

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. 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.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2026



The Miracle of Christ Healing the Blind Man, Antonio Trevisan, 1753
in the church of San Francesco della Vigna, Venice



SAINT BERNADETTE
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 15, 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 gme@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

- 16 Monday, Lenten Weekday**
• Taizé prayer for unity in the church, 8pm. All are Welcome!
- 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
- 21 Saturday, Lenten Weekday**
• Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
• **Diocesan Teacher Job Fair, 9-11am, School Gymnasium**
• **Spring Cleaning the Church for Easter! 10am-2pm, Church Signup appreciated**
• **Women’s Lenten Night of Reflection, school gymnasium, RSVP requested**
- 22 Sunday, FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**
• Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 1pm
- 23 Monday, Lenten Weekday [Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop]**
- 24 Tuesday, Lenten Weekday**
• **PARISH LENT Penance SERVICE** (15 priests), 6:30pm
- 25 Wednesday, THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**
• Additional Confessions “The Light is On,” 6:30-8pm
- 26 Thursday, Lenten Weekday**
- 27 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
- 28 Saturday, Lenten Weekday**
• Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 29 Sunday, PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**
• Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 1pm
- 30 Monday of Holy Week**
- 31 Tuesday of Holy Week**
- 1 Wednesday of Holy Week**
- 2 Thursday of Holy Week, HOLY THURSDAY**
• No morning Masses, Morning prayer at 8am
• **MASS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**, 7:30pm, and Adoration until 12am in gym
- 3 Friday of the Passion of the Lord, GOOD FRIDAY**
• No morning Masses, Morning prayer at 8am
• **Tre Ore**, 12 - 3pm (limited confessions), followed by Stations of the Cross
• **Via Crucis**, (Spanish) 4pm
• **PASION Y VENERACION de la SANTA CRUZ**, 5pm
• **PASSION and VENERATION of the HOLY CROSS**, 7:30pm
- 4 HOLY SATURDAY**
• No morning Masses, Morning prayer at 8am
• Easter Foods Blessing, 10am

announcements

We are 77% 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.

Join us for our monthly (third Monday) Taizé Prayer Service Monday night, March 16, 8–8:45pm. Come for a peaceful moment of simple song, silence and prayer for unity.

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 Gym. Please join us for refreshments and for small group discussion. Registration is not required but helpful at: <https://forms.gle/OrkMVJmawkrPXLXCA>.

Come one, Come all! Saturday, March 21 10am-2pm. Please come help spruce up the church in preparation for Easter. Many hands make light work. We will be working on pews, floors around the pews, candle areas, altar, and choir loft. <https://signup.com/go/BnogGhO>

Lenten Observances

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

Abstinence: No meat – ALL Fridays of Lent

Parish Soup Suppers: Fridays in Lent, 6pm

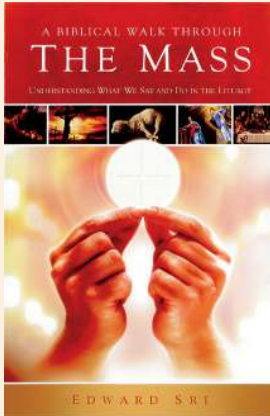
Stations of the Cross: Fridays, 7pm in English, 7:45pm in Spanish, in the church

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

For the Sacred Triduum schedule, please see page 14.

from the pastor



Week 4 Reflection: The Liturgy of the Eucharist, part 1

- Preparation of the Gifts
- Eucharistic 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. Access to Ascension Press materials is good for a year.

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

Like the introductory rites of the Mass (see last week's bulletin), The "offertory" or Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts is much more than a "halftime" in the Mass where people can zone out. This is one of your most active times of participation. Excerpts from the text follow:

The offering of bread and wine in the Mass has deep roots in Scripture. In addition to being used in the Passover of Jesus' day and in the Last Supper, bread and wine were offered up regularly in Israel's sacrificial rites. Consider the symbolism of bread and wine and what it would have meant to offer these gifts to God. In the Bible, bread was not merely a side dish to a meal as it is in most Western societies today. For the ancient Israelites, bread was the most basic type of food, seen as necessary to sustain life. In fact, the expression "to eat bread" describes simply eating in general.

The Israelites were called to give up some of their bread in the regular offerings and sacrifices and in the annual Feast of Weeks ceremony. To part with one's bread would have been a personal sacrifice, expressing the individual's giving of *himself* to God.

Similarly, wine was not just a side beverage but a common part of ancient Israelite meals. It was often consumed with bread and was served at feasts and for guests. Yet like bread, wine was also offered up in Israel's sacrifices. It was one of the first fruits presented to the Temple as a tithe, and it was poured out as a drink offering (a libation) in Israel's thanksgiving and atonement sacrifices. Since there was a close connection between the sacrificial gifts and the individual giver, offering bread and wine symbolized the offering of one's self.

The same is true with the presentation of our gifts in the Mass today. In the bread and wine, we offer back to God the gifts of creation and the result of our labors—or, as the prayer in the Mass calls them, "fruit of the earth and work of human hands." Ultimately, the rite symbolizes our giving of our entire lives to God in the offering of bread and wine. As one commentator noted, "There is no scrap of bread which does not call to mind the hard work of plowing and sowing, the moist brow of the reaper, the weariness of the arms which have threshed and milled the wheat, and the

labor of the baker who kneaded the dough close to the scorching oven." The same could be said of the wine, which comes from the grapes harvested from vines that had been carefully tended throughout the year.

More Than Money

The practice of giving money (which eventually overshadowed the offering of oil, fruit, and other sundry gifts) can be seen in the same light. Putting money in the basket is not simply a contribution to some good cause. It, too, expresses the giving of our lives to God. Our money embodies hours of our lives and hard work, which we now offer to God during Mass in the presentation of the gifts.

Yet some Christians might wonder, "Why does God need our gifts? He sent his Son to die for our sins. Why does he need our meager sacrifices of bread, wine, and money?" Ultimately, God does not need these things. Lacking nothing, God is God with or without our gifts. But we need to offer these gifts. We need to grow in self-giving love, and this is one reason why he invites us to unite our lives to him in this way. These small offerings help us expand our hearts and grow in sacrificial love. Moreover, though they do not count for much on their own, what gives them immense value is the love we put into them and the fact that we unite our meager gifts with Christ's perfect sacrifice. In the presentation of the gifts, it is as if we bring our entire lives and all our little sacrifices (which are symbolized by the gifts) to the hands of Jesus himself (who is represented by the priest). The priest then brings our gifts to the altar, which is the place where Christ's sacrifice is made present, in order to express our union with Christ's offering to the Father.

From the perspective of Jesus' Beatitudes, he receives our poverty, our sorrow and grief, our powerlessness, our thirst for justice and righteousness, as well as our purity of heart, our desire to make peace -- even our persecution for his Name's sake -- and transforms all of it, along with the bread and wine, into the Body of Christ and beatitude (*blessing*). We sing a song at the offertory procession to unite us in this most important and most basic moment of our human work, *liturgia*, turning our very selves over to God to consecrate us, and transform us in the sharing of Holy Communion.

The Lord be with you.

Fr. Dom

Ancient Order of Hibernians St. Patrick's Coloring Contest

Ancient Order of Hibernians St. Patrick's
Coloring Contest

Mr. Popeck, an alumnus of Saint Bernadette Catholic School, invited our students in grades 1 through 4 to take part in the annual St. Patrick's Coloring Contest. The contest is sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians (A.O.H.), Monsignor Bradican division. A.O.H. is the oldest Irish Catholic fraternal organization in America. They support clergy, Catholic schools, and veterans.

Schools throughout the diocese competed in mid-January. As part of the experience, students learned about the life of Saint Patrick, who was born in 386 A.D. He later entered the priesthood in France and

was sent to Ireland to spread Christianity. According to tradition, Saint Patrick used the shamrock, a three-leaf clover, to explain the Holy Trinity: one leaf represents God the Father, the second God the Son, and the third God the Holy Spirit. Though there are three distinct leaves, they form one clover—just as the three Persons of the Trinity are one God.

Thirteen winners were selected and recognized at an award ceremony at St. Mary of Sorrows on 28 February 2026. Saint Bernadette Catholic School took home the most awards. Congratulations to first grader Isabella G. (3rd place), first grader Camila B. (1st place), and second grader Sofia O. (1st place). Each winner received a t-shirt, shamrock plant, and framed copy of her entry. First place winners also received twenty-five dollars. A group photo of all winners will be in the Arlington Herald. Way to go Cardinals!



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.

For questions, please email catholicschools@arlingtondiocese.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.

youth ministry

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



RE Program upcoming schedule

Regular classes: Mar. 17-18, 24-25
SPRED Class: Mar. 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/>.

Live CLUE Night - Saturday, April 11

All 9th-12th graders re invited to join us for a live CLUE night on Saturday, April 11 from 6-8:30pm in the Bradican Room! Just like the board game, visit different rooms, talk to other players, and collect clues. Bring your magnifying glass and notepads! Dinner will be included.

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. 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

Sunday Donut Social

Join us next Sunday, March 22, following the 9am Mass for our Sunday Donut Social! Parents, come enjoy coffee and fellowship while your children make liturgical themed crafts with our volunteers!

Living the liturgical year

4th Sunday of Lent: This week we celebrate two feast days, St. Patrick's Day (Mar. 17) and the Solemnity of St. Joseph (Mar. 19). You can find activities for St. Patrick here: <https://www.reallifeathome.com/5-ways-to-celebrate-st-patricks-day/>; For St. Joseph, here: <https://thekennedyadventures.com/celebrate-saint-joseph/>

the Faith. Our next Faith Discussion will be on Sunday, April 19, 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

CYO Spring Track & Field Meet Registration now open! Grades 3-8

The spring CYO Track & Field Meet will be May 16. Registration is open until April 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 15 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 7:45pm en español en la iglesia.

Confesiones



Nuestro Servicio de Penitencia especial con 15 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

Easter Flower Memorials

Remember someone you love, either living or deceased, with a donation for our beautiful Easter Flowers. Envelopes are available in your envelope packets, in the Church and in the Parish Office.

Parish Offertory

March 8
Offertory \$ 31,460

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 <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/FD-70> 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 4 Increasing School Enrollment in Mali

“We put the child at the heart of our assistance and the parents at the center of the process,” says Oscar Dakouo, monitoring and evaluation officer of the McGovern Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition project for Caritas Mali. The project reaches more than 200 schools.

“From 2012 to date, the results on the ground are impressive,” he says.

The partners make a great contribution to the school. Yamadou Sissoko, the principal of one village school, says the enrollment in his school has increased from 160 in 2012 before the project’s arrival to 376 in 2022—more than double in 10 years.

Since 2012, projects and programs supported by Catholic Relief Services and its partners, through funding from the United States Department of Agriculture, have been working to support education in the Koulikoro and Mopti regions. In some localities, the ratio is one school for every 10 villages.

Since 1999, Catholic Relief Services has been implementing school lunch projects in Mali,

in collaboration with local partners and the Ministry of Education. The McGovern Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition project provides meals to more than 80,000 students in over 260 schools. The project is supported by the United States Department of Agriculture and implemented by Caritas Mali, AMPROD-Sahel, Guamina. In a decade, this program has increased school enrollment in more than 200 schools in the Mopti and Koulikoro regions. To preserve the gains, the partners have involved administrative and community authorities as well as students.

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



Novena to Saint Joseph

“O Saint Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. O Saint Joseph, assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, our Lord; so that having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers.

O Saint Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while he reposes near your heart. Press him in my name and kiss his fine head for me, and ask him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. Saint Joseph, we place our parish and school under your watchful care and protection. Grant us all we ask of you today so that we may grow in holiness and that our works may prosper and grow. We offer this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.”

Join the prayer March 11–19 at parish meetings or in your prayers at home as we entrust our parish and school to good Saint Joseph.

Word Proclaimed and Received

From our Music Director, David Mathers

Lent is marked by several important liturgical events. It begins with Ash Wednesday, when we recall our mortality and are mindful of our sinfulness and need for continual conversion. Near the end of Lent, on Palm Sunday, several of the culminating liturgical events of the season take place. One of these is the proclamation of the account of the Passion of Christ as found in one of the Gospels. This year, we are asking all in the assembly to listen to the word proclaimed and to not say the words of the crowd of Jewish people. This means active listening by all throughout the Passion proclamation. There are a number of reasons why this approach might be considered, and we will use this space over the next couple of weeks to talk about some of those reasons.

Several questions that could be posed are: What is the purpose of reading the scriptures aloud during Mass? What are the members of the Church, the Body of Christ, actually accomplishing when they hear the scripture read aloud? Remembering events of the past? Receiving instruction? When the whole Church recites the words attributed to members of the Jerusalem crowd, what does that activity say about who we are as individuals or as members of God's holy people? What does it say about who the Jewish People are? Or the relationship between the Church and the Jewish People? These questions are about how we relate as the Church to the sacred texts of the Bible, as well as to the larger cultural and religious world around us.

This year, on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, one of our parish lectors will read the words of the crowd during the Passion, rather than the entire assembly. Among several reasons for this change is that when the whole parish community says the words of the Jewish crowds, it tends to make the Passion seem like a reenactment. In our liturgical celebrations, we do remember the events of salvation, such as the Last Supper, that took place in histor-

ical time. To be sure, in our Holy Week liturgies, we trace the events of Jesus' passion and resurrection across the week at the "correct" dates and times. But we are not reenacting these events. They already happened and are not repeated. Instead, when we recall and celebrate these events together as worshipping Church, the spiritual reality of these happenings of long ago is made present and available to us now. They are moments, like windows, when we are allowed access to the eternal moments of the Son of God as Man.

When the Passion account is proclaimed, it's easy to see why it might be understood as a reenactment. We do it at approximately same time that it happened historically; it's attended by a large group of people; the words of the different characters are divided among several readers (historically, three clergy or lay substitutes). In the past, when the Passion was chanted, the choir sometimes sang the words of the crowd. As part of the 20th-century reform of the liturgy, many parishes began encouraging the normally silent congregation to say all the words of the Mass the choir had sung at the old "High Mass" ("And with your spirit," "Glory to God," etc.) It was natural to extend this to what the choir sometimes sang (with great drama!) during the Passion.

It's a subtle thing to negotiate the difference between reenacting an event from the past and remembering it in way that makes the spiritual reality of it present and active. This is true of the Eucharist itself. At Mass, we don't reenact the Last Supper. Rather, as we, the Body of Christ, remember and celebrate it together, the reality of God's grace is made truly present. A mere reenactment does not do that. So one reason to have the words of the crowd be read by a lector is that the Passion seems more like the proclamation and remembrance that it truly is, and less like a reenactment.

Next week, more on what is actually happening whenever God's Word is proclaimed by, in, and among the Church in the liturgy and how the proclamation of the Passion narratives are situated in that liturgical action.

upcoming liturgical observance

“vatican council II through its documents”

7th Catechesis
March 4, 2026

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



II. Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen gentium.*

2. *The Church, a Visible and Spiritual Reality*

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Today, we will continue our exploration of the Conciliar Constitution *Lumen gentium*, a dogmatic Constitution on the Church.

In the first chapter, which is primarily intended to answer the question of what the Church is, she is described as a “complex reality” (no. 8). Now we ask ourselves: what does this complexity consist of? Some might answer that the Church is complex in that she is ‘complicated’ and therefore difficult to explain; others might think that her complexity derives from the fact that she is an institution steeped in two thousand years of history, with characteristics that differ from any other social or religious group. In Latin, however, the word ‘complex’ indicates rather the orderly union of different aspects or dimensions within the same reality. For this reason, *Lumen gentium* can affirm that the Church is a well-organized body, in which the human and divine dimensions coexist without separation and without confusion.

The first dimension is immediately perceptible, in that the Church is a community of men and women who share the joy and struggle of being Christians, with their strengths and weaknesses, proclaiming the Gospel and becoming a sign of the presence of Christ who accompanies us on our journey through life. Yet this aspect – which is also evident in its institutional organization – is not sufficient to describe the true nature of the Church, because it also has a divine dimension. The latter does not consist in an ideal perfection or spiritual superiority of its members, but in the fact that the Church is generated by God’s plan for humanity, realized in Christ.

Therefore, the Church is at the same time an earthly community and the mystical body of Christ, a visible assembly and a spiritual mystery, a reality present in history and a people journeying towards heaven (LG, 8; CCC, 771).

The human and divine dimensions integrate harmoniously, without one overshadowing the other; thus, the Church lives in this paradox. She is a reality that is both human and divine, which welcomes the sinful man and leads him to God.

To illuminate this ecclesial condition, *Lumen gentium* refers to the life of Christ. In fact, those who met Jesus along the roads of Palestine experienced his humanity, his eyes, his hands, the sound of his voice. Those who decided to follow him were moved precisely by the experience of his welcoming gaze, the touch of his blessing hands, his words of liberation and healing. At the same time, however, by following that Man, the disciples opened themselves to an encounter with God. Indeed, Christ’s flesh, his face, his gestures and his words visibly manifest the invisible God.

In the light of the reality of Jesus, we can now return to the Church: when we look at her closely, we discover a human dimension made up of real people, who sometimes manifest the beauty of the Gospel and other times struggle and make mistakes like everyone else. However, it is precisely through her members and her limited earthly aspects that Christ’s presence and his saving action are manifested. As Benedict XVI said, there is no opposition between the Gospel and the institution; on the contrary, the structures of the Church serve precisely for the “realization and concretization of the Gospel in our time” (Address to Swiss Bishops, 9 November 2006). An ideal and pure Church, separated from the earth, does not exist; only the one Church of Christ, embodied in history.

This is what constitutes the holiness of the Church: the fact that Christ dwells in her and continues to give himself through the smallness and fragility of her members. Contemplating this perennial miracle that takes place in her, we understand ‘God’s method’: He makes himself visible through the weakness of creatures, continuing to manifest himself and to act. For this reason, Pope Francis, in *Evangelii gaudium*, exhorts us all to learn “to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other (cf. Ex 3:5)” (no. 169). This enables us still today to build up the Church: not only by organizing its visible forms, but by building that spiritual



edifice which is the body of Christ, through communion and charity among ourselves.

Indeed, charity constantly generates the presence of the Risen One. "If only we could all just let our thoughts dwell on the one thing, charity! It's the only thing, you see, which both surpasses all things, and without which all things are worth nothing, and which draws all things to itself, wherever it may be" (Sermon 354, 6, 6).

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@stbernpar.org.

Tuesday, March 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. No need to RSVP.

Catholic Charities' St. Lucy Food Drive thanks you!

Thank you! for the generous support from our parish of the St. Lucy Food Drive. The total weight was 7,702 pounds of food and \$1,150 in monetary donations, another fantastic food drive from Saint Bernadette and a huge boost for the St. Lucy Food Project.

Diocesan Days of Unplugging

Bishop Burbidge encourages the faithful to fast from non-essential screen time during these "Days of Unplugging." By making a pledge to unplug for some period of time during these days—whether for an hour, part of a day, an entire day,

or even longer—you will be joining those across our diocese who will intentionally disconnect from technology and use this time to deepen their relationship with God, strengthen bonds with family and community, and practice the virtues. Further information concerning the Diocesan Days of Unplugging can be found here: <https://arlingtondiocese.org/unplug>.

Parish pilgrimage to Ireland and Scotland enrollment deadline extended - April 1

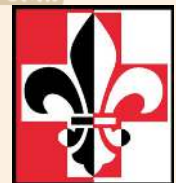
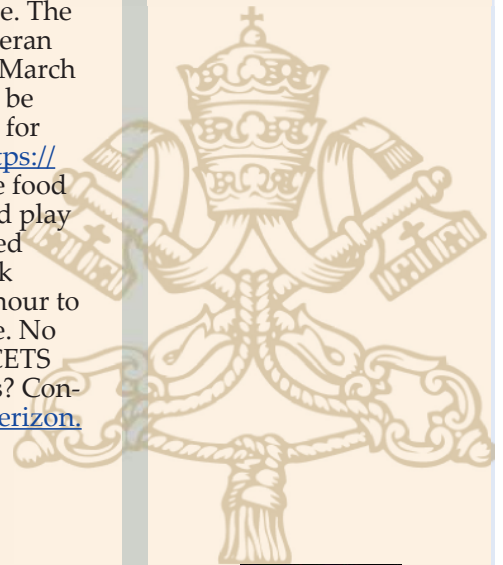
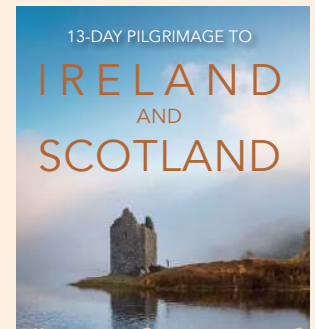
Join Fr. Don for a unique look at the ancient monastic settlements and saints, and the stunning beauty and faith of Ireland and Scotland. We find the most beautiful places for daily Mass and the local pub with the best music each evening. If you have questions, talk to Fr. Don or contact Peter's Way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

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.

Monthly Taizé Prayer Gathering

You are invited to a monthly gathering of prayer in the ecumenical tradition of the Taizé community in France. Join us this Monday from 8:15-9pm in the Church—bringing together Christians of all churches as we realize a bit more each day that we must rely upon God's power to bring about unity among all who follow Jesus.



Holy Week 2026 *Semana Santa*



Holy Thursday

APRIL 2

(No morning Mass; no hay misas por la mañana)

8AM
Office of Readings and Morning Prayer (Liturgy of the Hours)

7:30PM
Mass of the Lord's Supper (bilingual)

The concelebrated Mass of the Lord's Supper commemorates the institution of the Eucharist and the Priesthood by Jesus at the Last Supper. The commandment of love is symbolized by the Mandatum, or foot washing, where Jesus teaches, "As I have done, so must you also do." Parishioners are encouraged to join in the ancient Procession of the Blessed Sacrament to its place of repose in the gymnasium, where adoration will continue until midnight as we accompany Jesus in his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Misa de la Cena del Señor

(Misa Bilingue) La Misa de la Última Cena del Señor, recuerda la institución de la Eucaristía y el Sacerdocio por Jesús. Su mandamiento de Amor está simbolizado por el Mandatum, o la Lavadura de los Pies, cuando Jesús enseña: "Como he hecho, como deben hacer también." Todos son invitados para participar en la procesión del Santísimo Sacramento a su lugar de reposición en el gimnasio, donde adoración va a continuar hasta a medianoche, y acompañamos a Jesús en su agonía en el Jardín de Getsemané.

11:45PM
Night Prayer (Liturgy of the Hours)
Night Prayer will conclude Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel.



Good Friday

APRIL 3

(No morning Mass; no hay misas por la mañana)

8AM
Office of Readings / Morning Prayer (Liturgy of the Hours)

12-3PM
"Tre Ore" – the Seven Last Words of Jesus in meditation and song (limited confessions will be available)

3PM
Stations of the Cross (English)

4PM
Via Crucis (en español)

5PM
La Pasión y Veneración de la Santa Cruz (español)

En la liturgia de Viernes Santo, nos reuniremos en observancia de la muerte salvífica de Cristo, y leeremos el evangelio de su Pasión, oraremos por la iglesia universal, y veneraremos su Cruz en un rito muy antiguo. Recibimos, también, la Eucaristía, preparada en la Misa de Jueves Santo.

La ofrenda hoy es para el mantenimiento de los lugares santos en Tierra Santa.

7:30PM
The Passion and Veneration of the Holy Cross (English)
We assemble in observance of Christ's saving death, by reading the narrative of his Passion, praying for the Universal Church, venerating his Cross in this ancient Rite and receiving Holy Communion which was consecrated on the previous evening at the Mass of the Lord's Supper.

The Good Friday collection assists the maintenance of the Shrines in the Holy Land.



Holy Saturday

APRIL 4

(No 8am or 5pm Mass; no hay misas a las 8am ni 5pm)

8AM
Office of Readings and Morning Prayer (Liturgy of the Hours)

10AM Easter Foods Blessing

8PM
The Vigil of the Resurrection of the Lord (bilingual)

What Sunday is to the week, Easter Sunday is to the year. This holiest of nights we celebrate the victory over death and promise of eternal life given to us by Jesus Christ in his resurrection from the dead. The Liturgy includes the Service of Light, the Vigil of Readings and Psalms, the Celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation for those who have prepared all year for initiation in the Catholic Church, and Liturgy of the Eucharist. Please note the unusual time that we begin: it marks the end of twilight and the beginning of Easter Sunday.

La Vigilia

Esta noche, la más santa, celebramos la victoria sobre la muerte y el promesa de la vida eterna dado a nosotros por Cristo en su resurrección de la muerte. La liturgia incluye el Servicio de la Luz, la Vigilia de las Lecturas y Salmos, la Celebración de los Sacramentos de la Iniciación, el Bautismo y la Confirmación para los que han preparado todo el año para ser recibidos por la iglesia Católica, y la Liturgia de la Eucaristía.

Easter Sunday

APRIL 5

7, 9, AND 11AM, AND 1PM (SPANISH)
The Resurrection of the Lord
Please note: there will be NO 5PM Mass on Easter Sunday!



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.

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 pro-

grams fill quickly. Visit www.bishopireton.org or scan the QR code at right.

Paul VI Production of The Sound of Music

The PVI Players are proud to present The Sound of Music, one of the most beloved musicals of all time.

Featuring cherished songs and a powerful story of faith, family, and resilience, this production promises to be a highlight of the spring season. Purchase tickets today! [\[https://cur8.com/40072/project/137212\]](https://cur8.com/40072/project/137212)

Saturday, March 21 at 7pm
Sunday, March 22 at 2pm
Friday, March 27 at 7pm
Saturday, March 28 at 7pm

St. Paul VI Catholic High School
42341 Braddock Road, Chantilly, VA 20152
www.paulvi.net/fine-arts



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

16 MONDAY

7am † Meanie Sargeant
9am* † Paola Merino
Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54

17 TUESDAY

7am † Terrence & Martha Arndt
9am* † Travis Lee Washburn
Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16

18 WEDNESDAY

7am † Meanie Sargeant
9am* † Lidia Consuelo de Campodonico
Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30

19 THURSDAY

7am † Meanie Sargeant
9am* † Pio Amaguana
2 Sm 7:4-16/Rom 4:13-18, 22/Mt 1:16-24

20 FRIDAY

7am Luke Morris
9am* † Jerry Rathbone
10am** † Sally Tindal
Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

21 SATURDAY

8am † Doris Irene Johnson
Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53
5pm* For the parish

22 SUNDAY

7am † Terrence Arndt
9am* † Paul Shinol
11am † Roger Stroh
1pm* † Marta Mendez
5pm † Rita Bisgrove
Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45

* live-streamed Masses

** Mass at Greenspring Chapel

Masses next weekend

Mar 21	5pm	Fr. Jeb
Mar 22	7am	Fr. Cedric
	9am	Fr. Don
	11am	Fr. James
	1pm	Fr. Jeb
	5pm	Fr. Don

Parish prayer list

John Yost, Wiofto Helenius, Robert Holzhauser, Adolfo Blandon, Esperanza Ayala, Gloria Tortoriello, Bob Atwell, Charles Roby, Mike Harrison, Douglas Lethert, Kathleen Murray, Walter Ferony

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.

Easter Flower Memorials

Remember someone you love, either living or deceased, with a donation for our beautiful Easter Flowers. Envelopes are available in your envelope packets, in the Church and in the Parish Office.



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