

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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.

23rd Sunday in ordinary time

September 6, 2026



SEASON OF CARE FOR CREATION September 1 - October 4 (Feast of Saint Francis): This nighttime picture of Earth was taken on April 2, 2026, by an Artemis II crew member aiming a camera through a window of the Orion spacecraft.

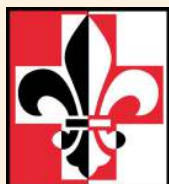


SAINT BERNADETTE
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

23rd Sunday in ordinary time

September 6, 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

september

- 6 Sunday, TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
 - Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm
- 7 Monday, Weekday**
 - **Dining Out Night for Rise Against Hunger** – Malek's – 5-8pm
 - Parish Offices closed for the Labor Day Holiday
 - **NO 7am Mass today**
- 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
 - **Parish Life Weekend, Meet with Ministry leaders after all Masses**
- 13 Sunday, TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
 - Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm
 - **Parish Life Weekend, Meet with Ministry leaders after all Masses**
- 14 Monday, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**
 - **Dining Out Night for Rise Against Hunger** – El Paso – All Day
- 15 Tuesday, Our Lady of Sorrows**
 - **Taizé Ecumenical Prayer Service**, 8pm in the church, please join us!
- 16 Wednesday, Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs**
- 17 Thursday, Weekday [Saint Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor]**
- 18 Friday, Weekday**
 - Adoration, 7-8pm, chapel
- 19 Saturday, Weekday [Saint Januarius, Bishop and Martyr]**
 - Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
 - **Commitment Weekend, please return completed Commitment Cards this weekend**
 - Pick up your **St. Lucy Food Drive** blue bags and return them full next weekend!
- 20 Sunday, TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
 - Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm
 - **Commitment Weekend, please return completed Commitment Cards this weekend**
 - Pick up your **St. Lucy Food Drive** blue bags and return them full next weekend!
- 21 Monday, Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist**
- 22 Tuesday, Weekday**
- 23 Wednesday, Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest**
- 24 Thursday, Weekday**
- 25 Friday, Weekday**
 - Adoration, 7-8pm, church
- 26 Saturday, Weekday [Saints Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs]**
 - Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
 - Bring food donations to the **St. Lucy Food Drive** at all Masses this weekend

announcements

Our parish offices will be closed on Monday, September 7, in observance of the Labor Day holiday. **Please note: NO 7am Mass on Labor Day.**

Watch your mailbox! All registered parishioners will be receiving our **Parish Renewal Handbook, Ministry Catalog and Annual Report**, probably beginning September 7. We will celebrate Parish Life Weekend September 13-14, and Commitment Sunday the following weekend. Please review the book and consider how you might get involved in parish life!

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.

Join us for our monthly Taizé Ecumenical Prayer service on Monday, September 15 at 8pm in the church. Bring your friends, all are welcome!

All couples celebrating a Golden or Silver Anniversary are invited to a Wedding Anniversaries Mass on Sunday, October 18, 2:30pm at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More. Please call the parish office to register no later than Monday, October 2.



Parish Dining Out Nights

Support our Work of Mercy ~ Rise Against Hunger

SEPTEMBER

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

from the pastor

"Whatever is possible in a parish community depends on the entire community, so I ask everyone to take part."

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

Labor Day every year gives us a chance to review Catholic Social Teaching which views work as a participation in God's creation and insists that the economy must serve people rather than people serving the economy. There is "no time like the present," as my mom used to say, to remember this when people globally are largely exploited in the interest of personal gain. Every person deserves dignity.

It was the Catholic Church that announced for the first time that a laborer was worth his wage, and that the wage should be a *living* or *just* wage, that is, enough for someone to support themselves and their families. Work should build both a healthy society and allow personal growth.

With so much information at our fingertips now, I have done a little research and learned something new.

Labor Day in the United States was started by the Central Labor Union in New York City, with labor leader Peter J. McGuire widely credited as a primary founder who proposed the concept. The first official U.S. Labor Day event took place on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City. President Grover Cleveland signed a law on June 28, 1894, making the first Monday in September an official federal holiday.

Peter McGuire was born into a poor Irish Catholic family and raised in the Catholic faith. He quit school and went to work at 11 to support his family when his father went off to fight for the Union Army. In the 1870s he was deeply involved in the campaign for the eight-hour day.

The Church's teaching on labor came to light first with *Rerum novarum*, an encyclical issued by Pope Leo XIII on May 15, 1891. It was an open letter passed to all Catholic bishops addressing the condition of the working class. It discusses the relationships and mutual duties between labor and capital, as well as between government and its citizens.

Parish Life Weekend is next weekend!

When asked why the Bishop's Lenten Appeal was necessary at its beginning, I remember Bishop Loverde saying that, in a perfect world, you wouldn't have to ask. But people by nature simply don't give spontaneously. We need to be given a particular time and place to make our commitments which we know are necessary, but too easy to put off.

Next weekend we observe the many opportunities offered by the parish for prayer, service, and financial support of the parish and ministries. It is an intentional time put on the calendar to help us remember our responsibility to each other and to our parish to serve and to give. Life gets busy and it's too easy to forget. The following weekend September 19-20 is commitment Sunday when we ritualize our intentions by placing our commitment card in the offertory at Mass.

Whatever is possible in a parish community depends on the entire community, so I ask everyone to take part.

My brothers and I still do Sunday night Zoom calls (since the pandemic) and my younger brother Bob (ordained a priest last May) was telling us about his parish. His school has about 800 students, three classrooms per grade and a big preschool program. He said that Catholic education at their school costs about \$9K per student. I asked him what they charge for tuition.

Nothing.

This is a rare glimpse of what is possible. How amazing that would be if we could provide Catholic education to everyone who seeks it! Members of his parish and school are all expected to tithe 8% of their income to the church/school and it pays all their salaries, bills, and expenses. As Catholics we don't talk as much about tithing, but it is a traditional way of thinking about what we have. Rather than "how much do I have to give?" it asks the question, "how much do I have to keep?"

The Lord be with you.

Fr. Dom

We are back!

As we return from the joys and rest of summer, our students, families, faculty and staff are grateful to God for the opportunity to begin another school year together. During the summer months, our hallways were quiet, our classrooms sat still, and the familiar sounds of laughter and chatter were replaced by silence. Now, with the return of our Cardinals, our school once again comes alive with energy and excitement.

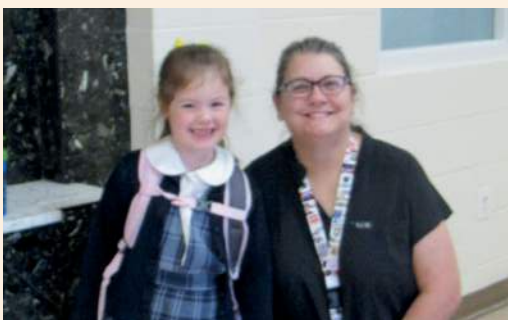
Saint Bernadette faculty and staff returned on Thursday, August 13, 2026, for a week of preparation, professional development, and of course, visiting with one another and sharing stories of summer. The week included "Sneak-A-Peek," an afternoon where students come to meet the teachers who will guide them in learning throughout the school year, and of course, catch up with classmates. Faculty members ended the week by gathering with their counterparts from across the diocese at All Saints Catholic Church in Manassas, Virginia to celebrate Mass led by Bishop Burbidge. We are so appreciative of these, and all, of our back-to-school traditions.



Students in kindergarten through eighth grade arrived back to school on Wednesday, August 19, 2026. After getting settled into new classrooms and new routines, we joined together for our first school liturgy of the year. Our teachers served as lectors and gift bearers, while our returning choir members led the congregation in songs of praise. On August 24, 2026, we welcomed the youngest members of our Saint Bernadette Catholic School community into our building. These four-year-old scholars join us as members of our prekindergarten program.

A new school year brings with it a sense of excitement, new possibilities, and the chance to grow, not only in knowledge, but also in faith, character, and our relationships with one another. It reminds us that every new beginning is a gift. Just as Jesus calls us to continually grow in our faith, we are invited to approach this year with open hearts and willing spirits. There will be new lessons to learn, new challenges to meet, new friendships to build and countless opportunities to live out the Gospel through virtue.

We look forward with gratitude for all that God has in store for us this 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, Coordinator of Religious Education, at ext 132, or Victor Mendez, Admin Assistant, at ext 138.

Religious Education classes began this week!

Parent meetings were held on the first day. If you missed the meeting, check the Flocknote that was sent on September 4! This year, parents should look for a weekly Flocknote email with information about your child's program. Please read these weekly as we provide updates, faith formation tidbits, and information on upcoming events. (Note: Students in SPRED and Family Faith Formation groups, who do not meet on Tuesday or Wednesday, will have different parent meetings but should still read the Flocknote!)

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 **Tuesdays**: hallway helpers, sixth grade (first year Confirmation) lead, and four aides for various classrooms.

For **Wednesdays**, Fourth Grade Lead, sixth grade (first year Confirmation) lead,

one hallway monitor, and three aides for various classrooms.

Feeling called to help? Need to know more? Please contact Lynn Jones at Ljones@stbernpa.org or 703-451-8576 ext 136. Training is scheduled this Sunday and August 27, so call now!

Children's Liturgy of the Word begins September 13

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) is a program for 3-6 year olds. The children leave the 9am Mass with their catechists during the Liturgy of the Word so they can hear the Word of God at their level. Children return to Mass during the offertory and worship with their families for the remainder of the Mass. The program is held most Sundays from September through July except holiday weekends. Our first session is on September 13!



All students MUST be pre-registered so we can have parent contact information. <https://forms.gle/Kfxe3miZDQJ5j5TZ8>

youth ministry

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

High School Tuesday Socials

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

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 12 from 6-8:30 pm! Meet in the Bradican Room for a fun night of dinner, trivia, and fellowship.

Altar Servers

Calling all rising 4th - 8th graders who would like to serve at the altar as Altar Servers! Training will be scheduled in September. There will be three mandatory sessions. Contact Jean Corday in the parish office: jcorday@stbernpa.org

CYO Sports

A rewarding experience for young athletes, Saint Bernadette CYO sports offers a variety of options, including cross country, tennis, track & field, basketball, cheer, and volleyball, fostering both physical fitness and teamwork, as well as the importance of faith, sportsmanship, discipline, and community in a supportive environment where players can build lasting friendships and learn valuable life lessons. CYO sports are open to children who attend St. Bernadette School or are enrolled in the parish's religious education program this year year.

Registration for Cross Country, Tennis, Track & Field is now open for registration. Please register at - <https://reg.sportspilot.com/106541/leagues>

Questions? Please reach out to parish CYO Reps - Gina Soriano (gvsoriano@gmail.com) or Catherine Luby (catherineeluby@gmail.com).

Join one of our choirs!

The choirs on summer break will resume in a few weeks, and all choirs are welcoming new members at this time.

Our Children's Choir, for 1st-6th grade singers, serves at 5pm Saturday Mass once a month. They rehearse every Thursday 5-5:45pm. Our Youth Choir, for 7th-12th grade vocalists and instrumentalists, sings most Saturdays at the 5pm Mass. We have four adult choirs: Sunday Mass at 9am (English), 11am (English), 1pm (Spanish), and 3rd Saturday Filipino Vigil Mass, 7pm.

Please contact David Mathers, Director of Music Ministries, at dmathers@stbernpar.org or (703) 451-8576 x112. Rehearsal days/times, list of instruments that can participate, and guidance on instrumental experience levels can be found at <https://www.stbernpar.org/praying/music-ministry> or by contacting David Mathers.

Catholic Women's Group

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

Our next monthly meeting will be Tuesday, September 8 at 7pm in the Bradican Room. We have a special guest. Father James will join us with his guitar! Come enjoy an evening of music and song.

Tuesday, September 15 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.

St. Lucy Food Drive for hungry kids

Help fill the St. Lucy Food Project warehouse with much needed food for hungry children. Please mark your calendar for our next St. Lucy Project Food Drive for the weekend of September 26-27.

Blue Saint Lucy bags will be distributed after all Masses the weekend of September 19/20. Currently, the most needed items are: canned meat, canned tuna, peanut butter, jelly (no glass jars please), Chef Boyardee, and mac-and-cheese.

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. Registration in September! For more information, go to www.walking-withpurpose.com. Questions about our WWP group? Email: stbernadettewwp@gmail.com.

up and coming

Parish Offertory

August 30
Offertory \$ 25,759

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.

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.**

As early voting begins on September 18, Bishop Burbidge has asked that this letter be published in parish bulletins.



This Election Season is Different

August 2026

In Virginia, every year is an election year. However, the contents on the ballot this fall are anything but ordinary. In the upcoming election (Sept. 18 – Nov. 3), the decisions we make will shape the future of our Commonwealth in unprecedented ways. In addition to a U.S. Senate race and local Congressional races, Virginia voters will decide three proposed constitutional amendments with far-reaching consequences.

Two of the proposed changes to Virginia’s constitution – Ballot Question 1 (abortion) and Ballot Question 2 (marriage) – concern fundamental matters of right and wrong.

Ballot Question 1 would cement a so-called “fundamental right” to abortion into our state constitution – all the way up to birth and for “every individual,” even children. It would endanger women’s health and safety and even push parents out of life-changing and irreversible decisions for their minor daughters. It would shield “any individual” who assists in an abortion from legal consequences. When debating the language of the proposed constitutional amendment, legislators even rejected a proposal to require that any baby born alive after an attempted abortion would receive the same level of care and treatment as any other infant. Ballot Question 1 is extreme, dangerous, radical and horrific.

Ballot Question 2 would remove the definition of marriage as the “union between one man and one woman” from our constitution, and would replace it with “any lawful marriage between two adult persons.” We affirm the dignity of every person. We also proclaim the truth that marriage – created by God – is and will always be the union of a man and a woman. God’s design for marriage – woven into the fabric of our being – was established before any nation, religion or law. We are called to honor and preserve it. The marital union – between a man and a woman who give themselves completely to each other – is a unique and irreplaceable bond that is the basis of the family and society.

God is the author of life and marriage. We must protect and preserve these extraordinary gifts from our Creator. As Catholics, we have a sacred duty to form our consciences prayerfully and correctly, and to vote NO on Ballot Question 1 and Ballot Question 2.

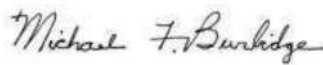
Ballot Question 3 would restore voting rights to individuals who have completed their time of incarceration. This issue is a matter of prudential judgment upon which people of goodwill can disagree. Through the work of the Virginia Catholic Conference, we have consistently

supported this measure and continue to do so. In your own assessment of this proposal, we invite you to consider the Church's teaching on participation in the common good, rehabilitation, restoration, mercy and second chances – as well as times when you have witnessed God's redemptive work in your own life and the lives around you.

More information on the three ballot measures can be found on the websites of the Virginia Catholic Conference and our two dioceses. Early voting begins September 18. Election Day is November 3.

As the *Catechism* reminds us, "It is necessary that all participate ... in promoting the common good. ... As far as possible, citizens should take an active part in *public life*" (nos. 1913-1915). Through conscience formation, prayer and fasting, may we as Virginia voters all prepare to cast votes that will honor the gift of life and Jesus who is "the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6).

Faithfully yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington



Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout
Bishop of Richmond

"vatican council II through its documents"

17th Catechesis
August 26, 2026

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



"...the future Pope Saint Paul VI affirmed that the faithful 'cannot and must no longer remain silent and passive. Their physical presence cannot be reconciled with their spiritual absence.'"

III. Dogmatic Constitution *Sacrosanctum concilium.*

8. The motivations of the liturgical reform

Dear brothers and sisters,

In this final catechesis on the Constitution *Sacrosanctum concilium*, today I would like to look at the reasons why the Council Fathers sought to promote a reform of the liturgy. In this regard, the third Letter from the Council, which Cardinal Giovanni Battista Montini, then archbishop of Milan, sent on October 28, 1962 to the faithful of his Church, is particularly enlightening. The liturgy, he wrote, "is a sincere expression of both the divine and the human. It is language. On the one hand, it is a vehicle for divine teaching; on the other, it is a voice in dialogue with God. It is clear that it cannot renounce its didactic function, nor can it fail to offer faith and piety the opportunity to be expressed with spontaneous intelligibility."¹ Motivated by these convictions, the future Pope Saint Paul VI affirmed that the faithful "cannot and must no longer remain silent and passive. Their physical presence cannot be reconciled with their spiritual absence."²

The similarity between these statements and those which would appear in no. 48 of the Conciliar Constitution is evident: "The Church ... earnestly desires that Christ's faithful, when present at this mystery of faith, should not be there as strangers or silent spectators; on the contrary, through a good understanding of the rites and prayers they should take part in the sacred action conscious of what they are doing, with devotion and full collaboration. They should be instructed by God's word and be nourished at the table of the Lord's body; they should give thanks to God; by offering the Immaculate Victim, not only through the hands of the priest, but also with him, they should learn also to offer themselves; through Christ the Mediator they should be drawn day by day into ever more perfect union with God and with each other, so that finally God may be all in all." These words express a renewed awareness of the value of the liturgy. Through the Church's ritual actions, whilst the memorial of the work of salvation is celebrated, the opportunity is

provided to experience a true relationship with God, coming into contact with the salvific event. Since the gestures, the words of the sacred liturgy are critical to realizing this experience, the participation of the faithful cannot be passive.

The Conciliar reform, by placing at the center that which constitutes the heart of the ecclesial experience, was intended to allow the liturgy to shine forth as "the primary source of that divine exchange in which the life of God is communicated to us"³ From this conviction arose the need to make the richness of the biblical texts and prayers more accessible to all the faithful, and to streamline the order of the celebration compared with that set out in the liturgical books then in use.

Indeed, since the liturgy is a living entity, throughout the centuries it has always been subject to developments and changes. The Magisterium adapted its forms to the needs of different eras. It is therefore not surprising that the Second Vatican Council too, with the utmost respect for the heritage of tradition, and precisely in order to make it more accessible, considered it necessary to revise the liturgical books.

The aim that the Fathers had in mind is explained in no. 21 of the Constitution *Sacrosanctum concilium*: "In order that the Christian people may more certainly derive an abundance of graces from the sacred liturgy, holy Mother Church desires to undertake with great care a general restoration of the liturgy itself. For the liturgy is made up of immutable elements divinely instituted, and of elements subject to change. These not only may but ought to be changed with the passage of time if they have suffered from the intrusion of anything out of harmony with the inner nature of the liturgy or have become unsuited to it. In this restoration, both texts and rites should be drawn up so that they express more clearly the holy things which they signify; the Christian people, so far as possible, should be enabled to understand them with ease and to take part in them fully, actively, and as befits a community." The distinction, within the liturgy, between divine, immutable elements, and human elements, which instead "admit of various modifications, as the needs of the age,



circumstance and the good of souls may require, and as the ecclesiastical hierarchy, under guidance of the Holy Spirit, may have authorized," dates back to Pope Pius XII's Encyclical *Mediator Dei* (*Acta Apostolicae Sedis* 39, 1947, 541–542).

Moreover, the desire for a "general reform" did not come about suddenly, but had been evident in the actions of successive Popes since the beginning of the twentieth century, in keeping with the demands of the Liturgical Movement. The assertion that the faithful should not attend celebrations "as strangers or silent spectators" had already been raised in Pope Pius XI's Apostolic Constitution *Divini cultus*. Furthermore, one may recall Pius XII's interventions regarding the ordering of the rites of Holy Week, which he rescheduled to the hours corresponding to the events of Easter, after they had for centuries been brought forward to the morning hours. Nor should it be forgotten that Saint Pope John XXIII regarded it necessary to simplify the rubrics of the Breviary and the Missal, approving this with the *Motu proprio Rubricarum instructum* of 25 July 1960, in which he referred the proposal of fundamental principles for a reform of the liturgy.

The liturgical reform promoted by the Second Vatican Council is thus firmly rooted in the living tradition of the Church. A correct understanding of it also enables us to reject the abuses that occurred in certain sectors of the Church during the post-Conciliar period, and which, unfortunately, still occur from time to time today, where some of the principles underlying the reform itself have been taken to extremes or misunderstood.

In this regard, it is worth recalling that the Conciliar Constitution affirms that "Liturgical services are not private functions, but are celebrations of the Church, which is the 'sacrament of unity', namely, the holy people united and ordered under their bishops. Therefore liturgical services pertain to the whole body of the Church; they manifest it and have effects upon it" (*Sacrosanctum concilium*, no. 26).

It is therefore the primary responsibility of pastors, of bishops but also of each individual priest, to safeguard and promote



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.

coming up



a liturgy which, while respecting liturgical norms, shines with noble simplicity (cf. no. 34) and thus manifests the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. Such a liturgy will also be a fundamental vehicle for evangelization, the instrument of grace through which, as the Council teaches, we may learn to offer ourselves and, through Christ's mediation, be perfected in unity with God and amongst ourselves (cf. no. 48).

¹ G. B. Montini, "Third Letter from the Council," *Rivista Diocesana Milanese* 51 (1962) 921-923: 922.

² Ibid.

³ Solemn Closing of the Second Session of the Council, *Allocution of the Holy Father Paul VI* (Dec. 4, 1963).

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.

visitation of the relics of saint bernadette

Relics of St. Bernadette of Lourdes Coming to Springfield, Virginia, November 5–6

We will welcome the relics of our patron saint as part of the national Journey of Grace Pilgrimage from Lourdes, France

The faithful of Northern Virginia will have an extraordinary opportunity to welcome and venerate the relics of Saint Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes when they visit Saint Bernadette Catholic Church in Springfield, Virginia, November 5–6, 2026.

The two-day visit is part of the St. Bernadette Relics Tour – Journey of Grace, a national pilgrimage organized by the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes in France that is bringing the relics of one of the Church's most beloved saints to Catholic communities across the country.

The national pilgrimage began in September 2026 and will continue through August 2027, bringing the message of Lourdes to communities throughout America and inviting the faithful into a deeper encounter with Jesus Christ through the witness of Saint Bernadette. Host locations across the country include cathedrals, basilicas, shrines, seminaries, Catholic universities, hospitals and parishes dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette.

"What a rare opportunity of grace this is for our parish family," said Fr. Don Rooney, pastor, "and for the greater community, who will have an opportunity to have a taste of the beauty and devotion of pilgrims who are fortunate enough to travel to the Sanctuary in Lourdes. We made a parish pilgrimage there two years ago and, after 30 years as a priest, for me it was transformative."

Parishioners, Catholics throughout the Diocese of Arlington and visitors from the wider community are invited to come for prayer, Mass, Marian devotion and veneration of the relics.

All are welcome. Admission is free.

Schedule of Events

Thursday, November 5

■ 3pm — Relics Welcoming Celebration

The arrival of St. Bernadette's relics will be marked by a welcoming celebration,

followed by an opportunity for veneration.

■ 6:30pm — Mass

Mass will be celebrated, followed by veneration of the relics.

■ 8pm — Candlelight Rosary Procession

The parish community will gather for a candlelight Rosary procession, followed by continued veneration of the relics until 10pm.

Friday, November 6

■ 1pm — Mass

Mass will be celebrated, followed by veneration of the relics.

■ 3pm — Farewell Celebration

The visit will conclude with a farewell celebration as the relics depart Saint Bernadette Catholic Church.

From Lourdes to America

In 1858, the Virgin Mary appeared 18 times to 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous at the Grotto of Massabielle in Lourdes, France. During the apparitions, Mary called for prayer and penance and revealed herself to Bernadette as the Immaculate Conception.

Today, Lourdes is one of the world's great Christian pilgrimage destinations, welcoming millions of pilgrims who come seeking prayer, healing, hope and spiritual renewal.

Bernadette later entered religious life with the Sisters of Charity of Nevers. Her life was marked by humility, prayer, suffering and profound trust in God. She was canonized by Pope Pius XI in 1933.

The Catholic Church venerates relics of the saints as tangible connections to the holy men and women whose lives bore witness to Christ. Veneration is not worship; rather, the presence of the relics invites the faithful to prayer and to reflect upon the example of holiness offered by the saints.

The Journey of Grace pilgrimage follows the extraordinary response to the first U.S. pilgrimage of Saint Bernadette's relics in 2022, which welcomed hundreds of thousands of faithful at churches and shrines across the country.

The pilgrimage seeks not only to provide an opportunity for veneration, but also to bring the enduring message of Lourdes—prayer, penance, healing and hope—to people who may never have the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Lourdes themselves.

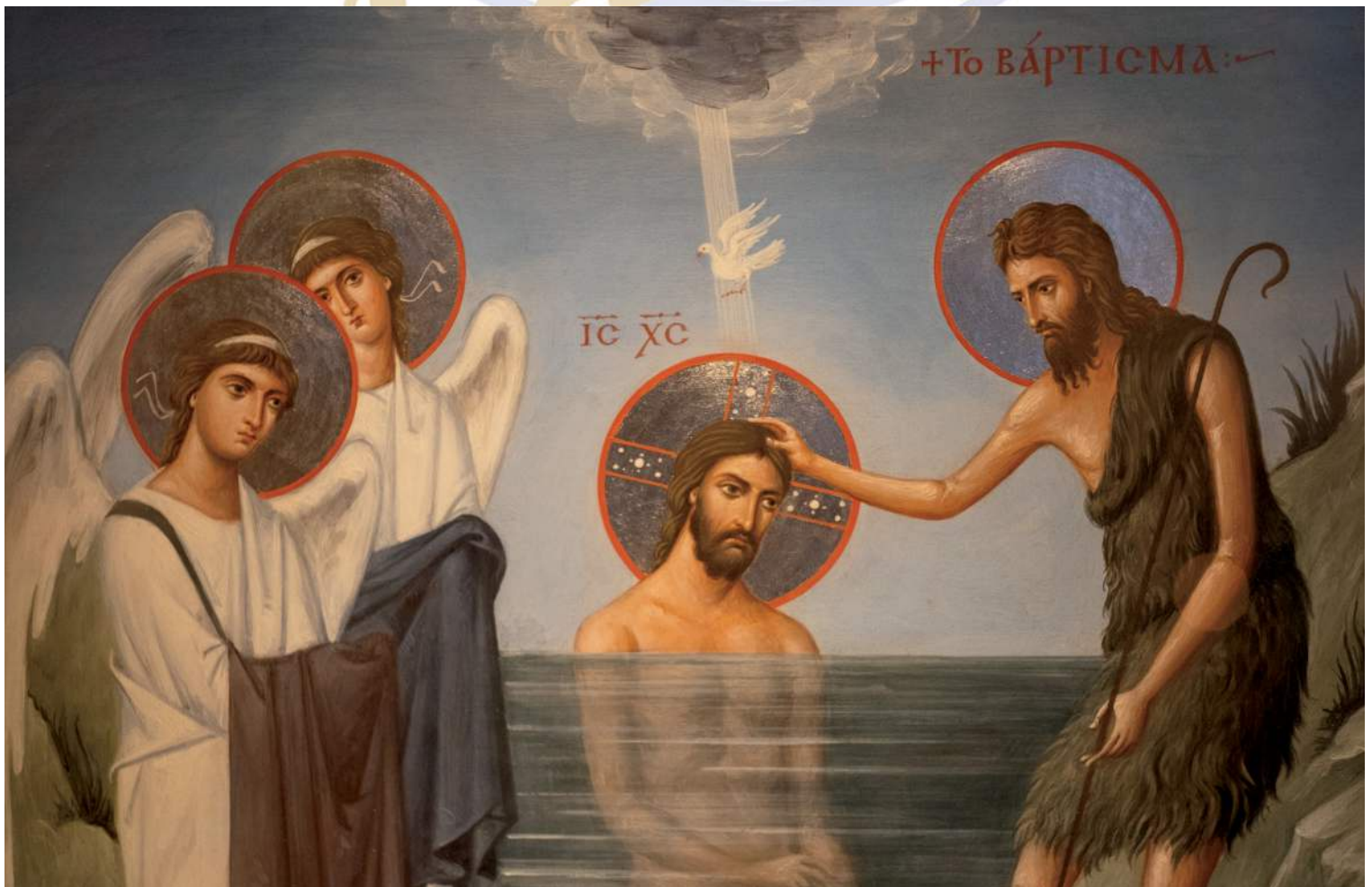


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**2026-2027
Parish Renewal Handbook
Ministry Catalog
and Annual Report**



Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

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

September

7 MONDAY

9am* † Roy Yoshida
1 Cor 5:1-8/Lk 6:6-11

8 TUESDAY

7am Legion of Mary
9am* † Armando Cruz
Rom 8:28-30/Mt 1:18-23

9 WEDNESDAY

7am † Sonny Nueno
9am* Mario & Ethel Sanidad
1 Cor 7:25-31/Lk 6:20-26

10 THURSDAY

7am † Mary Jane Alexander
9am* Fr. James Waalkes
1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13/Lk 6:27-38

11 FRIDAY

7am † Nadine Stephens
9am* The Pham Family
10am** † Julia Hannah
1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27/Lk 6:39-42

12 SATURDAY

8am Richard Mugno
1 Cor 10:14-22/Lk 6:43-49
5pm* † Eveith Lucas

13 SUNDAY

7am For the parish
9am* † Marilyn Mugno
11am † Wyatt Crossin
1pm* † Adonay Alas
5pm † Eveith Lucas
Sir 27:30—28:7/Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-25

* live-streamed Masses

** Mass at Greenspring Chapel

Masses next weekend

Sept 5	5pm	Fr. James
Sept 6	7am	Fr. Cedric
	9am	Fr. Daniel
	11am	Fr. Don
	1pm	Fr. James
	5pm	Fr. Daniel

Parish prayer list

John Yost, Wiotto 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, Jesse Perry, Carol Flournoy

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

Thank you to everyone who helped with and attended our Back-to-School Tea. The funds raised help us provide support to our moms and babies. We are starting to prepare for a new birth in September! Please keep mom and baby in your prayers. Email maryscomfort@gmail.com if you would like to help with a meal train.

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.

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.redbird.love/arlington-va **Questions?** Email elizabeth@redbird.love





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