

SAINT BERNADETTE CHURCH AND SCHOOL: YOU ARE PRIESTS. PROPHETS. KINGS.

STIR UP THE WATERS OF BAPTISM AMONG YOU.

2026-2027
Parish Renewal Handbook
Ministry Catalog
and Annual Report



BAPTIZED: REGENERATED, ANOINTED, CONSECRATED.

You “are consecrated as a spiritual house and a holy priesthood, in order that through all those works which are those of the Christian person they may offer spiritual sacrifices and proclaim the power of him who has called them out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

LUMEN GENTIUM, 10
VATICAN COUNCIL II

“Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has freed you from sin, given you new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and joined you to his people. He now anoints you with the Chrism of salvation, so that you may remain members of Christ, Priest, Prophet and King, unto eternal life.”

THE ORDER OF BAPTISM
OF CHILDREN

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Renewal is Required

Pope Leo XIV's address to the Italian Bishops, June 17, 2025

First of all, there is a need for renewed zeal in the proclamation and transmission of faith. It is a question of placing Jesus Christ at

the center and, following the path indicated by *Evangelii gaudium*, helping people to live out a personal relationship with him, to discover the joy of the Gospel. In a time of great fragmentation, it is necessary to return to the foundation of our faith, to the *kerygma*. This is the first major commitment that motivates all the others: to bring Christ "into the veins" of humanity (cf. Apostolic Constitution *Humanae salutis*, 3), renewing and sharing the apostolic mission.

The relationship with Christ calls on us to develop a pastoral focus on the theme of peace. Indeed, the Lord sends us into the world to bring his same gift: "Peace be with you!," and to become its creators in everyday life. I hope, then, that every diocese may promote pathways of education in non-violence, mediation initiatives in local conflicts, and welcoming projects that transform fear of the other into an opportunity for encounter.



Then there are the challenges that call into question respect for the dignity of the human person. Artificial intelligence, biotechnologies, data economy and social media are profoundly transforming our perception and our experience of life. In this scenario, human dignity risks becoming diminished or forgotten, substituted by functions, automatism, simulations. But the person is not a system of algorithms: he or she is a creature,

relationship, mystery. Allow me, then, to express a wish: that the journey of the Church may include, in real symbiosis with the centrality of Jesus, the anthropological vision as an essential tool of pastoral discernment. Without lively reflection on the human being – in its corporeality, its vulnerability, its thirst for the infinite and capacity for bonding – ethics is reduced to a code and faith risks becoming disembodied.

I particularly recommend cultivating a culture of dialogue. It is good for all ecclesial realities – parishes, associations and movements – to be spaces of intergenerational listening, of comparison with different worlds, of caring about words and relationships. Because only where there is listening can communion be born, and only where there is communion does truth become credible. I encourage you to continue on this path!

A reflection on the empowerment we have received in baptism as priests, prophets, and kings

POPE FRANCIS'
GENERAL AUDIENCE
Paul VI Audience Hall
Wednesday, August 21, 2024

The Spirit and the Bride.
The Holy Spirit guides the people of God towards Jesus our hope.

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me."
The Holy Spirit in Jesus' Baptism*

Today we reflect on the Holy Spirit who descends upon Jesus at the baptism in the Jordan, and spreads from him into his body, which is the Church. In the Gospel of Mark, the scene of Jesus' baptism is described thus: "In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, 'Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased'" (Mk 1:9-11).

The entire Trinity met at that moment, on the banks of the Jordan! There is the Father, who is present with his voice; there is the Holy Spirit, who descends upon Jesus in the form of a dove; and there is he whom the Father proclaims to be his beloved Son, Jesus. It is a very important moment of Revelation, it is an important moment of salvation history. It will be good for us to reread this Gospel passage.

What happened that was so important at Jesus' baptism that led all the Evangelists to recount it? We find the answer in the words Jesus utters, shortly afterwards, in the synagogue of Nazareth, clearly referring to the event in the Jordan:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me" (Lk 4:18).

In the Jordan, God the Father "anointed with the Holy Spirit;" that is, he consecrated Jesus as King, Prophet and Priest. Indeed, in the Old Testament, kings, prophets and priests were anointed with perfumed oil. In the case of Christ, instead of physical oil, there is the spiritual oil that is the Holy Spirit; instead of the *symbol* there is the *reality*: there is the Spirit himself who descends upon Jesus.

Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit ever since the first moment of his Incarnation. However, this was a "personal grace," incommunicable; now, instead, with this anointment, he receives the fullness of the gift of the Spirit, but for his mission which, as the head, he will communicate to his body, which is the Church, and to every one of us. This is why the Church is the new "regal people, prophetic people, and priestly people." The Hebrew term "Messiah" and the corresponding Greek "Christ" – Christós, both referring to Jesus, mean "anointed." He was anointed with the oil of joy, anointed with the Holy Spirit. Our very name of "Christian" was explained by the Fathers in the literal sense: "Christian" means "anointed in imitation of Christ" (cf. Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, *Mystagogical Catechesis*, III, 1).

There is a Psalm in the Bible that speaks of a perfumed oil, poured on the head of the high priest Aaron, and which descends to the hem of his robe (cf. Ps 133:2). This poetic image of the descending oil, used to describe the happiness of living together as brothers, has become a spiritual reality and a mystical reality in Christ and in the Church. Christ is the head, our High Priest, the Holy Spirit is the perfumed oil, and the Church is the body of Christ in which it spreads.

We have seen why the Holy Spirit in the Bible is symbolized by wind and, indeed, takes its very name, *Ruah* – wind – from it. It is also worth asking ourselves why it is symbolized by oil, and what practical lesson we can draw from this symbol. During Holy Thursday Mass, consecrating the oil known as "Chrism," the bishop, referring to those who will receive the anointing in Baptism and Confirmation, says: "May those formed into a temple of your majesty by the holiness infused through this anointing and by the cleansing of the stain of their first birth be made fragrant with the innocence of a life pleasing to you." This rite dates back to Saint Paul, who writes to the Corinthians: "For we are the aroma of Christ to God" (2 Cor 2:15). Anointment perfumes us, and a person who lives his anointment with joy makes the Church fragrant, makes the community fragrant, makes the family fragrant with this spiritual scent.

We know that, unfortunately, sometimes Christians do not spread the fragrance of Christ, but the bad odor of their own sin. And let us never forget: sin distances us from Jesus, sin makes us become bad oil. Beware, beware. However, this must not distract us from the commitment to fulfil, as far as we are able and each in their own environment, this sublime vocation of being the good fragrance of Christ in the world. The fragrance of Christ emanates from the "fruits of the Spirit," which are "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal 5:22). Paul said this, and how good it is to find a person who has these virtues, ...a meek person, who is not proud... If we cultivate these fruits, and encounter these people, without us realizing it, someone will smell some of the fragrance of the Spirit of Christ around us. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to make us more aware that we are anointed, anointed by him.

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 these 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.

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.

The Lord be with you, *Fr. Dom*



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

Stir up the waters of Baptism among you

Stirring the waters Christ came to stir the waters

John 5:1-16

After this, there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem at the Sheep Gate a pool called in Hebrew Bethesda, with five porticoes. In these lay a large number of ill, blind, lame, and crippled.

One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years.

When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been ill for a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be well?"

The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am on my way, someone else gets down there before me."

Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your mat, and walk." Immediately the man became well, took up his mat, and walked.

Now that day was a sabbath.

So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to carry your mat."

He answered them, "The man who made me well told me, 'Take up your mat and walk.'"

They asked him, "Who is the man who told you, 'Take it up and walk'?" The man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away, since there was a crowd there.

After this Jesus found him in the temple area and said to him, "Look, you are well; do not sin any more, so that nothing worse may happen to you."

The man went and told the Jews that Jesus was the one who had made him well.

Therefore, the Jews began to persecute Jesus because he did this on a sabbath.

Custom held that the first person who entered the stirring water would be healed of disease, but nobody after him. Church teachers view this healing pool as a picture of baptism, where Jesus steps in to offer eternal healing to everyone, not just the first person in the water.

Jesus has little time for contests. He simply says, "Rise, take up your mat, and walk." He doesn't wait and order the man to enter the water at precisely the right moment, so he can be first one in, beating everyone else. He just tells him to rise. Immediately the man becomes well. He takes up his mat and walks away healed.

Here's how Saint Augustine read it. The large group of sick people signify the Jewish people, who were "shut in" by the five books of Moses, represented by the five porticoes around the pool where they sheltered a distance from the healing waters. Similarly, the old law convicted sinners yet it didn't absolve them. It diagnosed their sickness but offered no cure.

Until, that is, there arrived one who "stirred the waters." Like the angel who stirred the Bethesda pool, Jesus comes to "stir sinners" – to comfort the afflicted, but also to afflict the comfortable, to stir them in preparation for what he would do on Good Friday.

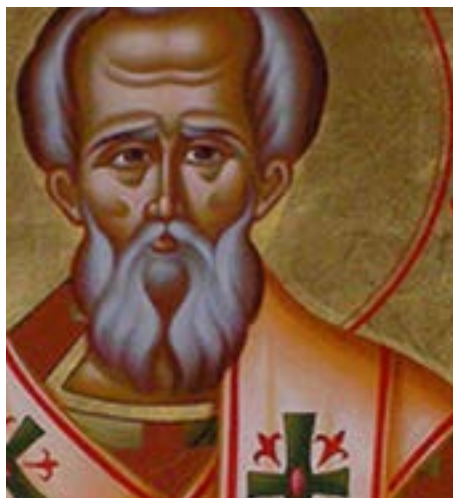
But there's another layer to the story. The "stirring waters" ultimately point ahead toward baptism. In fact, in early Christian art, a man was often depicted as rising from the baptismal waters carrying a bed upon his back. The bed first carried the man, but then after baptism, the man carried the bed.

In this colorful encounter, Jesus seems to be saying this: "Don't jump into that pool and hope for the best. Jump into my pool. My water is not reserved only for the swift and timely. It's not only for ones who jump in quick, at the right moment, and beat everyone else. My healing waters are for all

people. You can leap in any time, even now."

We can swim in his mercy whether we've been sick for minutes or decades. It doesn't matter if we're crippled or addicted, defeated or lost, shamed, or helpless. The pool is always open, the waters are always stirred.

You don't have to be fast. You don't have to be punctual. You don't have to beat others to the draw. You only have to choose the right pool and get in.



"That water [at the pool of Bethesda] was moved once a year; this water of the Church's baptism is always ready to be moved. That water was moved only in one place; this water is moved throughout the entire world. Then an angel descended; now it is the Holy Spirit. Then it was the grace of the angel; now it is the mystery of the Trinity. That water cured only once in a year; this water saves people every day. That water healed the body; this water heals both body and soul. That water healed a person's health; this heals from sin. There, the body was only healed of its infirmities; here, body and soul are freed from sin. There, many who were weary lay sick at that water because it only cured one person a year. No one will be left lying sick here where the waters of baptism are, if they resolve to come and be healed."

— *Chromatius of Aquileia, 4th century*

REGENERATED, ANOINTED, CONSECRATED: BAPTIZED.

DIVE IN: Bible Study

Moses **anointed** Aaron and his sons to serve in the sacred **priesthood** (Exodus 40:12–15; Leviticus 8:30). Samuel the prophet poured oil on the head of Saul, Israel's first king, and David, Israel's second king (1 Samuel 10:1; 16:12–13). Zadok the priest anointed King Solomon (1 Kings 1:39; 1 Chronicles 29:22).

God commanded only Elijah to physically anoint his successor, Elisha (1 Kings 19:16). Other prophets like Isaiah spoke of being anointed by the Spirit of the Lord for their calling (Isaiah 61:1, and Luke 4:8 when Jesus claims to be the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah).

Christ as Prophet

A **prophet** of God is someone who reveals God, speaks for God, and communicates to people the truths that God wants them to know. Undoubtedly, Jesus did this when he came to do the will of the Father (Luke 22:42), to reveal the Father (Matt. 11:27), and to speak the things of the Father (John 8:28; 12:49).

In the Old Testament, Moses said in Deut. 18:15, "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him." This prophecy is quoted by Peter in Acts 3:22–23 in reference to Jesus, "Moses said, 'The Lord God shall raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren; to Him, you shall give heed in everything He says to you. 'And it shall be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'" The context of Acts 3:22 is clear that it is speaking of Jesus. Acts 3:15 speaks of Jesus being raised from the dead. In v. 16, Jesus is the one who strengthened a certain man. Christ

is mentioned in v. 18 as needing to suffer. In v. 20, Jesus is called the Christ. Verse 21 mentions how God spoke "by the mouth of his holy prophets from ancient time." Then we have v. 22 which quotes Deut. 18:15. The context is clearly about Christ.

Furthermore, Jesus refers to himself as a prophet.

■ Luke 13:33: "Just at that time some Pharisees came up, saying to him, 'Go away and depart from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' And he said to them, 'Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I reach my goal.' 'Nevertheless I must journey on today and tomorrow and the next day; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem.'"

■ Matt. 13:57: "And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown, and in his own household.' And he did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.."

In Luke 13:33 Jesus refers to himself as a prophet because he knows he is about to die, but he cannot do it outside of Jerusalem. Also, in Matt. 13:57 Jesus speaks about a prophet having no honor in his home town, and that is why he did not do many miracles there. Clearly, Jesus is referring to himself as a prophet.

Christ as Priest

The **priests** were the ones in the Old Testament who offered sacrifices to God in order to cleanse of sin. Ultimately, all such priests were representations of Jesus, who is the True Priest who offered himself as a sacrifice (Eph. 5:2; Heb. 9:26–27; 10:12) by which he cleanses us of our sin (1 John 1:7). But, Jesus

DIVE IN: Bible Study continued

is called a priest after the order of Melchizedek. "Where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek" (Heb. 6:20). Heb. 9:11 says, "But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, he entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation." As a priest, Jesus is our mediator between God and ourselves (1 Tim. 2:5).

It could be said that both the prophet and the priest stand between God and man. In the case of the prophet, he delivers the word of God from the top down. In the case of the priest, he delivers the sacrifices of people to God from bottom to top. So, Jesus is a prophet who delivers the word of God to us, and he is also the priest who delivers his sacrifice, on our behalf, to God the Father.

Christ as King

A **king** is someone who has the authority to rule and reign over a group

of people. Jesus is just such a king. He is called the King of the Jews by the Magi (Matt. 2:2), and Jesus accepts that title in Matt. 27:11, "Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor questioned him, saying, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' And Jesus said to him, 'It is as you say'" (Matt. 27:11). Matt. 21:5 speaks of Jesus and says, "Behold your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey." Remember, Jesus is King in that he rules and judges. "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse, and he who sat upon it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness, he judges and wages war" (Rev. 19:11). The armies follow him (Rev. 19:14).

The phrase "Kingdom of God" occurs 66 times in Bible translations –most of them in the synoptic gospels. "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:14). Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy Kingdom come." (Matt. 6:10). Is there a kingdom of God without a king? No. Jesus is that king: "'Are you the King of the Jews?' And Jesus said to him, 'It is as you say'" (Matt. 27:11).

Who the heck was Melchizedek?

Melchizedek was a mysterious king and priest in the Bible who met and blessed Abraham, served as the King of Salem, and later became a symbol for Jesus Christ.

The Biblical Encounter

- Genesis 14: Melchizedek appears out of nowhere after Abraham (then called Abram) wins a battle and rescues his nephew Lot.
- Bread and Wine: He brings out bread and wine to feed Abraham and his men.
- The Blessing: He blesses Abraham in the name of El Elyon (God Most High).
- The Tithe: Abraham gives Melchizedek a tenth (a tithe) of everything he won, showing that he viewed

Melchizedek as a spiritual superior.

Name and Meaning

- King of Righteousness: His name comes from Hebrew roots meaning "king of righteousness."
- King of Peace: He is the king of Salem (which is traditionally identified as early Jerusalem, with Salem/Shalom meaning peace).
- No Lineage: In Genesis, he pops into the story and vanishes just as fast. He has no listed mother, father, or family tree.

Why He Matters Later

- Psalm 110: King David writes that the coming Messiah will be a priest forever "after the order of Melchizedek." Jesus' eternal priesthood has no family bloodline.



Priest, Prophet and King – Who, me?

Embracing our threefold call to holiness

Reprinted from *Catholic Digest*,
by Pat Gohn
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Upon witnessing the Baptism of my first grandchild, I once again heard the threefold description in our call to holiness. After the Baptism comes the anointing with Sacred Chrism oil, wherein the priest or deacon prays these words:

As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life.

This anointing is a stirring reminder of the sublime dignity conferred on us. We, too, must embrace these shared offices of priest, prophet, and king.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is clear about the priestly office.

Baptism makes us members of the Body of Christ. ... “to be a holy priesthood” (1 Peter 2:5). By Baptism they share in the priesthood of Christ, in his prophetic and royal mission. They are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people ...” (1 Peter 2:9). Baptism gives a share in the common priesthood of all believers (CCC, 1267, 1268).

(Note: The *Catechism* also references the *common priesthood* in paragraphs 1141, 1143, 1268, 1305, 1535, 1547, 1591, and 1592.)

Two participations in the one priesthood of Christ

It surprises some to learn that the common priesthood is not a refer-

ence to the clergy. Ordained priests, by Holy Orders, become members of the ministerial priesthood. Yet the common priesthood designates all the baptized. Sharing in the priesthood of Christ begins at one’s Baptism.

The common priesthood and the ministerial priesthood worship together at Mass. We are a *priestly community*. The lay faithful worship alongside the ordained priest. Both make offerings to God. The priest is specifically ordained to confect the Eucharist – to offer and consecrate the bread and wine – on behalf of those gathered. The laity, too, actively participate by offering themselves and their gifts and sacrifices to God.

Christ, high priest and unique mediator, has made of the Church “a kingdom, priests for his God and Father” (Revelation 1:6, see 5:9–10; 1 Peter 2:5,9). The faithful exercise their baptismal priesthood through their participation, each according to his own vocation, in Christ’s mission as priest, prophet, and king (CCC, 1546).

Prophets and kings

Besides the priestly office, there is also a prophetic and a kingly one. In the ministerial priesthood, these are fulfilled by preaching and teaching and in governance of the Church.

How might the laity live these prophetic and kingly offices? Vatican II described the lay vocation this way:

[I]t belongs to the laity to seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God’s will ... so to illuminate and order all temporal things with which they are closely associated that these may always be effected and grow according to Christ and may be to the glory of the Creator and Redeemer (CCC, 898).

With faith and the grace of the sacraments, we must bring Christ to our families, towns, and the wider culture. The faithful are sent out from Mass to go and serve Christ wherever life takes them. They are very much in the front lines for Christianity, to consecrate the world, to make it holy. This understanding was expressed by Pope Pius XII and later echoed by St. John Paul II:

Lay believers are in the front line of Church life; for them the Church is the animating principle of human society. Therefore, they in particular ought to have an ever-clearer consciousness not only of belonging to the Church, but of being the Church (CCC, 899).

The laity act prophetically when they speak the truth, and live the Gospel by example before their families, neighbors, and co-workers. Their mission is “accomplished in the ordinary circumstances of the world” (CCC, 905).

The laity’s kingly office is exercised by their leadership in temporal affairs, acting as Christ would. Jesus, the king of heaven, gave his life to conquer sin and death, to bring resurrection and new life. By bringing Christ’s leadership and governance in our own spheres, we offer renewal and new life where it is most needed.

Moreover, by uniting their forces let the laity so remedy the institutions and conditions of the world when the latter are an inducement to sin, that these may be conformed to the norms of justice, favoring rather than hindering the practice of virtue. By so doing they will impregnate culture and human works with a moral value (CCC, 909; *Lumen Gentium*, 36 § 3).

Finally, lay leadership helps the local church to flourish.

The laity ... cooperate with their pastors ... for the sake of [church] growth and life ... through the exercise of different kinds of ministries according to the grace and charisms which the Lord has been pleased to bestow on them (CCC, 910; Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 73).

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PRIESTS-PROPHETS-KINGS.

Priest, Prophet & King - A way of LIFE

The threefold office of baptized persons

Reprinted from *Catechist*, by Jason Gale, November 13, 2024

In Baptism, the person receives an anointing in which he or she is “incorporated into Christ who is anointed priest, prophet, and king” (CCC, 1241). When we are teaching this reality of Baptism, we can use it as model for our lives that emphasizes both communion and diversity.

This is important as laypeople because even though we are all called to be holy, we do this in different ways and degrees from the clergy. St. John Paul II stated beautifully:

The unity of the Church is not uniformity, but an organic blending of legitimate diversities. It is the reality of many members joined in a single body, the one Body of Christ (cf. *1 Corinthians* 12:12). Therefore, the Church of the Third Millennium will need to encourage all the baptized and confirmed **to be aware of their active responsibility** in the Church’s life. Together with the ordained ministry, other ministries, whether formally instituted or simply recognized, can flourish for the good of the whole community, sustaining it in all its many needs. (John Paul II, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 46; emphasis added).

This three-fold office has a very practical application in each of our lives. We can begin our catechesis with three questions:

1. What does a priest do?
(or What is a priest?)

2. What does a prophet do?
(or What is a prophet?)

3. What does a king do?
(or What is a king?)

Priest

Drawing on the priesthood of the Old Testament, a priest is one who offers sacrifices (see Genesis 14:18; Exodus 29:38- 42; Leviticus 23:6,8). Some sacrifices are personal, and some are on behalf of others. As parents and teachers, we can offer this as the first aspect of the Christian way of life. In union with Christ (through Baptism), we offer sacrifices as laypeople, many corresponding to our specific vocations. This will look different depending on our vocation and work, but we are all united to the same Christ.

Prophet

A prophet is a spokesperson for God, or one who speaks on God’s behalf (see Exodus 4:30; Deuteronomy 18:18; Isaiah 42:19). In the Old and New Testaments, prophets called people to a different way of life. It is a way of life determined by God’s revelation and not our own self-defining. The Christian difference is a selfless way of life – first, loving God, our Sovereign King, and second, loving all of his creation, the highest of which are people. This transcendent witness to the Gospel can lead others to God. It does not point selfishly to oneself, but to Christ who has reconciled us to the Father. In our union with Christ through Baptism, we become prophetic witnesses to God’s loving plan of salvation. In our world today, we need prophets in all corners of society.

King

The aspect of king is where we begin to point to all three together. So what does a king do? A king rules. But for the Christian, what or who does the king rule? First and foremost, we are called to rule over ourselves, not in a self-absorbed way, but in a way that we are free from addiction and vice so as to

choose what is good and from God. It is important for the Christian to live this out. First, it is a humble response. Second, a king usually is understood as ruling over others, but for the Christian, being a king is a call to servant-leadership. The role of our internal spiritual lives becomes clearer when we look at priest, prophet, and king together.

A holistic understanding

Here is how to tie it all together as a way of life. Many people understand this basic principle: You cannot give what you do not have. I cannot give you \$100 if I do not first possess \$100. So in my Baptism, if I am called as priest to offer my life as living sacrifice, what must I first possess? Myself. So as king, we rule over ourselves so we may offer the sacrifice of our lives for God and others. By doing so, we become a prophetic witness to Christ the King. When considering this, you can begin or end with king, as it is a somewhat cyclical understanding.

1. What does a king do?
Rule over one’s self so that he may offer sacrifice.

2. What does a priest do?
Offer sacrifice which becomes prophetic.

3. What does a prophet do?
Witness to God, the Sovereign King.

We cannot make our lives a living sacrifice if we do not first rule over ourselves. This includes our thinking, our passions or emotions, and our actions. In Baptism we are truly united to Christ, and this union establishes a life of grace that only we can cut off (by sin). The graces to rule over ourselves so we sacrifice our lives and thus become prophetic are all present in our union with Jesus. How this looks in each person’s life will be different and unique, but the union with Christ in Baptism becomes the unity of Christians, no matter how diverse the parts of the Body are. This way of life is the universal call to holiness.

The way to holiness

These three elements serve as the way for holiness of life. As Catholics, we are called to live a virtuous life, free of vices and with full self-possession, in order to make a gift of ourselves to others – as Christ did on the cross. Our imitation of Christ makes him present to the diverse people God places in our path. When this is accomplished by each member of his Church, the Body of Christ accomplishes her mission and participates in the threefold office of priest, prophet, and king.

The common priesthood of the faithful

The term laity is here understood to mean all the faithful except those in holy orders and those in the state of religious life. ... These faithful are by baptism made one body with Christ and are constituted among the People of God; they are in their own way made sharers in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly functions of Christ; and they carry out for their own part the mission of the whole Christian people in the Church and in the world.

What specifically characterizes the laity is their secular nature. ... The laity, by their very vocation, seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and by ordering them according to the plan of God. They live in the world, that is, in each and in all of the secular professions and occupations. They live in the ordinary circumstances of family and social life, from which the very web of their existence is woven. They are called there by God that by exercising their proper function and led by the spirit of the Gospel they may work for the sanctification of the world from within as a leaven. In this way they

may make Christ known to others, especially by the testimony of a life resplendent in faith, hope and charity. Therefore, since they are tightly bound up in all types of temporal affairs it is their special task to order and to throw light upon these affairs in such a way that they may come into being and then continually increase according to Christ to the praise of the Creator and the Redeemer. — *Lumen Gentium*, 31

The lay apostolate, however, is a participation in the salvific mission of the Church itself. Through their baptism and confirmation all are commissioned to that apostolate by the Lord himself. Moreover, by the sacraments, especially holy Eucharist, that charity toward God and man which is the soul of the apostolate is communicated and nourished. Now the laity are called in a special way to make the Church present and operative in those places and circumstances where only through them can it become the salt of the earth. Thus every layman, in virtue of the very gifts bestowed upon him, is at the same time a witness and a living instrument of the mission of the Church itself. — *Lumen Gentium*, 33

Each individual ... must stand before the world as a witness to the resurrection and life of the Lord Jesus and a symbol of the living God. All the laity as a community and each one according to his ability must nourish the world with spiritual fruits. They must diffuse in the world that spirit which animates the poor, the meek, the peace makers – whom the Lord in the Gospel proclaimed as blessed (Cf. Mt. 5:3-9).

In a word, “Christians must be to the world what the soul is to the body” [Letter to Diognetus]. — *Lumen Gentium*, 38



I'd like to begin with excerpts from a Vatican News Service's report of a homily Pope Francis' gave on Epiphany, 2022. His words are simple:

“The Magi reached the goal because they sought it,” “Yet they sought it because the Lord, by the sign of the star, had first set out in search of them.” Like the Magi, we too are sought by God, “and our response must surely be like that of the Magi: a journey together.”

God first set out in search of them by placing that star in the sky. It reminds me of Jesus' words: *it was not you who chose me, it was I who chose you*. There is a contemporary error that claims the proof of one's faith based on their own personal choice of Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior, which undermines the sense of our being called *together*. The emphasis of the "I" who chooses Jesus is the foundation of individualism, which ultimately is the cause of the endless divisions and schisms which characterize Christianity today. The very practice of faith is reduced to personal expression, not an intentional, communal act.

Ultimately, we are called – all of us together – through the waters of the Jordan to be a people. Not a self, or a congregation, or a denomination.

The Holy Father continued, "Those who are touched by God's grace cannot turn in on themselves and live only for themselves; they are always on the march, always driven to go forward – and to go forward together." Again, like the Magi, whom tradition represents as representatives of diverse cultures and peoples, Christians today are "challenged to take our brothers and sisters by the hand... and move forward together... ever closer to God."

We must keep our common baptism the central focus. Celebrating baptismal validity validates each other. Our shared imperative is to seek whatever unity is possible. As John Paul II wrote in *Ut unum sint* nearly 30 years ago, the commitment to unity is irrevocable.

Finally, he said we must maintain discomfort and live with the rawness of our separation. We are one in Christ, yet divided at Eucharist. But Eucharist cannot be relegated to something like mere consumer choice: Skippy, or Jif? Creamy, or crunchy?

Living out the baptismal identities of the laity as priests, prophets, and kings in Christ is how we work toward coming together!

I attended an ecumenical conference in the summer of 2007 at Oberlin College in Ohio. It was the 100th anniversary of Faith and Order and the National Council of Churches. Its nickname was "Oberlin II," after the first Oberlin Conference observing the 50th anniversary in 1957.

Catholics weren't invited in 1957, nor would the Catholic Church have allowed Catholics to attend. I remember being told there may have been a couple of Catholic priests, Jesuits, who attended *inognito*. That simple fact, alone, illustrates how far we have come in the past 60 years, though not as quickly and continuously as most had hoped.

I well remember a paper that was presented there by Jesuit Cardinal Avery Dulles shortly before he died, which at the time in my zeal for Christian unity I found very deflating. He praised the work of bilateral dialogues since Vatican II, that such dialogues with Anglicans, Orthodox and Lutherans "have been of immense value for dispelling past prejudices, for identifying real but hitherto unrecognized agreements, and for enabling parties to see that they can say more together than they previously deemed possible."

However, he said, there is a limit to what the ecumenical methods of the past make possible – in other words, he asked the question if perhaps dialogue has run its course having gone about as far as dialogues can go? But he added a message of hope – which I only rediscovered recently: He added, "It is time now for dialogue in which each Christian community bears witness to the others of those gifts that their community has received from the Lord and holds precious." He urged "an ecumenism of enrichment by means of mutual testimony."

How do we keep our common baptism the central focus, our mutual validation?

We could discover, together, a deeper understanding and reverence of our common life of baptism. Like the Magi,

let us turn back to the East by another route. In the earliest traditions of the churches in Syria, Armenia and Greece of the 4th and 5th centuries there was an understanding which I have only discovered recently in the work of the late Benedictine ecumenical scholar, Kilian McDonnell. They held that the Old Testament didn't end, and the New Testament didn't begin--like the calendar year--with the incarnation and birth of Jesus! In fact, the birth of Jesus was, for them, an event leading up to Jesus' Baptism, which was the full manifestation of Christ, the announcement of salvation, *and the recreation of the cosmos*. Even the epiphany of Jesus to the nations represented by the Magi was an event leading up to the full revelation of the Son of God in the Jordan River. The two witnesses testifying to the true identity of the Son, required by Judaic law, were none other than the Father and the Holy Spirit: the Father's voice and the resting of the Holy Spirit in visible form. It was the beginning of the new dispensation of grace. The new order began.

Jesus' baptism is the icon of our incorporation into the life of God, in him all of us are baptized. When the Lord, as man, was washed in the Jordan, we were washed in him and by him.

The new creation begins when he leaves his cloak of divinity behind in the water, that we might put it on. Through sin Adam himself became lost and forfeited the robe of glory. To find Adam and restore the robe, divinity itself "puts on Adam" by putting on a body at the Incarnation. As new, might we look at each another differently as we explore deeper understandings of baptism from a common, ancient tradition which is an inheritance belonging to all of us? All of us are Adam, unable to do anything about our division and darkness; at the same time all of us are new Adams, recipients of divine glory which none of us did anything to earn or deserve.



Dear Parishioners,



Through our baptism we are called to be holy: to live as priest, prophet, and king. Each of us have been blessed with unique God-given talents and are called to servant leadership that we might share our gifts, making God's love for us visible to all. Volunteering at our school is a tangible way to live this call. As one of the biggest ministries in the church, the mission of Catholic schools is to teach Church doctrine; to build community; and to serve others (National Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1973/2019, p. 22).

Our school is blessed by the generosity of our parish family who recognize that Catholic education is a shared mission. I invite you to prayerfully consider using the gifts God has given you to strengthen our community.

There are many ways to serve such as sharing a special skill, supporting school events, or lending a helping hand in the classroom or library. By giving generously of ourselves we strengthen the bond between parish and school and most importantly model for our children what it means to live our Faith through service. Your example will make a meaningful difference in the lives of our children. By sharing your time, talent, and gifts you will make Jesus visible to our community.

I am deeply grateful for your prayers and generosity. May God continue to bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Burgess, Ph.D.
Principal

Saint Bernadette Catholic School
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Springfield VA 22152

703-451-8696 + www.stbernschool.org

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2026-2027 Parish Ministries



It is the goal of all ministries at Saint Bernadette Church and School to develop in such a way so as to welcome the unique gifts of each person in the parish—and to serve people throughout the parish—of all ages, languages, countries of origin and cultures. For this reason, we especially encourage you to bring your cultural heritage to ALL of our ministries and committees so that all work may flourish in a multi-cultural way, keeping sacred the unity we seek as ONE parish family, all of us in the one Body of Christ.



Parish Advisory Board (Parish Council)

The Parish Council makes the parish vision a reality by working with Fr. Don and parish staff to form concrete goals and lived expressions of the faith we profess. The five committees that form the Parish Council – Education, Liturgy, Operations, Outreach and Parish Life – all work toward these goals in their own way, according to their gifts and disciplines. They advise Fr. Don in interpreting the parish mission in a way that is relevant to the community and effective in meeting the needs of the parish. They recognize and collaborate with the particular gifts of each individual volunteer who is discerning the best way God is calling them to serve. Through the Parish Council the call of Christ to serve is extended to all, and the service of Christ is made real among us.

President: Mark Price, pcpresident@stbernpar.com

NEW: Multicultural Ministry Team

A ministry team has been newly established to promote welcoming, including and involving all ethnic and cultural groups in the parish. The goal is to have the diversity of our parishioners represented in every ministry in the parish.

Mission: To promote the involvement of other language-speaking parishioners in all the different ministries, and to welcome the involvement of all parishioners in the social and cultural activities sponsored by the Multicultural Ministry Team.

Time: Flexible.

Talent: The only talent you need is love of God and the Church, and a desire to assist our diverse parishioners to grow in their faith and feel welcome at Saint Bernadette. Multilingual skills are helpful.

Coordinator: Maureen Smith, multicultural@stbernpar.com



At Saint Bernadette, we strive to provide the best possible religious education for our parish community. Together, our programs work to prepare our children, young adults, and adults for the sacraments, and to continue nourishing our parish through faith formation. The Parish Council Education Committee Chair is Barbara Dalmut, education@stbernpar.org.

EDUCATION

- Adult Faith Formation
- Religious Education K-8 and Sacramental Prep for High School Students
- Children's Liturgy of the Word
- OCIA/RICA: Order of Christian Initiation for Adults
- Saint B School Volunteers
- Bible Study
- Youth Ministry (YM)
- Confirmation Team Leaders
- High School Tuesday Socials
- High School Dinner/Fellowship
- High School Boys and Girls Groups
- Middle School Youth Ministry
- Diocesan WorkCamp Volunteers

Adult Faith Formation

At Saint Bernadette, we strive to provide the best possible religious education for our parish community. Together, our programs work to prepare our children, young adults, and adults for the sacraments and continuing to nourish our parish faith formation.

In addition to our core Religious Education program for parish children, this past year we offered:

- Wednesday morning Bible studies;
- OCIA/RICA (Spanish) – for all interested in joining the Catholic Church, 7-8:30pm Mondays in the Bradican Room or Cafeteria;

- Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) for three-to-six year olds during the Sunday 9am Mass;

- Day(s) of Reflection - Advent and Lent
- Parish 40 Hours Lenten Retreat with nightly conferences;

Mission: To provide ongoing, life-long, faith formation for adults within our parish community. This includes bible studies, parish missions, guest speakers, educational series, retreats, or days of reflection for parishioners.



Religious Education, Kindergarten through 8th Grade and Sacramental Preparation for High School Students

Time: Meet regularly, varies by program activities

Coordinators: Lynn Jones, Director of Faith Formation, AdultFaithFormation@stbernpa.org

Mission: Mission: To partner with parents, the first and best educators of their children, in order to provide ongoing faith formation for all the children in the parish who are not enrolled in a Catholic School. There is a large range of responsibilities undertaken by the parish in hoping to serve the over 2,300 registered children in their faith formation and sacramental preparation needs.

Time: Weekly commitment (if possible), plus initial training, including VIRTUS certification with a background check, and on-going catechist formation in the parish, while obtaining certification in accordance with the requirements of the bishop. As much or as little time as you can give is appreciated.

Talent: A love of Jesus Christ, our Catholic faith, and the children is foremost, and a desire to fill a needed role in an environment where Christ is our focus. Training and certification are made

available to all to ensure that we are educated in the faith we teach. Volunteer opportunities include; catechists, assistant catechists, prayer aides, office and clerical volunteers, teen helpers, and hall/door monitors. There are also specific areas to help with during the course of the year.

Director of Faith Formation: Lynn Jones, **Coordinator of Religious Education:** Arlyn Agasen, ReligiousEducation@stbernpa.org

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Mission: To celebrate the Liturgy of the Word during the Sunday 9am Mass with three-to-six year olds at a level they can understand.

Time: Sundays 8:45am-10:15am includes setup of classroom, Mass, and cleanup of classroom. Additional lesson preparation time prior to Sunday morning on your own. You will attend Mass except for the Liturgy of the Word.

Talent: An ability to share your love of Christ and the Catholic faith with small children with well-designed lessons. OPCYP (Virtus) Background check and compliance are required.

Coordinators: Colleen Turner, CLOW@stbernpa.org

**OCIA/RICA:
Rite of Christian
Initiation
for Adults
Team**

We are blessed with faithful formation teams for adults who are seeking to live new faith, toward the ultimate goal of full sacramental initiation in the Church at the Easter Vigil Mass. (RICA is the program in Spanish.)

Mission: To facilitate the process of initiating new members into our Roman Catholic community of faith through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Providing personal presence which seeks to accompany Inquirers throughout the process of coming to the Sacraments.

Time: Mondays, 7-8:30pm, weekly meetings and some other weekend activities throughout the year.

Talent: An ability to share your love of Christ and the Catholic faith with those seeking to become Catholic. Some teaching and leading of discussion groups is possible, along with priests and other faculty.

Coordinators: , Tony Weilbacher or Fr. Don, OCIA@stbernpa.org and, in Spanish, Fr. Daniel Rice, RICA@stbernpa.org

**Saint
Bernadette
Catholic
School
Volunteers**

It is a great blessing to see our children grow in their awareness of the Spirit working through them and in them as well as learn. Catholic Education allows children discover how to use God's gifts in a life dedicated to his service. It is our prayer that many priestly and religious vocations have been awakened in them this year.

Mission: To provide support for the Catholic education of our children.

Time: Weekly commitment (if possible), plus initial training, including VIRTUS and ongoing formation, as needed. As much or as little time as you can give is deeply appreciated.

Talent: A love of education and children is foremost and a desire to fill a needed role in an environment where Christ is our focus. A full spectrum of opportunities are available.

Principal: Dr. Kathleen Burgess, Principal, SBSchoolVolunteers@stbernpa.org

Bible Study

Mission: To grow in your spiritual walk with Christ by spending time with his Word in prayer and fellowship.

Time: Wednesday mornings, 9:45am-11:30am, Bradican Rm

Coordinator: Maggie McKinley (mornings), WednesdayBibleStudy@stbernpa.org

**Youth
Ministry
(YM)**

Mission: Saint Bernadette Youth Ministry is made up of those adults who have been called by God to help young people experience the transforming love of Christ and become missionary-disciples. We do this by providing a wide range of opportunities for 6th–12th grade teens in Springfield to be formed in the Catholic faith. Our ultimate goal is to provide an avenue for every single teen in the parish to enter more deeply into their faith and parish community.

Several current opportunities to facilitate our youth programs are listed below. However, we are always looking for new adults who are willing to step up and use their gifts to inspire teens in the faith. If you have a gift or passion that you are excited to share please reach out to the Office of Youth Ministry. We would love to work on developing your idea for a new youth program!

Coordinator: Grace Mee, Director of Youth Ministry, Youth@stbernpa.org

Note: The Diocese mandates that all CYM adult volunteers (18+ years of age) be compliant with OPCYP Programs. Contact Grace Mee for more information.

**YM:
Confirmation
Team Leaders**

Mission: To serve as a team leader to 10-12 sixth, seventh and eighth graders who are preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. Leaders serve as spiritual mentors and coordinators of corporal and spiritual works of mercy projects which lead candidates into serving in the life of the Church, reflect on their involvement and connect. Loving adults are needed to witness their own faith and commitment to the Church and inspire our young people to grow in their faith.

Time: A two-year commitment. A minimum of six meetings with candidates to complete spiritual and corporal works of mercy and accompany them to the Confirmation retreat. Several formation meetings with staff and other Team Leaders.

Talent: An ability to act as a mentor, witnessing your love of God and our life in the Church. Able to share freely and appropriately, and inspire faith.

Coordinator: Grace Mee, Director of Youth Ministry, Youth@stbernpa.org

YM:
High School
Tuesday
Socials

Mission: To provide the opportunity for all 9th-12th grade teens in the parish and Springfield to come together for fun, fellowship and formation in the faith.

Time: Every Tuesday evening throughout the school year

Talent: Adults with an ability to act as a mentor, witnessing your love of God and our life in the Church. Able to share freely and appropriately, and inspire faith.

Coordinator: Grace Mee, Director of Youth Ministry, Youth@stbernpar.org

YM:
High School
Dinner &
Fellowship

Mission: To provide an opportunity for all 9th-12th grade teens in the parish and Springfield to share a meal together at the parish. This is to model the community described in the book of Acts, *"Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoyed favor with all the people"* (Acts 2:46-47).

Time: One Saturday evening a month

Talent: We are in need of adults with the gift of hospitality. We also need adults who are willing to prepare, serve, and clean up a meal for the teens.

Coordinator: Grace Mee, Director of Youth Ministry, Youth@stbernpar.org

YM:
High School
Boys and Girls
Groups

Mission: Single-sex events for high school boys and girls, that promote their spiritual, emotional, and social development in an atmosphere of Christian values and friendships. Events include outings, social events, praying together, and more. The goal of these groups is to grow into a consistent girls and boys weekly bible study or community of prayer.

Time: Varies, based on the schedules of the teens and adults – typically twice monthly.

Talent: An ability to act as a spiritual, emotional, and life mentor to high school teens.

Coordinator: Grace Mee, Director of Youth Ministry, Youth@stbernpar.org

YM:
Middle School
Youth Ministry

Mission: We provide an opportunity for 6th-8th grade boys and girls to come together for an evening of fun, fellowship, and faith formation. Our main focus is to build community among the middle school youth in the parish.

Time: Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday evening of the month throughout the school year.

Talent: Gifts of joy, care, and presence, modeling St. John Bosco's style of relational ministry. Therefore we are looking for leaders who are willing to give talks, lead games, and simply be present with the teens throughout the program.

Coordinator: Grace Mee, Director of Youth Ministry, Youth@stbernpar.org

YM:
Diocesan
WorkCamp
Volunteers

Mission: To assist in the preparation, coordination and participation of our youth's WorkCamp experiences.

Time: Varies based on area of support. Can include volunteering the week of camp, weekend fundraising activities or planning meetings.

Talent: Many opportunities are available such as: contractor, team leader, fundraising coordinator, stakeholder, security, lunch prep, etc. All share in the coordination and execution of a powerful week-long service oriented WorkCamp experience — we need you! *No experience necessary but a willingness to witness Christ through your example to our youth is a must!*

Coordinator: Stakeholder/Coordinator, Matthew Frey and Grace Mee, Youth@stbernpar.org





Together we keep the Mass as the center of our worshiping community. All those who volunteer for liturgical ministries witness to the presence of Christ in our midst and strengthen us as a community centered on Jesus present in the Eucharist and in his living Word.

Within our liturgical ministries, we rely upon the gifts of the presider to lead us in worship, and the gifts of God's people to sing his praises, proclaim his Word, serve at his altar, welcome his people, care for his altar and his house, and assist in the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass and to the homebound. There are many ministries and many gifts needed to support the liturgy in our parish.

We continue to encourage all members of Saint Bernadette to participate fully, consciously, and actively in our liturgical worship and the life of our parish. The Liturgy Committee Chair is Suyapa Shine, liturgy@stbernpar.org.

LITURGY

- Altar Servers
- Altar Society
- Arimatheans
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
- Service to the Homebound
- Hospitality : Greeters
- Hospitality: Ushers
- Lectors
- Music Ministry
 - The Saint Bernadette Choir
 - Contemporary Choir
- Coro Hispano
- Youth Choir (Gr. 7-12)
- Children's Choir (Gr. 1-6)
- Taizé Choir/Ensemble
- Filipino Choir
- Seasonal Decorators

Altar Servers **Mission:** A unique ministry by which boys and girls fourth grade and older can help to spread the word and the love of Christ by assisting the principal celebrant during Mass. To be an Altar Server is a special honor and a great

privilege. Opportunities are available to serve at other liturgies as well, such as weddings, funerals, benediction, etc.

Time: Generally two Masses per month. Arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of



Mass. Initial training and formation sessions. Schedule is flexible, however we ask you request a substitute if required.

Talent: A desire to serve God. Attentiveness and reverence at Mass. Must be dependable.

Coordinators: Jean Corday, AltarServers@stbernpa.org

Altar Society

Mission: To clean the sanctuary and sacred vessels, take home linens, purificators and towels to be cleaned, pressed or repaired, replenish holy water at the church entrances, and water plants.

Time: Various and numerous activities at different times weekly, or month.

Talent: A caring eye for detail.

Coordinator: Lillian Hidalgo, AltarSociety@stbernpa.org

Arimatheans

A group who responds to the spiritual needs of families by representing the parish attending funerals and vigils, if and when possible.

Mission: To pray for the deceased members of our parish at funerals, and be

present as parishioners to the families in mourning. Arimatheans stay after the funeral and pray a rosary for the deceased.

Time: As needed, when funerals are scheduled, weekdays or Saturday mornings.

Talent: A desire to help people know that we are present in grief, to comfort them and pray for them.

Coordinator: Trish Pirowski, Arimatheans@stbernpa.org

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Mission: To assist in the distribution of the Holy Eucharist on Sundays, Holy Days and/or daily Mass, and to share ministry with the homebound and institutionalized.

Time: Weekly commitment (if possible). Schedule is flexible and finding a substitute is required. Formation and training sessions are required.

Talent: Love and reverence for the Holy Eucharist; ease in public settings, Catholic in good standing who has received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism,

Extraordinary Ministry (continued)

Confirmation and Eucharist). Must be invited to serve by the Pastor and formally mandated by Bishop Burbidge. *If you are interested, please contact Fr. Don directly for an appointment.*

Coordinators: Suyapa Shine, EucharisticMinistersEng@stbermpar.org, Alicia Ramos, EucharisticMinistersEsp@stbermpar.org

Service to the Homebound and Sick

Mission: To bring the Holy Eucharist, pray and visit with those who are homebound or institutionalized.

Time: Weekly commitment (if possible). 1–2 hours weekly. Annual Training.

Talent: Love and reverence for the Holy Eucharist; friendly and compassionate with the ability to comfort. Catholic in good standing who has received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation). Must be invited to serve by the Pastor and formally mandated by Bishop Burbidge. *If you are interested, please contact Fr. Don directly for an appointment.*

Coordinator: Suyapa Shine and Fr. Don EucharisticMinistersEng@stbermpar.org

Hospitality: Greeters



The role of a greeter is different from an usher, who works inside the church helping people to find seats and facilitates the flow of the collection(s) and Communion procession. The greeter is at the door, helping people in, giving them liturgy sheets. This ministry could be the most effective means of helping all to feel welcome, coming to Mass on Sundays and other special liturgies.

Mission: Welcome all parishioners and visitors to Mass with a warm smile and friendly greeting. Some greeters may choose to stand outside and assist people who need assistance from their car to their pew. Distribute liturgy sheets and assist ushers as needed. Adults and teens welcome.

Time: Weekly commitment desired, not required (arrive 15 minutes prior to Mass). Schedule is flexible and finding a substitute is required. Initial training and annual meeting.

Talent: An ability to help people be aware they belong; a deep sense of Christ in all people.

Coordinator: Kathy Marchetti, HospitatlityGreeters@stbermpar.org

Hospitality: Ushers

Mission: To provide assistance to our fellow parishioners during regular Masses, Holy Days and also during special liturgical events. This assistance includes a variety of tasks such as extending greeting to all those that enter, seating people, assisting during Communion, taking up the collection and distributing the church bulletin at the conclusion of Mass.

Time: Weekly commitment (arrive 15 minutes prior to Mass). Initial training.

Talent: An ability to help people be aware they belong; a deep sense of Christ in all people.

Coordinator: Cedric D'Cruze, UshersEng@stbermpar.org, Santos Reyes, UshersEsp@stbermpar.org

Lectors

Mission: To proclaim the Scripture readings at Sunday and Weekday Masses, Holy Days and at other special liturgical events with reverence and understanding. This requires spending time with the Word before your assigned Mass, prayerful contemplation and an openness to letting the Holy Spirit lead. Adults and teens are welcome.

Time: Sunday lectors usually serve once or twice a month, weekday lectors may serve more frequently. All lectors participate in one annual formation session. Schedule is flexible and finding a substitute is required.

Talent: A love for God's Word. A clear speaking voice and ease when speaking in front of people.

Coordinator: Benedicta Oliveros, LectorsEng@stbermpar.org and Carmen Sanchez, LectorsEsp@stbermpar.org

Music Ministry

The music ministry welcomes singers and instrumentalists who want to share their gifts to help foster the sung prayer of our parish. We have five weekly choirs that sing at Sunday (or Saturday evening) Mass and for special occasions. Below are the rehearsal and Mass times for each choir. If you enjoy singing or play an appropriate instrument and would like to contribute your talents to the parish liturgies in this special way, please contact us – we would love to have you join us

Talent: Love of music and wanting to share your musical talents in prayer.

Director: David Mathers, Director of Music Ministries, Music@stbermpar.org

The Saint Bernadette Choir

The Saint Bernadette Choir sings for the Sunday 11am Mass from September to June, as well as Christmas Midnight Mass, liturgies of the Easter Triduum and other parish liturgies. Repertoire includes the broad range of excellent Catholic liturgical music including chant, polyphony, classical and contemporary hymns and choral works.

Time: Sunday 10:15am warm-up, Mass at 11am. Rehearsal Thursdays 7:30–9:15pm.

Choir Director: David Mathers, Director of Music Ministries, Music@stbernpa.org

Contemporary Choir

The Contemporary Choir sings for the Sunday 9am Mass September to June as well as Christmas Eve, Easter Vigil and other parish liturgies. Repertoire includes the broad range of excellent Catholic liturgical music including chant, polyphony, classical and contemporary hymns and choral works. Choir includes SATB singers and a wide range of ensemble instrumentalists.

Time: Sundays, 8:30am warm-up, Mass at 9am. Rehearsals, Wednesdays 7:30–9:30pm.

Choir Directors: Sylvia and Bob Malinowski, Contemporary@stbernpa.org

Coro Hispano

The Spanish Choir sings for the Sunday 1pm Mass throughout the year as well as Christmas Eve and Easter, and other parish celebrations. Singers who enjoy singing in Spanish, (both Spanish speaker and learners) and players of appropriate instruments are most welcome.

Time: Sunday 11:30am warm-up, additional rehearsal Wednesdays 7:30–9:15pm.

Director: Juan Pablo Rodriguez, CoraHispano@stbernpa.org



Seasonal Decorators

Youth Choir

Grades 7-12. Sing or play appropriate instruments for the Saturday 5pm Mass September to June, as well as Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday.

Time: Saturday 3:30pm rehearsal for Mass at 5pm.

Choir Director: David Mathers, Music@stbernpa.org

Children's Choir

Grades 1-6. Sings for the Saturday 5pm Mass about once each month from September to June as well as Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday.

Choir Director: David Mathers, Music@stbernpa.org

Taizé Ensemble

The Saint Bernadette Taizé Ensemble welcomes vocalists and experienced instrumentalists (woodwinds and strings) to provide music leadership for our monthly ecumenical prayer in the Taizé tradition.

Time: The service is at 8pm every third Monday of the month and lasts 45 minutes. Rehearsal is one hour prior.

Director: David Mathers, Music@stbernpa.org

Filipino Choir

The Saint Bernadette Filipino Choir sings at the 7pm Mass on the third Saturday of each month, as well as other events during the year, including Simbang Gabi and Flores de Mayo.

Time: Rehearsals take place generally twice per month on Saturday afternoons.

Director: Cecile David, amaremusicministry@gmail.com

Mission: To prepare the church for primary liturgical seasons, creating designs that lead those attending Mass to enter more deeply into the Mysteries we celebrate.

Time: Usually the Saturday or evenings before a major feast day. Other dates as needed throughout the year.

Talent: An eye for design, able to lift, use ladders.

Coordinator: Fr. Don Rooney, SeasonalDecorators@stbernpa.org



Just as in any organization, there is a lot of “behind the scenes” work that must be done in order for our community events and projects to be completed. We are always in need of physical help, whether it is setting up, or cleaning up, stuffing envelopes, or answering phones. We are also responsible for keeping our facilities in working condition and making improvements as necessary. The Operations Committee Chair is Ed Bahdi, operations@stbernpar.org.

OPERATIONS

- Administrative Support
- Bishop's Lenten Appeal Committee

- Communications Committee
- Development Committee

Logistics Committee

Administrative Support



Mission: To assist in office tasks; help with large mailings, bulletin inserts, data entry, answering phone calls, etc.

Time: Varies with needs. Many one-time projects several times a year.

Talent: A warm and kind disposition and willingness to serve.

Coordinators: Rick Caporali and Evelyn Vargas, AdminSupport@stbernpar.org

Bishop's Lenten Appeal Committee

Mission: To plan and organize the annual Lenten Appeal. Encourage full participation through planning, publicity, and reporting.

Time: Annual event, with follow-ups Jan-

uary-May. A few additional meetings.

Talent: Organization and leadership. Willingness to speak at Mass helpful.

Contacts: Rick Caporali and Manny Cor-day, BLA@stbernpar.org

Communications Committee



Mission: To spread the word about the good things happening at Saint Bernadette throughout the community. Help keep Parish Life announcements/Calendar of Events current on the parish website and in the local media and *Catholic Herald*, and parish platforms on Facebook, Instagram, Bulletin Boards, and Flocknote.

Time: Varies; 30 minutes to an hour



weekly depending on the size of the ministry team.

Talent: Great at hospitality and knowledgeable of the parish community, able to deliver bulletins and flyers when necessary.

Contacts: Rick Caporali and Jean Corday, Communications@stbernapar.org

Development Committee



Mission: To cultivate the financial resources of our parish and community by developing and maintaining programs that secure funds for the continued service and maintenance of parish programs and facilities.

Talent: Fundraising experience. Organized and friendly.

Coordinators: Rick Caporali and Jean Corday, Development@stbernapar.org

Logistics Committee



Often there is a great need for assistance to accomplish the goals set by other committees and ministries, and Logistics facilitates their successful outcome.

Mission: To organize and coordinate volunteers as they are needed; to facilitate small groups programs; to assist in the planning and managing of maintenance

and improvements of parish property. Also, facilitating the physical needs of major parish events/functions – sometimes we just need people to help set up and put away tables and chairs!

Time: Varies with needs.

Talent: No training is necessary, however, a diversity of expertise is very helpful.

Coordinators: Ed Bahdi and Rick Caporali, Operations@stbernapar.org





Believing in the presence of God in our midst, we proclaim the sanctity of human life and the dignity of the person by sharing in the mission of Jesus given to the Church. To this end, Saint Bernadette Church works with individuals, families and communities to help them meet their needs, eliminate oppression, and build a just and compassionate society. The Parish Council Outreach Committee Chair is Kathleen Moyer, outreach@stbermpar.org.

OUTREACH

- Catholic Advocacy Committee
- Catholic Charities Volunteers
 - St. Lucy Food Project
- Christ House Dinners

- ECHO
 - Can-A-Week
- Ecumenical/Interreligious Commission

- Refugee Assistance
- Rise Against Hunger
- St. Mark Lutheran Church Hypothermia Project

Catholic Advocacy Committee



Our Advocacy Committee attends Catholic Advocacy Day in Richmond and promotes the annual Virginia Catholic Conference email registration drive, and works to raise awareness among the community to social justice issues and Catholic teachings.

Mission: To serve as liaison to the Virginia Catholic Conference in coordinating parish activities to promote Catholic values in the public square according to the guidance of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Committee organizes our attendance at the annual Catholic Advocacy Day in Richmond and coordinates parish awareness on issues such as protecting life, care

for the poor, predatory lending, human trafficking and immigration reform.

Time: Periodic meetings and events as they occur.

Talent: A passion to bring awareness to the parish and to actively participate in the promotion of Gospel values in society.

Seeking a Coordinator. In the interim, Fr. Don, Advocacy@stbermpar.org

Catholic Charities Volunteers

Throughout the year Saint Bernadette is active in working for the initiatives of Catholic Charities in our diocese. We respond to programs and requests for food (St. Lucy Project and Christ House), and many organizations in the parish are involved independent-



ly. If you would like to know more, please contact our liaison.

Mission: To serve as a volunteer with any of the many programs offered by Catholic Charities.

Time and Talent: Depending on need, volunteer service could be at the parish or off-site.

Liaison and Saint Lucy Food Drive Coordinator: Nancy Hoskins, StLucy@stbernpar.org

Christ House Dinners

Mission: To prepare nutritious bagged lunches for residents of Christ House in Alexandria

Time: The program is two parts: collection/preparation of the meals and delivery

Talent: Willingness to assist; This a perfect opportunity to witness Christ's love to those less fortunate.

Coordinator: Anne Thompson, ChristHouse@stbernpar.org

ECHO: Ecumenical Community Helping Others

ECHO is a non-profit, all-volunteer private agency whose purpose is to help people in need in our community. ECHO's base of support has been religious congregations in Burke and

Springfield. Those congregations appoint members to ECHO's board of directors and support its mission.

Saint Bernadette is one of the ECHO board member congregations. Through congregational donations as well as civic groups, charitable foundations, and individuals, ECHO is able to help people in need.

Mission: Assist people with food, clothing, household items, and financial assistance who suffer the effects of long-term poverty as well as people who are experiencing an emergency need.

Time: This varies depending on what you volunteer to do at/for ECHO, as much or as little as you can spare.

Talent: Sort clothes, cashier, pick-up and deliver furniture. Ability to interact with applicants seeking financial assistance. Friendly demeanor and compassion for those in need of help.

Coordinator: Jerry Faber, ECHO@stbernpar.org, Saint Bernadette Church ECHO representative

ECHO: Can-A-Week

Mission: For all parishioners to contribute non-perishable food (a can a week)

**ECHO:
Can-A-Week
cont'd**

and/or time in gathering it for ECHO on a weekly basis.

Time: Just bring your contribution (staples, also high-protein items) when you come to Mass. Volunteers are asked to come 15 minutes before Mass and stay 10 minutes after to help put the food in the closet.

Talent: A desire to help provide sustenance for people who are hungry.

Coordinators: Al Pirowski, CanAWeek@stbernpar.org

**Ecumenical/
interreligious
Commission**

Mission: To organize and promote unity among people of Christian faiths and deeper understanding of other religions represented in the community.

Time: Periodic meetings and events as they occur.

Talent: A desire to bring unity to those separated by religious profession.

Coordinators: Barbara Gayhart and Fr. Don, Ecumencial@stbernpar.org

**Refugee
Assistance**

Mission: To assist in providing furnishing and household supplies for new arrivals through Catholic Charities' Refugee Resettlement Office.

Time: Whatever time may be available; volunteers may also contact the office of Migration and Refugee Services for other opportunities in helping the refugee population with daily needs.

Talent: Willingness to meet needs of clients.

Coordinator: Rick Caporali, Newcomers@stbernpar.org

**Rise Against
Hunger**

Mission: To assist in the facilitation of the parish's annual Week of Service Event to partner with other organizations to end world hunger by 2030!

Time: Whatever time may be available; volunteers may also contact the parish office. Although this event is once a year the support and coordination required is year-round.

Talent: Willingness to assisting in fundraising, marketing, logistics, social media and promotion and execution.

Coordinator: Rick Caporali, RiseAgainstHunger@stbernpar.org

**St. Mark
Lutheran
Church
Hypothermia
Project**

Mission: To provide a meal and a warm place to sleep during Hypothermia Week (The group prepares and serves together).

Time: Our week to support is usually the 3rd week in January. Commitments of time vary

Talent: Willingness to prepare and serve meals, visit with the clients or stay overnight; financial contributions, food and supplies welcome.

Coordinator: Kathy Mueller, Hypothermia@stbernpar.net











We welcome, connect and foster fellowship in the parish community. Parish Life is the very essence of Christ in action — loving, serving, praying and building God's kingdom through each other and the family of Saint Bernadette Parish. The Parish Council Parish Life Committee Chair is Gina Soriano, parishlife@stbernpa.org.

PARISH LIFE

- Catholic Women's Group
- Called and Gifted Program
- Coffee and Donut Sundays
- Friends in Need Committee
 - Funeral Receptions
- Hospitality (Receptions Committee)
- Hospitality (Greeting Card Ministry)
- Knights of Columbus
- Knitting / Crocheting Ministry
- Legion of Mary
- Lenten Small Groups Program
- Mary's Comfort
- Prayer Groups
 - Hearts on Fire Prayer Group
- ProLife Committee
- Seven Sisters Apostolate
- Vocations Promoters
- Walking With Purpose
- Welcoming New Parishioners
- Youth Organizations (parish/school sponsored)
 - Cub Scout Pack 995
 - Boy Scout Troop 995
 - Girl Scouts
 - CYO Sports Volunteers

Catholic Women's Group

A group of parish women who gather together monthly for fellowship, spiritual growth, and service to our community.

Mission: To build our parish community by meeting the social and spiritual needs of our members, and by serving our parish and greater community.

Time: Meet at 7pm on the second Tuesday of each month in the Bradican Room, and socially for Dinner with

Friends on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month (except Christmas) at a local restaurant. Additionally, members may help serve dinner at Christ House, provide for Donut Sundays, help with distribution of St. Lucy bags, or support other parish activities.

Talent: An open heart and a willingness to serve and be served

Coordinator: Barbara Dalmut, women@stbernpa.org



Called and Gifted Program

This program begins the process of becoming Intentional Disciples in our community life of spirituality and ministry. The workshop spurs a parish to move out of maintenance mode into mission. This program is for anyone in the parish who would like to discern gifts and seek answers to how God is calling you.

Mission: To assist in the continued development of the Called and Gifted Program at Saint Bernadette Parish by establishing an organized process for implementation and fostering opportunities for small groups for discernment beyond the completion of the formal program.

Time: On-going commitment; primarily based on larger programmed events planned throughout the year.

Talent: Must have completed the Called and Gifted Workshop, organized, good communication skills and attentiveness to detail; have a good sense of our parish community, been involved in ministry(ies) and comfortable with both short/long timelines and event planning.

Coordinator: Rick Caporali, Calledand-Gifted@stbernapar.org

Coffee and Donuts Sundays

All organizations / ministries in the parish are encouraged to sponsor a Sunday (or Sundays) to foster community and to be in a position to answer questions about its ministry. For example, for the youth in our parish, service hours can be earned by assisting with Coffee and Donut Sunday. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts might sponsor the Coffee and Donut Sunday on Scout Sunday, All parishioners (e.g., a family or group of families) are welcome / encouraged to volunteer. Groups who sponsor may keep donations they may receive.

Mission: To set up and serve coffee and donuts on Sunday morning in the vestibule after Masses: assist in establishing, encouraging, and maintaining a sense of community and belonging among the parishioners and as a welcome for newcomers and visitors.

Time: Sunday mornings, two shifts (7:10-10:15am and 10:10-1:15pm).

Talents: Gifts of helping, hospitality, service.

Coordinators: Rick Caporali, Coffeeand-Donuts@stbernapar.org

Friends in Need Committee

Mission: To provide support for individuals or families in need of a meal or a ride. The group seeks to lend a helping hand wherever they are able.

Time: As needed when needed.

Talents: Gifts of helping, encouragement, service.

Coordinator: Kathy Freund,
FriendsinNeed@stbernpa.org

Friends in Need: Funeral Receptions

Mission: To provide support for families in grief by setting-up and serving receptions held in the Bradican Room following funerals.

Time: As needed when funerals occur. Weekdays or Saturdays.

Talents: A desire to support a family in grief.

Coordinator: Kathy Freund,
FriendsinNeed@stbernpa.org

Hospitality: Parish Receptions



This is a new ministry to provide friendly receptions for parishioners, guests, visitors.

Mission: To provide food and volunteers to set-up, clean-up and serve the food at various parish events.

Time: The time commitment depends on how often you volunteer to prepare food and/or serve at the various events throughout the year.

Talents: enjoy preparing and sharing food and a willingness to serve others.

Coordinator: Jean Corday and Rick Caporali, HospitalityReceptions@stbernpa.org.

Hospitality: Greeting Card Ministry

Mission: The Card Ministry was created in fall 2025 to provide parishioners a personal message of celebration as they receive sacraments (baptism, communion, confirmation, and marriage) or to provide words of comfort when facing illness or the loss of a loved one.

Time: Card Ministry members meet for 2-3 hours on a designated day, the second week of the month.

Talents: Members need only to bring their good penmanship and desire to spread words of joy and encouragement. Cards, stamps, and writing instruments are provided.

Coordinators: Amy Wade and Karen Meyer, CardMinistry@stbernpa.org.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic men's organization designed to assist parishes through charity, unity and fraternity. Springfield Council 6153 supports Saint Bernadette throughout the year.

The Council also helps those in need through parish referrals and support family, youth, community and Church in prayer, treasure and action.

Mission: To live by the principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism within the community of Saint Bernadette Parish. The Knights of Columbus has the potential of being one of the most profound presences of charity and leadership in the parish, with your membership.

Time: Meetings held monthly. Additional charitable and community events are held throughout the year.

Talents: Catholic men over 18 years of age seeking fellowship and having a desire to grow in their faith and community outreach.

Coordinator: Grand Knight John Staten,
KnightsOfColumbus@stbernpa.org

Knitting / Crocheting Ministry

Mission: To help the very poor by donating our products to the less fortunate through charity organizations in the area, and at the same time have fun while meeting other knitters, making good friends, and sharing our favorite knitting skills. Our ministry is now concentrating in making baby blankets, as it is the demand at the moment.

Time: Friday evenings from 5 to 7pm. Virtual meetings by Zoom, 1st, 2nd and 4th Fridays, in-person meetings the 3rd Friday of the month.

Coordinator: Lerick Kebeck, KnittingCrocheting@stbernpa.org

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is a lay Catholic organization whose members give service to the Church on a voluntary basis in almost every country. Weekly meetings are held where prayer and instruction are intermingled with reports and discussion. Additionally, every legionary completes a weekly apostolic work. These works include religious education, and visitation of families and the sick in their homes, hospitals, and nursing facilities. The Legion also

collaborates in apostolic and missionary undertakings sponsored by the parish

Mission: To magnify the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active co-operation in the Church's work, under the guidance of a priest.

Time: Weekly meetings with additional apostolate works, about a four-hour weekly commitment.

Talents: Commitment to prayer and service.

Wednesday 7pm Coordinator: Jerome Furlow, LegionofMaryEng@stbernpar.org

Friday 7pm Coordinator (Spanish): Teresita Martinez, LegionofMaryEsp@stbernpar.org

Lenten Small Groups Program



Mission: To develop and encourage small groups to gather weekly during Lent 2026 to share their faith and build community. "Affinity" groups will be invited to meet in their homes or at work, or after work, and if they are comfortable doing so, participants may take turns acting as facilitator. *"For where two or three are together in my name, there I am in the midst of them"* (Mt 18:20). Small groups are a great way to make big churches feel smaller. Our Faith is very relationship oriented. Christ taught us that when we are present to each other, know one another, share what we have, support and encourage each other in love and faith, God will be with us in extraordinary ways.

Time: Groups will meet weekly throughout the season of Lent, (six weeks), approximately 90 min sessions.

Talent: Roles to fill include coordination, group leadership and communication/promotion to the parish. Willingness to explore faith in a small group setting — open to sharing. Groups are suggested to gather around common interests as a means collegiality but not required (affinity groups) and committed to the six-week program.

Coordinator: Rick Caporali, LentenSmallGroups@stbernpar.org

Mary's Comfort of Virginia

Mission: An independent, volunteer-driven nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that serves women of all races and creeds. We provide shelter, counseling,

and mentorship to pregnant women and aim to provide full support, including parenting and life skills training, career coaching, and educational advancement. The organization has many needs for volunteers, including attorneys, a fund-raising manager, fundraisers, counselors, and mentors.

Time: Flexible.

Contact: Kathleen Moyer, maryscomfort@gmail.com

Prayer Groups

Hearts on Fire

Mission: To praise, pray and open our hearts to the Lord Jesus Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit, including his gifts and charisms. All are welcome to attend and participate in these gatherings.

Time: The 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month (check the bulletin, dates may change from month to month) at 7:30pm.

Contact: Tracy Pham, HeartsonFire@stbernpar.org

Pro-life Committee

Mission: To promote pro-life and pro-family values, facing trends in today's culture with mercy, action and support. To help organize parish attendance in the March for Life and Life Chain.

Time: Flexible, as able.

Special Skills: An ability to reach out to others in a spirit of love and forgiveness, an intention to heal and transform hearts.

Contact: Tom Palumbo, ProLife@stbernpar.org

Seven Sisters Apostolate

Mission: To strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a member of the clergy

Time: A commitment to one hour, one day of the week (so that all days are covered), determined by the group for a period of one year.

Talent: Willingness to prayerfully commit to the Apostolate.

Coordinator: Trish Pirowski
7Sisters@stbernpar.org

Vocations Promoters

Mission: To encourage Saint Bernadette parishioners to heed the command of Jesus to *"Pray the Father to send laborers into the field"* and to inspire those who are being called to respond generously to the invitation to serve God as priests, permanent deacons, and consecrated religious brothers and sisters.

Time: Flexible.

Special Skills: Volunteers (individuals or families) are needed to pray for vocations (no requirements for amount of time or specific prayers during the week but suggest praying by name for those currently in formation as a priest or religious. Other options are to form a group to regularly get together and recite a Rosary with the intention of religious vocations from our parish

Contact: Mary Beth Williams, Vocations@stbernapar.org

Walking With Purpose

Mission: To help women grow closer to Christ as they lean on truths found in Scripture to live joy-filled lives.

Time: Groups meet once a week approx. 90 mins, Tuesday morning and Thursday evening sessions are planned

Talent: Willingness to share in a small group(s) setting, openness to meet new people and engage in conversation

Coordinator: Suyapa Shine and Liz McGhan, WalkingwithPurpose@dtbernapar.org

Welcoming New Parishioners



Mission: To organize quarterly gatherings of ministry leaders who will inform our new parishioners about the many ways they can get involved, to grow and develop their faith and feel part of the family that is Saint Bernadette Parish.

Time: Several times a year, after a Sunday Mass.

Talent: A warm and welcoming spirit.

Coordinator: Rick Caporali, Welcome@stbernapar.org

Youth Organizations

Boy Scouts of America

Mission: The Boy Scouts of America provides a programming for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness.

Cub Scouting is a program of the Boy Scouts of America—so in that sense, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts are both members of the same organization. However, they are entirely different programs: Cub Scouting is a family-oriented program designed specifically to address the needs of younger boys.

Time: Please contact listed leaders for each group's schedule.

Cub Scout Pack 995: Sandy Belson, CubScouts@stbernapar.org

Boy Scout Troop 995: Jim Womack, BoyScouts@stbernapar.org

Girl Scouts of America

Mission: Girl Scouts is dedicated to building girls of courage, confidence, and character. Members learn about STEM, the outdoors, entrepreneurship, and important life skills, and new ways to make their family and community stronger, kinder, and better for everyone, developing values and skills that will lead them to happier lives.

Time: Meeting times vary by groups, but primarily on Sunday afternoons; with additional events or activities throughout the year.

Talent: Willingness to work with young girls and pre-teens on a variety of activities, with patience, love and enthusiasm

Coordinator: Katie Wright, GirlScouts@stbernapar.org

CYO Sports Volunteers

Mission: Joining sports teams can be a rewarding experience for young athletes. Our CYO sports program offers a variety of options, including cross country, tennis, track & field, basketball, cheer, and volleyball, fostering both physical fitness and teamwork. Participating in CYO sports not only helps in developing athletic skills but also emphasizes the importance of faith, sportsmanship, discipline, and community involvement. Our programs often create a supportive environment where players can build lasting friendships and learn valuable life lessons. CYO sports are open to students enrolled at St. Bernadette School or the Religious Education Program.

Time: Fall, Winter and Spring Sessions

Representatives: Gina Soriano and Catherine Luby, CYO@stbernapar.org





2025 - 2026 Parish Stewardship Annual Report



Giving of oneself in the spirit of Stewardship can only come as a result of reflection and acknowledgment of the goodness of God and how his mercy and generosity to us compels us to be merciful and generous with who we are and what we have. Gifts are not meant for us alone, but to be gratefully received and multiplied many times over, being given again and again to others. Here is what we have done with our gifts this year.

This Stewardship Annual Report provides us a snapshot of our parish life during the past year and an overview of our demographics and sacramental life. We have spent the last few months soliciting reports from each of our ministries in hopes of sharing the wonderful witness being carried out in our Parish and the community at large.

We have developed this report celebrating our Catholic identity for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of our ministries, and anticipating our parish needs and planning for the future.

This report is an honest testimony to how Saint Bernadette Church continues to live our three-fold ministry every day. It is love that gives value to all our works; it is not by the greatness or multiplicity of our works that we please God, but by the love with which we do them. All of us are called to love and serve all of God's people.

Thank you for answering the call and for continuing to share your Time, Talent and Treasure with a loving and grateful heart.



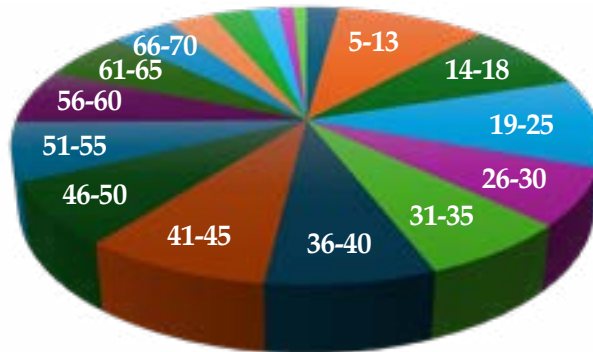
Ages of Parishioners

The total number of parishioners at this time (August, 2026) is 12,995 (2025 - 12,671)

The total number of registered families is 4,326. (2025 - 4,220)

This year we did a thorough edit in the parish database and discovered a lot of duplicate registrations.

age	total	male	female	%
0-4 years (pre-school)	269	157	112	2.1%
5-13 years (Elem & Middle School)	1,386	694	692	10.9%
14-18 years (high School)	1,106	531	575	8.7%
19-25	1,419	724	695	11.2%
26-30	834	393	441	6.6%
31-35	883	440	443	7%
36-40	915	433	482	7.2%
41-45	1,058	491	567	8.3%
46-50	965	429	536	7.6%
51-55	839	405	434	6.6%
56-60	733	341	392	5.8%
61-65	709	353	356	5.6%
66-70	527	240	287	4.2%
71-75	341	158	183	2.7%
76-80	283	129	154	2.2%
81-85	204	91	113	1.6%
86-90	112	48	64	.9%
91+	88	35	53	.7%
totals*	12,671	6,092	6,579	
Catholics	8,833	4,331	4,502	



Number of Years in Parish by Family

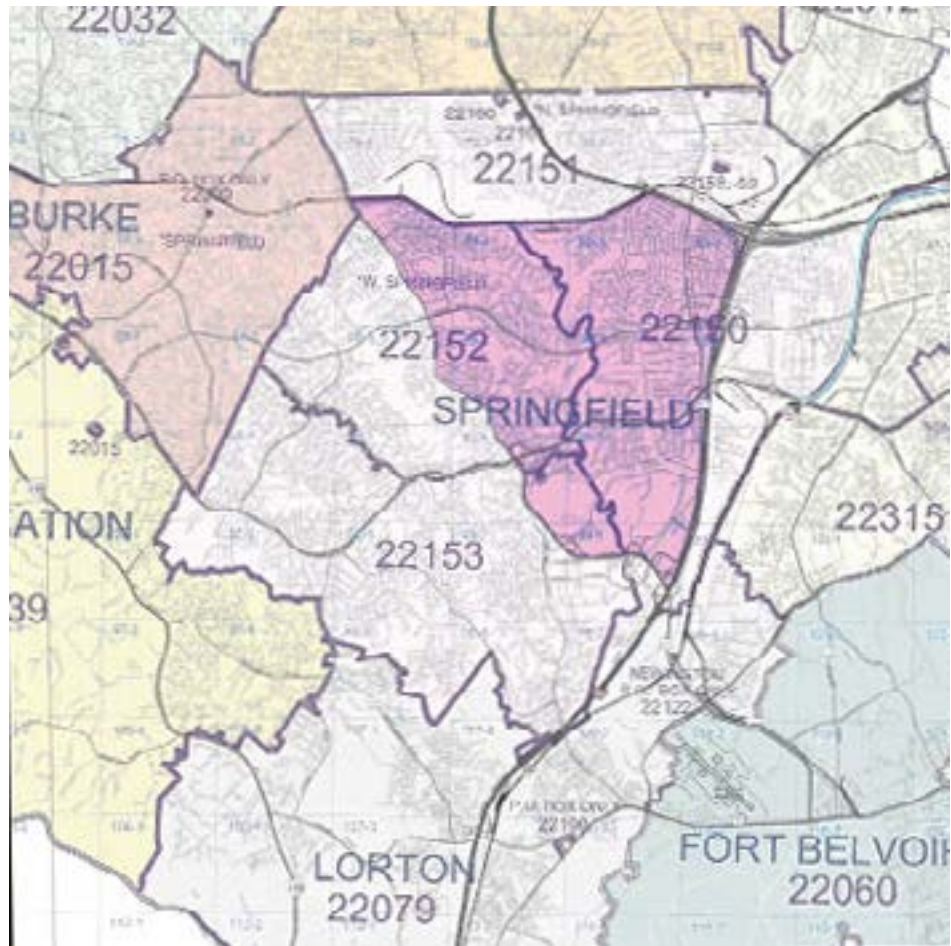
15% of the parish has been here 5 years or less.

57% of the parish has been here 15 years or less.

years in parish	households Aug 2025		
0 to 5	693	31 to 35	75
6 to 10	733	36 to 40	58
11 to 15	856	41 to 45	33
16 to 20	790	46 to 50	18
21 to 25	439	51 to 55	4
26 to 30	467	56 to 60	9
		61 to 65	2
		total	4,326

Family Sort by Zip Code

Total Families
4,326



The pink area above indicates the boundaries of the parish.

22150	22151	22152	22153	Springfield	3,034
22301	to	22315	Alexandria		617
22026	Burke				178
22079	Lorton				171
22032	to	22039	Fairfax / Fairfax Station		109
22191	22192	22193	Woodbridge		82
22015	Annandale				39
All others in / out of parish boundaries					90
total					4,326

Our Youth

Of the 311 families enrolled in our school,

373 students are Catholic,
52 students are Orthodox.

119 Students Active Duty/
Military Affiliation

The total Religious Education/Youth Ministry Faith Formation Enrollment was 501.

Of the total number of parishioners (12,995), 20% are 18 or younger (2,611).

1,363 children 5-18 years of age are not recorded as attending any faith formation (58%).

Saint Bernadette Catholic School 2025-2026

Pre-K	36		
Kindergarten	45	Grade 3	48
Grade 1	46	Grade 4	53
Grade 2	44	Grade 5	48
Grade 6		Grade 6	51
Grade 7		Grade 7	47
Grade 8		Grade 8	44
Total Enrollment	462		

Educational Staff and Administration	60
<i>Teachers, Teachers' Aides, Substitutes, Administrative and Custodial Staff</i>	

Religious Education Enrollment 2025-2026

Kindergarten	19	Grade 5	46	<i>Sacraments Gr. 3-12:</i>	
Grade 1	38	Grade 6	46	RCIC	2
Grade 2	44	Grade 7	53	First Communion	114
Grade 3	53	Grade 8	56	Confirmation	146
Grade 4	51	Grade 9-12	63		

Religious Education Volunteers providing classes to children and adults	59
<i>Catechists, Substitutes, Assistants, Prayer Aides, Security and Office Volunteers</i>	

Youth Ministry Program

Middle School Youth Group	
<i>Grades 6-7</i>	15
High School Youth Group	
<i>Grades 9-12</i>	15
WorkCamp	32
CYO Sports	90
Boy Scouts	45
Girl Scouts	45

Adult Volunteers	37
<i>WorkCamp, CYM Dinners, HS Youth Group and Confirmation Team Leaders</i>	

Sacraments 2025-2026

Baptisms	
<i>Infants up to 1 year</i>	34
<i>Children 1 to 7 years</i>	44
<i>Children 8 to 17 years</i>	2
<i>Adults, 18 and older</i>	17
<i>Professions of Faith (OCIA/RICA)</i>	8
First Communion	134
Confirmation	146
Marriage	18
<i>Including convalidations</i>	
Anointing of the Sick	139



Saint Bernadette Catholic School Faculty and Staff



2025 - 2026 Parish Financial Summary



The members of the Parish Finance Council appreciate the continued support of our parish community. Your contribution of Time, Talent and Treasure and the dedication of the parish staff and ministry leaders have helped us control costs and promote sound fiscal responsibility of our resources and facilities.

This report provides an overview of the financial condition of Saint Bernadette Parish and summarizes the budgetary review conducted by the Pastor in collaboration with the Parish Finance Council. Our goal is to provide parishioners with clear, concise, and transparent information about the parish's financial position and ongoing financial planning.

In October 2025, the Faith Direct program transitioned to ParishSOFT Giving. Currently, 833 parish families participate in electronic giving.

ParishSOFT Giving allows parishioners to make recurring or one-time contributions by credit card or electronic funds transfer (EFT) from a checking or savings account. Contributions may be designated for the Offertory, Second Collections, Capital Campaigns I and II, Special Collections, or other one-time gifts.

Giving preferences can be changed at any time, free of charge, through the online portal. We encourage all parishioners to consider enrolling as a convenient and secure way to support our parish. To enroll or manage your giving, visit ParishSOFT Giving or call (866) 507-8757. Our parish code is VA70.



We are also pleased to offer Tap to Give, a convenient and secure way to donate through ParishSOFT Giving. Tap to Give supports Apple Pay and Google Pay, allowing parishioners to make contributions quickly and securely. Please ensure that NFC is enabled on your device.

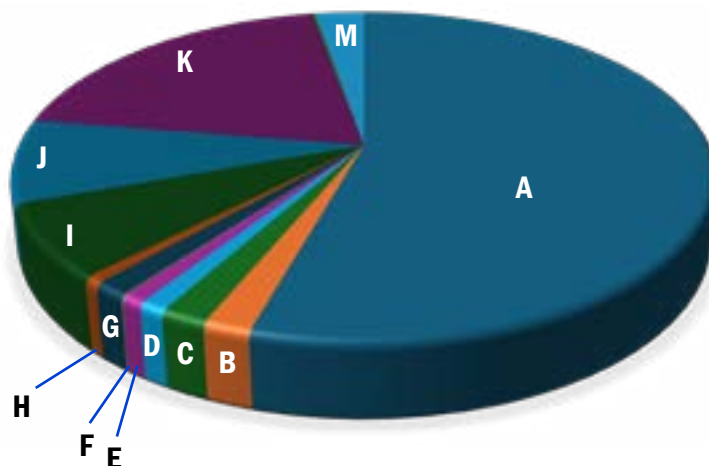
Tap to Give also helps keep parishioners connected to Saint Bernadette Parish. Through this platform you can connect to our website, receive parish news and updates, view upcoming events, learn about opportunities to participate in parish life, and submit a volunteer inquiry.

We are grateful for the continued generosity of our parishioners. Your faithful support makes it possible for Saint Bernadette Parish to carry out its mission and serve our community.

Actual Fiscal Year 2026 Income

1 July 2025—30 June 2026

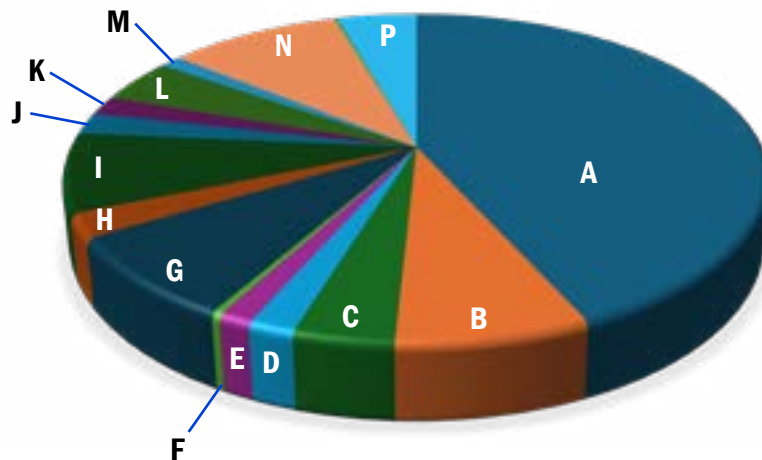
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 3,795,019
A	2,134,144 Sunday Offertory <i>First Collection Regular Weekend Liturgies</i>	56.2%
B	67,471 Holy Day Collections	1.8%
C	68,484 Liturgical/Sacramental <i>Altar Flowers and Initial Offering, Novenas, Stole and Votive Offerings</i>	1.8%
D	49,072 Religious Education <i>Registration and Material Fees</i>	1.3%
E	39,205 Youth Ministry <i>Sacramental Fees, Fundraisers and Event Fees</i>	1.0%
F	3,070 Adult Formation	0.1%
G	144,128 Community/Service <i>Summer Theatre Program, CYO Sports, Poor Box</i>	3.8%
H	23,350 Development <i>Spring Car Raffle</i>	0.6%
I	407,389 Unrestricted Income	10.7%
J	390,707 Restricted Income <i>including Tuition Assistance and Facilities and Maintenance offerings</i>	10.3%
K	460,813 Capital Campaign <i>Donations received with specific restrictions for their use</i>	12.1%
L	7,186 Bequests	0.2%
M	0 Extra Ordinary Income <i>Dividend received from DIAL investments</i>	0.0%



Actual Fiscal Year 2026 Expenses

1 July 2025—30 June 2026

TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 3,358,835
A	1,151,456 Salary and Benefits <i>Lay Staff</i>	37.6%
B	192,558 Rectory – Clergy	7.6%
C	114,042 Liturgical/Sacramental <i>Liturgical Supplies, Candles, Missalettes, Sacramental Preparation</i>	3.9%
D	33,955 Religious Education	1.0%
E	41,439 Youth Ministry	1.2%
F	12,053 Adult Formation	0.4%
G	249,286 Community/Service <i>Charitable assistance, community outreach, parish organizations, prolife and ecumenical expenses, parish picnic, volunteer appreciation</i>	7.4%
H	133,866 Parish Subsidy to Saint Bernadette School	4.0%
I	242,280 Facilities/Maintenance <i>Contracted services, repairs and maintenance, traffic control</i>	7.2%
J	56,414 Utilities	1.7%
K	47,760 Technology <i>Equipment, software, phones</i>	1.4%
L	112,889 Administrative <i>Bank fees, payroll services, Virtus, Faith Direct processing fees, offertory envelopes</i>	3.4%
M	77,466 Parish Office <i>Office expenses, postage, printing, mailing and copier expense</i>	2.3%
N	260,647 Diocesan Assessments <i>Arlington Herald, Operating Assessment, Tuition Assistance Program</i>	7.8%
O	3,841 Development <i>Arlington Herald, Operating Assessment, Tuition Assistance Program</i>	0.1%
P	518,498 Capital Expenditures <i>Extra-ordinary repairs, additional security cameras, non-scheduled repairs and replacement of HVAC units</i>	15.4%

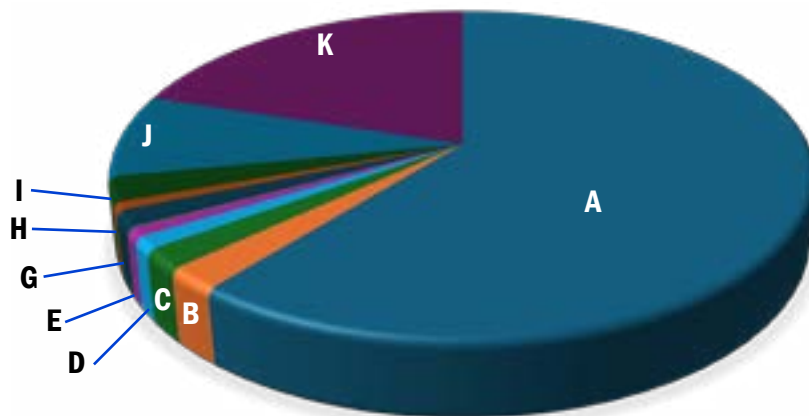


Projected Fiscal Year 2027 Income

1 July 2026—30 June 2027

70K less than last year

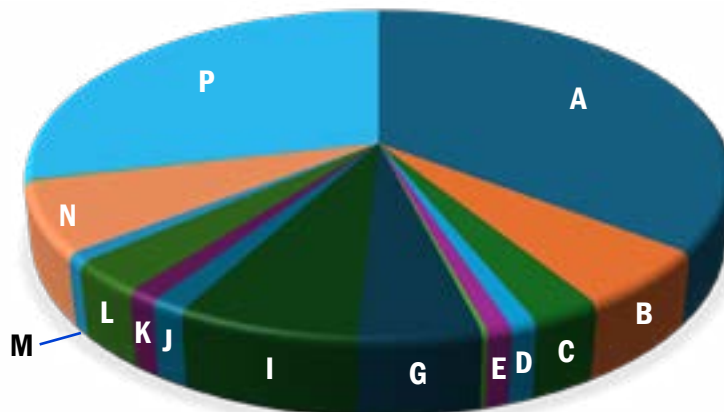
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 3,194,327
A	2,075,000 Sunday Offertory <i>First Collection Regular Weekend Liturgies</i>	65.0%
B	72,000 Holy Day Collections	2.3%
C	67,600 Liturgical/Sacramental <i>Altar Flowers and Initial Offering, Novenas, Stole and Votive Offerings</i>	2.1%
D	41,350 Religious Education <i>Registration and Material Fees</i>	1.3%
E	35,600 Youth Ministry <i>Sacramental Fees, Fundraisers and Event Fees</i>	1.1%
F	4,000 Adult Formation	0.1%
G	48,800 Community/Service <i>Summer Theatre Program, CYO Sports, Poor Box</i>	1.5%
H	25,000 Development <i>Spring Car Raffle</i>	0.8%
I	79,025 Unrestricted Income	2.8%
J	285,002 Restricted Income <i>including Tuition Assistance and Facilities and Maintenance offerings</i>	8.9%
K	451,000 Capital Campaign II <i>Donations received with specific restrictions for their use</i>	14.1%
L	0 Bequests	0%
M	0 Extra Ordinary Income <i>Dividend received from DIAL investments</i>	0%



Projected Fiscal Year 2027 Expenses

1 July 2026—30 June 2027

TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 4,180,233
A	1,359,712 Salary and Benefits <i>Lay Staff</i>	32.5%
B	227,465 Rectory – Clergy	5.4%
C	94,000 Liturgical/Sacramental <i>Liturgical Supplies, Candles, Missalettes, Sacramental Preparation</i>	2.2%
D	39,000 Religious Education	0.9%
E	43,250 Youth Ministry	1.0%
F	20,000 Adult Formation	0.5%
G	267,850 Community/Service <i>Charitable assistance, community outreach, parish organizations, prolife and ecumenical expenses, parish picnic, volunteer appreciation</i>	6.4%
H	125,000 Parish Subsidy to Saint Bernadette School	3.0%
I	299,738 Facilities/Maintenance <i>Contracted services, repairs and maintenance, traffic control</i>	7.2%
J	57,500 Utilities	1.4%
K	47,000 Technology <i>Equipment, software, phones</i>	1.1%
L	112,900 Administrative <i>Bank fees, payroll services, Virtus, Faith Direct processing fees, offertory envelopes</i>	2.9%
M	75,500 Parish Office <i>Office expenses, postage, printing, mailing and copier expense</i>	1.8%
N	285,818 Diocesan Assessments <i>Arlington Herald, Operating Assessment, Tuition Assistance Program</i>	6.8%
O	4,000 Development <i>Arlington Herald, Operating Assessment, Tuition Assistance Program</i>	0.1%
P	1,114,000 Capital Expenditures <i>Extra-ordinary repairs, additional security cameras, and non-scheduled repairs and replacement of HVAC units</i>	26.6%



Offertory Summary of Growth	year	registered households	% parish growth	annual 1st collection	weekly average	difference	% offertory growth
	2019	3,969		1,917,143	36,868		
	2020	4,022	1.32%	1,839,050	35,366	-1,502	-4.25%
	2021	4,078	1.37%	1,797,521	34,568	-799	-2.31%
	2022	4,208	3.09%	1,859,700	35,763	1,196	3.34%
	2023	4,274	1.54%	1,997,637	38,416	2,653	6.91%
	2024	4,135	3.36%	1,920,511	36,933	-1,483	-4.02%
	2025	4,215	1.90%	1,998,517	38,433	1,500	3.90%
	2026	4,369	3.52%	\$ 2,134,145	\$ 41,041	\$ 2,608	6.36%

Second Collections

National Collections

	2026	2025
Catholic University of America	4,647	(4,212)
World Mission Sunday	6,893	(14,956)
Retirement Fund for Religious	16,425	(15,556)
Campaign for Human Development	6,731	(6,133)
Church in Latin America	7,683	(7,683)
Church in Central & Eastern Europe	12,062	(8,860)
Black and Indian Missions	7,786	(7,335)
Catholic Relief Services	18,609	(11,830)
Holy Land Shrines	11,751	(7,548)
Catholic Home Missions Appeal	8,370	(7,582)
Catholic Communications Campaign	5,283	(4,572)
Peter's Pence (Holy Father)	12,454	(7,431)
Archdiocese for Military Services	2,953	
Pastoral Solidarity Fund	5,868	
Missionary Coop (Banica)	14,978	

Diocesan Collections

Catholic Charities Christmas	33,076	(29,688)
Diocesan Retired Priests Collection	28,382	(14,607)
Church in Africa	70	(12,298)
Gaza (CRS)	6,246	

Parish Collections

Porto Charities Special Kids/Needs	2,309	(8,980)
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Total **211,608** (169,281)

Total Parish Giving 2025-2026

First Collections	\$ 2,134,145
Bishop's Lenten Appeal	614,399
Second Collections	211,608
Capital Campaign I	1,022
Capital Campaign II	452,604

Total **\$ 3,413,778**

Five-year BLA Summary

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
BLA Goal	500,000	525,000	550,000	560,000	582,000
Amount Pledged	595,366	597,709	572,045	562,066	614,399
% of Goal	119%	114%	104%	100%	106%
# of Families pledged	827	800	791	791	767
Total Households	4,078	4,208	4,135	4,135	4,215
% of Total Households	20%	19%	19%	19%	18%

**Other Areas
of Parish
Giving**

year	Tuition Assistance	Capital Campaign I	Capital Campaign II	Facilities/ Maintenance	BLA	total giving
2019	35,298	443,340		154,639	465,813	1,099,090
2020	26,433	1,252,343		119,438	464,880	1,863,094
2021	29,815	779,190		90,765	519,857	1,419,627
2022	72,325	583,522		108,946	595,366	1,360,159
2023	60,576	254,619	348,076	107,914	597,709	1,368,894
2024	55,297	17,784	852,186	112,544	572,045	1,609,856
2025	56,820	4,863	718,609	115,845	562,066	1,458,203
2026	55,276	1,022	452,604	136,452	614,399	1,259,753

Financial Summary, Saint Bernadette Church and School as of June 30, 2026

The following information states the financial position of Saint Bernadette Church and School as of June 30, 2026. We have been given permission by Bishop Burbidge to begin work with our general contractor for our Parish Hall Project with a budget of approximately \$9.5M, design-build.

Saint Bernadette Church will underwrite the project utilizing the Church DIAL Operating Account, proceeds collected as a result of our Capital Campaigns and parish savings. If necessary, a Diocesan Loan for the balance to complete the project may be requested.

A formal 10-year plan (using the Diocesan template) has been developed that provides projections for income/expense based on known conditions. We feel confident that we can reduce the overall construction budget with value engineering and provide increased financial support by engaging the parish in the greater vision for Saint Bernadette and the benefit to the larger Springfield area of the Diocese. Our intention is to complete the project with \$1M in reserves in the DIAL Operating Account.

Saint Bernadette Capital Campaign Phase II

Capital Campaign Phase II Goal	3,000,000
Total Pledges Received Phase II Capital Campaign	2,999,797
Capital Campaign Phase II pledges yet to be collected	677,203

Saint Bernadette Church as of June 30, 2026

DIAL Operating account	2,868,994
Dividend from Diocese on Savings	486,499
Capital Campaigns total (Phase I and II)	4,968,432
Phase I pledges yet to be collected	115,861
Funds currently available for Parish Center as of June 30	8,799,340

Saint Bernadette School as of June 30, 2026

School Operating	1,226,574
Tuition Assistance Fund	319,916
Grand Total	1,546,480



DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

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

August 13, 2026

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

Dear Father Rooney,

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

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

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

Fraternally in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington

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

KITCHEN

CORR

STAIR
A
(EX)

It is FINALLY happening!

A living center for parish life

“Behold! I make all things new” has been the theme of our capital campaign to add a new, two-story Parish Life Center on the front of our existing parish offices. In a welcoming way, it will stretch out into the parking lot as a visible invitation to make Saint Bernadette the center of your worship, fellowship, and volunteer activities.

We are happy to announce shortly before this catalog went to print that Bishop Burbidge has approved our concept, our budget, and our long-term financial plan, and gave us the green light to com-

plete design and construction drawings for what is called a “design-build” contract. This means that the budget is approved, and as prices may fluctuate, we will adapt the design to be affordable with our general contractor. Actual sitework and construction is expected to begin in a year and a half, in spring of 2028.

The completed structure will be approximately 12,800 sq. ft. You can think of it this way: we are basically adding what amounts to four more meeting spaces more than half again as large as the Bradican Room, a conference room, and men’s and women’s restrooms! With the retractable walls, rooms

sizes can be doubled or tripled in size. Think of the variety of needs and uses we could address!

Parking Level: This entry level begins with a welcoming and secure lobby and elevator that will offer ADA access to the church sufficiently large for funeral needs. It features a reception area, two new large meeting rooms, a conference room, and also connects to the



What does a “design-build” contract mean?

A **design-build contract** is a construction agreement in which the client hires one entity — **the design-builder**, typically a general contractor working with architects and engineers — to provide both the design and construction of a project. This differs from the traditional “design-bid-build” approach, in which the client separately contracts with an architect to design the project and then hires a general contractor to construct it.

The design-build process generally begins when the client establishes the project’s goals, functional requirements, desired quality, budget, and schedule. The design-builder works with the client to develop the architectural and engineering design. The client reviews and approves the design as it progresses. Because the design-builder is involved in both design and construction, the contractor can provide input regarding construction methods, materials, costs, and scheduling while the design is still being developed.

Once the design reaches the agreed level of completion, construction begins. The general contractor is responsible for managing the construction process, including obtaining permits, hiring and coordinating subcontractors, purchasing materials, maintaining the construction schedule, and ensuring that the work conforms to the approved plans and specifications. The design

professionals remain involved as necessary to complete the design, respond to construction questions, and verify that the work meets the contractual requirements.

The design-build contract establishes the responsibilities of both parties. It normally identifies the project scope, design requirements, construction standards, schedule, payment terms, insurance requirements, procedures for approving changes, and the method for determining the final price.

One of the principal advantages of design-build is that the client has one primary point of responsibility. Rather than resolving disagreements between a separate architect and contractor, the client generally looks to the design-builder to coordinate both design and construction. The integration of these functions can improve communication, identify potential construction problems earlier, and potentially reduce project delays and change orders.

Design-build can also allow construction to begin before every aspect of the final design is complete, which may shorten the overall project schedule.

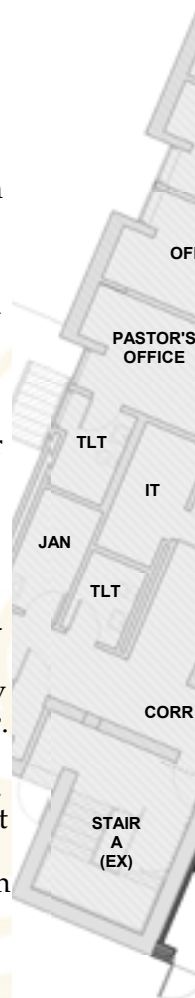
Ultimately, a successful design-build relationship depends on a clear scope, well-defined responsibilities, transparent pricing, regular communication, and a contract that carefully establishes how design decisions, changes, costs, and risks will be managed.

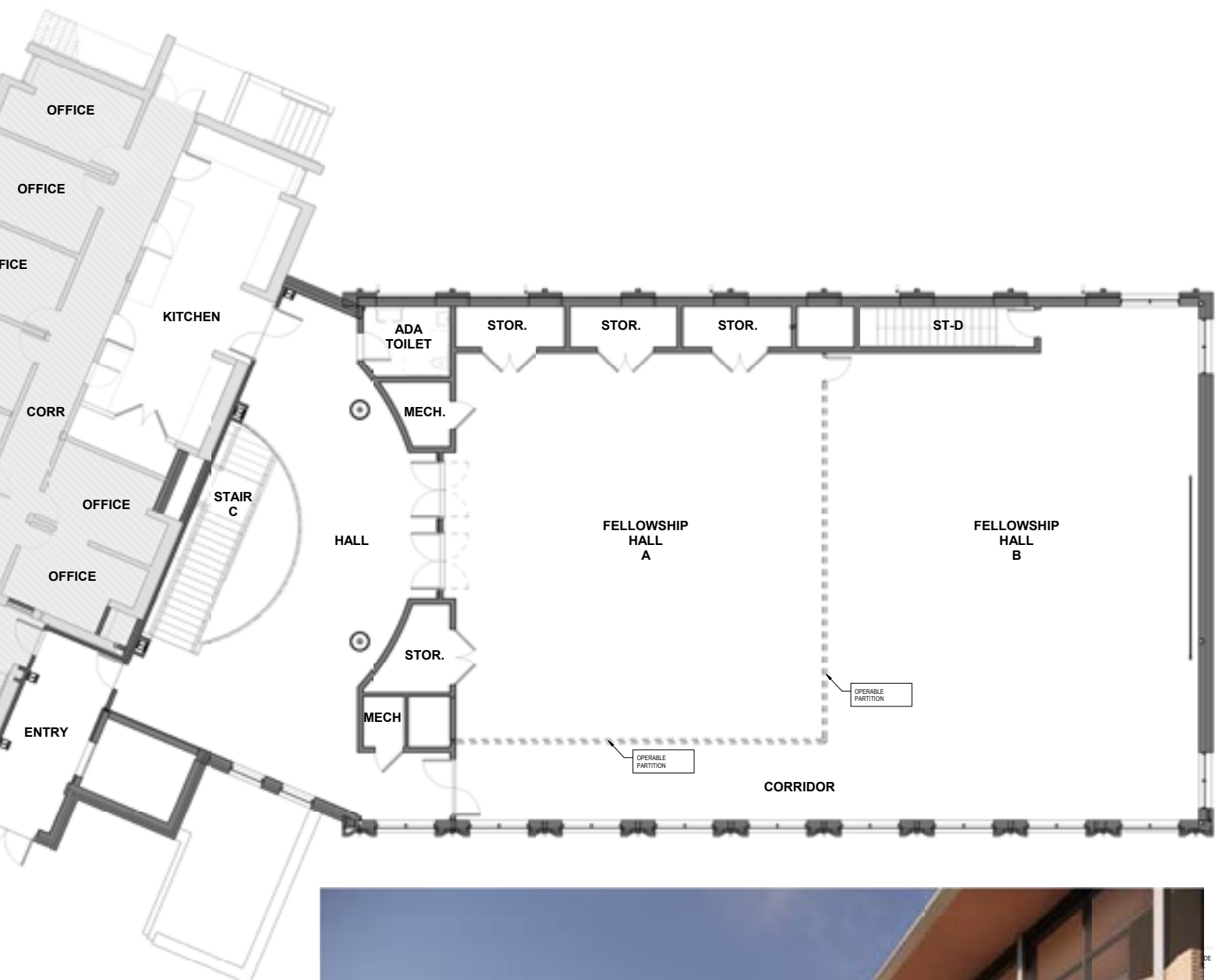
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existing Bradican Room. Each of the new meeting rooms can accommodate approximately 80 to 100 people. This level also includes new ADA bathrooms to service both the new and existing spaces, as well as a new service entry. There will also be an ADA restroom located on the second floor, or church entrance level.

Church Entrance Level: The upper level features a large conference room or “Fellowship Hall” that will accommodate up to 250 to 300 people for an event, or approximately 200 people for a seated dinner. It will be able to be divided into two large meeting rooms. The Church Level will connect to the existing parish offices and provide direct access from the church itself, directly opposite the front doors of the church.

The existing offices connecting to this level will be repurposed for a few offices/smaller meeting rooms and a commercial kitchen to support the parish Fellowship Hall, which will be handled by separate contracts outside of the budget figure. Most parish staff offices will be located on the top floor of the existing building, with the added improvement of an elevator that will connect all levels and make every space in the parish centers ADA accessible. This is one of the priceless aspects of this new construction, long overdue.







Saint Bernadette Catholic Church Staff

2026-2027 Parish Leadership



Parish Staff

Fr. Don Rooney, PASTOR
frdonrooney@stbernpa.org

PAROCHIAL VICARS

Fr. James Waalkes
frjameswaalkes@stbernpa.org

Fr. Daniel Rice
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Rick Caporali, PASTORAL ASSOCIATE
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Linda Patterson, BUSINESS MANAGER
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David Mathers, DIRECTOR OF SACRED LITURGY
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Nathan Carver, FACILITIES MANAGER
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Janet Chávez-España. SECRETARY
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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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Arlyn Agasen, COOR. OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
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Victor Mendez, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
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YOUTH MINISTRY

Grace Mee, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY
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Mary O'Malley, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
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SAINT BERNADETTE SCHOOL

Dr. Kathleen Burgess, PRINCIPAL
drburgess@stbernschool.org

Emily Reid, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
ereid@stbernschool.org

Jennifer Spencer, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
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Fiona Smith, EXTENDED DAY DIRECTOR
fsmith@stbernschool.org

Parish Advisory Board

Mark Price, PRESIDENT
Matthew Frey, VICE PRESIDENT
Tom Garver, SECRETARY

Lisa Andrews
Edward Bahdi
Sharon Hanson

Sean Lenahan
Bernie Matis
Kathleen Moyer
Nilda Norris
Joseph Palaganas
Gina Soriano

Parish Finance Council

Caren Dunne
Joseph McDonald
Kathy Mueller
Lourdes Phillips

It's Parish Life Weekend! Here is a quick guide to getting involved.



Ministries
in rose are
seeking a new
Coordinator!

	MINISTRY	MINISTRY LEADER	CONTACT INFORMATION
	Multicultural Committee	Maureen Smith	multicultural@stbernpar.org
Education	Adult Faith Formation Religious Education K-12 Children's Liturgy of the Word OCIA Team (English) RICA Team (Spanish) Saint Bernadette School Bible Study Youth Ministry Programs	Lynn Jones Arlyn Agasan Colleen Turner Tony Weilbacher Fr. Daniel Rice Dr. Kathleen Burgess Maggie McKinley Grace Mee	AdultFormation@stbernpar.org ReligiousEducation@stbernpar.org CLOW@stbernpar.org OCIA@stbernpar.org RICA@stbernpar.org SBSchoolVolunteers@stbernpar.org WednesdayBibleStudy@stbernpar.org Youth@stbernpar.org
Liturgy	Altar Servers Altar Society Arimatheans Eucharistic Ministry (Eng) Eucharistic Ministry (Esp) Hospitality: Greeters Hospitality: Ushers (Eng) Hospitality: Ushers (Esp) Lectors (Eng) Lectors (Esp) Music Ministry / Choirs Seasonal Decorators	Jean Corday Lillian Hildago Trish Pirowski Suyapa Shine Alicia Ramos Kathy Marchetti Cedric D'Cruze Santos Reyes Benedicta Oliveros Carmen Sanchez David Mathers Fr. Don Rooney	AltarServers@stbernpar.org AltarSociety@stbernpar.org Arimatheans@stbernpar.org EucharisticMinistersEng@stbernpar.org EucharisticMinistersEsp@stbernpar.org HospitalityGreeters@stbernpar.org HospitalityUshersEng@stbernpar.org HospitalityUshersEsp@stbernpar.org LectorsEng@stbernpar.org LectorsEsp@stbernpar.org Music@stbernpar.org SeasonalDecorators@stbernpar.org
Operations	Administrative Support Bishop's Lenten Appeal Communications Development Logistics Committee	Evelyn Vargas Manny Corday Rick Caporali Rick Caporali Jean Corday Ed Bahdi	AdminSupport@stbernpar.org BLA@stbernpar.org Communications@stbernpar.org Development@stbernpar.org Development@stbernpar.org Operations@stbernpar.org
Outreach	Catholic Advocacy Catholic Charities Volunteers Christ House Dinners St. Lucy Project ECHO ECHO Can-A-Week Ecumenical Interreligious Refugee Assistance Rise Against Hunger St. Mark/Hypothermia Project	Fr. Don Rooney Nancy Hoskins Anne Thompson Nancy Hoskins Jerry Faber Al Pirowski Barbara Gayhart Rick Caporali Rick Caporali Kathy Mueller	Advocacy@stbernpar.org CatholicCharities@stbernpar.org ChristHouse@stbernpar.org StLucy@stbernpar.org ECHO@stbernpar.org CanAWeek@stbernpar.org Ecumenical@stbernpar.org Newcomers@stbernpar.org RiseAgainstHunger@stbernpar.org Hypothermia@stbernpar.org
Parish Life	Catholic Women's Group Called and Gifted Coffee and Donuts Friends in Need Hospitality: Receptions Greeting Card Ministry Knights of Columbus Knitting/Crochet Ministry Legion of Mary (Eng) Legion of Mary (Esp) Lenten Small Groups Hearts on Fire Pro-Life Committee Seven Sisters Apostolate Vocations Promoters Mary's Comfort of Virginia Walking with Purpose Welcoming New Parishioners Boy Scout Troop 995 Cub Scout Pack 995 Girl Scouts CYO Sports Volunteers	Barbara Dalmut Rick Caporali Rick Caporali Kathy Freund Jean Corday Amy Wade/Karen Meyer John Staten Lerick Kebeck Jerome Furlow Florinda Reyes Rick Caporali Tracy Pham Tom Palumbo Trish Pirowski Mary Beth Williams Kathleen Moyer Suyapa Shine Rick Caporali Jim Womack Sandy Belson Katie Wright Gina Soriano Catherine Luby	Women@stbernpar.org CalledandGifted@stbernpar.org CoffeeandDonuts@stbernpar.org FriendsinNeed@stbernpar.org HospitalityReceptions@stbernpar.org CardMinistry@stbernpar.org KnightsOfColumbus@stbernpar.org KnittingCrocheting@stbernpar.org LegionofMaryEng@stbernpar.org LegionofMaryEsp@stbernpar.org LentenSmallGroups@stbernpar.org HeartsonFire@stbernpar.org ProLife@stbernpar.org 7Sisters@stbernpar.org Vocations@stbernpar.org kathleen_moyer@hotmail.com WalkingwithPurpose@stbernpar.org Welcome@stbernpar.org BoyScouts@stbernpar.org CubScouts@stbernpar.org GirlScouts@stbernpar.org CYO@stbernpar.org CYO@stbernpar.org

We are your Church. We welcome you home.

**We can't participate fully and actively as a community
without everyone here.**

Have you been away from the Catholic Church?

Has it been a while since you've joined us for Mass
or any other parish activities?

Do You Have Questions Like These?

- + Is my own spirituality enough, or do I need something more?
- + What am I missing by not actively practicing my Catholic faith?
- + I have been away from the Church for a long time. Is it too late to return?
- + A lot has changed in the Church. Can I really get caught up?
- + What if I disagree with some of the Church's teachings?
- + What if I am divorced? Or married/remarried outside of the Catholic Church?
- + I feel guilty about my past. How can returning to the Church help me?
- + I left the Church because I was hurt. Why should I return now?

If you are asking these or similar questions, you may be hearing God's loving call to return to the active practice of your Catholic faith. We can help you find answers.

Our Catholic community cares about you.
We miss you!



If you want to talk with someone about returning to the practice of the Catholic faith, please contact us, using the information below. Our parish representative will be in touch with you soon.

If you don't want to speak with anyone right now, please join us for Mass and pick up a bulletin. Look at our parish activities and choose a place to start that is right for you. We look forward to seeing you.

Let us pray together to God for guidance.
Your response to this invitation could be the first step to a new beginning in your life.

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SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA

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