

*Almighty ever-living God, who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our Savior to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

# Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

March 29, 2026



Christ's Entry into Jerusalem, Jean-Hippolyte Flandrin, 1846  
Fresco, the Church of Saint-Germain-des-Prés, Paris



**SAINT BERNADETTE**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

# Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

March 29, 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

### 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. Parish office is closed.
- **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 or confessions, 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

### 13 Monday, Easter Weekday [Saint Martin I, Pope and Martyr]

### 14 Tuesday, Easter Weekday

### 15 Wednesday, Easter Weekday

### 16 Thursday, SAINT BERNADETTE

- Additional bilingual **parish feastday Mass**, 7pm, followed by reception

### 17 Friday, Easter Weekday

### 18 Saturday, Easter Weekday

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

## announcements

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.

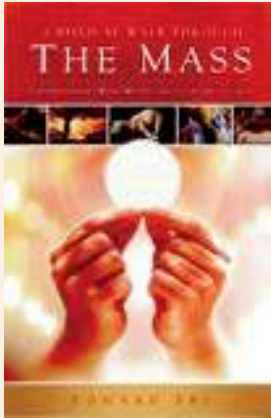
We are at **84%** of our **2026 Bishop's Lenten Appeal**. The theme is "In Christ We Are One," reminding us of Jesus' will for the unity of all those who were given to him by the Father. You can make a gift at: [www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA). Please indicate you are 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.

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 21th. 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.

The **Virginia MARCH FOR LIFE** is Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at the Virginia State Capitol Grounds, 1000 Bank Street, Richmond. The day begins with a rally at 10am followed by the march starting at 11am. New this year is the opportunity to register for training sessions after the march at 12:30 to help prepare advocates to stop the extreme proposed constitutional amendment that would allow virtually unlimited abortion at any stage of pregnancy. Register here: <https://marchforlife.org/virginia/>. Contact the parish office **no later than April 8** if you would like to take a bus.

## from the pastor



### **Week 5 Reflection: The Liturgy of the Eucharist, part 2 and the Concluding Rites**

***This was to have been the final bulletin article about the 5th session of our Lenten Bible study. You are still welcome to join the group zoom call Sunday evening, 6:30pm. Contact the office for the link.***

*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,

Can't believe it is already Palm Sunday. Life comes so quickly that you need a kind of extra vision that helps you see what's coming at the same time being 100% in the present. My intention was to do a fifth column on the *Biblical Walk through the Mass*, but I realize that I need to write about Palm Sunday and Easter in these two bulletins... We will come back to the Mass when we can.

To all of you who are traveling this week for the holiday, we will miss you. One of the best things we do at Saint Bernadette is celebrate the Sacred Triduum. It is a profoundly moving liturgy that begins with Holy Thursday night and travels with Jesus in his passion, death and resurrection, ending with the Vigil Mass. We hope your holidays are safe, holy, and full of joy and celebration wherever the road takes you.

As a preparation for inserting ourselves into the story of Jesus later in Holy Week, this weekend we listen to the Passion of Jesus according to Saint Matthew. It can become so familiar that we can be tempted to get lost in the haze of a very long Gospel reading.

Have you ever asked yourself *how this could have happened?* We witness endless inhumanity in our world today every time we watch or read the news. It is the way of the world, and it is no wonder that Jesus speaks often of the world as even an adversary. The prince of this world, in the Gospel of John, is none other than Satan. "I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me..." but Jesus allows himself to become subject even to the sin of this world so that he might be victorious over it. It is the plot of so many movies and books, the need of an unlikely savior to make the ultimate sacrifice in order to save humanity, then to find rebirth, resurrection.

*But how could this have happened to Jesus, with many turning on him - and so quickly after Palm Sunday?* In many instances in the Gospels people are just confused: the man they see before him doesn't fit the mold they have come to expect. Whether his origin, or his teaching with authority, or his miracles. "Where did he get all this? We know who he is..." - a nobody. Even King Herod was troubled with killing John the Baptist, but he had a reputation to uphold. His words, like Jesus', rang true to those who were listening.

We see the same things happening today, even with those who hold positions of leadership. There clearly isn't a reverence for the rule of law, there is an angry mob joining others in shouting "crucify him" without really even knowing him. If they had bothered to get to know him, If they had, I believe circumstances would have been different.

I attended a talk at Georgetown University week before last about the teachings of Fr. John Courtney Murray, S.J. He was a great light in the 20th century and had a lot to say about Catholic social teaching and democracy. The first speaker was Cardinal McElroy of D.C., who turns out has written a book on Fr. Murray.

The purpose of democracy, he said, is not to serve ideology. The purpose of democracy is to serve people. If you stop seeing the person, it is no longer democracy. Even in our Church, he indicated, we have stopped seeing the person and define them by what they think or believe. Even in faith and morals, no one should be shut out from the possibility of conversion and the ability of God's grace to change hearts. We are the ones who close the door and lock it, not God.

Ideology develops camps, and tribes, and parties. It becomes the tool to divide rather than enrich. It is no longer an opportunity for deeper understanding. There can be no dialogue if you first don't acknowledge the fact that you might have something to learn from your dialogue partner.

Pontius Pilate was free of ideology and did see the man Jesus, and tried to convince the mob to let him go. The man who was not even a believer found no fault with Jesus. There was a frenzy happening that blinded everyone from seeing the goodness of the Son of God, despite their inability, ultimately, even to accuse him of anything.

This blindness cripples all levels of society. Is it any wonder children bully each other when they witness this behavior by adults, even parents and leaders? We need to stop, take a breath, and look intently at the human person in front of us and truly see them. This is a son or daughter of God, a beautiful creation we can't begin to explain. Then we might work together as adults to make things right even if our ideologies don't necessarily match.

The Lord be with you. *Fr. Dom*

## Now welcoming new families and teachers

Saint Bernadette Catholic School is currently welcoming new families and educators for the upcoming school year. We are dedicated to faith formation and academic excellence while providing a nurturing environment where our students grow spiritually, intellectually, and socially.

Our school community provides families with a well-rounded, values-centered education, dedicated to helping each child reach their full potential. Our curriculum is both challenging and inspiring, while also encouraging creativity through annual events such as International/Cultural Nights, the talent show, and our annual Shakespeare production. At Saint Bernadette, students thrive in an environment that fosters academic excellence, personal growth, and creative expression.



### **RE Program upcoming schedule**

Regular classes: Apr. 14-15, 21-22, 28-29  
Note we WILL hold classes on April 21  
No classes Mar. 31-Apr. 1, Apr. 7-8  
SPRED Classes: Apr. 11, 25  
Sunday Donut Social: Apr. 26  
Family Faith Formation: Apr. 26

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

We also host an annual Diocesan Teacher Job Fair, which was held this year in the school gym on Saturday, 21 March 2026. The event brings together representatives from several diocesan schools, providing educators and prospective teachers with the opportunity to connect, ask questions, and explore available positions. Continuing its strong tradition, this year's fair drew a solid turnout and remains a valuable resource for those interested in teaching within a Catholic learning environment, where faith and education are centered in Christ.

Families interested in enrollment are encouraged to contact the Director of Admissions at [registrar@stbernschool.org](mailto:registrar@stbernschool.org) for more information about available openings and the application process. Saint Bernadette Catholic School looks forward to welcoming new students, families, and teachers into its vibrant community for the coming school year.



### **Living the liturgical year**

This Sunday is Palm Sunday. Did you know that it is called Palm Sunday because the crowds greeted and honored Jesus by waving palms when he entered Jerusalem. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. You will notice that the liturgical color for today is red. The color red on Palm Sunday symbolizes Jesus' passion and sacrifice. You can find Palm Sunday activities and instructions how to fold a palm cross here: <https://www.catholicicing.com/palm-sunday-crafts-and-ideas-for-kids/>

## cardinal corner



**FORMING  
HEARTS  
& MINDS  
IN CHRIST**

## religious education

### **Weekly update**

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

# youth ministry

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



Young adult check-in link

## Middle School BASH - Saturday, April 25th

All middle schoolers are invited to join us for the Diocese of Arlington BASH at Bishop O'Connell High School! This is an exciting day for more than a thousand middle school students to gather with Bishop Burbidge to celebrate our Catholic Faith! The day includes inflatable games, carnival rides, pizza and ice cream, a message from a nationally known-speaker, entertainment, a Vigil Mass with the Bishop and much more! We will carpool from Saint Bernadette at 2pm, and return around 9pm. To register, pay the \$15 fee online, and turn in a permission form either to the parish office or email to Grace Mee ([gme@stbernapar.org](mailto:gme@stbernapar.org)). The Deadline to register is Friday, April 17, but spots fill up early, so register now! Adult chaperones and drivers are needed.

## 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 - 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.

## 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 contractors

with skills in home repairs (no license necessary) and female crew leaders to serve alongside our teens during the week of Workcamp. Please contact our parish Stakeholder, Matthew Frey, for more information - [matthew\\_c\\_frey@yahoo.com](mailto:matthew_c_frey@yahoo.com).

## Young Adults Faith Discussions

All Young Adults are invited to a night of discussion and debate about certain topics, mysteries, and speculations of 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](mailto:jpmclaughlin@stbernapar.org).

## Summer Theatre Program for youth 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

## 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))



Troop 995's newest Eagle Scout, Ian Womack held his Eagle Scout Court of Honor last fall. Ian's Eagle Scout project was collecting clothing and household items for ECHO. Pictured with Ian are his brothers Dylan and Brendan.

# Holy Week 2026 *Semana Santa*

Lent



## 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)**

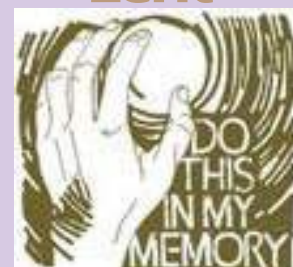
**5PM**  
**La Pasión y Veneración de la Santa Cruz (español)**

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!

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# “vatican council II through its documents”

9th Catechesis  
March 18, 2026

Pope Leo, in his General Audiences on Wednesdays, is giving a catechesis on Vatican II, sixty years later.



*“The Church, therefore, as the communion of the faithful...cannot err in matters of faith: the organ through which this truth is preserved, founded on the anointing of the Holy Spirit, is the supernatural sense of faith of the entire People of God, which is manifested in the consensus of the faithful.”*

## II. Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen gentium*.

### 4. *The Church, a Priestly and Prophetic People*

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Today I would like to revisit the second chapter of the Conciliar Constitution *Lumen gentium* (LG), devoted to the Church as the people of God.

The messianic people (LG, 9), receive from Christ the participation in the priestly, prophetic and kingly work office through which his salvific mission is carried out. The Council Fathers teach that the Lord Jesus, through the new and eternal Covenant, has established kingdom of priests, constituting his disciples as a ‘royal priesthood’ (1 Pet 2:9; cf. 1 Pet 2:5; Rev 1:6). This common priesthood of the faithful is given with Baptism, which enables us to worship God in spirit and truth, and to “confess before men the faith which they have received from God through the Church” (LG, 11). Furthermore, through the sacrament of Confirmation, all the baptized “are more perfectly bound to the Church ... and the Holy Spirit endows them with special strength so that they are more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith, both by word and by deed, as true witnesses of Christ” (ibid.). This consecration is at the root of the common mission that unites the ordained ministries and the lay faithful.

In this regard, Pope Francis observed that, “Looking at the People of God is remembering that we all enter the Church as lay people. The first sacrament, which seals our identity forever, and of which we should always be proud, is Baptism. Through Baptism and by the anointing of the Holy Spirit, (the faithful) ‘are consecrated as a spiritual house and a holy priesthood’ (LG, 10), [so that] everyone forms the faithful Holy People of God” (Letter to the President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, 19 March 2016).

The exercise of the royal priesthood takes place in many ways, all aimed at our sanctification, first and foremost through participation in the offering of the Eucharist. Through prayer, asceticism

and active charity, we thus bear witness to a life renewed by God’s grace (cf. LG, 10). As the Council summarizes, “it is through the sacraments and the exercise of the virtues that the sacred nature and organic structure of the priestly community is brought into operation” (LG, 11).

The Council Fathers then teach that the holy People of God also participate in the prophetic mission of Christ (cf. LG, 12). In this context, the important theme of the sense of the faith and the consensus of the faithful is introduced. The Doctrinal Commission of the Council specified that this *sensus fidei* “is like a faculty of the whole Church, by which she, in her faith, recognizes the revelation handed down, distinguishing between true and false in matters of faith, and at the same time penetrates it more deeply and applies it more fully in life” (cf. *Acta Synodalia*, III/1, 199). The sense of faith therefore belongs to individual believers not in their own right, but as members of the People of God as a whole.

*Lumen gentium* focuses on this latter aspect, and places it in relation to the infallibility of the Church, to which that of the Roman Pontiff is inherent and by which it is served. “The entire body of the faithful, anointed as they are by the Holy One (c. 1 Jn 2:20,27), cannot err in matters of belief. They manifest this special property by means of the whole peoples’ supernatural discernment in matters of faith when from the bishops down to the last of the lay faithful they show universal agreement in matters of faith and morals” (LG, 12). The Church, therefore, as the communion of the faithful – which naturally includes the pastors – cannot err in matters of faith: the organ through which this truth is preserved, founded on the anointing of the Holy Spirit, is the supernatural sense of faith of the entire People of God, which is manifested in the consensus of the faithful. From this unity, which the Magisterium of the Church safeguards, it follows that every baptized person is an active agent of evangelization, called to bear consistent witness to Christ in accordance with the prophetic gift which the Lord bestows upon his whole Church.

Indeed, the Holy Spirit, who comes to us from the Risen Christ, “distributes special graces among the faithful of every



rank. By these gifts he makes them fit and ready to undertake the various tasks and offices which contribute toward the renewal and building up of the Church" (LG, 12). A particular demonstration of this charismatic vitality is offered by consecrated life, which continually germinates and flourishes through the work of grace. Ecclesial associations, too, are a shining example of the variety and fruitfulness of spiritual fruits for the edification of the People of God.

## 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.

Our **next monthly meeting will be Tuesday, April 14** at 7pm in the Bradican Room. Back by popular demand is an evening of chair yoga followed by healthy snacks. Wear comfortable clothes that allow you to move freely. Come enjoy gentle stretching and mindful movement to calm your mind and lift your spirit.

## 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.

## Bishop Ireton High School Summer Camps

Registration is now open! BI is excited to offer summer camps that are fun, safe, and educational with opportunities in academics, athletics, and enrichment. Grow

and build friendships in a supportive and faith-filled environment this summer. Families are encouraged register early before April 1. Spots are limited and programs fill quickly. Visit [www.bishopireton.org](http://www.bishopireton.org) or scan the QR code at right.

## 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).

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.



## Parish Offertory

March 22  
Offertory \$ 30,515

*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.*

## Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

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

### March

#### 30 MONDAY

7am Rev. William Hower  
9am\* † Hilda Amalia Perez  
Is 42:1-7/Jn 12:1-11

#### 31 TUESDAY

7am † Dieter & Maria Etzold  
9am\* † Socorro & Francisco Masakayan  
Is 49:1-6/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

#### 1 WEDNESDAY

7am Jay Conners, Jr.  
9am\* Fr. Jeb Donelan  
Is 50:4-9a/Mt 26:14-25

#### 2 THURSDAY

7:30pm For the parish  
Ex 12:1-14/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15

#### 3 FRIDAY

No Masses  
Is 52:13—53:12/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42

#### 4 SATURDAY

8pm\* For those newly received into the Church  
Rom 6:3-11/Mt 28:1-10

#### 5 SUNDAY

7am Francisco Cespedes  
9am\* For the parish  
11am † Stella, Peter, Helen Gaizutis  
1pm\* † Elias Galvez Guerra  
NO 5pm  
Acts 10:34-43/Col 3:1-4/Jn 20:1-9

\* live-streamed Masses

\*\* Mass at Greenspring Chapel

### Masses next weekend

Apr 4	8pm	Fr. Don, all
Apr 5	7am	Fr. Jeb
	9am	Fr. James
	11am	Fr. Don
	1pm	Fr. Jeb

## Parish prayer list

John Yost, Wioffo Helenius, Robert Holzhauser, Adolfo Blandon, Esperanza Ayala, Gloria Tortoriello, Bob Atwell, Charles Roby, Mike Harrison, Kathleen Murray, Alan Curtis, Brian Keller

## 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.

## 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](http://bit.ly/ptsc). With questions or to RSVP, email Tom at [ptscnva@gmail.com](mailto:ptscnva@gmail.com).

## Greetings from PVI Options

The Options program at St. Paul VI Catholic High School is now in its 27th year of providing an inclusive, student-centered Catholic education for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. If you are seeking a faith-based, inclusive high school experience, please reach out to the Deans of Exceptional Learning at [pvioptions@paulvi.net](mailto:pvioptions@paulvi.net) or 703.352.0925 x1314.



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