

O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. 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.

Second Sunday of Lent

March 1, 2026



Transfiguration of Christ, Luca Giordano (Naples), 1685
Uffizi Galleries, Florence



SAINT BERNADETTE
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Second Sunday of Lent

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

calendar

march

1 Sunday, SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

- Bring food donations to the **St. Lucy Food Drive** at all Masses this weekend
- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 1pm
- **Parish FORTY HOURS** adoration begins with the 5pm Mass and our first parish mission talk at 6:15pm

2 Monday, Lenten Weekday

- **Parish FORTY HOURS** - additional 6:30pm Mass / second mission talk 7:30pm

3 Tuesday, Lenten Weekday [Saint Katharine Drexel, Virgin]

- **Parish FORTY HOURS** - additional 6:30pm Mass / third mission talk 7:30pm
- **Benediction** - following the mission talk

4 Wednesday, Lenten Weekday [Saint Casimir]

- Additional Confessions "The Light is On," 6:30-8pm

5 Thursday, Lenten Weekday

6 Friday, Lenten Weekday

- Soup Supper, 6pm in the school cafeteria
- Stations of the Cross, 7pm in the church
- Estaciones de la Santa Cruz, 7:45pm

7 Saturday, Lenten Weekday

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

8 Sunday, THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 1pm

9 Monday, Lenten Weekday [Saint Frances of Rome, Religious]

10 Tuesday, Lenten Weekday

11 Wednesday, Lenten Weekday

- Additional Confessions "The Light is On," 6:30-8pm

12 Thursday, Lenten Weekday

13 Friday, Lenten Weekday

- Soup Supper, 6pm in the school cafeteria
- Stations of the Cross, 7pm in the church
- Estaciones de la Santa Cruz, 7:45pm

14 Saturday, Lenten Weekday

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

15 Sunday, FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 1pm

16 Monday, Lenten Weekday

- Saint Bernadette Lenten Bible Study - online, contact the parish office to register

17 Tuesday, Lenten Weekday [Saint Patrick, Bishop]

18 Wednesday, Lenten Weekday [Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr]

- Additional Confessions "The Light is On," 6:30-8pm

19 Thursday, SAINT JOSEPH

20 Friday, Lenten Weekday

- Soup Supper, 6pm in the school cafeteria
- Stations of the Cross, 7pm in the church
- Estaciones de la Santa Cruz, 7:45pm

announcements

We are 69% of our **2026 Bishop's Lenten Appeal**. The 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. You can make a gift at: www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA. Please indicate you are a parishioner here and it will count toward our parish goal of \$582,000.

Knights of Columbus Springfield Council 6153 will be hosting a **Spaghetti Dinner and Trivia Contest** Saturday, March 14 in the school cafeteria. Dinner is from 6-7:30pm followed by trivia until 9pm. Please join us, more details on page 13.

All women are invited to a Lenten Night of Reflection with a special talk given by BEa Frey, Saturday, March 21 from 6:30-8:30pm in the Saint Bernadette School Gym. Please join us for refreshments and for small group discussion. Registration is not required but helpful at: <https://forms.gle/OrkMVJmawkrPXLXCA>.

Lenten Observances

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

Abstinence: No meat – ALL Fridays

Parish Soup Suppers: Fridays in Lent, 6pm

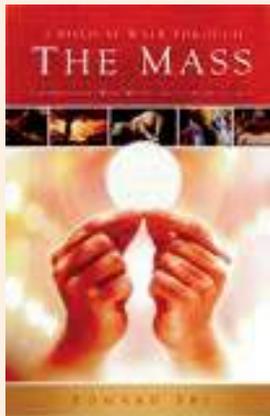
Stations of the Cross: Fridays, 7pm in English, 7:45pm in Spanish, in the church

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.

from the pastor



Week 2 Reflection: The Introductory Rites

- Sign of the Cross
- Greeting
- Act of penitence
- Lord, have mercy
- Glory to God
- Collect prayer

All resources are available online – contact the office and receive the link.

Each session begins with an introduction and teaching/study in the Workbook, then a reading from the text of the book itself, followed by viewing the video and then follow-up by study responses. Links are not transferable; the parish buys credits 25 at a time and will provide you with access.

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

Our Lenten small group/self study begins this week using Session Two, The Introductory Rites, from *A Biblical Walk through the Mass* by Edward Sri.

Of course, the two major movements of the Mass are the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. They are preceded with introductory rites as well as followed by concluding rites.

The first thing I want to say is that, although they are not as vital as the two central parts of the Mass, they are still vital and should be emphasized because they matter. If we don't understand them, people will continue to come late and leave early because they think these rites don't matter. It is striking, and troubling, how most people come to Mass late, and leave early – not only in our parish.

In Session Two, Edward Sri has some interesting insights into Old Testament origins for many of these gestures, listed at the left. I thought I would share with you what I think are the most important takeaways.

First, what he doesn't mention. An integral part of the introductory rites, though more of an element that evolved over the centuries (like the penitential rite itself), is the gathering hymn or song. Imagine a time when people walked to their neighborhood church. As they gathered, they sang. Procession is always an outward sign of community. They would come together at the door of the church, and the Mass would begin with the greeting and the collect. Ministers of the Mass process, and the assembly sings.

The sign of the cross. The book makes some reference to Old Testament *types* (Ezekiel 8), but I think the most important reflection is personal. Before the start of the Mass, you have already signed yourself with holy water "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." The baptismal water reminds us of our baptismal identity, and we literally announce *ourselves* as we enter the sacred space of the church. Sri says we call upon God's name at this moment, which may be central to his spirituality, but at the moment of my baptism the priest didn't say to me, "I baptize you in the name of Don." Rather, my name is literally Father, Son and Holy Spirit. At the moment the Mass begins, we all say it together, a powerful sign of unity and our identity which is found in God.

Then we call to mind our sins. We reflect in a silent examination of conscience in order to prepare for the coming rites in which we listen to God's Word and receive his Holy Communion with pure hearts. The "**I confess**" is an act of contrition, like you do in the sacrament of reconciliation. The Church teaches us that venial sins may be forgiven by an act of contrition or an act of charity. So this is how we prepare for Communion: if you are conscious of mortal sin, you must first go to confession, receive absolution, and do the penance prescribed. Do you see why it is so important that everyone be present for this introductory rite?

I have been told that former versions of the Mass had a lot in common with Eastern Rite churches in the multiplication of elements. For example in the former Latin Mass the priest made the sign of the cross 52 times. It is common in the East to say **Lord, have mercy** seven times, seven times (real fast). Edward Sri applies a trinitarian interpretation to the three times we say it. That may be so, but I like his explanation of mercy (*hesed*) better. Mercy is not something that a higher, more important person bestows on a lower. It is the covenantal love with which one embraces another out of unconditional commitment.

We suddenly turn from our sorrow for sin to the joy of the *gloria*. **Glory to God in the highest!** We sing with the angels who used these words at the birth of Jesus, now looking ahead to his coming in the Liturgy of the Word. It is a beautiful parallel with the later Holy, holy, holy: "Hosanna in the highest, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord," the words of praise as Jesus enters the holy city on Palm Sunday. The sacrifice is near... It is a striking juxtaposition of events in our story of salvation, placed here as a foreshadowing of the Mystery about to come.

Finally, the introductory rites end with the opening prayer of the Mass, called the **Collect**. Here is how this is supposed to work. The priest calls us to prayer: "Let us pray." There is a pause. This is when you call to mind your intentions for this Mass. Who do you wish to lift up to God? What do you ask on their behalf? What is it you ask of God on behalf of our broken world, the great suffering of peoples, the great need? You include your intentions in silence, and the priest then *collects* all of them, wrapping them up in the thematic prayer of the day.

The Lord be with you.

Fr. Dom

Pre-K: The Start of a Joyful Journey

Are you interested in a faith-based Pre-Kindergarten program? Are you considering a Catholic education for your child? At Saint Bernadette Catholic School, our Pre-Kindergarten program welcomes families into a supportive community where young learners grow through faith, discovery, and meaningful relationships.

Faith is at the heart of Saint Bernadette Catholic School, guiding how we teach and care for every child. In Pre-K, students learn the values of kindness, respect, and compassion through daily prayer, religion lessons, and the positive example of teachers, classmates, and upper classmen who serve as buddies to our youngest cardinals.

Our play-based classrooms are designed for active learners. Through hands-on activities and guided play, children build communication, cooperation, and

problem-solving skills while learning how to interact positively with others.

A full-day program, students are introduced to early literacy, science, and math in a safe and engaging environment. Pre-K students also participate in Spanish, music, technology, art, and physical education, sharing in many of the same enrichment opportunities as our students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

With attentive teachers and a joyful Christ-filled atmosphere, children develop confidence and curiosity while forming friendships that support their social and emotional growth. Each day encourages exploration, creativity, and a love of learning.

We are now accepting applications for the 2026–2027 school year. If you'd like to join our school family, please visit our website at www.stbernschool.org/admissions or contact our Director of Admissions at registrar@stbernschool.org



cardinal corner



**FORMING
HEARTS
& MINDS
IN CHRIST**

2026 Diocesan Teacher Job Fair

The Office of Catholic Schools is holding the 2026 Teacher Job Fair here at Saint Bernadette School on Saturday, March 21, 2026 from 9 - 11am.

Principals from over 30 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Arlington will be available to meet with teaching candidates for the 2026-2027 school year.

For questions, please email catholicchools@arlington-diocese.org.

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.

RE Program upcoming schedule

Family Faith Formation: Mar. 1
Regular classes: every week in March
SPRED Classes: Mar. 7 & 21
Family Mass Learning: Mar. 8
Sunday Donut Social: Mar. 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

This Sunday's Gospel reading is about The Transfiguration of Jesus. It is the very moment when Jesus reveals his divine glory to his disciples; Peter, James and John. His face became bright and his clothes dazzling white and he was in conversation with Moses and Elijah. You can watch the story with your children here: <https://youtu.be/KfT5mInsr9A>. You can find tips with explaining the Transfiguration here: <https://youtu.be/ynMjc2bMzLY>.

youth ministry

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



YOUNG ADULTS GROUP CHAT

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.

Middle School Youth Ministry - Mar. 4

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, March 8, 6-8pm in the Bradican Room. For any inquiries, contact JP McLaughlin 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.

CYO SPRING SPORTS

Volleyball and Track & Field Registration now open! Grades 3-8

Volleyball registration is open until Mar. 1. Season is from March-May. In addition to 3rd-8th grade girls, we are offering a boys' 7th-8th grade program. Note: if there are not enough teams, players or coaches can be formed, we will refund your registration.

Registration: <https://reg.sportspilot.com/106541/leagues>. Cost is \$85.

The spring CYO **Track & Field** Meet will be May 16. Registration is open until Apr. 21. Registration: <https://reg.sportspilot.com/106541/leagues>. Cost is \$18.

CYO is open to children from 3rd-8th grade enrolled in Saint Bernadette School or parish Religious Education.

If you have questions about CYO, please Gina Soriano (gvsoriano@gmail.com) or Catherine Luby (catherineeluby@gmail.com)

Lent 2026



Fasting, Abstinence, and Prayer, Soup Suppers & Stations of the Cross



Lent is a special time of quiet and personal reflection as well as a time in which the parish comes together to observe special devotions and gatherings.

Remember, Fridays are days of abstinence from meat.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of **fasting and abstinence**, which means no meat *and* we eat only one full meal and two small meals not equalling one full meal, with no snacks in between.

Join us for our parish Lenten Soup Suppers on Fridays at 6pm!

We celebrate the Way of the Cross, or Stations of the Cross, on Fridays at 7pm in English, and 7:45pm in Spanish in the church.

Confessions



Our special **Parish Penance Service** with 16 priests will be held on Tuesday, March 24 at 6:30pm in the church. Please plan to join us.

Confessions will be available also on Wednesday nights, 6:30-8pm and the normal time, 3:30pm on Saturdays. *Please plan to come earlier in the season so as not to encounter limited opportunities later.*

Cuaresma 2026



Ayuno, Abstinencia, y oración, Cenas de Sopa y Estaciones de la Cruz



La Cuaresma es un tiempo especial de reflexión personal y tranquila, así como un tiempo en el que la parroquia se reúne para observar devociones y reuniones especiales.

Recuerda, los viernes son días de abstinencia de carne. El Miércoles de Ceniza y el Viernes Santo son días de **ayuno y abstinencia**, lo que significa no comer carne y solo comemos una comida completa y dos comidas pequeñas que no equivalen a una comida completa, sin refrigerios entre medias.

¡Únase a nosotros para nuestras cenas de sopa los viernes a las 6pm!

Celebramos el Vía Crucis, o Estaciones de la Cruz, los viernes a las 7pm en inglés y a las 7:30pm en español en la iglesia.

Confesiones



Nuestro Servicio de Penitencia especial con 16 sacerdotes se llevará a cabo el martes 24 de marzo a las 6:30pm en la iglesia. Por favor planee unirse a nosotros. Las confesiones estarán disponibles también los miércoles por la noche, de 6:30 a 8pm y, en horario normal, a las 3:30pm los sábados. *Planee venir más temprano en la temporada para no encontrar oportunidades limitadas más adelante.*

Lent

Parish Offertory

Ash Wednesday	
Church/East. Europe	\$8,433
February 22	
Offertory	\$ 21,069
Black/Indian Missions	4,600

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.

ideas for Lent

Support Catholic Relief Services International with Rice Bowls of the change you bring in Lent

To donate please visit crsricebowl.org or take and return a Rice Bowl from the church vestibule.

Please return no later than March 27, 2026. Checks should be made payable to Catholic Relief Services.

Week 2 - Empowering Communities in Jamaica After Hurricane Melissa



Standing amid the wreckage of the Sacred Heart Catholic church in Seaford Town, Henry Haught holds up a wall hanging that once hung in the church.

During emergencies like Hurricane Melissa, people often turn to faith-based and local organizations for help. There is a lot to quickly coordinate, from assessing the impact of the emergency to

identifying those most in need, collecting community feedback, arranging transportation to safe areas or to distribution sites, and following safeguarding policies.

Catholic Relief Services' approach to empowering local people and organizations is rooted in the Catholic social teaching principle of subsidiarity—the belief that people closest to the problem are best positioned to solve it. By strengthening local leadership and institutions through its EMPOWER initiative, CRS honors the dignity of each person and community, accompanying local institutions in serving the common good.

EMPOWER equips local partners with tools and trainings that strengthen their ability to respond immediately and to build resilience for the future. From managing human resources to improving communications and financial accountability, these skills help communities take charge of their own recovery. CRS also supports partners in leading their own emergency responses and apply-

ing for international grants directly—without needing to go through CRS. This puts them at the forefront of humanitarian efforts in their own communities.

To learn more about this program of how to support CRS initiatives worldwide, please visit crsricebowl.org.



Live Jesus! 2026

This year's theme is Salesian Gentleness, inspired by the quote from Saint Francis de Sales: "Let us do everything in a spirit of peace and love... let us walk and even run in the way of God's Divine Will, not letting ourselves be pulled and pushed about like puppets."

Saturday, March 14, 2026
8:00am – Continental Breakfast
9:00am – 12:45pm Program & Mass

Location
March 14, 2026, at St. Paul VI Catholic High School, Chantilly, VA

*St. Paul VI High School was founded over 40 years ago by the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales. The school remains a strong supporter and promoter of Salesian Spirituality.

We look forward to seeing you!

REGISTER HERE!

<https://wl.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E12206&id=47>

Living Stones for Lent



Fr. Don started a tradition for our parish during Lent which represents something very powerful, yet simple to our

community. You will find large containers of river stones near the altar. Your Lenten assignment is to choose a person you know that has left the Church or is no longer practicing their faith. It might be a friend, or a relative, even a parent, son or daughter. Pray for them for three days, asking the Holy Spirit to break through whatever pain or hardness is there, to bring refreshment and joy. Then tell them you have been praying for them this Lent, and invite them to come home to Church. We are not complete without them.

Then, as a sign of your prayer, take a stone out of the container and place it near the altar. We will see the field of stones growing throughout the season of Lent, and will be reminded—all of us, to pray for all these people during this powerful season. [I only ask you, please, to be very careful not to drop the stones on the tile floor!] I think you will find that these will be the most beautiful and meaningful decorations we can provide for this season of Lent.

Help feed the homeless in the FACETS Hypothermia Project

During the winter months, FACETS partners with local churches that open their doors to provide a hot dinner, a warm place to sleep, an indoor breakfast, and a bag lunch to homeless people. The program will be at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Springfield the week of March 22, and we at Saint Bernadette will be providing the food and volunteers for the first three nights. Sign up at <https://signup.com/go/WpEziru> to donate food or money, serve a meal, or visit and play games with the guests. We also need someone to spend the night to walk around the inside premises every hour to make sure there is no smoke or fire. No experience is needed. Trained FACETS staff are on site to assist. Questions? Contact Kathy Mueller at kathydon@verizon.net.

A Beloved Tradition: 40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration



OPENING of FORTY HOURS
*all-night adoration Sunday night through
Tuesday night.*

Sunday, March 1

5pm SUNDAY MASS
6pm ADORATION BEGINS
6:15pm MISSION TALK

Monday, March 2

FIRST DAY of ADORATION
7 and 9am MASS
6:30pm MASS
7:30pm MISSION TALK

Tuesday, March 3

SECOND DAY of ADORATION
7 and 9am MASS
6:30pm MASS
7:30pm MISSION TALK
BENEDICTION

2026 Mission Talks



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, 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.

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. He visited more than 20 countries with Pope Francis as a member 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*.

Our speaker, Christopher White, asks all who are interested to read the Final Document of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission," found here: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/synodal-church-communion-participation-mission-final-document>

“vatican council II through its documents”

6th Catechesis
February 18, 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 *Lumen gentium*.

1. *The mystery of the Church, sacrament of the union with God, and the unity of all humanity*

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

When the Second Vatican Council, to whose documents we are dedicating the catecheses, wanted to describe the Church, it was concerned first and foremost with explaining where its origins lie. In order to do so, in the Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen gentium*, approved on November 21, 1964, it drew the term “mystery” from the Letters of Saint Paul. By choosing this word, he did not mean to say that the Church is something obscure or incomprehensible, as is commonly thought when the word “mystery” is heard. It is exactly the opposite: indeed, when Saint Paul uses the word, especially in his letter to the Ephesians, he wishes to indicate a reality that was previously hidden and is now revealed.

It refers to God’s plan, which has a purpose: to unify all creatures thanks to the reconciliatory action of Jesus Christ, an action that was accomplished in his death on the cross. This is experienced first of all in the assembly gathered for the liturgical celebration: there, differences are relativized, and what counts is being together because we are drawn by the Love of Christ, who broke down the wall of separation between people and social groups (cf. *Eph 2:14*). For Saint Paul, mystery is the manifestation of what God wanted to achieve for the whole of humanity, and is made known in local experiences, which gradually widen to include all human beings and even the cosmos.

The condition of humanity is one of fragmentation that human beings are unable to repair, even though the tendency towards unity dwells in their heart. The action of Jesus Christ enters into this condition through the power of the Holy Spirit, and overcomes the powers of division and the Divider himself. Gathering together to celebrate, having believed in the proclamation of

the Gospel, is experienced as an attraction exerted by the cross of Christ, which is the supreme manifestation of God’s love. It is feeling called together by God: this is why the term *ekklesia* is used, that is, an assembly of people who recognize that they have been summoned together. So, there is a certain coincidence between this mystery and the Church: the Church is the mystery made perceptible.

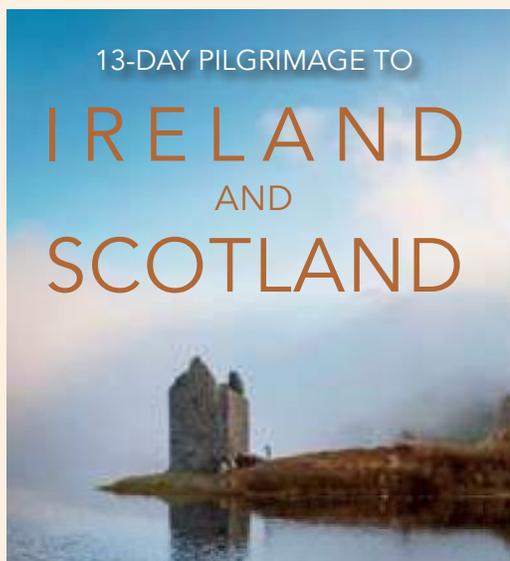
This convocation, precisely because it is brought about by God, cannot however be limited to a group of people, but rather is destined to become the experience of all human beings. Therefore, the Second Vatican Council, at the beginning of the Constitution *Lumen gentium*, states that: “the Church is in Christ like a sacrament or as a sign and instrument both of a very closely knit union with God and of the unity of the whole human race” (no. 1). With the use of the term “sacrament” and the consequent explanation, it is intended to indicate that the Church is an expression of what God wants to accomplish in the history of humanity; therefore, by looking at the Church, we can to some extent grasp God’s plan, the mystery. In this sense, the Church is a sign. In addition, the term “instrument” is added to the term “sacrament” precisely to show that the Church is an active sign. Indeed, when God works in history, he involves in his activity the people who are the objects of his action. It is through the Church that God achieves the aim of bringing people to him and uniting them with one another.

Union with God finds its reflection in the union of human beings. This is the experience of salvation. It is not a coincidence that in the Constitution *Lumen gentium*, in Chapter 7, dedicated to the eschatological nature of the pilgrim Church, again uses the description of the Church as a sacrament, with the specification “of salvation”: “Christ, having been lifted up from the earth has drawn all to himself (cf. *Jn 12:32 gr.*). Rising from the dead (cf. *Rom 6:9*) he sent his life-giving Spirit upon his disciples and through him has established his Body which is the Church as the universal sacrament of salvation. Sitting at the right hand of the Father, he is continually active in the world that he might lead men to the Church and through it join them to



himself, and that he might make them partakers of his glorious life by nourishing them with his own Body and Blood.”

This text enables us to understand the relationship between the unifying action of the Pasch of Jesus, which is the mystery of the passion, death and resurrection, and the identity of the Church. At the same time, it makes us grateful to belong to the Church, the body of the risen Christ and the one pilgrim people of God journeying through history, which lives as a sanctifying presence in the midst of a still fragmented humanity, as an effective sign of unity and reconciliation among peoples.



Parish pilgrimage enrollment deadline extended - April 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.

Pray daily during Lent for a future priest or religious

Are you looking for a simple way to increase family prayer during Lent? Our diocese is blessed with 40 seminarians and 46 religious currently in formation. Their names and photos can be found on cards displayed in the pamphlet racks and you can pray for one of them every day

during Lent! There is also a calendar for the St. Therese Vocation Society. Members commit to praying daily for vocations year-round and pray individually by name for those currently in formation. For more information visit: <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/vocations/pro-mote-support-pray-for-vocations/pray/st-therese-society/>.

“From Inclusion to Belonging” conference on disability

Gather on March 7 at John Paul the Great High School to build a beautiful life for people with disabilities. Attend practical breakout sessions for parents, educators, and self-advocates; network with other advocates; visit local providers at the vendor area; enjoy a beautiful all-abilities art exhibit. See the website below for information about speakers.

Adults \$50; self-advocates \$25; childcare \$15. Registration fee includes breakfast and lunch. Virtual attendance, \$25. Register now at portocharities.org/2026-conference.

Spaghetti dinner/trivia night now scheduled for March 14

Join us for dinner at 6pm, and family friendly trivia beginning at 7:30pm in the school cafeteria. Teams of 6 will compete for prizes. Soft drinks and water is free, beer and wine will be available for purchase. Donations go to St. Bernadette School's scholarship fund. Hosted by the Knights of Columbus. Scan the QR code to RSVP.

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, March 14 at 6:15pm 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 St. Bernadette Parish with co-hosts from Nativity, St. Raymond, and St. Mary of Sorrows. Contact Trish at 1986sailboat@gmail.com.



coming up

Women's Lenten Night of Reflection

All women of the parish are invited to the Women's Lenten Night of Reflection on Saturday, March 21 from 6:30-8:30pm in the school cafeteria. Please join us for a special talk by St. Bernadette parishioner, Bea Frey, as we discuss our theme "To love like Him". Invite a friend to join us for hot chocolate, tea, and light hors d'oeuvres along with a chance for small group discussion! Registration is not required but helpful at: <https://forms.gle/OrkMVJmawkrPXLXCA>.

Catholic Women's Group upcoming events

Come and enjoy warm fellowship and great food. For more information, please email us at women@stbernapar.org.

Tuesday, March 3, 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. No need to RSVP.

Our next monthly meeting will be a Tea Party on Sunday, March 15 at 3pm in the Bradican Room. Sign up for this special event is required. Go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F45A4AB2DA1FB6-62466730-its#/> to reserve your seat or to volunteer to bring goodies. Bring your favorite tea cup and the story that goes with it.

Donating to ECHO

Due to weather we are very low, or out of, some common (and very needed) household goods. We are eager to get donations of bedding, frying pans, pots, coffee makers and toasters.

Please note that, in mid-March, ECHO will change over from winter to spring/summer clothing. We would appreciate donations of only spring/summer clothing at that time. We don't have room to store out-of-season clothing! Needed are sneakers in boys, girls and men's sizes, infant clothing up to 6 mos, and men's long- or short-sleeve t-shirts.

Check our website, www.echo-inc.org, to learn when we are open to receive donations of household goods, clothing and non-perishable food. Thanks for your help!



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.



Calling all Softball Players

The Knights of Columbus sponsors a softball team in the Church Division of the Fairfax Adult Softball League. The season starts on March 31 and ends in early June. Games are on Tuesday evenings. You do not need to be a Knight to participate. If you are interested in playing, please contact Mark Price at mnpprice@verizon.net or at 703-894-8300.

John Paul the Great High School open house March 5

Join us for a special Preview Open House for younger students on Thursday, March 5 from 4-5:30pm! Learn more about our rigorous college-preparatory curriculum, competitive athletics, inspiring visual and performing arts, and abundant extra-

curricular opportunities! [Click here to register!](#)

For information about Middle School Super Science Saturday February 28 and Girls' Volleyball Clinic Saturday, March 28, click here to start your registration: <https://saintjohnpaul.mypaysimple.com/s/middle-school-event-registration>

Bishop Ireton High School Summer Camps

Registration is now open! BI is excited to offer summer camps that are fun, safe, and educational with opportunities in academics, athletics, and enrichment. Grow and build friendships in a supportive and faith-filled environment this summer.

Families are encouraged register early before April 1. Spots are limited and programs fill quickly. Visit www.bishopireton.org or scan the QR code at right.



Adult Volunteers Needed for WorkCamp June 20 – 26, 2026



We Need 2 More Contractors

We are looking for women and men with skills in basic home repair and maintenance able to join us for the week of WorkCamp to make homes **warmer, safer, and drier**. You do not need to be a licensed contractor.

Contractors are responsible for instructing a team of teens how to complete the project. Each contractor is given a detailed job instruction. Their role is to guide and assist while the work itself is completed by the WorkCampers.

We Need 2 More Female Crew Leaders

We are looking for **women** with a heart for teen ministry to join the WorkCamp community and form relationships in preparation for the week of service this summer.

Crew Leaders are responsible for supervising the safety of their crew on the job site, guiding them through discussion and checking in with the teens daily. Their role is to facilitate the week of service and be present alongside the teens, encouraging them to grow in faith.



Questions: Email St. Bernadette's WorkCamp Stakeholder at matthew_c_frey@yahoo.com

Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

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

March

2 MONDAY

7am Evangelina Francisco
9am* † Teresa Randolph
6:30p † Charles Canestro
Dn 9:4b-10/Lk 6:36-38

3 TUESDAY

7am † Francis Romance
9am* † Rustico & Amparo Tijing
6:30p † For the parish
Is 1:10, 16-20/Mt 23:1-12

4 WEDNESDAY

7am † James Stein
9am* † Souls in Purgatory
Jer 18:18-20/Mt 20:17-28

5 THURSDAY

7am † Bill Roche
9am* † The Dereska Family
Jer 17:5-10/Lk 16:19-31

6 FRIDAY

7am † Avelino Nanez
9am* † Cecilia Nho Nguyen
10am** † Nancy Reuter Izzo
Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Mt 21:33-46

7 SATURDAY

8am † To Truong
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
5pm* Ron Dietz

8 SUNDAY

7am † Chato Roldan
9am* † Paul Shinol
11am † Amy Knight
1pm* For the Parish
5pm † Stella Caggiano
Ex 17:3-7/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42

* live-streamed Masses

** Mass at Greenspring Chapel

Masses next weekend

Mar 7	5pm	Fr. Jeb
Mar 8	7am	Fr. Don
	9am	Fr. James
	11am	Fr. Don
	1pm	Fr. Jeb
	5pm	Fr. Cedric

Parish prayer list

Jim Gribschaw, Pierre DesLauriers, Helena Larsen, Cristy Perez Ayala, Amy Greenlee, Larry Lawrence, 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, Charles Roby, Mike Harrison, Douglas Lethert

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.

Lenten prayer for Mary's Comfort

For Lent, we would like to organize a group to pray daily for our organization and our guests. We will email you on the five Sundays of Lent with a prayer intention for that week. If you're interested in joining us, send your email address with "Lenten Prayers" in the subject line to: maryscomfortva@gmail.com. As always, if you'd like to join our team of dedicated volunteers or make a donation, please visit our website <https://www.maryscomfortva.org/> to learn more.

2026 Peace & Justice Conference

You are invited to the 2026 Peace & Justice Conference, Immigration and the Church's Prophetic Voice, sponsored by diocesan Peace & Justice Commission.

Join us for an evening of reflection and dialogue rooted in the Church's teaching on human dignity and the common good, inspired by the U.S. Bishops' message: "Human dignity and national security are not in conflict. Both are possible if people of good will work together."

Saturday, March 7, 2026, at Nativity Catholic Church, featuring Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington.



catholicmatch[®]
Virginia



CatholicMatch.com/goVA

VIRGINIA EYECARE CENTER
MEMBER OF *VISION SOURCE*

(703) 569-3131

Dr. Courtney Shay
Dr. Tim LaFreniere
Dr. Diana Mamoud
Dr. Mallory Cranmer
Dr. Bryan Procopio
Dr. Alyssa Shema

9314-A Old Keene Mill Rd
www.virginiaeyecare.com

 myParish

The App for
Catholic Life Every Day

www.myParishApp.com

Available on the App Store | ANDROID APP ON Google play



Mary Beth Herry Burger
Physical Therapist | Parishioner
703.354.1230
admin@orthoptnova.com
7023 Little River Tpke. Suite 400
OrthoPTnova.com

 **1 Get this bulletin emailed to you every week.**

Simply go to
www.DM.CHURCH/3330...or scan 



IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO **LOOK YOUR BEST**

 **RenovaSmiles**
FAMILY & COSMETIC DENTISTRY

\$99
(Exam+xrays+cleaning)
FREE whitening kit

 1-844-336-2474
Falls Church, Woodbridge,
Manassas, Arlington, Franconia,
Occoquan (Lake Ridge)
www.renovasmiles.com

MOST INSURANCES AND DISCOUNT PLANS ARE ACCEPTED.



**ADVERTISE
HERE**

Promote your Business
AND Support your Parish.

Michelle Stehman ~ 717-774-8833
mstehman@diocesan.com

 **Assisted Living
Locators**

NO COST
SENIOR CARE PLACEMENT

 **Sean Maxwell**
Senior Care Advisor

Assisted Living Locators Metro Alexandria - Bethesda
703-878-7870
assistedlivinglocators.com/alexandria-arlington-fairfax
Independent Living • Assisted Living • Memory Care

VETERAN & LOCALLY OWNED FRANCHISE

SENIOR AND MILITARY DISCOUNTS!

FINANCING AVAILABLE

ROOFING
GUTTERS • SIDING
TREE REMOVAL • DECKS
Insurance Claims Specialists

FREE wind & Hail Damage Inspections for Roofs

 **MidAtlantic CONTRACTING, INC.**
Voted Best in Business
703-492-HOME (4663)
or 571-408-4349
www.MAContracting.com



Consider
Remembering
Your Parish in
Your Will

For further information,
please call the parish office.

 **GLOBAL TAX**
Business Advisors, Accounting, Tax Resolution

 **Helder Magaña, CEO**
703.341.6414
admin@globaltax.com

6207 Old Keene Mill Ct Springfield, VA 22152



Greenspring is the premier senior living community in Springfield.
Here, you're free to live the independent life you want with an added safety net of support.

Call **1-888-205-9597** or visit
GreenspringCommunity.com
for your free brochure.

 **Greenspring**
BY ERICKSON SENIOR LIVING™



The Businesses listed above make this bulletin possible.
Please support them when you can.

Sign up to get our bulletin in your email each week. Go to DiscoverMass.com/subscribe

Caffi SERVICES, INC
 PLUMBING HEATING HVAC REMODELING

1313 POWHATAN STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-1342
(703) 836-6775
 www.caffiservices.com
 service@caffiservices.com

Serving the DC Metropolitan Area since 1967

Morning Dew Tree & Turf Care

Dennis J. McDonnell
 571-722-7047
 Certified Arborist & Agronomist
 Long time parishioner

P.O. Box 523321
 Springfield, VA 22152
 Licensed & Insured

MURPHY LAW GROUP, PLLC
 Wills, Trusts, Estates, & More

9300-B Old Keene Mill Road, Burke, VA
 703-455-7177
 www.MurphyLawVA.com

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
 Avery Murphy

Certified Public Accountants

BUTLER & WAGNER, P.C.

Accounting Services & Business Advisory
 Income Taxes | Eldercare Bookkeeping
 www.baw.cpa

Burke Professional Center • 5210-B Lyngate Court

703-426-5560

SUMMIT ROOFING CONTRACTORS INC.
 Roofing • Gutters • Siding

703.368.7483
 info@summitroofing.com | summitroofing.com

Free Estimates • Family Owned and Operated
 Serving Northern Virginia for over 40 years

40 Year Diocesan Member

Jefferson Funeral Chapel

703-971-7400

Family owned
 5755 Castlewellan Drive
 Alexandria, VA 22315

Just off S. VanDorn Street
 behind Edison High School (Kingstowne)

(703) 716-ROOF (7663) | www.sjroof.com

ST JOSEPH'S ROOFING

Roofing | Siding | Gutters | Windows/Doors
 Insurance Claims | Storm Damage | Repairs

GET YOUR FINANCIAL LIFE SQUARED AWAY

FIRST COMMAND

GARY SJURSET, FINANCIAL ADVISOR
 gasjurset@firstcommand.com
 703.658.2943

©2025 First Command Financial Services, Inc. parent of First Command Brokerage Services, Inc. (Member SIPC, FINRA).

Fairfax MEMORIAL
 Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home
 703-425-8702
 9902 Braddock Rd, Fairfax VA 22032

Protect the ones you love. Pre-Plan today.

Get started by emailing:
Preplan@Fairfaxmemorial.com

Fairfax Memorial Park Cemetery
 703-323-5202
 9900 Braddock Rd, Fairfax VA 22032

ENGLERT FINANCIAL
 George Englert, CPA, CFP®
 Kevin Englert, CPA, CFP®

6116 Rolling Rd, Ste 114
 Springfield, VA 22152
 admin@englertfinancial.com

Call Leslie Durand
 Your Fellow Parishioner
 For All Your Real Estate Needs

703-206-8727

LONG & FOSTER REAL ESTATE

www.LongandFoster.com/LeslieDurand

Fairfax MEMORIAL
 Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home
 703-425-8702
 9902 Braddock Rd, Fairfax VA 22032

Protect the ones you love. Pre-Plan today.

Get started by emailing:
Preplan@Fairfaxmemorial.com

Wealth Management
 703-451-8890 | englertfinancial.com

Securities and Advisory Services are offered through LPL Financial, a Registered Investment Advisor. Member FINRA/SIPC.

David Hughes Orthodontics
 Serving St. Bernadette's Parishioners since 2003.

Smiles... Inside and Out
 Children and Adults

Scan to schedule free consultation

drhughesortho.com • 703-451-0502

WISEWAY CPA
 TAX PREPARATION & ACCOUNTING SERVICES

Offering New Client Discounts on Tax Preparation Services. We will donate \$50 to St. Bernadette Parish for every tax return completed.

www.wisewaycpa.com ~ Hablamos Español
 Text, Call, or Email us: 703-249-9265
 contact@wisewaycpa.com

EWTN.COM/RADIO

KELLIHER FAMILY DENTISTS

Jeremiah J. Kelliher, D.D.S.
 Sean P. Kelliher, D.D.S.
 Karen Kelliher Wilson, R.D.H.
 Kathleen Kelliher Ketch, R.D.H.

(703) 451-5030
 6120 Brandon Ave.
 Suite 211, Springfield

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
 Richard Gutknecht

PJI LAW

Wills, Trusts, & Probate for Catholic Families

(703) 865-6100

Fairfax, VA

www.pjilaw.com | welcome@pjilaw.com

Quality Care
 Cutting-edge Technology
 Friendly Atmosphere

703-912-3800
 5803 Rolling Road Suite 211
 Springfield, VA 22152
 smiles4va.com

Merino's Maids LLC
 House Cleaning Maid Service

The Best Cleaning Choice!
 Excellent References • 25 Continuous years of Experience
 Weekly, Bi Weekly, Monthly
 Moving in-OUT Cleaning Specialist • Low Prices in Town
 Call For A Free Estimate

(703) 867-2145 • Sandramerino2145@gmail.com

Honoring traditions, strengthening faith.

DEMAINE FUNERAL HOMES
 ALEXANDRIA FAIRFAX SPRINGFIELD
 703-549-0074 703-385-1110 703-941-9428

Every Detail Remembered™ | **Dignity**