set ourselves free of our self-centeredness and open our ears to their cry."

Pope Leo XIV, Apostolic Exhortation DILEXI TE,
October 4, 2025

Diócesis Católica de Arlington | Oficina de Matrimonio, Familia y Respeto a la Vida

ORACION & AYUNO POR LAS ELECCIONES DE NOVIEMBRE



RECE.

Considere:



Rezar un **Rosario**



Ir a una **Misa diaria**



Ofrecer **un Memorare al día**



AYUNE.

Considere:



Comer una sola comida
todo el día



Abstenerse de la carne



Renunciar **a su comida
o bebida favorita**



VOTE.

Acuerdase:



La fecha limite de votar por
correo es el **24 de octubre**



Votar anticipadamente
desde el **19 de septiembre
al 1 de noviembre**



El día de elecciones es el
4 de noviembre

Unase al Monseñor Burbidge cada viernes de octubre en oracion y ayuno por la gracia de mover los corazones, transformar vidas y elegir lideres que defienden la dignidad de toda vida humana. Los legisladores que elijamos este noviembre decidiran si la enmienda extrema del aborto se aprobará o se detendrá.

**Escanee el codigo para mas
recursos electorales e información:**

bit.ly/CDAadvocacyandlegislation



Catholic Diocese of Arlington | Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life

PRAYER & FASTING FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS



PRAY.

Consider:



Praying a **Rosary**



Attending **Daily Mass**



Offering a **Memorare a day**



FAST.

Consider:



Eating only **one meal** all day



Abstaining from meat



Giving up your **favorite food or beverage**



VOTE.

Remember:



Deadline for a mail-in ballot is **October 24**



Vote early in-person from **September 19 to November 1**



Election day is **November 4**

Join **Bishop Burbidge** every Friday in October in prayer and fasting for grace to move hearts, transform lives, and elect leaders who uphold the dignity of every human life. The legislators we elect this November will decide whether the proposed extreme abortion amendment will be advanced or stopped.

Scan the QR code to find election resources and more information:

bit.ly/CDAadvocacyandlegislation



Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

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

October

20 MONDAY

7am The Mussomele Family
9am* William & Dolores Masakayan
Rom 4:20-25/Lk 12:13-21

21 TUESDAY

7am † Joseph Ferguson
9am* † Jay Jenc
Rom 5:12, 17-19, 20b-21/Lk 12:35-38

22 WEDNESDAY

7am † Joe & Petline Vessaoker
9am* † Lucille Lynch
Rom 6:12-18/Lk 12:39-48

23 THURSDAY

7am † Betty Parks
9am* † John Francis Jenc
Rom 6:19-23/Lk 12:49-53

24 FRIDAY

7am Ron & JoAnn Plavchan & Family
9am* † Jay Jenc
10am** † Charles Walker
Rom 7:18-25a/Lk 12:54-59

25 SATURDAY

8am Dario & Ada Castedo
Rom 8:1-11/Lk 13:1-9
5pm* † Khue & Duy Do

26 SUNDAY

7am † Kendall Jones
9am* For the parish
11am* † Carl Smearman
1pm † Aquilino Montoya
5pm Beatriz Alhuay
Sir 35:12-18/2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18/Lk 18:9-14

* live-streamed Masses

** Mass at Greenspring Chapel

Masses next weekend

Oct 25	5pm	Fr. Don
Oct 26	7am	Fr. James
	9am	Fr. James
	11am	Fr. Don
	1pm	Fr. Jeb
	5pm	Fr. Cedric

Parish Prayer List

Jessica Curtis, Sean Duffy, Paul Flapper, Mark Fortin, Shamsun Nahur, Kamden Harriet, Alisa Squatrito, Jerome Furlow, Joanne DeAngelis, Jim Gribschaw, Pierre DesLauriers, Frank Caponegro, Helena Larsen, Cristy Perez Ayala, Amy Greenlee, Larry Lawrence, Thomas Fitzgerald, Adrian Vincente, Evan Robish, Kathryn Yeager, Scott Kendrick, Heather Lynch, Ron and Karen Dietz, Ted Musialkiewicz, Kathleen Maxwell, Alan Curtis, Glendora Spinelli, Alora Lopez, Ana Maria Carrillo, Ron and Jo-Anne Plavchan, Edward Fitzgerald, Augie Taormina, Cassi Smith, Davy Grimaldi, Suzanne Peters

Pro-Life Witness

The Saint Bernadette Pro-Life Committee invites you to pray the rosary 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.

Stewardship Resources and Reminders: Reduce your Taxable Income!

If you are 70 1/2 and over, consider using your IRA for a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). If you are 73 and over, consider using some or all of a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) as gifts to Saint Bede. This is an easy way to reduce your taxable income and benefit the parish. Contact Rick Caporali at or Linda Patterson at the parish office.

Charitable Giving update: Legislative changes for 2026 and Beyond

Charitable giving under the "One Big Beautiful Bill" (BBB) introduces changes including a new universal deduction for non-itemizers and a floor for itemized deductions, alongside corporate and high-income taxpayer impacts. The BBB aims to encourage giving by allowing non-itemizers to deduct cash donations up to \$1,000 (single) or \$2,000 (jointly), but it also introduces a 0.5% AGI floor for itemized deductions, caps benefits at 35% for high-income taxpayers, and imposes a 1% income floor for corporate giving.

For Individual Donors: Universal Deduction for Cash Contributions Starting in 2026, non-itemizers can deduct cash donations up to \$1,000 (single) or \$2,000 (married filing jointly).

Itemized Deductions: Individuals who itemize will now only receive a deduction for charitable contributions that exceed 0.5% of their adjusted gross income (AGI).

High Income Taxpayer Cap: The tax benefit for itemized deductions for wealthy donors will be capped at a 35% marginal rate, regardless of their actual tax bracket.

Ineligible Donations: This new universal deduction for non-itemizers does not apply to gifts made to donor-advised funds or private non-operating foundations. The universal deduction is expected to significantly increase participation in charitable giving, as it extends tax benefits to the approximately 90% of taxpayers who do not currently itemize deductions.

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.

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@stbermpar.org or call the office.

Hearing devices at Mass

Our sound system transmits sound to hearing devices. You can purchase your own device at Amazon for about \$15. Program the FM frequency to 72.3mhz. The link and model are provided here for your convenience. [Reteless PR13 Portable FM Radio](#), [Pocket FM Radio Receiver](#), [AAA Battery Powered Personal Mini Stereo Radio with Earphone and Lock Key](#)



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