

*Grant us, O Lord our God, the constant gladness of being devoted to you,
for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author of all that is good.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 16, 2025



The Destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem by Titus, Monsu Desiderio, undated.
Museum and National Gallery of Capodimonte, Naples, Italy



SAINT BERNADETTE
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 16, 2025

welcome



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

calendar

november

- 16 Sunday, THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
 - Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm in Spanish
- 17 Monday, Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious**
 - **Taize Prayer Service** in the church, 8 - 8:45pm
- 18 Tuesday, Weekday [Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne, Virgin]**
- 19 Wednesday, Weekday**
- 20 Thursday, Weekday**
- 21 Friday, The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
 - Adoration, 7-8pm in the church
- 22 Saturday, Saint Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr**
 - Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
 - Keep Christ in Christmas Card sales, after all Masses, Church Vestibule
 - Cub Scout Popcorn Sales after all Masses, Church Vestibule
- 23 Sunday, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE**
 - Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm in Spanish
 - Keep Christ in Christmas Card sales, after all Masses, Church
 - Cub Scout Popcorn Sales after all Masses, Church Vestibule
- 24 Monday, Saint Andrew Dũng-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs**
- 25 Tuesday, Weekday [Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr]**
- 26 Wednesday, Weekday**
- 27 Thursday, Thanksgiving Day**
 - We will celebrate one Mass at 10am. Bring food for the Saint Lucy foodbank!
- 28 Friday, Weekday**
 - Adoration, 7-8pm in the church
- 29 Saturday, Weekday**
 - Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 30 Sunday, FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
 - Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am, 11am and 1pm in Spanish

december

- 1 Monday, Advent Weekday**
 - **Teaching Mass** by Father Don for the OCIA - **All are welcome** to come and learn about the profound reality of our Mass we celebrate every day.
- 2 Tuesday, Advent Weekday**
- 3 Wednesday, Saint Frances Xavier, Priest**
- 4 Thursday, Advent Weekday [Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor]**
- 5 Friday, Advent Weekday**
 - **Senior Luncheon Christmas Gathering**, 11am, Bradican Room
 - **Saint Bernadette Concert Series: Advent Lessons and Carols**, church, 7:30pm
- 6 Saturday, Advent Weekday [Saint Nicholas, Bishop]**
 - Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 7 Sunday, SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
 - Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm in Spanish

announcements

All new families who have registered in the parish since September are invited to our first Discover Saint Bernadette Information session THIS Sunday, November 16 following the 9am Mass. Learn from our ministry leaders what makes Saint Bernadette special. A QandA will follow the brief presentation. Please join us.

Please plan to join us for the **42nd Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service** on Tuesday, November 25 at 7pm. We will be hosting the event. Interested volunteers are invited to contact the parish office - we have need of greeters, ushers, and reception help. Details are on page 7 of today's bulletin. Meet and pray with your friends who belong to the many area participating congregations! Invite your ecumenical and interfaith friends to join us.

There will be only one Mass on Thanksgiving Day at 10am.

As a way of giving thanks to God for the many blessings in our lives, please help those who are experiencing food insecurity by bringing non-perishable food items to Mass on Thanksgiving Day. You will be invited to place your contribution at the foot of the altar during the offertory. A basket will be available for donations of cash, checks, or gift cards. All donations will benefit the Catholic Charities' St. Lucy Food Project which helps address the problem of the invisible hunger within the 21 counties and 7 cities in the Diocese of Arlington.

The Knights of Columbus are selling "Keep Christ in Christmas" Christmas Cards after each Mass. Proceeds will support WorkCamp and the Saint Bernadette School.

Join us for Taize Prayer Monday, November 17 at 8pm for peaceful, beautiful prayer for unity and peace in our troubled world.

from the pastor

"The dignity of every human person must be respected today, not tomorrow, and the extreme poverty of all those to whom this dignity is denied should constantly weigh upon our conscience"

Pope Leo XIV, Apostolic
Exhortation *Dilexi te*,
October 4, 2025

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

As you know, I often muse about what sticks in my head from week to week. This week I continue to reflect on a conference I attended this past week at Georgetown University, entitled "*Nostra aetate* and Muslim-Catholic Relations." This is what is in my mind.

I've written about *Nostra aetate* before. This was the apostolic constitution that was prepared for the second Vatican Council in the 1960s about the relationship between the Church and people who are unbaptized. It clearly proclaims that we do not reject anything that is consistent with the teachings of Jesus when they are found in other religions, even if they are unaware that this connection exists. All people are made in God's own image and likeness - not just Catholics - and it is our job to find Jesus in them whether they know him or not, and honor them with reverence. The respect we hold for them as sisters and brothers will bring the healing so badly needed in our world today.

Well, this conference was, for me, a revelation. A professor at Notre Dame, Ebrahim Moosa, gave a talk that might have been the most moving talk I have ever heard. Some of it was hard for my western ears to hear.

He began with the concepts of dignity, justice and peace. He quoted the Qu'ran, surah 2.62: "And the Christians and the Sabians, any who believe in Allah and the Last Day, and work righteousness, shall have their reward, with the Lord: on them shall be no fear, for shall they grieve."

Allah, by the way, is the all merciful God who, same as the God of Israel, was the author of life and truth.

This is what Dr. Moosa spoke: The Catholic document *Nostra aetate* was the Catholic Church's badly-needed response to the *Shoah*, the great holocaust of the Jewish people in World War II which was the result of centuries of antisemitism. The Catholic Church had an obligation *not* to remain silent in the face of such hatred.

Both Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV have described the current global situation as a series of interconnected, localized conflicts that constitute a single, all-out war. They call it "the third world war fought piecemeal."

Regional rivalries yield global indifference, he says, even assistance. Think about Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan. Life is lost regardless of nation or creed.

Dr. Moosa continues. This "post-war humanitarianism" allows the rest of the world to change moral obligation into sentimentality. Suffering, into moral spectacle. Prophetic justice into redemptive pity, declaring evil to being limited to the past, not today. "How terrible," we say, but nothing is done.

Post-war humanitarianism de-politicizes outrage. Justice is reduced to empathy; history, to therapy. Do we consider what structures of power still allow this injustice?

True dialogue, he says, cannot be impersonal politeness. We cannot simply co-exist without compromise.

Dr. Moosa continued with an explanation of the Muslim understanding of God which is different. He said for Christians, God is love. For Muslims, God is mercy. Love follows obedience: love is the fruit of discipline, not the starting point.

When confronted with global migration, economic instability, planetary fragility — the moral force must speak justice, which has inevitable impact on reality.

He ended with a quote of Pope Francis in *Fratelli tutti* with regard of the state of the world today. Don't miss the remarkable witness he gives, Muslims in a precarious relationship Jews and antisemitism. Pope Francis says, "Pray for the grace to be ashamed of what we have done." Do not underestimate the abyss of evil at the heart of war.

This was the seminal message of Vatican II, the role of the Church in the world. People of faith must *live* the faith. This was the lens of social justice teaching with Pope Leo XIII, probably the reason that our beloved pope took the same name as Leo XIV. Dialogue cannot be marginal nicety. Faith and love are *performative*. It must be a dialogue of ACTION. In the end, belief and worship are good, but not enough. Our internal conversion must become the light of the world.

The Lord be with you,

Fr. Dom

Honoring our Veterans and all those in active duty

On Thursday, November 6, our school celebrated all our military families, both Veterans and those who serve in active duty.

It was a brisk and incredibly beautiful morning as the student of the school first gathered around the courtyard flag pole. About 80 parents who are veterans or active duty military were present in uniform or fatigues. I led with a prayer, the flag was raised to half-mast (in memory of Vice President Cheney). The choir led all present in the National Anthem. One of our parents, an officer in the Air Force, gave a talk on the significance of Veterans' Day. Our military parents came forward and were joined by their children, students in the school, and the choir led everyone singing "God bless America." Our principal, Dr. Burgess, gave comments to help us recognize the gravity of this moment and exactly how precious are these military leaders and the families who follow them

wherever they must go. It is a sacrificial life to go wherever you must go: as a priest who lives the same sort of orders, I can only imagine what that must be like with a family, a wife and children, not to mention danger. We thank God for their service, and honor them for their selflessness in the wake of world events, going where they are needed to be instruments of peace and good examples of how the world could be.

After the ceremony, our military families were welcomed to a donut feast - clearly not as much as they deserve - but an expression of our gratitude for the sacrifices they have made for our freedom and sanity in a world that has gone so far afield from the values of democracy and law that originally shaped our country's identity.

Saint Bernadette has the prestigious designation of being a Purple Star School, which means we work intentionally to be the safe haven where our military families can find a school who values them and their service to our country. --Fr. Don

cardinal corner



**FORMING
HEARTS
& MINDS
IN CHRIST**



religious education

Weekly update

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

youth ministry

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

Our eighth graders this week celebrated receiving their red Cardinal sweatshirts, a sign of their leadership in the school.

The ceremony was in the morning, and parents came at afternoon carpool to celebrate with their sons and daughters this unique rite of passage.

RE Program upcoming schedule

No classes: Nov. 11
Regular classes: Nov. 18-19, Dec. 2-3, 9-10, 16-17. No classes Nov. 25-26, Dec. 23-24
SPRED classes: Nov. 22, Dec. 6
Family Faith Formation, Dec. 7
Sunday Donut Social: Dec. 14 after 9am Mass

Volunteers for 2025-2026

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

Living the liturgical year

On November 21, we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Mary. St. Joachim and St. Anne had taken her to the temple to consecrate her to God when she was 3 years old. This is in part of thanksgiving to God. Before Mary's birth, her parents received a message from God that they would bear a child in their old age. We celebrate this feast because it is one of the key events of the life of Mary. It emphasizes the holiness that was given to Mary from the beginning of her life on earth to her childhood and into adulthood when said "yes" to God. You can learn more about the feast at this link: <https://fiercelycatholic.com/virgin-mary/presentation-of-mary/>

High School Tuesday Socials

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

Middle School Youth Ministry

Next gathering - November 5
All 6th-8th graders are invited for

games, snacks, and fun every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month! Meet in the school gym from 6:45-8pm.

High School Boys Trivia Night

All high school boys are welcome to attend a fun trivia night on Thursday, November 20th, 7-8:30 pm in the youth room. Please contact JP McLaughlin jpmclaughlin@stbernpar.org if you have questions.



BURKE/SPRINGFIELD INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE KINDNESS IS OUR PATH FORWARD

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25 at 7:00pm
at Saint Bernadette Catholic Church
7600 Old Keene Mill Rd., Springfield



The 42nd Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will take place here at Saint Bernadette Catholic Church on Tuesday, November 25 at 7:00pm, followed by a reception and fellowship.

This year's speaker will be Dr. Sوسان Abadian, Executive Director of the InterFaith Council of Metropolitan Washington.

Burke Presbyterian Church | Burke United Methodist Church
| Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints | Congregation
Adat Reyim | Congregation Olam Tikvah | Durga Temple
(Hindu) | Drikung Dharma Surya Center (Buddhist) | Rumi
Forum (Muslim) | Silverbrook United Methodist Church
| Springfield United Methodist Church | St. Andrew's
Episcopal Church | St. Bernadette Catholic Church | St.
Christopher's Episcopal Church | St. Peter's in the Woods
Episcopal Church | Sydenstricker United Methodist Church

Join us!

Catholic Women's Group upcoming events

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

November 18 is our next Dinner with Friends at 5pm, at Saratoga Pizzeria, 8050 Rolling Road. We meet for this casual meal on the 1st & 3rd Monday of every month.

Receiving Holy Communion under both forms

On November 30, the First Sunday of Advent, we will once again offer Eucharist under the forms of both bread and wine at the 5pm Saturday Vigil, and 9am and 11am Masses on Sunday. For a general catechesis and more details, please refer to our November 9 bulletin found at the parish website.

Ministers of the cup will be located in the front, center aisle of the church. We will begin with four, and see if this is sufficient. Regardless of where you are seated, all are invited to come forward in the two side aisles and follow to the center to receive the Precious Blood of Christ.

It would be helpful if those who wish to receive under both forms would simply sit in the front sections of pews.

The minister of the cup will offer it to you and say, "The Blood of Christ." You simply respond, "Amen," and take the cup carefully from them. You take a sip, and then hand it back to the minister with care. The minister will clean the lip of the cup with a linen purificator, ready for the next communicant.

We haven't done this since before COVID so we ask your patience as we fine tune procedures according to your needs.

Also on this Sunday we will provide a separate cup for those who are gluten intolerant. The Body and Blood of Christ will be available at the same place as before, asking that those requiring low gluten hosts or the gluten free come up after the front two sections of pews near the ambo are finished.

around the parish

"The dignity of every human person must be respected today, not tomorrow, and the extreme poverty of all those to whom this dignity is denied should constantly weigh upon our conscience."

—
Pope Leo XIV, Apostolic
Exhortation *Dilexi te*,
October 4, 2025

greenspring catholic community



Bring food for the hungry on Thanksgiving Day

As a way of giving thanks to God for the many blessings in our lives, please help those who are experiencing food insecurity by bringing non-perishable food items to the 10am Mass on Thanksgiving Day. You will be invited to place your contribution at the foot of the altar during the offertory. A basket will be available for donations of cash, checks, or gift cards. All donations will benefit the Catholic Charities St. Lucy Food Project which addresses the problem of the invisible hunger within the 21 counties and 7 cities in the Diocese of Arlington.

Women's Advent Night of Reflection

Join us on Saturday, December 6th in the St. Bernadette School gym, from 7-9 PM for a night of fellowship, Christmas goodies and a talk by Valeria Lamarra. Valeria seeks to sow the seeds of authentic Catholic community through the truth, beauty, and goodness found in daily encounters and activities. Rooted in both sacred and folk traditions, she cultivates shared experiences to bring people together and through those relationships nurtured in the world, to union with Christ in the world to come. Her work in various fields has been published in religious presses, presented at academic conferences, and briefed to senior leaders across the U.S. Coast Guard and Air Force to the four-star level. Her work in various spheres has taken her all over the greater DC metropolitan area, across 10 US states, and to various countries around the globe such as Russia, Israel, France, and England.

Please register by December 4 at:
<https://forms.gle/SveB24QqYwsysrWC8>

Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring the annual Keep Christ in Christmas activities. This year, they are conducting a poster contest for all grades, K-8th Grades, and an Essay contest for grades 9-12. All entries require parental

approvals and must be turned on by 3 Dec. Please see one of the Knights after Mass for additional information.



Catholic Campaign for Human Development working on the margins

Our second collection next weekend, November 22-23, is to support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. There are over 46 million people in the United States living in poverty, and this collection supports programs to empower local communities to address the challenges they face. It identifies and addresses the unique obstacles they face as they work to lift themselves out of poverty. In addition, 25 percent of funds collected will remain in our diocese to fund local anti-poverty projects. By supporting this collection, you are giving those on the margins a hand up, not a handout. Please be generous

Mary's Comfort update

We are grateful for our new volunteers! There are still opportunities for you to join our dedicated team. Is there anyone who is handy and willing to help us with our "honey do" list? We could also use a Database Manager, Social Media Specialist, and Fundraising Coordinator. The commitment of time can be flexible. Visit <https://www.maryscomfortva.org/> for more information and email us at maryscomfortva@gmail.com with your interests. Thank you for your continued support.

Announcing Saint Bernadette's 2025 Giving Tree

Welcome to our Giving Tree Program.

We welcome you to select an organization from the tree and use the URL or QR code on the tag. We encourage everyone to take this opportunity to help those less fortunate and bring some Christmas joy into others' lives. Some items will be accepted here at the Church. **Plan to make your donation/gift available to the organization by noon on December 6**, to ensure delivery by Christmas. Remember, the most fulfilling way to enjoy Christmas is to give!

Gift Cards can be dropped off @ Parish Office - Sleeping Bags Church

CATHOLIC CHARITIES of the Diocese of Arlington receives hundreds of calls from seniors, the disabled or working poor, families and the unemployed seeking food, toiletries, clothing, and financial assistance for prescriptions, utilities, and rent. Gift cards in \$25 increments to any of the following: Aldi, Wegman's, Walmart, Target, Sheetz or Shell Gas Cards. 50 Sleeping bags with a 32 ° rating.

Visit the QR Code on the Gift Tag

CHRIST HOUSE This is a men's transitional shelter, and emergency aid office in Old Town Alexandria run by Catholic Charities. It provides food and clothing and helps people in crisis situations to avoid eviction or termination of essential utilities. We are in need of weather-rated sleeping bags.

Visit ECHO's Website for their Amazon Wishlist

ECHO Ecumenical Community Helping Others is a local service which provides for those in the Springfield area who have difficulty providing for themselves. Please do not buy gift cards for ECHO recipients. ECHO will be collecting their gifts earlier than the other charities.

Visit the QR Code on the Gift Tag

PROJECT GABRIEL / PROJECT RACHEL This organization provides aid for people suffering from the pain of abortion and provides aid for pregnant women in desperate situations.

ALEXANDRIA FOOD PANTRY

Formerly the Catholic Charities food pantry provides perishable and non-perishable food, including fresh produce, dairy, and meat, and basic items such as cereal, canned vegetables, rice, and beans. Amazon, Aldi and Giant Gift Card in increments of \$25 or \$50 can be mailed directly to the organization or dropped by the parish office. **See the gift tag for more information.**

Visit the QR Code on the Gift Tag

ST. ANN'S CENTER FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES is a Catholic Care Center that provides for teen mothers and their children in great need within the Washington area. Your gift can provide support to mothers and Christmas joy to babies and children who have begun life in very difficult circumstances.

Visit the QR Code on the Gift Tag

BETHANY HOUSE provides crisis intervention, safe housing, food, clothing and emotional support and guidance to spouses who have been abused, and to their children. Your gift will be one of the few bright spots in a family which has been torn apart by the tragedy of domestic violence.

Visit the QR Code on the Gift Tag

MIGRATION and REFUGEE SERVICES Your donation supports individuals or families who are coming to our country from very difficult situations through the Diocesan Resettlement Office with only with the clothes they are wearing.

These tags / Gift Cards can be dropped off in the Parish Office

MARY'S COMFORT is a program which provides housing for women facing a crisis pregnancy, along with supportive help and guidance for mother and baby in all stages of care. \$25-\$50 Walmart or Amazon gift cards. Gift cards can be dropped off in the parish office.

**May God bless
you for your
generosity!**

Thank you for your continued generosity and support

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

JOIN US FOR
A MORNING
OF FUN!

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 6

8:00 - 11:30

ST B'S
CAFETERIA



What does it mean to be the Church? Pope Leo XIV's three reflections

ZENIT News/Vatican City 11.09.2025

Dear brothers and sisters, Today we celebrate the Feast of the Dedication of the Basilica of Saint John Lateran, which took place in the fourth century under Pope Sylvester I. This Basilica, the Cathedral of Rome, was built at the behest of Emperor Constantine, after he granted Christians the freedom to profess their faith and practice their religion in the year 313.

Why is it that we commemorate this event to the present day? Certainly to recall, with joy and gratitude, a historical event of great importance for the life of the Church, but this is not the only reason. **This Basilica, in fact, the "Mother of all Churches," is much more than a monument or a historical memorial. It is "a sign of the living Church, built with chosen and precious stones in Christ Jesus, the cornerstone (cf. 1 Pet 2:4-5)" As such, it reminds us that we too are "living stones here on earth... built into" a spiritual temple (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church *Lumen Gentium*, 6). For this reason, as Saint Paul VI noted, the early Christian community soon began to apply the "name of Church, which means the assembly of the faithful, to the temple that gathers them together" (*Angelus*, 9 November 1969). It is the ecclesial community, "the Church, the society of believers, [which] gives Saint John Lateran its most solid and striking external structure" (ibid.). Therefore, as we gaze upon this building, let us reflect on what it means to be Church in light of today's readings.**

Firstly, let us consider its *foundations*. Their importance is obvious and, even somewhat unsettling. If the builders had not dug deep enough to find a solid base on which to construct the rest, the entire building would have collapsed long ago or would be at risk of doing so at any moment, which would put us in grave danger. Fortunately, however, those who came before us laid solid foundations for our Cathedral, digging deep with great effort before raising the walls that welcome us, and this makes us feel much more at ease.

This is a cause for reflection. **As laborers in the living Church, we too must first**

dig deep within ourselves and around ourselves before we can build impressive structures. We must remove any unstable material that would prevent us from reaching the solid rock of Christ (cf. Mt 7:24-27). This is precisely what Saint Paul speaks about in the second reading when he says that "no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor 3:11). This means constantly returning to Jesus and his Gospel and being docile to the action of the Holy Spirit. Otherwise, we risk overloading a building with heavy structures whose foundations are too weak to support.

Dear brothers and sisters, **as we diligently labor in the service of God's Kingdom, let us be neither hasty nor superficial. Let us dig deep, unhindered by worldly criteria, which too often demand immediate results and disregard the wisdom of waiting.** The millennial history of the Church teaches us that with God's help, a true community of faith can only be built with humility and patience. Such a community is capable of spreading charity, promoting mission, proclaiming, celebrating and serving the Apostolic Magisterium of which this temple is the first seat (cf. *Angelus*, 9 November 1969).

The scene presented to us in today's Gospel (*Lk 19:1-10*) is particularly enlightening in this regard: Zacchaeus, a wealthy and powerful man, feels moved to meet Jesus.

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From Pope Leo XIV

On the morning of Sunday, November 9, Pope Leo XIV presided over the Eucharistic celebration in the Basilica of St. John Lateran, his cathedral as Bishop of Rome. The reason? On November 9, the Catholic Church celebrates the dedication of the Lateran Basilica. Below is the English translation of the Pope's homily



diocesan business



Please take the Diocesan VOTECH Survey

Dear Parishioners,

In November 2022, Bishop Burbidge presented 23 strategic initiatives to the People of God in the Diocese of Arlington. Among those 23 initiatives was one exploring the interest of a Catholic-based Vocational Program in the diocese. Recently, the diocese completed a first survey, and in that survey over 92% of respondents enthusiastically supported such a program.

This overwhelming response prompts the effort to advance to the next step: to survey for preferences on the model (or kind) of school and the location of that school. This is a momentous idea, and I respectfully ask each of you take the survey out of personal interest or for the good of the diocese. The survey is available in English and Spanish.

The survey will be available from Oct 23 – November 23. You may find the survey here at this link or this QR code:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CTEVOTECH>

Encuesta para Programa Vocacional diocesana

En noviembre de 2022, el Obispo Burbidge presentó 23 iniciativas estratégicas. Entre estas 23 iniciativas se encontraba una para explorar el interés en un Programa Vocacional de inspiración católica en la diócesis. Recientemente, la diócesis completó una primera encuesta, y en esa encuesta más del 92% de los participantes apoyaron con entusiasmo dicho programa.

Esta respuesta tan positiva nos anima a avanzar al siguiente paso: conocer sus preferencias sobre el modelo (o tipo) de escuela y la ubicación de la misma. Esta es una idea importante, y les pido respetuosamente a cada uno de ustedes que participen en la encuesta, ya sea por interés personal o por el bien de la diócesis. La encuesta está disponible en inglés y en español.

La encuesta estará abierta del 23 de octubre al 23 de noviembre. Puede acceder a ella en este enlace o usando este código QR. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CTEVOTECH>



St. Martin de Porres Senior Center call for Volunteers

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

A Prayer Service for Unity and Healing in the U.S.

You are invited to join Bishop Burbidge for "A Prayer Service for Unity and Healing in the United States of America" on Monday, November 24, at 7pm at the Cathedral of Saint Thomas More.

This evening of prayer and reflection seeks to unite us all as brothers and sisters. Drawing upon Scripture, intercessory prayer, and the example of the saints, the service will be an opportunity for our diocesan family to join in faith and hope for healing in our nation.

Faith Direct is upgrading to ParishSOFT Giving

Faith Direct upgraded to ParishSOFT Giving. All account and payment information will transfer securely.

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However, he realizes that he is too short to see him and so decides to climb a tree. This is an unusual and inappropriate gesture for someone of his rank who is accustomed to getting whatever he wants at the tax office as though it were his due. This time, however, the road is longer and climbing the branches means that Zacchaeus recognizes his own limitations and overcomes the inhibitions of his pride. In doing so, he is able to meet Jesus, who tells him, "I must stay at your house today" (v. 5). That encounter marks the beginning of a new life for Zacchaeus (cf. v. 8).

When Jesus calls us to take part in God's great project, he transforms us by skillfully shaping us according to his plans for salvation. In recent years, the image of a "construction site" has often been used to describe our ecclesial journey. It is a beautiful image that speaks of activity, creativity and dedication, as well as hard work and sometimes complex problems to be solved. It captures the concrete, tangible efforts of our communities as they grow every day, sharing their charisms under the guidance of their pastors. The Church of Rome, in particular, stands as a witness to this in the current implementation phase of the Synod. What has matured over years of work now needs to be put to the test and evaluated "in the field." This implies an uphill journey, but we must not be discouraged. Instead, we should continue with confidence in our efforts to grow together.

The construction of the majestic building in which we find ourselves has had its share of critical moments, delays and changes to the original plans. Yet thanks to the tenacity of those who came before us, we can now gather in this wonderful place. In Rome, a great good is growing thanks to the efforts of many. Let us not allow fatigue to prevent

us from recognizing and celebrating this good, so that we may nourish and renew our enthusiasm. After all, **it is through charity in action that the face of our Church is shaped, making it ever clearer to all that she is a "mother," the "mother of all Churches," or even a "mom," as Saint John Paul II said when speaking to children on this very feast day** (cf. *Address for the Dedication of the Basilica of Saint John Lateran*, 9 November 1986).

Finally, *I would like to mention an essential aspect of the Cathedral's mission: liturgy. The liturgy is "the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed... the source from which all its power flows"* (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 10). **In it, we find the same themes we have already mentioned: we are built up as God's temple, as his dwelling place in the Spirit and we receive strength to preach Christ in the world** (cf. *ibid.*, 2). Therefore, care for the liturgy, especially here at the See of Peter, must be such that it can serve as an example for the whole people of God. **It must comply with the established norms, be attentive to the different sensibilities of those participating and keep with the principle of wise inculturation** (cf. *ibid.*, 37-38). **At the same time, it must remain faithful to the solemn sobriety typical of the Roman tradition, which can do so much good for the souls of those who actively participate in it** (cf. *ibid.*, 14). Every care should be taken to ensure that the simple beauty of the rites expresses the value of worship for the harmonious growth of the whole Body of the Lord. As Saint Augustine said, "beauty is nothing but love, and love is life" (*Discourse 365*, 1). This truth is realized in an eminent way within the liturgy, and I hope that those who approach the altar of Rome's Cathedral go away filled with the grace that the Lord wishes to flood the world (cf. *Ezek 47:1-2, 8-9, 12*).

parish business

Parish Offertory

November 9:	
Offertory*	\$ 55,337
Military Archdiocese	2,952

**The Offertory will fluctuate from week to week until we get regular reports from ParishSOFT Giving.*

Thank you for your faithful support!



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taizé

monday, nov 17 - 8pm

Generally, the third Monday of each month.

Please invite all your friends to join us in this prayer for Christian unity.



Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

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

November

17 MONDAY

7am Carlota Udasco
9am* The Cantu Family
1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-57, 62-63/Lk 18:35-43

18 TUESDAY

7am † Robert Lucier
9am* Ted Musialkiewicz
2 Mc 6:18-31/Lk 19:1-10

19 WEDNESDAY

7am † Eileen Lombardi
9am* Angelique Khong
2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Lk 19:11-28

20 THURSDAY

7am † Mary Rose
9am* † John Magyar
1 Mc 2:15-29/Lk 19:41-44

21 FRIDAY

7am † Cornelia Gonzalez
9am* † Bill McCarron
10am** † Claire Lenihan
1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/Lk 19:45-48

22 SATURDAY

8am † Louis Crescioli
1 Mc 6:1-13/Lk 20:27-40
5pm* For the parish

23 SUNDAY

7am † Teresa Randolph
9am* † James Montayre Ramirez
11am* † John Robert Mann
1pm † Romualdo Amado Carbajal
5pm † Inez Amond
2 Sm 5:1-3/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43

* live-streamed Masses

** Mass at Greenspring Chapel

Masses next weekend

Nov 22	5pm	Fr. Jeb
Nov 23	7am	Fr. Cedric
	9am	Fr. Don
	11am	Fr. Don
	1pm	Fr. Jeb
	5pm	Fr. James

Parish prayer list

Jessica Curtis, Paul Flapper, Mark Fortin, Shamsun Nahur, Alisa Squatrito, Jerome Furlow, Jim Gribshaw, Pierre DesLauriers, Frank Caponegro, Helena Larsen, Cristy Perez Ayala, Amy Greenlee, Larry Lawrence, Thomas Fitzgerald, Adrian Vincente, Evan Robish, Scott Kendrick, Heather Lynch, Ron and Karen Dietz, Ted Musialkiewicz, Kathleen Maxwell, Alan Curtis, Glendora Spinelli, Alora Lopez, Ana Maria Carrillo, Ron and Jo-Anne Plavchan, Edward Fitzgerald, Augie Taormina, Cassi Smith, Davy Grimaldi, Nimmi Bergen, Anne Jones, Gina DeAngelis, Judy Kirk, Michael Norris, Efrain Pacheco, Debbie Peters

Pro-life witness

The Saint Bernadette Pro-Life Committee invites you to pray the rosary on Tuesday or Saturday mornings in front of the abortion facility at 2616 Sherwood Hall Lane in Alexandria (ample free parking across the street). We legally, peacefully, and respectfully gather for an hour starting at 10am; no sign-up or commitment required. Questions? Email Tom Palumbo at tompalumbo@outlook.com.

Stewardship resources and reminders: reduce your taxable income!

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

Charitable giving update: legislative changes for 2026 and beyond

Charitable giving under new legislation includes a new universal deduction for non-itemizers and a floor for itemized deductions, alongside corporate and high-income taxpayer impacts. Giving is encouraged by allowing non-itemizers to deduct cash donations up to \$1,000 (single) or \$2,000 (jointly), but it also introduces a 0.5% AGI floor for itemized deductions, caps benefits at 35% for high-income taxpayers, and imposes a 1% income floor for corporate giving.

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

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

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

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

Planned giving: make a gift of appreciated assets

Consider a gift of stock or any other appreciated asset as a donation to Saint Bernadette Catholic Church and School. In exchange for a gift of a long-term appreciated asset, you can receive an income tax deduction for the current market value and avoid capital gains taxes on that appreciation. Your gift will support the Church, School, or the parish hall Capital Campaign.

Remember us in your will or trust

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

Hearing devices at Mass

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



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