

*Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. 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.*

# 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 8, 2026



The city set on a hill: "Landscape with an Italian Hill Town," Hendrik Frans van Lint, 1724  
The National Gallery, London



**SAINT BERNADETTE**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

# 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 8, 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:gnee@stbermpar.org">gnee@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

## february

- 8 Sunday, FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 1pm
  - **BLA Commitment/Pledge Weekend** at all Masses
- 9 Monday, Weekday**
- 10 Tuesday, Saint Scholastica, Virgin**
- 11 Wednesday, Weekday [Our Lady of Lourdes]**
- 12 Thursday, Weekday**
- 13 Friday, Weekday**
- Adoration, 7pm in the church
- 14 Saturday, Saints Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop**
- Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 15 Sunday, SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 1pm
  - **Holy Hour for Peace**, following the 5pm Mass in the church
- 16 Monday, Weekday**
- Taizé prayer for unity in the church, 8pm. All are Welcome!
- 17 Tuesday, Weekday [The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order]**
- 18 ASH WEDNESDAY**
- Masses at 7 & 9am, Noon, 6pm (Liturgy of the Word ONLY), 7:30pm (bilingual Mass)
- 19 Thursday after Ash Wednesday**
- 20 Friday after Ash Wednesday**
- Soup Supper, 6pm in the school cafeteria
  - Stations of the Cross, 7pm in the church
  - Estaciones de la Santa Cruz, 7:45pm
- 21 Saturday after Ash Wednesday [Saint Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor]**
- Pick up your St. Lucy Food Drive blue bags and return them full next weekend!
  - Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 22 Sunday, FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**
- Pick up your St. Lucy Food Drive blue bags and return them full next weekend!
  - Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 1pm
- 23 Monday, Lenten Weekday [Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr]**
- Saint Bernadette Lenten Bible Study - online, contact the parish office to register
- 24 Tuesday, Lenten Weekday**
- 25 Wednesday, Lenten Weekday**
- Additional Confessions "The Light is On," 6:30-8pm
- 26 Thursday, Lenten Weekday**
- 27 Friday, Lenten Weekday [Saint Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor]**
- Soup Supper, 6pm in the school cafeteria
  - Stations of the Cross, 7pm in the church
  - Estaciones de la Santa Cruz, 7:45pm
- 28 Saturday, Lenten Weekday**
- Bring food donations to the **St. Lucy Food Drive** at all Masses this weekend
  - Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass

## announcements

Discover the **beauty and riches of the Mass Saint Bernadette Lenten Study 2026**. Join us for a 5-week study this Lent, as we learn to better understand the celebration of the Mass. See page 7 of today's bulletin for more information. All are welcome.

**2025 year-end Contribution Statements** were mailed last week. Due to the inclement weather, delivery to your mailbox may be delayed. Please contact the parish office if you have any questions.

The **2026 Bishop's Lenten Appeal** mailing was recently sent to parishioners. The 2026 theme is "In Christ We Are One," reminding us of Jesus' will for the unity of all those who were given to him by the Father. The in-pew pledge weekend is THIS weekend, February 7-8, or 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.

### Lenten Observances

**Fasting:** Food equivalent to one regular meal, one small meal – Ash Wed/ Good Friday

**Abstinence:** No meat – ALL Fridays

**Parish Soup Suppers:** Fridays in Lent, 6pm

**Stations of the Cross:** Fridays, 7pm in English, 7:45pm in Spanish, in the church

**Lent Confessions:** Wednesdays, 6:30-8pm, Saturdays, 3:30-4:30pm (as usual). *Please plan confessions early in the season to avoid running out of time.*

**Parish Penance Service:** Tuesday, Mar. 24, 6:30pm

**40 Hours and Parish Lenten Mission: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Sunday–Tuesday, March 1-3.** Begins with 5pm Mass Sunday followed by adoration and mission talks by Christopher White, American journalist and analyst, known for his extensive coverage of the Vatican and Catholic Church Life at 6:15pm. **Additional Masses** on Monday and Tuesday evening at 6:30pm followed by Lenten Mission talks at 7:30pm. Close of 40 Hours with **Benediction**, Tuesday night after the talk.

## SAINT BERNADETTE

CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

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

## from the pastor

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

For the third year, on Ash Wednesday (TEN days away!) we will be offering an early evening Liturgy of the Word with the reception of ashes. You might ask, why would we consider a liturgy on Ash Wednesday that is only a Liturgy of the Word and not a full Mass with Eucharist?

The more practical quick answer is that there are many Catholics who, for whatever reason are unable to receive Communion: we want them to feel welcome as we begin the season of Lent. Many feel estranged because they're anxious about their inability to receive Communion and don't want to be judged. I was interested to learn that this was actually an attitude in the Church for many centuries, that no one is actually worthy of receiving the Host and those who did faced the judgment of others. In colonial times in America, for example, people would come to church and receive Communion very early in the morning on a Sunday and then would return for regular Mass later in the morning when no one would receive Communion and feel judged. That might sound foreign to our modern ears, but that is why, in order to be a Catholic such a low bar as "Easter Duty" is observed: in order to be Catholic, one must receive Holy Communion at least once between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost. Presumably, if you haven't been attending Mass, or might be aware of grave sin, this would also include Confession.

But I think the best reason for a Liturgy of the Word and reception of ashes on Ash Wednesday is that it is an opportunity for our Church to invite all Christians to come and join with us equally for a celebration of the year. Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation, and blessed ashes are a sacramental, not a sacrament, and may be received by anyone who comes with appropriate faith and the awareness of the need for reconciliation and forgiveness. We have such few ecumenical opportunities throughout the year where the faithful can attend fully together, especially our married couples who live with the reality of different church affiliations.

"Churches should act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately."

This Lund Principle was set forth by the 1952 Faith and Order Conference of the World Council of Churches and remains one of the foundational guides for the modern Christian unity movement.

All of our liturgies on Ash Wednesday will include Holy Communion and the reception of ashes, except for the Liturgy of the Word with ashes only at 6pm. It is an opportunity to join together with your Christian friends to start the season of Lent together.

Now is the time to be giving some thought to how we are going to make the gift of time that is Lent meaningful for 2026. Consider looking around and recognizing the ways we can reach out to those around us, easing burdens, bringing comfort, growing kindness and goodness. Such small acts begin the process of healing the divisions which threaten community and peace. Such a big job is accomplished by the many small acts of goodness which we are capable of doing. I find that doing good for others in small ways is so much easier than the alternative, and so much more satisfying than doing nothing.

Especially at this time, many people are just struggling with the confusion and uncertainty of what's next for our country, and our world. Often, what people need most is for someone just to listen. Our lives are so full of data overload we can too easily shut others out. The feeling of powerlessness has left people angry, which can lead to depression over time. Talking it out - and being heard - is one way of breaking free from this cycle. Being a listener could be a commitment for you for Lent.

Another idea has something to do with the reason why, as I was describing earlier, nobody received Communion for centuries: The way we judge each other. Even if seemingly insignificant, it can introduce a crack in our families, our community, our Church. The Church is strong enough to keep us together, despite how we might push back at times. People in dialogue don't always agree, but they keep the channel open. It is the Holy Spirit who is present in the magisterium of the Church, guiding us and making us relevant to the world today. Quiet kindness makes this possible, and most effective in a world full of shouting.

The Lord be with you.

*Fr. Dom*

## Nourishing body and mind at Saint Bernadette

Chef Butler joined Saint Bernadette Catholic School nearly two years ago, bringing with him a culinary arts degree from the Louisiana Culinary Institute and years of professional experience. “We are so grateful to have him as part of our Saint Bernadette family” is a sentiment often shared by students, teachers, and staff. Chef Butler frequently says, “My goal is to feed the child, not the trash can,” and he lives by this motto by preparing meals from scratch whenever possible.

Since arriving at Saint Bernadette, Chef Butler has made it a priority to educate students about healthy and nutritious foods both at school and at home. At the beginning of each school year, he visits every classroom to discuss the benefits of a balanced diet and the essential components of a healthy meal. These visits often conclude with students sharing their favorite foods and menu ideas.

This school year, Chef Butler introduced a new initiative, Student-Inspired Meal of the Month. Students may submit menu ideas that meet specific nutrition guidelines. Each meal must be healthy and

include at least three of the five key meal components: fruits, vegetables, grains, protein foods, and dairy. Chef carefully reviews each submission to ensure it meets the requirements of the National School Lunch Program. The selected student-inspired meal is then featured on the school menu.

Chef Butler is also known for spontaneous taste testings with staff and students, as well as random lunchtime surveys. As he often says, “I want to make what the kids will eat, but in a healthier way.” He continues to work toward a farm-to-table approach within school nutrition guidelines by reducing processed foods and incorporating fresher ingredients whenever possible. Most recently, select staff participated in a microgreen tasting—an exciting and “extra fresh” initiative that will soon become a hands-on learning experience for students as well.

Through his commitment to nutritious meals and student education, Chef Butler helps support Saint Bernadette’s mission of caring for the whole child—body, mind, and spirit. We are truly blessed to have him as part of our school community, serving our students with care, purpose, and faith each day.

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



YOUNG ADULTS GROUP CHAT

## RE Program upcoming schedule

Family Mass Learning: Feb 7-8 after Masses  
Regular classes Feb. 10-11, 24-25  
Spring Confessions for students Feb. 10-11  
SPRED Class: Feb. 21  
Sunday Doughnut Social: Feb. 22

## 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://stbernapar.org/religious-education-volunteers/>.

## Living the liturgical year

On February 11, we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. She appeared 18 times to St. Bernadette Soubirous (our

patron saint) in Lourdes, France. The message of Our Lady emphasized the importance of prayer, penance and the presence of God in our everyday life. You can teach your children about Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObwjpgsiEU>

As we approach Ash Wednesday and Lent next week, one sacrament that we can focus on is Reconciliation. With Spring Confessions approaching this week, you can go over the steps to make a good confession with your children at this site: <https://bustedhalo.com/ministry-resources/busted-halos-guide-confession> or <https://thelittleshepherds.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Free-Childrens-Confession-Guide>.

## 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 Trivia Night, February 21

Come test your smarts and challenge your fellow High Schoolers in a competitive night of Trivia from 6-8pm in the Bradican Room. Dinner will be provided. Invite a friend!

## Source + Summit Retreat - New Date

Our new dates are Friday, March 13 - Sunday, March 15. We have re-opened registration. Saint Bernadette, St. Leo the Great, and Our Lady of Good Counsel invite all high school teens to take a break from the busy schedules of life, and spend a weekend retreat to encounter Christ, play fun games, and make new friends. The retreat will be held at Summit Lake in Emmitsburg, MD. Visit the Youth Ministry page on the parish website for registration information.

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

## Middle School Youth Ministry - Feb. 18

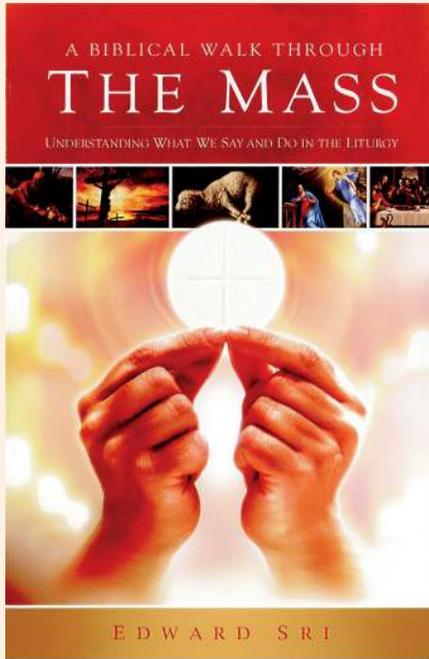
All 6th-8th graders are invited for games, snacks, and fun every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month! Meet in the school gym from 6:45-8pm.

## 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 next Faith Discussion will be on Sunday, February 15, 6-8pm in the Bradican Room. For any inquiries, contact JP McLaughlin [jpmclaughlin@stbernapar.org](mailto:jpmclaughlin@stbernapar.org) for any inquiries

## Workcamp - Adult Volunteers Needed!

All adults of the parish are invited to consider volunteering for Workcamp. We can find a role for anyone willing to help. We are especially in need of female crew leaders to serve alongside our teens during the week of Workcamp. No construction skills needed; must be 25 or older. Please contact our parish Stakeholder, Matthew Frey, for more information.



## Discover the Beauty and Riches of the Mass

### **Saint Bernadette Lenten Study 2026**

Join us for a 5-week study this Lent, as we learn to better understand the celebration of the Mass.

As we become more actively engaged in the Mass, we grow closer to Christ and those in our community. The program will be offered online (online access to the videos and digital study guide will be provided by the parish) so you can watch at home with your family, form a group of friends or fellow parishioners, or join us in the Bradican Room on Wednesday evenings. We will come together online for weekly reflections with Fr. Don (*link to be provided after registration*). Printed versions of the study guide and/or companion book are available for purchase through Ascension Press. [Ascensionpress.com/collections/a-biblical-walk-through-the-mass](http://Ascensionpress.com/collections/a-biblical-walk-through-the-mass).

If you have never participated in a Bible study or a Lenten study activity, this is a great way to get started. The online videos are 30 minutes long. Everything that happens in the Mass has purpose, and this study will give you a better understanding, whether you have attended Mass once or every week for 50 years! To learn more about the study, see [ascensionpress.com/](http://ascensionpress.com/)

[collections/a-biblical-walk-through-the-mass](http://collections/a-biblical-walk-through-the-mass).

Here are the details:

One 30-minute video each week, Feb. 22–March 27 (No session the week of 40 Hours, March 1-3). Registration opens January 26, 2026. Please contact Evelyn at [evargas@stbermpar.org](mailto:evargas@stbermpar.org).

For those looking for an opportunity to join a group discussion, but are unfamiliar with existing groups, there will be a limited opportunity to participate in the Bradican Room on Wednesday evenings from 7–8:30pm. This option for study will accommodate 30 people maximum. Please indicate your desire to be part of this Wednesday evening group when you register with Evelyn.

Families, groups and ministries are welcome to participate.

## Bishop Burbidge encourages holy hours for peace

Brothers and sisters in Christ, In union with my brother bishops, and in response to the invitation of USCCB President Archbishop Paul Coakley to implore God’s assistance in healing divisions in our nation, I encourage all the faithful to consider making a personal Holy Hour for Peace in the days to come. I will lead the faithful in a Holy Hour for Peace at the Cathedral of Saint Thomas More.

The full text of Bishop’s statement will be printed in full next week; see also his [“A Pastoral Statement on American Immigration Law and the Catholic Imperative of Upholding Human Dignity and the Common Good”](#) from last year.

As Archbishop Coakley stated in his invitation, we pray that this holy hour becomes “a moment of renewal for our hearts and for our nation” and that God increases our faith and helps us to grow as witnesses to the Gospel and to all that is right and just for the sake of true and lasting peace. Please God, assist America in turning to you with confidence now and always.

The date for the holy hour at the Cathedral has not yet been announced; we will observe the Holy Hour for Peace **following the 5pm Mass on Sunday, February 15.**

## faith formation

### **Parish Offertory**

February 1	
Offertory	\$18,838
Arlington Herald	3,239

**Thank you for your faithful support!**

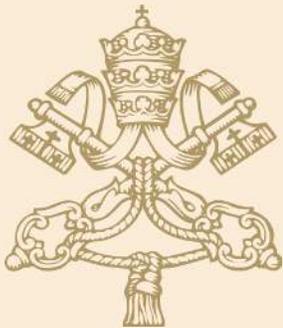


Consider using Faith Direct to make your parish contributions through either direct debit to your checking account or through credit cards, the same way you make car or tuition payments. Faith Direct also offers personalized offertory cards to replace your envelopes for the collection basket. You may 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”

**3rd Catechesis  
January 28, 2026**

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



## I. Dogmatic Constitution *Dei Verbum*.

3. *A single sacred deposit. The relationship between Scripture and Tradition.*

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Continuing our reading of the Conciliar Constitution *Dei Verbum* on divine Revelation, today we will reflect on the relationship between Sacred Scripture and Tradition. We can take two Gospel scenes as a backdrop. In the first, which takes place in the Upper Room, Jesus, in his great discourse-testament addressed to the disciples, affirms: “These things I have spoken to you, while I am still with you. But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ... When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth” (*Jn* 14:25-26; 16:13).

The second scene takes us instead to the hills of Galilee. The risen Jesus shows himself to the disciples, who are surprised and doubtful, and he advises them: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (*Mt* 28:19-20). In both of these scenes, the intimate connection between the words uttered by Christ and their dissemination throughout the centuries is evident.

It is what Vatican Council II affirms, using an evocative image: “There exists a close connection and communication between sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture. For both of them, flowing from the same divine wellspring in a certain way, merge into a unity and tend toward the same end” (*Dei Verbum*, 9). Ecclesial Tradition branches out throughout history through the Church, which preserves, interprets and embodies the Word of God. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (cf. no. 113) refers, in this regard, to a motto of the Church Fathers: “Sacred Scripture is written principally in the Church’s heart rather than in documents and records,” that is, in the sacred text.

In the light of Christ’s words, quoted above, the Council affirms that “the Tradition which comes from the Apostles develops in the Church with the help of the Holy Spirit” (*DV*, 8). This occurs with full comprehension through “contemplation and study made by believers,” through “a penetrating understanding of the spiritual realities which they experience” and, above all, with the preaching of the successors of the Apostles who have received “the sure gift of truth.” In short, “the Church, in her teaching, life and worship, perpetuates and hands on to all generations all that she herself is, all that she believes.”

In this regard, the expression of St. Gregory the Great is famous: “The Sacred Scriptures grow with the one who reads them.” And Saint Augustine had already remarked that “there is only one word of God that unfolds through Scripture, and there is only one Word that sounds on the lips of many saints.” The Word of God, then, is not fossilized, but rather it is a living and organic reality that develops and grows in Tradition. Thanks to the Holy Spirit, Tradition understands it in the richness of its truth and embodies it in the shifting coordinates of history.

In this regard, the proposal of the holy Doctor of the Church John Henry Newman in his work entitled *The Development of Christian Doctrine* is striking. He affirmed that Christianity, both as a communal experience and as a doctrine, is a dynamic reality, in the manner indicated by Jesus himself in the parables of the seed (cf. *Mk* 4:26-29): a living reality that develops thanks to an inner vital force.

The apostle Paul repeatedly exhorts his disciple and collaborator Timothy: “O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you” (*1Tm* 6:20; cf. *2Tm* 1:12-14). *Dei Verbum* echoes this Pauline text when it says: “Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture form one sacred deposit of the word of God, committed to the Church,” interpreted by the “living teaching office of the Church, whose authority is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ” (no. 10). “Deposit” is a term that, in its original meaning, is juridical in nature and imposes on the depositary the duty

to preserve the content, which in this case is the faith, and to transmit it intact.

The “deposit” of the Word of God is still in the hands of the Church and all of us, in our various ecclesial ministries, must continue to preserve it in its integrity, as a lodestar for our journey through the complexity of history and existence.

In conclusion, dear friends, let us listen once more to *Dei Verbum*, which exalts the interweaving of Sacred Scripture and Tradition: it affirms that they “are so linked and joined together that one cannot stand without the others, and ... all together and each in its own way under the action of the one Holy Spirit contribute effectively to the salvation of souls” (cf. no. 10).

### Appeal

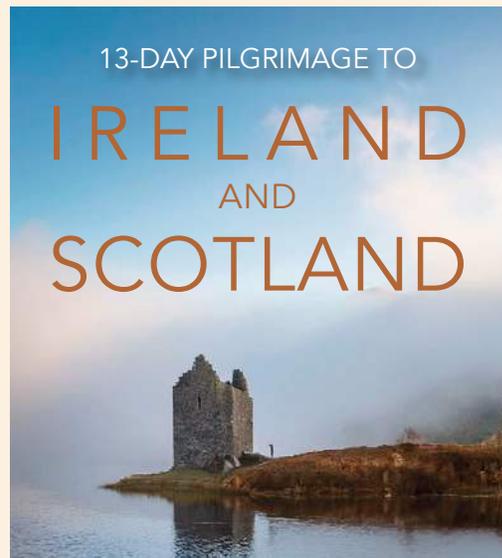
*Yesterday was the International Remembrance Day for all victims of the Holocaust, which brought death to millions of Jews and to many other people. On this yearly occasion of painful remembrance, I ask the Almighty for the gift of a world without antisemitism and without prejudice, oppression, and persecution of any human creature. I renew my appeal to the community of nations to remain ever vigilant. May the horror of genocide never again be inflicted upon any people and that a society founded on mutual respect and the common good may be built.*

## 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*.



## Parish pilgrimage enrollment deadline nears - March 1

Join Fr. Don for a unique look at the ancient monastic settlements and saints, and the stunning beauty and faith of Ireland and Scotland. We find the most beautiful places for daily Mass and the local pub with the best music each evening. If you have questions, talk to Fr. Don or contact Peter’s Way Tours, [peter@petersway.com](mailto:peter@petersway.com).

## Mass and Healing Prayer Service

Gather on Tuesday, February 24, at 7:30pm at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, Fairfax. Fr. John Melmer will celebrate. Confessions will be available. This liturgy comes through the diocesan Catholic Healing Ministry. For more information, please contact Dick Schaad, 703-455-6131.

## coming up

### Save the date: WWP

Would you please save the date for Saturday, March 21, 2026 for the WWP Women's Lenten Evening of Reflection from 6:30–8:30pm. More details to come!

### St. Lucy Lenten Food Drive

As we strive to deepen our relationship with God during Lent let us remember the over 323,000 people experiencing food insecurity in our diocese through our prayers and contributions to the St. Lucy Food project. Our next food drive is February 28–March 1. Help stock the warehouse with needed items so that they may be distributed to those most in need in the 21 counties and 7 cities in Northern Virginia. Blue bags with the list of most needed items will be distributed after Masses the weekend of February 21–22. Donations will be collected prior to all Masses the weekend of February 28–March 1.

### Diocesan men's and women's conferences

All men of the Diocese of Arlington are invited to join on March 7 at the 2026 Men's Conference. The day will feature talk by keynote speaker, Matthew Bunson, Mass with Bishop Burbidge, vendors, and a Q&A with the Bishop and Dr. Bunson. The Conference will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Herndon, from 8:30am to 2:30pm. We hope to see you there! Registration is \$85.

The Catholic Diocese of Arlington's Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life and Council of Catholic Women invite all women of the Diocese to St. Joseph Catholic Church in Herndon on March 14 to celebrate the 2026 Women's Conference, titled Faith, Hope & Courage. This year's Conference, featuring keynotes by Helen Alvaré and Mary Stanford, will highlight the accomplishments and gifts of Catholic women past and present who have formed our great nation since its founding 250 years ago. The day will include these keynotes, Mass celebrated by Bishop Burbidge, lunch, and a Q&A with the Bishop and our two speakers. Vendors will also be present selling all kinds of gifts for yourself and your family. We look forward to welcoming you in Herndon in March! Registration is \$85.



### 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.



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**Our guest list is full, regrets only to allow those who on the waiting list the opportunity to attend.**

**Please note this event is a seated dinner event, doors open at 6:30pm with pre-event hospitality followed by dinner at 7pm.**

## More US Bishops warn: "The country cannot go on like this."

*Written by Gina Christian, reprinted from online OSV News, January 28, 2026*

(OSV News) — More U.S. Catholic bishops are sounding the alarm over an increasingly frayed social order both at home and abroad — while calling for a renewal of heart and a recommitment to Gospel values safeguarding God-given human dignity.

Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, Bishop Anthony B. Taylor of Little Rock, Arkansas, and Archbishop Paul D. Etienne of Seattle are among the latest prelates to weigh in on widespread unrest and division, with Archbishop Etienne issuing a Jan. 26 pastoral letter on ["A Well-Ordered Society Rooted in Truth, Justice, and Peace."](#)

Three key sources — the Second Vatican Council, Catholic social teaching and a Jan. 9 address by Pope Leo XIV to Holy See-accredited diplomats — "illuminate our path with clarity and a renewed urgency," said Archbishop Etienne in his letter.

The latest statements and reflections — which follow comments already made by Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of St. Paul and Minneapolis and Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey — came within days of the fatal shooting of 37-year-old nurse Alex Pretti, a U.S. citizen, by federal agents during a protest amid an immigration enforcement operation in Minneapolis.

Another U.S. citizen and Minneapolis resident, 37-year-old Renee Nicole Good, was shot to death by a federal agent at a separate immigration-related protest Jan. 7.

Hours after Pretti's death, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz said at a Jan. 24 news conference the nation was at "an inflection point" amid the Trump administration's crackdown on immigrants lacking legal authorization to live and work in the U.S., which has seen Minneapolis and several other cities become flashpoints.

### *Bishops warn US society coming to a crisis*

In their respective reflections, the various bishops agreed that current societal tensions have reached an untenable crisis point.

**please note**

*“Pope Leo XIV’s  
Augustinian  
vision reminds  
us that the  
destiny of  
society depends  
on the love that  
shapes it.”*

“The country cannot go on like this,” said Archbishop Gomez in a Jan. 27 column published by Angelus, the news outlet of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

“Polarization and partisanship are poisoning the social fabric of our country,” warned Bishop Taylor in a Jan. 24 column published by Arkansas Catholic, his diocese’s news outlet. “We have reason to worry about the direction our society has taken in recent years. And we have reason to work to shore up our democracy before it is too late.”

In his pastoral letter, Archbishop Etienne pointed broadly to “turbulent times” that have been “marked by conflict abroad, fragmentation at home, and profound questions about our shared moral life.”

In an accompanying Jan. 26 blog post, the archbishop said he had been moved to issue the teaching having “read my own mail, seen fissures in the unity of our Church, witnessed the fracturing of our American society and watched in dismay at the escalation of war around the world.”

Bishop Taylor cited his own family’s experience during the Second World War, when his grandfather “lost 20 first cousins in the Holocaust,” also known as the Shoah, the systematic murder of 6 million Jews by Germany’s Nazi regime and its allies and collaborators.

“I want to be clear that the current times are not identical, and Trump is no Hitler,” Bishop Taylor stated. “But the moral decline of our country is real. And we are doomed to repeat failures of the past if we are not willing to remember them and learn from them.”

#### ***Bishop says learn lessons from 1930s Germany***

He noted “many obvious parallels with the 1930s” that “should give us pause” — specifically, German society’s move at the time “away from respect for human dignity, peace and moral restraint.”

“I fear that the same dynamics are now happening in our country with the decline of civil discourse,” said Bishop Taylor.

He noted that Adolf Hitler’s policies as Germany’s leader leveraged post-World War I fears and crises to gain popular support for what

ultimately became his “dictatorial powers,” which in turn emboldened him to invade other nations. Refugees fleeing the Nazi regime were often refused entry to other nations, and many — like his own relations — were ultimately slain, he said.

“Obviously, these tragic examples are not what is happening here today. But these are the kinds of atrocities to which the dehumanization of mass, indiscriminate deportation can naturally lead,” said Bishop Taylor, noting “sad chapters in the history of our own country” such as mass deportations of Native Americans and enslaved Africans, as well as the “indiscriminate imprisonment of Japanese-Americans in internment camps” during WWII.

#### ***‘This is a pro-life issue’***

Archbishop Gomez lamented that as the U.S. marks its 250th anniversary this year, “what’s happening now seems to be moving us away from the values of our nation’s founding.”

He stressed that “America was the first nation to be established on the belief that human rights come from God and that the government’s purpose is to protect these rights,” and that “we do not lose our rights based on the color of our skin, or the language we speak, or for not having the proper documents.

“Right now our government seems to be treating undocumented immigrants — men, women, and children — as if they have no rights. That should not be happening,” said Archbishop Gomez.

“This is a pro-life issue,” said Bishop Taylor. “And it will remain a pro-life issue so long as millions of people continue to live lives trapped in desperate circumstances, where countries with means refuse to help.”

Archbishop Gomez named “the root cause of the current crisis” as “the country’s broken immigration system,” and advocated support for the bipartisan Dignity Act.

Despite its “flaws,” said Archbishop Gomez, the legislation would reform visa and asylum processes, enhance border security and provide greater verification for employers while offering “a path to a legal status” for millions of people who have been living and working in the U.S. without authorization.



### ***Bishops call all to heed the common good***

Archbishop Gomez also said that in the present moment, “the first task is to restore order and peace to our streets, and insist on calm and restraint in our public discourse.”

“There is no question that the federal government has the duty to enforce immigration laws. But there must be a better way than this,” he said.

The archbishop said he hoped “all sides in this conflict — federal authorities, city and state officials, and those protesting the enforcement actions — will take a step back in the interests of the common good.”

The principle of the common good — founded on human dignity, social well-being and a just, peaceful order — was one stressed by Archbishop Etienne in his pastoral letter, which highlighted charity, or love of neighbor, and respect for the rule of law as “two essential pillars of any Christian society.”

“These do not stand apart from the principles of our social teaching, but they flow directly from them,” he explained, adding that “our Catholic Social Teaching makes clear that rights also come with corresponding duties.”

Archbishop Etienne clarified in his blog announcement that in writing the letter, he focused not on “speaking to specific, outrageous behaviors of individuals, nations or leaders,” but “to simply speak to what a well-ordered society looks like.”

### ***Pope Leo’s January address inspires***

In his letter, Archbishop Etienne noted that Pope Leo’s Jan. 9 address — which he said had inspired his pastoral — “framed the challenges of our age through the lens of St. Augustine’s ‘The City of God.’” The treatise, written by the saint in the early fifth century, contrasted the ongoing struggle between good and evil in human history — and the archbishop noted how the pope used it to offer “a deeply Christian vision of peace, justice, and right order.”

“I implore every Catholic to read [Pope Leo XIV’s Jan. 9 address](#),” Bishop Taylor also said, emphasizing that St. Augustine’s “seminal work” offers a roadmap for “a more just and peaceful coexistence among peoples,” while cautioning against “grave dangers to political life arising from false representations of histo-

ry, excessive nationalism and the distortion of the ideal of the political leader.”

Writing in his pastoral letter, Archbishop Etienne said that “in these turbulent times, the Church once again lifts high the Gospel as the light by which we must walk.”

He explained that “Catholic Social Teaching begins with the unshakeable truth that every human being is created in the image and likeness of God,” and that “this fundamental dignity forms the bedrock of all moral life and a just society.”

“God created us in his image and we need to treat other people like we believe that,” noted Archbishop Gomez.

### ***Bishops say rule of law must be grounded in truth***

The rule of law is “a moral achievement” that “embodies the conviction that justice, not force, must govern human relationships,” wrote Archbishop Etienne in his pastoral letter. “Laws grounded in moral truth safeguard the weak, hold the strong accountable, and restrain the impulses of domination that St. Augustine identifies with the ‘city of man.’”

Quoting Pope Leo, the archbishop said that “when nations and leaders abandon dialogue in favor of coercion, they erode ‘the foundation of all peaceful civil coexistence.’”

The Catholic principle of solidarity — “the social expression of charity” — extends to “all levels of society,” from the family to the international community, and remains crucial in “a world that has so many levels of interdependence,” said Archbishop Etienne.

Subsidiarity, another core principle of Catholic social teaching, “affirms that decisions should be made at the most local level possible, respecting the integrity of families, parishes, and communities,” Archbishop Etienne said.

“Brothers and sisters, the world around us is undergoing profound change and we are experiencing no small amount of fragmentation, but Christ remains our sure foundation,” wrote Archbishop Etienne. “Pope Leo XIV’s Augustinian vision reminds us that the destiny of society depends on the love that shapes it.”

He added, “May we choose, again and again, the path of truth, justice, charity, and peace.”

## Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

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

### February

#### 9 MONDAY

7am † Judith Hencoski  
9am\* † Erlinda Simon Capati  
1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Mk 6:53-56

#### 10 TUESDAY

7am Amy Ward and Family  
9am\* † Marcus David Casapao  
1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Mk 7:1-13

#### 11 WEDNESDAY

7am The Chung Family  
9am\* Brendan Murray  
1 Kgs 10:1-10/Mk 7:14-23

#### 12 THURSDAY

7am The Costa Family  
9am\* † Ed McAndrew  
1 Kgs 11:4-13/Mk 7:24-30

#### 13 FRIDAY

7am Michele Conners  
9am\* † Xuan Nguyen  
10am\*\* † Rita Adams  
1 Kgs 11:29-32, 12:19/Mk 7:31-37

#### 14 SATURDAY

8am † Bernard Hajovsky  
1 Kgs 12:26-32, 13:33-34/Mk 8:1-10  
5pm\* † Gil Peralta

#### 15 SUNDAY

7am For the parish  
9am\* † Tanuja Ghanasekaran  
11am † Nancy Mathers  
1pm\* Gabby Morales  
5pm † Amy Knight  
Sir 15:15-20/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37

\* live-streamed Masses

\*\* Mass at Greenspring Chapel

### Masses next weekend

Feb 14	5pm	Fr. Don
Feb 15	7am	Fr. James
	9am	Fr. Jeb
	11am	Fr. Don
	1pm	Fr. Cedric
	5pm	Fr. James

## Parish prayer list

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, Robert Holzhauser, Adolfo Blandon, Esperanza Ayala, Gloria Tortoriello, Bob Atwell

## 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

We are grateful for all of our volunteers and donors! Our guests are doing very well thanks to your support. 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@stbermpar.org](mailto:women@stbermpar.org).

Our next monthly meeting will be Tuesday, February 10. This month's meeting will be a virtual meeting on Zoom with a professional grief counselor. He has decades of experience helping family members faced with the challenges of health situations and lifestyle adjustment issues. If you do not normally receive Barbara's emails, you can request the link at [bdalmut@gmail.com](mailto:bdalmut@gmail.com).

Tuesday, February 17 is our next **Dinner with Friends** at 5pm, at Saratoga Pizzeria, 8050 Rolling Road. We meet for this casual meal on the 1st and the 3rd Tuesday of every month.



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