

*By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, you Son handed himself over to death. 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.*

# Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2026



Raising of Lazarus, Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1896  
Musée d'Orsay Paris



**SAINT BERNADETTE**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

# Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2026

# welcome



SUNDAY MASS	Saturday Vigil in church 5pm (live-streaming) Sunday 7am, 9am, 11am, 1pm (Spanish), 5pm
DAILY MASS	Mon.-Fri., 7 & 9am (live-streaming); Sat., 8am (live-streaming) Holy Days of Obligation, as announced
LIVE-STREAMING	Monday-Friday, 9am; Saturday, 8am; Vigil Sat., 5pm and Sundays 9 & 11am
DEVOTIONS	Adoration & Benediction, Fridays, 7-8pm (church) Rosary after 9am weekdays/8am Saturday Masses in church Taizé Prayer Service, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mondays, 8-8:45pm (church)
CONFESSION	Sat., 3:30-4:30pm, or by appointment. English and Spanish Confessions
PARISH OFFICE	703-451-8576, fax 703-269-1121 office@stbermpar.org Monday-Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm
	Pastor, Fr. Don Rooney <a href="mailto:frdonrooney@stbermpar.org">frdonrooney@stbermpar.org</a> Fr. Jeb Donelan <a href="mailto:frjebdonelan@stbermpar.org">frjebdonelan@stbermpar.org</a> Fr. James Waalkes <a href="mailto:frjameswaalkes@stbermpar.org">frjameswaalkes@stbermpar.org</a> Deacon Orlando Caicedo
	Pastoral Associate, Rick Caporali <a href="mailto:rcaporali@stbermpar.org">rcaporali@stbermpar.org</a> Business Manager, Linda Patterson <a href="mailto:lpatterson@stbermpar.org">lpatterson@stbermpar.org</a> Music Director, David Mathers <a href="mailto:dmathers@stbermpar.org">dmathers@stbermpar.org</a> Bookkeeper/Compliance (OPCYP), Zory Conde, <a href="mailto:zconde@stbermpar.org">zconde@stbermpar.org</a> Executive Assistant, Jean Corday <a href="mailto:jcorday@stbermpar.org">jcorday@stbermpar.org</a> Executive Assistant, Evelyn Vargas, <a href="mailto:evargas@stbermpar.org">evargas@stbermpar.org</a> Secretary, Janet Chávez-España
SAINT BERNADETTE SCHOOL	703-451-8696, fax 269-1121 Principal, Dr. Kathleen Burgess <a href="mailto:school@stbermpar.org">school@stbermpar.org</a> Assistant Principal, Jennifer Spencer Registrar, Heidi Thomes
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	703-451-8576 Director, Lynn Jones <a href="mailto:Ljones@stbermpar.org">Ljones@stbermpar.org</a> Coordinator of Religious Education, Arlyn Agasen, <a href="mailto:aagasen@stbermpar.org">aagasen@stbermpar.org</a> Administrative Assistant, Victor Mendez <a href="mailto:vmendez@stbermpar.org">vmendez@stbermpar.org</a>
YOUTH MINISTRY	703-451-8576 Director, Grace Mee <a href="mailto:gme@stbermpar.org">gme@stbermpar.org</a> Assistant Director, J.P. McLaughlin, <a href="mailto:jpmclaughlin@stbermpar.org">jpmclaughlin@stbermpar.org</a>
BAPTISMS	Saturday, 10am, 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturdays in English; 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday in Spanish. Parish registration is encouraged for parents. Class attendance is required. Please contact the parish office to schedule at least four weeks in advance.
All required paperwork must be submitted before a baptism may be scheduled.	
WEDDINGS	Sat., 12 & 2pm. Parish registration required somewhere; contact a priest at least six months in advance of desired date.
JOIN US	You are welcome! Registration forms are available in the church vestibule, office, or online <a href="http://www.stbermpar.org">www.stbermpar.org</a> .
	Articles for the bulletin must be submitted to the parish office no later than first thing Friday morning, ten days before publication date. <a href="mailto:bulletin@stbermpar.org">bulletin@stbermpar.org</a> .

# calendar

## march

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

## april

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, church  
• EASTER VIGIL OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD, 8pm

5 EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD  
• Masses 7am, 9am, 11am, 1pm (Spanish). NO 5pm Mass

6 Monday within the Octave of Easter  
• Parish Offices are closed

7 Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

8 Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

9 Thursday within the Octave of Easter

10 Friday within the Octave of Easter  
• Adoration, 7-8pm, church

11 Saturday within the Octave of Easter  
• Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass

12 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Divine Mercy)  
• Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 1pm  
• Divine Mercy Chaplet, 3pm, church

## announcements

We are 81% 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](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA). Please indicate you are a parishioner here and it will count toward our parish goal of \$582,000.

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. The deadline is March 31.

Adults who, for whatever reason, are catechized but have never received the sacrament of Confirmation are invited to contact the office. Fr. Don will be planning a series of classes during the Easter Season in preparation for Confirmation with Bishop Burbidge on Pentecost Sunday.

All Saints Church Multi-Car Raffle is still in full swing. Four vehicles will be raffled along with a \$20,000 cash drawing, plus other cash drawings. The final deadline for ticket returns is April 21st. The drawings begin at 1:00pm Saturday, April 25th at All Saints Parish in Manassas. Please return all tickets by mail directly to All Saints in the envelope provided.

### 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

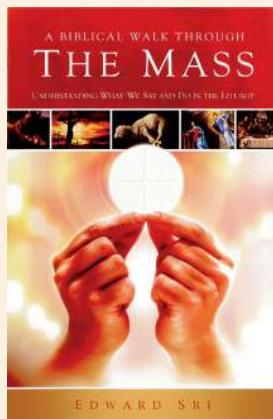
**Lent Confessions:** Wednesdays, 6:30-8pm, Saturdays, 3:30-4:30pm (as usual). *Please plan confessions early in the season to avoid running out of time.*

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

**Please note: The Easter Vigil will begin this year at 8pm.**

For the Sacred Triduum schedule, please see page 16.

## from the pastor



### Week 4 Reflection: The Liturgy of the Eucharist, part 2 and the Concluding Rites

- Communion Rite
  - Lord's Prayer
  - Rite of Peace
  - Fraction and Lamb of God
  - Holy Communion
  - Prayer after Communion
- Concluding Rites
  - Announcements
  - Greeting and Blessing
  - Sending Forth

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,

Last week I spent my entire article on what I think is the most important aspect of your participation at Mass, and perhaps the most overlooked. It is the offering of the gifts to be consecrated. It is bread and wine, and it is also you, your hearts, your joys and sorrows, your successes and failures, your hopes and dreams. All of it is offered: "Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice *and yours* may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father."

All that follows is built on the integrity of this offering of self, and it needs to be a firm foundation.

The gifts of bread and wine are blessed, based on the *barakoth* blessing prayers of the Passover meal. We join the heavenly chorus found in scripture of the seraphim angels singing "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts." Then we join the voices of the people as Jesus enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest." The Eucharistic Prayer begins.

Two important elements need to be highlighted to understand the Eucharistic Prayer. The first is *epiclesis* (Greek for "calling upon"); the second is *anamnesis* (Greek for "memorial," as in the sense of active remembering, bringing a past reality to the present moment).

If you don't know about these, you may miss the point of the Eucharistic Prayer.

The priest calls the power of the Holy Spirit upon the gifts of bread and wine, they may become the Body and Blood of our Savior. It is signified by a "laying on of hands," or the priest holding his hands over the gifts. This gesture is found in most sacraments as signs of blessing for marriage, receiving the Holy Spirit at Confirmation, even the gesture of the priest during the words of absolution during Reconciliation. This epiclesis is the beginning of the consecration of the gifts.

Most people consider the "consecration" to be the words of institution ("this is my Body; this is my Blood to be poured out for the forgiveness of sins") and the elevation of the host and cup. I had a liturgy teacher in the seminary who had a lot to say about this. He would ask, "When does the consecration end?" "With one of the three memorial acclamations," someone would say who

wasn't paying attention the last time he asked the question. "No!" he would say. "Jesus became bread and wine for a reason, not a shiny object we would just treasure and admire. He must be consumed! He is food! Consecration doesn't end until the last person in the church has received the Eucharist." It is for you all of this happens, not just so that it happens.

As we lift up hearts to actively be present in the moment of this Eucharistic miracle, anamnesis is necessary. This is when your power of the soul, your memory (the other powers are intellect and free will) *acts*. Through the words of institution, the instrumentality of the priest to provide the Mystery of faith, and your ability to actively recall the saving power of this sacrifice, together we make present again the once-and-for-all sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary. He is not re-crucified as many people have mistakenly accused the Church of doing. This moment is when we are brought into this eternal moment of the Son of God (not limited to time as if only a man) and are present to him, and he to us. Sacraments are like portals which open the veil between time and eternity and we are suddenly, intimately joined.

The priest announces this moment: "The Mystery of faith." In our active recalling, we respond with one of three options: "When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again."

There is a second epiclesis that is not obviously gestured as in the past, but is still present in all Eucharistic Prayers (except #1, which doesn't mention the Holy Spirit at all). The priest prays that the reception of this one Body and one cup will gather us all as one in Christ. (I extend my hands in my imagination when I pray these words.)

Once this is done and we proclaim our "Great Amen" at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer (a nice symmetry with the Creed in the Liturgy of the Word), the Lord's Prayer follows (Jesus' own words), peace is made (If you are offering your gift at the altar and remember that your brother has something against you, first go and be reconciled with him, then come and offer your gift..."), the bread is broken and distributed. You have become what you receive, and now are sent to share what you have found with the world.

The Lord be with you. *Fr. Dom*

## Our Cardinals soar in Academic Decathlon!

Our Cardinals Soar in Academic Decathlon!

Twenty of our talented 7th- and 8th-graders have been diligently preparing since September, diving deep into extra reading and study across Religion, Math, Science, Fine Arts, Social Studies, and English—plus sharpening their puzzle-solving skills.

We are incredibly proud of how our Cardinals performed at the National Academic Junior High Decathlon on Saturday, March 7. Three schools competed in a full day of challenging tests, and our students shone brightly!

### Flying Cardinals - 8th-grade team

- Overall: 1st Place
- Logic Quiz: 1st Place
- Super Quiz: 3rd Place
- Audrey W. – Current Events: 1st Place
- Ava M. – English: 1st Place
- Gabe G. – Math: 2nd Place
- Sydney H. – Religion: 1st Place
- Elly B. – Science: 1st Place

### Saint Cardinals - 7th-grade team

- Overall: 3rd Place
- Logic Quiz: 3rd Place
- Super Quiz: 2nd Place
- Ellie F. – English: 3rd Place
- Kate S. – Fine Arts: 3rd Place
- Lael B. – Religion: 2nd Place
- Jack O'D. – Science: 2nd Place
- Oke M. – Social Studies: 3rd Place

Way to go, Cardinals—your hard work and dedication truly paid off!

## Cardinals raise their voices in sacred song

Also on Saturday, March 7, eight of our young singers joined hundreds of peers from across the Mid-Atlantic region at the 2026 Pueri Cantores Mid-Atlantic Catholic Youth Choral Festival & Mass. Accompanied by Mr. Mathers, they united as one large combined choir to sing beautiful sacred music.

The event took place at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., with a

full day of rehearsals leading to a Choral Prelude at 3:45pm and the Festival Mass at 4:30pm, celebrated by His Eminence Wilton Cardinal Gregory. Guest conductor Christopher Berry led the youth in this joyful celebration of faith through music. Pueri Cantores, the national student choral organization of the Catholic Church, invites parish and school treble and mixed-voice choirs (grades 4-12) to experiences like this, fostering community, prayer, and the beauty of sacred song.

Congratulations to our amazing Cardinals—both scholars and singers. We thank God for your gifts and are grateful for the ways you glorify God through your minds and voices.

cardinal  
corner



FORMING  
HEARTS  
& MINDS  
= CHRIST



# religious education

## Weekly update

Please contact Lynn Jones, Director of Religious Education, at 703-451-8576, ext 136; Arlyn Agasen, ext 132, or Victor Mendez, Administrative Assistant, at ext 138.

# youth ministry

Email our director of youth ministry, Grace Mee at [gmee@stbermpar.org](mailto:gmee@stbermpar.org), or our assistant director JP McLaughlin at [jpmclaughlin@stbermpar.org](mailto:jpmclaughlin@stbermpar.org) with any questions you may have.



## RE Program upcoming schedule

Sunday Donut Social: Mar. 22, Apr. 26  
Regular classes: Mar. 24-25, Apr. 14-15, 21-22  
28-29. (No classes Mar. 31-Apr. 1, Apr. 7-8)  
SPRED Class: Apr. 11, 25

## Volunteers for 2025-2026

We are still in need of volunteers (assistant catechists, teen catechists, and hall monitors). Please contact the Religious Education Office or fill out the Volunteer Form on the website <https://stbermpar.org/religious-education-volunteers/>.

## Sunday Donut Social

Join us this 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!

## Live CLUE Night - Saturday, April 11

All 9th-12th graders are 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 - Apr. 1

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

## Living the liturgical year

This Sunday marks the 5th Sunday of Lent. We see this in this week's Gospel reading of raising Lazarus from the dead, demonstrating His power over life and death and revealing God's promise of eternal life.

This week we also celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, nine months before the birth of Jesus. It is when the Archangel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary that she will be the mother of Jesus Christ. Watch the video at this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0W5Fm0J1UI>. Learn how to say the Angelus. Another craft activity you can do with your kids: <https://www.catholicinspired.com/post/annunciation-prayer-craft-easy-color-create>

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@stbermpar.org](mailto:jpmclaughlin@stbermpar.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](mailto:gvsoriano@gmail.com)) or Catherine Luby ([catherineeluby@gmail.com](mailto:catherineeluby@gmail.com))

## Youth Summer Theatre Program save-the-dates

Times and show to be announced soon!

Auditions: May 14-15

Callbacks: May 17

Parent Meeting: May 21

Show Dates: July 23, 24, 25

Strike: July 26

## 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 vestibule, and in the parish office. Please submit your request envelopes no later than March 31. Memorials will be listed in the April 12 bulletin.

## Lent

# Lent/Cuaresma 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.*

## 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 planea 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. *Planea venir más temprano en la temporada para no encontrar oportunidades limitadas más adelante.*

## Parish Offertory

March 15

Offertory \$ 27,945  
Catholic Relief Services 4,895

*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.*

# update on parish life center

## Outlining next steps

Our monthly Office of Planning, Construction and Finance meeting with the Diocese will take place next week. The agenda includes reviewing the bid package that has been prepared and distributed to the General Contractors being considered for the project. We will also establish a timeline for pricing analysis and discuss scheduling the review by the diocesan Building Commission, which is tentatively planned for mid-June.

The current intended construction budget is estimated at \$7.5 million, not including soft costs. We remain committed to working closely with the Diocese to move the project forward by completing the construction documents so that we can begin the permit process, subject to final financial approval.

We understand that several families have expressed skepticism regarding the project. That is understandable, and we want to assure you that we are doing our part to be good stewards of your generosity. Our team is working diligently behind the scenes to deliver the best possible outcome for the parish while staying within a responsible construction budget that will not burden the parish in the future.

## Update on parish financials

Please find the following update on our parish financials and Parish Center Capital Campaigns - Funds Available as of March 1, 2026 (most recent financials)

### Capital Campaign I (3-year repayment)

• Goal:	\$ 3,000,000
• Total Pledged:	\$ 3,392,763
• Total Paid:	\$ 3,279,588
• Pledge Balance:	\$126,311

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

• Goal:	\$ 3,000,000
• Total Pledged:	\$ 2,897,413
• Total Paid:	\$ 2,216,413
• Pledge Balance:	\$ 680,590
• Remaining to Goal:	\$102,587

At the same time, we must carefully consider how the addition of approximately 14,000 square feet of new space will be maintained and supported over time. This is one reason for the increased offertory program. These considerations must be balanced with the realities of operating our existing 85,000-square-foot complex and school. Every decision is made with the broader impact on our parish community in mind. We must continue to demonstrate to the Diocese and more importantly our parish community that we can care for what we have, and plan responsibly for what we will build and do so while steadily increasing our weekly offertory.

We are moving forward as quickly and responsibly as possible. Continued participation in our Campaign and support from our parish community will help us maintain momentum. We ask that you please review our current progress on both campaigns, with particular attention to Campaign II. If you have postponed or not yet begun to fulfill your pledge, we ask that you reconsider and join us in our effort.

We are happy to answer any questions as best we can and appreciate your continued engagement and support.

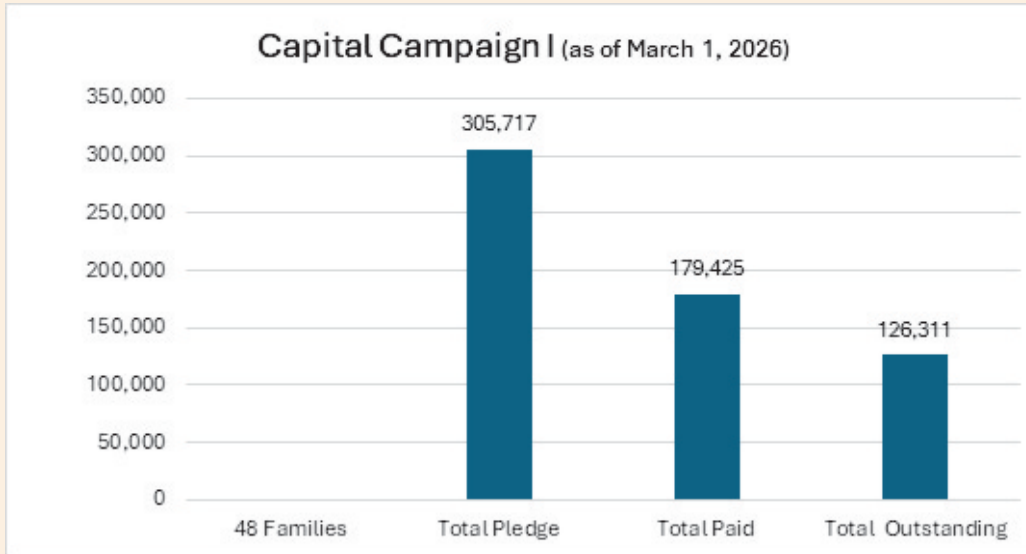
### Operating Funds

[• Operating Account:	\$ 682,933]
• DIAL Operating Unrestricted Savings Account:	\$ 2,406,620
• Extraordinary Dividend:	\$ 482,519
• Capital Campaign:	\$ 5,023,715

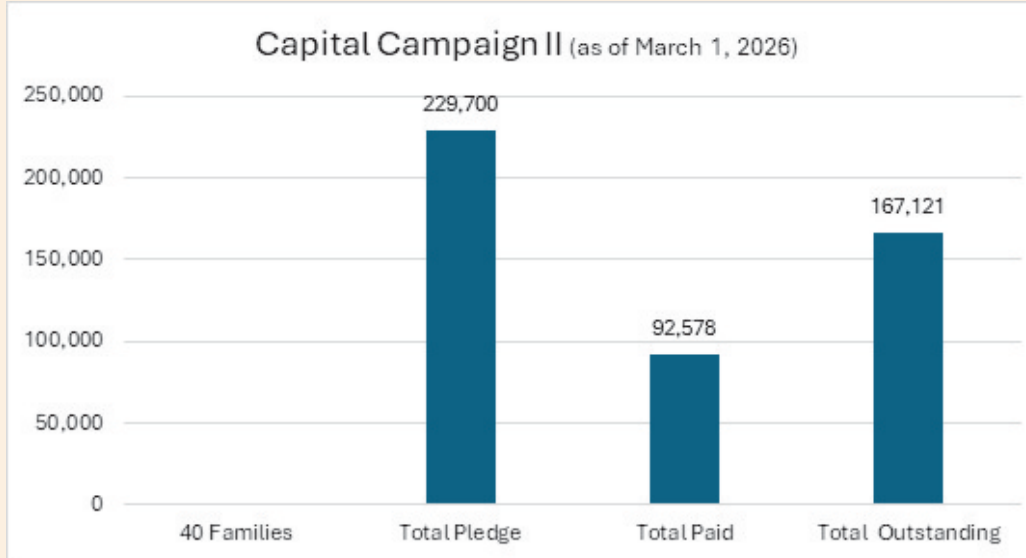
Total Funds Available for Construction: \$ 7,912,854

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

## Capital Campaign I and II outstanding pledges



The chart above represents the amount of outstanding Capital Campaign I contributions from our first campaign with unpaid pledges over \$ 500 through March 1, 2026, and have no record of capital campaign contributions since 2023.



The chart above represents the amount of outstanding Capital Campaign II contributions from our second campaign with unpaid pledges over \$ 500 through March 1, 2026, and have no record of capital campaign contributions since 2023.

Twenty-Eight families have made pledges of \$ 91,300 who have not yet begun fulfilling their pledge.

## Capital Campaign I progress as of March 1, 2026



## Capital Campaign I - Pledge Statistics

TOTAL PLEDGES			
\$2,500 and up	300	Total Families	4,394
1,000	137	Goal:	3,000,000
500	67	Total Pledged:	3,392,763
250	35	Pledge balance to goal:	0
75	40	Total Pledges:	618
50	2	Pledges fully paid: (3,279,588)	547
25	20	Pledges outstanding: (51 are active)	*71
10	4	Pledge amount outstanding:	126,311
		Average pledge:	\$5,489
		*20 of the 71 pledges outstanding have not yet become active in Capital Campaign I	\$4,460

## Capital Campaign II progress as of March 1, 2026



## Capital Campaign II - Pledge Statistics

TOTAL PLEDGES		Total Families	4,394
\$2,500 and up	264	Goal:	3,000,000
1,000	135	Total Pledged:	2,897,413
500	48	Pledge balance to goal:	102,587
250	30	Pledges:	603
75	0	Pledges fully paid: (2,216,413)	308
50	13	Pledges outstanding: (277 are active)	*295
25	10	Pledge amount outstanding:	680,590
10	26	Average pledge:	\$4,804

318 families participated in both Campaigns  
 307 families participated in Campaign I only  
 292 families participated in Campaign II only

90 families participating only in Campaign II  
 have not yet begun repayment of their pledge,  
 representing \$207,444.

\*28 of the 295 families participating in both  
 Campaigns have not begun repayment of their  
 pledge, representing \$91,300.



## ideas for Lent

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

**To donate please visit [crsricebowl.org](http://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 5 - Community Restores Water Source in Zimbabwe

In 2022, Catholic Relief Services Zimbabwe sourced funds for the rehabilitation of St. Boniface Dam. In partnership with the Caritas Diocese of Chinhoyi and the Government of Zimbabwe, CRS launched the Zim Ecosystems Services Project. The project centers on the restoration of the dam and surrounding ecosystem to increase the availability of water and other productive assets such as trees, livestock, gardens and fish farming for nearby communities. Community members

use it for both personal consumption and income generation through drip irrigation for agricultural plots, fruit tree production, animal fodder production and aquaculture. Now that the dam has been rehabilitated, people living near the reservoir once again have a reliable source of water.

"Before the rehabilitation, the dam was leaking due to some cracks in the wall. Because of the leakage, the reservoir quickly dried up, especially during the summer season. Last year it dried up and we had to dig shallow wells in the dry reservoir. Now that the dam rehabilitation has been completed, a lot has changed. There is enough water for eight villages and neighboring schools. I am so happy that people have enough water for their needs," says Renious Chademana with a huge smile.

While repairing the dam is central to the success of the project, CRS and Caritas Chinhoyi have included an important community-based approach to build relationships and connections between community members. The purposeful inclusion of women in decision-making and reservoir management was built into the project and incorporated into long-term community plans. The program includes gender champions, smart couples, and positive masculinity training to reduce Gender Based Violence at the family, community and systems levels. For women like Nyasha Kunguma, a mother of five from Chabumhe Village, the project has been a blessing, as she can now access water closer to home.

To learn more about this program of how to support CRS initiatives worldwide, please visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org).

### Word Proclaimed and Received, part 2

*From our Music Director, David Mathers*

This year, on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, the words of the crowd during the proclamation of the Passion will be spoken by one of our parish lectors, rather than the entire assembly. In last week's bulletin, we spoke about how the proclamation of the Passion, just like the entire liturgy, is not a reenactment. What exactly is it, then?

Every Sunday, the first part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word, presents us with several passages of Sacred Scripture. On the surface level, these are proclaimed so that we all can experience the Bible, and those of us who are members of the assembly receive this proclamation. But as baptized Christians, the scriptures are already ours! They are our story. So, we don't really receive them as if they are new to us. They are already our own story as the People of God. Of course, while we are always working on our knowledge of the Bible, and hearing it at Mass helps, what's really going on is that the entire church, all of us in the assembly included, is proclaiming the scripture to the world and celebrating it. Proclaiming the Sacred Scripture at Mass is an act of praise and



celebration for all that God has done for us as baptized Christians.

Before Vatican II when the Mass was in Latin, there were books called hand missals that provided everyone the entire text of the Mass in Latin with an English translation on the facing pages. Pope Pius XII, in a revolutionary move in 1943, wrote an encyclical encouraging Catholics to read the Bible. Forward thinking, educated Catholics naturally were enthusiastic to follow Mass directly, including the readings, using their hand missals, especially since the Mass was usually completely silent and always in Latin. Today, even with the Mass in English and the readings read aloud, those who really want to participate in the Mass understandably follow the readings in the missalette or hymnal that the parish provides.

However, this tends to turn the Liturgy of the Word into a Bible class, where we are learning something new about the Bible, rather than a celebration of our own story as the People of God. If you are accustomed to following along the text of the readings as they are read, try just listening for a few weeks. It will take a while to get used to the different dynamic you experience, and you may wish to look at the readings either earlier in the week or before Mass starts. It will free you up to feel like you are part of the proclamation rather than being the recipient of instruction.

After all, you are the Church, the people of God and this is your story! Further, the Word of God is mediated not by ink and paper but by human beings. This puts a great responsibility on our lectors, of course, but they are up to the challenge, so give it a try! It will change how you experience the proclamation of the Passion on Palm Sunday and Good Friday; rather than keeping track of when your next line is coming as the crowd, you will experience the proclamation in its integrity.

### *The Proclamation of the Passion on Palm Sunday and Good Friday*

In our liturgical celebrations we remember events that took place in time, especially the events surrounding the self-offering of Jesus: his entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, the Passion, and his resurrection and ascension. In our Holy Week liturgies we trace these events as if they were happening again today, even distributing them across the week at the "correct" date and time. But our recalling of these happenings, together as worshipping Church, mystically makes these saving realities present to us – able to effect our salvation here and now! And these events made present now is what we are really thanking God for in our worship.

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: we, the Body of Christ, recall it together, and the reality of God's grace is thus made truly present.

When the New Testament Passion account is proclaimed, it's easy to see why it might be understood as a reenactment. We do it at the same time it happened historically; it's attended by a large group of people; it's been traditional to divide the "lines" of the different characters among several people like a play; even the choir sometimes sings the words of the crowd, just like a Greek chorus. As part of the 20th-century reform of the liturgy, many parishes (and publishing companies) began encouraging the congregation to say or sing everything the choir had sung at the old "High Mass." That included the crowd parts of the Passion. It's been a profound experience to do that, as we all know. And many of us have identified our own sinfulness, already on our mind during Lent, with the failure of many Jews of Jesus' day to recognize him as the Messiah.

In more recent years we have come to recognize several things: First, the proclamation of the Passion is not a reenactment, but the proclamation of the Gospel message. It is not a "play." The assembled body of Christians participates in both proclaiming this message and in receiving it. This is what makes the Gospel message spiritually active and present on Palm Sunday just like every Sunday. Second, in taking part in this proclamation, it is always appropriate to listen to the readings without following along in the missalette; but this is impossible if the congregation is expected to recite the lines of the crowd. Third, some people would simply prefer not to say the words of the crowd (or follow along line by line in the missalette) and, (unlike with, say, the Creed) they are not liturgically required to do so.

Further, when the congregation reads the part of the Jewish crowd, we tend to associate the motivations that the Gospel author ascribes to the Jews to the Christians assembled for worship. When we Christians all say as a group, "Crucify him!" it is hard to know, in the context of the Mass, what that really means. If we all say "His blood be upon us and upon our children!" do we really mean that? When we say these things it becomes about us rather than the Gospel message.

Finally, when the entire assembly says these words, the idea may arise that all the Jews were, or even are, responsible for the death of Jesus. Because the Church clearly teaches that that is not the case, it's probably wise to avoid any liturgical practice that could cause confusion or inspire hatred in this regard. For all these reasons we again this year will have one of our parish lectors read the words of the crowd during the Passion.

# “vatican council II through its documents”

8th Catechesis  
March 11, 2026

Pope Leo, in his General Audiences on Wednesdays, is giving 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!

Continuing in our reflection on the Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen gentium* (LG), today we will look at the second chapter, dedicated to the People of God.

God, who created the world and humanity, and who wishes to save every man, carries out his work of salvation in history, choosing a real people and dwelling among them. For this reason, he calls Abraham and promises him descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore (cf. *Gen* 22:17-18). With Abraham’s children, after freeing them from slavery, God makes a covenant with them, accompanies them, cares for them, and gathers them together whenever they stray. Therefore, the identity of this people is given by God’s action and by faith in him. They are called to become a light for other nations, like a beacon that will draw all peoples, the whole of humanity, to itself (cf. *Is* 2:1-5).

The Council affirms that “All these things, however, were done by way of preparation and as a figure of that new and perfect covenant, which was to be ratified in Christ, and of that fuller revelation which was to be given through the Word of God himself made flesh” (LG, 9). Indeed, it is Christ who, in giving his Body and his Blood, unites this people in himself and in a definitive way. It is a people now made up of members of every nation; it is united by faith in him, by adherence to him, by living the same life as him, animated by the Spirit of the Risen One. This is the Church: the people of God who draw their existence from the body of Christ [1] and who are themselves the body of Christ; [2] not a people like any other, but the People of God, called together by him and made up of women and men from all the peoples of the earth. Its unifying principle is not a language, a culture, an ethnicity, but faith in Christ: the Church is therefore – according to a splendid expression of the Council – the

assembly of “all those who in faith look upon Jesus” (LG, 9).

It is a messianic people, precisely because it has Christ, the Messiah, as its head. Those who belong to it do not pride themselves on merits or titles, but only on the gift of being, in Christ and through him, daughters and sons of God. Above any task or function, therefore, what really matters in the Church is to be grafted onto Christ, to be children of God by grace. This is also the only honorary title we should seek as Christians. We are in the Church in order to receive life from the Father unceasingly and to live as his children and brothers and sisters among ourselves. Consequently, the law that animates relationships in the Church is love, as we receive and experience it in Jesus; and her goal is the Kingdom of God, towards which she walks together with all humanity.

Unified in Christ, Lord and Savior of every man and woman, the Church can never turn inwards on herself, but is open to everyone and is for everyone. If believers in Christ belong to it, the Council reminds us that “All men are called to belong to the new people of God. Wherefore this people, remaining one and unique, must extend to the whole world and to all ages, so that the intention of God’s will may be fulfilled, who in the beginning created human nature as one and wants to gather together his children who were scattered” (LG, 13). Even those who have not yet received the Gospel are therefore, in some way, oriented towards the people of God, and the Church, cooperating in Christ’s mission, is called upon to spread the Gospel everywhere and to everyone (cf. LG 17), so that every person may enter into contact with Christ. This means that in the Church there is, and there must be, a place for everyone, and that every Christian is called to proclaim the Gospel and bear witness in every environment in which he or she lives and works. Thus, this people shows its catholicity, welcoming the wealth and resources of different cultures and, at the same time, offering them the newness of the Gospel to purify them and to raise them up (cf. LG, 13).

In this regard, the Church is one but includes everyone. A great theologian described it thus: “The unique Ark of



Salvation must welcome all human diversity into its vast nave. The only banquet hall, the food it distributes is drawn from all of creation. The seamless garment of Christ, it is also – and it is the same thing – the garment of Joseph, with its many colors.” [3]

It is a great sign of hope – especially in our times, traversed by so many conflicts and wars – to know that the Church is a people in which women and men of different nationalities, languages and cultures live together in faith: it is a sign placed in the very heart of humanity, a reminder and prophecy of that unity and peace to which God the Father calls all his children.

[1] Cf. J. Ratzinger, *The New People of God*, Brescia 1992, 97.

[2] Cf. Y. M.-J. Congar, *A Messianic People*, Brescia 1976, 75.

[3] Cf. H. de Lubac, *Catholicism: A study of dogma in relation to the corporate destiny of mankind* (Catholicisme: Les aspects sociaux du dogme).

## Catholic Women’s Group upcoming events

Come and enjoy warm fellowship and great food. For more information, please email us at [women@stbernapar.org](mailto:women@stbernapar.org).

Tuesday, April 7 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.

## 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

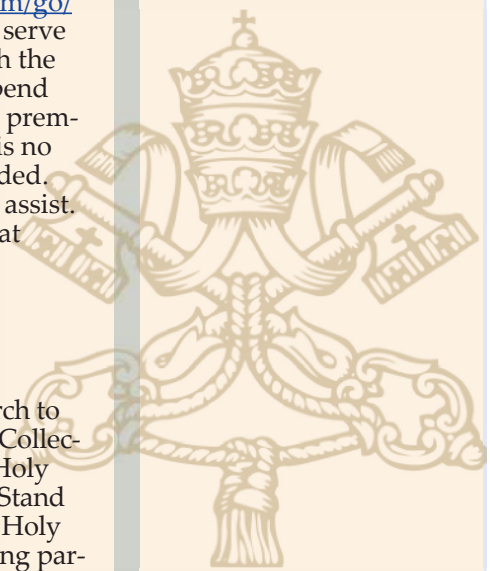
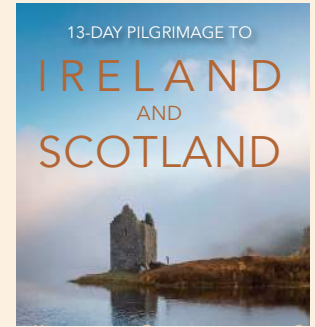
Join Fr. Don for a unique look at the ancient monastic settlements and saints, and the stunning beauty and faith of Ireland and Scotland. We find the most beautiful places for daily Mass and the local pub with the best music each evening. If you have questions, talk to Fr. Don or contact Peter’s Way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

## Pontifical Good Friday Collection

Pope Leo has asked the global Church to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land and maintains the holy sites. Stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land as a witness of peace supporting parishes and schools, maintaining Christian shrines and caring for refugees there. It will be the only collection on Good Friday. If you will be out of town for the holiday, please give to this worthy cause next weekend, Palm Sunday.



# 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 Bilingüe) 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](mailto: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](http://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>]

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](http://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](mailto: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

#### 23 MONDAY

7am † Jerome Wilkowski  
9am\* Flournoy Family  
Dn 13:41c-62/Jn 8:1-11

#### 24 TUESDAY

7am † Jan Usinger Sanchez  
9am\* Ivonne Blanco  
Nm 21:4-9/Jn 8:21-30

#### 25 WEDNESDAY

7am Russell Cykoski  
9am\* † Stephen Schwendenmann  
Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

#### 26 THURSDAY

7am † Alfredo & Cecilia Canton  
9am\* † Helen Kostyak  
Gn 17:3-9/Jn 8:51-59

#### 27 FRIDAY

7am Irene Roberts  
9am\* † John Kostyak  
10am\*\* Julia Hannah  
Jer 20:10-13/Jn 10:31-42

#### 28 SATURDAY

8am † Gudrun Sturek  
Ez 37:21-28/Jn 11:45-56  
5pm\* † Jose Martinez & Bertha Vargas

#### 29 SUNDAY

7am For the parish  
9am\* † Jane Gacer Claton  
11am † Amy Knight  
1pm\* † Dario & Ada Castedo  
5pm Ricardo Denegri  
Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 27:11-54

\* live-streamed Masses

\*\* Mass at Greenspring Chapel

### Masses next weekend

Mar 28	5pm	Fr. Cedric
Mar 29	7am	Fr. Don
	9am	Fr. Jeb
	11am	Fr. Don
	1pm	Fr. James
	5pm	Fr. James

## Parish prayer list

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

## Pro-life witness

The Saint Bernadette Pro-Life Committee invites you to pray the rosary on Tuesday or Saturday mornings in front of the abortion facility at 2616 Sherwood Hall Lane in Alexandria (ample free parking across the street). We legally, peacefully, and respectfully gather for an hour starting at 10am; no sign-up or commitment required. Questions? Email Tom Palumbo at [tompalumbo@outlook.com](mailto:tompalumbo@outlook.com).

## Stewardship resources and reminders: reduce your taxable income!

If you are 70 1/2 and over, consider using your IRA for a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). If you are 73 and over, consider using some or all of a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) as gifts to Saint Bernadette. This is an easy way to reduce your taxable income and benefit the parish. Contact Rick Caporali at or Linda Patterson at the parish office.

## Charitable giving update: legislative changes for 2026 and beyond

Charitable giving under new legislation includes a new universal deduction for non-itemizers and a floor for itemized deductions, alongside corporate and high-income taxpayer impacts. Giving is encouraged by allowing non-itemizers to deduct cash donations up to \$1,000 (single) or \$2,000 (jointly), but it also introduces a 0.5% AGI floor for itemized deductions, caps benefits at 35% for high-income taxpayers, and imposes a 1% income floor for corporate giving.

**For Individual Donors:** Universal Deduction for Cash Contributions Starting in 2026, non-itemizers can deduct cash donations up to \$1,000 (single) or \$2,000 (married filing jointly).

**Itemized Deductions:** Individuals who itemize will now only receive a deduction

for charitable contributions that exceed 0.5% of their adjusted gross income (AGI).

**High Income Taxpayer Cap:** The tax benefit for itemized deductions for wealthy donors will be capped at a 35% marginal rate, regardless of their actual tax bracket.

**Ineligible Donations:** This new universal deduction for non-itemizers does not apply to gifts made to donor-advised funds or private non-operating foundations. The universal deduction is expected to significantly increase participation in charitable giving, as it extends tax benefits to the approximately 90% of taxpayers who do not currently itemize deductions.

## Mary's Comfort donor reception

Please join the Mary's Comfort Board of Directors and Volunteers for a Donor Gratitude Reception, Sunday, April 19 in the Bradican Room, 2 - 4pm. Come to celebrate the lives we've touched and learn about our future plans. Current donors or anyone with interest in our program is welcome! RSVP preferred: [maryscomfortva@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## 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. The deadline is March 31.

## Prime Time Single Catholics

We are a social group, mostly aged 60 and over. (35 to 59? Ask about our free associate group.) Meet us for: Easter Sunday Mass and Dinner (April 5); Thursday Lunches (April 9 & 23); Tour of George Washington's Alexandria (April 11); Walk at Manassas Battlefield Park (April 15); Orchestral Concert at Schlesinger Hall (April 19); Serving meal at Christ House (April 25); Planet Word Museum (April 25); Dinner in Tysons (April 26); ). For details, visit our website: [bit.ly/ptsc](https://bit.ly/ptsc). With questions or to RSVP, email Tom at [ptscnva@gmail.com](mailto:ptscnva@gmail.com).



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