

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. 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.

21st Sunday in ordinary time

August 23, 2026



Christ Giving the Keys to St Peter (or, The Delivery of the Keys), Perugino:Pietro di Cristoforo Vannucci, 1482 fresco, Sistine Chapel, Vatican City



SAINT BERNADETTE
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

21st Sunday in ordinary time

August 23, 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 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

- 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 Tuesday, 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 - World Day of Care for Creation**
- **Religious Education classes begin** – Parents & students meeting church 6pm
- 2 Wednesday, Weekday**
- **Religious Education classes begin** – Parents & students meeting church 6pm
 - **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
- 3 Thursday, Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor**
- **Dining Out Night for Rise Against Hunger** – Malek's Pizza Palace
- 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
- 6 Sunday, TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm
- 7 Monday, Weekday**
- 8 Tuesday, The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- 9 Wednesday, Saint Peter Claver, Priest**
- 10 Thursday, Weekday**
- 11 Friday, Weekday**
- Adoration, 7-8pm, church
- 12 Saturday, Weekday [The Most Holy Name of Mary]**
- Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 13 Sunday, TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm

announcements

Mark your calendars! Our parish multicultural observance of the bishops' National Prayer Service "Honoring the many paths that shaped America" is Wednesday, September 2 at 7:30pm – consider bringing food unique to your culture for our light potluck reception following.

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 this Sunday, August 23, from 8am to 12pm in the school cafeteria to welcome everyone. Donations will go to Knights of Columbus charities.

Join us for their Annual Back to School Tea on Saturday August 29 at 2:30pm 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

"...an interesting reflection: to lead them to pasture, to set them grazing, and to 'cause them to eat?' What is the old phrase -- you can lead a horse to water...but you can't make it drink! But that is, apparently, exactly my vocation."

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

Once I asked A.I. the origin of the word "pastor." The word "pastor" originates from the Latin word "pastor," meaning "shepherd." This term, in turn, comes from the Latin verb "pascere," which means "to lead to pasture, set to grazing, cause to eat." In religious contexts, particularly within Christianity, "pastor" is used to describe a clergyman or minister who is a shepherd to a flock or congregation.

It has been my experience, however, that the job often seems more like that of a sheepdog than a shepherd, running around biting at peoples' heels to try to move this ship of church in the right direction. You hear people use the phrase "herding cats" a lot, but I think it better to popularize "herding sheep."

It is an interesting reflection: to lead them to pasture, to set them to grazing, and to "cause [them] to eat?" What is the old phrase -- you can lead a horse to water... but you can't make it drink! But that is, apparently, exactly my vocation.

I have often pondered the best course of action for Saint Bernadette. Then, how do I place it in front of you, and convince you that you can't live without it? That there is nothing more important to your life than what Jesus is offering now at this moment of your life? I would hope that in an unobscured moment of clarity each and every person in our parish would realize that this is True. But how do we renew our hearts to make Saint Bernadette our priority as a community that brings us holiness and life?

Sadly, this is not something that happens automatically. It is only **inspired** by an encounter of the love of God, often in prayer but often also in our interactions with others. There is an unconditionality of love that lays bare all our brokenness from bad experiences of love which did more harm than good. It is only **actualized** by the same interaction when we experience the beauty of others serving us and our service to others. This is the love that saves. This is the love whose absence on

the last day will bring about the words of our Savior, reminding us that every time we did not do something out of love for the least of our brothers and sisters, we did not do it for him. It is starkly simple.

Once again, we are preparing for Parish Life Weekend September 12-13. You will be asked to make commitments of time, talent and treasure for our parish community. Shepherds and sheepdogs aren't enough to make things happen: Saint Bernadette is going to be just as great as you make it. But, people are afraid to commit to things today. There is the pasture... so many possibilities placed before us. Please, eat. The alternative is to starve.

Especially now that we have received the final approval of Bishop to move forward with our new building dream-to-reality (see page 8), we have an even greater future just about to open up. Think of the possibilities with a new building. So what does a pastor do when he needs help? He calls forth the gifts that God has already placed in our community.

We have a great parish advisory board in place ready to go. Where I need help is to build a communications team -- could be a committee, or just a team -- where we can communicate the incredible volume of our good news in a way that is concise, complete and not too frequent. The pasture is laid out before us. We now must lead each other to the water.

This is particularly an area where you youth and young adult members of our family can shine. I love to tell our kids that I graduated from college before personal computers were invented. They invented the internet the year I was ordained. So you can see how steep my learning curve is! Help! I make this bulletin every week, that is about the depth of my tech talents. Good news can travel just as quickly as bad can will provide people with the hope they need so much. The best news is usually received in person: by word of mouth. Share our story and get people excited! Come to the water!

The Lord be with you. *Fr. Dom*

We have had a very busy week,

welcoming back teachers and staff. On Tuesday, August 11, we held a "Popsicles on the Playground" meet and greet for our youngest Cardinals. About 30 excited preschoolers attended to play on our playground and make some new friends. It was great to see so many eager young faces, and parents who will form valuable bonds of friendship.

At our school, we are focused on the development of the whole child. The purpose of Catholic education is the complete formation of a human being – mind, body and spirit – inspired by the teachings of Jesus Christ. Each member of our faculty and staff aims to inspire spiritual growth and moral virtue in each of our students. On Thursday, August 13, we officially welcomed back all our wonderful teachers, Instructional Assistants, and school staff members. Our thoughtful P.T.O. brought in a delicious breakfast, and we had an exciting kick-off meeting in our school cafeteria, led by Fr. Don and Dr. Burgess. Faculty and staff are busily arranging desks, putting up decorative bulletin boards, and becoming familiar with new schedules. The excitement for

the new year ahead is palpable in our hallways. We are looking forward to welcoming back our students next week.

Faculty and staff attended the 9am Mass on Friday, August 14. Father Don reminded us during his homily of the importance of compassion – truly placing ourselves in the shoes of another person and trying to imagine life from another person's perspective. By preserving a compassionate heart and striving to model what it means to live according to Jesus' teachings, we look forward to an exciting and adventurous 2026-2027 school year!

cardinal corner



**FORMING
HEARTS
& MINDS
IN CHRIST**



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, at ext 138.

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 (seventh and eighth grade), First Communion First Year Lead (first and second grade), First Communion Second Year Lead (second and third grade), three hallway helpers, and four aides for various classrooms.

For Wednesdays, Fourth Grade Lead, First Year First Communion Lead (third through

sixth grade), one hallway monitor, and three aides for various classrooms. Feeling called to help? Need to know more? Please contact Lynn Jones at Ljones@stbernpar.org or 703-451-8576 ext 136. Training is scheduled this Sunday and August 27, so call now!

Living the liturgical year

Happy 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time! On August 27, we celebrate the Feast Day of St. Monica and on August 28, we celebrate the Feast Day of St. Augustine. St. Monica is known for her unwavering faith and persistent prayers for her son St. Augustine, who became one of the most influential Christian theologians in history. His theological work helped define and explain core Christian doctrine. You can find suggested activities to celebrate the Feasts of St. Monica and St. Augustine here: <https://catholicprintableclub.com/blogs/august-feast-days/how-to-celebrate-the-feasts-of-st-monica-and-st-augustine-august-27-28>. You can watch their story with your children here: <https://app.formed.org/app/videos/578423?cid=115856>.

To sign up for Formed, enter the zip code: 22152 and look for St Bernadette Church, 7600 Old Keene Mill Rd., Springfield, VA.

youth ministry

Email our director of youth ministry, Grace Mee at gmee@stbernpar.org, or assistant director Mary O'Malley, momalley@stbernpar.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.

High School Trivia Night - September 12

Calling all high schoolers! Join us for Trivia Night on September 12th from 6-8:30 pm!



Meet in the Bradican Room for a fun night of dinner, trivia, and fellowship.

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!

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.

Catholic Women's Group

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

Tuesday, September 1, 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.

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.

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@stbernpar.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. Llaman la oficina para registrarse. **Bienvenidos, el 14 de septiembre.**

up and coming

Parish Offertory

August 16
Offertory

\$ 27,155

*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.



DIocese of ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

200 North Glebe Road, Suite 914 • Arlington, Virginia 22203 • Office (703) 841-2511 • Fax (703) 524-5028

August 13, 2026

Reverend Donald J. Rooney
Saint Bernadette Catholic Church
7600 Old Keene Mill Road
Springfield, VA 22314

Dear Father Rooney,

Thank you for your presentation to the Building Commission on August 10, 2026, during which you completed the final stage of the Building Commission review process, Financed-to-Scope. I understand that you presented your updated design, budget, and financial forecast, and that the Building Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the project. I concur with the Commission's recommendation and approve your moving forward with the project. This approval authorizes expenditures up to, but not exceeding, the total project budget presented to the Commission of \$9.6 million, inclusive of all hard costs, soft costs, contingencies, and fees. Should you anticipate exceeding this approved budget due to unforeseen conditions or other circumstances, you must return to the Building Commission for further review and approval before proceeding. At that time, you should present a revised approach that demonstrates the continued financial reasonableness of the project.

Please continue to collaborate with the Office of Planning, Construction and Facilities to finalize a design-build contract. You should also engage Tim Cotnoir, Diocesan Finance Officer, to initiate the DIAL loan contemplated in your financing plan.

Be assured of my continued prayers for you and all those of Saint Bernadette Parish. May Our Lord Jesus bless you and keep you in his care.

Fraternally in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington

c: Very Reverend Jamie R. Workman, J.C.L., Vicar General
Mr. Ward Jones, Chief Operations Officer
Mr. Timothy Cotnoir, Diocesan Finance Officer
Mr. Anthony Gammon, Director, Office of Planning, Construction, and Facilities

CONCERTS at Saint Bernadette presents

ORGAN/PIANO CONCERT!

STERLING D. TILLEY III

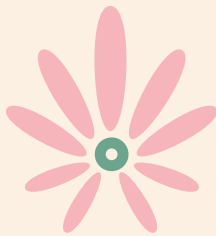
Friday, August 28 at 7:30pm



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.*



Walking With Purpose – women's Bible study

All women are welcome to join in our 6th year of Walking With Purpose – a women's Bible study. This year we will be participating in two 9-week sessions that complement each other. They both study the Old Testament and how it points to the coming

of Jesus Christ. "Beholding His Glory," the first session, will run from October–December and "Beholding Your King," the second session, will run from January–March. Separate morning and evening sessions will be offered and take place in the Bradican Room. Tuesday mornings from 9:45–11:30am or Thursday evenings from 7–8:30pm. Look for future announcements regarding registration in September! For more information on the bible studies we are participating in, go to www.walking-withpurpose.com. Questions about our WWP group? Email: stbernadettewwp@gmail.com.

plan to
join us

"vatican council II through its documents"

17th Catechesis
August 12, 2026

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



"In this assembly, the Christian community makes visible its communion with the Lord and bears witness to its belonging to Christ and its fidelity to the Church. This assembly cannot be substituted by a solely virtual presence, nor can it be reduced to a merely passive gathering. The liturgical assembly is in fact fulfilled through the active participation of brothers and sisters..."

III. Dogmatic Constitution *Sacrosanctum concilium*.

6. The liturgical year

Dear brothers and sisters,

The fifth chapter of the Conciliar Constitution *Sacrosanctum concilium* (SC) is dedicated to the liturgical year, a theme we would like to look at today, to explain its value in the life of every believer.

First of all, it is important to note that this way of referring to the cycle of Christian feasts as the 'liturgical year' became widespread in ecclesiastical language thanks to the work of the Servant of God, Abbot Prosper Guéranger (1805–1875).

In the Encyclical *Mediator Dei*, Pope Pius XII states that it "is not a cold and lifeless representation of the events of the past, or a simple ... record of a former age. [The liturgical year] is rather Christ himself who is ever living in his Church. Here he continues that journey of immense mercy which he lovingly began in his mortal life ... with the design of bringing men to know his mysteries and in a way live by them. These mysteries are ever present and active" (III *Divinum Officium et Annus Liturgicus*, II *Cyclus Mysteriorum*). The liturgical year should thus be understood as a constant renewal of the work of salvation which Christ accomplishes in history. As she journeys through this temporal cycle, the Church remains in contact with the Lord's redemptive action, so that all the faithful may be filled with his grace (cf. SC, 102c).

The encounter with Jesus, who died and rose again for us, is the purpose that the Church always pursues, placing the celebration of the Paschal event at the center of every moment.

Hence the Council Fathers considered "the foundation and kernel of the whole liturgical year" to be Sunday, "the original feast day" (cf. SC, 106). In various modern languages, its name indicates that it is the "*dies Domini*," "the Lord's day." Even in those languages where the reference to the "day of the sun" (Sunday, Sonntag) has prevailed, the link with Christ can

be discerned: Christ is the true "sun of righteousness" who enlightens every person!

Saint John Paul II, in the Apostolic Letter *Dies Domini* (31 May 1998) teaches that Sunday is the day of the Lord, the day of the Church, the day of man and, finally, the "day of days." "Since Sunday is the weekly Easter, recalling and making present the day upon which Christ rose from the dead, it is also the day which reveals the meaning of time. ... Springing from the Resurrection, it cuts through human time, the months, the years, the centuries, like a directional arrow which points them towards their target: Christ's second coming. Sunday foreshadows the last day, the day of the Parousia" (75), when we shall all rise again.



To sanctify Sunday, it is fundamental to celebrate the Eucharist. Listening to the Word and partaking of the Body of Christ entail, according to the Council Fathers, the coming together *in unum* (cf. SC, 106), that is, the joyful gathering of the faithful. In this assembly, the Christian community makes visible its communion with the Lord and bears witness to its belonging to Christ and its fidelity to the Church. This assembly cannot be substituted by a solely virtual presence, nor can it be reduced to a merely passive gathering. The liturgical assembly is in fact fulfilled through the active participation of brothers and sisters, called together to "thank God who 'has begotten them again, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, unto a living hope'" (1 Pet 1:3) (*ibid.*).

In this regard, I urge everyone to seek the best possible conditions so that even those who are unable to take time off work on Sundays may take part in Holy Mass.

Dear friends, the liturgical year, punctuated by Sundays, has an interesting history, in which the faith and devotion of the Church



are interwoven. Indeed, from as early as the second century AD, the celebration of the weekly Easter was joined by that of the annual Easter, the “most solemn festival” (SC, 102), extending over the most joyful period of fifty days, culminating in Pentecost, and prepared for by the season of Lent with its penitential character (cf. SC, 109). The development of the Christmas cycle, which took place later and was modelled on the Paschal cycle, has made it possible to relive the mysteries of the Incarnation of the Word of God, of his birth and of his manifestation to the world. The Church then incorporated into the various times the veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, “joined by an inseparable bond to the saving work of her Son” (SC, 103), and “the memory of the martyrs and the other saints” who “sing God’s perfect praise in heaven and offer prayers for us” (SC, 104).

The liturgical year thus repeats, in sacramental form, the teaching of the history of salvation, guiding the faithful from the expectation of the Messiah to the fullness of the Paschal Mystery and to the anticipation of future glory. In it, the Church celebrates the salvific relevance of the mystery of Christ, enabling believers to participate in it ever more deeply. For this reason, the liturgical year constitutes the guiding principle and the essential framework for all pastoral action.

Fall Grief Retreat: Finding the Passion of Christ in your story

You do not have to grieve alone. Join other mothers of loss on September 18 & 19 for a fall retreat hosted by the Diocese of Arlington chapter of Red Bird Ministries. Draw closer to the Lord in your grief and find comfort, healing, and hope by connecting with others who understand the extraordinary cross you are carrying. For all mothers of loss, from pregnancy through adulthood.

When: Friday, September 18 (6:30–9pm) and Saturday, September 19 (9am–5:30pm) **Where:** Morning Star Retreat House in Great Falls Cost: \$40 (includes \$25 grief group journal, breakfast, and lunch) Register: www.redbirdlove/arlington-va Questions? Email elizabeth@redbirdlove



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 cafeteria. 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 150,000 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

24 MONDAY

7am Larry Emswiler
9am* † Maria Hop Trinh
Rv 21:9b-14/Jn 1:45-51

25 TUESDAY

7am † Donald Edward Fry
9am* Louisa Andrade De Denegri
2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Mt 23:23-26

26 WEDNESDAY

7am † Tania North
9am* † Gabriel Phillip Hudson
2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Mt 23:27-32

27 THURSDAY

7am † Robert Egan
9am* † Nhan Dao
1 Cor 1:1-9/Mt 24:42-51

28 FRIDAY

7am Luke Morris
9am* † Francisco & Socorro Masakayan
10am** † Jack Finley
1 Cor 1:17-25/Mt 25:1-13

29 SATURDAY

8am † Daniel Panganiban
1 Cor 1:26-31/Mk 6:17-29
5pm* Jay & Audrey Conners

30 SUNDAY

7am The Klein Family
9am* † Anne Wong
11am † Paula Panganiban
1pm* † Jaime Matos
5pm For the parish
Jer 20:7-9/Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27

* live-streamed Masses

** Mass at Greenspring Chapel

Masses next weekend

Aug 29	5pm	Fr. Don
Aug 30	7am	Fr. Daniel
	9am	Fr. James
	11am	Fr. Cedric
	1pm	Fr. Daniel
	5pm	Fr. Don

Parish prayer list

John Yost, Wioffo 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 online gifts. <https://giving.myparishsoft.io/app/giving/FD-70> you can click on sign in, using the same username and password as in Faith Direct, log-in, you can give now or set up a one-time gift. If you have difficulty, 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.

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); 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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