

*O God, who by the grace of adoption chose us to be children of light,
grant that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error but always be seen to stand
in the bright light of truth. 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.*

Fifteenth Sunday in ordinary time

July 12, 2026



The Sower at Sunset, Vincent van Gogh, 1888
The Kröller-Müller Museum in the Hoge Veluwe National Park in Otterlo in the Netherlands



SAINT BERNADETTE
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Fifteenth Sunday in ordinary time

July 12, 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. James Waalkes frjameswaalkes@stbermpar.org Fr. Daniel Rice frdanielrice@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

july

- 12 Sunday, FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
 - Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm
- 13 Monday, Weekday [Saint Henry]**
- 14 Tuesday, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin**
- 15 Wednesday, Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor**
- 16 Thursday, Weekday [Our Lady of Mount Carmel]**
- 17 Friday, Weekday**
 - Adoration, 7-8pm, church
- 18 Saturday, Weekday [Saint Camillus de Lellis, Priest]**
 - Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
 - Additional monthly Filipino Mass, 7pm
- 19 Sunday, SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
 - Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm
- 20 Monday, Weekday [Saint Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr]**
 - NO Taize tonight! Moved to next week, July 27
- 21 Tuesday, Weekday [Saint Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor]**
 - **Dining Out Night for Rise Against Hunger** – Delia's – 5-8pm
- 22 Wednesday, Saint Mary Magdalene**
- 23 Thursday, Weekday [Saint Bridget, Religious]**
- 24 Friday, Weekday [Saint Sharbel Makhlūf, Priest]**
 - Adoration, 7-8pm, church
- 25 Saturday, Saint James, Apostle**
 - Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 26 Sunday, SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
 - Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm
- 27 Monday, Weekday**
 - **Dining Out Night for Rise Against Hunger** – McAllister's – 5-8pm
 - **Join us for Taize prayer** after dinner at McAllister's – 8pm. Bring a friend.
- 28 Tuesday, Weekday**
- 29 Wednesday, Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus**
- 30 Thursday, Weekday [Saint Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor]**
- 31 Friday, Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Priest**
 - Adoration, 7-8pm, church

august

- 1 Saturday, Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor**
- 2 Sunday, EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
 - Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm

announcements

Come to our **Summer Theater Program's production of The Little Mermaid** at Bishop Ireton High School July 23, 24 and 25. Please note, it is one week earlier than previous years. Discount tickets are on sale after Masses this weekend and next. You can find all the information on pages 6 and 7 – mark your calendars now!

Our Taize prayer service in July will be held **one week later than usual, on July 27 at 8pm**. Bring a friend.

On August 1 at the Church of the Nativity in Burke there will be a unique Pilgrimage of Grace Mass. This is offered as an opportunity for us as a Deanery to come together to pray for inner peace for those who are suffering, hosted by the Bishop's initiative to improve awareness of the importance of mental health. Please consider attending to pray for yourself, loved ones, and all those who provide care for those in need



Parish Dining Out Nights

Support our Work of Mercy ~ Rise Against Hunger



Tuesday, July 21, 5-8pm

(mention Saint Bernadette when you place your order)

Upcoming Dining Out Nights

JULY

27 - McAllister's Deli, Rolling Road

from the pastor

...the "why?" needs to be explained. If the work of the salvation of the world (which is the Mass) is something that is placed in our hands (not just the priests'), then you can see why it is a gift we are obliged to practice...

$$J = -D \frac{d\Phi}{dx}$$

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

One of the facts of life today is that security cameras are everywhere. It is the same for our campus. Each time we evaluate our security it seems we add more.

Usually when I'm working at my desk, especially on weekends, I have the cameras up on one of my desktop screens to keep an eye on things. It is also very handy to know when it is time to come over to church to help with Holy Communions.

For this reason I was checking the camera during the 9am Mass last weekend from the back of the church. I noticed an interesting thing. I wondered if this was the way it always has been, or is this still a leftover from the pandemic? Literally, people and groups were seated consistently six feet apart.

The tragedy of social distancing is the effect it had on keeping people separated. I don't think it was always this way, because at the beginning of the pandemic it seemed so unnatural to be avoiding each other in such a measured, intentional way. The crazy thing was we didn't know whether or not our lives depended on it. At the time we were fortunate to have such a vast church to accommodate as many for Masses as we could (many churches could only admit a much smaller number), but now I wish we had a smaller church. We would need to sit closer together.

We are as spread out as we can be. There is a scientific explanation for this principle called the principle of *diffusion*. According to Fick's First Law of Diffusion, molecules floating on the surface of water will always find the the maximum distance from each other, straining to be apart. This is "driven by the continuous random motion of the molecules (Brownian motion) and the thermodynamic tendency of a system to move toward a state of maximum disorder." In other words, if we weren't contained by walls we would blast as far apart as possible. The Church, literally, saves us from our chaos (the equation is at left, for you math people.)

Please don't misunderstand my point: as a congregation we have found such growth in unity and the way we participate in the Mass -- fully, actively, consciously -- and I love how we have become a singing parish. I wish you could hear you as you sound

from the altar, it is so beautiful. But liturgical prayer has to do with the way in which we are conscious of each other and the way we *come together* to experience community during the sacred rites of the Church. It is experiential not as an individual activity, but one that can only happen when we are together.

The Mass is the dialogue between Jesus and the Father. It is not a devotional form of prayer, that is to say, a dialogue between me and God. We join our voices and our hearts as the one voice and heart of Jesus, becoming something so much greater and salvific than I could do alone.

This is the difference between liturgical and devotional prayer. In liturgy it is *we* who become Christ.

Imagine this. You are at the airport, a vast waiting area with a lot of seating. Every person is on their individual cell phone talking to God. We don't know what each other is saying, or even if our messages contradict each other. I'm focused on me. The Mass is intended to get us out of ourselves and, literally, into Christ. It isn't a time to be doing our own thing.

Here comes another memory as the renewal of Vatican II was taking place. I remember the priest actually leaving the sanctuary during Mass and taking rosaries out of peoples' hands. It seemed very rude, definitely not pastoral, one of those things that gave Vatican II a black eye.

Before, the Mass was not understood as something for the people, it was the priest's prayer and people came, in their own words, to "hear" Mass, what little they could hear. There was not a sense of coming together to participate in a shared work of salvation. The priest did his thing, we prayed the rosary. And it was obligatory "under pain of mortal sin."

Well, there still is the Catholic obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days but the "why?" needs to be explained. If the work of the salvation of the world (which is the Mass) is something that is placed in our hands (not just the priests'), then you can see why it is a gift we are obliged to practice, together as one Body of Christ and united in prayer, song, and gesture.

The Lord be with you. *Fr. Dom*

cardinal corner



FORMING
HEARTS
& MINDS
IN CHRIST



Join the joy at our parish school —preparing for another great year

Summer vacation is underway, but at our school we're already preparing for an exciting new school year. Our summer "elves" are hard at work behind the scenes—taking inventory, ordering books and supplies, reorganizing classrooms, updating technology, planning lessons, and making sure everything is ready for August.

Meanwhile, our facilities team is giving the campus extra sparkle with fresh paint, polished floors, and plenty of love so every classroom shines when

our students return. We can't wait to welcome everyone back for another wonderful year of faith, learning, and community.

Want to be part of the excitement? We're still accepting applications for PreK and select grade levels for the 2026–2027 school year. We nurture not only young minds but also hearts rooted in the love of Christ. We'd love to welcome your family into our faith-filled school community.

To learn more about current openings or to schedule a visit, contact our Director of Admissions at registrar@stbernschool.org. Summer Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30am–12:30pm.

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.

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@stbernpar.org with any questions you may have.

Disney's The Little Mermaid is a spectacular Broadway musical that brings Ariel's beloved undersea adventure to life with dazzling costumes, unforgettable songs, and magical storytelling. Filled with heart, humor, and adventure, this family favorite celebrates the courage to follow your dreams while discovering the true meaning of love, friendship, and finding your own voice.

Registration for 2026-2027

Registration is open and will close the end of this month, July 31! 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. You can go directly to St. Bernadette's Religious Education webpage at <https://stbernpar.org/religious-education-registration-2026-2027/> to register.

Who should register? All currently registered students, including all Confirmation 2026, Confirmation 2027, and students pre-paring 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.

High school Summer events

All Rising 9th—graduated 12th graders are invited!

Daily Mass and Donuts - Every Tuesday from June 30—August 11. 9-10:30am

Escape Room: Saint Bernadette Edition -

Thursday, July 16, 7-8:30pm, Youth Room

King's Dominion Day - Wednesday, July 29. \$40. Beginning with the 9am daily Mass

Volunteers for 2026-2027

If you feel called to help with the Religious Education program, we are in need for volunteers (lead catechists, aides, teen helps, hall monitors, hallway monitors, parking lot and outside security volunteers, and interior security volunteers)! Please contact the Religious Education Office or fill out the Volunteer Form on the website <https://stbernpar.org/religious-education-volunteers/>

Living the liturgical year

On July 14, we celebrate the Feast Day of St. Kateri Takekwitha, the Lily of the Mohawks. She is the first Native American saint. She is remembered for her deep faith, devotion, and role as a bridge between the Indigenous people and Catholicism. You and your children can learn about St. Kateri Takekwitha here: <https://app.formed.org/app/videos/3603608>. Some activities and ideas to do to celebrate St. Kateri Takekwitha's feast day can be found here: <https://www.catholichomebody.com/saint-kateri-feast-day-activities/>

End of Summer Social - Wednesday, August 12, 7-8:30pm at the Rectory Patio

Middle school Summer Drop-ins

All rising 6th - 8th graders are invited to our Summer Drop-Ins! Join us June 24, July 8, July 22, and August 5 for fun, games, friends, and of course, ice cream! We will meet from 6:45-8pm in the gym.



Catholic Women's Group upcoming events

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

Our next monthly meeting will be Tuesday, July 14 at 7pm in the Bradican Room. By our baptism we are called to share the Kerygma, the Good News of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection. This sharing is evangelization! Come for a brief presentation on evangelization and join our discussion led by Lynn Jones, our Director of Faith Formation, on how all of us can share the gospel in our everyday lives.

Tuesday, July 21, 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.

Pilgrimage of Grace *Masses offered for interior peace for those in need*

The Office of Victim Assistance of the Diocese of Arlington warmly invites all to attend the Pilgrimage of Grace Mass on Saturday, August 1, at 9am at Nativity Catholic Church in Burke. This special Mass offers an opportunity to encounter Christ's healing presence and to pray for the gift of interior peace. Whether you are carrying grief, past hurts, or simply seeking spiritual renewal, you are welcome to join us in prayer.

Registration is open for OCIA/RICA programs

ARE YOU CONSIDERING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

*The proper name for the English RITE
is now the ORDER of Christian Initiation
of Adults.*

"COME, AND SEE"

OCIA

We invite **YOU** and all who seek a deeper life in **Jesus Christ** to consider becoming members of the Catholic Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office to register. **You are welcome. Begins Sept. 14.**

"VEN, Y VEAN"

RICA

Invitamos **todos que buscan a una vida mejor en Jesucristo** para considerar ser miembros de la iglesia católica por los sacramentos del bautismo, confirmación, y eucaristía. Llaman la oficina para registrarse. **Bienvenidos, el 14 de septiembre.**

up and coming

▶▶ Performance dates and times:

Thursday, July 23 at 7pm

Friday, July 24 at 7pm

Saturday, July 25 at 1pm

Saturday, July 25 at 7pm

All performances are at Bishop Ireton High School (201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria, VA)

▶▶ Ticket sales:

Students/Seniors - \$10

Adults - \$12

Tickets are good for ANY of the four performances.

▶▶ Discount tickets will be made available to parishioners on July 11-12 and July 18-19 after Masses. Those tickets will be \$8 for students/seniors and \$10 for adults. We will also offer a Family Package (2 adults tickets and 3 student/senior tickets) for \$40. After Mass is the only time to get these discount tickets. Full price tickets can also be purchased online and at the door.



▶▶ To purchase tickets online visit www.summertheatreprogram.org or scan the attached QR code.



planning our multi- cultural prayer gathering sept. 3

*“Honoring the Many
Journeys that Shaped
America”*

ALL ARE WELCOME • TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS
LAHAT AY MALUGOD NA TINATANGGAP • MỌI NGƯỜI ĐỀU ĐƯỢC CHÀO ĐÓN



One family, many voices

Planning a multicultural prayer service



Our parish is home to many countries, languages and traditions — and we want to celebrate that gift together. We're gathering a small planning group to help shape our parish celebration of the Bishops' **National Prayer Service** September 3, where parishioners of every background can share their stories, customs, and faith with one another.

No experience needed — just a willingness to share a bit of your story and help us plan a service that reflects the beautiful diversity of our parish family.

Interested in helping plan? Email Fr. Don to get involved.

frdonrooney@stbernpa.org

Planning is underway for Saint Bernadette Rise Against Hunger event

It starts with a meal.

Global hunger's causes and ways to address it through the Rise Against Hunger project

Taking action to address hunger is important — as is learning about the critical issue. While there are many root causes of hunger, there are three main contributors to food insecurity and malnutrition: conflict, climate change and economic downturns. Through the focus areas of our work (nutrition, education and economic empowerment), we address these root causes by providing urgent food for people facing hunger right now and implementing sustainable agriculture and income-generating projects for long-term solutions. The Food and Agriculture Organization reports that rural communities are disproportionately affected by food insecurity, with 32% of adults living in rural areas globally affected in 2024.



Rates of hunger vary by region, too. Africa, Asia, and Oceania are the three regions with the highest rates of food insecurity. But hunger also impacts people in cities, towns and villages around the world, making it truly a global issue. Food insecurity doesn't have a one-size-fits-all solution. Every community affected by food insecurity faces its own challenges related to availability, access, utilization and/or stability of food. That is why a keystone to Rise Against Hunger's work is coming alongside local leaders in the communities we serve, empowering them to harness the strengths of their communities to tackle their food and nutrition security challenges.

To achieve food security for all and make zero hunger a reality, it is important to grow the movement and bring together as many people as possible.

Please plan to join us this November 12–14 as we come together with the Saint Bernadette community to assemble nutritious meals in partnership with Rise Against Hunger.

Last year, during our inaugural event, more than 1,000 volunteers—including residents from Greenspring, Saint Bernadette School students and staff, members of our SPRED program, and parish staff—worked side by side over three days to pack an incredible 175,000 meals. These meals were shipped to support a school feeding program in Timor-Leste, providing urgently needed nutrition to children. This year, we are aiming once again to reach our goal of 175,000 meals, and we invite you to be part of this meaningful effort.

We are also kicking off this year's program with the first of many Dining Night opportunities for our parish family—where your meal helps provide a meal for a child somewhere in the world.

You can see the calendar of Dining Out Nights throughout the Springfield community on page 10. We encourage you to participate in any of these opportunities.

If you work for a company that offers charitable contribution matching, please consider designating your support to the Saint Bernadette Rise Against Hunger event.

Your financial support allows us not only to respond to immediate hunger needs but also to help communities build sustainable, long-term food security solutions.

For more information or to get involved, please contact: Rick Caporali at rcaporali@stbernapar.org or Jean Corday at jcorday@stbernapar.org

We hope you will join us in making a difference.

Together We Rise Against Hunger



welcome father daniel



**Pope Leo's weekly
General Audiences will
resume on August 5.**

Traditionally, all Wednesday Papal General Audiences are suspended for the entire month of July to allow for summer holidays where Pope Leo will stay at the papal residence at Castel Gandolfo. The last audience was held on June 24, and regular Wednesday audiences will resume on August 5.



Father Daniel Rice

I was born in Chantilly, Virginia, in 1995 to Leonard and Barbara Rice. The third of six children, I grew up practicing the faith with my family. Most memorably, we prayed a few prayers, read a Scripture verse, or listened to a religious song each night before bed. As a young man, I learned about friendship with Christ in St. Timothy's Parish boys' club and grew in faith and friendships through the parish youth group.

I was homeschooled through seventh grade and then attended Trinity School at Meadow View for the remainder of middle and high school. At Trinity, I enjoyed a strong Christian community and a classical education. During those years, along with my growing relationship with God and desire for Him, I experienced an increasing sense of a call to the priesthood.

Following high school, I entered the seminary in 2013. My first four years of seminary were spent at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. There I studied philosophy, which fascinated me even more than my high school favorites: mathematics and science. During these college seminary years, I gained close friends from all over the country. I also developed new hobbies and interests. Having grown up hiking and canoeing with

my family, and having discovered soccer and skiing in high school, my time at the Josephinum added frisbee and running to my outdoor pastimes. I also discovered an affinity for singing, playing the Irish pennywhistle, brewing kombucha, and reading. During this time, I walked 500 miles across Spain on the Camino de Santiago.

In 2017, I continued my seminary formation with a Spiritual Year at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Through prayer, spiritual direction, a technology fast, and community life, God brought me healing, deepened my freedom, and showed me my identity as one loved by Jesus. The year culminated in a 30-day poverty immersion experience and a 30-day silent retreat, the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. I also made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, frequently visiting the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

During the following four years, I studied theology at St. Charles. There I found deeper fraternity as well as a stronger sense of home and rootedness in the Diocese of Arlington. To my hobbies I added rock climbing, hammocking, and listening to music. On June 4, 2022, I was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Michael Burbidge.

My first parish assignment was Holy Family Catholic Church in Dale City, Virginia, where I spent four years. There I discovered what life is like as a priest and grew in my love for God, His people, and the priesthood.

I am thrilled to join Saint Bernadette! I have been praying daily for the priests, staff, and parishioners here and will continue to do so. I look forward to meeting you and walking with you on the journey to Christ. Your one goal is to get to heaven; remember your goal!

Thursday evening men's group

"Join the men's group every Thursday night from 7 to 8pm on the Patio behind the rectory. A great way to find support in the faith through reading the Gospel, praying and sharing together.



Adult faith formation: accessing *Magnifica humani- tatis* (*Magnificent humanity*), Pope Leo's new encyclical

Start Here: 15 Quotes from Pope's *Encyclical, Magnifica Humanitas*

May 28, 2026, reprinted from The Catholic
Witness, Diocese of Harrisburg

Pope Leo XIV just released his first encyclical — and it may be the most important Church document of our lifetime. Called *Magnifica Humanitas*, it covers artificial intelligence, human dignity, children's phones, autonomous weapons, doomscrolling, the mystery of the human soul, and why no machine will ever have the final word on what it means to be a person made in the image of God.

The full document is available to download [here](#) — and worth a read. But for a quick taste of what's inside, here are 15 powerful quotes from the encyclical (by paragraph number):

4 "Never has humanity had such power over itself."

9 "In practice, however, technology is never neutral, because it takes on the characteristics of those who devise, finance, regulate, and use it. Therefore, the primary choice is not between a 'yes' or 'no' to technology, but rather between constructing Babel or rebuilding Jerusalem; between a power that claims to dominate the heavens and a people who work together in the presence of God to rebuild the walls of fraternal coexistence."

15 "In the era of artificial intelligence, when human dignity is threatened by new forms of dehumanization, ours is the pressing duty to remain profoundly human. We must lovingly safeguard the grandeur of humanity bestowed upon us and revealed in its fullness in Christ, the splendor of which no machine can ever replace."

16 "Thus, the 'rejected stones' — the poor, the sick, the migrants, and the least among us — will become the cornerstone, and a solid, welcoming common home will emerge on the earth, where love and faithfulness will finally meet, and

righteousness and peace will embrace (cf. Ps 85:10)."

50 "Human dignity does not depend on a person's abilities, wealth, or position in life, nor on the right or wrong choices made; instead, it is a gift that precedes and transcends each person, endowed by God as an expression of his unfailing love."

51 "Among these ideologies, I consider particularly insidious the one that suggests that every person must earn or justify his or her own worth, to the point of attributing greater value to those who are more efficient or effective."

52 "No sin, failure, humiliation, or exclusion can diminish the profound value of a human life that God has willed and called into being."

76 "Solidarity demands that decisions regarding data, algorithms, platforms, and artificial intelligence take into account not only the immediate benefit for a few, but also the impact on all peoples and on future generations."

128 "For an algorithm, an error is a flaw to be corrected; for a person, however, an error can be a catalyst for profound change. A person's future is not calculable, but depends on one's freedom — elevated by the inexhaustible grace of God — and on the relationships cultivated."

141 "Having a personal mobile device at too early an age and using it without adult supervision can exacerbate young people's vulnerabilities, foster addiction, and expose them to isolation, bullying, and cyberbullying, as well as to pressures to share intimate images or sensitive information."

211 "Even in the darkest nights, the Lord raises up men and women who refuse to give up, who persevere in doing good, who protect the vulnerable and open pathways to reconciliation. The memory of the saints, righteous people, and the oft-forgotten peacemakers, show us that grace does not magically eliminate conflict, but instead it inspires active resistance to evil and an astonishing creativity in doing good."

213 "The civilization of love will not arise from a single or spectacular gesture but from the sum total of small and steadfast

building more than a new building!

Parish Offertory

July 5	
Offertory	\$ 30,814
Tuition Angels	5,124

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.

continued on p. 12

acts of fidelity that serve as a bulwark against dehumanization.”

214 “Let us disarm words and we will help to disarm the world.’ Words have enormous power, something we experience in our daily interactions; for example, spoken words can change our mood for better or for worse.”

233 “No computational system, however sophisticated, can create a heart that gives itself, or a conscience that discerns good from evil. Even when machines excel in efficiency, a human face that asks to be gazed upon remains the center of our history. This human face is the fullness toward which history is moving.”

237 “Let us remain faithful to the truth! Living amid incessant flows of information, opinions, and images, we know how easy it can be to influence decisions and preferences through increasingly sophisticated algorithms. In this context, it is imperative to cultivate hearts that love the truth, prefer what is right despite the most appealing content, and pursue wisdom rather than immediate results.”

Catholics Vote No: Pledge to Vote

This fall in the Commonwealth of Virginia two proposed amendments on the ballot threaten the human right to life and the truth of marriage. These proposed amendments are called the “Virginia Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment” and the “Virginia Remove Constitutional Same-Sex Marriage Ban Amendment.” They also threaten constitutional justice, the equal protection of the laws, and religious liberty.

As Catholics, we vote “no” on these proposed amendments. We recognize that, if passed, these amendments would enshrine objective wrongs in Virginia’s Constitution and overturn basic matters of justice and gravely damage the intrinsic dignity of persons and the nature of marriage and the family. These are

matters of fundamental truth concerning the human person. Although Catholics may in good conscience disagree over most political policies which call for strictly prudential judgments, certain fundamental matters such as marriage and the protection of human life demand a consistent and universal response from Catholics to protect and preserve objective goods by which God blesses humanity.

If written into Virginia’s Constitution, these unjust amendments would be extraordinarily difficult to reverse. Virginia would effectively become a sanctuary for abortion and commercial abortion businesses. Basic health and safety standards that protect women from harm would be eliminated, parents would be pushed out of life-altering decisions involving their family and children, and unregulated abortions would be possible, performed even on healthy babies up to the moment of birth for any reason with no limits.

At the same time, Virginia’s Constitution would mislead future generations concerning the truth about marriage by adopting a false legal definition of marriage that would further erode a public sense of marriage as a natural institution uniting one man and one woman. Additionally, the amendment would lead to the expansion of an already existing commercial surrogacy industry which violates the natural rights of children and exploits vulnerable mothers.

To access the petition text and pledge to vote “no” on these constitutional amendments when voting begins Sept. 18, visit <https://catholicsvoteno.com/>

Join the Virginia Catholic Conference.

You can stay informed on legislation which affects us as Catholics on both the state and federal levels. Visit vacatholic.org, click on “Join us!” to receive email or text notices on proposed legislation in the VA State legislature and US Congress.



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Election Day **November 3**





dining out nights



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- 21 - Delia's Pizzeria & Grill, Backlick Rd*
- 27 - McAlister's Deli, Rolling Road

AUGUST

- 6 - Malek's Pizza Palace*
- 18 - Delia's Pizzeria & Grill, Backlick Rd*
- 31 - McAlister's Deli, Rolling Rd*

SEPTEMBER

- 3 - Malek's Pizza Palace, Springfield Plaza*
- 14 - El Paso Mexican, Commerce St**
- 21 - Silver Diner, Springfield Mall**
- 28 - McAlister's Deli, Rolling Road*

OCTOBER

- 5 - El Paso Mexican, Commerce St**
- 20 - Milano's, Rolling Rd.**
- 26 - McAlister's Deli, Rolling Rd*

NOVEMBER

- 5 - Malek's Pizza Palace, Springfield Plaza*

*Flyer Required (See Bulletin / Church Vestibule)

** Flyer Required (See Bulletin / Church Vestibule or electronic version)

***Please mention Saint Bernadette when you order.

Building access for all: an elevator for our 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, individuals with mobility challenges don't have access to our lower wings. This creates barriers for students, parents, staff, and visitors who rely on accessibility 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 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 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.

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

Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

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

July

13 MONDAY

7am † Diana Lenahan

9am* † David Zieler

Is 1:10-17/Mt 10:34—11:1

14 TUESDAY

7am † Petline Vessaoker

9am* † Bugie Murphin Garcia

Is 7:1-9/Mt 11:20-24

15 WEDNESDAY

7am † Cynthia Rowe

9am* † Maura Healy

Is 10:5-7, 13b-16/Mt 12:25-27

16 THURSDAY

7am † Jerry Choate

9am* † Luis Villavicencio

Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Mt 11:28-30

17 FRIDAY

7am † Angela Works

9am* Tina Washburn & Gerald Steeman

10am** † Pat Boglio

Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/Mt 12:1-8

18 SATURDAY

8am † Steven Schwendenmann

Mt 2:1-5/Mt 12:14-21

5pm* † Carmen Paredes

19 SUNDAY

7am † Charles Mastruserio

9am* † James Steeman

11am † Phuong Nguyen

1pm* † Marianne Wilburn

5pm For the parish

Wis 12:13, 16-19/Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43

* live-streamed Masses

** Mass at Greenspring Chapel

Masses next weekend

July 18 5pm Fr. Daniel

July 19 7am Fr. James

9am Fr. Don

11am Fr. Cedric

1pm Fr. Daniel

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, Cristina Perez, Rev. William Hower, Pierre DesLauriers, Jane Springer, Ed Wyse, Linda Robish, Robert Williams, Jr.

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.

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 on-line 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, reach out to 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 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 or 703-352-0925 x1314.

Mary's Comfort update

We recently welcomed a new guest to Mary's Comfort - please pray for her and her unborn baby. Would you like to volunteer with us to support our pro-life mission as a Property Manager? The commitment of time can be flexible and you'll be a part of a team who support this important component of our program. Visit <https://www.maryscomfortva.org/> for more information and email us at maryscomfortva@gmail.com with your interest. Thank you for your continued support!

ASJB College Nights

Attention Class of 2026! Heading to college this fall? Join the Associates of St. John Bosco for FREE College Nights this summer in Northern Virginia! Meet other Catholic students, hear real stories from upperclassmen, and get practical tips for keeping your faith strong in college. You'll connect with students from your future campus (or a campus similar to yours), enjoy a free pizza dinner, and take home a "Bosco Bundle" of Catholic books to bring with you to college. Spots are limited (50 per night), so don't wait! The dates and locations are:

July 14 - Holy Trinity/Gainesville

July 21 - Basilica of St. Mary/Alexandria

July 28 - St. Mary/Fredericksburg





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