

BEHOLD!
I make
all things

NEW

2025 Saint Bernadette
Parish Renewal Handbook
Ministry Catalog
and Annual Report





B.C.

See,
I am doing something new!
Now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it?
In the wilderness I make a way,
in the wasteland, rivers.

ISAIAH 43:19

A.D.

The one who sat
on the throne said,
“Behold, I make all things new.”

REVELATION 21:1-6

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Renewal is Required

Pope Leo XIV's address to the Italian Bishops, June 17, 2025

First of all, there is a need for renewed zeal in the proclamation and transmission of faith. It is a question of placing Jesus Christ at

the center and, following the path indicated by *Evangelii gaudium*, helping people to live out a personal relationship with him, to discover the joy of the Gospel. In a time of great fragmentation, it is necessary to return to the foundation of our faith, to the *kerygma*. This is the first major commitment that motivates all the others: to bring Christ "into the veins" of humanity (cf. Apostolic Constitution *Humanae salutis*, 3), renewing and sharing the apostolic mission.

The relationship with Christ calls on us to develop a pastoral focus on the theme of peace. Indeed, the Lord sends us into the world to bring his same gift: "Peace be with you!," and to become its creators in everyday life. I hope, then, that every diocese may promote pathways of education in non-violence, mediation initiatives in local conflicts, and welcoming projects that transform fear of the other into an opportunity for encounter.



Then there are the challenges that call into question respect for the dignity of the human person. Artificial intelligence, biotechnologies, data economy and social media are profoundly transforming our perception and our experience of life. In this scenario, human dignity risks becoming diminished or forgotten, substituted by functions, automatism, simulations. But the person is not a system of algorithms: he or she is a creature,

relationship, mystery. Allow me, then, to express a wish: that the journey of the Church may include, in real symbiosis with the centrality of Jesus, the anthropological vision as an essential tool of pastoral discernment. Without lively reflection on the human being – in its corporeality, its vulnerability, its thirst for the infinite and capacity for bonding – ethics is reduced to a code and faith risks becoming disembodied.

I particularly recommend cultivating a culture of dialogue. It is good for all ecclesial realities – parishes, associations and movements – to be spaces of intergenerational listening, of comparison with different worlds, of caring about words and relationships. Because only where there is listening can communion be born, and only where there is communion does truth become credible. I encourage you to continue on this path!

How we will invest the treasure that is our life? Pope Leo XIV responds with a brief reflection

ZENIT - Address on the occasion of the Angelus prayer on Sunday, August 10, 2025

Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday! In today's Gospel Jesus invites us to consider how we will invest the treasure that is our life (cf. Lk 12:32-48). He says: "Sell your possessions and give alms" (v. 33).

He exhorts us not to keep to ourselves the gifts that God has given us, but rather to use them generously for the good of others, especially those most in need of our help. *It is not simply a matter of sharing the material goods we have, but putting our skills, time, love, presence and compassion at the service of others. In short, everything in God's plan that makes each of us a priceless and unrepeatable good, a living and breathing asset, must be cultivated and invested in order to grow. Otherwise, these gifts dry up and diminish in value, or they end up being taken away by those, who like thieves, snatch them up as something simply to be consumed.*

The gift of God that we are is not made to be used in such a manner. We need space, freedom and relationships in order to come to fulfillment and express ourselves. We need love, which alone transforms and ennoble every aspect of our existence, making us more and more like God. It is not by chance that Jesus pronounces these words while he is on the road to Jerusalem, where he will offer himself on the cross for our salvation.

The works of mercy are the most secure and profitable bank where we can entrust the treasure of our existence, because there, as the Gospel teaches us, with "two small copper coins" even the poor widow becomes the richest person in the world (cf. Mk 12:41-44).

In this regard, Saint Augustine says: "If you gave a pound of coppers and received a pound of silver, or a pound of silver and received one of gold, you would be delighted at your luck. What you give will certainly be transformed; it isn't gold, it isn't silver, but eternal life that will come your way" (Sermon 390, 2, PL 39, 1706). And he explains why: "It will be transformed, be-

cause you yourself will be transformed."

To understand what he means by this, we can think of a mother who embraces her children: is she not the most beautiful and richest person in the world? Or a boyfriend and girlfriend, when they are together: do they not feel like king and queen? We could think of many other examples.

Therefore, wherever we are, in the family, parish, school or workplace, we should try not to miss any opportunity to act with love. This is the type of vigilance that Jesus asks of us: to grow in the habit of being attentive, ready and sensitive to one another, just as he is with us in every moment.

Sisters and brothers, let us entrust to Mary this desire and responsibility: may she, the Morning Star, help us to be the "watchmen" of mercy and peace in a world marked by many divisions. Saint John Paul II taught us this (cf. *Vigil of Prayer for the 15th World Youth Day, 19 August 2000*). And in a beautiful way, so did the young people who came to Rome for the Jubilee.



Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

Have you ever daydreamed of living your life in reverse? You'd watch the weight of the future retreat as you walked back into the past, living each year in reverse order: growing younger, having family and friends restored to you, erasing mistakes.

There's something delightful in the dream, however impossible or improper it might be, the fluidity of being able to look back and forward in time and discover the constants. You next will read from Isaiah and Saint John, the Old and New Testaments, the Lord making it clear that his will and fulfillment of his creation is to make all things NEW. The wisdom of age tells us that we may have lost the way, but we don't have to go back to make it right.

In the movie "The Passion of the Christ" (2004) a line of Scripture is used out of context and, in that act of artistry, reveals the deepest of truths. Here's the scene. Mary sees her son Jesus fall under the weight of his cross. She remembers running to her child when he fell. Despite the crowd and his captors, she races to her adult son. Raising his bloodied face from the earth, she offers the greatest of comfort, though it is only the words, "I am here."

Jesus sees her and, short of breath, responds, "See, Mother, I make all things new." That's nothing less than inspired. Why?

Because what we call the Way of the Cross is Christ striding through time, Christ aging in the course of a few hours, Christ trampling toward death, making his way to the farthest reach of human sorrow, of our estrangement from God. If the old world, the one in which you and I were born, was one of sin, of alienation, of aging and of death, Christ walks the way of the cross so as to claim it back for God.

In the mystery of his Incarnation, God the Son comes to die. God takes all that is ugly and old and rotten in this world and draws it into himself. Here death dies.

Here the old gives way to the new. Here hope is reborn. This is why Christ speaks of his passion as his hour of glory.

With equal artistry and genius, Pope St. Leo the Great spoke about the deepest meaning of the Mass, of our very liturgy, when he wrote, "And so what our redeemer made evident (in his presence among us) has passed over into the sacraments (*Tr. LXXIV, 2*)."

In the Mass, the world is young again. In the liturgy, the Word is spoken with a freshness that does not age. In the Eucharist, bread and wine, given to us centuries long past, become food for our journey together. In his body and his blood, like a woman giving birth, Christ makes all things new.

As we enter into the next few weeks coming up on Parish Life Weekend, I ask that everyone seriously consider how important – and vitally necessary – is the life of our worship and community. Liturgy is work, liturgy is life, and everything we do beyond the Mass flows from Jesus in his body given and shared, so that we might give and share ourselves.

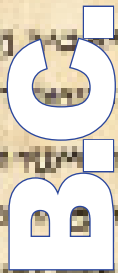
Make a commitment to this holy and joyful endeavor of being in communion with God and each other. Dream of how we, the Saint Bernadette Family in the middle of so much noise and chaos, can become like little children again. Jesus wasn't speaking figuratively: he tells us that to such as these, the kingdom of heaven belongs.

Commit to this vision. The world is watching. Our neighbors are watching. Being a follower of Jesus is not political, or being better than everyone else. It is Jesus in his humility and innocence living in you embracing those who are most on the margins, rejected, the least of these, our brothers and sisters. If we truly live our joy, faith – and Jesus – will become irresistible to everyone we encounter.

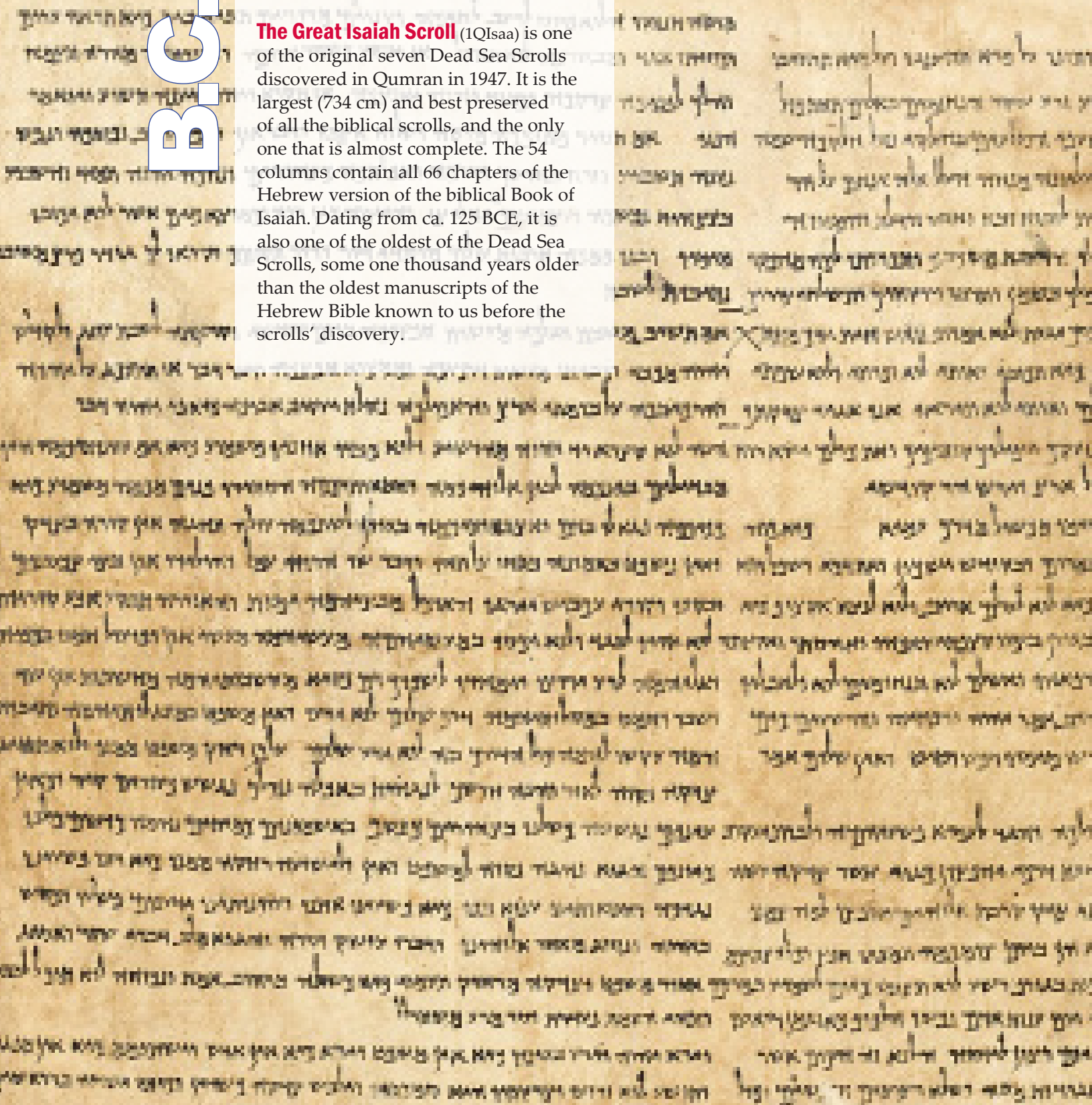
The Lord be with you,

Fr. Dom





The Great Isaiah Scroll (1QIsaa) is one of the original seven Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in Qumran in 1947. It is the largest (734 cm) and best preserved of all the biblical scrolls, and the only one that is almost complete. The 54 columns contain all 66 chapters of the Hebrew version of the biblical Book of Isaiah. Dating from ca. 125 BCE, it is also one of the oldest of the Dead Sea Scrolls, some one thousand years older than the oldest manuscripts of the Hebrew Bible known to us before the scrolls' discovery.



1 But now, thus says the LORD,
who created you, Jacob, and formed you, Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name: you are mine.

2 When you pass through waters, I will be with you;
through rivers, you shall not be swept away.
When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned,
nor will flames consume you.

3 For I, the LORD, am your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your savior.
I give Egypt as ransom for you,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

4 Because you are precious in my eyes
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you
and nations in exchange for your life.

5 Fear not, for I am with you;
from the east I will bring back your offspring,
from the west I will gather you.

6 I will say to the north: Give them up!
and to the south: Do not hold them!
Bring back my sons from afar,
and my daughters from the ends of the earth:

7 All who are called by my name
I created for my glory;
I formed them, made them.

8 Lead out the people, blind though they have eyes,
deaf though they have ears.

9 Let all the nations gather together,
let the peoples assemble!
Who among them could have declared this,
or announced to us the earlier things?
Let them produce witnesses to prove themselves
right,
that one may hear and say, "It is true!"

10 You are my witnesses—oracle of the LORD—
my servant whom I have chosen
To know and believe in me
and understand that I am he.
Before me no god was formed,
and after me there shall be none.

11 I, I am the LORD; there is no savior but me.

12 It is I who declared, who saved,
who announced, not some strange god among you;
You are my witnesses—oracle of the LORD. I am
God,

13 yes, from eternity I am he;
There is none who can deliver from my hand:
I act and who can cancel it?

14 Thus says the LORD, your redeemer,
the Holy One of Israel:
For your sake I send to Babylon;
I will bring down all her defenses,
and the Chaldeans shall cry out in lamentation.

15 I am the LORD, your Holy One,
the creator of Israel, your King.

16 Thus says the LORD, who opens a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,

17 Who leads out chariots and horsemen,
a powerful army, Till they lie prostrate together,
never to rise, snuffed out, quenched like a wick.

18 Remember not the events of the past,
the things of long ago consider not;

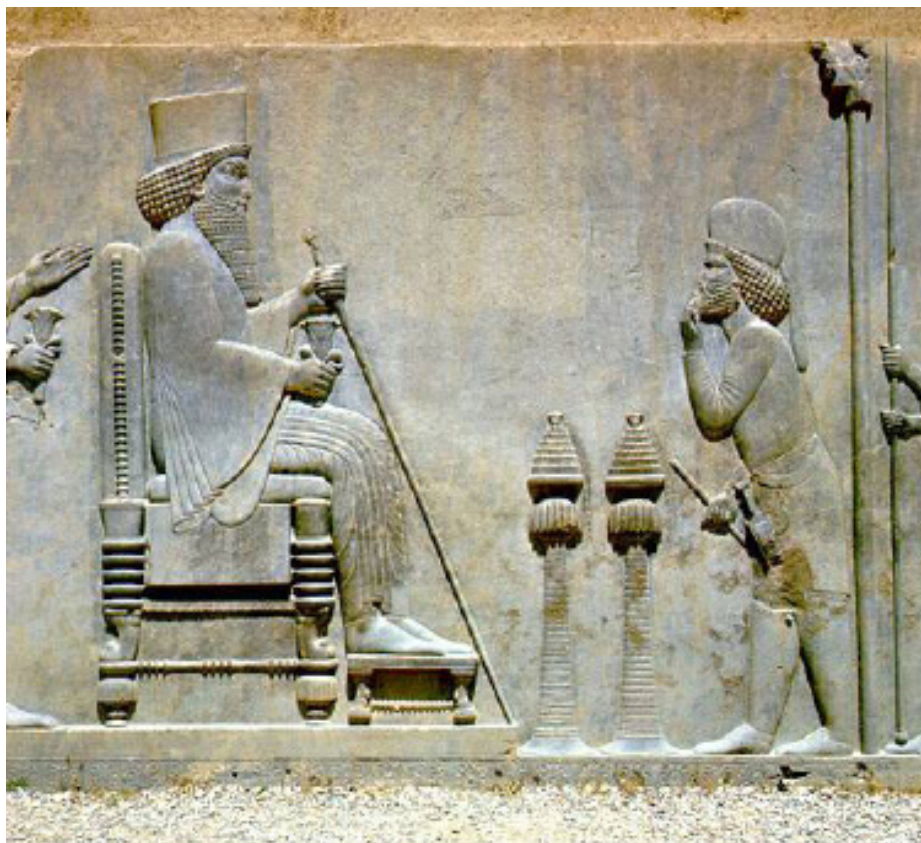
19 See, I am doing something new!
Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
In the wilderness I make a way,
in the wasteland, rivers.

Bible Study: the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah's audience

The book is identified by a superscription as the works of the 8th-century BC prophet Isaiah ben Amoz, but there is ample evidence that much of it was composed during the Babylonian captivity and later. Bernhard Duhm originated the view, held as a consensus through most of the 20th century, that the book actually comprises three separate collections of oracles: Proto-Isaiah (chapters 1–39), containing the words of Isaiah; Deutero-Isaiah (chapters 40–55), the work of an anonymous 6th-century author writing during the Exile; and Trito-Isaiah (chapters 56–66), composed after the return from Exile. While virtually no one today attributes the entire book, or even most of it, to one person, the book's essential unity has become a focus in current research. Isaiah 1–33 promises judgment and restoration for Judah, Jerusalem and the nations, and chapters 34–66 presume that judgment has been pronounced and restoration follows soon. It can thus be read as an extended meditation on the destiny of Jerusalem into and after the Exile.

The Deutero-Isaian second part of the book describes how God will make Jerusalem the center of his worldwide rule through a royal savior (a messiah) who will destroy her oppressor (Babylon); this messiah is the Persian king Cyrus the Great, who is merely the agent who brings about God's kingship. Isaiah speaks out against corrupt leaders and for the disadvantaged, and roots righteousness in God's holiness rather than in Israel's covenant. Isaiah 44:6 contains the first clear statement of monotheism: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god." This model of monotheism became the defining characteristic of post-Exilic Judaism, and the basis for Christianity and Islam.



A relief of Darius the Great of Persia, 522-486 BC (above), Michelangelo's representation of Isaiah from the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican.



Isaiah was one of the most popular works among Jews in the Second Temple period (c. 515 BC - 70 AD). In Christian circles it was held in such high regard as to be called "the Fifth Gospel." and its influence extends beyond Christianity to English literature and to Western culture in general.

The Book of Isaiah

Isaiah, one of the greatest of the prophets, appeared at a critical moment in Israel's history. The Northern Kingdom collapsed, under the hammerlike blows of Assyria, in 722/721 BC, and in 701 Jerusalem itself saw the army of Sennacherib drawn up before its walls. In the year that Uzziah, king of Judah, died (742), Isaiah received his call to the prophetic office in the Temple of Jerusalem. Close attention should be given to chapter 6, where this divine summons to be the ambassador of the Most High is circumstantially described.

The vision of the Lord enthroned in glory stamps an indelible character on Isaiah's ministry and provides a key to the understanding of his message. The majesty, holiness and glory of the Lord took possession of his spirit and, at the same time, he gained a new awareness of human pettiness and sinfulness. The enormous abyss between God's sover-

eign holiness and human sinfulness overwhelmed the prophet. Only the purifying coal of the seraphim could cleanse his lips and prepare him for acceptance of the call: "Here I am, send me!"

The ministry of Isaiah extended from the death of Uzziah in 742 BC to Sennacherib's siege of Jerusalem in 701 BC, and it may have continued even longer, until after the death of Hezekiah in 687 BC. Later legend (the Martyrdom and Ascension of Isaiah) claims that Hezekiah's son, Manasseh, executed Isaiah by having him sawed in two; cf. Heb 11:37. During this long ministry, the prophet returned again and again to the same themes, and there are indications that he may have sometimes re-edited his older prophecies to fit new occasions. There is no evidence that the present arrangement of the oracles in the book reflects a chronological order. Indeed, it appears that there were originally separate smaller collections of oracles (note especially chaps. 6–12), each with its own logic for ordering, that were preserved fairly intact as blocks when the material was finally put together as a single literary work.

Isaiah's oracles cluster around several key historical events of the late eighth century: the Syro-Ephraimite War (735–732 BC), the accession of Hezekiah (715 BC), the revolt of Ashdod (714–711 BC), the death of Sargon (705 BC), and the revolt against Sennacherib (705–701 BC). In 738 BC, with the Assyrian defeat of Calno/Calneh (Is 10:9; Am 6:2), the anti-Assyrian league, of which Judah may have been the ring-leader, collapsed, and both Israel and the Arameans of Damascus paid tribute to Assyria. By 735 BC, however, Rezin of Damascus had created a new anti-Assyrian league, and when Ahaz refused to join, the league attempted to remove Ahaz from the throne of Judah. The resulting Syro-Ephraimite War was

the original occasion for many of Isaiah's oracles (cf. chapters 7–8), in which he tried to reassure Ahaz of God's protection and dissuade him from seeking protection by an alliance with Assyria. Ahaz refused Isaiah's message, however.

When Hezekiah came to the throne in 715 BC, Isaiah appears to have put great hopes in this new scion of David, and he undoubtedly supported the religious reform that Hezekiah undertook. But the old intrigues began again, and the king was sorely tempted to join with neighboring states in an alliance sponsored by Egypt against Assyria. Isaiah succeeded in keeping Hezekiah out of Ashdod's abortive revolt against Assyria, but when Sargon died in 705 BC, with both Egypt and Babylon encouraging revolt, Hezekiah was won over to the pro-Egyptian party. Isaiah denounced this "covenant with death" (28:15, 18), and again summoned Judah to faith in the Lord as the only hope. But it was too late; the revolt had already begun. Assyria acted quickly and its army, after ravaging Judah, laid siege to Jerusalem (701). "I shut up Hezekiah like a bird in his cage," boasts the famous inscription of Sennacherib. The city was spared but at the cost of paying a huge indemnity to Assyria. Isaiah may have lived and prophesied for another dozen years after 701. There is material in the book that may plausibly be associated with Sennacherib's campaign against Babylon and its Arabian allies in 694–689 BC.

For Isaiah, the vision of God's majesty was so overwhelming that military and political power faded into insignificance. He constantly called his people back to a reliance on God's promises and away from vain attempts to find security in human plans and intrigues. This vision also led him to insist on the ethical behavior that was required of human beings who wished to live

in the presence of such a holy God. Isaiah couched this message in oracles of singular poetic beauty and power, oracles in which surprising shifts in syntax, audacious puns, and double- or triple-entendre are a constant feature.

The complete Book of Isaiah is an anthology of poems composed chiefly by the great prophet, but also by disciples, some of whom came many years after Isaiah. In 1–39 most of the oracles come from Isaiah and reflect the situation in eighth-century Judah. Sections such as the Apocalypse of Isaiah (24–27), the oracles against Babylon (13–14), and probably the poems of 34–35 were written by followers deeply influenced by the prophet, in some cases reusing earlier Isaianic material; cf., e.g., 27:2–8 with 5:1–7.

Chapters 40–55 (Second Isaiah, or Deutero-Isaiah) are generally attributed to an anonymous poet who prophesied toward the end of the Babylonian exile. From this section come the great oracles known as the Servant Songs, which are reflected in the New Testament understanding of the passion and glorification of Christ. Chapters 56–66 (Third Isaiah, or Trito-Isaiah) contain oracles from the postexilic period and were composed by writers imbued with the spirit of Isaiah who continued his



AD

Greek manuscript Codex Sinaiticus

is one of the most important books in the world. Handwritten well over 1600 years ago, the manuscript contains the Christian Bible in Greek, including the oldest complete copy of the New Testament. Its heavily corrected text is of outstanding importance for the history of the Bible and the manuscript – the oldest substantial book to survive Antiquity – is of supreme importance for the history of the book.

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ΤΟΝΑΚΑ
ΚΑΤΕΚΕΡΑ
ΙΟΝΤΕΝ

REVELATION 21:1-6

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them [as their God]. **4** He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, [for] the old order has passed away."

5 The one who sat on the throne said, "**Behold, I make all things new.**" Then he said, "Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true." **6** He said to me, "They are accomplished. I [am] the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water."

The Book of Revelation

The Isle of Patmos is a very small Greek island in the Aegean Sea. About the place where the author John writes there is little debate; most believe that the John who writes this vision of the end times is the same who was the beloved Apostle. He wrote the Epistle John as well as I, II, and III John.

The first two verses explain that John is writing the vision that God gave him, and in verse four we begin to learn the answer to whom John is writing. "John, to the seven churches in Asia: grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, who has made us into a kingdom, priests for his God and Father, to him be glory and power forever [and ever]. Amen."

Verse four specifically addresses this writing to seven churches in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey); more generally, in verse nine John makes it clear that he is writing to fellow believers, fellow Christians. "I, John, your brother, who share with you the distress, the kingdom, and the endurance we have in Jesus, found myself on the island called Patmos because I proclaimed God's word and gave testimony to Jesus."

In the days following Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection, the Chris-



tian church begins and then grows. However, it is not free from persecution. In fact, Christians are under heavy persecution after Jesus is gone, as evidenced by the fact that nearly all of his disciples were martyred for their faith. So, when John says he is their "brother" and their "companion in tribulation," he is clearly referring to fellow believers and followers of Christ's teachings.

The Lamb Slain

Isaiah was given the privilege of seeing ahead to the day when the curse on the earth would be reversed, when paradise would be restored. Isaiah said the day will come, for example, when the desert will blossom like a rose, when the waste places of the earth will be like the gardens of paradise. The day will come when the wolf will dwell with the lamb and the leopard will

lie down with the kid, and the lion will eat straw like an ox. The day will come when children will play with snakes and they will not be hurt by them.

Isaiah was describing a restored earth, an uncursed earth. During that time to come when the curse is reversed, Satan will be chained, he will be bound, and righteousness, truth and peace will fill the earth and the glory of God will be everywhere. Christ will rule and all the world will come and bow down and worship him.

Isaiah was talking about a time when the whole of creation is redeemed from the curse that came because of the Fall. All of us have looked for such a world of justice where fear is unnecessary and joy abounds.

Only one person has the right to take back the universe from sin and rebellion. In chapter four John is taken up to heaven and was immediately in the Spirit. He says, "and behold, a throne was standing in heaven." He was taken into the heaven of heavens, the abode of God where God's throne is. The cherubim are present in this place of stunning beauty, the throne of God.

God himself begins to stir, to judge the universe. "I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside, sealed up with seven seals." This is last will and testament of the universe. And before the throne, in the center,

stands a Lamb. “And I beheld in the midst of the throne and of the four living beings, and in the midst of the elders, a little Lamb, standing as if having been slain. The passage is most striking. The Evangelist is told of the Lion which will open the seals: he looks, and lo, it is a Lamb! yes, a little Lamb—for the word is diminutive. There is deep significance in this. When we read of the Lion, we think of power and majesty, and we are right; all power in heaven and earth is Christ’s, but it is power manifested in seeming weakness. Righteousness and purity, meekness and gentleness, are greater than weapons (comp. 2Corinthians 6:6-7; Ephesians 6:11, et al.); the Lamb mightier than the roaring lion which goes about seeking whom he may devour (1Peter 5:8). But it is a Lamb as if it had been slain. The wound-marks are there, but it is not dead; it is standing, for it represents him who though he died is alive for evermore; but the signs of suffering and death are visible, for it is not the Lamb, but the suffering Lamb, which is exalted; it is not the Christ, but the Christ crucified, which is the power of God; the Christ lifted up from the earth draws all men to himself (John 12:32; 1 Corinthians 1:23-24); the wheat which dies brings forth fruit (John 12:24).

As such he is the worship of the Church and the world which he has redeemed. (See Revelation 5:8-9; comp. Revelation 7:14.) From the tokens of suffering the seer passes to the tokens of strength and wisdom which he saw in the Lamb. It is revealed in God’s judgement that he intends to dwell with his beloved creation, made loveable again by the blood of the Passover Lamb. And the Lamb there in the center of the heavenly liturgy declares, “Behold, I make all things new.”



Reflection

A 2009 homily by Abbot Mark Daniel Kirby, Conventual Prior of Silverstream Benedictine Priory in Stamullen, County Meath, Ireland. Used with permission.

Behold, I am doing a new thing.

Dom Mark, 21 February 2009

Christ, the Father’s Yes

“The Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we preached among you . . . was not Yes and No; but in Him it is always Yes. For all the promises of God find their Yes in Him” (2 Cor 1:19-20). Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Father’s Yes to every yearning inscribed in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Father’s Yes to every prayer of ours for healing, the Father’s Yes to every cry of ours in the night, the Father’s Yes even to the petitions we dare not formulate “for we do not know how to pray as we ought” (Rom 8:26). When the Holy Spirit himself “intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words” (Rom 8:26), Christ is the Father’s Yes to every one of those sighs. Christ is the Father’s Yes to the inward groanings of those who hope for what is not yet seen (cf. Rom 8:24-25). Christ is the Father’s Yes to all the promises made “by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old” (Lk 1:70).

Through Christ our Lord

The prophet is the mouthpiece of God, the living bearer of His Word, the emissary charged with delivering the promises of God to “those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death” (Lk 1:79). And Christ is the Yes to those promises: their guarantee and their fulfillment. “That is why,” says the Apostle, “we utter the Amen through Him to the glory of God” (2 Cor 1:20). This, the Church has done from the beginning and continues to do in every age. *Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Receive the Promises of God

Those who refuse to let go of the past are not disposed to receive the

promises of God. Their heads and their hearts are so full of what is old, that there is no room in them for what is new. What does God say, speaking today through His prophet? "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Is 43:19).

The Mercies of the Lord

Does that mean that we are to practice a kind of self-induced amnesia? Absolutely not. This is not about repression. To forget means to put away. Before something can be put away, it has to be found. The same God who says, "Remember not!" never tires of saying, "Remember!" O glorious paradox! "Remember the wonderful works that He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He uttered" (Ps 104:5). And in another place the psalmist says, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits" (Ps 102:2). We are to remember the mercies of the Lord and let go of all the rest. The mercies of the Lord I will sing forever (Ps 88:1).

Detachment

We are to let go of all those things that impede our going forward to claim the promises of God. We are to let go of all those things that oppose a no to Christ in whom all the promises of God find their Yes (cf. 2 Cor 1:19-20). This letting go allows the fragile green shoot of hope to break through the crusty hardness of a heart whose winter has gone on for too long.

Attachment to Christ Jesus

At the same time, we are to hold fast to the remembrance of God's mercies. Day after day we are sing of the promises of God fulfilled in Christ. *Through Christ, our Lord. Amen. Amen. Amen.*

Praise

These are God's promises to us, delivered through the mouth of Isaiah his prophet today:

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert . . . for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise (Is 43:20-21).

Every promise of God blossoms into praise. The designs of God have a doxological finality: the vast designs of cosmic proportions, and the little ones hidden in the life stories of the least of Christ's brethren. Faith in the promises of God flowers into an indefectible hope, and the fruit of hope is praise.

And He Rose

The God who promises "a new thing" (Is 43:19) tells us precisely how he will go about it: "I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins" (Is 43:25). "And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven" (Mk 2:5). Fix your gaze on the Face of Christ and read there the Yes to all the promises of God! And lest any lingering doubt remain, "He said to the paralytic, 'I say to you, rise, take up your pallet

and go home.' And he rose. . . ." (Mk 2:10-12). And he rose.

The Promise of Resurrection

Fifty days before Pascha, Our Lord speaks a word of spiritual resurrection. This is the word of hope that we are to remember and carry in our hearts: the promise of a resurrection from the pallet where we lay immobilized and paralyzed by the burdens and sins of "former things, of the things of old" (Is 43:18). "Behold," says God, "I am doing a new thing . . . a new thing in you, a new thing for you, a new thing among you, a new thing through you. . . now it springs forth, do you not perceive it" (cf. Is 43:19).

Amen

To all of this, Christ, knowing our weakness and our fears, says Yes for us. To his Yes, to the Yes that he is, we have only to say, "Amen." And for this we go to the altar to sing, "our Amen through him to the glory of God" (2 Cor 1:20). "Through him, and with him, and in him. . . Amen." And then, "The Body of Christ. Amen." The Most Holy Eucharist is Christ, the Yes of God, on our tongues and in our mouths. The Body of Christ is the Yes of God in our hearts. "The Body of Christ. Amen."



Dear Parishioners,

For as long as I can remember, fall has always been my favorite time of year. Not only do the leaves change to breathtaking colors when football season begins, but a new school year also takes shape.



As a principal I eagerly await fall as our halls come alive with students' smiling faces and inquisitive minds. I look forward to the return of our dedicated faculty and staff who are committed to developing the whole child through faith formation, service to others, and academic excellence.

Each school year is filled with new possibilities and fresh opportunities to grow in God's love. In line with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' vision that Catholic schools are an essential ministry of the Church, our vital mission is to form disciples of Christ by teaching our faith, transmitting Catholic traditions, and nurturing a strong Catholic identity for future generations.

We are blessed to be part of Saint Bernadette's vibrant and supportive community and we are deeply grateful for your prayers, encouragement, and generosity. You are warmly invited to join in our mission. New opportunities abound to share your gifts:

Time: volunteer in classrooms, help at school events, or assist in the library.

Talent: share your skills in fundraising, coaching, or moderating an after-school club.

Treasure: support tuition assistance programs, campus maintenance, or special projects that enhance student learning.

Every gift helps us live out our mission of forming disciples of Christ and makes a lasting impact in the lives of our children. May God, the One who makes all things new, continue to bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Burgess, Ph.D.
Principal

Saint Bernadette Catholic School + 7602 Old Keene Mill Rd. + Springfield VA 22406
703-451-8696 + www.stbernschool.org

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2025-2026 Parish Ministries



It is the goal of all ministries at Saint Bernadette Church and School to develop in such a way so as to welcome the unique gifts of each person in the parish—and to serve people through the parish—of all ages, languages, countries of origin and cultures. For this reason, we especially encourage you to bring your cultural heritage to ALL of our ministries and committees so that all work may flourish in a multi-cultural way, keeping sacred the unity we seek as ONE parish family, all of us in the one Body of Christ.



Parish Advisory Board (Parish Council)

The Parish Council makes the parish vision a reality by working with Fr. Don and parish staff to form concrete goals and lived expressions of the faith we profess. The five committees who form the Parish Council—Education, Liturgy, Operations, Outreach and Parish Life—all work toward these goals in their own way, according to their gifts and disciplines. They advise Fr. Don in interpreting the parish mission in a way that is relevant to the community and effective in meeting the needs of the parish. They recognize and collaborate with the particular gifts of each individual volunteer who is discerning the best way God is calling them to serve. Through the Parish Council the call of Christ to serve is extended to all, and the service of Christ is made real among us.

President: to be named, pcpresident@stbernpa.com



NEW: Multicultural Ministry Team

A ministry team will be newly established which will promote welcoming, including and involving all ethnic and cultural groups that are in the parish. The goal is to have the diversity of our parishioners represented in every ministry in the parish.

Mission: To promote the involvement of other language-speaking parishioners in all the different ministries, and to welcome the involvement of all parishioners in the social and cultural activities sponsored by the Multicultural Ministry Team.

Time: Flexible. Lots of activities and events.

Talent: The only talent you need is love of God and the Church, and a desire to assist our diverse parishioners to grow in their faith and feel welcome at Saint Bernadette. Bi-lingual skills are helpful.

Coordinator: to be named, multicultural@stbernpa.com



At Saint Bernadette, we strive to provide the best possible religious education for our parish community. Together, our programs work as a resource, preparing our children, young adults, and adults for the sacraments and continuing to nourish our communities' faith formation. The Parish Council Education Committee Chair will be named, education@stbernpar.org.

EDUCATION

- Adult Faith Formation
- Religious Education K-8 and Sacramental Prep for High School Students
- OCIA/RICA: Order of Christian Initiation for Adults
- Saint Bernadette School
- Bible Study
- Youth Ministry (YM)
- Confirmation Team Leaders
- High School Tuesday Socials
- High School Dinner/Fellowship
- High School Boys and Girls Groups
- Middle School Youth Ministry
- Diocesan WorkCamp Volunteers

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:

- Wednesday morning Bible studies;

- OCIA/RICA (Spanish) – for all interested in joining the Catholic Church, 7-8:30pm Mondays in the Bradican Room or Cafeteria;

- Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) for three-to-six year olds during the Sunday 9am Mass;

- Day(s) of Reflection - Advent and Lent

- Parish 40 Hours Lenten Retreat with nightly conferences;



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: Meet regularly, varies by program activities

Coordinators: Lynn Jones, Director of Faith Formation, ljones@stbernpar.org, and Fr. Don Rooney, frdonrooney@stbernpar.org

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

Mission: 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. There is a large range of responsibilities undertaken by the parish in hoping to serve the over 2,300 registered children in their faith formation and sacramental preparation needs.

Time: Weekly commitment (if possible), plus initial training, including VIRTUS certification with a background check, and on-going catechist formation in the parish, while obtaining certification in

accordance with the requirements of the bishop. As much or as little time as you can give is appreciated.

Talent: A love of Jesus Christ, our Catholic faith, and the children is foremost, and a desire to fill a needed role in an environment where Christ is our focus. Training and certification are made available to all to ensure that we are educated in the faith we teach. Volunteer opportunities include; catechists, assistant catechists, prayer aides, office and clerical volunteers, teen helpers, and hall/door monitors. There are also specific areas to help with during the course of the year.

Director of Faith Formation: Lynn Jones, ljones@stbernpar.org

Coordinator of Religious Education: Arlyn Agasen, aagasen@stbernpar.org

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Mission: To celebrate the Liturgy of the Word during the 9am Mass with three-to-six year olds at a level they can understand to more fully live their growing faith.

Time: Sundays 8:45am-10:15am includes setup of classroom, Mass, and cleanup of classroom. Additional lesson prepara-

tion time prior to Sunday morning on your own. You will attend Mass except for the Liturgy of the World.

Talent: An ability to share your love of Christ and the Catholic faith with small children with well-designed lessons. OPCYP (Virtus) Background check and compliance are required.

Coordinators: Kathryn Melton, yanezka@gmail.com; Lynn Jones, 703-451-8576, Ljones@stbernpar.org

OCIA/RICA: Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults Team

We are blessed with faithful formation teams for adults who are seeking to live new faith, toward the ultimate goal of full sacramental initiation in the Church at the Easter Vigil Mass. (RICA is the program in Spanish.)

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, 7-8:30pm, weekly meetings and some other weekend activities throughout the year.

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, along with priests and other faculty.

Coordinators: , Fr. Don, frdonrooney@stbernpar.org and, in Spanish, Fr. Jeb Donelan, frjebdonelan@stbernpar.org

It is a great blessing to see our children grow in their awareness of the Spirit working through them and in them as well as learn. Catholic Education allows us to discuss what a blessing it is to use these God's gifts in a life dedicated to his service. It is our prayer that many priestly and religious vocations have been awakened in the souls of our children this year.

Saint Bernadette Catholic School Volunteers

Mission: To provide support for the Catholic education of our children.

Time: Weekly commitment (if possible), plus initial training, including VIRTUS and ongoing formation, as needed. As much or as little time as you can give is deeply appreciated.

Talent: A love of education and children

is foremost and a desire to fill a needed role in an environment where Christ is our focus. A full spectrum of opportunities are available.

Principal: Dr. Kathleen Burgess, Principal, 703-451-8696, kburgess@stbern-school.org

Bible Study

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,

Coordinator: Maggie McKinley (mornings), office@stbernpar.org

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 wide 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!

Coordinator: Grace Mee, Director of Youth Ministry, gmees@stbernpar.org;

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

YM: Confirmation Team Leaders

Mission: To serve as a team leader to 10-12 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, reflect on their involvement and connect. Loving adults are needed to witness their own faith and commitment to the Church

YM:
Confirmation
Team Leaders
(continued)

and inspire our young people to grow in their faith.

Time: A two-year commitment. A minimum of six 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.

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 Mee, Director of Youth Ministry, gme@stbernpar.org

YM:
High School
Tuesday
Socials

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: Every Tuesday evening throughout the school year

Talent: : Adults 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 Mee, Director of Youth Ministry, gme@stbernpar.org;

YM:
High School
Dinner &
Fellowship

Mission: To provide an opportunity for all 9th-12th grade teens in the parish and Springfield to share a meal together at the parish. This is to model the community described in the book of Acts, *"Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoyed favor with all the people"* (Acts 2:46-47).

Time: One Saturday evening a month

Talent: We are in need of adults with the gift of hospitality. We also need adults who are willing to prepare, serve, and clean up a meal for the teens.

Coordinator: Grace Mee, Director of Youth Ministry, gme@stbernpar.org

Mission: Single-sex events for high school guys and girls, that promote their spiritual, emotional, and social development in an atmosphere of Christian

YM:
High School
Boys and Girls
Groups

values and friendships. Events include outings, social events, praying together, and more. The goal of these groups is to grow into a consistent girls and guys weekly bible study or community of prayer.

Time: Varies, based on the schedules of the teens and adults – typically twice monthly.

Talent: An ability to act as a spiritual, emotional, and life mentor to high school teens.

Coordinator: Grace Mee, Director of Youth Ministry, gme@stbernpar.org

YM:
Middle School
Youth Ministry

Mission: We provide an opportunity for 6th-8th grade boys and girls to come together for an evening of fun, fellowship, and faith formation. Our main focus is to build community among the middle school youth in the parish.

Time: Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday evening of the month throughout the school year.

Talent: Gifts of joy, care, and presence, modeling St. John Bosco's style of relational ministry. Therefore we are looking for leaders who are willing to give talks, lead games, and simply be present with the teens throughout the program.

Coordinator: Grace Mee, Director of Youth Ministry, gme@stbernpar.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 — we need you! *No experience necessary but a willingness to witness Christ through your example to our youth is a must!*

Coordinator: Stakeholder/Coordinator, Matthew Frey, matthew_c_frey@yahoo.com, Grace Mee, gme@stbernpar.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 Saint Bernadette to participate fully, consciously, and actively in our liturgical worship and the life of our parish. The Liturgy Committee Chair will be named, liturgy@stbernpar.org.

LITURGY

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

Altar Servers **Mission:** A unique ministry by which boys and girls fourth grade and older can help to 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: Generally 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 and reverence at Mass. Must be dependable.

Coordinators: Jean Corday, jcorday@stbernpar.org

Altar Society

Mission: To clean the sanctuary and sacred vessels, take home altar cloths, purificators and towels to be cleaned, pressed or repaired, replenish holy water at the church entrances, and water plants.

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

Talent: A caring eye for detail.

Coordinator: Lillian Hildago, lilces58@yahoo.com

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

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: Weekly commitment (if possible). Schedule is flexible and finding a substitute is required. Formation and training sessions also required.

Talent: Love and reverence for the Holy Eucharist; ease in public settings, Catholic in good standing who has received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism,

Extraordinary Ministry (continued)

Eucharist and Confirmation). Must be invited to serve by the Pastor and formally mandated by Bishop Burbidge. *If you are interested, please contact Fr. Don directly for an appointment.*

Coordinators: Suyapa Shine, suyashine@gmail.com, Alicia Ramos, theramosfamily@cox.net and Fr. Don Rooney, frdonrooney@stbernpa.org

Eucharistic Ministry 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. *If you are interested, please contact Fr. Don directly for an appointment.*

Coordinator: Suyapa Shine, suyashine@gmail.com and Fr. Don, frdonrooney@stbernpa.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 collection(s) and Communion procession. The greeter is at the door, helping people in, giving them liturgy sheets. This ministry could be the most effective means of helping all to feel welcome, coming to Mass on Sundays 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. Adults and teens welcome.

Time: Weekly commitment desired, not required (arrive 15 minutes prior to Mass). Schedule is flexible and finding a substitute is required. 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

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.elistravel@verizon.net

Lectors

Mission: To proclaim the Scripture readings at Sunday and Weekday Masses, Holy Days and at other special liturgical events with reverence and understanding. This requires spending time with the Word before your assigned Mass, prayerful contemplation and an openness to letting the Holy Spirit lead. Adults and teens eligible.

Time: Sunday lectors usually serve one or twice a month, weekday lectors may serve more frequently. 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 and Carmen Sanchez, 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@stbernpa.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 10:15am warm-up, Mass at 11am. Rehearsal Thursdays 7:30 - 9:15pm.

Choir Director: David Mathers, Director of Music Ministries, 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

Music: Coro Hispano

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, 1pm Mass.

Director: Juan Pablo Rodriguez, 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

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.

Music: Taizé Ensemble

The Saint Bernadette Taizé Ensemble welcomes vocalists and experienced instrumentalists (woodwinds and strings) to provide music leadership for our monthly ecumenical prayer in the Taizé tradition.

Time: The service is at 8pm every third Monday of the month and lasts 45 minutes. Rehearsal is one hour prior.

Director: David Mathers, dmathers@stbernapar.org

Music: Filipino Choir

Time: The Saint Bernadette Filipino Choir sings at the 7pm Mass on the third Saturday of each month, as well as other events during the year, including Simbang Gabi and Flores de Mayo. Rehearsals take place generally twice per month on Saturday afternoons.

Time: The service is at 8pm every third Monday of the month and lasts 45 minutes. Rehearsal is one hour prior.

Director: Cecile David, amaremusicministry@gmail.com

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 or evenings 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, frdon-rooney@stbernapar.org



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. The Operations Committee Chair will be named, operations@stbernpa.org.

OPERATIONS

- Administrative Support
- Bishop’s Lenten Appeal Committee

- Communications Committee
- Development Committee

- Operations Committee

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 and Evelyn Vargas, 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.

Communications Committee



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

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

Contacts: Rick Caporali, rcaporali@stbernpa.org, Manny Corday, bermudiania@erols.com

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 parish platforms on Facebook, Instagram and Flocknotes.



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: Rick Caporali, rcaporali@stbernpa.org, Jean Corday, jcorday@stbernpa.org



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

Development 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.

Talent: Fundraising experience. Organized and friendly.

Coordinators: Rick Caporali, rcaporali@stbernpa.org, Jean Corday, jcorday@stbernpa.org

Operations Committee

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!





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. The Parish Council Outreach Committee Chair will be named, outreach@stbernpar.org.

OUTREACH

- Catholic Advocacy Committee
- Christ House Dinners
- ECHO
- Can-A-Week

- Ecumenical/Interreligious Commission
- Catholic Charities Volunteers
- Refugee Assistance

- St. Lucy Food Project
- Rise Against Hunger
- St. Mark Lutheran Church Hypothermia Project

Catholic Advocacy Committee



Our Advocacy Committee attends Catholic Advocacy Day in Richmond in January 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 coordinating parish activities to promote Catholic values in the public square according to the guidance of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Committee organizes our attendance at the annual Catholic Advocacy Day 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, Fr. Don, frdonrooney@stbernpar.org

Christ House Dinners

Mission: To prepare nutritious bagged lunches for residents of Christ House in Alexandria

Time: The program has two facets, the



collection and preparation of the meals and the delivery

Talent: Willingness to assist; This a perfect opportunity to witness Christ's love to those less fortunate.

Coordinator: Barbara Gayhart,
kidleader820@gmail.com

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.

Saint Bernadette is one of the ECHO board member congregations. Through congregational donations as well as civic groups, charitable foundations and individuals ECHO is able to help needy people.

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: Jerry Faber, faberg@verizon.net, Saint Bernadette Church ECHO representative

ECHO: Can-A-Week

Mission: For all parishioners to contribute non-perishable food (a can a week) and/or time in gathering it for 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

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 occur.

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

Coordinators: Fr. Don, frdonrooney@stbernpar.org and Rick Caporali, rcaporali@stbernpar.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 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 and Saint Lucy Food Drive Coordinator: Nancy Hoskins, nanjeff@verizon.net.

Refugee Assistance

Mission: To assist in providing furnishing and household supplies for new arrivals through Catholic Charities' Refugee Resettlement Office.

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@stbernpar.org

Rise Against Hunger

Mission: To assist in the facilitation of the parish's annual Week of Service Event to partner with other organizations to end world hunger by 2030!

Time: Whatever time may be available; volunteers may also contact the parish

office. Although this event is once a year the support and coordination required is year-round.

Talent: Willingness to assisting in fund-raising, marketing, logistics, social media and promotion and execution of the event.

Coordinator: Rick Caporali, rcaporali@stbernpar.org

Mission: To provide a meal and a warm place to sleep during Hypothermia Week (The group prepares and serves together).

Time: Our week to support is usually the 3rd week in January. Commitments of time vary

Talent: Willingness to prepare and serve meals, visit with the clients or stay overnight; financial contributions, food and supplies welcome.

Coordinator: Kathy Mueller, kathydon@verizon.net

St. Mark Lutheran Church Hypothermia Project











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. The Parish Council Parish Life Committee Chair will be named, parishlife@stbernpa.org.

PARISH LIFE

- Catholic Women's Group
- Called and Gifted Program
- Coffee and Donut Sundays
- Friends in Need Committee
 - Funeral Receptions
- Hospitality (Receptions Committee)
- Knights of Columbus
- Knitting / Crocheting Ministry
- Legion of Mary
- Lenten Small Groups Program
- Mary's Comfort
- Prayer Groups
 - Hearts on Fire Prayer Group
- ProLife Committee
- Seven Sisters Apostolate
- Vocations Promoters
- Walking With Purpose
- Welcoming New Parishioners
- Youth Organizations (parish/school sponsored)
 - Cub Scout Pack 995
 - Boy Scout Troop 995
 - Girl Scouts
 - CYO Sports

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 1st and 3rd 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@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@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, service hours 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, two shifts (7:10-10:15am and 10:10-1:15pm). 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

Friends in Need Committee

This is a committee formed by many long-time parishioners over the years 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

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

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: Jean Corday, jcorday@stbernapar.org and Rick Caporali, rcaporali@stbernapar.org.

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 St. 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 Casey Carr, casey.carr1@gmail.com

Knitting / Crocheting 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.

Coordinator: Lerick Kebeck, 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 co-operation 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

Friday 7pm Coordinator (Spanish): Teresita Martinez, terelaw@aol.com

Lenten Small Groups Program



Mission: To develop and encourage small groups to gather weekly during Lent 2026 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.

Talent: Roles to fill include Coordination, Group Leaders and Communication/Promotion to the Parish. Willingness to explore faith in a small group setting—open to sharing. Groups are suggested to gather around common interests as a means collegiality but not required (affinity groups) and committed to the six-week program.

Coordinator: Rick Caporali, rcaporali@stbernpar.org

Mary's Comfort of Virginia

Mission: An independent, volunteer-driven nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that serves women of all races and creeds. We provide shelter, counseling,

and mentorship to pregnant women and aim to provide full support, including parenting and life skills training, career coaching, and educational advancement. The organization has many needs for volunteers, including attorneys, a fund-raising manager, fundraisers, counselors, and mentors.

Time: Flexible.

Contact: Kathleen Moyer,
maryscomfort@gmail.com

Prayer Groups

Hearts on Fire

Mission: To praise, pray and open our hearts to the Lord Jesus Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit, including His gifts and charisms. All are welcome to attend and participate in these gatherings.

Time: The 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month (check the bulletin, dates may change from month to month) at 7:30pm.

Contact: Tracy Pham,
tracy_pham@msn.com

Pro-life Committee

Mission: To promote pro-life and pro-family values, facing trends in today's culture with mercy, action and support. To help organize parish attendance in the March for Life and Life Chain. This year we hope to promote new initiatives for education and the dignity of the person, with emphasis on a culture of support and adoption.

Time: Flexible, as able.

Special Skills: An ability to reach out to others in a spirit of love and forgiveness, an intention to heal and transform hearts.

Contact: Tom Palumbo, tompalumbo@outlook.com

Seven Sisters Apostolate

Mission: To strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a member of the clergy

Time: A commitment to one hour, one day of the week (so that all days are covered), determined by the group for a period of one year.

Talent: Willingness to prayerfully commit to the Apostolate.

Coordinator: Trish Pirowski
Al_Trish@verizon.net

Vocations Promoters

Mission: To encourage Saint Bernadette parishioners to heed the command of Jesus to *"Pray the Father to send laborers into the field"* and to inspire those who are being called to respond generously to the invitation to serve God as priests, permanent deacons, and consecrated religious brothers and sisters.

Time: Flexible.

Special Skills: Volunteers (individuals or families) are needed to pray for vocations (no requirements for amount of time or specific prayers during the week but suggest praying by name for those currently in formation as a priest or religious. Other options are to form a group to regularly get together and recite a Rosary with the intention of religious vocations from our parish

Contact: Mary Beth Williams, marybeth.williams@yahoo.com

Youth Organizations continued

Cub Scouting is a program of the Boy Scouts of America—so in that sense, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts are both members of the same organization. However, they are entirely different programs: Cub Scouting is a family-oriented program designed specifically to address the needs of younger boys.

Time: Please contact listed leaders for each group's schedule.

Cub Scout Pack 995: Sandy Belson, sandishell@gmail.com; **Boy Scout Troop 995:** Jim Womack, yorkshireboy@me.com

Girl Scouts of America

Mission: Girl Scouts is dedicated to building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. Members learn about STEM, the outdoors, entrepreneurship, and important life skills, and new ways to make their family and community stronger, kinder, and better for everyone, developing values and skills that will lead them to happier lives.

Time: Meeting times vary by groups, but primarily on Sunday afternoons; with additional events or activities throughout the year.

Talent: Willingness to work with young girls and pre-teens on a variety of activities, with patience, love and enthusiasm

Coordinator: Katie Wright, katie.k.wright@gmail.com

Walking With Purpose

Mission: To help women grow closer to Christ as they lean on truths found in Scripture to live joy-filled lives..

Time: Groups meet once a week approx. 90mins, Tuesday morning and Thursday evening sessions are planned

Talent: Willingness to share in a small group(s) setting, openness to meet new people and engage in conversation

Coordinator: Suyapa Shine and Liz McGhan, suyashine@gmail.com, mlmcghan90@gmail.com

Welcoming New Parishioners



Mission: To organize quarterly gatherings of ministry leaders who will inform our new parishioners about the many ways they can get involved, to grow and develop their faith and feel part of the family that is Saint Bernadette Parish.

Time: Several times a year, after a Sunday Mass.

Talent: A warm and welcoming spirit.

Coordinator: Rick Caporali, rcaporali@stbernpar.org

Youth Organizations

Boy Scouts of America

Mission: The Boy Scouts of America provides a programming for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness.

CYO Sports (3rd - 8th Graders)

Mission: Joining sports teams can be a rewarding experience for young athletes. Our CYO sports program offers a variety of options, including cross country, tennis, track & field, basketball, cheer, and volleyball, fostering both physical fitness and teamwork. Participating in CYO sports not only helps in developing athletic skills but also emphasizes the importance of faith, sportsmanship, discipline, and community involvement. Our programs often create a supportive environment where players can build lasting friendships and learn valuable life lessons. CYO sports are open to students enrolled at St. Bernadette School or the Religious Education Program.

Time: Fall, Winter and Spring Sessions

Representatives: Gina Soriano Gvsoriano@gmail.com, and Catherine Luby Catherineeluby@gmail.com





2025-2026 Parish Stewardship Annual Report



Giving of oneself in the spirit of Stewardship can only come as a result of reflection and acknowledgment of the goodness of God and how his mercy and generosity to us compels us to be merciful and generous with who we are and what we have. Gifts are not meant for us, alone but to be gratefully received and multiplied many times over, by being given again and again to others. Here is what we have done with our gifts this year.

This Stewardship Annual Report provides us a snapshot of our parish life during the past year and an overview of our demographics and sacramental life. We have spent the last few months soliciting reports from each of our ministries in hopes of sharing the wonderful witness being carried out in our Parish and the community at large.

We have developed this report celebrating our Catholic identity for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of our ministries, and anticipating our parish needs and planning for the future.

This report is an honest testimony to how Saint Bernadette Church continues to “Live Jesus” every day. It is love that gives value to all our works; it is not by the greatness or multiplicity of our works that we please God, but by the love with which we do them. All of us are called to love and serve all of God’s people.

Thank you for answering the call and for continuing to share your Time, Talent and Treasure with a loving and grateful heart.

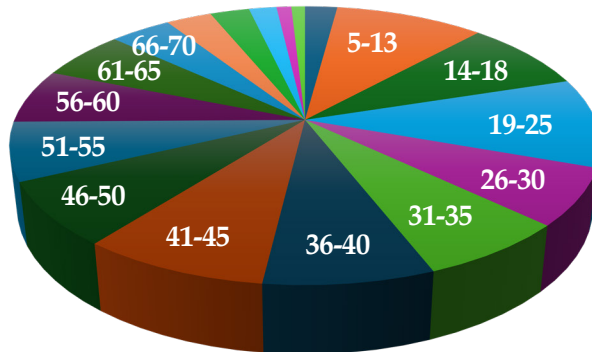


Ages of Parishioners

The total number of parishioners at this time (August, 2025) is 12,995

The total number of registered families is 4,220. (2024 - 4,108)

age	total	male	female	%
0-4 years (pre-school)	274	159	115	2.1%
5-13 years (Elem & Middle School)	1,265	649	616	9.7%
14-18 years (high School)	1,072	543	529	8.2%
19-25	1,344	679	665	10.3%
26-30	857	407	450	6.6%
31-35	911	450	461	7%
36-40	1,024	482	542	7.9%
41-45	1,129	524	605	8.7%
46-50	959	458	501	6.8%
51-55	883	417	466	6.8%
56-60	818	396	422	6.3%
61-65	703	370	371	5.7%
66-70	521	260	261	4%
71-75	387	194	193	3%
76-80	334	175	159	2.6%
81-85	234	114	120	1.8%
86-90	126	54	62	.9%
91+	116	54	62	.9%
totals*	12,995			



Number of Years in Parish by Family

15% of the parish has been here 5 years or less.

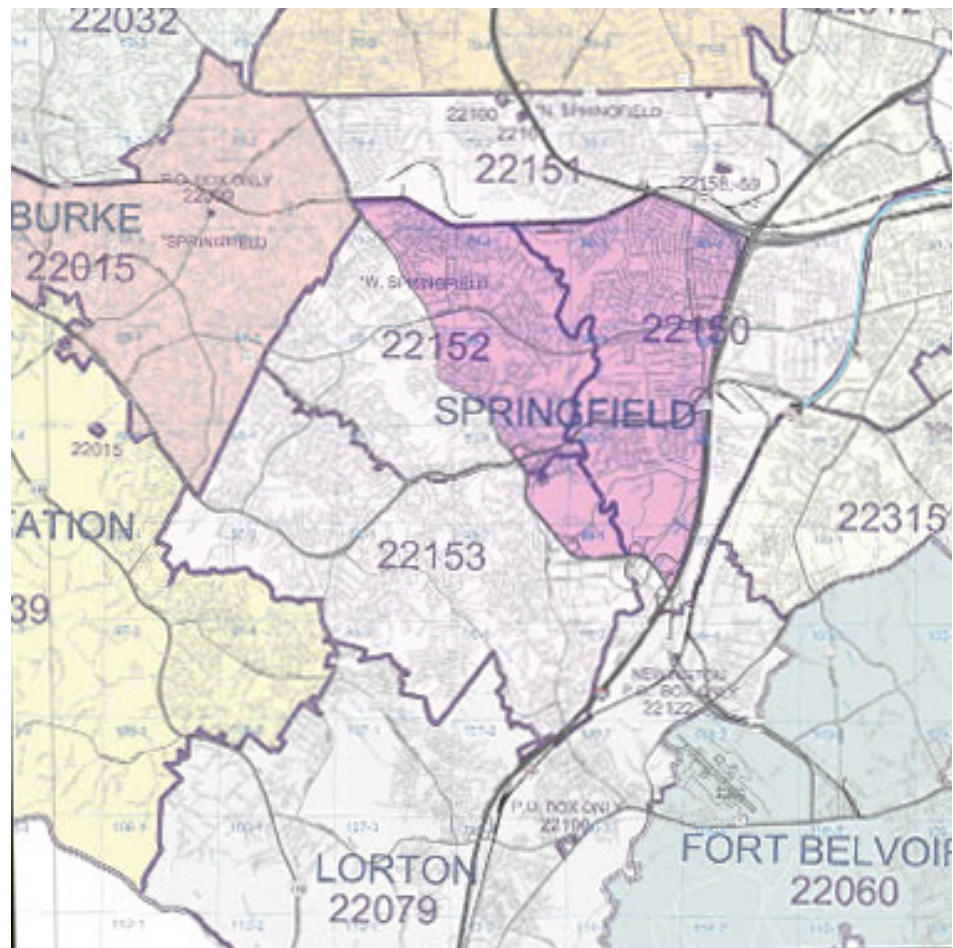
57% of the parish has been here 15 years or less.

We welcomed 194 new families since July 1, 2024, and bid farewell to 41.

years in parish	households Aug 2025		
0 to 5	693	31 to 35	114
6 to 10	860	36 to 40	74
11 to 15	865	41 to 45	52
16 to 20	732	46 to 50	32
21 to 25	301	51 to 55	12
26 to 30	465	56 to 60	18
		61 to 65	2
		total	4,220

**Family Sort
by Zip Code**

**Total Families
4,220**



The pink area above indicates the boundaries of the parish.

22150	22151	22152	22153	Springfield	2,934
22301	to	22315	Alexandria		617
22026	Burke				178
22079	Lorton				171
22032	to	22039	Fairfax / Fairfax Station		109
22191	22192	22193	Woodbridge		82
22015	Annandale				39
All others in / out of parish boundaries					90
total					4,220

Our Youth

Of the 310 families enrolled in our school,

381 students are Catholic,
53 students are Orthodox.

The total Religious Education/Youth Ministry Faith Formation Enrollment was 501.

Of the total number of parishioners (12,995), 20% are 18 or younger (2,611).

1,363 children 5-18 years of age are not recorded as attending any faith formation (58%).

Saint Bernadette Catholic School 2024-2025

Pre-K	36		
Kindergarten	46	Grade 3	52
Grade 1	48	Grade 4	49
Grade 2	49	Grade 5	50
Grade 6		Grade 7	50
Grade 8		Grade 8	41
Total Enrollment	473		

Educational Staff and Administration 60
Teachers, Teachers' Aides, Substitutes, Administrative and Custodial Staff

Religious Education Enrollment 2024-2025

Kindergarten	12	Grade 5	37	<i>Sacraments Gr. 3-12:</i>	
Grade 1	40	Grade 6	46	RCIC	1
Grade 2	40	Grade 7	64	First Communion	222
Grade 3	42	Grade 8	58	Confirmation	187
Grade 4	47	Grade 9-12	95		

Religious Education Volunteers providing classes to children and adults 82
Catechists, Substitutes, Assistants, Prayer Aides, Security and Office Volunteers

Youth Ministry Program

Middle School Youth Group	
Grades 6-7	35
High School Youth Group	
Grades 9-12	15
WorkCamp	42
CYO Sports	90
Boy Scouts	45
Girl Scouts	38
Adult Volunteers	32
<i>WorkCamp, CYM Dinners, HS Youth Group and Confirmation Team Leaders</i>	

Sacraments 2024-2025

Baptisms	
Infants up to 1 year	37
Children 1 to 7 years	19
Children 8 to 17 years	5
Adults, 18 and older	13
Professions of Faith (OCIA/RICA)	8
First Communion	222
Confirmation	244
Marriage	17
<i>Including convalidations</i>	
Anointing of the Sick	109





2025-2026 Parish Financial Summary



The members of the Parish Finance Council appreciate the continued support of our parish community. Your contribution of Time, Talent and Treasure and the dedication of the parish staff and ministry leaders have helped us control costs and promote sound fiscal responsibility of our resources and facilities.

The report contained in the following pages details the way the Pastor in collaboration with the Parish Finance Council has reviewed and made recommendations concerning the budgetary process of our parish. You will find reports on Parish Income and Expenses, Projected Parish Income and Expenses, up-to-date figures for both our Capital Campaign Phases I and II. Finally, we include our Bishop's Lenten Appeal results for 2025, and a breakdown of our Second Collection Results. Our goal is to provide the parish with clear and concise information concerning our parish's financial status.

The Faith Direct Program was implemented in August of 2016 and currently has 716 parishioners participating. Faith Direct monthly electronic contributions can be made by credit card or an electronic funds transfer (EFT) from a checking or savings account. Your personalized account can be utilized for Offertory, Second Collections, both Capital Campaigns (I and II), Special Collections, or One-time Gifts. Participants can adjust their giving at any time, free of charge, through the online portal. Simple and convenient, all are encouraged to enroll online by visiting www.faithdirect.net. Our parish online code is VA70. Text to Give has recently been added to offer another option for those who find that method of giving easier as well as an invitation to assist in covering the transaction fees.

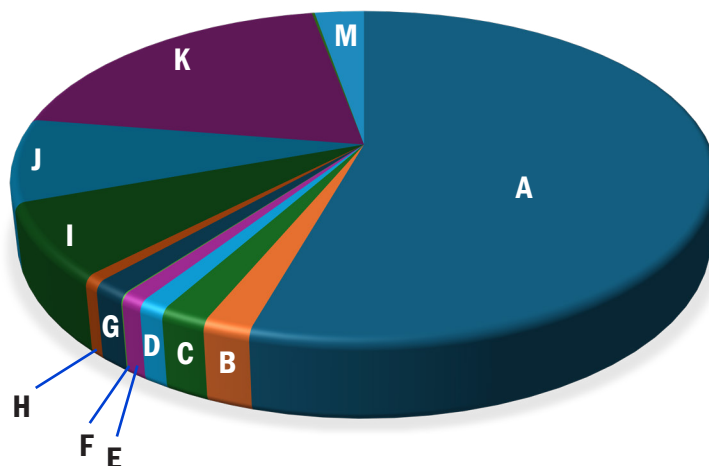
We are hopeful that enrollment will continue to increase—it has remained steady since 2019. Currently electronic giving accounts for 45.5% of all parish giving—as it allows for more consistent cash flow for planning and administration of resources.

May every one of us prayerfully consider our financial support of Saint Bernadette Catholic Church and embrace the spirit of tithing. Giving to God and thanking God for all the blessings in our lives by returning to God a portion of the gifts he has bestowed upon us—this will enable us to meet our budgeted and capital improvement goals.

Actual Fiscal Year 2025 Income

1 July 2024—30 June 2025

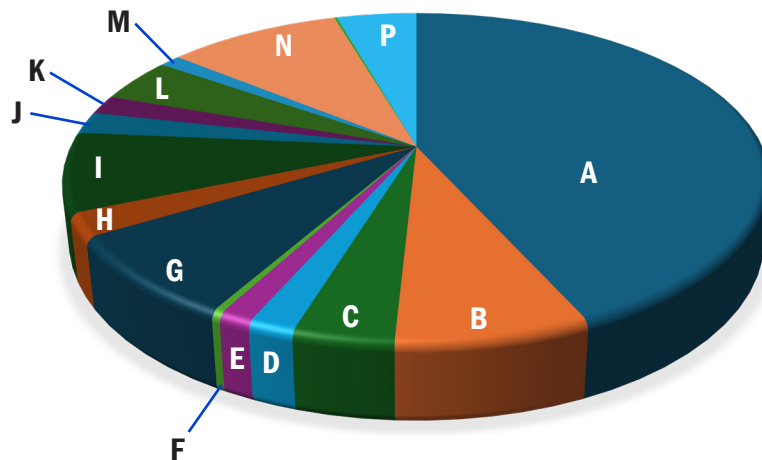
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 3,674,188
A	1,998,517 Sunday Offertory <i>First Collection Regular Weekend Liturgies</i>	54.4%
B	69,063 Holy Day Collections	1.9%
C	67,625 Liturgical/Sacramental <i>Altar Flowers and Initial Offering, Novenas, Stole and Votive Offerings</i>	1.8%
D	39,311 Religious Education <i>Registration and Material Fees</i>	1.1%
E	33,719 Youth Ministry <i>Sacramental Fees, Fundraisers and Event Fees</i>	0.9%
F	2,130 Adult Formation	0.1%
G	51,021 Community/Service <i>Summer Theatre Program, CYO Sports, Poor Box</i>	1.4%
H	25,000 Development <i>Spring Car Raffle</i>	0.7%
I	263,644 Unrestricted Income	7.2%
J	299,818 Restricted Income <i>including Tuition Assistance and Facilities and Maintenance offerings</i>	8.2%
K	718,609 Capital Campaign II <i>Donations received with specific restrictions for their use</i>	19.6%
L	5,727 Bequests	0.2%
M	100,000 Extra Ordinary Income <i>Dividend received from DIAL investments</i>	2.7%



Actual Fiscal Year 2025 Expenses

1 July 2024–30 June 2025

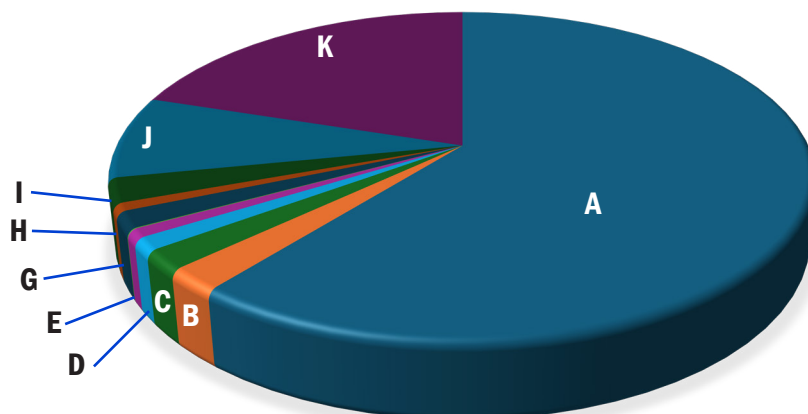
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 2,662,414
A	1,151,456 Salary and Benefits <i>Lay Staff</i>	43.2%
B	201,685 Rectory – Clergy	7.6%
C	104,793 Liturgical/Sacramental <i>Liturgical Supplies, Candles, Missalettes, Sacramental Preparation</i>	3.9%
D	48,358 Religious Education	1.8%
E	34,441 Youth Ministry	1.3%
F	9,651 Adult Formation	0.4%
G	216,651 Community/Service <i>Charitable assistance, community outreach, parish organizations, prolife and ecumenical expenses, parish picnic, volunteer appreciation</i>	8.1%
H	61,071 Parish Subsidy to Saint Bernadette School	2.3%
I	206,500 Facilities/Maintenance <i>Contracted services, repairs and maintenance, traffic control</i>	7.8%
J	56,890 Utilities	2.1%
K	49,107 Technology <i>Equipment, software, phones</i>	1.8%
L	114,871 Administrative <i>Bank fees, payroll services, Virtus, Faith Direct processing fees, offertory envelopes</i>	4.3%
M	30,778 Parish Office <i>Office expenses, postage, printing, mailing and copier expense</i>	1.2%
N	255,305 Diocesan Assessments <i>Arlington Herald, Operating Assessment, Tuition Assistance Program</i>	9.6%
O	3,632 Development <i>Arlington Herald, Operating Assessment, Tuition Assistance Program</i>	0.1%
P	117,215 Capital Expenditures <i>Church sound system, extra-ordinary repairs, additional security cameras, and non-scheduled repairs and replacement of HVAC units</i>	4.4%



Projected Fiscal Year 2026 Income

1 July 2025—30 June 2026

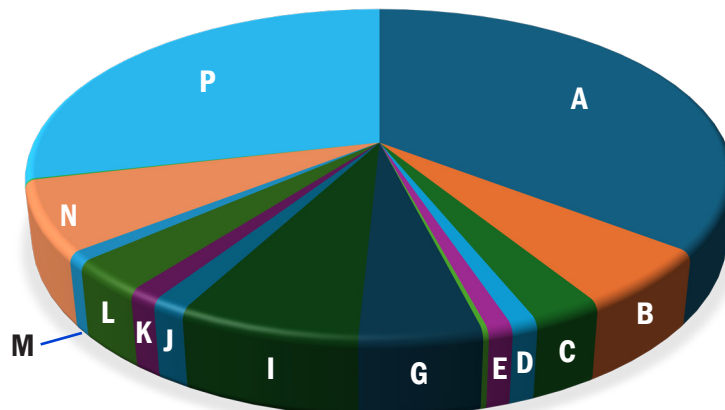
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 3,259,135
A	1,980,000 Sunday Offertory <i>First Collection Regular Weekend Liturgies</i>	60.8%
B	73,000 Holy Day Collections	2.2%
C	63,000 Liturgical/Sacramental <i>Altar Flowers and Initial Offering, Novenas, Stole and Votive Offerings</i>	1.9%
D	39,600 Religious Education <i>Registration and Material Fees</i>	1.2%
E	27,400 Youth Ministry <i>Sacramental Fees, Fundraisers and Event Fees</i>	0.8%
F	2,000 Adult Formation	0.1%
G	53,200 Community/Service <i>Summer Theatre Program, CYO Sports, Poor Box</i>	1.6%
H	25,000 Development <i>Spring Car Raffle</i>	0.8%
I	79,025 Unrestricted Income	2.4%
J	264,410 Restricted Income <i>including Tuition Assistance and Facilities and Maintenance offerings</i>	8.1%
K	652,500 Capital Campaign II <i>Donations received with specific restrictions for their use</i>	20%
L	0 Bequests	0%
M	0 Extra Ordinary Income <i>Dividend received from DIAL investments</i>	0%



Projected Fiscal Year 2026 Expenses

1 July 2025—30 June 2026

TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 3,803,868
A	1,347,609 Salary and Benefits <i>Lay Staff</i>	43.2%
B	216,663 Rectory – Clergy	5.7%
C	103,700 Liturgical/Sacramental <i>Liturgical Supplies, Candles, Missalettes, Sacramental Preparation</i>	2.7%
D	39,000 Religious Education	1.0%
E	36,300 Youth Ministry	1.0%
F	8,500 Adult Formation	0.2%
G	180,628 Community/Service <i>Charitable assistance, community outreach, parish organizations, prolife and ecumenical expenses, parish picnic, volunteer appreciation</i>	8.1%
H	0 Parish Subsidy to Saint Bernadette School	0%
I	269,000 Facilities/Maintenance <i>Contracted services, repairs and maintenance, traffic control</i>	7.1%
J	52,000 Utilities	1.4%
K	45,500 Technology <i>Equipment, software, phones</i>	1.2%
L	118,875 Administrative <i>Bank fees, payroll services, Virtus, Faith Direct processing fees, offertory envelopes</i>	3.1%
M	34,050 Parish Office <i>Office expenses, postage, printing, mailing and copier expense</i>	0.9%
N	263,043 Diocesan Assessments <i>Arlington Herald, Operating Assessment, Tuition Assistance Program</i>	6.9%
O	4,000 Development <i>Arlington Herald, Operating Assessment, Tuition Assistance Program</i>	0.1%
P	1,085,000 Capital Expenditures <i>Church sound system, extra-ordinary repairs, additional security cameras, and non-scheduled repairs and replacement of HVAC units</i>	28.5%



Offertory Summary of Growth	year	registered households	% parish growth	annual 1st collection	weekly average	difference	% offertory growth
	2019	3,969		1,917,143	36,868		
	2020	4,022	1.32%	1,839,050	35,366	-1,502	-4.25%
	2021	4,078	1.37%	1,797,521	34,568	-799	-2.31%
	2022	4,208	3.09%	1,859,700	35,763	1,196	3.34%
	2023	4,274	1.54%	1,997,637	38,416	2,653	6.91%
	2024	4,135	3.36%	1,920,511	36,933	-1,483	-4.02%
	2025	4,215	1.90%	\$ 1,998,517	\$ 38,433	\$ 1,500	3.90%

Second Collections

National Collections

Catholic University of America	4,212
World Mission Sunday	14,956
Retirement Fund for Religious	15,556
Campaign for Human Development	6,133
Church in Latin America	7,683
Church in Central & Eastern Europe	8,860
Black and Indian Missions	7,335
Catholic Relief Services	11,830
Holy Land Shrines	7,548
Catholic Home Missions Appeal	7,582
Catholic Communications Campaign	4,572
Peter's Pence (Holy Father)	7,431

Diocesan Collections

Catholic Charities Christmas	29,688
Diocesan Retired Priests Collection	14,607
Church in Africa	12,298

Parish Collections

Porto Charities Special Kids/Needs	8,980
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Total 169,281

Total Parish Giving 2024-2025

First Collections	\$ 1,998,517
Bishop's Lenten Appeal	562,066
Second Collections	169,281
Capital Campaign I	4,863
Capital Campaign II	718,609

Total \$ 3,453,336

Other Areas of Parish Giving

year	Tuition Assistance	Capital Campaign I	Capital Campaign II	Facilities/ Maintenance	BLA	total giving
2019	35,298	443,340		154,639	465,813	1,099,090
2020	26,433	1,252,343		119,438	464,880	1,863,094
2021	29,815	779,190		90,765	519,857	1,419,627
2022	72,325	583,522		108,946	595,366	1,360,159
2023	60,576	254,619	348,076	107,914	597,709	1,368,894
2024	55,297	17,784	852,186	112,544	572,045	1,609,856
2025	56,820	4,863	718,609	115,845	562,066	1,458,203

Five-year BLA Summary

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
BLA Goal	465,000	465,000	465,000	500,000	525,000	550,000	560,000
Amount Pledged	465,813	464,880	519,857	595,366	597,709	572,045	562,066
% of Goal	100%	103%	112%	119%	114%	104%	100%
# of Families pledged	971	873	661	827	800	791	791
Total Households	3,997	3,969	4,022	4,078	4,208	4,135	4,135
% of Total Households	24%	22%	16.5%	20%	19%	19%	19%

Financial Summary, Saint Bernadette Church and School as of June 30, 2025

The following information states the financial position of Saint Bernadette Church and School as of June 30, 2025. We have requested permission to move to the next phase of review for our Parish Hall Project with a conceptual budget of approximately \$8M.

Saint Bernadette Church will underwrite the project utilizing the Church DIAL Operating Account, proceeds collected as a result of our Capital Campaigns and parish savings. If necessary, a Diocesan Loan for the balance to complete the project may be requested.

A formal 10-year plan (using the Diocesan template) has been developed that will provide projections for income/expense based on known conditions. We feel confident that we can reduce the overall construction budget with value engineering and provide increased financial support by engaging the parish in the greater vision for Saint Bernadette and the benefit to the larger Springfield area of the Diocese. Our intention is to complete the project with \$1M in reserves in the DIAL Operating Account.

Saint Bernadette Capital Campaign Phase II

Capital Campaign Phase II Goal	3,000,000
Total Pledges Received Phase II Capital Campaign	2,886,447
Capital Campaign Phase II pledges yet to be collected	975,459

Saint Bernadette Church as of June 30, 2025

DIAL Operating account	2,396,391
Dividend from Diocese on Savings	476,873
Capital Campaigns total (Phase I and II)	4,950,617
Phase II pledges yet to be collected	975,459

Funds currently available for Parish Center as of June 30 **8,799,340**

Average Weekly Offertory YTD	39,761
Average Weekly Facilities and Maintenance YTD	2,273
Average Weekly Income YTD	42,034
Average Weekly Expenses YTD	48,946

Saint Bernadette School as of June 30, 2025

School Operating	886,823
Tuition Assistance Fund	313,587
Grand Total	1,200,410



2025 - 2026 Parish Leadership



Parish Staff

Fr. Don Rooney, PASTOR
frdonrooney@stbernpa.org

PAROCHIAL VICARS

Fr. Jeb Donelan
frjebdonelan@st.org

Fr. James Waalkes
frjameswaalkes@stbernpa.org

PERMANENT DEACON

Deacon Orlando Caicedo

Rick Caporali, PASTORAL ASSOCIATE
rcaporali@stbernpa.org

Linda Patterson, BUSINESS MANAGER
lpatterson@stbernpa.org

David Mathers, DIRECTOR OF SACRED LITURGY
dmathers@stmaryfred.org

Nathan Carver, FACILITIES
ncarver@stbernpa.org

Adam Dallas, FACILITIES
adallas@stbernpa.org

PARISH OFFICE

Zory Conde, BOOKKEEPER / COMPLIANCE
zconde@stbernpa.org

Janet Chávez-España, SECRETARY
jchavezespaña@stbernpa.org

Evelyn Vargas, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
evargas@stbernpa.org

Jean Corday, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
jcorday@stbernpa.org

SAINT BERNADETTE SCHOOL

Dr. Kathleen Burgess, PRINCIPAL
drburgess@stbernschool.org

Jennifer Spencer, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
jspencer@stbernschool.org

Fiona Smith, EXTENDED DAY DIRECTOR
fsmith@stbernschool.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Lynn Jones, DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION
ljones@stbernpa.org

Arlyn Agasen, COOR. OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
aagasen@stbernpa.org

Victor Mendez, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
vmendez@stbernpa.org

YOUTH MINISTRY

Grace Mee, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY
gmee@stbernpa.org

J.P. McLaughlin, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
jpmclaughlin@stbernpa.org

Parish Advisory Board

To be established this fall

Parish Finance Council

Caren Dunne
Joseph McDonald
Kathy Mueller

Thanks to George Englert, immediate
past chair of the Finance Council.

It's Parish Life Weekend! Here is a quick guide to getting involved. You're welcome!

Ministries
in rose are
seeking a new
Coordinator!



Education

MINISTRY	MINISTRY LEADER	CONTACT INFORMATION
Adult Faith Formation Religious Education K-12 OCIA Team (English) RICA Team (Spanish) Saint Bernadette School Bible Study Youth Ministry Programs	Lynn Jones Arlyn Agasan Fr. Don Rooney Fr. Jeb Donelan Dr. Kathleen Burgess Maggie McKinley Grace Mee	ljones@stbernpar.org aagasan@stbernpar.org frdonrooney@stbernpar.org frjebdonelan@stbernpar.org kburgess@stbernschool.org office@stbernpar.org gmee@stbernpar.org

Liturgy

Altar Servers Altar Society Arimatheans Eucharistic Ministry (Eng) Eucharistic Ministry (Esp) Hospitality: Greeters Hospitality: Ushers (Eng) Hospitality: Ushers (Esp) Lectors (Eng) Lectors (Esp) Music Ministry / Choirs Seasonal Decorators	Jean Corday Lillian Hildago Trish Pirowski Suyapa Shine Alicia Ramos Kathy Marchetti Cedric D'Cruze Santos Reyes Nancy Allard Carmen Sanchez David Mathers Fr. Don Rooney	jcorday@stbernpar.org lilces58@yahoo.com al_trish@verizon.net suyashine@gmail.com alicia@ramosfamily.me kathmarc@yahoo.com cedric.ellistravel@verizon.net santosf.reyes2003@gmail.com pn.allard@gmail.com 1222sanchcar@gmail.com dmathers@stbernpar.org frdonrooney@stbernpar.org
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Operations

Administrative Support Bishop's Lenten Appeal Communications Development Operations Committee	Evelyn Vargas Rick Caporali Manny Corday Rick Caporali Rick Caporali Jean Corday Rick Caporali	evargas@stbernpar.org rcaporali@stbernpar.org bermudiana@erols.com rcaporali@stbernpar.org rcaporali@stbernpar.org jcorday@stbernpar.org rcaporali@stbernpar.org
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Outreach

Catholic Advocacy Catholic Charities Liaison Christ House Dinners St. Lucy Project ECHO Can-A-Week Ecumenical Interreligious Refugee Assistance Rise Against Hunger St. Mark/Hypothermia Project	Fr. Don Rooney Nancy Hoskins Barbara Gayhart Nancy Hoskins Gerry Faber Al Pirowski Rick Caporali Rick Caporali Rick Caporali Kathy Mueller	frdonrooney@stbernpar.org nanjeff@verizon.net kidleader820@gmail.com nanjeff@verizon.net faberg@verizon.net al_trish@verizon.net rcaporali@stbernpar.org rcaporali@stbernpar.org rcaporali@stbernpar.org kathydon@verizon.net
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Parish Life

Catholic Women's Group Called and Gifted Coffee and Donuts Friends in Need Hospitality: Receptions Knights of Columbus Knitting/Crochet Ministry Legion of Mary (Eng) Legion of Mary (Esp) Lenten Small Groups Hearts on Fire Pro-Life Committee Seven Sisters Apostolate Vocations Promoters Mary's Comfort of Virginia Walking with Purpose Welcoming New Parishioners Boy Scout Troop 995 Cub Scout Pack 995 Girl Scouts CYO Sports	Barbara Dalmut Rick Caporali Myra Musialkiewicz Kathy Freund Jean Corday Casey Carr Lerick Kebeck Jerome Furlow Florinda Reyes Rick Caporali Tracy Pham Tom Palumbo Trish Pirowski Mary Beth Williams Kathleen Moyer Suyapa Shine Rick Caporali Jim Womack Sandy Belson Katie Wright Gina Soriano Catherine Luby	bdalmut@gmail.com rcaporali@stbernpar.org mmusialkiewicz@cox.net onanny55@gmail.com jcorday@stbernpar.org casey.carr1@gmail.com lsotelo0712@yahoo.com jerome.furlow06@gmail.com lillictat@verizon.net rcaporali@stbernpar.org tracy_pham@msn.com tom.palumbo@outlook.com al_trish@verizon.net marybeth.williams@yahoo.com kathleen_moyer@hotmail.com stbernadettewwp@gmail.com rcaporali@stbernpar.org yorkshireboy@me.com sandishell@gmail.com katie.k.wright@gmail.com gvsoriano@gmail.com catherineeluby@gmail.com
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We are your Church. We welcome you home.

**We can't participate fully and actively as a community
without everyone here.**

Have you been away from the Catholic Church?

Has it been a while since you've joined us for Mass
or any other parish activities?

Do You Have Questions Like These?

- + Is my own spirituality enough, or do I need something more?
- + What am I missing by not actively practicing my Catholic faith?
- + I have been away from the Church for a long time. Is it too late to return?
- + A lot has changed in the Church. Can I really get caught up?
- + What if I disagree with some of the Church's teachings?
- + What if I am divorced? Or married/remarried outside of the Catholic Church?
- + I feel guilty about my past. How can returning to the Church help me?
- + I left the Church because I was hurt. Why should I return now?

If you are asking these or similar questions, you may be hearing God's loving call to return to the active practice of your Catholic faith. We can help you find answers.

Our Catholic community cares about you.
We miss you!



If you want to talk with someone about returning to the practice of the Catholic faith, please contact us, using the information below. Our parish representative will be in touch with you soon.

If you don't want to speak with anyone right now, please join us for Mass and pick up a bulletin. Look at our parish activities and choose a place to start that is right for you. We look forward to seeing you.

Let us pray together to God for guidance.
Your response to this invitation could be the first step to a new beginning in your life.

Saint Bernadette Catholic Church and School
703-451-8576
frdonrooney@stbernpar.org



Saint Bernadette Catholic Church and School
SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA

7600 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield VA 22152
703-451-8576, www.stbernpar.org