

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN
ERE THE WORLDS BEGAN TO BE,
HE IS ALPHA AND OMEGA,
HE THE SOURCE, THE ENDING HE,
OF THE THINGS THAT ARE, THAT HAVE BEEN,
AND THAT FUTURE YEARS SHALL SEE,
EVERMORE AND EVERMORE.

AURELIUS CLEMENS PRUDENTIUS, 348 AD

The Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 2025



Adoration of the Child (detail), Fra Angelico, 1441
San Marco Monastery, cell 5, Florence



SAINT BERNADETTE
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

The Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 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@stbernpar.org Monday–Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm Pastor, Fr. Don Rooney frdonrooney@stbernpar.org Fr. Jeb Donelan frjebdonelan@stbernpar.org Fr. James Waalkes frjameswaalkes@stbernpar.org Deacon Orlando Caicedo Pastoral Associate, Rick Caporali rcaporali@stbernpar.org Business Manager, Linda Patterson lpatterson@stbernpar.org Music Director, David Mathers dmathers@stbernpar.org Executive Assistant, Evelyn Vargas, evargas@stbernpar.org Admin. Asst., Maria Paniagua, mpaniagua@stbernpar.org Secretary, Janet Chávez-España
SAINT BERNADETTE SCHOOL	703-451-8696, fax 269-1121 Principal, Dr. Kathleen Burgess school@stbernpar.org Assistant Principal, Emily Reid Registrar, Heidi Thomes
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	703-451-8576 Director, Lynn Jones Ljones@stbernpar.org Admin. Asst., Victor Mendez vmendez@stbernpar.org
YOUTH MINISTRY	703-451-8576 Director, Grace Rihl grihl@stbernpar.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 encouraged; 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.stbernpar.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@stbernpar.org .

calendar

december

- 22 Sunday, FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
• Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 11am
- 23 Monday, Advent Weekday**
- 24 Tuesday, Advent Weekday**
- 24 Christmas Eve Vigil, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**
• **4:30pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass** preceded with carols/concert at 4pm
• **8:30pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass** preceded with carols/concert at 8pm
• **(Mass at Midnight)**
• Live-streaming Mass for Christmas begins with the 4:30pm Vigil Mass
- 25 Wednesday, Advent Weekday [Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor]**
• **Christmas Day Masses at Midnight, 7, 9, and 11am, and 1:30pm** (Spanish)
Please note, there is not 5pm Mass on Christmas Day
- 26 Thursday, Saint Stephen, The First Martyr**
- 27 Friday, Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist**
• Adoration, 7pm in the church
- 28 Saturday, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**
• Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 29 Sunday, THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**
• Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 11am
- 30 Monday, Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**
- 31 Tuesday, Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**
• **Vigil Mass for the Holy Day, 7:30pm**

january

- 1 Wednesday, SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**
• **Holyday of Obligation**, Masses at 7 and 9am, Noon, 7pm (bilingual)
- 2 Thursday, Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen**
- 3 Friday, Christmas Weekday [The Most Holy Name of Jesus]**
• Adoration, 7pm in the church
- 4 Saturday, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious**
• Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 5 Sunday, THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**
• Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 11am
- 6 Monday, Christmas Weekday [Saint André Bessette, Religious]**
- 7 Tuesday, Christmas Weekday [Saint Raymond of Penyafort, Priest]**
- 8 Wednesday, Christmas Weekday**
- 9 Thursday, Christmas Weekday**
- 10 Friday, Christmas Weekday**
• Adoration, 7pm in the church
- 11 Saturday, Christmas Weekday**
• Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 12 Sunday, THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**
• Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 11am

announcements

Celebrating the Christmas Season

Merry Christmas to all! Wishing blessings for the new year.

Dec 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES
4:30pm,

8:30pm (preceded by Choir Carol Prelude at 8pm)

Midnight Mass • 12am (preceded by Choir Prelude of Carols at 11:30pm)

Dec 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Midnight Mass

7, 9, 11am & 1pm (en español)

Note: There is NO 5pm Mass

Dec 29 - FEAST of the HOLY FAMILY

Regular Saturday Vigil / Sunday schedule

Jan 1 - MARY, MOTHER of GOD

(IS a Holy Day of Obligation this year)

Regular Holy Day schedule:

Tuesday **Vigil 7:30pm**

Wednesday **7 & 9am, Noon, 7:30pm** (bilingual)

Jan 5 - EPIPHANY of the LORD

Regular Saturday Vigil / Sunday schedule

Jan 12 -The BAPTISM of the LORD

The Christmas season ends today with our regular Saturday Vigil / Sunday schedule



SAINT BERNADETTE

CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

from the pastor



Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

Somehow Christmas seems different this year. Of course, I'm not too jolly yet because the print deadline for this bulletin is today, December 10. We're not even halfway through Advent yet!

So I'm thinking more about what I hope Christmas will be for all of you and our world in two more weeks.

We live in strange times. The world is so divided by ideology and even simple facts that the only thing we all agree about is that we are living in strange times.

The world is making bad choices.

So I thought I would write a reflection from inside the mind of Saint Joseph.

A poor man likely of no confidence - though of the lineage of the royal house of David, you are summoned by the occupying forces of the Romans to leave your home and be counted in a census at the town where you were born. You wonder why. What do they really want? What are they going to do?

A very unlikely thing happens to you. Your fiancée is pregnant and you have to choose to expose her to the judgment of society (probably even death), or to trust her goodness (and some very real dreams you have had lately), to trust in God despite the danger. She is so young...

Ninety miles is a long walk, especially with a wife who is about to give birth.

So many people have come to Bethlehem for the census. There is no attraction there for people to come in such numbers. There is no where to stay. And the time is near for the child to be born.

Unknown to you at the time, the King is going to send out his soldiers to hunt you

and your young family down. You will have to leave as much security as were able to find in a cave where animals are kept, and flee to a foreign land where nothing is familiar, nothing is safe.

It is the story of so many people today. First to mind are those who are trying to escape to our country, hoping that they will be able to survive here, even have success and safety for their families.

But my heart is heavy now as the conflict in the Holy Land, during this pause, is surely gaining strength for the next tragedy. So many people with no homes, no hope.

This Christmas let us, first, be grateful for family, for the security we know, and the help of others who can help us, or those whom we can help. The billionaire Herods of our time will continue to do what Herods always do, but we know that we are in God's hands, and God loves us so much that we have Christmas to celebrate. Let it be a reminder for us of who will ultimately win the victory about what is really important.

May this be a time of comfort and compassion for all who need it, consolation for those who are struggling to get by, knowledge of how much they are loved by the people willing to reach out across the aisle in care. There is no place for inhumanity in this Christmas story: it is about how *important* humanity is to God - *the least of these*, as we said in our Rise Against Hunger work - that he will give himself to ransom us.

Saint Joseph didn't live to see the fruitfulness of his suffering and sacrifice, protecting Mary and Jesus who God put in his care. Because of him, we can see it. And reflect on how this loving plan of God will not be frustrated by soldiers or Herods, or poverty, or even death itself.

May you have a truly merry Christmas.

The Lord be with you. *Fr. Dom*

From our principal, Dr. Burgess

Dear Saint Bernadette community,

I extend to you heartfelt greetings during this holy Christmas season. During this time we are invited to reflect on and to rejoice in the profound mystery of God's love, which is made visible in the birth of His son, Jesus.

At school, we spent Advent helping our students prepare their hearts and minds for the coming of our Savior through prayer, service, and acts of giving. Our intermediate students participated in a morning retreat that focused on Advent. They reflected on the many ways each day, through their words and actions, others will know they are Christians. Then, students created Advent wreaths which were delivered to the residents at Greenspring. Our Student Council led our PreK-8th graders in weekly Advent prayer services. Additional acts of giving included

food donations for ECHO and monetary donations for Catholic Charities. What a joy to watch the children reenact the Nativity story and hear their angelic voices ring out Christmas carols at our annual Christmas pageant. It is truly rewarding to accompany these children on their Faith journey and to watch them grow in Christ's love.

I am blessed to serve this wonderful community and am deeply grateful for your support. Your prayers, words of encouragement, and financial gifts make it possible for us to continue to form children's hearts and minds in Christ. May the love and peace of Christ fill your homes. On behalf of our faculty, staff, and students, I wish you and your loved ones a joyful Christmas and blessed New Year.

Sincerely,
Kathleen A. Burgess, Ph.D.
Principal



cardinal corner

**FORMING
HEARTS
& MINDS
IN CHRIST**

*Manger Square,
Bethlehem, Palestine
1893*



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@stbermpar.org, or our assistant director JP McLaughlin at jpmclaughlin@stbermpar.org with any questions you may have.



YOUNG ADULTS
GROUP CHAT

RE Program upcoming schedule

Sunday Donut Social: Dec. 14 after 9am Mass
Regular classes: Dec. 16-17, resuming Jan. 6-7
Family Faith Formation, Jan. 11
SPRED Classes: Jan. 10 and 24
Family Mass Learning: Jan. 10-11 after every Mass

Volunteers for 2025-2026

We are still in need of 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://stbermpar.org/religious-education-volunteers/>.

Living the liturgical year

Happy 3rd week of Advent! This Sunday we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. It is the only Sunday we light the rose or pink candle. "Gaudete" means "rejoice!" The pink candle on the Advent Wreath is known as the shepherd's candle. It represents the "joy" that the shepherds experienced when they received the news about Christ's birth.

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 - Jan. 7

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 registration is open

Please visit our website to register for Work Camp. Our second interest meeting for teens and adults who might want to attend Work Camp is on January 15, 7-8:15 pm in the Cafeteria. For inquiries, contact Matthew Frey matthew_c_frey@yahoo.com or JP McLaughlin at jpmclaughlin@stbermpar.org for any inquiries.

Young Adults Faith Discussions

All Young Adults are invited to once-a-month Sunday night discussions and debates on key topics and mysteries about the Faith. Our first Faith Discussion will be on Sunday, January 11, 6-8pm in the Bradican Room. For any inquiries, contact JP McLaughlin, jpmclaughlin@stbermpar.org.

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@stbermpar.org.

Source and Summit Retreat

All high schoolers are welcome to an overnight retreat at Summit Lake in Emmitsburg, MD, January 30 - February 1. We are in collaboration with the youth ministries of St. Leo's and Our Lady of Good Counsel. Registration has opened. Please visit our website to register for the retreat. For any inquiries, contact JP McLaughlin at jpmclaughlin@stbermpar.org.

New Ministry- H.S. Small Groups

In 2026, we are starting High School Small Groups. All high schoolers are welcome to attend. Guys' Small Groups will be on 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7pm in the Youth Room, with the kickoff date on February 5. Girls' Small Groups will be on 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7pm in the Youth Room, with the kickoff date on January 8. For any questions, contact JP McLaughlin at jpmclaughlin@stbermpar.org.

Here is a quick guide to getting involved at Saint Bernadette. You're welcome.

get involved

	MINISTRY	MINISTRY LEADER	CONTACT INFORMATION
Education	Adult Faith Formation Religious Education K-12 OCIA Team (English) RICA Team (Spanish) Saint Bernadette School Bible Study Youth Ministry Programs	Lynn Jones Arlyn Agasan Fr. Don Rooney Fr. Jeb Donelan Dr. Kathleen Burgess Maggie McKinley Grace Mee	ljones@stbernapar.org aagasan@stbernapar.org frdonrooney@stbernapar.org frjebdonelan@stbernapar.org kburgess@stbernschool.org office@stbernapar.org gmee@stbernapar.org
Liturgy	Altar Servers Altar Society Arimatheans Eucharistic Ministry (Eng) Eucharistic Ministry (Esp) Hospitality: Greeters Hospitality: Ushers (Eng) Hospitality: Ushers (Esp) Lectors (Eng) Lectors (Esp) Music Ministry / Choirs Seasonal Decorators	Jean Corday Lillian Hildago Trish Pirowski Suyapa Shine Alicia Ramos Kathy Marchetti Cedric D'Cruze Santos Reyes Nancy Allard Carmen Sanchez David Mathers Fr. Don Rooney	jcorday@stbernapar.org lilces58@yahoo.com al_trish@verizon.net suyashine@gmail.com alicia@ramosfamily.me kathmarc@yahoo.com cedric.ellistravel@verizon.net santosf.reyes2003@gmail.com pn.allard@gmail.com 1222sanchcar@gmail.com dmathers@stbernapar.org frdonrooney@stbernapar.org
Operations	Administrative Support Bishop's Lenten Appeal Communications Development Operations Committee	Evelyn Vargas Rick Caporali Manny Corday Rick Caporali Rick Caporali Jean Corday Rick Caporali	evargas@stbernapar.org rcaporali@stbernapar.org bermudiana@erols.com rcaporali@stbernapar.org rcaporali@stbernapar.org jcorday@stbernapar.org rcaporali@stbernapar.org
Outreach	Catholic Advocacy Catholic Charities Liaison Christ House Dinners St. Lucy Project ECHO	Fr. Don Rooney Nancy Hoskins Anne Thompson Nancy Hoskins Gerry Faber	frdonrooney@stbernapar.org nanjeff@verizon.net annetomsn@aol.com nanjeff@verizon.net faberg@verizon.net
Outreach	Can-A-Week Ecumenical Interreligious Refugee Assistance Rise Against Hunger St. Mark/Hypothermia	Al Pirowski Barbara Gayhart Rick Caporali Rick Caporali Kathy Mueller	al_trish@verizon.net kidleader820@gmail.com rcaporali@stbernapar.org rcaporali@stbernapar.org kathydon@verizon.net
Parish Life	Catholic Women's Group Called and Gifted Coffee and Donuts Friends in Need Hospitality / Receptions Knights of Columbus Knitting/Crochet Ministry Legion of Mary (Eng) Legion of Mary (Esp) Lenten Small Groups Hearts on Fire Pro-Life Committee Seven Sisters Apostolate Vocations Promoters Mary's Comfort of Virginia Walking with Purpose Welcoming New Parishioners Boy Scout Troop 995 Cub Scout Pack 995 Girl Scouts CYO Sports	Barbara Dalmut Rick Caporali Myra Musialkiewicz Kathy Freund Jean Corday Casey Carr Lerick Kebeck Jerome Furlow Florinda Reyes Rick Caporali Tracy Pham Tom Palumbo Trish Pirowski Mary Beth Williams Kathleen Moyer Suyapa Shine Rick Caporali Jim Womack Sandy Belson Katie Wright Gina Soriano Catherine Luby	bdalmut@gmail.com rcaporali@stbernapar.org mmusialkiewicz@cox.net onanny55@gmail.com jcorday@stbernapar.org casey.carr1@gmail.com lsotelo0712@yahoo.com jerome.furlow06@gmail.com lillictat@verizon.net rcaporali@stbernapar.org tracy_pham@msn.com tom.palumbo@outlook.com al_trish@verizon.net mbwilliams@yahoo.com kathleen_moyer@hotmail.com stbernadettewwp@gmail.com rcaporali@stbernapar.org yorkshireboy@me.com sandishell@gmail.com katie.k.wright@gmail.com gvsoriano@gmail.com catherineeluby@gmail.com

parish life center update

If you are new to the parish or have not yet had the opportunity to give,

you are always encouraged to give. With inflation and other supply uncertainties your gift is more important than ever for us to get over the ever-changing finish line.

If you would like to make a pledge or check on the status of your current pledge, please contact Jean Corday in the parish office.

On the horizon

While there may appear to be little visible progress on the new parish building, a significant amount of work has been taking place behind the scenes. We want to share an update on where we are in the process.

Since the spring of last year, we have been working closely with our contracted architectural firm to develop schematic and design drawings. This stage ensures that the new facility will support both current needs and future program growth. Much of the discussion has focused on how the new building integrates with the existing one, the relocation of offices to accommodate a future kitchen, ADA accessibility, and the installation of a fire sprinkler system in the current building. Addressing these needs now—instead of later—came with cost implications that pushed our budget beyond what was acceptable. Our goal remains to minimize renovations to the existing structure and focus our resources on delivering the new building within the Diocese-approved preliminary budget of \$8.4M (adjusted from the original \$7M, with a reduced scope).

The design drawings are now 30% complete, which is the standard benchmark for seeking construction bids. We recently met with the Diocesan Office of Planning, Construction, and Finance and received approval to move forward with soliciting bids from four Diocesan-approved contractors. Due to inflation and ongoing uncertainty around building material costs—particularly steel—it is likely that the budget will shift again. Given these market conditions, a design-build approach may be the most effective way to move the project forward.

The current design includes two large, flexible gathering spaces that can be subdivided into smaller meeting areas, ample restroom facilities, ADA-compliant access to the church's main entrance, and provisions for a future kitchen in the current office building. In recent weeks, our site engineer completed a full mapping of underground utilities throughout the property. As part of the larger development plan, some utilities

may need to be relocated, additional electrical service may be required, and we will continue to address evolving environmental regulations.

There are two critical next steps in the process:

- 1. Receive and evaluate construction proposals** — We expect to receive contractor bids in January.
- 2. Obtain financial approval from the Diocese** — Before we advance to full construction drawings and contractual agreements, the Diocese must determine that our long-term financial position can support both our existing facilities and an additional 14,000 sq. ft. of new ministry space. This includes demonstrating our ability to maintain current operations, fund future repairs and replacements of major systems, and plan responsibly for expanded operational costs.

In recent months, we have made a concerted effort to increase offertory giving. Regardless of how much we have on hand for construction, we must show the Diocese that we can sustainably fund ongoing operations. We have an extensive deferred maintenance plan in place to responsibly manage the needs of our aging facilities.

At the Diocese's request, we developed a 10-year plan focused on four key areas:

- **Income** — We initiated a 3% offertory increase request and followed up with Faith Direct and stewardship efforts in August and September. While early signs show improvement, we need more data to confirm a consistent trend.
- **Expenses** — As a complement to the offertory appeal, we introduced an initiative to reduce envelope-printing costs, saving approximately \$1,000 per month. Automated controls have been installed on 60% of our HVAC units to lower energy use when buildings are unoccupied. We have been intentional about lean but effective staffing, transitioned many paper-based processes to digital systems, and continue to rely on volunteers whenever possible. We will remain diligent in identifying additional savings without compromising service or ministry.

• **Scope** — The Diocese required an initial reduction in our original design to reach the \$7M target. We have deferred the majority of renovations to the existing building while still ensuring the new facility will be fully functional at opening and prepared for future upgrades.

• **Fundraising** — Thanks to your generosity, we have made substantial progress in our capital campaigns. Details are included below.

Funds Available as of October 31 (most recent financials)

Capital Campaign I (3-year repayment)

- Goal: \$3,000,000
- Total Pledged: \$3,411,873
- Total Paid: \$3,277,988
- Pledge Balance: \$133,884

Capital Campaign II (3- or 5-year repayment)

- Goal: \$3,000,000
- Total Pledged: \$2,890,229
- Total Paid: \$2,006,828
- Pledge Balance: \$883,400
- Remaining to Goal: \$109,771

Operating Funds

- Operating Account: \$477,786
- DIAL Operating Account: \$2,842,844
- Extraordinary Dividend: \$480,095
- Capital Campaign: \$4,929,782

Total Funds Available for Construction:
\$7,730,507

(It is our intent to retain \$1M as required by the Diocese to cover 12 months of operating expenses.)

Provided we receive the necessary financial approval from the Diocese, our hope and prayer is to complete construction drawings and secure a General Contractor by the end of the first quarter of 2026. Site and building permit applications would follow in the second quarter of 2026, with anticipated county approvals within nine months. Construction would begin at a time that minimizes impact on parish operations, with a realistic start window of spring to summer 2027.

We need collection counters!

Would you like to be a collection counter volunteer? We need additional volunteers to help with the collection counting process at Saint Bernadette. If you are available on Monday mornings at least twice a month and are interested in learning more, please contact the parish office to set up an interview. Volunteers must meet diocesan requirements before they can be placed on a collection team.

Mary's Comfort update

We are very grateful for all of our volunteers and donors! We recently provided much needed extra support to one of our guests experiencing a medical issue. This guest is very appreciative for the efforts and the financial support Mary's Comfort provided to her and to her infant. In thanksgiving, she is praying for all of you and your intentions! If you'd like to join our team or make an end-of-year donation, please visit our website <https://www.maryscomfortva.org/> to learn more or email us at maryscomfortva@gmail.com.

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@stbernapar.org.

Tuesday, January 6 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.

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: 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.

Parish Offertory

Offertory totals for 12/21 are not available at the time of publication.

Thank you for your faithful support!



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

night of gratitude 2026



ALL PARISH VOLUNTEERS AND EDUCATORS ARE INVITED
TO OUR "NIGHT OF GRATITUDE,"
CELEBRATING the BEGINNING of the NEW YEAR,
IN THANKS of YOUR SERVICE to SAINT BERNADETTE CHURCH and SCHOOL.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 at 7 O'CLOCK, in the SCHOOL GYMNASIUM.
HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES and DANCING
to the ANDREW THIELEN ORCHESTRA.

RSVP to EVELYN BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, evargas@stbernapar.org



13-DAY PILGRIMAGE TO
IRELAND
AND
SCOTLAND

*“Into the time of
Celtic Saints
and Legends.”*


Peter's Way Tours



Join me on a 13-day pilgrimage!
Immerse yourself in the beauty of Ireland
and Scotland, two beautiful, culturally
rich nations with deep historical roots.

SAVE THE DATES

**September 20th
to October 2nd
2 0 2 6**

WHO IS LEADING THE PILGRIMAGE?

Fr. Don Rooney will be leading this special pilgrimage in the Fall of 2026. Discover the beauty of Ireland and Scotland; learn about their shared Celtic heritage, rugged landscapes, and a mutual love for storytelling, music, and community.

Set out on this pilgrimage to renew, deepen, and share your faith. Enjoy authentic Irish and Scottish food alongside a stout or whiskey, and perhaps try some treats like scones and shortbread while enjoying the companionship of friendships old and new.

Fr. Don looks forward to welcoming you on this pilgrimage. Tour brochures and enrollment information will be available at the end of December 2025.

Email brochure requests for St. Bernadette
Parish Pilgrimage to Ireland & Scotland to:

Peter@petersway.com



DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

200 North Glebe Road, Suite 914 • Arlington, Virginia 22203 • Office (703) 841-2511 • Fax (703) 524-5028

Navidad 2025

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

La Navidad resplandece como una temporada de alegría, unidad y esperanza renovada. El Niño de Belén viene a reunirnos como una sola familia de fe, superando toda distancia y sanando toda división. Su luz radiante atraviesa la oscuridad y nos recuerda que en Cristo el amor triunfa y la paz perdura.

Al reunirnos nuevamente en torno al pesebre de Belén, nuestros corazones se llenan de asombro y gratitud por el don del amor de Dios hecho visible en Jesucristo. En Navidad, nos regocijamos en el maravilloso misterio de la Encarnación: Dios hecho hombre, que habita entre nosotros para compartir nuestra humanidad, nuestras alegrías y nuestras penas. En Él, el cielo y la tierra se unen, y por medio de Él somos reconciliados con nuestro Creador. El nacimiento de nuestro Salvador revela que el amor de Dios no conoce fronteras.

Los invito a celebrar esta santa temporada con un renovado agradecimiento por el don que somos los unos para los otros. Que sigamos el ejemplo de la Sagrada Familia, que con fe y amor acogió la voluntad de Dios con confianza y serenidad.

Que la alegría de esta Navidad fortalezca los lazos de unidad entre nosotros, y que la paz de Cristo reine en sus corazones y en sus hogares.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

Monseñor Michael F. Burbidge
Obispo de Arlington





DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

200 North Glebe Road, Suite 914 • Arlington, Virginia 22203 • Office (703) 841-2511 • Fax (703) 524-5028

Christmas 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christmas shines as a season of joy, unity, and renewed hope. The Child of Bethlehem comes to draw us together as one family of faith, bridging every distance and healing every division. His radiant light pierces the darkness reminding us that in Christ love triumphs and peace endures.

As we gather once more around the manger of Bethlehem, our hearts are filled with awe and gratitude for the gift of God's love made visible in Jesus Christ. At Christmas, we rejoice in the wondrous mystery of the Incarnation—God made man, dwelling among us to share our humanity, joys, and sorrows. In Him, heaven and earth are united, and through Him, we are reconciled to our Creator. The birth of our Savior reveals that God's love knows no boundaries.

I invite you to celebrate this holy season with renewed thanks for the gift of one another. May we follow the example of the Holy Family, who in faith and love welcomed the will of God with trust and serenity.

May the joy of this Christmas strengthen the bonds of unity among us and may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts and homes.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michael F. Burbidge'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington

Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

December

22 MONDAY

7am † Jack & Kay Lee
9am* Matthew Waalkes
1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56

23 TUESDAY

7am † Carl L. Savino
9am* † Rosa & Alicia Castillo Sifuentes
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66

24 WEDNESDAY

7am † Travis Washburn
9am* † Mario Cantu
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79
4:30p* † John Francis Jenc
8:30p* † Robert & Mary Ellen Smith
12am* For the parish
Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

25 THURSDAY

7am † Theresa Helen Randolph
9am* † Mario Cantu
11am † Betty Schafer
1pm* † Erika Vargas
Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

26 FRIDAY

7am † Robert P. Erhard
9am* † Alba Tris Torres
10am** † Mary Palenski
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22

27 SATURDAY

8am † Larry Smith
1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
5pm* † Donald Gomes

28 SUNDAY

7am † Teresa Randolph
9am* † Alicia Valderrama
11am* † Walter Izquierdo
1pm Allen Mayo
5pm For the parish
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-23

* live-streamed Masses

** Mass at Greenspring Chapel

Masses next weekend

Dec 27	5pm	Fr. Don
Dec 28	7am	Fr. Jeb
	9am	Fr. James
	11am	Fr. Don
	1pm	Fr. Cedric
	5pm	Fr. Jeb

Parish prayer list

Jessica Curtis, Paul Flapper, Mark Fortin, Shamsun Nahur, Alisa Squatrito, Jerome Furlow, Jim Gribshaw, Pierre DesLauriers, 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, Wiotto Helenius

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@stbermpar.org or call the office.

Hearing devices at Mass

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



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