

O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. 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.

20th Sunday in ordinary time

August 16, 2026



The Woman of Canaan (detail), Harold Copping, 1927
illustration from *Women of the Bible*, published by the Religious Tract Society



SAINT BERNADETTE
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

20th Sunday in ordinary time

August 16, 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 gme@stbermpar.org Assistant Director, Mary O'Malley momalley@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

august

16 Sunday, TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm
- **Saint Bernadette School Alumni Mass 5pm**, church, Ice Cream Social to follow Bradican Rm lawn

17 Monday, Weekday

- **Taize Prayer Service, 8-8:45pm**, church, Please plan to join us.

18 Tuesday, Weekday

- **Dining Out Night for Rise Against Hunger** – Delia's - All Sales / All Day

19 Wednesday, Weekday [Saint John Eudes, Priest]

- **First Day of School.** Welcome back!

20 Thursday, Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor

21 Friday, Saint Pius X, Pope

- Adoration, 7-8pm, church

22 Saturday, The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

23 Sunday, TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- **Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast, 8am-1pm**, Cafeteria
- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm

24 Monday, Saint Bartholomew, Apostle

25 Wednesday, Weekday [Saint Louis; Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest]

26 Wednesday, Weekday

27 Thursday, Saint Monica

28 Friday, Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor

- **Organ/Piano Concert with Sterling Tilley, III** – church – 7:30pm
- Adoration, 7-8pm, chapel

29 Saturday, The Passion of Saint John the Baptist

- Mary's Comfort Back to School Tea, 2:30pm in the cafeteria
- Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass

30 Sunday, TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm

31 Monday, Weekday

- **Dining Out Night for Rise Against Hunger** – McAlister's Deli, 4-8pm

september

1 Tuesday, Weekday

2 Wednesday, Weekday

3 Thursday, Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor

- **National Prayer Service Honoring the Many Journeys that Shaped America** multicultural celebration of America's 250th anniversary – 7:30pm in the church followed by a reception

4 Friday, Weekday

- Adoration, 7-8pm, church

5 Saturday, Weekday [Saint Teresa of Calcutta, Virgin]

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

announcements

All Saint Bernadette School Alumni are invited to an Ice Cream Social on the lawn in front of the Bradican Room after the 5pm Mass next Sunday, August 16. Bring your Cardinal spirit and join us from 6-7pm to reconnect with former classmates, meet fellow alumni and their families.

Come to an organ/piano concert Friday evening, August 28, and hear Saint Bernadette's own Sterling Tilley, III share his musical talent. In high school, Sterling helped here with music ministry at Mass!

The Knights of Columbus is hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, August 23, from 8am to 1pm in the school cafeteria to welcome everyone. Donations will go to Knights of Columbus charities.

Join us for the Annual Back to School Tea on Saturday August 29 at 2:30 hosted by Mary's Comfort, a center helping expecting mothers in crisis to have shelter, support, and new beginnings. See the bulletin for more details.

We are pleased to introduce Tap to Give, a convenient and secure way to make electronic donations during the offertory through our Parish Soft Giving Platform. The app also allows for you to update your registration, learn about upcoming events, find daily Mass readings and much more.



Parish Dining Out Nights

Support our Work of Mercy ~ Rise Against Hunger



Tuesday, August 18, Open to Close
(mention Saint Bernadette when you place your order)

www.stbernpar.org | page 3

from the pastor

"And so, dear young people, today Europe and the whole world are looking to you for new saints: dare to believe in the word of the Gospel, become fully human with the freedom of Jesus Christ, and embrace Sister Poverty! The title of your gathering — Go! — is a mission, a sending out onto roads for which we have no maps, because they open up as we listen to the heart, obey the Spirit, and follow the Risen Lord where He has chosen to go before us."

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

Youth of Saint Bernadette: pay attention! (Adults, you can, too!) Send this page to your children away at school, or to youth in your neighborhoods who are starting out on their own with a wide future ahead.

I came across this article in Vatican News about what Pope Leo had to say to the youth of Assisi on the feast of Jesus' Transfiguration last week. It is so beautiful I will use this as my letter to you this week.

by Tiziana Campisi, August 6, 2026

Pope Leo celebrated Mass on Thursday for the thousands of young people from across Europe gathered in Assisi for Go!, the 2026 Franciscan Youth Meeting.

At Mass in the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels, the Pope encouraged his young listeners to go "to the margins" of society, "where the injustice and arrogance of a few deny the dignity and dreams of many."

"We are called to read the Scriptures with the Master," Pope Leo said, "to interpret our times, and to make decisions as we walk in his footsteps. We are here to overcome resignation and fear, to untangle the doubts that hold us back just as they held back the apostles. Jesus calls us into a dialogue with his story so that we may write new pages of history."

Assisi is a place where "everything whispers that our lives can be transformed, unleash light, and repair the world," the Pope said, reminding his listeners that it was here in Assisi that "the transfiguration of Francis, of Clare, and then of thousands of other young people" first began.

Pope Leo began his homily by considering the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, which the Church marks today.

Jesus, the Pope said, was "transfigured precisely in conversation with the Father, with those who preceded him — Moses and Elijah — and with his contemporaries, the disciples."

The Church exists, Pope Leo said, "to

draw us into this dynamic of listening and deciding, helping us understand for whom to live and how to live."

The Church is "the community where we learn to distinguish the voice of God," the Pope stressed, "and to dare that obedience to the Holy Spirit that made bold and creative all those who agreed to follow Jesus."

While St Francis' choice to turn away from the world was revolutionary, St Clare's was "even more striking," Pope Leo said. Like Francis, Clare "wanted to live ... in true freedom," and this, the Pope explained, is the "energy" of Christianity — "that of beginnings and many fresh starts."

All of this must be done without keeping our distance "from the wounds of the Lord," as Pope Francis warned, Leo continued, quoting *Evangelii gaudium*, in which his predecessor stresses that "Jesus wants us to touch human misery, to touch the suffering flesh of others. He expects us to stop looking for those personal or communal niches that allow us to keep our distance from the heart of human suffering."

Even if his listeners "might not be understood, even by those in your own home—just as happened to Saint Francis," the Pope stressed that "stepping away from the culture of power and tearing down the walls that divide human beings is never a betrayal of family, city, or tradition."

Rather, he said, it serves to free us "from their ghosts, from enemies invented out of fear and ignorance, and from the violence that seeks to impose its own neat little order on a reality that vastly exceeds us on every side."

"To trust in God is to discover, like Francis and Clare, a world of brothers and sisters to be appreciated and served, not exploited and dominated," the Pope said. "Not a world to be defended, but one to be embraced."

The Lord be with you. *Fr. Dom*

Meet the newest members of our school family

As we prepare for another exciting school year at Saint Bernadette Catholic School, we are delighted to welcome several talented educators and staff members to our school community. Each brings valuable experience, a passion for education, and a commitment to helping our students learn and grow. We are excited to have them join our team.

Meet Our New Teachers

Sonia Jara Garcia joins our PreK team with a Bachelor's degree from Villareal University and 10 years of preschool teaching experience. Her dedication to early childhood education and nurturing young learners will provide a strong foundation for our youngest students.

Michele Robinette will be teaching 2nd grade this year. She earned her Master of Education in Elementary Education from Western Governors University and has experience teaching students in kindergarten through 2nd grade. Her enthusiasm for elementary education and commitment to student success make her a wonderful addition to our faculty.

Joining our 4th grade team is **Cecily Lovett**, who holds a Master of Science in Special Education from Florida State Uni-

versity. She brings extensive experience working with students in kindergarten through 5th grade in both self-contained and Learning Resource classrooms. Her expertise in meeting diverse learning needs will be a tremendous asset to our students and school community.

Agnes Vincze joins us as an experienced instructional assistant and co-teacher. Her background in supporting young learners and collaborating with classroom teachers will help create a positive and engaging learning environment.

Sofia Erickson brings a unique blend of experience in communications and higher education, having served as a university teaching assistant. Her strong communication skills and educational background will be a valuable resource in supporting students and teachers.

Maria Teresa Alfaro has extensive experience working with families in international settings. Her ability to build meaningful relationships and support diverse communities will enrich our school and strengthen connections with our families.

Please join us in giving these outstanding educators and staff members a warm welcome. We are excited for the knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm they bring to our school and look forward to a successful year together.



cardinal corner



FORMING
HEARTS
& MINDS
IN CHRIST

Jennifer Bodi, RN, is changing hats this year and serving the school as our nurse.

religious education program

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,

Registration for 2026-2027

R.E. First Day Information

There will be mandatory parent information meetings on the first day of classes, either Tuesday, September 1 or Wednesday, September 2, covering communications, disciplinary rules, and attendance expectations. Parents must attend this first-day meeting!

Arrive no later than 6pm to the church with your child. We will start with prayer and the students will go to class with their catechists. Parents will remain in the church for the meeting. Students will be dismissed at the normal time and place: 7:15pm, from Door 1— the main school door under the canopy.

Volunteers needed for this year!

If you feel called to help with the Religious Education program, we are in DIRE need of volunteers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6-7:15pm (arrive by 5:45pm).

For Tuesday: Confirmation Second Year Lead (7th and 8th grade), First Communion

First Year Lead (1st and 2nd grade), First Communion Second Year Lead (2nd and 3rd grade), three hallway helpers, and four aides for various classrooms.

For Wednesdays, Fourth Grade Lead, First Year First Communion Lead (3rd through 6th grade), one hallway monitor, and three aides for various classrooms.

Feeling called to help? Need to know more? Please contact Lynn Jones at Ljones@stbermpar.org or 703-451-8576 ext 136. Training is scheduled this week, so call now!

Living the liturgical year

Ascension or Assumption? We just celebrated the Assumption on August 15 and the Ascension was a few months ago. These are two similar words for two similar events in the Church, but do you and your kids know which is which? Go to [Look to Him and Be Blessed here https://www.looktohimandberadiant.com/2023/08/ascension-or-assumption-do-your.html](https://www.looktohimandberadiant.com/2023/08/ascension-or-assumption-do-your.html) and learn all about these events!

youth ministry

Email our director of youth ministry, Grace Mee at gme@stbermpar.org, or assistant director Mary O'Malley, momalley@stbermpar.org with any questions you may have.

High School Tuesday Socials begin August 25

All high schoolers are invited to join us for Tuesday Socials 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. Contact Grace Mee for more information!

Middle School Youth Ministry begins September 2

All 6th-8th graders are invited for games, snacks, and fun every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, beginning in September! Meet in the school gym from 6:45-8pm.



Welcome Mary O'Malley, our new Assistant Director of Youth Ministry!

Hello everyone! My name is Mary O'Malley and I am so excited and grateful to join St. Bernadette as the Assistant Director of Youth Ministry! I recently graduated with a degree in Social Work from Franciscan University of Steubenville, and I am passionate about serving young people, particularly

within the Church. I look forward to getting to know the parish community and spend time with the youth! God bless!

taizé
monday, aug 17 - 8pm
Usually, the third Monday of each month. Please invite all your friends to join us in this prayer for Christian unity.



Wednesday, September 2: A National Prayer Service “Honoring the Many Journeys that Shaped America”

Join us for Saint Bernadette's multi-cultural celebration of America's 250th birthday!

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has provided resources to the country for a prayer service highlighting our nation's diversity and responsibility.

In observance of the United States' 250th anniversary this year, and rooted in the Church's pastoral mission of welcome, accompaniment, and solidarity, the purpose of this prayer service is to acknowledge and honor the many diverse communities that have journeyed to the United States in search of hope, safety, and opportunity, while also recognizing the voices, sufferings, and enduring contributions of those who were forcibly brought to this land.

Inspired by the Gospel call to welcome the stranger and uphold the dignity of every human person, this prayer service seeks to provide a sacred space for reflection, remembrance, lament, and hope. Through Scripture, ritual prayer, music, and communal reflection, participants are invited to encounter one another as members of one human family and one Body of Christ.

If you would like be involved in helping us, please call Fr. Don. The prayer service will begin at 7:30pm and a light multi-cultural reception will follow.

Alumni ice cream social after 5pm Sunday Mass

All Saint Bernadette Alumni are invited to Mass on Sunday, August 16 at 5pm followed by an Ice Cream Social on the lawn in front of the Bradican Room. Bring your Cardinal spirit and join us from 6–7 pm to reconnect with former classmates, meet alumni and their families. We look forward to sharing memories, making new connections, and inspiring the next generation together!



Organ/Piano Concert!

Sterling D. Tilley III, a native of Springfield, a member of Saint Bernadette and a talented young musician, will perform a piano and organ concert featuring his favorite religious pieces and several of his original compositions, Friday, August 28 at 7:30pm. Sterling completed his Masters of Music for Film and Visual Media last May at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, where he also received his Bachelor of Music in Music Composition with a minor in Arts Entrepreneurship in 2024. He is excited to share with us his talents during this special program! The program is free and all are most welcome. A light reception will follow. For more information, email David Mathers, dmathers@stbernpa.org.

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

Parish Offertory

August 9	
Offertory	\$ 31,435
Facilities/Maint.	5,512

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.

coming up



Catholic Women's Group

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

Tuesday, August 25 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.

ECHO Backpack Program prepares for back-to-school

Back-to-School is just around the corner! We hope to pack 1,400 grade-specific backpacks this year and we need your donations to make that happen. The list of needed items can be found on our Amazon Wishlist, [echo-inc.org/donate/donate-goods/#amazon-wishlist](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08XJZKZKZ), to have

supplies delivered directly to ECHO. Thank you for helping us equip every child for a successful start to the new school year!

Retreat for those facing serious illness

Amid illness and uncertainty, God's love remains a source of comfort and strength. You and your caregiver are warmly invited to a peaceful weekend retreat for persons facing serious illness: prayer, reflection, spiritual guidance, and gentle care. Priests, medical professionals, and volunteers will accompany you with compassion and support. Come find hope and rest in God's loving presence.

Email retreat@ccda.net, and a nurse will contact you within a few days. Or call (703) 841-3830. Space is limited.

CONCERTS at Saint Bernadette *presents*

ORGAN/PIANO CONCERT!

STERLING D. TILLEY III

Friday, August 28 at 7:30pm



Sterling D. Tilley III, Springfield native and member of Saint Bernadette parish, will perform a piano and organ concert featuring his favorite religious pieces and several of his original compositions. Sterling completed his Masters of Music for Film and Visual Media in May 2026 at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, where he also received his Bachelor of Music in Music Composition with a minor in Arts Entrepreneurship in 2024.

The concert is free and open to all.

No tickets are required. A free-will offering will be accepted.

A light reception will follow the performance.

CALLED: A conference for young adults



Young adults ages 19–35 are invited to CALLED: A Conference for Young Adults on Saturday, September 19, 1:30–9:30pm at the Hyatt Regency

Reston. Join hundreds of young adults from across the Diocese for an inspiring afternoon and evening featuring keynote speakers, breakout sessions, opportunities for Confession, Mass with Bishop Burbidge, dinner, live music, salsa dancing lessons, and authentic Catholic community. Early Bird registration is open July 1–August 31 for only \$50. Contact your parish young adult ministry for a \$10 discount code, or register and learn more at: www.arlingtondiocese.org/called

**plan to
join us**

"vatican council II through its documents"

15th Catechesis
August 5, 2026

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



"The liturgy is presented first and foremost as the place of encounter, of God's initiative in drawing near to humanity in his Son..."

III. Dogmatic Constitution *Sacrosanctum concilium*.

5. The prayer of the Church

Brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

In this catechism, we will resume our reflection on the Conciliar Constitution on the liturgy, *Sacrosanctum concilium* (SC). Today we will look at the ecclesial dimension of liturgical prayer.

As the Apostle Paul suggests, it is the Holy Spirit who teaches us to pray. From the day of Pentecost, the Spirit dwells in the Church, inspiring every one of her activities and, in particular, prayer. The life of the first community, born in Jerusalem after the Pasch of Jesus, is life in the Spirit given by the risen Lord. "From that time onwards the Church has never failed to come together to celebrate the paschal mystery: reading those things 'which were in all the scriptures concerning him' (Lk 24:27), celebrating the Eucharist in which 'the victory and triumph of his death are again made present,' and at the same time giving thanks 'to God for his unspeakable gift' (2 Cor 9:15) in Christ Jesus, 'in praise of his glory' (Eph. 1:12), through the power of the Holy Spirit" (SC, 6).

In our time, in contexts dominated by an efficiency-driven and consumerist mindset, prayer may seem pointless and trivial. In a world where science and technology

claim to provide all the answers, praying may appear to be a form of escapism. Furthermore, even in many Christian families, the tradition of prayer is no longer passed on, whilst many people risk confusing it with just another technique, of a psychological nature aimed at personal well-being. Prayer, however, as a fundamental dimension of our humanity, is worth rediscovering in its true form.

The Constitution *Sacrosanctum concilium* took this need seriously. This greatly pleased Pope Saint Paul VI, who, on promulgating this first document approved by the Second Vatican Council, stated: "God comes first; prayer is our primary duty; the liturgy is the primary source of the divine life communicated to us, the primary school of our spiritual life" (Address, Saint Peter's Basilica, 4 December 1963).

Indeed, in the Constitution, the term "prayer" designates the liturgy as a whole. This perspective is decisive, for it guided the liturgical reform, making the active participation of the faithful its central pillar. The liturgy is presented first and foremost as the place of encounter, of God's initiative in drawing near to humanity in his Son, "the Word made flesh, anointed by the Holy Spirit" (SC, 5), to whom we may respond "through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit," that is to say, thanks to "the very prayer which Christ himself, together with his Body, addresses to the Father" (SC, 84).



For this reason, Saint Paul VI ardently desired that the Liturgy of the Hours, the Church's daily public prayer, inseparable from the Eucharist, might deeply permeate, enliven, guide and express all Christian prayer, and effectively nourish the spiritual life of the People of God (cf. Apostolic Constitution *Laudis canticum*).

For this desire to be fulfilled, the Liturgy of the Hours needs to be more fully embraced and lived out in the daily lives of the baptized and of the communities. To the many people who wish to learn to pray, especially catechumens, it can offer the path and the school of Christian prayer.

Every week and every day, the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours are the breath of the life of the Church, which makes the Holy Spirit circulate through her Body. In this prayer, Christ "joins the entire community of mankind to himself, associating it with his own singing of this canticle of divine praise" (SC, 83). In this way, day by day, we are ever more united with the Paschal Mystery and conformed to him.

Saint Augustine affirms that "When we speak to God in prayer for mercy, we do not separate the Son from him; and when the Body of the Son prays, it separates not its Head from itself: and it is one Savior of his Body, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who both prays for us, and prays in us, and is prayed to by us. He prays for us, as our Priest; he prays in us, as our Head; he is prayed to by us, as our God. Let us therefore recognize in him our words, and his words in us" (Enarr. in psalmum LXXXVI: PL 37, 1081).

Bound to the Eucharist, whose light it prolongs, the Liturgy of the Hours sanctifies the time of our daily lives: in the morning, we begin the day with faith and gratitude; at midday, we ask for the strength to remain faithful amidst our labours; in the evening, once our work is done, Vespers accompany the moment of sunset; at night, we fall asleep entrusting ourselves to God's peace. Each Hour is an act of hope: during our earthly pilgrimage, we keep watch, awaiting with the whole Church the glorious return of the Lord.



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 9am on Saturday, September 26 at Burke Lake Park.

This family friendly event welcomes runners and walkers of all ages – strollers welcome.

You can register by scanning the QR code to the right. Event proceeds support KOVAR, a Knights of Columbus charity helping Virginians with intellectual disabilities and Saint 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.

house-keeping



Mary's Comfort's Annual Back-to-School Tea

All are invited to join Mary's Comfort for their Annual Back-to-School Tea on Saturday, August 29, 2-4pm in the school gym. This special afternoon benefiting Mary's Comfort, a nonprofit bringing shelter, support and new beginnings to expecting mothers in need, is a wonderful opportunity to meet new families, reconnect with friends, and enjoy fellowship. Whether you're new to the area or have been here for years, there's a place for you at the table. We hope you'll join us! Registration information is located in the lobby of the church, or you can use the QR code at right to register.



Together We Rise Against Hunger



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@stbernpar.org or Jean Corday at jcorday@stbernpar.org

We hope you will join us in making a difference.



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 your preferred option.

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.

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

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.

house-keeping



Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

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

August

17 MONDAY

7am Sophia Mugno
9am* † William Houston
Ez 24:15-23/Mt 19:16-22

18 TUESDAY

7am † Marie Teresa Lee
9am* † Susan Akroyd
Ez 28:1-10/Mt 19:23-30

19 WEDNESDAY

7am Alice & Ava Martin
9am* † Maria Hop Trinh
Ez 34:1-11/Mt 20:1-16

20 THURSDAY

7am † Juan Pine
9am* † Tommy Kidwell
Ez 36:23-28/Mt 22:1-14

21 FRIDAY

7am Angela Jones
9am* Lynne Strobel
10am** † Fred Dorweiler
Ez 37:1-14/Mt 22:34-40

22 SATURDAY

8am † Vilma Bracamonte
Ez 43:1-7ab/Mt 23:1-12
5pm* † Eveith Lucas

23 SUNDAY

7am † Wade Kirdahi, Jr.
9am* † James & Joan Burke
11am † Marina Huapaya
1pm* For the parish
5pm † William Hoyne, Jr.
Is 22:19-23/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20

* live-streamed Masses

** Mass at Greenspring Chapel

Masses next weekend

Aug 22	5pm	Fr. Daniel
Aug 23	7am	Fr. Cedric
	9am	Fr. James
	11am	Fr. Don
	1pm	Fr. Daniel
	5pm	Fr. James

Parish prayer list

John Yost, Wioffto Helenius, Robert Holzhauser, Adolfo Blandon, Esperanza Ayala, Gloria Tortoriello, Bob Atwell, Charles Roby, Kathleen Murray, Alan Curtis, Brian Keller, Cassi Smith, Edward Fitzgerald, John Winkler, Antonio & Maria Benedi, Donna Lash, Llewellyn Salsado, Cristina Perez, Rev. William Hower, Jane Springer, Ed Wyse, Linda Robish, Robert Williams, Jr., Robin Cookson

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@stbernpa.org or call her at the Parish Office, 703-451-8576, ext. 122.

Mary's Comfort update

Both of the current guests at Mary's Comfort are doing well thanks to your continued support! If you're interested in learning more about our mission to provide an enriching home and mentorship for women facing a crisis pregnancy, please visit our website: <https://www.maryscomfortva.org/>. We could always use a few more volunteers! For more information email us at maryscomfortva@gmail.com and share a bit about your experience and interests in our work. Thank you for your continued prayers!

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: 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.

11th annual Mass honoring military and first responders

All are invited to attend the 11th Annual Mass Honoring Military and First Responders on Sunday, September 13, at 11am, St. Leo the Great Catholic Church (3700 Blenheim Blvd, Fairfax, VA 22030). Bishop Burbidge will be the main celebrant and homilist. Members of the military, law enforcement, and fire & rescue are encouraged to wear their dress uniform. A picture of our "heroes," along with our clergy present, will be taken immediately after Mass; a luncheon reception honoring these "heroes" will follow in the school gym.





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