

Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal. 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 Easter

May 3, 2026



The Assumption of the Virgin, Francesco Botticini, 1476
National Gallery, London

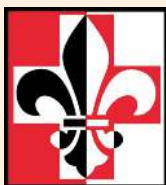


SAINT BERNADETTE
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

welcome



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

calendar

may

3 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 1pm
- Discover Saint Bernadette after the 9am Mass, Learn more about your parish!

4 Monday, Easter Weekday

5 Tuesday, Easter Weekday

- **Saint Bernadette Race for Education**, [Visit stbernschool.org for details](http://www.stbernschool.org)

6 Wednesday, Easter Weekday

7 Thursday, Easter Weekday

8 Friday, Easter Weekday

- Adoration, 7-8pm, church

9 Saturday, Easter Weekday

- Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- **First Communion** for religious education students, 5pm Mass
- Pick up your St. Lucy Food Drive blue bags and return them full next weekend!
- Mother's Day Novena of Masses begins, for nine days

10 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 1pm
- **First Communion** for religious education students, 9 and 11am Masses
- Pick up your St. Lucy Food Drive blue bags and return them full next weekend!

11 Monday, Easter Weekday

12 Tuesday, Easter Weekday [Saints Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs]

13 Wednesday, Easter Weekday [Our Lady of Fatima]

14 Thursday, Saint Matthias, Apostle

15 Friday, Easter Weekday [Saint Isidore]

- Adoration, 7-8pm, church
- Holy Spirit Novena begins today

16 Saturday, Easter Weekday

- Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- Bring food donations to the **St. Lucy Food Drive** at all Masses this weekend
- Good Neighbor Day supporting St. Lucy Project, 9am-1pm, Parking Lot
- Flores de Mayo celebration and Mass, Rosary procession begins at 6pm, Church

17 Sunday, THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 1pm

18 Monday, Easter Weekday [Saint John I, Pope and Martyr]

19 Tuesday, Easter Weekday

20 Wednesday, Easter Weekday [Saint Bernardine of Siena, Priest]

21 Thursday, Easter Weekday [Saint Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs]

22 Friday, Easter Weekday [Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious]

- Adoration, 7-8pm, church

23 Saturday, Easter Weekday

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

24 PENTECOST SUNDAY

- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 1pm

announcements

Mothers' Day Novena Mass cards

are available for remembering moms, grandmothers, and anyone who has been a mother to you – living or deceased. All intentions will be included at all Masses for nine days beginning on Mothers' Day. Envelopes are available in the vestibule and the office, and are also included in the offertory envelopes.

New to the parish or interested in learning more about our ministries, parish school, and ways to get involved? **Join us THIS Sunday, May 3, following the 9am Mass** for a special gathering hosted by members of our Parish Advisory Board and ministry leaders. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect, ask questions, and **discover all that Saint Bernadette has to offer**. We look forward to welcoming you into our vibrant community!

The St. Lucy Spring Food Drive is coming up!

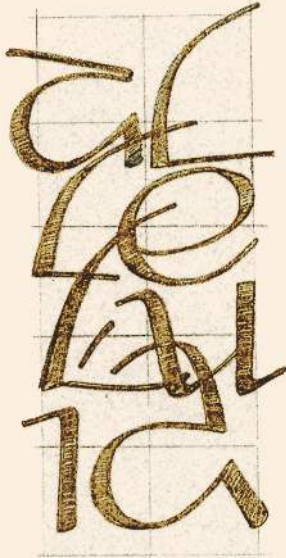
The St. Lucy Food Project collect and distribute food where it is most needed in the Diocese. Our St. Lucy Food Drive will be held on May 16 & 17 at all Masses. Please drop bags **BEFORE** Mass. The blue bags and lists of needed items will be handed out the weekend of May 9 & 10.

The Knights of Columbus will be collecting donations on May 9 & 10 in support of Project Manger. The program provides new cribs to women who have made a choice to give birth to their child rather than the alternative.

Join the Filipino Catholic Community, with the diocesan Multi-cultural Ministries Office, invites you to join in celebrating the **Flores de Mayo** here, on May 16. The evening begins with a rosary procession at 6pm and Mass at 7pm, followed by a reception in the gym. For more information please email amaremusicministry.flores@gmail.com.

Join us on Pentecost Sunday, May 24 for **Solemn Vespers**, following the 5pm Mass at 6:15pm. A most beautiful way to close the Easter Season celebrating the birthday of the Church.

from the pastor



"...the deeper your bond with Christ, the more radical your belonging to all of humanity."

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

This time of year we come to the celebration of many sacraments – a season of sacraments – first holy Communion, spring marriages, ordinations of deacons and priests, as well as perennial anniversaries of many sacraments rich with memories. If you are preparing for one such sacrament, help each other to make it a sacred memory that will stay with you the rest of your lives.

I was at a Hindu temple a couple of weeks ago and there was a ceremony being celebrated for dozens of girls nearing their teen years. The traditional Tibetan garments, beautiful fabrics, families all dressed up for a special day. There was a group of drummers as they processed into the temple, a rite of passage, perhaps. My friend Anuttama explained how, in the Hindu cultures, there are moments of *samsara*, events or rituals that imprint the soul and shape it to become fully the person one is intended to be. These are memories you go back to, time and again, and recall who you really are, especially when you might be losing your way.

It is not unlike our sacraments. They aren't mile markers in the sense of stuff you just have to do, but they are profound opportunities to shape us, conform us to the person of Jesus. We should plan and celebrate these moments very intentionally so that their effects, the grace given, is something that is always in the perspective with which we view other parts of our lives.

I remember being told on the day of my ordination: remember this day, because many will come when you need to draw back on these memories to get you through days which may not be so happy. I often say this to couples in marriage preparation. St. Teresa of Avila wrote a treatise on the spiritual life comparing it to a lush garden, filled with beauty and blooms. The day will come, she said, when there will be drought and aridity. You must remember that there is so much more, and you have known it.

I know I reprint a lot of Pope Leo's messages in the bulletin. I think of it as an opportunity for much-needed adult formation which is relevant and easily

available for you. If you have a moment read his homily last weekend at St. Peter as he ordained ten priests for the diocese of Rome. Don't limit the message to priests only: with your baptism you yourselves participate in the three-fold ministry of Jesus priest, prophet and king. Consider this for *your* priesthood.

He speaks of priesthood as a ministry of communion, opening our eyes to our brothers and sisters who are already experiencing, or still seeking, the power to become the children of God. "...the deeper your bond with Christ," Pope Leo said, "the more radical your belonging to all of humanity." There is no opposition, competition between heaven and earth.

"Today the need for security makes people aggressive, causes communities to close in on themselves and leads people to seek out enemies and scapegoats. Fear is often present around us and perhaps within us. May your security not lie in the role you hold, but in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus as well as in your participation, along with your people, in the story of salvation. This salvation is already at work in the many good deeds that are quietly carried out by people of goodwill in the parishes and settings where you will join them as fellow travellers. What you proclaim and celebrate will protect you, even in difficult times.

Today more than ever, especially when statistics seem to indicate a divide between people and the Church, keep the door open! Let people in, and be prepared to go out. This is another secret for your life: you are a channel, not a filter. Many believe they already know what lies beyond the threshold. They carry memories with them, perhaps from a distant past. Often, there is something within them that is alive and has not died out; this draws them in. Other times, however, there is something else within them that still bleeds and repels them. The Lord knows, and he waits. Be a reflection of his patience and tenderness. ...Keep the threshold open and direct others to it, without using too many words.

Let all of this be our shared mission!

The Lord be with you. *Fr. Dom*

Mount Olympus live

If you had entered the Saint Bernadette Catholic School gym on Thursday, April 23, you would have been greeted by students dressed as Greek mythological figures. Medusa, Poseidon, Hera, and Zeus (among others) were on view. By pressing a button at each station, visitors heard detailed presentations about these Greek gods and goddesses; decorated display boards provided additional information.

The gym had been transformed for our annual Greek Fair, hosted and presented by sixth-grade students. Under the guidance of Mrs. Benecke, students researched a Greek mythological figure and developed display boards, informational essays, and presentation speeches. "Students began research in March," explained Mrs. Benecke. "During

research time, they learned how to identify appropriate websites and reliable sources." As part of the project, students created "baseball cards" of facts to help organize details for their essays. They practiced their speeches throughout April.

Sixth graders shared what they enjoyed most. Heran A., Nike, said her favorite part was learning about a lesser-known goddess and creatively assembling her tri-board display. She learned that Nike crowned the winners of the ancient Olympic Games. Tystan C., who portrayed Apollo, enjoyed writing the essay and rewriting the myth in his own words. Malia B., who researched Artemis, appreciated organizing the information and designing her tri-board.

We applaud our sixth-grade students for their hard work and dedication to this unit.

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.

*"America Windows,"
Marc Chagall, 1977,
Art Institute of Chicago,
a gift in observance of the
American Bicentennial
"to the country that allowed
me to create art without
fear of persecution."*

youth ministry

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

RE Program upcoming schedule

Regular classes: May 5-6, 12-13
SPRED Classes: May 9, 30
First Holy Communion: May 2 at 5pm (school), May 16 at 5pm (RE), May 17 at 9am & 11am (RE)

Congratulations to the school students who received Eucharist for the first time this Saturday!

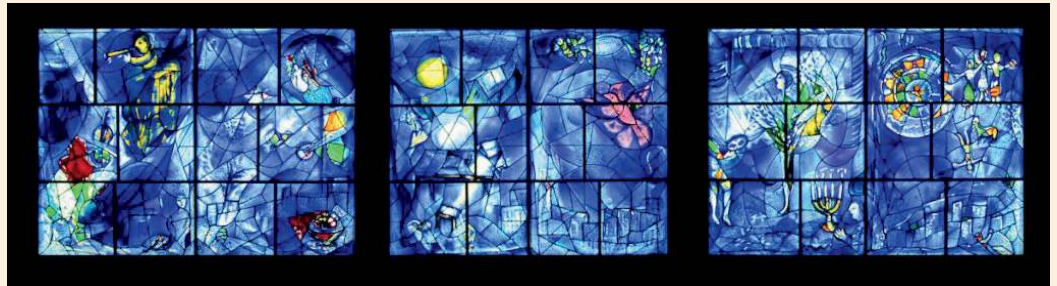
Registration for 2026-2027

Registration will open in June for next year. Continue your child's growth in the faith by signing them up for classes in 2026-27! Our class sessions will be on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, and we will again offer our Special Religious Development class on Saturday mornings for students with special learning needs, and our Family Faith Formation classes once a month on Sunday afternoons (for grades K-5) where parents take a larger role in their child's faith formation. Registration information will be in the parish bulletin, on the website, and will be sent via Flocknote to

all currently registered children in the first week of June. Who should register? All currently registered students, including all Confirmation 2026, Confirmation 2027, and students preparing to receive First Eucharist next school year. Classes will begin on September 1 & 2. Questions about your child's registration? Call the Religious Education Office or contact the staff via email.

Living the liturgical year

Happy 5th week of Easter! Happy May! The month of May is dedicated to Mary. As we celebrate our mothers on Mother's Day, we honor our heavenly Mother during the month of May. Activities you can do during the month of May is teaching and saying the rosary with your children or visiting the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. You can find other suggestions here: <https://www.looktohimandberadiant.com/2018/04/honoring-our-mother-mary-ideas-for-may.html> to celebrate the Marian month.



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.

HS Girl's Small Group

All high school girls are invited every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 7-8:30pm in the Youth Room for a night of fun games, fellowship, and small group discussions about the Faith. Our last two meetings of the school year are May 14 and May 28.

Middle School Youth Ministry - May 6

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.



Summer Theatre Program

We are flipping our fins with excitement to announce that our summer show is **The Little Mermaid!** We're looking for current 8th-12th grade humans, merfolk, and perhaps a few talented crustaceans to join us Under the Sea this summer!

Auditions will be May 14 & 15 at Saint Bernadette School. Swim on over to our website at www.summertheatreprogram.org to get more details and fill out our audition form!

Building access for all: a new elevator for our parish school

Our parish school, proudly serving generations of families since its construction in 1961, has long been a place of learning, faith, and community. As we continue to grow and reflect on our mission, we are called to ensure that our facilities fully welcome and serve every member of our parish community. One important step in that effort is improving accessibility throughout our school building.

Currently, access to the upper floors of our school is limited for individuals with mobility challenges. This creates barriers for students, parents, staff, and visitors who may rely on accessible features to fully participate in school life. In keeping with the principles of inclusion and dignity for all, we are exploring the addition of an elevator to provide access in accordance with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards.

Installing an elevator in a building originally constructed over six decades ago presents both challenges and opportunities. While the structure was not designed with modern accessibility needs in mind, advancements in engineering and thoughtful planning now make it possible to retrofit older buildings in ways that preserve their character while improving functionality. This project would allow all

members of our Catholic parish and school community—regardless of physical ability—to move freely and safely throughout the school.

Beyond compliance with accessibility standards, this initiative reflects our deeper values as a faith-based community. We believe that every individual is created with inherent dignity and deserves equal access to education, worship, and community life. An elevator is more than a mechanical addition; it is a visible commitment to hospitality, inclusion, and care for one another.

We recognize that such a project requires careful planning, financial investment,

and community support. In the coming months, we will be evaluating design options, costs, experts and potential funding strategies to ensure that the project meets both practical needs and our shared vision.

We invite you to join us in this important effort. Whether through your ideas, prayers, or support, your involvement will help make our parish school more accessible and welcoming for all—now and for generations to come. Please contact Fr. Don at frdonrooney@stbernpar.org for more information.

Together, we can continue to build a faithful community where everyone can participate and belong.

Building our school legacy

Our school is beginning a project to reconnect generations of students, families, and friends by building our very first Alumni Community Directory, “Building Our Saint Bernadette School Legacy” ... going all the way back to 1961. Along the way, we’ve been opening old yearbooks, rediscovering class photos, and uncovering incredible memories. Now we need your help to bring those stories to life. Please take a few minutes to update your information on our school website <https://stbernschool.org/building-our-saint-bernadette-school-legacy/>

By sharing your information, you’ll help us, reconnect classmates and old friends, celebrate multi-generational families, share alumni stories and milestones and build events and traditions for years to come.

Have an old photo or memory to share? We’d love that too.

Over the coming weeks, keep an eye out for throwback yearbook photos (you might spot yourself), alumni spotlights and invitations to upcoming gatherings. Whether you attended for one year or all nine (now ten), you’re part of this story—and we’d love to reconnect. If know someone we should reach? Forward this email or tag them when you see our posts! CardinalsAlumni@stbernpar.org.

building more than a new building!

Parish Offertory

April 26	
Offertory	\$22,486
Home Missions	3,749

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.

upcoming events

Good Neighbor Day America

Small acts. Big impact. Full stop.

Join Thousands of Organizations and Millions of Good Neighbors as we serve together this May 16 for a historic day of love and service. Kindness is contagious! Small acts of kindness reduce depression, anxiety, loneliness, social isolation, cortisol levels, chronic inflammation, and mortality risk. While increasing happiness, health, resilience, optimism, longevity, human connection and a sense of significance.

Please join us in supporting the St. Lucy Food Drive beyond our parish boundaries! Invite friends, family and neighbors to donate non-perishable goods to the drive on Saturday 9am-1pm in addition to our collection BEFORE Masses that weekend.

Join the challenge Good Neighbor Day America . The Kindness Challenge is part of the national lead-up to America's 250th anniversary and is proudly aligned with America 250's mission to inspire unity and civic participation across the country.

Good Neighbor Day America is a nationwide movement to inspire the Good Neighbor in every American through love, kindness and service. As we look ahead to America's 250th anniversary, we're proud to partner with America250 to honor this historic milestone. The nation's most loved charities, faith-based organizations, churches, and businesses are coming together for a monumental day of service.

Volunteers are needed to collect and load donations. Many hands make light work, please signup here or contact the parish office if you'd like to lend a hand: <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/10319026880122/false#/invitation>

GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY AMERICA



Save the date: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with Bishop Burbidge

Watch the bulletin for details as church leaders and members from all over the MetroDC area come together to show unity in divided times! HERE at Saint Bernadette, Tuesday, May 26, 7pm followed by a reception. Invite your friends!

Catholic Women's Group upcoming events

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

Tuesday, May 5 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, May 12 at 7pm in the Bradican Room. Bring a picture of yourself as a young child. We will enjoy walking down memory lane sharing our special childhood memories.

KofC Golf outing

All golfers are invited to join a golf outing with the Springfield Council Knights of Columbus on Friday, June 5. We will play a four-person scramble event at Twin Lakes golf course, with the first group going off at 11am. You do not need to be a Knight to participate and family members are welcome as well. We will collect a small contribution from all golfers for prizes after the round. If you are interested, please contact PGK Mark Price at mnpprice@verizon.net.org.

St. Lucy Food Drive for hungry kids:

Blue St. Lucy bags will be distributed after all Masses next weekend, May 9-10. Please pick up a bag and plan to return it with your donation prior to Mass on May 16-17. Flyers listing the most needed items will be attached to the bags.

Monetary donations and grocery gift cards are welcome. Checks should be written to CCDA (Catholic Charities



Diocese of Arlington) with St. Lucy on the memo line and mailed in the envelope attached to the bag or handed to one of the Saint Bernadette food drive team members. You may also contribute online at <https://secure.cdda.net/Give/Give/Donate/Giving.aspx> choosing St. Lucy Project as the specific project.

Career counseling

Have you ever wondered how God is calling you to use your unique gifts? Join Dr. Lisa Andrews, parishioner, Certified Career Counselor, and CliftonStrengths Coach, for a Zoom webinar entitled "Here I am Lord: Listening to Your Calling in Your God-given Talents" exploring how your talents can guide your purpose and vocation on Wednesday, May 20 from 7-8pm!

As part of the experience, you'll take the Gallup CliftonStrengths assessment (just \$20), and learn how to better understand and apply your strengths in your daily life and faith journey. Optional one-on-one follow-up is available with Dr. Andrews.

To register and receive your CliftonStrengths assessment code email lisa.andrews.phd@gmail.com

Needed now at ECHO

Spring arrived in the clothing room in mid-March when we made our changeover from fall and winter items to clothing for spring and summer. As you talk to friends and neighbors about making donations to ECHO, please ask them to hold onto their warm clothes for now and plan to donate after mid-August. We have limited space to store clothing for cold weather.

Clothing that is needed now includes short-sleeve t-shirts for men in small and medium sizes, shoes for men in sizes 7 and 8, and athletic shoes for children of all sizes. Donations of packaged underwear and socks for men and boys are always helpful as we only distribute NEW underwear and socks to our clients.

The Food Pantry's most needed food and personal hygiene items currently are bagged beans (especially red, black and garbanzo), spaghetti sauce, instant coffee,

green tea, canned fruit, shampoo, facial tissue, and toilet tissue.

Currently we have a few openings for volunteers during the morning slots to work with donations. Contact our volunteer coordinator through our website: www.echo-inc.org/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities/.

upcoming events



Join us for the 4th Annual
FLORES de Mayo

May 16, 2026
St. Bernadette Catholic Church
Springfield, VA
6pm-Rosary Procession
7pm-Mass

We are seeking youth and young adult participants for our Flores de Mayo and Santacruzán. For inquiries, please email amaremusicministry.flores@gmail.com

Sponsored By
The Amare Music Ministry and the Office of Multicultural Ministries' Filipino Catholic Community, Catholic Diocese of Arlington

Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

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

May

4 MONDAY

7am † Leland Komich
9am* † Fr. Edward Burba
Acts 14:5-18/Jn 14:21-26

5 TUESDAY

7am Justin Kernan
9am* † Souls in Purgatory
Acts 14:19-28/Jn 14:27-31a

6 WEDNESDAY

7am Rafael Santayana
9am* † Tanuha Gnanasekaran
Acts 15:1-6/Jn 15:1-8

7 THURSDAY

7am † Wally Bonfield
9am* † Dieter & Gerline Etzold
Acts 15:7-21/Jn 15:9-11

8 FRIDAY

7am Robson Family
9am* † Marie Rooney
10am** † Betty Murphy
Acts 16:1-10/Jn 15:18-21

9 SATURDAY

8am † Primitiva Caparachin
Acts 16:1-10/Jn 15:18-21
5pm* † Teresa Randolph

10 SUNDAY

7am For the parish
9am* Mothers' Day Novena
11am Mothers' Day Novena
1pm* Mothers' Day Novena
5pm Mothers' Day Novena
Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21

* live-streamed Masses

** Mass at Greenspring Chapel

Masses next weekend

May 9	5pm	Fr. Jeb
May 10	7am	Fr. James
	9am	Fr. Don
	11am	Fr. Jeb
	1pm	Fr. Cedric
	5pm	Fr. James

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, Cassi Smith, Edward Fitzgerald, John Winkler, Antonio & Maria Benedi, Donna Lash, Llewellyn Salsado

Pro-life witness

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

Stewardship resources and reminders: reduce your taxable income!

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

Charitable giving update: legislative changes for 2026 and beyond

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 interested, please reach out to the Deans of Exceptional Learning at pvioptions@paulvi.net or 703-352-0925 x1314.

Mary's Comfort update

Mary's Comfort is thriving thanks to many people's volunteer time and financial assistance! We ask for your continued prayers for our guests - those with us now and those who we are working to bring onboard. If you'd like to learn more about our ministry, please visit: <https://www.maryscomfortva.org/>

Summer Camps at St. Paul VI Catholic High School

St. Paul VI Catholic High School is excited to offer a variety of engaging summer camps for students entering grades 2 through 9! This summer, we are hosting camps in band, baseball, basketball, football, field hockey, lacrosse, soccer, theatre, and more — all conveniently located on our beautiful Chantilly campus at 42341 Braddock Road, Chantilly, VA. Led by our dedicated faculty, staff, and head coaches, these camps offer a fantastic opportunity for students to grow, learn, and have fun in a supportive, faith-filled environment.

For more information and to register, visit: www.paulvi.net/summercamps



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(703) 569-3131

Dr. Courtney Shay
Dr. Tim LaFreniere
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