

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. 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.

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025



Noah's Ark, American folk painter Edward Hicks, 1846.
Philadelphia Art Museum



SAINT BERNADETTE
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 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 gnee@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

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 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

15 Monday, Advent Weekday

16 Tuesday, Advent Weekday

- **PARISH PENANCE SERVICE**, 6:30pm, 15 priest confessors

17 Wednesday, Advent Weekday

18 Thursday, Advent Weekday

- We will celebrate one Mass at 10am. Bring food for the Saint Lucy foodbank!

19 Friday, Advent Weekday

- **Adoration**, 7-8pm in the church

20 Saturday, Advent Weekday

- Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass

21 Sunday, FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am, 11am and 1pm in

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

"Stopping to reflect, letting ourselves be taken aback by a word that challenges our hearts' priorities, is to experience freedom, the freedom to which Jesus calls us."

—
Pope Leo XIV

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

Last Thursday, November 20, I attended an "Early Thanksgiving Feast" hosted by the American Turkish Friendship Association. They hosted the event at the community center next to St. Leo the Great Parish in Fairfax City, and representatives from churches, synagogues, mosques and temples across northern Virginia were represented at the program and delicious meal. If anyone ever offers you Turkish honey cake, do not turn them down!

Seven religious leaders started the evening with prayers of thanksgiving. I was the first. I started with comments that Saint Thomas Aquinas taught that religion is a practical part of the virtue of justice -- regardless of what our religion is, we have a duty to return praise and thanks to the One who has given us life and all our gifts to his glory. This is what I prayed:

God our Creator, we give thanks to you, who alone have the power to impart the breath of life as you form each of us in your image and likeness.

Grant that we, whom you have made stewards of creation, may remain faithful to this sacred trust and constant in safeguarding the dignity of every human person, indeed, all your creation.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy and eternal God.

For, although you have no need of our praise, yet our thanksgiving is itself your gift, since our praises add nothing to your greatness, but profit us for salvation.

Let our gratitude overflow this evening, thank you, God. Despite the brokenness of our world, our nation. Despite the deep suffering of people from needless wars of cruel aggression. Make our thanksgiving as a people to be a catalyst for change, in prayer and in action. Bring security and consolation to those who have lost so much, loved ones, homes, even their own lives. Convert the hearts of those who cause such division and tragedy in our world.

Finally, fill our fellowship and our diversity with your blessing tonight. Bless the food we

enjoy, the hands that prepared and provided it. Transform our thanks into blessing for our wider community as a source of unity and peace. Touch each of our hearts with a sense of the urgency of what we do, and make us instruments of compassion, reconciliation, and joy. We ask this in your holy Name. Amen.

It struck me, as the other religious leaders came forward for their prayer of thanksgiving, that we were all praying for exactly the same things. Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Latter Day Saints, Ba'hais. At the end the moderator for the evening said what we were all thinking. Although our religions might be very different, our thanksgiving was exactly the same. This was the subject of the talk I gave in Taiwan this past summer. Regardless of the ritual tradition, the reality of the human being in relationship with the Divine is the same for everyone. Our hopes, needs, desires, petitions, and thanksgiving are the same.

I offer this as a reflection for this Thanksgiving holiday weekend. So often we gather around the holiday table and the tension in the room is palpable, we are so divided by so many things. Maybe we could focus on our diversity not as division, but from a perspective of more dimensions. It is by our differences that we can come to learn to listen and know empathy, and only then our gratitude that we discover for each other can be the healing that is so needed in our world today.

I had an earlier than normal deadline for this bulletin and our Thanksgiving Interfaith Service hasn't happened yet as I write this, but I am hoping we will find this truth not only in prayer, but also in action together as a wider community. We are all seeking -- those of us who are seekers -- for the same thing, a relationship that transcends the limitations of this life into the life beyond this world, with its many expressions and cultural understandings.

May gratitude be your starting point and principle of action in the days to come. May we be deeply grateful for the many things we often take for granted.

The Lord be with you, *Fr. Dom*

Nurturing community and lifelong learning

As the weather gets cooler and the gusty winds blow the leaves to the ground, it is hard to believe that only three months prior we were welcoming in a new school year among the August heat. Even as our current students switch classes, create works of art, learn coding, and make friends on the playground, we are already making exciting plans and looking forward to welcoming new families for the next school year.

At Saint Bernadette Catholic School, we are so much more than just a building. We are a loving community built on the support from awesome teachers, our dedicated parish staff, generous parishioners, tireless volunteers, and amazing parents. We truly believe it takes a community to teach a child, and we are incredibly grateful for the shared love and effort that makes our school a wonderful place to be.

Are you searching for a 'school family' where academics, faith, and community

thrive together? We offer a place dedicated to raising Christ-minded children through a rigorous and challenging education, ensuring your child will love learning, achieve academic excellence, and build a deep, lasting relationship with Christ. Your child will receive a solid academic foundation in our core subjects of math, language arts, science, and social studies along with special subjects like STEM, art, music, physical education, library sciences, and Spanish. The wonderful distinction of our school is that all this learning is centered on Christ. We keep Him top of mind through our religion classes, weekly school-wide Mass, daily reflection and even in our smallest acts of kindness, encouraging words and service to others.

We are currently accepting applications for the 2026–2027 school year. To learn more about our school community and the admissions process, please visit our website: www.stbernschool.org/admissions-process/. We look forward to having you as part of our family.

cardinal corner



FORMING
HEARTS
& MINDS
IN CHRIST



religious education

Weekly update

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

youth ministry

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



RE Program upcoming schedule

Regular classes: Dec. 2-3, 9-10, 16-17.
No classes Dec. 23-24, 30-31
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 - December 3
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 7:30pm 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 form. Contact Matthew Frey matthew_c_frey@yahoo.com or JP McLaughlin at jpmclaughlin@stbernpar.org for any inquiries.

Young Adults 18-35

Looking to join the Saint Bernadette's Young Adults? Scan the QR code at the left to request to join the Saint Bernadette Young Adults Group Chat.

Living the liturgical year

Happy Advent! November 30 starts the season of Advent, which marks the beginning of a new Liturgical Year. There are three lectionary cycles; A, B, or C and are based around readings from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. This year, we return back to Cycle A. There are many things that we can do to help prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus during Advent. Create a Jesse Tree with your children and teach them about salvation history from Creation to the Birth of Jesus. <https://www.catholicinspired.com/post/printable-jesse-tree-ornaments-free-and-easy> Or an Advent Wreath that you can light weekly, reflect on the candle with scripture and a weekly prayer. <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent/advent-wreath-prayers.html>

Christmas Saturday Dinner - December 13th

All High schoolers are invited for dinner, gingerbread house making, Christmas Caroling, and fellowship. Meet in the Bradican Room from 6-8:30pm!

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.





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 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.

Tuesday, December 2 is our next Dinner with Friends at 5pm, at Saratoga Pizzeria, 8050 Rolling Road. We meet for this casual meal on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.

Our next monthly meeting will be Tuesday, December 9 at 7pm in the Bradican Room. We have two activities this month. First is the white elephant gift exchange. Bring something inexpensive and fun. We will also have a cookie exchange. Bring a dozen cookies to share and go home with a different assortment of a dozen cookies. Come join our fun and fellowship.

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 6 in the Saint Bernadette School gym, from 7-9pm 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.

coming up



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



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.*

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.

a letter to our school alumni from Fr. Don



Dear Alumni of Saint Bernadette School,

Greetings from your Saint Bernadette community!

My name is Fr. Don Rooney and I've been pastor at Saint Bernadette since 2016. Since coming here, I have been pleasantly surprised by the number of people I meet in successful, meaningful careers who say, "Wow. I went to St. B's!"

One of the first things we did after I became pastor was to realize some necessary, major maintenance projects and expand Wisdom Hall, putting a new front on the school, adding much-needed admin offices and a conference room.

The parish is now in the process of finally building a parish hall on the front of the old convent/current parish offices with the meeting spaces that we have needed literally since the beginning of the parish. Without space, community and outreach just can't happen. We hope to break ground within 18 months.

I'm reaching out to you at this time to ask if you would consider helping us with one very important project in the school. Of course, in the first half of the 65 years our school has been here, people didn't think as much about handicap accessibility. Today it is inexcusable not to be accessible, but our school still isn't. If children with special physical needs apply at Saint Bernadette we must turn them away, unable to make the necessary accommodation for them. And then there are faculty and staff who sometimes are less mobile and kids that get broken bones.

We need an elevator and I wonder if you, our alumni, would take this on as your project. It isn't my intention to turn this into an annual appeal – we already have the Cardinals Care fund – but I think a great way to get this over the finish line is your help.

I hope your time here at Saint Bernadette was a happy one, and perhaps you could express your satisfaction and thanks for the good learning foundation that set you on your course. Also, if you could, please send this letter to **three other alumni** letting them know about this initiative. I'm told the cost of an elevator is about \$350K. With soft costs and contingency I'd like to set a goal of \$500,000. We will see.

You are always welcome to contact me, I love hearing stories of how our school helped so many families these 65 years. Or you can contact our Administrative Assistant, Jean Corday, with your replies. Thanks, and God bless you. Saint Bernadette, pray for us!

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! Email us with your interest: maryscomfortva@gmail.com.

Registration deadline for Catholic high schools is December 15

Bishop Ireton High School

webpage: www.bishopireton.org/admissions/apply
email: admissions@bishopireton.org
call: 703-751-7606.

Bishop O'Connell High School

webpage: bishopoconnell.org/admissions
email: admissions@bishopoconnell.org
call: 703-237-1420.

Saint John Paul the Great High School

website: https://jpthegreat.fsenrollment.com/users/sign_in
email: admissions@jpthegreat.org
call: 703-445-0246

Saint Paul VI High School

website: <https://www.paulvi.net/admissions/application-process/9th-grade-admission-process>
email: admissions@paulvi.net.



Prime Time Single Catholics

We are a social group, mostly aged 60 and over. (35 to 59?

Ask about our free associate group.) Meet us for: Walk along W&OD Trail in Vienna (Dec. 2); Thursday Lunch (Dec. 11); Navy Band Christmas Concert at DAR Constitution Hall/dinner near White House (Dec. 20); Breakfast with Santa at Arlington K of C (Dec. 21); Christmas Day dinner (Dec. 25); serving meal at Christ House (Dec. 27); Mass at St. Anthony Church/lunch (Dec. 28); New Year's Eve lunch celebration (Dec. 31); New Year's Day lunch in Old Town Alexandria (Jan. 1). For details, visit our website: bit.ly/ptsc. With questions or to RSVP, email Tom at ptscnva@gmail.com.

ECHO news for December

Donors can use our newly redesigned website, www.echo-inc.org/donate/donate-goods/ to identify items that are most urgently needed. There is also a handy list of donations that we are unable to accept.

Right now, ECHO's Housewares Department is feeling the pinch of low donations of some critical items. If you have any of the following merely taking up space in your cabinets or closets, please consider bringing them to ECHO to share with neighbors who would love to put them to use: large pans; medium or large pots; gently used (or new) blankets; bed linens and comforters (especially queen and king sizes); bath towels, hand towels, wash cloths.

ECHO never wants to send anyone who needs a winter coat away without one. Our Clothing Department needs men's and women's winter coats. We also need

new athletic socks in sizes for girls and women, infant tops and bottoms (0-6 mos), sneakers in men's and children's sizes.

ECHO is looking for some volunteers with management skills whose work would not be confined to a single weekly shift, but would provide leadership over an area of service, such as Client Engagement, or Donation Management, or the Volunteer Program. In addition, there are some weekly volunteer slots to fill. ECHO needs a Clothing volunteer on Wednesday mornings, a Housewares volunteer and a Counselor on Friday mornings, and a Spanish speaking Counselor on Tuesday mornings. More information about all of these opportunities is available at www.echo-inc.org/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities/.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

JOIN US FOR
A MORNING
OF FUN!

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 6
8:00 - 11:30

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around the parish

Parish Offertory

Collection totals from last week are not yet known at the deadline for printing this bulletin.

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.

December

1 MONDAY

7am † The Schuchart Family
9am* † Jan Usinger Sanchez
Is 4:2-6 (second choice)/Mt 8:5-11

2 TUESDAY

7am † Wayne Frost
9am* † William & Patricia McShea
Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24

3 WEDNESDAY

7am † Robert Flournoy
9am* † Aleli Albano Ferrer
Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37

4 THURSDAY

7am † Souls in Purgatory
9am* Evelyn Hernandez
Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27

5 FRIDAY

7am † Rosita Peralta
9am* † Sewell & Charles Grely
10am** † Mary Bridget Walker
Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31

6 SATURDAY

8am Gregory Antolak
Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
5pm* † Thomas Madden

7 SUNDAY

7am † Jane Harriet Hobeika
9am* For the parish
11am* † Jay Jenc
1pm † Ana Fernandez
5pm † Emilio & Marina de Chacon
Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

* live-streamed Masses

** Mass at Greenspring Chapel

Masses next weekend

Dec 6	5pm	Fr. Jeb
Dec 7	7am	Fr. Cedric
	9am	Fr. Jeb
	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 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, John Yost

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 72.3mhz. 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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