

Almighty ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe, grant that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise. 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.

Solemnity of Christ, the King of the Universe

November 23, 2025



Christ in Majesty, after the Beuronese School

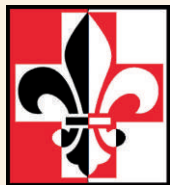


SAINT BERNADETTE
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Solemnity of Christ, the King of the Universe

November 23, 2025

welcome



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

calendar

november

- 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
- 24 Monday, Saint Andrew Dũng-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs**
- 25 Tuesday, Weekday [Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr]**
- **42nd Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service**, 7pm, All are welcome!
- 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. **7:15pm in the church**
- 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, RSVP req'd
 - **Saint Bernadette Concert Series: Advent Lessons and Carols**, church, 7:30pm
- 6 Saturday, Advent Weekday [Saint Nicholas, Bishop]**
- **Women's Night of Reflection**, 7-9pm in the gym
 - 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
- 8 Monday, THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**
- **Holy Day of Obligation**, Masses at 7am, 9am, Noon, and 7pm (Bilingual)
- 9 Tuesday, Advent Weekday [Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin]**
- 10 Wednesday, Advent Weekday [Our Lady of Loreto]**
- 11 Thursday, Advent Weekday [Saint Damasus I, Pope]**
- 12 Friday, Our Lady of Guadalupe**
- Additional bilingual Mass, 7pm
- 13 Saturday, Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**
- **Parish Bake Sale**, all Masses
 - **Catholic Charities Christmas Collection**, all Masses
 - Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 14 Sunday, THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
- **Parish Bake Sale**, all Masses
 - **Catholic Charities Christmas Collection**, all Masses
 - Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm in Spanish

announcements

Please plan to join us for the **42nd Annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Service** this 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 Springfield Council of the Knights of Columbus will be selling **Christmas trees** in the lower parking lot from November 29 through December 20. Please support the charitable work of the Council by purchasing your tree from the Knights. The lot is open from 5pm to 9pm on weekdays and 9am to 9pm on weekends. The Knights of Columbus are also selling Christmas cards after each Mass the weekends of November 22-23 and 29-30. Proceeds will support WorkCamp and the Saint Bernadette School. You may contact Mike Candalar at mcandalor@cox.net to get information or arrange another opportunity to view/purchase cards.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in our Parish Bake Sale December 13-14 by contributing baked goods, helping with setup and cleanup, or shopping during the sale. All proceeds support our Capital Campaign.

Mark your calendars NOW - our Parish Advent Penance Service is December 16 at 6:30pm, your best bet for Reconciliation before Christmas.

from the pastor

"As stewards of God's creation, we are called to act swiftly, with faith and prophecy, to protect the gift He entrusted to us.."

—
Pope Leo XIV

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

"The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice."

The liturgical year ends this week and the new year of grace 2026 begins next weekend with the First Sunday of Advent. It is a time for all of us to take an inventory of the past year and consider how we will stand before the Lord, Christ the King, on the last day, the time of judgement when the Lord will come to rule the earth with justice. I thought I might explore further this theme from my homily last week.

Justice is the physical manifestation of truth. It is the right thing to do, not because of opinion or poll, but because it conforms with what is objectively true. It is the basis of judgement. Justice is the thing twisted by the proud and evildoers of this world to confuse, to deny universality of truth: How can "my truth" and "your truth" be contradictory? "My justice" must be the same as "your justice" because they are determined by a transcending reality of what is true, and good, and beautiful.

Saint Thomas Aquinas says that religion is a practical part of the virtue of justice: it is only right to praise, to give thanks to God. It is the *right thing* to do. It opened my heart to think of justice as a real thing, not just a feeling of fairness or unfairness.

As I said in my homily last weekend, we grapple with so many predictions and examples given in Sacred Scripture about the end times, and we can obsess about it, losing our peace. As a child, my family was not healthy, anxious about the last days. You can forget who is in charge (God) and whose beloved creation we are (God is love). Jesus says all of this is give us the opportunity to give our testimony. He quickly says that we are not to worry about what we are going to say, he has it covered. He will give us the words and the right time to say them. Do not worry; not a hair of your head will be destroyed.

I saw this new vision with all of your generosity for our Rise Against Hunger parish work of mercy. I witnessed your testimony. So much goodness, so much family.

I saw the opposite, perhaps the solution for this preoccupation with the end of the world. I looked out at all of you in the gym for meal packing seven shifts and I saw you, the heavenly Jerusalem. "One Body, one Spirit in Christ." Remember, the Kingdom of God is both *already* and *not yet*. We are already able to live the life beyond the tribulations. 34 event staff volunteers, 789 parishioner volunteers, many working more than one shift, living the Kingdom.

Two shifts of students in the school, 472 in all, including PreK and kindergartners who labeled several thousand bags to receive the food. Our SPRED, or special religious education kids – staff in school and in the parish, our friends at Greenspring who labeled nearly 10,000 bags. already living the Kingdom.

We purchased and produced 175,000 meals which will run a school lunch program in Timor Leste for kids who actually will get an education because they come to school knowing there will be food. They can discover a hunger for learning because their hunger for food is satisfied.

So we can focus on the mess – and our world is certainly a real mess – but you filled my heart with hope and a vision that we have found a way not to be indifferent to those in need, and at the same time be able to see beyond the limits of this troubled world. Living in the moment, caring, but also living beyond it.

At that moment of judgement and justice, Jesus said whatever you do for the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you have done for me.

I want to give special thanks to all of you who made heaven present for a couple of rare days as we united over a common goal of feeding the hungry. We are especially grateful to our parish and volunteer event staff whose dedication and hard work organizing and executing Rise Against Hunger. We give particular thanks to Rick Caporali, Melba Padilla, Jean Corday, Sharon Hanson, Terri Moran, Karen Meyer, Amy Wade, and all those who played key roles in fundraising, logistics and feeding the team! It is great to work with you!

The Lord be with you,

Fr. Dom

Faith formation, service to others, and academic excellence

Our mission statement reads: The community of Saint Bernadette Catholic School and Parish works together to form hearts and minds in Christ. By fostering a love for lifelong learning, we develop the whole child through faith formation, service to others, and academic excellence to be leaders in our ever-changing world. Our mission statement drives everything we do. As part of faith formation, our students participate in the sacraments. In addition to attending weekly Mass, students in gr. 3-8 participated in confession this month. Each day throughout the month of November our school community engaged in spiritual works of mercy by praying the Eternal Rest prayer for the souls in purgatory.

Students performed corporal works of mercy, creating Veterans Day cards, which were distributed to local U.S.O. and V.F.W. organizations, and supporting Rise

Against Hunger. We exceeded our goal of packing 5,000 meals and raised \$3,000 to pay for meal ingredients and shipping. The whole community became involved in this act of service. Our youngest Cardinals labeled the meal bags. Then, students in grades K - 8, along with faculty and staff, joyfully packed 19,750 meals, which is enough to feed three classrooms for a year! What an amazing witness to Christ's love.

We are partners with parents in the education of their child, which leads to academic excellence. Most recently, teachers held Parent-Teacher conferences to discuss strengths and areas of growth.

As we approach Thanksgiving, take time to count the many blessings which come from God. Truly, I am blessed to serve such a giving and caring community. May you have a peaceful and relaxing Thanksgiving, spending time with family and friends.

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.



RE Program upcoming schedule

Regular classes: Dec. 2-3, 9-10, 16-17.
No classes Nov. 25-26, Dec. 23-24
SPRED class: Dec. 6
Family Faith Formation, Dec. 7
Sunday Donut Social: Nov. 23 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/>.

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.

Work Camp 2026

Our first of two Work Camp interest meetings will be on December 7 from 6:15 to 7:30 PM in the Bradican Room. All adults and teens are welcome to come to learn more about Work Camp and the many ways you can volunteer. If you haven't already, scan the QR code at left and complete a Work Camp interest

Living the liturgical year

On November 23, we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (also known as Christ the King Sunday). We celebrate this feast because we recognize Jesus Christ as king in all aspects of our lives. It occurs on the last Sunday of the Liturgical Year. The feast was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 to counter the rising tide of secularism, atheism, and political totalitarianism. You can celebrate by having a "royal feast" for your Sunday supper.

form. Contact Matthew Frey matthew_c_frey@yahoo.com or JP McLaughlin at jpmclaughlin@stbernpar.org for any inquiries.

Volunteers for High School Program

We are looking for adults who share a deep passion for their Faith and want to help disciple high school teens. All adult volunteers must be VIRTUS certified and undergo a background check. If you are interested, contact JP McLaughlin at jpmclaughlin@stbernpar.org.

YOUNG ADULTS! Group

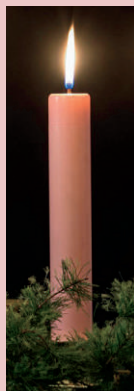
All young adults ages 18-35 are invited to coffee and conversation on Sunday, November 30th, after the 9am Mass. We will meet at Tous les Jours - 9278A Old Keene Mill Rd, Burke, VA. Contact JP McLaughlin at jpmclaughlin@stbernpar.org for any questions.

Friday, December 5 at 7:30pm

*A Service of Sacred Music and Scripture
Celebrating the Advent Season.*

Sing hymns, listen to our choirs and experience the organ and other instruments as our Saint Bernadette Music Ministry leads a peace-filled evening of joyful expectation and longing for Christ's coming!

This beautiful service will last about one hour and is appropriate for the whole family.



ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

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. Sousan 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 11 is our General Meeting at 7pm in the Bradican Room.

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 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

*"As stewards of
God's creation, we
are called to act
swiftly, with faith
and prophecy, to
protect the gift He
entrusted to us.."*

—
Pope Leo XIV

around the parish



Senior Luncheon – December 5th!

Please join us on **Friday, December 5, from 11am to 1pm** for some Christmas hospitality! This year's theme celebrates Family Christmas Traditions. Bring along an ornament to hang on our community tree and a few of your favorite cookies to share in our cookie exchange. Seating in the Bradican Room is limited — we can accommodate the first 50 responses, so be sure to reserve your spot early. Mark your calendars — we look forward to celebrating the season together!.

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 in by Dec. 3. Please see one of the Knights after Mass for additional information.



Get Ready for the Parish Christmas Bake Sale!

December 13/14 after all Masses in the church vestibule. Everyone is invited to participate — Share your favorite Christmas baked goods, especially loaf breads, cookies, brownies, ethnic breads, and cake pops! Great gifts. Proceeds benefit our Capital Campaign. If you would like to volunteer to help with sales, please contact Pat Creswick at patcreswick@yahoo.com or (703) 400-9903. Questions? Contact Kathy Marchetti kathmarc@yahoo.com or 703-644-1689.

Catholic-Jewish relations: marking 60 years

Join us virtually on November 24 to mark 60 years of Catholic-Jewish relations since *Nostra aetate*

The landmark document *Nostra aetate*, ("In Our Time"), was an important step to creating interreligious dialogue and repairing relationships between Jewish and Catholic communities.

Join us on Monday, November 24 at 1pm for a virtual conversation exploring how it continues to impact the Catholic and Jewish communities in our region, the importance of Jewish-Catholic dialogue at this time, and what the future holds for interfaith relations.

Panelists are Fr. Don Rooney, Director of the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Catholic Diocese of Arlington; Rabbi Ben Sigal, Assistant Rabbi at Congregation Olam Tikvah in Fairfax, VA; and Dr. Sousan Abadian, Executive Director of the Interfaith Council of Metropolitan Washington.

Opening remarks by Alan Ronkin, Regional Director of AJC Washington. Moderated by Rabbi Abbi Sharofsky, JCRC Director of Intergroup Relations and Rabbi-in-Residence.



Daily Mass

Monday—Friday • 7 & 9am, Saturday • 8am
Adoration, Fridays • 7pm

December 6, 13, 20: Regular Confession Schedule

Saturdays • 3:30pm, or by appointment.
All are kindly asked to arrive as near as possible to the
beginning of scheduled times, and to be patient.
Confessions end once Mass begins.

Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation, December 8

No Vigil Mass due to it being Sunday
Monday, December 8 • 7 & 9am, Noon, 7pm
The 7pm Mass is bilingual, English and Spanish.

Advent Lessons and Carols

Friday, December 5 • 7:30pm
Join us for scripture and seasonal music.

Parish Advent Penance Service

Tuesday, December 16 • 6:30pm
*a special evening service of reconciliation will be offered
with 16 priests. Please be sure to come.*

•
*Please note: opportunities probably will be limited
for confessions, although we will have three priests on
Saturdays of Advent this year. Please plan to attend
the parish penance service on December 16.*

CELEBRATING *the* CHRISTMAS SEASON

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES

4:30pm, 8:30pm (preceded by a
Choir Carol Prelude at 4 and 8pm respectively)
Midnight Mass • 12am (preceded by Saint
Bernadette Choir Prelude of Carols at 11:15pm)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

(Midnight Mass)

7, 9, 11am & 1pm (en español)
Note: There is NO 5pm Mass on Christmas Day

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

FEAST of the HOLY FAMILY

*We will follow the regular Saturday Vigil and
Sunday Mass schedule for the parish*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

SOLEMNITY of MARY, MOTHER of GOD

A Holy Day of Obligation

*Regular Holy Day schedule: Vigil Wednesday, 7:30pm
Thursday: 7 & 9am, Noon, 7:30pm (bilingual)*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

SOLEMNITY of the EPIPHANY of the LORD

*We will follow the regular Saturday Vigil and
Sunday Mass schedule for the parish*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

The BAPTISM of the LORD

*The Christmas season ends today with our regular
daily Mass schedule.*

rise against hunger a huge success

*and a powerful
moment in the life of
our parish family*



*For our diocesan Week of
Service project you gave
nearly \$80,000 which made
possible for our nearly 800
volunteers to pack and ship
175,000 meals to a school
student feeding program in
Timor Leste.*





from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

U.S. Bishops Issue a “Special Message” on Immigration from Plenary Assembly in Baltimore

As pastors, we the bishops of the United States are bound to our people by ties of communion and compassion in Our Lord Jesus Christ. We are disturbed when we see among our people a climate of fear and anxiety around questions of profiling and immigration enforcement. We are saddened by the state of contemporary debate and the vilification of immigrants. We are concerned about the conditions in detention centers and the lack of access to pastoral care. We lament that some immigrants in the United States have arbitrarily lost their legal status. We are troubled by threats against the sanctity of houses of worship and the special nature of hospitals and schools. We are grieved when we meet parents who fear being detained when taking their children to school and when we try to console family members who have already been separated from their loved ones.

Despite obstacles and prejudices, generations of immigrants have made enormous contributions to the well-being of our nation. We as Catholic bishops love our country and pray for its peace and prosperity. For this very reason, we feel compelled now in this environment to raise our voices in defense of God-given human dignity.

Catholic teaching exhorts nations to recognize the fundamental dignity of all persons, including immigrants. We bishops advocate for a meaningful reform of our nation’s immigration laws and procedures. Human dignity and national security are not in conflict. Both are possible if people of good will work together.

We recognize that nations have a responsibility to regulate their borders and establish a just and orderly immigration system for the sake of the common good. Without such processes, immigrants face the risk of trafficking and other forms

of exploitation. Safe and legal pathways serve as an antidote to such risks.

The Church’s teaching rests on the foundational concern for the human person, as created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27). As pastors, we look to Sacred Scripture and the example of the Lord Himself, where we find the wisdom of God’s compassion. The priority of the Lord, as the Prophets remind us, is for those who are most vulnerable: the widow, the orphan, the poor, and the stranger (Zechariah 7:10). In the Lord Jesus, we see the One who became poor for our sake (2 Corinthians 8:9), we see the Good Samaritan who lifts us from the dust (Luke 10:30–37), and we see the One who is found in the least of these (Matthew 25). The Church’s concern for neighbor and our concern here for immigrants is a response to the Lord’s command to love as He has loved us (John 13:34).

To our immigrant brothers and sisters, we stand with you in your suffering, since, when one member suffers, all suffer (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:26). You are not alone!

We note with gratitude that so many of our clergy, consecrated religious, and lay faithful already accompany and assist immigrants in meeting their basic human needs. We urge all people of good will to continue and expand such efforts.

We oppose the indiscriminate mass deportation of people. We pray for an end to dehumanizing rhetoric and violence, whether directed at immigrants or at law enforcement. We pray that the Lord may guide the leaders of our nation, and we are grateful for past and present opportunities to dialogue with public and elected officials. In this dialogue, we will continue to advocate for meaningful immigration reform.

As disciples of the Lord, we remain men and women of hope, and hope does not disappoint! (cf. Romans 5:5)

May the mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe enfold us all in her maternal and loving care and draw us ever closer to the heart of Christ.

Obispos estadounidenses emiten un “Mensaje especial” sobre inmigración desde la Asamblea Plenaria en Baltimore

Como pastores, los obispos de los Estados Unidos, estamos unidos a nuestro pueblo en nuestro Señor Jesucristo, por lazos de comunión y compasión. Nos inquieta ver en nuestras comunidades un clima de temor y ansiedad ante las prácticas de perfilamiento y la aplicación de las leyes migratorias. Nos entristece profundamente el tono que ha adoptado el debate contemporáneo y la creciente denigración de los inmigrantes. Nos preocupan las condiciones en los centros de detención y la falta de acceso a una atención pastoral adecuada. Lamentamos que algunos inmigrantes que viven en los Estados Unidos han perdido su estatus migratorio de manera arbitraria. Nos preocupan las amenazas contra la santidad de los lugares de culto, y el carácter especial de los hospitales y las escuelas. Nos entristece profundamente cuando nos encontramos con padres que temen ser detenidos al llevar a sus hijos a la escuela o cuando intentamos consolar a familiares que ya han sido separados de sus seres queridos.

A pesar de los obstáculos y prejuicios, por generaciones, los inmigrantes han contribuido inmensamente al bienestar de nuestra nación. Como obispos católicos, profesamos nuestro amor por nuestro país y oramos por su paz y prosperidad. Por este preciso motivo nos sentimos obligados en este entorno a elevar nuestras voces en defensa de la dignidad humana otorgada por Dios.

La enseñanza católica exhorta a las naciones a reconocer la dignidad fundamental de todas las personas, incluidos los inmigrantes. Como obispos, abogamos por una reforma significativa de las leyes y los procedimientos migratorios de nuestra nación. La dignidad humana y la seguridad nacional no son valores en conflicto. Ambas pueden alcanzarse con buena voluntad y uniéndose esfuerzos.

Reconocemos que las naciones tienen la responsabilidad de controlar sus fronteras y establecer un sistema de inmigración justo y ordenado por el bien común. Sin dichos

procedimientos, los inmigrantes corren el riesgo de caer en la trata de personas y en otras formas de explotación. Las vías legales y seguras sirven como antídoto frente a esos riesgos.

La enseñanza de la Iglesia se basa en la preocupación fundamental por la persona humana, creada a imagen y semejanza de Dios. (Génesis 1:27). Como pastores, recurrimos a las Sagradas Escrituras y al ejemplo de Dios mismo, donde encontramos la sabiduría de la compasión de Dios. La prioridad del Señor, como nos recuerdan los profetas, es para los más vulnerables: las viudas, los huérfanos, los pobres y los migrantes (Zacarías 7:10). En el Señor Jesús, vemos a Aquel que se hizo pobre por nosotros (2 Corintios 8:9), vemos al buen samaritano que nos levanta del polvo (Lucas 10:30-37) y vemos a Aquel que se encuentra en los más pequeños (Mateo 25). La preocupación de la Iglesia por el prójimo y nuestra preocupación aquí por los inmigrantes son una respuesta al mandato del Señor de amar como Él nos ha amado (Juan 13:34).

A nuestros hermanos y hermanas inmigrantes, estamos con ustedes en su sufrimiento, pues si un miembro sufre, todos sufren (1 Corintios 12:26). ¡No están solos!

Observamos con gratitud que tantos de nuestros sacerdotes, religiosos consagrados, y fieles laicos ya están acompañando y asistiendo a inmigrantes en sus necesidades humanas básicas. Exhortamos a todas las personas de buena voluntad a continuar y ampliar esos esfuerzos.

Nos oponemos a las deportaciones masivas e indiscriminadas. Oramos por el fin de la retórica inhumana y de la violencia, ya sea dirigida contra inmigrantes o contra los organismos de seguridad. Oramos para que el Señor guíe a los líderes de nuestra nación y estamos agradecidos por las oportunidades pasadas y presentes de dialogar con funcionarios públicos y electos. En este diálogo, continuaremos abogando por una reforma migratoria significativa.

Como discípulos del Señor, seguimos siendo hombres y mujeres de esperanza, ¡y la esperanza no defrauda! (Romanos 5,5).

De la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos

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



Your support of Catholic Charities helps serve the poor, protect the vulnerable, and welcome the newcomer – *our neighbors right here in our diocese.*

*“I have a new set of skills
that I can take with me.”*

★ **Q** and her children had fallen on rough times. When they moved to the safety of Catholic Charities transitional housing for women, she was able to go back to school to study nursing.



*“Everyone deserves a fresh
start or a second chance.”*

★ **PETER** lost his mother, his stepfather, and his job. He began to drink to numb the pain. At Catholic Charities transitional housing for men, he received the spiritual, emotional, and educational support he needed to get sober and start looking for a job again.

*“I stand here for every Afghan girl
who was told to stay silent.”*

★ **SHAHIRA** feared for her life in Afghanistan and studied in secret. When she and her family fled to the United States, Catholic Charities helped them settle in Virginia. She is now studying business at a local university.



Give today!



To make your gift today, scan
the QR code or give online at
ccda.net/Christmas





PARISH CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

December 13-14, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Pope Leo XIV's motto *In Illo uno unum*, which means "In the One, we are one," reminds us of the profound unity we share as brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. We are not isolated individuals but members of God's family, created in his image and bound to serve one another with love and care.

When we are *United in Charity*, we recognize the face of Christ in those who come to us in need. We respond with Christ's love, offering support to give them hope and the opportunity to transform their lives.

On the weekend of December 13 and 14, I ask you to unite in love for our vulnerable neighbors by making a gift to the Parish Christmas Collection. Your gift has the power to uplift a heart, provide hope, and restore faith.

As we prepare to celebrate Our Lord's birth in a humble stable, may we be newly aware of the unity of the human family and support those in need.

Sincerely in Christ,

Michael F. Burbidge

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington

Your gift helps individuals and families in need – right here in the Diocese of Arlington.

Requests fulfilled for food assistance

85,665 

Evening meals served

25,677 

Patients treated at free medical clinics

2,110 

Individuals served by pregnancy and adoption services

353 

Refugees resettled or served

2,039 

Adults, children, and families provided with mental health counseling

837 

People helped with emergency assistance (rent, utilities, car repair)

1,673 

Education & workforce development (GED/English/citizenship classes, vocational training)

2,291 

Source: Catholic Charities fiscal year 2025

To make a gift, please go to ccda.net/Christmas or mail this envelope to Catholic Charities.

YES! I/We will share our blessings with those in greatest need.

☐ \$10,000 ☐ \$5,000 ☐ \$2,500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Mobile: _____ Parish: _____



Please make checks payable to Catholic Charities and note Christmas Collection in the memo.

Unidos en la Caridad

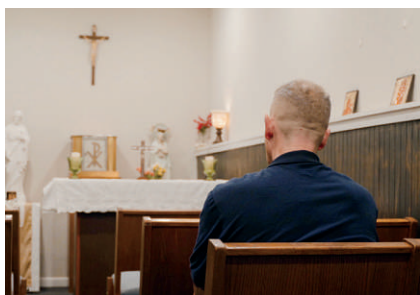
COLECTA PARROQUIAL
DE NAVIDAD

13-14 de diciembre de 2025

Su apoyo a Caridades Católicas ayuda a servir a los pobres, proteger a los vulnerables y acoger a los recién llegados, es decir, a nuestros vecinos *aquí mismo en nuestra Diócesis*.

“Tengo un nuevo conjunto de aptitudes que puedo llevar conmigo.”

★ **LA SEÑORA Q** y sus hijos pasaban por momentos difíciles. Al trasladarse a la seguridad de la vivienda de transición de Caridades Católicas para mujeres, ella pudo regresar a la escuela para estudiar enfermería.



“Toda persona merece un nuevo comienzo o una segunda oportunidad.”

★ **PETER** perdió a su madre y a su padrastro y también se quedó sin empleo. Comenzó a beber para aliviar el dolor. En la vivienda de transición de Caridades Católicas para hombres, recibió el apoyo espiritual, emocional y educativo que necesitaba para mantenerse sobrio y reanudar su búsqueda de trabajo.

“Estoy aquí en nombre de toda joven afgana a quien se le mandó guardar silencio.”

★ **SHAHIRA** temía por su vida en Afganistán y estudiaba en secreto. Cuando ella y su familia huyeron a los Estados Unidos, Caridades Católicas les ayudó a establecerse en Virginia. Ahora estudia administración de empresas en una universidad local.



¡Dona hoy!



Para hacer su donación,
sírvanse escanear el código
QR o donar en línea en
ccda.net/Christmas



COLECTA PARROQUIAL DE NAVIDAD

13-14 de diciembre de 2025

Amados hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

El lema del Papa León XIV *In Illo uno unum*, que significa “En Aquel que es Uno, somos uno”, nos recuerda la profunda unidad que compartimos como hermanos y hermanas en Cristo Jesús. No somos personas aisladas sino miembros de la familia de Dios, creados a su Imagen y destinados a servirnos los unos a los otros con amor y dedicación.

Cuando estamos *Unidos en la caridad*, reconocemos el rostro de Cristo en las personas necesitadas que acuden a nosotros. Respondemos con el amor de Cristo y ofrecemos apoyo para darles esperanza y la oportunidad de transformar su vida.

En el fin de semana del 13 y 14 de diciembre, les pido que se unan en amor por nuestros vecinos vulnerables al hacer una donación a la Colecta de Navidad en las parroquias. Su donación tiene el poder de levantar el corazón, dar esperanza y restablecer la fe.

Que, al prepararnos para celebrar el nacimiento de Nuestro Señor en un humilde establo, renovemos nuestra conciencia de la unidad de la familia humana y apoyemos a las personas necesitadas.

Fielmente en Cristo

Michael F. Burbidge

Monseñor Michael F. Burbidge

Obispo de la Diócesis de Arlington

**Su donación ayuda a personas
particulares y a familias necesitadas,
aquí mismo en la Diócesis de Arlington.**

Solicitudes de asistencia
alimentaria atendidas

85,665



Cenas servidas

25,677



Pacientes tratados en
clínicas de atención
médica gratuita

2,110



Personas beneficiadas
con servicios de atención
del embarazo
y de adopción

353



Refugiados reasentados
y beneficiados
con servicios

2,039



Adultos, niños y familias
que recibieron consejería
sobre salud mental

837



Personas que recibieron
asistencia de emergencia

(pago de alquiler, servicios públicos y
reparación de vehículos)

1,673



Educación y desarrollo
de la fuerza laboral

(Credencial educativa GED/clases
de inglés y de ciudadanía,
capacitación profesional)

2,291



Fuente: Caridades Católicas, año fiscal de 2025

Para hacer una donación, vayan a ccda.net/Christmas o envíen este sobre por correo postal a Caridades Católicas

¡SÍ! Yo deseo/Nosotros deseamos compartir nuestras bendiciones con las personas más necesitadas.

☐ \$10,000 ☐ \$5,000 ☐ \$2,500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other \$ _____

Nombre: _____

Dirección: _____

Ciudad, Estado, C.P.: _____

Email: _____

Telefono: _____ Parroquia: _____



Sírvanse girar los cheques a nombre de <<Catholic Charities>> y escribir en el memorándum Colecta de Navidad.



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.ccda.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@ccda.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.

Flexible giving schedules: if you give weekly, your donation will now be withdrawn weekly, not bundled into one monthly charge. If you prefer monthly, you can update your schedule at any time. Reducing the number of installments saves on credit card transaction fees.

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

Donors can contact ParishSOFT Donor Support at donorsupport@parishsoft.com or call #866-930-4774, option 6.



Porto Charities Special Kids/ Special Needs Campaign November 29/30

Next weekend, November 29/30, we will have a second collection for Special Kids/Special Needs that will benefit Porto Charities, a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing access to diocesan Catholic schools for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. All proceeds will go directly to establish and advance inclusive education programs in Catholic Schools throughout the Diocese of Arlington for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Please consider donating to this important collection at Mass or online at: www.portocharities.org/2ndcollection

Mary's Comfort update

We're delighted to report that all three babies who have been born to moms that Mary's Comfort has served are doing great. We're also pleased to share that we have a new guest – a 19-year-old mother-to-be who is working with our mentors to plan a new life for her and her baby. Additionally, the Arlington Catholic Herald www.catholicherald.com/article/local/new-life-in-springfield/ and the Catholic News Agency www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/267497/volunteering-at-a-maternity-home-for-crisis-pregnancies-what-to-know have recently written about the new life at Mary's Comfort. None of this would be possible without you! We are so grateful to all of our donors and volunteers. We are still looking for a handyman to help with maintenance at the home, a fundraising coordinator and a digital content creator. Let us know if you are interested or please spread the word to anyone who might be. Email us with your interest: maryscomfortva@gmail.com.

Registration deadline for Catholic high schools is December 15

Application for attending Bishop Ireton High School starts at their admissions webpage, www.bishopireton.org/admissions/apply. Applications are considered complete when all of the listed items have been received. You

are welcome to email us at admissions@bishopireton.org or call 703-751-7606.

If you are applying to **Bishop O'Connell High School**, registration must be accompanied by all required documents. For the full list of what is needed, visit bishopoconnell.org/admissions. Or contact us at admissions@bishopoconnell.org or call 703-237-1420.

If you are interested in applying to **Saint John Paul the Great High School**, [Click here to start your application today!](#) If you are interested in our tuition assistance opportunities (all tuition assistance applications due January 12th), please click on the following links: 1) [Click here for Scholarship opportunities](#) and 2) [Click here for our Financial Aid application](#). Let us know if you have questions at 703-445-0246 or admissions@jpthegreat.org.

If you are interested in applying to **Saint Paul VI High School**, In addition to the application, students must schedule a Visit Day, and parents must attend an Admissions Panel. More information, including application steps and scheduling links, can be found on our [application website](#). If you have any questions, you can reach out to our Enrollment Management team at admissions@paulvi.net.



parish business

Parish Offertory

November 16:
Offertory \$ 38,431
Retired Religious 7,319

Thank you for your faithful support!



Consider using ParishSOFT Giving to make your parish contributions through either direct debit to your checking account or through credit cards, the same way you make car or tuition payments. ParishSOFT Giving also offers personalized offertory cards to replace your envelopes for the collection basket. You may enroll securely online. Visit giving.parishsoft.com/giving/FD-70 or call (866) 507-8757. Our parish code is VA70.

Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

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

November

24 MONDAY

7am † Socorro & Francisco Masakayan
9am* † Leslie Conners
Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Lk 21:1-4

25 TUESDAY

7am † Suzanne Scaramozzino
9am* Frank & Jeanette Devoti
Dn 2:31-45/Lk 21:5-11

26 WEDNESDAY

7am † Teresa Helen Randolph
9am* † Gert Cutter
Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Lk 21:12-19

27 THURSDAY

10am For the parish
Dn 6:12-28/Lk 21:20-28

28 FRIDAY

7am † Alicia Valderrama
9am* † Stanley Dereska
10am** † Charlie Holmen
Dn 7:2-14/Lk 21:29-33

29 SATURDAY

8am † Zenaida Cruz
Dn 7:15-27/Lk 21:34-36
5pm* † The Alain Family

30 SUNDAY

7am For the parish
9am* † Jay Jenc
11am* † Gregoria Palapal
1pm † Consuelo Fernandez
5pm † Andrew McDonald
Is 2:1-5/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

* live-streamed Masses

** Mass at Greenspring Chapel

Masses next weekend

Nov 29	5pm	Fr. Don
Nov 30	7am	Fr. Don
	9am	Fr. James
	11am	Fr. Jeb
	1pm	Fr. James
	5pm	Fr. Cedric

Parish prayer list

Jessica Curtis, Paul Flapper, Mark Fortin, Shamsun Nahur, Alisa Squatrito, Jerome Furlow, Jim Gribschaw, 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 Bernadette. 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@stbernapar.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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