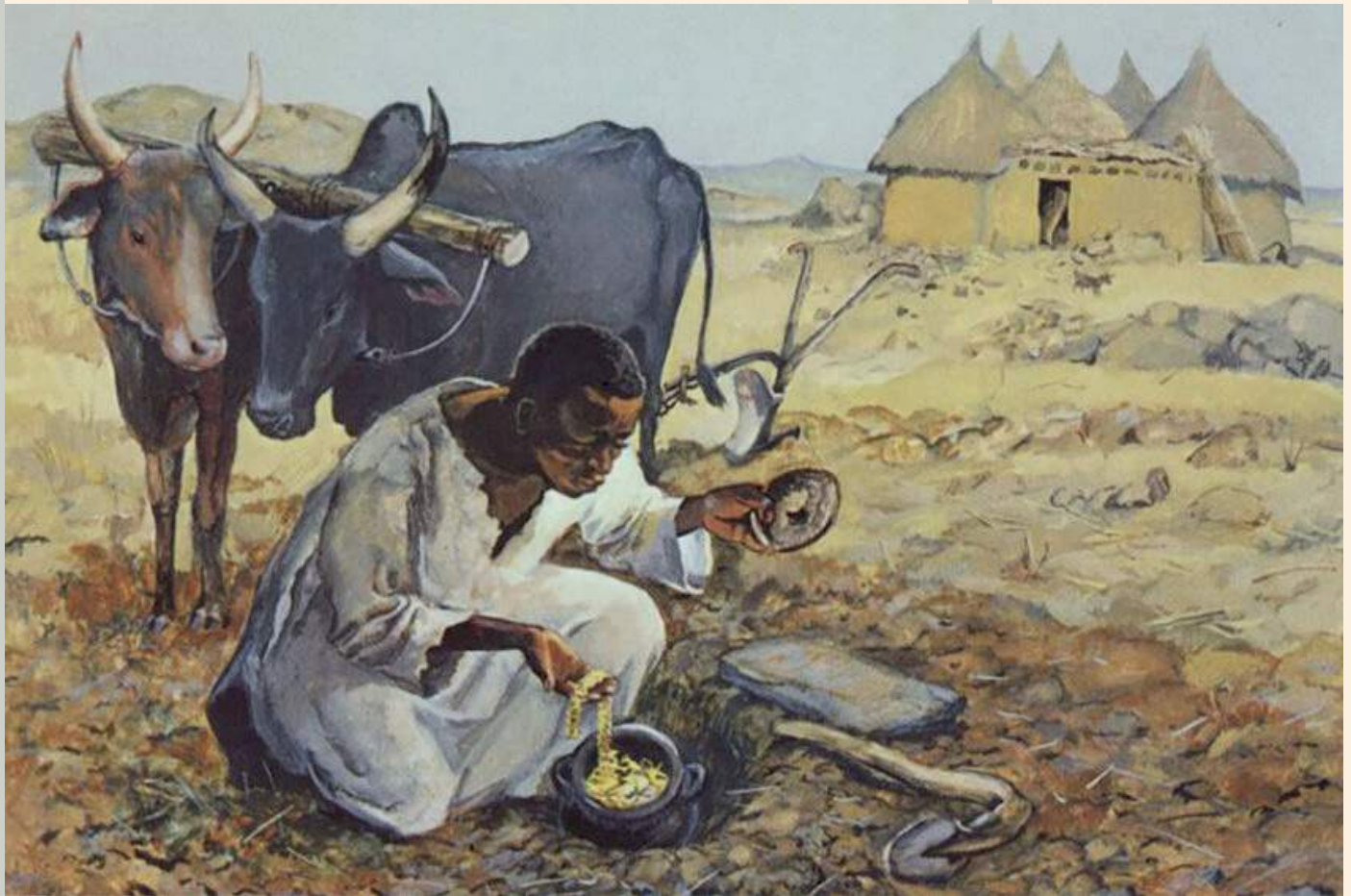


O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

17th Sunday in ordinary time

July 26, 2026



The Hidden Treasure, Jesus Mafa (Cameroon). 1973
from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville TN

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48286> [retrieved July 20, 2026]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr>
(contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

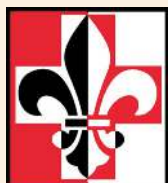


SAINT BERNADETTE
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

17th Sunday in ordinary time

July 26, 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

- 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 – 4-8pm
• **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
- 3 Monday, Weekday**
- 4 Tuesday, Saint John Vianney, Priest**
- 5 Wednesday, Weekday [Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major]**
- 6 Thursday, The Transfiguration of the Lord**
• **Dining Out Night for Rise Against Hunger** – Malek's – 5-8pm
- 7 Friday, Weekday [Saint Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions, Martyrs]**
• Adoration, 7-8pm, church
- 8 Saturday, Saint Dominic, Priest**
• Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
• Additional monthly Filipino Mass, 7pm
- 9 Sunday, NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
• Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm
- 10 Monday, Saint Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr**
- 11 Tuesday, Saint Clare, Virgin**
- 12 Wednesday, Weekday [Saint Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious]**
- 13 Thursday, Weekday [Saint Pontian, Pope, and Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs]**
- 14 Friday, Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr**
• Adoration, 7-8pm, church
- 15 Saturday, THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**
• (not a holy day of obligation) - Additional Mass at 10am
• Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 16 Sunday, TWENTIETH 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 this week, July 23, 24 and 25. Please note, it is one week earlier than previous years. Discount tickets are on sale after Masses this weekend. You can find all the information on pages 6 and 7, please join us!

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



Monday, July 27, 4-8pm

(mention Saint Bernadette when you place your order)

Upcoming Dining Out Nights

AUGUST

6 - Malek's Pizza Palace*

18 - Delia's Pizzeria & Grill, Backlick Rd*

from the pastor

We have the opportunity to honor and value that which stands beyond the test of time.

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

If you look for it, you will find treasure all through the Sacred Scriptures. It was quite an ordinary practice in the ancient world. Earthenware pots and jars were often used as containers to store and conceal items of value. During times of disorder, it was not unusual to bury valuables in such jars, perhaps under the earthen floor, within a wall, in a farm field, or urban lot, and then retrieve the valuables when the threat ended. The historian Josephus described the efforts of Jewish citizens to store their gold and silver underground during the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. One modern discovery, the Dead Sea Scrolls, were discovered in large, clay pots in a cave in Qumran. The scrolls, largely due to the dry climate, were preserved for some 2,000 years.

The prophet Jeremiah is instructed to store the deeds of his recently redeemed property in earthenware containers prior to the coming destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians.

In the parable of the talents in the Gospel of Matthew the slothful servant hides the talent he has been entrusted with, by burying it in the ground. The servant is unwilling to use what he has been given and to take the risks necessary for an greater return to his master.

Paul alludes to this practice in his second letter to the Corinthians: "But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us." This text contrasts the worth of the contents with the clay jar's lack of worth. He stresses the tremendous worth of the Gospel message shared with the world by the followers of Christ. What is important here is the power of God working in and through the fragility of human effort.

The theme of the parables in today's Gospel is the priceless value of the kingdom of heaven. In both cases, the finders find something so valuable that they are gladly willing to sacrifice everything to obtain it and are overjoyed to do so.

Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to "a treasure hidden in a field." Several thoughts in this parable ask for deeper reflection.

The most obvious is that the man is not in search of treasure. The treasure, in a sense, finds him. We may not be seeking after

God, but God is seeking after us. Having been found, the treasure requires immediate action, or it may be lost to him. "Seek the Lord while he may be found" (Isaiah 55:6-7); "Behold, *now* is the time of God's favor, *now* is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

The second aspect is that the man conceals the discovery and purchases the property without revealing to the owner what he has found. At its core, like the parable of the unjust steward, the story is not about his lack of ethics or character deficiency, but his recognition of the tremendous value of what he has found. In his joy, he sells all he has to obtain a greater wealth.

Jesus asks the disciples whether they understand. They say yes. He might well ask us the same question, "Do you understand?" This exchange is one of the few positive portrayals of scribes in the Gospels. It is quite a contrast to Matthew 23, where Jesus denounces the scribes and the Pharisees in seven "woe unto you" statements.

In this case, "every scribe" has occasion to experience God's kingdom as a disciple and to bring his or her training to bear for the sake of the kingdom. An example would be the apostle Paul who, after his conversion, used his considerable powers to proclaim the gospel and prosper the kingdom.

Jesus described such people as being "like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old." First-century cultures in the Mediterranean area valued ancient things and values that stood the test of time. Things that were new were suspect. Recognizing new items as treasures would involve sensitivity, preparation, and readiness to take a risk to one's standing in the community.

We have the opportunity to honor and value that which stands beyond the test of time.

What was new was the coming of the kingdom in the person of Jesus! What was old was tradition and wisdom of the law whose authority Jesus upholds and fulfills, and the prophets who proclaimed his coming.

Our theme this fall will be all about the Kingdom of God and who we are as its citizens, already now.

The Lord be with you. *Fr. Dm*

cardinal corner



FORMING
HEARTS
& MINDS
= 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.

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 Saint Bernadette's Religious Education webpage at <https://stbernapar.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.

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

Living the liturgical year

On July 31, we celebrate the Memorial of St. Ignatius Loyola. He created his Spiritual Exercises, "Finding God in all Things," which aimed to deepen one's relationship with God, promoted spiritual growth, and discernment through meditation and reflection. He also founded the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits who helped start dioceses and founded universities worldwide. St. Ignatius Loyola's legacy embody discipline, devotion and service to God. You and your children can learn more about St. Ignatius here: <https://bekids.mt/saint-ignatius-of-loyola/>. You can learn about his spiritual exercise here: <https://youtu.be/xkJeHHXfcm0?si=4bvRwI34lqr8AN4q>

youth ministry

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

High school Summer events

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

Daily Mass and Donuts - Every Tuesday until August 11. 9-10:30am

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 last Summer Drop-In! Join us August 5 for fun, games, friends, and of course, ice cream! We will meet from 6:45-8pm in the gym.

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.



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, August 4 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.

Thursday 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.

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. Llamen la oficina para registrarse. **Bienvenidos, el 14 de septiembre.**

up and coming

►► THERE IS STILL TIME!
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.

►► Tickets can be purchased online and at the door.



Disney **THE LITTLE MERMAID**

►► 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”*



**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.

ALL ARE WELCOME · TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS · LAHAT AY
MALUGOD NA TINATANGGAP



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**

Wednesday, September 2. 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@stbernpar.org

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 full access to our school, creating 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 need an elevator to provide access in accordance with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards. This project would allow all members of our parish and school community to move freely and safely throughout the school.

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. Through your ideas, prayers, and 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 frdon-rooney@stbernpar.org.

Catholics Vote No: Pledge to Vote

This fall in the 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 recognize that, if passed, these amendments would enshrine objective wrongs in Virginia's Constitution, overturn basic matters of justice, and gravely damage the intrinsic dignity of persons and the nature of marriage and the family. 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 Catholic response 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.

happening now

Parish Offertory

July 19
Offertory \$ 20,015
Facilities/Maintenance 4,212

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.

around the parish

*The Little Mermaid in its final
days of rehearsal last Monday.*

It's not too late for The Little Mermaid
(if you are reading this before Saturday afternoon!)



*Lectors gather for a luncheon
to thank Nancy Allard for her
years of service as coordinator
of lectors*



Tap to give

We are pleased to introduce Tap to Give, a convenient and secure way to make electronic donations through our ParishSOFT Giving platform.

Within the ParishSOFT Giving application, you can easily make a one-time gift or set up recurring donations. Simply select either Offertory or the weekend's Second Collection from the drop-down menu and choose the giving option that works best for you.

Tap to Give is more than an online giving platform—it also provides an electronic



means to stay connected with parish life. Subscribe to our website to receive parish news and updates, view upcoming events, and discover opportunities to get involved at Saint Bernadette Parish. If you are interested in volunteering, you can submit an inquiry through a simple online form.

Current parishioners can conveniently update their parish registration online, while those who are interested in becoming a member of Saint Bernadette are warmly invited to start the registration process.

You'll also find information about major parish events and an easy way to contact the parish office, even on weekends.

To use the Tap to Give feature, simply tap your NFC-enabled smartphone or smartwatch on the Tap to Give device. Make sure NFC is enabled on your device. (Bluetooth is not required for NFC payments.) ParishSOFT Giving supports both Apple Pay and Google Pay, making your donations fast, secure, and convenient. NFC (Near Field Communication) technology allows you to make safe, contactless contributions with just a tap.

Thank you for your continued generosity and for supporting the mission and ministries of Saint Bernadette Parish.

happening now

KofC Fun Run and Walk September 26

Registration is open! The 24th Annual Springfield Knights of Columbus 5K Fun Run and Walk is set for 9 AM on Saturday, September 26 at Burke Lake Park. This family friendly event welcomes runners and walkers of all ages - strollers welcome.

Event proceeds support KOVAR, a Knights of Columbus charity helping Virginians with intellectual disabilities and St. Bernadette School's Tuition Assistance Program. Please contact Tom Smith at tomsmith6153@outlook.com if you have questions. Early registration and donations help our planning.



echo teen volunteer program



Opportunity for youth to get involved in community

As an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, ECHO accepts potential volunteers who are over 18 years old and who can commit to a regular weekly schedule for a year unless otherwise noted.

At the same time, the ECHO Teen Program provides opportunities for high school and middle school students ages 13-18 to gain experience in community engagement and civic learning by volunteering at ECHO. Community engagement and civic learning are the foundations for building the community spirit necessary for neighbors helping neighbors to promote positive social change in our neighborhood.

During the school year, 13-18 year-old volunteers spend Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30pm on projects when ECHO is only open for donations and the Teen Program, to preclude student interaction with clients. Also, the teens have no access to client data.

Weekly, ECHO's Executive Director greets the new Teen Volunteers and provides them a detailed orientation tour of ECHO – its mission, values, vision. Purpose of the tour is to link the teens' volunteering at ECHO with building in them a sense of community engagement and civic learning.

Teen projects may range from routine, but necessary, support - assembling personal hygiene packets for the homeless, labeling clothing to identify the size more easily or checking food items in the mini-mart for expiration dates. Those projects may also be more detailed, for example, updating information in the Community Resource Library data base which identifies sources of support for those neighbors that exceeds ECHO's capacity or capability. There are also seasonal tasks for the teens such as making candy bags and preparing items for the Holiday shop.

The program is limited to six teens per week. There are two Adult Program Supervisors who assist the students with their assignments. (ECHO requires a background check for the adult supervisors in the Teen Volunteer program.

Inquire with ECHO to learn how to sign up and what the guidelines for volunteers are.

In addition to the Wednesday evening Teen Volunteer opportunities, teens may volunteer for seasonal opportunities, such as the School Backpack program (July-August), or remote opportunities, such as hosting a food or clothing drive. See more details on the ECHO website- <https://www.echo-inc.org/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities/>.

Teen Volunteer Program adult leaders

The Teen Program Adult Leader is an experienced volunteer at ECHO, familiar with what ECHO does and how it does it. The Adult Leader helps educate ECHO's Teen Volunteers about the importance of community engagement and civil learning, and how ECHO's all-volunteer culture is unique among the many organizations/activities which help neighbors in need. "All-volunteer" means no paid staff, which in turn means most of what ECHO receives in donations of items, money, time and talent goes to help those neighbors in need.

Some of the major responsibilities of the Teen Volunteer Program Adult Leader include:

- Collaborating with the ECHO Volunteer Coordinator regarding requirements for, and timely recruitment of, adult volunteers for the Teen Program;
- Coordinating with the ECHO School Partnership Program Leader to advertise the Teen Program within our school districts;
- Creating and maintaining the Sign-up Genius for the Teen Volunteer Program;
- Managing the adult volunteers to include assisting in recruiting, initial training, and scheduling;
- Mentoring and supervising the 13-18 year-old volunteers during their Wednesday 7-8:30PM engagement opportunities at ECHO.

Please contact ECHO if you or your children would like to be involved in caring for our community in this way.



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



Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

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

July

27 MONDAY

7am † Stan Haas
9am* † Wendell Washburn
Jer 13:1-11/Mt 13:31-35

28 TUESDAY

7am † Suzanne Hamilton
9am* Special Intention
Jer 14:17-22/Mt 13:36-43

29 WEDNESDAY

7am † Fielding McGuire
9am* † Jorge Sanavia Medida
Jer 15:10, 16-21/Jn 11:19-27

30 THURSDAY

7am † Temika Johnson
9am* † Lauro Conanan
Jer 18:1-6/Mt 13:47-53

31 FRIDAY

7am † Conchita & Gustavo Arenas
9am* † Carlos Marquez Arroyo
10am** † Cenci Claud
Jer 26:1-9/Mt 13:54-58

1 SATURDAY

8am † Joel Romero
Jer 26:11-16, 24/Mt 14:1-12
5pm* † Mike & Kathy Krechting

2 SUNDAY

7am For the parish
9am* Dindo & Vivien Ante
11am † Leon Marlow
1pm* † Dario & Ada Castedo
5pm † Rodrigo Solomon Delgado
Is 55:1-3/Rom 8:35, 37-39/Mt 14:13-21

* live-streamed Masses

** Mass at Greenspring Chapel

Masses next weekend

Aug 1	5pm	Fr. Don
Aug 2	7am	Fr. Daniel
	9am	Fr. James
	11am	Fr. Daniel
	1pm	Fr. Cedric
	5pm	Fr. Don

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., Clare Marshall, Robin Crookson

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@stbernapar.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!

Prime Time Single Catholics

We are a social group, mostly aged 60 and over. (35 to 59? Ask about our free associate group.) Meet us for: musical play "1776" (Aug 2); dining out in Alexandria (Aug 9); Thursday lunch (Aug 13); Museum of the Bible (Aug 18); Meadowlark Gardens (Aug 20); serving meal at Christ House (Aug 22); Nationals baseball game (Aug 27); picnic (Aug 30). For details, visit our website: bit.ly/ptsc. With questions or to RSVP, email Tom at ptscnva@gmail.com.





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