

*Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth,  
mercifully hear the pleading of your people and bestow your peace on our times.  
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.*

## 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 18, 2026



Mystical Lamb (detail), mosaic, 1550  
Commissioned by Emperor Justinian, San Vitale Basilica, Ravenna

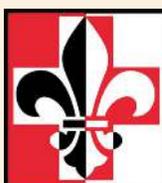


**SAINT BERNADETTE**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

# 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 18, 2026

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 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <a href="mailto:frdonrooney@stbermpar.org">frdonrooney@stbermpar.org</a> Fr. Jeb Donelan <a href="mailto:frjebdonelan@stbermpar.org">frjebdonelan@stbermpar.org</a> Fr. James Waalkes <a href="mailto:frjameswaalkes@stbermpar.org">frjameswaalkes@stbermpar.org</a> Deacon Orlando Caicedo
	Pastoral Associate, Rick Caporali <a href="mailto:rcaporali@stbermpar.org">rcaporali@stbermpar.org</a> Business Manager, Linda Patterson <a href="mailto:lpatterson@stbermpar.org">lpatterson@stbermpar.org</a> Music Director, David Mathers <a href="mailto:dmathers@stbermpar.org">dmathers@stbermpar.org</a> Bookkeeper/Compliance (OPCYP), Zory Conde, <a href="mailto:zconde@stbermpar.org">zconde@stbermpar.org</a> Executive Assistant, Jean Corday <a href="mailto:jcorday@stbermpar.org">jcorday@stbermpar.org</a> Executive Assistant, Evelyn Vargas, <a href="mailto:evargas@stbermpar.org">evargas@stbermpar.org</a> Secretary, Janet Chávez-España
SAINT BERNADETTE SCHOOL	703-451-8696, fax 269-1121 Principal, Dr. Kathleen Burgess <a href="mailto:school@stbermpar.org">school@stbermpar.org</a> Assistant Principal, Jennifer Spencer Registrar, Heidi Thomes
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	703-451-8576 Director, Lynn Jones <a href="mailto:ljones@stbermpar.org">ljones@stbermpar.org</a> Coordinator of Religious Education, Arlyn Agasen, <a href="mailto:aagasen@stbermpar.org">aagasen@stbermpar.org</a> Administrative Assistant, Victor Mendez <a href="mailto:vmendez@stbermpar.org">vmendez@stbermpar.org</a>
YOUTH MINISTRY	703-451-8576 Director, Grace Mee <a href="mailto:gmeem@stbermpar.org">gmeem@stbermpar.org</a> Assistant Director, J.P. McLaughlin, <a href="mailto:jpmclaughlin@stbermpar.org">jpmclaughlin@stbermpar.org</a>
BAPTISMS	Saturday, 10am, 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturdays in English; 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <a href="http://www.stbermpar.org">www.stbermpar.org</a> .
	Articles for the bulletin must be submitted to the parish office no later than first thing Friday morning, ten days before publication date. <a href="mailto:bulletin@stbermpar.org">bulletin@stbermpar.org</a> .

# calendar

## january

- 18 Sunday, SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 1pm
  - **faith250 with Fr. Don, Bradican Rm, after the 11am Mass**
- 19 Monday, Weekday**
- **Parish Offices are closed in observance of the federal holiday**
  - **Taize Prayer Service** in the church, 8 - 8:45pm, Please join us!
- 20 Tuesday, Weekday [Saint Sebastian, Martyr]**
- 21 Wednesday, Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr**
- 22 Thursday, Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children**
- 23 Friday, Weekday [St Vincent, Deacon & Martyr; St Marianne Cope, Virgin]**
- **March for Life** is today, National Mall
  - Adoration, 7pm in the church
- 24 Saturday, Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor**
- Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 25 Sunday, THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 1pm
  - Saint Bernadette School **OPEN HOUSE**, noon-1pm
  - **faith250 with Fr. Don, Bradican Rm, after the 11am Mass**
- 26 Monday, Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops**
- 27 Tuesday, Weekday [Saint Angela Merici, Virgin]**
- 28 Wednesday, Saints Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor**
- 29 Thursday, Weekday**
- 30 Friday, Weekday**
- Adoration, 7pm in the church
- 31 Saturday, Saint John Bosco, Priest**
- **"Night of Stars" volunteer appreciation celebration, 6:30pm, RSVP Required**
  - Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass

## february

- 1 Sunday, FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 1pm
  - **faith250 with Fr. Don, Bradican Rm, after the 11am Mass**
- 2 Monday, The Presentation of the Lord**
- 3 Tuesday, Weekday [Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr]**
- 4 Wednesday, Weekday**
- 5 Thursday, Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr**
- 6 Friday, Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs**
- Adoration, 7pm in the church
- 7 Saturday, Weekday**
- Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
  - Knights of Columbus Spaghetti Dinner/Trivia Night, 6pm in the cafeteria
  - **BLA Commitment/Pledge Weekend** at all Masses
- 8 Sunday, FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 1pm
  - **BLA Commitment/Pledge Weekend** at all Masses

## announcements

Join us for our monthly (third Monday) **Taize Prayer Service** this **Monday night, January 19, 8–8:45pm**. Come for a peaceful moment of simple song and silence and pray for Christian Unity.

For the next four weeks, join **Fr. Don at noon on Sundays in the Bradican Room for faith250** in preparation for our nation's 250th anniversary. See the bulletin for details.

All adult parishioners who have volunteered in the past several years are invited to come to our **Night of Stars - Saturday, January 31, 6:30–11pm**. Join us for an evening dinner, drinks and dancing to the music of the **Andrew Thielen Big Band** of North Myrtle Beach. This is an opportunity to recognize and appreciate the work of parish volunteers. **RSVP required to Evelyn in the parish office by January 23. Please note this event is a seated dinner event, doors open at 6:30pm with pre-event hospitality followed by dinner at 7pm.**

**Saint Bernadette School** will celebrate the start of Catholic Schools Week with an **Open House** being held on **Sunday January 25, Noon until 1pm**. See what we have to offer your family.

We will hold a **First Holy Communion parent information meeting on Jan. 20 & 21 from 6:15–7pm in the Bradican Room**, for the 2nd year FHC, SPOC2 and MS/HS students receiving the sacrament in the Spring of 2026. School parents are invited!

The **2026 Bishop's Lenten Appeal** mailing was recently sent to parishioners. The 2026 theme is "In Christ We Are One", which reminds us of this great theological virtue that is rooted in Jesus Christ and the victory he won for us. You can make a gift at: [www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA). Please indicate you are a parishioner here and it will count toward our parish goal of \$582,000.



**SAINT BERNADETTE**

CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

[www.stbernpar.org](http://www.stbernpar.org) | page 3

## from the pastor

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

Every once in a while I am approached by a family who are new to the parish and am so happy they take the time to introduce themselves! To be honest, it is difficult to keep track of names, but if you keep telling me - (like my dad used to say), if you keep throwing mud at the barn, eventually it will stick.

In nearly every instance the new family says that the reason they decided to join our parish community is because we are so warm and welcoming. It makes me happy when people say that they came, and they just felt like they belonged. You, apparently, are very friendly. Thank you.

Last weekend we hosted a Mass and breakfast of ministry leaders and members of the new Parish Advisory Board so they would get to know each other better and talk about how we can go about doing the work of stewardship (using the gifts God gave you) together in a more efficient and effective way. We chose to focus on one of the four pillars of stewardship in particular: Hospitality.

Hospitality, prayer, formation, and service represent a holistic way of life by which we respond to God's gifts through welcoming, connecting with God, continuous learning, and acting with love. We recognize all blessings as gifts and share them responsibly, encompassing our time, talent, and treasure.

We can deepen our commitment to welcoming everyone, recognizing Christ in them, and creating an inclusive community in which there is no such thing as a minority or an outsider.

It is so simple, really. A greeting with a smile.

When I first came here and we wrote the introduction for Mass, we invited everyone to turn to one another and "greet each other warmly with a smile." A smile is a powerful thing. Then, COVID. Masks went on and we couldn't see smiles anymore. I think this was one of the most damaging things that happened to us. We literally turned inward. It was hard to reverse.

So we changed the script to say "offer each other a gesture of welcome." Mostly, I guess, people just waved. Kind of like the awkward post-COVID sign of peace.

But what if we made the moment last a little longer? Offer that person that always sits in front of you or always behind you for the last ten years a greeting and give them your name? I'm Fr. Don; what's your name? Good to see you again. The person you have been coming to Mass with - is that your mom? I haven't seen her lately. Is everything okay?

A moment of caring.

I am not particularly comfortable with ice breakers because I'm an introvert, so we aren't going to have the cantor say, "Now turn to one another and tell the person on each side of you your favorite flavor of ice cream." But how great (almost disarming) would it be if someone were to say "I'm Fr. Don and I think chocolate is amazing." That would bring a smile, I should think, because it would be something you share. I like chocolate, too. You're welcome!

Hospitality is not a grand gesture, it is just a moment or a glimpse that defenses are down and you can genuinely like to know someone new. (And, it can happen in church.)

Think for a moment who that person might be who is sitting in your pew. Maybe going through a really tough time right now (maybe something you are experiencing, too) or maybe they are disoriented by current events (as we all are). They might be nervous as cats because they just got up the courage to come back to church after ten years and aren't really sure they remember when to sit, stand, and kneel. Maybe they think you are seething because their kids aren't exhibiting perfect behavior. Are they sure they even want to be here? A connection with you will change that experience. A smile, a reassuring nod. Maybe a new friend, definitely growth in community.

So simple, and so often not mentioned. We are here for each other, as well as for God.

The Lord be with you.

*Fr. Don*

## A Celebration of Faith, Family, and Community

Our 2nd through 7th grade students will participate in NWEA M.A.P. (Measures of Academic Progress) Growth testing this week in reading, math, and language arts. These adaptive assessments provide teachers with clear insights into what each student already knows, areas that need additional practice, and concepts they have fully mastered. This information guides personalized instruction and helps track individual academic growth throughout the year.

A key part of our M.A.P. process is goal setting, which empowers students to take an active role in their learning. This fall, every student met one-on-one with their teacher to review previous M.A.P. results and collaboratively set meaningful, personalized goals. Teachers provided guidance by:

- Highlighting each student's strengths and growth areas based on prior data
- Discussing realistic yet challenging targets for improvement (e.g., aiming for specific growth in reading comprehension or math problem-solving)
- Incorporating student input on subjects they want to improve or skills they find exciting
- Connecting goals to classroom work and real-life application



These teacher-supported, student-owned goals foster responsibility and motivation, encouraging our young learners to become lifelong learners.

Another important use of M.A.P. scores is for math placement in middle school. The Office of Catholic Schools establishes baseline scores to determine eligibility for advanced-level math classes. For this reason, our 6th and 7th grade cardinals are especially encouraged to give their very best effort on the math portion of the test—these results play a direct role in course placement decisions for the coming years.

## cardinal corner



**FORMING  
HEARTS  
& MINDS  
= CHRIST**



## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

**Join us at our Admissions Open House  
25 January 2026 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.**

RSVP: [registrar@stbernschool.org](mailto:registrar@stbernschool.org)



**PreK-8th grade parochial school**

**"A Second Time Virginia Distinguished Purple Star School"**



7602 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, VA 22152 703-451-8696

# 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 [gmeem@stbermpar.org](mailto:gmeem@stbermpar.org), or our assistant director JP McLaughlin at [jpmclaughlin@stbermpar.org](mailto:jpmclaughlin@stbermpar.org) with any questions you may have.



YOUNG ADULTS  
GROUP CHAT

## RE Program upcoming schedule

Regular classes Jan. 20-21, 27 (no class Jan. 28)  
SPRED Class: Jan. 24  
Sunday Doughnut Social: Jan. 25 after 9am  
Mass at the School Cafeteria

## 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/>.

## First Holy Communion parents' meeting

We will hold a First Holy Communion parent information meeting on Jan. 20-21 from 6:15-7pm in the Bradican Room, for the 2nd year FHC, SPOC2 and MS/HS students receiving the sacrament in the Spring of 2026. School parents are invited!

## Parish baby supplies donation drive

## HS Small Groups

All high schoolers are invited to twice-a-month meetings on Thursdays, 7-8:30pm in the Youth Room for a night of fun games, fellowship, and small group discussions about the Faith. Guys Small Groups meet on first and third Thursdays; Girls Small Groups meet on second and fourth Thursdays.

## High School Tuesday Socials

All high schoolers are invited to join us 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.

## High School Saturday Dinner - January 10

All High schoolers are invited for dinner, games, fellowship, and adoration with praise and worship on Saturday, January 10th. Meet in the Bradican Room from 6-8:30pm!

## 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, 7-8:15pm in the Cafeteria. For inquiries, contact Matthew Frey [matthew\\_c\\_frey@yahoo.com](mailto:matthew_c_frey@yahoo.com) or JP McLaughlin at [jpmclaughlin@stbermpar.org](mailto:jpmclaughlin@stbermpar.org) for any inquiries.

During the month of January, the parish will have a donation drive for baby supplies for Catholic Charities Migrant and Refugee Services. Please see page 10.

## Sunday doughnut social

Mark your calendars! Plan to join us next Sunday, January 25, in the school cafeteria for fellowship, hospitality, and kids' activities after the 9am Mass! Come visit with other parish families while you enjoy coffee, juice, and donuts while your children do some fun activities with volunteers!

## Living the liturgical year

We celebrate the feast day of St. Agnes on January 21. Her name means "Lamb of God." You can find suggestions for activities you can do with your children here: <https://catholicprintableclub.com/how-to-celebrate-the-feast-of-st-agnes-january-21/>

## 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](mailto:jpmclaughlin@stbermpar.org).

## Source and Summit Retreat

Source and Summit Retreat will be January 30–February 1 at Summit Lake in Emmitsburg, MD. We will meet at St. Leo's in Fairfax to drive to Summit Lake. For any questions, contact JP McLaughlin at [jpmclaughlin@stbermpar.org](mailto:jpmclaughlin@stbermpar.org)

## Middle School Youth Ministry - Jan. 21

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.

## Free-throw challenge

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a Free Throw Challenge on January 17, 9am – 12pm in the Gym. Boys and Girls ages 9-14 are welcome. Please register at [casey.carr1@gmail.com](mailto:casey.carr1@gmail.com). Walk-ins are welcome.

## Young Adults Coffee + Conversation

All Young Adults, ages 18-35 are invited to Coffee and Conversation on Sunday, January 25th. After 9am Mass, we will meet at Tous les Jours coffee shop. Contact JP McLaughlin [jpmclaughlin@stbermpar.org](mailto:jpmclaughlin@stbermpar.org) for any inquiries

Join us to prepare our community celebration of our nation's 250th birthday!

We will read and discuss the Declaration of Independence, Emma Lazarus' "The New Colossus," "America the Beautiful," and Frederick Douglass' address, "What to the Slave is the 4th of July?"

Each house of worship will have their own group discussions before coming together as a wider community to talk about the shared values that shape us as Americans.

Saint Bernadette will meet Sundays after the 11am Mass in the Bradigan Room: Jan. 18, 25 and Feb. 1

BURKE/SPRINGFIELD

# faith250

Sacred Bonds, Shared Hopes

*dinners*  
7 - 8:30 pm

FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> @ BURKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> @ CONGREGATION OLAM TIKVAH

APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup> @ ST. PETER'S IN THE WOODS  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MAY 12<sup>TH</sup> @ ABIDING PRESENCE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

SACRED CONVERSATIONS ABOUT AMERICA THROUGH  
THE LENS OF FAITH AND OUR AMERICAN WORDS

*Come to one, Come to all.  
We will conclude with a multi-faith  
celebration at Burke Lake Park in July!*

## upcoming events

### Parish Offertory

January 11	
Offertory	31,978
Parish Facilities	\$ 4,407

*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](http://www.faithdirect.net) or call (866)507-8757. Our parish code is VA70.

# “vatican council II through its documents”

**Introductory catechesis  
January 7, 2026**

*Pope Leo has begun a new series of General Audiences which will form a catechesis of Vatican II sixty years later.*



*Brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!*

After the Jubilee Year, during which we focused on the mysteries of the life of Jesus, we will begin a new cycle of catechesis which will be dedicated to Vatican Council II and a rereading of its Documents. It is a valuable opportunity to rediscover the beauty and the importance of this ecclesial event. Saint John Paul II, at the end of the Jubilee 2000, stated: “I feel more than ever in duty bound to point to the Council as *the great grace bestowed on the Church in the twentieth century*” (Apostolic Letter *Novo millennio ineunte*, 57).

Together with the anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, in 2025 we remembered the sixtieth anniversary of Vatican Council II. Although the time that separates us from this event is not so long, it is equally true that the generation of bishops, theologians and believers of Vatican II is no longer with us. Therefore, while we hear the call not to let its prophecy fade, and to continue to seek ways and means to implement its insights, it will be important to get to know it again closely, and to do so not through “hearsay” or interpretations that have been given, but by rereading its documents and reflecting on their content. Indeed, it is the Magisterium that still constitutes the guiding star of the Church’s journey today. As Benedict XVI taught, “as the years have passed, the Conciliar Documents have lost none of their timeliness; indeed, their teachings are proving particularly relevant to the new situation of the Church and the current globalized society” (*First Message at the end of the Eucharistic Concelebration with the Members of the College of Cardinals*, April 20, 2005).

When Pope Saint John XXIII opened the Council on October 11, 1962, he spoke of it as the dawn of a day of light for the whole Church. The work of the numerous Fathers convened from the Churches of all continents did indeed pave the way for a new ecclesial season. After a rich biblical, theological and liturgical reflection spanning the twentieth century, Vatican Council II rediscovered the face of God as the Father who, in Christ, calls us to be his children; it looked at the Church in the light of Christ, light of

nations, as a mystery of communion and sacrament of unity between God and his people; it initiated important liturgical reform, placing at its center the mystery of salvation and the active and conscious participation of the entire People of God. At the same time, it helped us to open up to the world and to embrace the changes and challenges of the modern age in dialogue and co-responsibility, as a Church that wishes to open her arms to humanity, to echo the hopes and anxieties of peoples, and to collaborate in building a more just and fraternal society.

Thanks to Vatican Council II, the Church “has something to say, a message to give, a communication to make” (Saint Paul VI, Encyclical Letter *Ecclesiam suam*, 65), striving to seek the truth by way of ecumenism, interreligious dialogue and dialogue with people of good will.

This spirit, this inner disposition, must characterize our spiritual life and the pastoral action of the Church, because we have yet to achieve ecclesial reform more fully in a ministerial sense and, in the face of today’s challenges, we are called to continue to be vigilant interpreters of the signs of the times, joyful proclaimers of the Gospel, courageous witnesses of justice and peace. At the beginning of the Council, Monsignor Albino Luciani, the future Pope John Paul I, as Bishop of Vittorio Veneto, wrote prophetically, “As always, there is a need to achieve not so much organizations or methods or structures, but a deeper and more widespread holiness. ... It may be that the excellent and abundant fruits of a Council will be seen after centuries and will mature by laboriously overcoming conflicts and adverse situations.” Rediscovering the Council, then, as Pope Francis remarked, helps us to “restore primacy to God, to what is essential: to a Church madly in love with its Lord and with all the men and women whom he loves” (*Homily on the sixtieth anniversary of the beginning of Vatican Council II*, October 11, 2022).

Brothers and sisters, Saint Paul VI’s words to the Council Fathers at the end of its work remain a guiding principle for us today. He affirmed that the time had come to leave the Council assembly and go out towards humanity to bring

it the good news of the Gospel, in the awareness that they had experienced a time of grace in which the past, present and future were condensed: "The past: for here, gathered in this spot, we have the Church of Christ with her tradition, her history, her councils, her doctors, her saints; the present, for we are taking leave of one another to go out towards the world of today with its miseries, its sufferings, its sins, but also with its prodigious accomplishments, its values, its virtues; and lastly the future is here in the urgent appeal of the peoples of the world for more justice, in their will for peace, in their conscious or unconscious thirst for a higher life, that life precisely which the Church of Christ can and wishes to give them" (Saint Paul VI, *Message to the Council Fathers*, December 8, 1965).

This is also true for us. As we approach the documents of Vatican Council II and rediscover their prophetic and contemporary relevance, we welcome the rich tradition of the life of the Church and, at the same time, we question ourselves about the present and renew our joy in running towards the world to bring it the Gospel of the kingdom of God, a kingdom of love, justice and peace.

## Mark your calendars for our parish mission talks during 40 Hours: Learn about your Church!

This year during 40 Hours, we will host Christopher White who will speak on March 1, 2, and 3 about the transition from Pope Francis to Pope Leo, the Church's pastoral priorities for this century, and synodality and the Church's communion, participation and mission. It will be an opportunity to understand our Church from the viewpoint of an insider, a rare view, indeed.

Chris is a prominent American journalist and analyst, known for his extensive coverage of the Vatican and Catholic Church, serving as the former Vatican correspondent for the *National Catholic Reporter* (NCR) and currently as an associate director and senior fellow at Georgetown University's Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life. Before his work at Georgetown, he lived in Rome and spent his days meeting with Vatican sources

and attending big papal events. He visited more than 20 countries with Pope Francis as part of the press corps. He is an astute and thoughtful church observer and commentator. He is author of the recent book *Pope Leo XIV: Inside the Conclave and the Dawn of a New Papacy*.

## Cursillo Dinner & Faith Sharing - All Are Welcome!

Are you looking for community and friendship? To share your faith with friends (new and old)? Join the Arlington Diocese Cursillo community and fellow parishioners on Saturday, January 24 at 6:15pm (after the 5pm Mass) in the Bradican Room. Together we will pray, eat, and share personal stories of God's Grace. Dinner is potluck. As always, and in Cursillo style, please bring food and drinks to share. Hosted by Saint Bernadette Parish with co-hosts from Nativity and St. Raymond of Penafort. Questions - contact Trish at [1986sailboat@gmail.com](mailto:1986sailboat@gmail.com).

## ECHO's Current Needs

ECHO volunteers are grateful for the many, many generous donations during 2025. We will work to fill the continuing needs in 2026. The Housewares Department is hoping that donors received holiday gifts of new comforters, pots and pans or small appliances so that they can share their clean, old ones with ECHO. Our Clothing Department needs infant clothing, size 0-6 months, and adult coats or jackets in all sizes. Our Food Pantry currently needs bags of dried beans, masa flour, sugar, pancake syrup, laundry detergent, and shampoo.

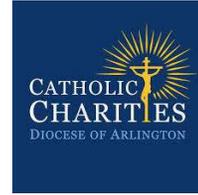
ECHO, at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, is open from 9:30am to 12:30pm, Monday through Friday, and from 7pm to 9pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and one Saturday morning a month. Please see our website, [www.echo-inc.org](http://www.echo-inc.org) to find out which Saturday we are open.

Donors can use our newly redesigned website, [www.echo-inc.org/donate/donate-goods/](http://www.echo-inc.org/donate/donate-goods/) to identify items that are most urgently needed or to find a list of items that we are unable to accept.



# Baby Supplies Drive

January 17 - February 1



As a parish, we have committed to supporting 10 families served by Catholic Charities Migrant and Refugee Services

## Requested Items:

Scan here to see our Amazon Wishlist



**Important note: We are accepting new items only.**

- Car seats for infants (new only)
- Strollers
- Baby bed (Pack and Play)
- Baby clothes (for newborn - 2T)
- Baby healthcare/grooming kits
- Baby Bouncy Seats
- Baby swaddles and Blankets
- Baby bottles
- Baby pacifiers (new)
- Baby winter clothes
- Baby soap, shampoo, & oil
- Baby towels
- Maternity clothing
- Diaper bags
- Diapers all sizes
- Crib sheets

**Drop off items in the vestibule of the church or order them directly to the Parish office:**

St. Bernadette Parish C/O Grace Mee  
7600 Old Keene Mill Road  
Springfield, VA 22152





## Car Raffle is coming again this year

All Saints Church (Manassas) has invited our parishioners to participate in their Multi-Car Raffle. Prizes include four 2026 vehicles from Ourisman Ford of Manassas (Ford Escape, Mustang, Maverick Truck (Hybrid) and Bronco Sport). One \$5 ticket offers the purchaser a chance to win all four vehicles plus \$42,000 (including one for \$20,000) in cash prizes.

You will be receiving tickets in the mail within the next couple of weeks or so. Please consider selling or purchasing the tickets mailed to you. You will notice that the ticket returns are being processed at All Saints again this year. This is required by the Department of Charitable Gaming.

We use proceeds from the raffle to help families in need pay school tuition. Last year we received back about \$40,000.

We hope that you will support our efforts by buying or selling your tickets. Please ask people to make checks payable to All Saints. Also, many volunteers are needed to help make this a success. If you would like to help, call the parish office.



## Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School

### Gala & Auction "A Legacy of Life."

Join us on Saturday, February 7 for an engaging evening with a delicious buffet dinner, dancing, and presentation by Andrea Picciotti-Bayer, a nationally renowned speaker. Live and silent auctions—all in support of Catholic education. Visit: <https://onecau.se/johnpaulgala>.

### Clinics & Workshops - 4th-8th grades

We have a few exciting opportunities for younger students to hone their skills and explore their interests! Drama Workshop (Sat, Feb 7th), Super Science Saturday (Sat, Feb 28th), Girls Volleyball Clinic (Sat, Mar 28th), and more on the way! Click here for registration: <https://saintjohnpaul.mypaysimple.com/s/middle-school-event-registration>

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# night of stars 2026



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CELEBRATING the BEGINNING of the NEW YEAR,  
IN THANKS of YOUR SERVICE to SAINT BERNADETTE CHURCH and SCHOOL.**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 at 6:30 O'CLOCK, in the SCHOOL GYMNASIUM.  
ARRIVAL at 6:30, DINNER SEATING at 7:00, followed by DANCING  
to the ANDREW THIELEN ORCHESTRA.**

**RSVP to EVELYN BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, [evargas@stbernapar.org](mailto:evargas@stbernapar.org)**



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rich nations with deep historical roots.

## SAVE THE DATES

**September 20<sup>th</sup>  
to October 2<sup>nd</sup>  
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**

## Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

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

### January

#### 19 MONDAY

7am Juan Pablo Martinez  
9am\* Fr. John Rooney  
1 Sm 15:16-23/Mk 2:18-22

#### 20 TUESDAY

7am Sean O'Halloran  
9am\* † Christopher Popeck  
1 Sm 16:1-13/Mk 2:23-28

#### 21 WEDNESDAY

7am Mary O'Halloran  
9am\* † Pio Amaguana  
1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Mk 3:1-6

#### 22 THURSDAY

7am † Kathleen Hornibrook  
9am\* Annemarie Wild  
1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Mk 3:7-12

#### 23 FRIDAY

7am Bernard Gregory  
9am\* † Noreen Canestro  
10am\*\* † Sandy Tindal  
1 Sm 24:3-21/Mk 3:13-19

#### 24 SATURDAY

8am Mary's Comfort Volunteers  
2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Mk 3:20-21  
5pm\* † Thomas A. Kelly, Jr.

#### 25 SUNDAY

7am Maria Mesina  
9am\* † Tom Kelly  
11am For the school  
1pm\* For the parish  
5pm † Romia Dumo  
Is 8:23—9:3/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23

\* live-streamed Masses

\*\* Mass at Greenspring Chapel

#### Masses next weekend

Jan 24	5pm	Fr. Don
Jan 25	7am	Fr. Cedric
	9am	Fr. James
	11am	Fr. Don
	1pm	Fr. James
	5pm	Fr. Jeb

## Parish prayer list

Jessica Curtis, Paul Flapper, Mark Fortin, Shamsun Nahur, Alisa Squatrito, Jerome Furlow, Jim Gribschaw, 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](mailto: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.

## Mary's Comfort update

The volunteers and guests at Mary's Comfort are very grateful for the generosity of St. Bernadette Parishioners who chose to help us with gift cards through the Giving Tree Program. We also received wonderful gifts for our almost one year old guest! This support will help us carry out our Christ centered mission to provide an enriching home for women facing a crisis pregnancy. If you'd like to join our team of dedicated volunteers or make donation, please visit our website <https://www.maryscomfortva.org/> to learn more or email us at [maryscomfortva@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:women@stbernapar.org).

Tuesday, January 20 is our next **Dinner with Friends** at 5pm, at Saratoga Pizzeria, 8050 Rolling Road. We meet for this casual meal on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.



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