

*Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. 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. Amen.*

# 24th Sunday in ordinary time

September 13, 2026



SEASON OF CARE FOR CREATION September 1 - October 4 (Feast of Saint Francis):  
Mosaic with the Creation of the Stars (detail), 1176  
Cathedral of Santa Maria Nuova, Monreale, Sicily, Italy



**SAINT BERNADETTE**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

# 24th Sunday in ordinary time

September 13, 2026

# welcome



|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SUNDAY MASS             | Saturday Vigil in church 5pm (live-streaming)<br>Sunday 7am, 9am, 11am, 1pm (Spanish), 5pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| DAILY MASS              | Mon.-Fri., 7 & 9am (live-streaming); Sat., 8am (live-streaming)<br>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)<br>Rosary after 9am weekdays/8am Saturday Masses in church<br>Taizé Prayer Service, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mondays, 8-8:45pm (church)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| CONFESSION              | Sat., 3:30-4:30pm, or by appointment.<br>English and Spanish Confessions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| PARISH OFFICE           | <b>703-451-8576</b> , fax 703-269-1121<br><b>office@stbermpar.org</b><br>Monday-Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm<br><br>Pastor, Fr. Don Rooney <a href="mailto:frdonrooney@stbermpar.org">frdonrooney@stbermpar.org</a><br>Fr. James Waalkes <a href="mailto:frjameswaalkes@stbermpar.org">frjameswaalkes@stbermpar.org</a><br>Fr. Daniel Rice <a href="mailto:frdanielrice@stbermpar.org">frdanielrice@stbermpar.org</a><br>Deacon Orlando Caicedo<br><br>Pastoral Associate, Rick Caporali <a href="mailto:rcaporali@stbermpar.org">rcaporali@stbermpar.org</a><br>Business Manager, Linda Patterson <a href="mailto:lpatterson@stbermpar.org">lpatterson@stbermpar.org</a><br>Music Director, David Mathers <a href="mailto:dmathers@stbermpar.org">dmathers@stbermpar.org</a><br>Bookkeeper/Compliance (OPCYP), Zory Conde, <a href="mailto:zconde@stbermpar.org">zconde@stbermpar.org</a><br>Executive Assistant, Jean Corday <a href="mailto:jcorday@stbermpar.org">jcorday@stbermpar.org</a><br>Executive Assistant, Evelyn Vargas, <a href="mailto:evargas@stbermpar.org">evargas@stbermpar.org</a><br>Secretary, Janet Chávez-España |
| SAINT BERNADETTE SCHOOL | 703-451-8696, fax 269-1121<br>Principal, Dr. Kathleen Burgess <a href="mailto:school@stbermpar.org">school@stbermpar.org</a><br>Assistant Principal, Jennifer Spencer<br>Registrar, Heidi Thomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| RELIGIOUS EDUCATION     | 703-451-8576<br>Director, Lynn Jones <a href="mailto:Ljones@stbermpar.org">Ljones@stbermpar.org</a><br>Coordinator of Religious Education, Arlyn Agasen, <a href="mailto:aagasen@stbermpar.org">aagasen@stbermpar.org</a><br>Administrative Assistant, Victor Mendez <a href="mailto:vmendez@stbermpar.org">vmendez@stbermpar.org</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| YOUTH MINISTRY          | 703-451-8576<br>Director, Grace Mee <a href="mailto:gmeee@stbermpar.org">gmeee@stbermpar.org</a><br>Assistant Director, Mary O'Malley <a href="mailto:momalley@stbermpar.org">momalley@stbermpar.org</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| BAPTISMS                | Saturday, 10am, 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturdays in English; 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday in Spanish.<br>Parish registration is encouraged for parents. Class attendance is required.<br>Please contact the parish office to schedule at least four weeks in advance.<br>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 <a href="http://www.stbermpar.org">www.stbermpar.org</a> .<br><br>Articles for the bulletin must be submitted to the parish office no later than first thing Friday morning, ten days before publication date. <a href="mailto:bulletin@stbermpar.org">bulletin@stbermpar.org</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

# calendar

## september

- 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**
- 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**
- Taizé Ecumenical Prayer Service, 8pm in the church, please join us!
  - Dining Out Night for Rise Against Hunger – Silver Diner – 5-8pm
- 22 Tuesday, Weekday**
- 23 Wednesday, Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest**
- 24 Thursday, Weekday**
- 25 Friday, Weekday**
- Adoration, 7-8pm, chapel
- 26 Saturday, Weekday [Saints Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs]**
- Bring food donations to the **St. Lucy Food Drive** at all Masses this weekend
  - Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 27 Sunday, TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
- Bring food donations to the **St. Lucy Food Drive** at all Masses this weekend
  - Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm
- 28 Monday, Weekday [Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs]**
- Dining Out Night for Rise Against Hunger – McAlister's Deli – 5-8pm
- 29 Tuesday, Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels**
- **Concert: Guilherme Andreas**, flute, and David Mathers, piano. 7:30pm in the church, reception follows (see p. 9)
- 30 Wednesday, Saint Jerome, Priest and Doctor**

## october

- 1 Thursday, Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor**
- 2 Friday, The Holy Guardian Angels**
- Adoration, 7-8pm, church
- 3 Saturday, Weekday**
- **Lord of the Miracles celebration, Mass at 10, procession, dinner (see p.22)**
  - Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass

## announcements

**This is Parish Life Weekend!** Review our **Parish Renewal Handbook, Ministry Catalog and Annual Report**. Commitment Sunday is next weekend. Please review the book and see how you might get involved in parish life!

The Knights of Columbus **Annual 5K Fun Run and Walk** at Burke Lake Park is 2 weeks away. Please see the bulletin to register. Registration costs increase after September 20.

Check out **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 **21 (NOT 14)** at 8pm in the church. Bring your friends, all are welcome!

**Concerts at Saint Bernadette** presents internationally prize winning flutist **Guilherme Andreas**, **David Mathers**, piano. Friday, Sept. 25 at 7:30pm. A light reception will follow

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

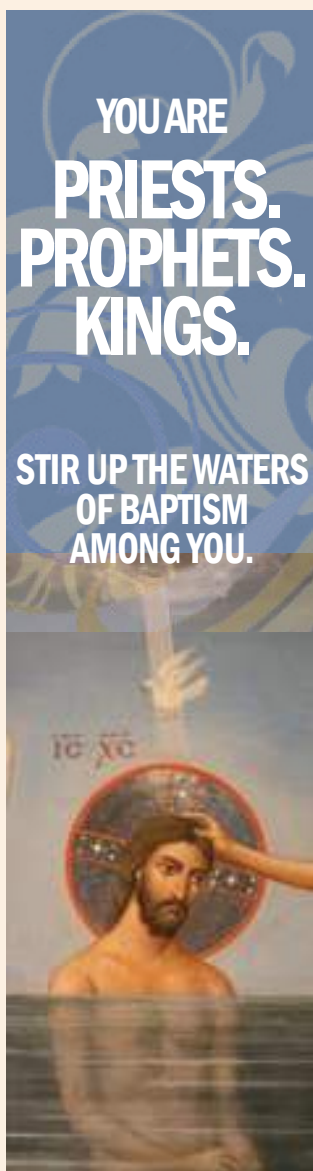
- 14 - El Paso Mexican, Commerce St**  
**21 - Silver Diner, Springfield Mall**  
**28 - McAlister's Deli, Rolling Road**

### OCTOBER

- 5 - El Paso Mexican, Commerce St**

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## from the pastor



*"Stirring up those waters among us...will be the source of healing and belonging for a nation that needs to rediscover its holiness."*

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

As we come to Parish Life Weekend again this year, I have a couple of reflections which come to me with urgency. Maybe this is me fulfilling my Baptism with a prophetic message!

I don't think we as Church understand our roles according to the dignity and responsibility of our Baptism. We will never really understand who we are and what we are supposed to do with this life if we don't seriously sit with the Lord and think this through.

Think about how Mary – when confronted with the complexity of life and its many unexplained mysteries as the Mother of God – how she "treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2:19, 2:51). Her response to the mystery of Christ was one of **attentive faith**. She receives God's works, preserves them within herself, and gradually seeks to understand their meaning. Her pondering is not passive daydreaming, but prayerful contemplation – bringing together the angel's message, Elizabeth's greeting, the shepherds' testimony, and the prophecies concerning her Son.

Mary becomes a model for the Church and for every Christian who must grapple with the real questions about the hows and whys of this life, always with an eye on the horizon, from which the Lord will return.

We ritualize this reality at Saint Bernadette with our Parish Life and Commitment Weekends. If we don't take inventory of our prayer, our service, and our tithing, if we don't confront it and respond with deeper commitment to grow in these ways, we won't allow Word and Sacrament to change us, to shape our lives.

This is the meaning of our theme this year: "Stir up the waters of baptism among you. You are **PRIESTS. PROPHETS. KINGS.**" We unpack what that means in the first pages of our Parish Life

and Ministry Directory 2027, what Saint Peter meant by saying, "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, so that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2).

"Stir up the waters of baptism among you," understood metaphorically, is an **exhortation to renew, awaken, or make fruitful the grace received in Baptism.**" Stirring up those waters among us, like the pool of Bethesda, will be the source of healing and belonging for a nation that needs to rediscover its holiness.

Baptismal water is associated with **new birth** through water and the Holy Spirit, cleansing from sin, dying and rising with Christ, incorporation into the Church, and the continuing action of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life of our precious community at Saint Bernadette. Stirring it up suggests **our awakening the baptismal identity and grace already present in us.** The Easter Vigil itself connects baptismal water with the grace of the Holy Spirit and with rising to new life in Christ.

I interviewed all of our Confirmation candidates receiving the sacrament in October and spoke about how most of us were infants and our parents and Godparents made our profession of faith for us. The Rite of Confirmation begins with them making that profession for themselves, finally. Now is the time to own it and take up responsibility for their Church, I told them.

Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor 6:2). **The Christian life is not lived in an imaginary future when circumstances will finally be perfect.** God's grace encounters us in the present moment. **Now** is the time of conversion. **Now** is the time for forgiveness and mercy. **Now** is the time to give ourselves as a holy offering to God and each other. This is my prayer for our parish family.

The Lord be with you. *Fr. Dom*

## Welcome to the Saint Bernadette Family

As summer winds down and the new school year approaches, Saint Bernadette Catholic School extends a heartfelt welcome to all of our new families. We understand that joining a new school community can be both exciting and challenging. Meeting new people, building friendships, and learning the ins and outs of a new school takes time, and we want every family to feel welcomed, supported, and connected from the very beginning.

Each year, our P.T.O. helps make that transition easier through two wonderful programs. On 3 September 2026, our P.T.O. hosted the New Parent Social, giving new parents an opportunity to meet fellow families, connect with members of our school community, and begin building friendships before the school year got underway.

Our P.T.O. also coordinates the Guardian Angel Program, which pairs new families with current Saint Bernadette families who serve as a friendly resource throughout their first year. Whether answering questions, sharing helpful information, or simply being a familiar face, our Guardian Angels help new families feel supported and at home as they become part of our community.

As we welcome our newest families for the 2026–2027 school year, we are also looking ahead and preparing to welcome families who may join us next year. Saint Bernadette Catholic School will host an Open House on 29 September 2026, for families interested in becoming part of our school community for the 2027–2028 school year.

If you are considering Saint Bernadette Catholic School for your family, we invite you to join us for our Open House. You will have the opportunity to learn more about our school, meet members of our community, and take a tour of our school. We look forward to sharing what makes Saint Bernadette such a special place to learn, grow, and belong.

Please visit our school website to RSVP for the Open House.

We also still have a limited number of openings for the 2026–2027 school year. If circumstances have you considering a new school, or if you feel a tug at your heart that Saint Bernadette might be the right fit for your family, we would love to hear from you. Please reach out to our Director of Admissions at [registrar@stbernpar.org](mailto:registrar@stbernpar.org) for information about current-year enrollment.

We are grateful for the welcoming spirit of our Saint Bernadette families and look forward to another wonderful year together!



## cardinal corner



**FORMING  
HEARTS  
& MINDS  
IN CHRIST**

**Come to our  
OPEN HOUSE  
September 29,  
9-11am and  
experience our  
great school!  
Please RSVP so  
we know you  
are coming!**



# 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.

## RE Program upcoming schedule

Regular classes: Sept. 15/16, 22/23, 29/30  
SPRED Classes: Sept. 12, 19  
Family Mass Learning: Sept. 12/13 after all Masses  
Family Faith Formation: Sept. 20  
Sunday Doughnut Social: Sept. 27

Please remember there are no cellphones and electronic devices allowed in the classroom. Children should bring their book(s) in their clear plastic folder each week to class, and parents should check the folder weekly for assignments and information from the catechist. Class times on Tuesday and Wednesday are 6-7:15pm – please arrive and pick-up on time! Students arriving more than 15 minutes late will have to be signed in by a parent at door 1.

## Volunteers needed for this year!

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

**For Tuesday:** 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@stbernpar.org](mailto:ljones@stbernpar.org) or 703-451-8576 ext 136.

## 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 [gme@stbernpar.org](mailto:gme@stbernpar.org), or assistant director Mary O'Malley, [momalley@stbernpar.org](mailto:momalley@stbernpar.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 this Wednesday, September 16th for games, snacks, and fun from 6:45-8pm! We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month in the school gym.

## Soccer challenge

The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring this year's Soccer Challenge on September 19 at Saint Bernadette's Field, 8am-12pm. Boys and Girls age 9-14 are welcome to compete!

## 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](mailto:gvsoriano@gmail.com)) or Catherine Luby ([catherineeluby@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:women@stbernpar.org).

**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

Blue St. Lucy bags will be distributed after all Masses next weekend, September 19/20. Please pick up a bag and plan to return it with your donation prior to Masses on September 26-27. Flyers listing the most needed items will be attached to the bags.

Monetary donations and grocery gift cards are welcome. Checks should be written to CCDA (Catholic Charities Diocese of Arlington) with St. Lucy on the memo line and mailed in the envelope attached to the bag or handed to one of the St. Bernadette food drive team members. You may also contribute online at <https://secure.ccda.net/Give/Give/Donate/Giving.aspx> choosing St. Lucy Project as the specific project.

## 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 compliment 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. Tuesdays from 9:45-11:30am or Thursdays from 7-8:30pm, beginning October 13 & 15. The book fee is \$30 and the suggested hospitality fee is \$10. More information and registration at <https://stbernadettewwp.wixsite.com/stb-www>. Questions about our WWP group? Email: [stbernadettewwp@gmail.com](mailto:stbernadettewwp@gmail.com).

## up and coming

### Parish Offertory

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Sept. 6             |           |
| Offertory           | \$ 31,029 |
| Catholic University | 3,223     |

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.**

# visitation of the relics of saint bernadette

## Relics of St. Bernadette of Lourdes Coming to Spring- field, 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.

**ALL the parish is WELCOME, whatever your language may be!**

Join us for the celebration of a patron of Latin America, The Lord of the Miracles, on Saturday, October 3. He is credited with protecting people in difficult times. A dinner will follow in the gym with traditional dances of different countries.

Únanse a nosotros para la celebración de nuestro santo patrón, El Señor de los Milagros, el sábado 11 de octubre. A nuestro santo patrón se le atribuye la protección de nuestro pueblo en tiempos difíciles. Una cena seguirá con bailes típicos de diferentes países en el gimnasio.



**celebración  
del señor  
de los  
milagros  
Lord of the  
miracles  
celebration**

**sábado  
3 de octubre  
saturday, october 3**

10am - church  
Misa / Mass  
11:30am - outside  
procesión / procession  
2pm - 4:30pm - gym  
cena / dinner  
venta de comida  
food for sale  
homenaje al Señor con  
bailes típicos  
tribute to the Lord with  
traditional dances

CONCERTS at Saint Bernadette presents

**GUILHERME ANDREAS  
IN CONCERT**

**Friday, September 25 at 7:30pm**

Concerts at Saint Bernadette presents flutist Guilherme Andreas, praised as the '**Rampal**' from **Brasil**ia for his powerful sound, refined technique and artistry, Andreas has become one of the most prominent flutists of his generation. A native of Brazil, Andreas received First Place in the 2020 International Music Competition "Paris and London" Grand Prize Virtuoso and the 2019 Concert Artists International Virtuoso Competition's professional division. Don't miss this!!

**The concert is free and open to all.**

*No tickets are required. A free-will offering will be accepted.  
A light reception will follow.*



YOU ARE  
**PRIESTS.  
PROPHETS.  
KINGS.**

STIR UP THE WATERS  
OF BAPTISM  
AMONG YOU.



## disciples are stewards

true catholic stewardship is built on four pillars:  
**(1) hospitality, (2) prayer,  
(3) formation, (4) service.**

### hospitality

**We are all longing to  
be welcomed home.**

“When I was a stranger, you welcomed me.” (Mt. 25-35) Jesus Christ teaches that whenever we welcome one of the least of our sisters and brothers, we welcome Christ himself. Parishioners of a discipleship parish seek to see the face of Christ in one another. With special vigilance, we must seek out and welcome new members to the parish family. A discipleship parish is a welcoming parish regardless of the parish demographics: large or small – urban, suburban or rural.

We are all prodigal children longing to be welcomed home. In a hospitable parish, parishioners and guests feel they belong and are appreciated. This is especially true if we were ever absent from church. Hospitality leads



to a sense of “belonging.” When we experience a warm and sincere welcome, we in turn become open to give ourselves to others. God is love and gives his love to each one of us. As God loves us, he calls us to love one another. This Divine Love flows through the heart of the faithful disciple to love others. When we are recipients of such love from others, we are attracted to follow this example. When others

welcome us, we are open to welcoming others. This desire to welcome others is yet another gift of God. The most vibrant discipleship parishes are those in which parishioners know they are welcomed, which fosters a sense of ownership and personal involvement in lived discipleship to the parish family.

# prayer

## Personal and Communal.

Prayer is essential to the Christian life. It is a vital and personal relationship with the living and true God and is the lifeblood of our faith. Without prayer, our faith will die. A discipleship parish strives to nourish the soul through prayer. "Prayer is as necessary to our souls as food is to our bodies." Prayer and the sacraments dispose a soul to receive God's abundant graces, which are necessary to grow in holiness. It is through prayer that we nurture

our personal relationship with Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

While we find great fulfillment in giving ourselves to parish life, prayer purifies and intensifies the intention of the disciple. Prayer increases our yearning to receive the source and summit of our Catholic faith, the Eucharist. As a parish family, we gather together to worship and praise God in the Mass. Nourished by the Word of God and the Eucharist, we are strengthened as a parish family to go to serve the Lord. Discipleship is a lived response of the disciple to follow this command.

There is a deep connection between the Eucharistic celebration and discipleship. In one of the prefaces of the Eucharistic Prayers it says, "Lord our desire to thank you is itself your gift." The third Eucharistic Prayer states, *"All life, all holiness comes from you through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, by the working of the Holy Spirit... And so Father, we bring you these gifts. We ask you to make them holy by the power of your Spirit, that they will become the body and blood of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate this Eucharist."*

All we are and seek to become is strengthened

## WAYS TO PRAY

► In a quiet room, read a short Scripture passage and then ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand it and apply it to your life.

► Turn daily actions into a prayer. For example, pray for your child as you fold her clothes, thank God for his gifts as you prepare dinner, praise God for creation when you take a walk.

► Revisit familiar Catholic devotions such as the rosary, novenas, the Stations of the Cross, and times of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Ancient prayers have endured for a reason: they are meaningful and effective.



## COMBINING PRAYER AND ACTION

Pray about your current involvement in our parish. Ask God to show you your personal gifts and how best to use them.

► Do I pray for our ministries, our parish leaders, and all parishioners? Holy Spirit, guide our parish community!

► In whatever ministry or group I am involved with, do I always begin and end meetings or activities with a prayer?

Remember the ancient adage of the Church: to grow in the knowledge of God is to grow in holiness. Find a way to learn something new about God every day.

and becomes more perfect through the Eucharist. It is the Eucharist where we again recognize our total dependence upon God for everything. All that is good is a gift from him. It is not that we have loved him, but that he first has loved us by giving us his Son.

In both our personal and communal prayer, we turn toward God to discern properly our talents and gifts. In a disciple's response, we place those gifts at the service of God and one another. At the heart of the disciple's prayer is the petition, "Thy will be done."



## formation

### A life-long journey of conversion.

As the disciple grows in the life of prayer, God reveals himself more intimately in this personal relationship. The disciple also sees that the gifts received from God are to be shared and not buried. The disciple remains deeply rooted in humility, recognizing that the gifts one has been given come

not from self, but from God. Those gifts are to be shared with others. Here lies the heart of the disciple's personal response as a disciple – to share what one has received and to share with a generous, grateful and loving heart.

This formation of each individual becomes part of the formation of the parish community. As members of the Body of Christ, we recognize that we have a call from God to give. Inherent within each of us is

the need to give; to move from selfishness to selflessness. This formation is a life-long journey of conversion. The discipleship parish journeys constantly in this formation of conversion. As one grows more deeply in this formation to a life of discipleship, the more deeply one loves as God loves us. This is true for the individual disciple and for the discipleship parish.

Such formation is a formidable task, involving

education of the mind and conversion of the heart. To know the “discipleship way of life” does not make one live a “discipleship way of life.” Formation includes quality education, but the knowledge itself is not enough. Ongoing Catholic education, (for children and adults), is important if we are to grow in our lives as disciples. This formation should include a proper knowledge and understanding of discipleship since it is a primary means to lead the faithful to holiness. Catholic schools, Religious Education, youth ministry programs, adult education offerings and parish discipleship committees

are wonderful and essential places where this faith formation begins. Yet, they are not the only parish organizations responsible for this faith formation of parishioners to grow.

Every parish organization has a role to play in nurturing the faith formation of the parishioners. It is in this collective parish effort and grace of God at work through our sincere efforts that faith formation thrives. The meaning of faithful discipleship and how to live this way of life is at the core of the disciple’s response to the gift of faith we freely receive from our loving God.

## service

**To love as Christ loves, to serve as Christ serves.**

Members of a discipleship parish are ready to minister to the varied needs of their own parish family as well as the needs of the wider community and Church. Just as members of a family come to help one of their own, a discipleship parish family serves those who are hurting or in need, doubting or seeking salvation. The parish family also comes together to celebrate, thank and to return God’s gifts – all are needs of parishioners.

### PRAYING ABOUT YOUR GIFT

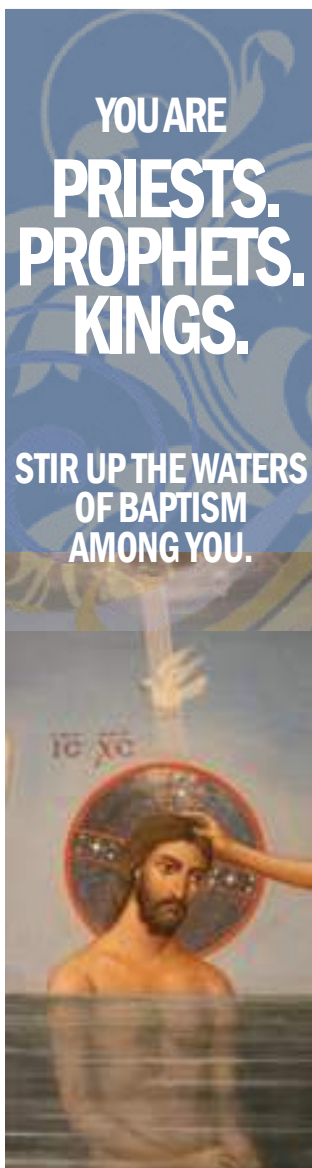
Pray about how much of yourself you give to the parish.

► Does the amount of my gift reflect that God is a priority in my life?

► Does my spending on selfish pursuits prevent me from living as much as I should in the parish? Do I allow secular convention to make my priorities for me?

**We make a living by what we get;  
we make a life  
by what we give.**





## authentic discipleship has three expressions: (1) time, (2) talent, (3) treasure.

In their Pastoral Letter on *Stewardship, a Disciple's Response*, the U.S. bishops state:

*"The Christian steward is one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord."*

### Stewardship involves all of life.

People often speak of stewardship in terms of Time, Talent and Treasure, but the truth is that stewardship involves all of life – body, mind and spirit, our material possessions, friendships, all we have. All we are and have is a gift from our Creator for us to use wisely and unselfishly to build up God's kingdom here on earth. Sharing our precious time, our energies and abilities, and our material resources must include the Christian virtues of prayerfulness, sacrifice and mercy. Although there is no law about tithing, it remains a rich tradition that is suggested by many Church leaders to help us establish a guide and a personal goal of how we plan to share our goods. Consider not only the idea

of a financial tithe – what would it look like if we were to take what "free" time we have and commit a certain percentage of it to do works of mercy, or prayer?

If we were to speak more in terms of *prayer, sacrifice and mercy* perhaps we would recognize these as more than just a pressing need in our lives. Actually they are duties, and performing them is joyful for every true disciple and follower of Jesus Christ, whose own prayerful suffering and death on the Cross redeemed the world in love.

Virtues are good habits, *disciplines*, which order our desires and help us to practice a healthy self-denial in all aspects of our lives. Disciples intentionally embrace spiritual and physical disciplines such

as fasting and almsgiving, and generosity and loving kindness in order to make Jesus visible in our everyday world. They are also beneficial to us, personally: *"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy"* (Mt 5:7). The practice of mercy involves offering our time and talents to those in spiritual or physical need, as well as giving alms and supporting the programs that advance the mission of mercy of the Church.

One priest pioneer in Wichita, Kansas, said once in a Catholic stewardship conference, "Even if our parish had no financial need of a Sunday offering, we would take it up anyway and find somewhere else to give it. Why? Because you can't be a follower of Christ and not be one who gives."





## time

### **Time may be the most precious gift of all.**

Most of us feel we don't have enough time for all the things we want to do. Everyone is given the same amount of time: 24 hours each day, 168 hours each week. When it's gone, it's gone. The question is: *How do we choose to use our time?*

Intentionality helps us order our use of time, to be certain that we will have time for God, for our loved ones, for our community, and for those in need.

**Consider making a concrete time commitment for the coming year:**

- ▶ Time for prayer
- ▶ Time for relationships
- ▶ Time for service

## talent

### **God doesn't make people without talents.**

All of us are blessed with talents. We may not be aware of them, or they may not be developed. There might not be enough time to develop them all. We need to develop some of them wisely to bless our Saint Bernadette community with the presence of Jesus.

Also, God calls us to serve according to the gifts he has given us in baptism. Use our catalog to read about opportunities, and make a plan to get involved in at least one way.

**What activities do I feel "bring me to life?" ▶ How can I apply them in the life of the Church? Consider responding generously.**

## treasure

### **What we have can draw us nearer to God,**

or it can cause us to fall away. Do we own things or do they own us? A person with a gift of giving, instead of asking "How much should I give?" might ask "How much do I really need to keep?"

**The mission of the Church literally depends upon your giving.** Again, giving needs to be intentional, not just random. Consider naming a goal for giving, some percentage of wealth which might be set aside for others.

**How can I prayerfully set a goal for my giving? ▶ Am I able to give my first fruits to God, rather than just what may be left over?**

## how to use your stewardship renewal handbook and ministry catalog

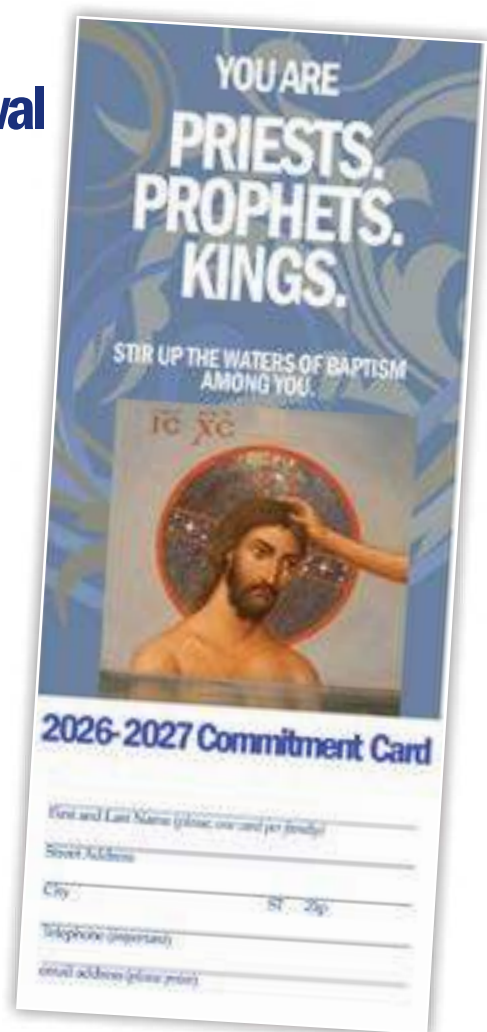
All members of our parish are asked to complete a stewardship Commitment Card.

Many of you are already involved in ministries and also faithfully contribute each week or month. If you are one of these parishioners, **we thank you**, because the Church can only accomplish her work if people support it! Please pray about whether there is something different you would like to do. **Please fill out the card and let us know how you plan to continue.**

*Your  
Commitment  
Card is a  
meaningful  
way to express  
your dedication  
to God and  
to our parish  
community.*

If you are not currently involved in our parish, or if you feel that God may be calling you to do more, **this is a great opportunity to become a more active member.** Ask the Lord to help you spend more time in prayer. Talk to your spouse or your children about which groups or ministries you might like to join. Try to budget a consistent weekly gift. A ten dollar weekly donation today is equivalent to a five dollar weekly donation five years ago.

**Filling out your Commitment Card is the way to take a step forward.**



### Before the weekend of September 12-13:

Review these pages and the Parish Renewal Handbook, Ministry Catalog and Annual Report, and spend some time in reflection: **How might I best serve God with who I am and what I have?**

### Parish Life Weekend is September 12-13.

Visit with representatives of all parish ministries and groups under the tents at our Saint Bernadette Ministry Fair outside the church before and after Masses. Come with questions. There will **not** be sign-ups this weekend; fill out your commitment card and we will collect them as an offering at Masses next weekend.

### Commitment Sunday is September 19-20.

Bring your Commitment Card and make an honest, actual commitment to what you hope to achieve this year: spiritually in prayer, charitably in service, and responsibly in your financial commitment to Saint Bernadette Parish. Place your card, as an offering, at the second collection at all Masses.

If you are unable to come this weekend, please use the enclosed reply envelope to send your Commitment to us.





**prayer  
service  
honoring  
the many  
journeys  
that formed  
America**



*On September 2 we  
acknowledged the  
contributions and  
struggles of the many  
peoples who came to  
America freely or by  
force and prayed for  
those who continue to  
seek a life in a new land.*

## from our bishops

*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

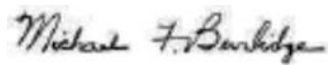


supported this measure and continue to do so. In your own assessment of this proposal, we invite you to consider the Church's teaching on participation in the common good, rehabilitation, restoration, mercy and second chances – as well as times when you have witnessed God's redemptive work in your own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

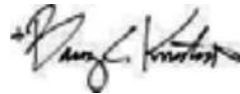
More information on the three ballot measures can be found on the websites of the Virginia Catholic Conference and our two dioceses. Early voting begins September 18. Election Day is November 3.

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

## Action you can take

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. Stay informed on legislation which affects us as Catholics on both the state and federal levels. Visit [vacatholic.org](http://vacatholic.org), click on "Join us!" to receive email or text notices on proposed legislation in the VA State legislature and US Congress.

You are invited to come learn from Amy McNerny, Respect Life Director for the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, about the two proposed constitutional amendments in the upcoming election, how they could endanger women's health, your parental rights, and your conscience protections, and what you can do about it. Questions? Email [RespectLife@HolySpiritChurch.us](mailto:RespectLife@HolySpiritChurch.us)

Tuesday, September 22, 7pm,  
McGivney Hall  
Holy Spirit Parish  
8800 Braddock Rd., Annandale

# "vatican council II through its documents"

September 2, 2026

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



"In a time marked by profound changes giving rise to worrying imbalances, the Church is called to serve the human person, listening to and welcoming the deepest questions of their heart and the longings that dwell within them..."

## IV. Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et spes* (GS 1–10).

### 1. The Church: Listening to and Serving the World

Dear brothers and sisters good morning and welcome!

With today's meeting, we will begin to reflect on the Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et spes*, with which the Second Vatican Council intended to focus on a fundamental theme, namely the relationship between the Church and the contemporary world. Saint John XXIII, as early as his inaugural address of October 11, 1962, had sought to take issue with the "prophets of doom" who, "though burning with zeal for religion [...] go about saying that our times, when compared with past centuries, are entirely worse; and go so far as to behave as if they had nothing to learn from history" (Address *Gaudet Mater Ecclesia*, 4.2). Hence the task entrusted to the Council Fathers: "In the present state of human events, in which humanity appears to be entering a new order of things, one must rather see the mysterious plans of Divine Providence, which are brought to fulfilment in due course through the work of men, and often beyond their expectations, and which, with wisdom, arrange everything, even adverse human affairs, for the good of the Church" (Ibid, 4.4).

Three years later, the promulgation of *Gaudium et spes* recognized in this discernment an essential element of the nature of the Church, describing her pastoral character as constitutive; hence the definition of "pastoral Constitution." It is not a question of naïve optimism, but rather a renewed fidelity to the Mystery of Christ who, by becoming incarnate, chooses to share our life: he made himself "like his brethren in every respect" (Heb 2:17; cf. 4:15) and took upon himself the consequences of sin, dying "as a ransom for all" (1 Tim 2:6). This sharing in our humanity is the path that Christ calls the Church to follow; hence, the conciliar Constitution *Gaudium et spes* begins by declaring that the Church makes her own "the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted" (GS 1).

It is a sharing that calls on us to leave behind all passivity and indifference in the face of current events, history and people's lives, especially in the face of the rapid and profound changes we are experiencing today. We cannot remain as unengaged spectators; rather, we must listen with our hearts, allow ourselves to be challenged, and become involved. With Christ and sustained by the power of his Spirit, believers are called to take on the burdens of their brothers and sisters, especially those who are crushed by injustice, discrimination, and violence. Indeed, only in sharing and commitment is it possible to arrive at adequate responses, always supported by the certainty that "the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Rm 8:18).

In this regard, proximity towards humanity opens the way to a deeper understanding of events and of Revelation itself; and, in the same vein, *Gaudium et spes* recalls that "the Church has always had the duty of scrutinizing the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel" (GS 4). This Constitution therefore recalled the Church to an ongoing commitment to conversion, to bear witness that she is not motivated by "earthly ambition," but seeks "a solitary goal: to carry forward the work of Christ under the lead of the befriending Spirit. And Christ entered this world to give witness to the truth, to rescue and not to sit in judgment, to serve and not be served" (GS, 3).

This is not, in fact, merely a moral imperative. Pope Francis reminded us that for the Church, "the option for the poor is primarily a theological category rather than a cultural, sociological, political or philosophical one... We are called to find Christ in them, to lend our voice to their causes, but also to be their friends, to listen to them, to speak for them and to embrace the mysterious wisdom which God wishes to share with us through them" (Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii gaudium*, 198).

Christian solidarity commits us to engaging with reality and also to unmasking the contradictions that characterize personal and social life in the contemporary world: for example, scientific and technological progress, which constantly offers new possibilities, but only to some, and which



human beings do not always succeed in “subjecting .. to [their] own welfare;” or a clearer understanding of the “laws of society,” accompanied, however, by uncertainties “about the direction to give” them; or, again, a greater abundance of “wealth, resources and economic power,” which, unfortunately, today as in the days of the Council, leaves “a huge proportion of the world’s citizens ... still tormented by hunger and poverty” (GS 4); or a shared awareness that the future of the planet is at stake, coupled with an inability to renounce selfish consumption and the illusion that war is an effective means of building peace.

In a time marked by profound changes, giving rise to worrying imbalances, the Church is called to serve the human person, listening to and welcoming the deepest questions of their heart and the longings that dwell within them, pointing to Christ as “the key, the focal point and the goal of ... all human history” (GS 10). Therefore, in the Church, at every level and in every age, it is necessary to achieve the merciful kenosis of Christ, who “did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant ... and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross” (Phil 2:6–8).

Dear brothers and sisters, may joy and hope – *gaudium et spes* – be the distinctive features of a Church who proclaims and bears witness to the Gospel, drawing close to the women and men of our time.

### 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.

### Life Chain is October 4

The 2026 Alexandria Life Chain will be conducted along Franconia Road on Sunday, October 4, from 2:30–3:30pm, from Saint Lawrence Church to Frontier Avenue near the Springfield Mall. Our parish’s location on Franconia Road will be in front of Key Middle School, the same as in previous years. Signs will be available for individual and parish pick up and return from the Saint Lawrence Hammond Hall adjacent to the church starting at 2pm.

## KofC Fun Run and Walk September 26

**The Knights of Columbus Annual 5K Fun Run and Walk at Burke Lake Park is 2 weeks away. Please see the bulletin to register. Registration costs increase after September 20.**



### 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](mailto:tomsmith6153@outlook.com) if you have questions. Early registration and donations help our planning.

coming up



## Knights of Columbus Fall Coat Drive

It’s time to clear out your closet again. Springfield Council 6153 will be collecting fall and winter coats again this year for our neighbors in need. From September 26 through October 10, put your new or gently worn coats in the marked bins in the vestibule. Coats will be donated to our friends at ECHO.

## Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

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

### September

#### 14 MONDAY

7am † Eleodora Payabyab  
9am\* † Lionel Gaudin  
Nm 21:4b-9/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

#### 15 TUESDAY

7am † Carol Diegelman  
9am\* Fr. Jeb Donelan  
1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Jn 19:25-27

#### 16 WEDNESDAY

7am † Richard Conwell  
9am\* † Edith Becker  
1 Cor 12:31—13:13/Lk 7:31-35

#### 17 THURSDAY

7am † Larry Smith  
9am\* Fr. Don Rooney  
1 Cor 15:1-11/Lk 7:36-50

#### 18 FRIDAY

7am † Mark Henry  
9am\* † Dinh Tran  
10am\*\* † Michael Kraft  
1 Cor 15:12-20/Lk 8:1-3

#### 19 SATURDAY

8am † Dominic Lam Dao  
1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49/Lk 8:4-15  
5pm\* † Oswald D'Cruze

#### 20 SUNDAY

7am † Helen Gilroy  
9am\* For the parish  
11am † Terrence Arndt  
1pm\* Edward Vargas  
5pm † Rebecca Mugno  
Is 55:6-9/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a

\* live-streamed Masses

\*\* Mass at Greenspring Chapel

### Masses next weekend

|         |      |            |
|---------|------|------------|
| Sept 19 | 5pm  | Fr. James  |
| Sept 20 | 7am  | Fr. Cedric |
|         | 9am  | Fr. Daniel |
|         | 11am | Fr. Don    |
|         | 1pm  | Fr. Daniel |
|         | 5pm  | Fr. James  |

## 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, Robin Cookson, Jesse Perry, Carol Flourmoy

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:lpatterson@stbernpar.org) or call her at the Parish Office, 703-451-8576, ext. 122.

## Mary's Comfort update

Mary's Comfort is welcoming another baby to our home! Thanks to all of our donors and volunteers who help make our home a warm and welcoming environment for mothers and their babies. If you would like to volunteer with us, or provide a meal for our newest mother, send an email to [maryscomfortva@gmail.com](mailto:maryscomfortva@gmail.com). More information about our mission and program is on our website: [www.maryscomfortva.org/](http://www.maryscomfortva.org/).

## 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](http://www.redbirdlove/arlington-va) **Questions?** Email [elizabeth@redbirdlove](mailto:elizabeth@redbirdlove)

## Golfing with Wolves-Friday, October 23

Join Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School for our 14th Annual Golf Tournament at Potomac Shores Golf Club! Enjoy a fun day of golf, contests, food, drinks, and fellowship while supporting our students.

Golf with us • Become a Sponsor • Sponsor a Clergy Member • Sponsor an Alum

Whether you golf, sponsor, or simply help spread the word, your participation makes a difference for our students.

Register or learn more: [jpthegreat.org/golf26](http://jpthegreat.org/golf26)





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