

*Grant, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honor of the risen Lord, and that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do. 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.*

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026

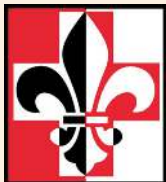


**SAINT BERNADETTE**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 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	<b>703-451-8576</b> , fax 703-269-1121 <b>office@stbermpar.org</b> 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:gmeee@stbermpar.org">gmeee@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

## may

### 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 (pg. 12)
- 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]

- **Taizé Ecumenical Prayer Service**, 8pm in the church, please join us!

### 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
- **Solemn Vespers for Pentecost**, 6:15pm in the church

### 25 Monday, The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

### 26 Tuesday, Saint Philip Neri, Priest

- **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity /Metro DC Area**, 7pm, reception following

### 27 Wednesday, Weekday [Saint Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop]

### 28 Thursday, Weekday

### 29 Friday, Weekday [Saint Paul VI, Pope]

- **CONCERTS AT SAINT BERNADETTE**: Dr. Luis Barcellos, 7:30pm, church (p.6)
- Adoration, 7-8pm, church

### 30 Saturday, Weekday

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

### 31 SUNDAY, THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9 and 1pm

## announcements

### The St. Lucy Spring Food Drive is coming up!

The St. Lucy Food Project collects and distributes food where it is most needed in the Diocese. Our St. Lucy Food Drive will be held on May 16 & 17 at all Masses. 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 the 16th and 17th of May in support of KOVAR - Virginians with Intellectual Disabilities, is a nonprofit organization founded by the Knights of Columbus with a mission to improve access to affordable housing, job training, sports participation, and personal care for Virginians with Intellectual Disabilities. More information can be found on <https://www.kovarva.org/>

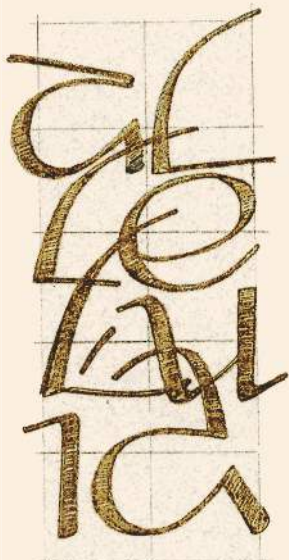
Join the Filipino Catholic Community, with the diocesan Multi-cultural Ministries Office, invites you to join in celebrating the **Flores de Mayo** here, on May 16. The evening begins with a rosary procession at 6pm and Mass at 7pm, followed by a reception in the gym. For more information please email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

Save the date: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with Bishop Burbidge. Please plan to join church leaders and members from all over the MetroDC area as we come together to show unity in divided times! HERE at Saint Bernadette, Tuesday, May 26, 7pm followed by a reception. Invite your friends!

Please plan to join us as **Concerts at Saint Bernadette** presents a free event: Brazilian Music Immersion: "From the origins of Samba to Bossa Nova" with Dr. Luiz "Pepe" Barcellos **Friday, May 29 at 7:30pm**. a light light reception follows.

## from the pastor



*"It is a poverty of understanding that would delegate the priesthood only to ordained priests and deacons."*

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

The apostles laid hands on believers while in Samaria to receive the Holy Spirit, on individuals to appoint or consecrate them for specific ministry roles, such as the setting apart of the seven deacons for service to the community and the commissioning of missionaries.

In Greek, this laying on of hands is called *epiclesis*, or the invocation of the Holy Spirit to sanctify, or consecrate. This laying on of hands is used in the:

- prayer over the waters used for ritual Baptism;
- prayer over the holy oil, chrism, which carries the Holy Spirit – as well as hands laid on each, or over all, for Confirmation and Holy Orders;
- prayer over the gifts in eucharistic prayers, - "make holy, therefore, these gifts, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;"
- prayer of absolution in Reconciliation: "He has poured out his Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins: through the ministry of the Church may God grant you pardon and peace...;"
- Marriage nuptial blessing – the miracle of two becoming one;
- prayer at the ordination, laying on of hands and oil for priests and deacons.

Jesus instructed believers to lay hands on the sick to initiate recovery, and a command followed by Paul and others (*Acts 28:8, Mark 16:18*) who used this act to set people apart for missionary work.

*Consecration* means to set aside someone or something for a sacred duty. It is more than just a blessing like we might bless rosaries, but similar – you bless a rosary and it is set aside for prayer, not to be worn as jewelry. Or the altar. Once consecrated, it is to be used only for the holy work of sanctifying.

Objects, places, or people are made holy, sanctified, or set apart for a sacred purpose through a solemn religious rite. It implies dedication to God or a divine purpose, can involve vows or blessing. It means being separated from common, secular use to a dedicated, sacred function.

*You are already consecrated by baptism.*

Last week we heard in Peter's first letter: "Beloved: Come to him, [you,] a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

*To be set aside for priesthood.* The priesthood of the faithful. Through Baptism, YOU share Christ's priesthood and become a "holy priesthood." YOU offer spiritual sacrifices by living faith, hope, and charity, participating actively in the Church's liturgy, and serving according to YOUR vocation in Christ's mission as priest, prophet, and king in witness of holy lives and practical charity.

It is a poverty of understanding that would delegate the priesthood only to priests and deacons. You live out the baptismal priesthood you received—not by replacing ordained ministry, but by participating in Christ's mission in your own vocation and place in the world.

- PRIEST: by fully participating in the Mass, offering yourself with the gifts of bread and wine, by making of your whole life an offering of thanks to God;
- PROPHET: confessing, adhering to faith, deepening it, bearing witness to the world. Preaching the Gospel in your actions, even without words;
- KING: the greatest among you must become the servant of all, building the kingdom of truth and life, holiness and grace, justice, love and peace.

St. Peter continues: For it says in Scripture: Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame. Therefore, its value is clear for you who have faith, but for those without faith: The stone that the builders rejected, Jesus, has become the cornerstone, a stone that will make some people stumble... by disobeying the word, or by their indifference.

NO. WE are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that we may announce the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light.

The Lord be with you. *Fr. Dom*

## Springing into faith-filled traditions

Spring has arrived in all its vibrancy. Flowers are blooming, students are happily running across the playground—free from winter coats, hats, and mittens—and families linger on the church grounds, enjoying time together after a long, cold season. This renewed sense of connection brings a special joy to our school community each spring.

With the change in season comes a wonderful opportunity to gather as a faith-filled community. As a united school and parish, we celebrate several meaningful traditions, including the Mass of Vocations, First Holy Communion, and our annual May Crowning.

We began this season of celebration on April 29 with the long-standing tradition of the Vocations Mass at All Saints Catholic Church in Manassas. This special event brings together eighth-grade students from across the diocese to hear speakers share their experiences of marriage and religious life. One of our students, Harper L., proudly represented Saint Bernadette in a quiz competition focused on Saint Carlo Acutis. Bishop Michael Burbidge attended, giving a clear and meaningful homily: choose the right path, surround yourself with the right people, and stay focused on your purpose. Our students left feeling inspired and enriched by this memorable experience.

Continuing in this spirit of faith, our second graders soon celebrated an important milestone. On May 2, they received the sacrament of First Holy Communion.



Dressed beautifully for the occasion—beautiful in white dresses and dashing in suits and ties—they were a joyful sight as they received the Eucharist for the first time. Surrounded by their families, friends, and parish community, this special occasion unites us all and draws us closer as a Church family. Their preparation for this sacred moment was guided with great care and dedication by our parish catechists and second-grade teachers.

Following this celebration, our community turned its attention to honoring the Blessed Mother during our May Crowning. Celebrated each year near Mothers' Day, this tradition offers a meaningful opportunity to honor Mary, the greatest of all mothers, while also lifting up our own mothers in prayer. Our second graders once again wore their First Communion attire as they led the procession, followed by our eighth graders dressed in their Sunday best. The eighth-grade class played a special role in the ceremony, leading the readings and crowning the statue of Mary. One girl and one boy, chosen by their classmates for exemplifying Mary's virtues, had the honor of placing the crown and leading the liturgy. The ceremony concluded with all of our eighth-grade girls presenting flowers at Mary's feet—a moving and memorable tradition that beautifully united our school in faith.

In these sacred celebrations, our school community is reminded that faith is best lived together with tradition and prayer rooting us in our shared journey to grow closer to God.



## 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 [gme@stbernapar.org](mailto:gme@stbernapar.org) with any questions you may have.

# StB concert series

## RE Program upcoming schedule

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

## Happy Mothers' Day to all mothers!

## 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

## 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.

## LAST Middle School Youth Ministry of the school year

All 6th-8th graders are invited for games, snacks, and fun on Wednesday, May 20. Meet in the school gym from 6:45-8pm.

## Music of Brazil at Saint Bernadette!

Concerts at Saint Bernadette presents a free event: Brazilian Music Immersion: "From the origins of Samba to Bossa Nova" with Dr. Luiz "Pepe" Barcellos Friday, May 29 at 7:30pm at Saint Bernadette. Brazilian musician "Pepe" Barcellos explores samba's Afro-Brazilian rhythms, percussion instruments, the rise of samba

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 6th week of Easter! On May 14, we celebrate the Feast Day of St. Matthias the Apostle. He was a disciple who replaced Judas. He was with Jesus from the very beginning of his ministry when he was baptized by John until Jesus' ascension. He preached the Gospel and helped build the early Church. He is honored for his faithfulness and mission. You and your children can learn more about St. Matthias here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7167iWOaiM>



## 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](http://www.summertheatreprogram.org) to get more details and fill out our audition form!

schools, Carnival street parades, and the emergence of Bossa Nova, highlighting the role music plays at the intersection of culture and global traditions. Through storytelling and hands-on music activities, Pepe Barcellos invites the audience to sing, move, and play percussion, creating a whole-community music ensemble. By experiencing how samba connects people and reflects identity, we move beyond *my* music and *your* music to share *our* music.

# Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful”

**Holy Spirit Novena begins Friday, May 15**

## The Novena to the Holy Spirit for the Seven Gifts

*The Novena in honor of the Holy Spirit is the oldest of all novenas since it was first made at the direction of our Lord himself when he sent his Apostles back to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost. It is still the only novena officially prescribed by the Church. Addressed to the Third Person of the Trinity, it is a powerful plea for the light and strength and love so sorely needed by every Christian.*

### How to pray the Novena

*On each of the nine days prior to the Solemnity of Pentecost, certain prayers are prayed which are unique to each day, followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.*

*The Act of Consecration and Prayer for the Seven Gifts are included here for use each day:*

#### Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit

On my knees before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses, I offer myself, soul and body to you, eternal Spirit of God. I adore the brightness of your purity, the unerring keenness

of your justice, and the might of your love. You are the Strength and Light of my soul. In you I live and move and am. I desire never to grieve you by my unfaithfulness to grace and pray with all my heart to be kept from even the smallest sin against you. Mercifully guard my every thought and grant that I may always watch for your light, listen to your voice and follow your gracious inspiration. Help me to cling to you and give myself to you and ask you, by your compassion, to watch over me in my weakness. Holding the pierced feet of Jesus and looking at his opened side and stricken heart, I implore you, adorable Spirit, Helper in infirmity, to keep me in your grace that I may never sin against you. Give me grace, O Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Father and the Son, to say to you always and everywhere, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.” Amen.

#### Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

O Lord Jesus Christ who, before ascending into heaven, promised to send the Holy Spirit to finish your work in the souls of your

Apostles and disciples, grant the same Holy Spirit to me that he may perfect in my soul the work of your grace and your love. Grant me the Spirit of Wisdom that I may not overvalue the perishable things of this world, but rather give my first priority to the things that are eternal; the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten my mind with the light of your divine truth; the Spirit of Counsel that I may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God now, in preparation for the Kingdom to come; the Spirit of Fortitude that I may bear my cross with you and that I may overcome with courage any obstacles that oppose your will of divine life for me; the Spirit of Knowledge that I may know God and know myself and grow more perfect in the science of the Saints; the Spirit of Piety that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable; and the Spirit of Holy Fear that I may be filled with a loving reverence toward God and may not in any way displease him. Mark me, dear Lord, with the sign of your true disciples, and animate me in all things with your Spirit. Amen.

## THE FIRST DAY

### Friday, 15 May: The Holy Spirit

*Holy Spirit! Lord of light!  
From your clear celestial height,  
Your pure beaming radiance give!*

*Leader:* Only one thing is important: eternal life. Only one thing, therefore, is to be feared: sin. Sin is the result of ignorance, weakness, indifference. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of light, of strength and of love. With his sevenfold gifts he enlightens the mind, strengthens the will, and inflames the heart with love of God. We must invoke the divine Spirit daily, for "The Spirit helps our infirmity. We know not what we should pray for as we ought. But the Spirit himself asks for us."

*Prayer:* Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed your will for us, that we be reborn by water and the Holy Spirit, and you have given us forgiveness of all sins. As at the first Pentecost, send forth from heaven upon us your seven-fold Spirit, the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, the Spirit of Counsel and Fortitude, the Spirit of Knowledge and Piety, and fill us with the Spirit of Holy Fear. Amen.

*(to be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.)*

## THE SECOND DAY

### Saturday, 16 May: The Gift of Fear

*Come Father of the poor.  
Come, treasure which endures:  
Come, Light of all that live!*

*Leader:* The gift of the Fear of the Lord fills us with a sovereign respect for God, and makes us dread nothing so much as to offend him by sin. It is a fear that arises, not from the thought of hell, but from love, reverence and filial obedience to our heavenly Father. It is the beginning of wisdom, removing us from worldly attachments that could in any way separate us from God. "They that fear the Lord will prepare their hearts, and in his sight will sanctify their souls."



*Prayer:* Come, O blessed Spirit of Holy Fear, penetrate my inmost heart, that I may set you, my Lord and God, before my face forever. Help me to shun all things that can offend you, and make me worthy to appear before the pure eyes of your divine majesty in heaven, where you live and reign in the unity of the ever-blessed Trinity, God, world without end. Amen.

*(to be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.)*

## THE THIRD DAY

### Sunday, 17 May: The Gift of Piety

*You, of all consolers best, Visiting  
the troubled breast, Does  
refreshing peace bestow.*

*Leader:* The gift of Piety begets in our hearts a filial affection for God as our most loving Father. It inspires us to love and respect, for his sake, persons and things consecrated to him, as well as those who are vested with his authority, his blessed Mother and the Saints, the Church and its visible head, our parents and superiors, our country and its leaders. He who is filled with the gift of piety finds the practice of his religion not a burdensome duty, but a delightful service. Where there is love, there is no labor.

*Prayer:* Come, O blessed Spirit of Piety, possess my heart. Enkindle there such a love for God, that I may find satisfaction only in his service, and for his sake lovingly submit to all legitimate authority. Amen.

*(to be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.)*

## THE FOURTH DAY

### Mon., 18 May: The Gift of Fortitude

*You in toil are comfort sweet,  
Pleasant coolness in the heat,  
Solace in the midst of woe.*

*Leader:* By the gift of Fortitude the soul is strengthened against natural fear, and supported to the end in the performance of duty. Fortitude imparts to the will an



impulse and energy which move it to undertake without hesitancy even the most difficult tasks, to face dangers, to trample underfoot injustice or endure without complaint the slow martyrdom of even lifelong tribulation. "He that shall persevere unto the end, he shall be saved."

*Prayer:* Come, O blessed Spirit of Fortitude, uphold my soul in time of trouble and adversity, sustain my efforts after holiness, strengthen my weakness, give me courage against the assaults of any enemy, that I may never be overcome and separated from you, my God and greatest Good. Amen.

*(to be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.)*

#### THE FIFTH DAY

**Tues., 19 May: The Gift of Knowledge**  
*Light immortal! Light divine!  
Visit these, your hearts, refine,  
And our inmost being fill!*

*Leader:* The gift of Knowledge enables the soul to evaluate created things at their true worth - in their relation to God. Knowledge unmask the pretense of creatures, reveals their emptiness, and points out their only true purpose as instruments in the service of God. It shows us the loving care of God even in adversity, and directs us to glorify him in every circumstance of life. Guided by its light, we put first things first and prize the friendship of God above all else. "Knowl-

edge is a fountain of life to him that possesses it."

*Prayer:* Come, O blessed Spirit of Knowledge, and grant that I may perceive the will of the Father; show me the nothingness of earthly things, that I may realize their vanity and use them only for your glory and my own salvation, looking ever beyond them to you, and your eternal rewards, Amen.

*(to be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.)*

#### THE SIXTH DAY

**Wednesday, 20 May**  
**The Gift of Understanding**

*If you take your grace away,  
Nothing pure in man will stay;  
All his good is turned to ill.*

*Leader:* Understanding, as a gift of the Holy Spirit, helps us grasp the meaning of the truths of our faith. By faith we know them, but by understanding we learn how to appreciate and treasure them. It enables us to penetrate the inner meaning of revealed truths and through them to be quickened to newness of life. Our faith ceases to be sterile and inactive, but inspires a mode of life that bears eloquent testimony to the faith that is within us; we begin to "walk worthy of God in all things pleasing, and increasing in the knowledge of God."

*Prayer:* Come, O Spirit of Understanding and enlighten our minds, that we may know and believe all the mysteries of salvation; and may merit at last to see the eternal light in your Light.

In the light of that glory may we have a clear vision of you, and the Father and the Son. Amen.

*(to be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.)*

#### THE SEVENTH DAY

**Thursday, 21 May: The Gift of Counsel**  
*Heal our wounds--our strength renew;  
On our dryness pour your dew,  
Wash the stains of guilt away.*

*Leader:* The gift of Counsel endows the soul with supernatural prudence, enabling it to judge promptly and rightly what must be done, especially in difficult circumstances. Counsel applies the principles furnished by knowledge and understanding to the innumerable concrete cases that confront us in the course of our daily duties as parents, teachers, public servants and Christian citizens. Counsel is a supernatural common sense, a priceless treasure on the journey to salvation. "Above all these things, pray to the Most High, that he may direct your way in truth."

*Prayer:* Come, O Spirit of Counsel, help and guide me in all my ways, that I may always do your holy will. Incline my heart to that which is good; turn it away from all that is evil. Direct me by the path of your commandments to that goal of eternal life for which I long. Amen.

*(to be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.)*

THE EIGHTH DAY

**Friday, 22 May: The Gift of Wisdom**  
*Bend the stubborn heart and will,  
Melt the frozen, warm the chill.  
Guide the steps that go astray.*

*Leader:* Embodying all the other gifts, as charity embraces all the other virtues, Wisdom is the most perfect of the gifts. Of Wisdom it is written: “all good things came to me with her, and innumerable riches through her hands.” It is the gift of Wisdom that strengthens our faith, fortifies hope, perfects charity, and promotes the practice of virtue in the highest degree. Wisdom enlightens the mind to discern and relish things divine, in the appreciation of which earthly joys lose their savor, while the Cross of Christ yields a divine sweetness according to the words of the Savior: “Take up your cross and follow me, for my yoke is sweet and my burden, light.”

*Prayer:* Come, O Spirit of Wisdom, and reveal to my soul the mysteries of heavenly things, their exceeding greatness, power and beauty. Teach me to love them above and beyond the passing joys and satisfactions of earth. Help me to attain them and possess them forever. Amen.

*(to be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.)*

THE NINTH DAY

**Saturday, 23 May:  
The Fruits of the Holy Spirit**  
*You in toil are comfort sweet,  
Pleasant coolness in the heat,  
Solace in the midst of woe.*

*Leader:* The gifts of the Holy Spirit perfect the supernatural virtues by enabling us to practice them with hearts open to divine inspiration. As we grow in the knowledge and love of God under the direction of the Holy

Spirit, our service becomes more sincere and generous, the practice of virtue more perfect. Such acts of virtue leave the heart filled with joy and consolation and are known as the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. These Fruits in turn render the practice of virtue more attractive and become a powerful incentive for still greater efforts in the service of God, to serve who is to reign.

*Prayer:* Come, O Divine Spirit, fill my heart with your heavenly fruits: your charity, joy, peace, patience, benignity, goodness, faith, mildness and temperance, that I may never weary in the service of God, but by continued faithful submission to your inspiration may merit to be united eternally with you in the love of the Father and the Son. Amen.

*(to be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.)*



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:CardinalsAlumni@stbernpar.org).

## building more than a new building!

### Parish Offertory

May 3  
Offertory \$ 30,075

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## 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 and Sunday, May 15 and 16.

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@stbernapar.org](mailto:women@stbernapar.org).

**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.

Tuesday, May 19 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.

### 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](mailto:mnpprice@verizon.net).

### St. Lucy Food Drive for hungry kids:

Pick up your St. Lucy bag today after Mass and return it next weekend when Donations will be collected prior to the Vigil Mass and Sunday Masses. The truck will be parked at the base of the steps below the church office and will leave the church parking lot at 5:15pm on Sunday.

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 they 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](mailto:lisa.andrews.phd@gmail.com)

## Mission Cooperative Plan Appeal 2026 May 23-24

In 2 weeks, our second collection will support the annual Mission Cooperative Plan Appeal for our diocese. Our parish mission organization is Order Of Saint Augustine Vicariate of Tanzania. This appeal helps our brothers and sisters who do not have access to basic pastoral services that support and grow their faith, like Mass, the sacraments, religious education as well as basic needs – like food, shelter, and healthcare. Please go to <https://arlingtonmissions.org/mission/the-order-of-saint-agustine-vicariate-of-tanzania/> to find out more about their ministry. Through your support, the MCP Appeal helps these mission organizations form vibrant faith communities and strengthens the global Church. Your gifts and prayers will be a blessing to families who benefit from this loving outreach in mission countries.

### The Mission Appeal:

In Tanzania we are working in different parishes in different dioceses. We are working already in the elementary school, and now are planning to build secondary school. The school will be a boarding school for boys and girls. In order to give a quality education to help children to be more productive in the community, secondary school is essential. The school will have dormitories, a dining hall, library, laboratories and an administration block. The total number of students will educate will be about 800. we will teach Augustinian spirituality.

## 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](mailto:amaremusicministry.flores@gmail.com)

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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

#### 11 MONDAY

7am Mothers' Day Novena  
9am\* Mothers' Day Novena  
Acts 16:11-15/Jn 15:26—16:4a

#### 12 TUESDAY

7am Mothers' Day Novena  
9am\* Mothers' Day Novena  
Acts 16:22-34/Jn 16:5-11

#### 13 WEDNESDAY

7am Mothers' Day Novena  
9am\* Mothers' Day Novena  
Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Jn 16:12-15

#### 14 THURSDAY

7am Mothers' Day Novena  
9am\* Mothers' Day Novena  
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Jn 15:9-17

#### 15 FRIDAY

7am Mothers' Day Novena  
9am\* Mothers' Day Novena  
10am\*\*  
Acts 18:9-18/Jn 16:20-23

#### 16 SATURDAY

8am Mothers' Day Novena  
Acts 18:23-28/Jn 16:23b-28  
5pm\* Mothers' Day Novena

#### 17 SUNDAY

7am Mothers' Day Novena  
9am\* For the parish  
11am Mothers' Day Novena  
1pm\* Mothers' Day Novena  
5pm Mothers' Day Novena  
Acts 1:1-11/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20

\* live-streamed Masses

\*\* Mass at Greenspring Chapel

### Masses next weekend

May 16	5pm	Fr. James
May 17	7am	Fr. Cedric
	9am	Fr. James
	11am	Fr. Don
	1pm	Fr. James
	5pm	Fr. Don

## Parish prayer list

John Yost, Wiofio 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, Cristina Perez

## 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.

## ParishSoft Giving update:

Saint Bernadette realizes that the transition from Faith Direct to Parish Soft was less than ideal. Online giving enables you to change your giving, set up second collection donations and have access in real time your support of Saint Bernadette ministries.

Here's how you could set up online giving or access Parish Soft to move toward online gifts. <https://giving.myparishsoft.io/app/giving/FD-70> you can click on sign in, using the same username and password as in Faith Direct, log-in, you can give now or set up a one-time gift. If you have difficulty, you can reach out to

[Donorsupport@parishsoft.com](mailto:Donorsupport@parishsoft.com) or call 1-866-930-4774, opt. 6

Feel free to reach out to Linda Patterson, our Business Manager, if you need further assistance, [lpatterson@stbernpar.org](mailto:lpatterson@stbernpar.org) or call her at the Parish Office, 703-451-8576, ext. 122.

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.paulvi.net/summercamps)



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