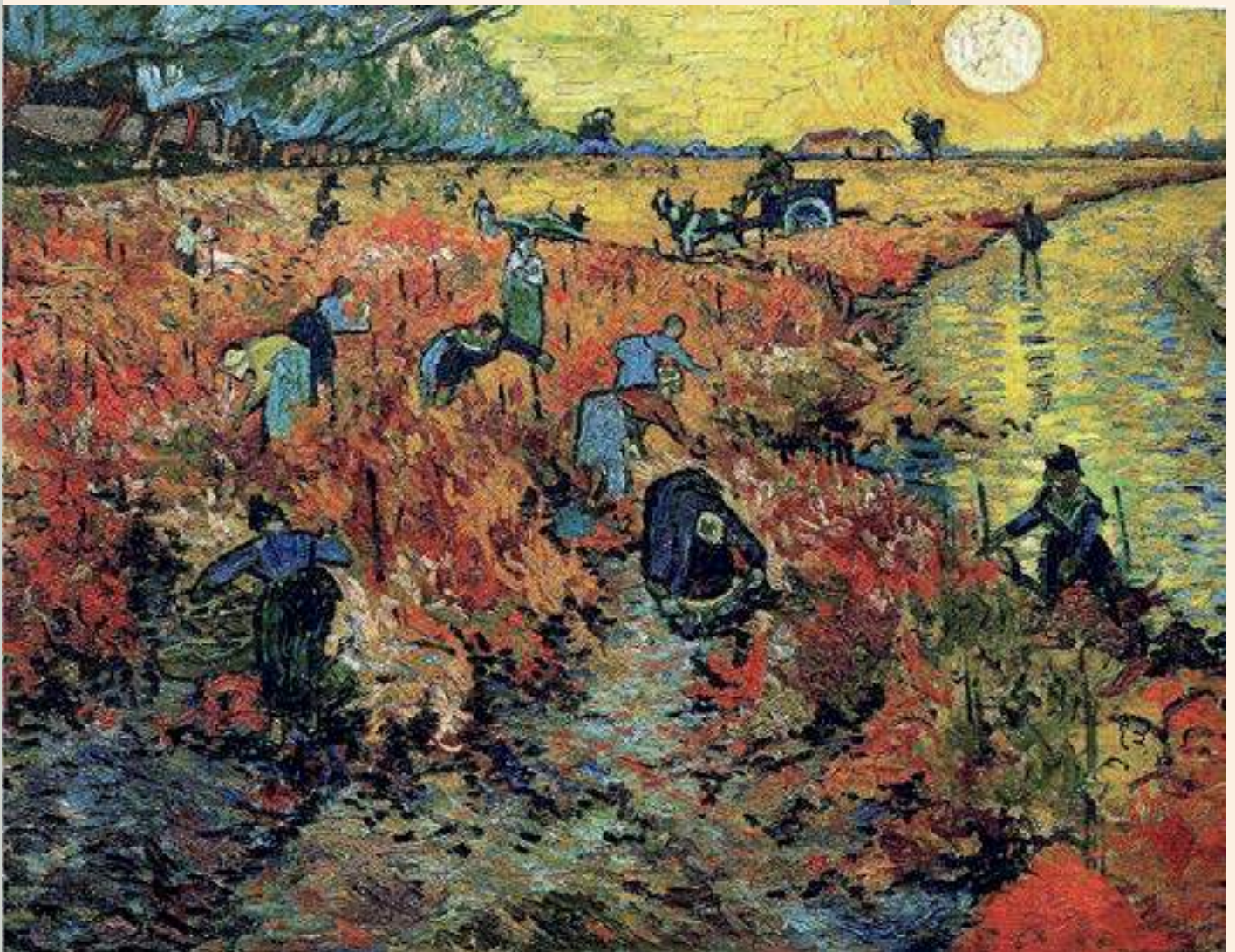


Almighty ever-living God, who in the abundance of your kindness surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you, pour out your mercy upon us to pardon what conscience dreads and to give what prayer does not dare to ask. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

27th Sunday in ordinary time

October 4, 2026



Workers in the Red Vineyard, Vincent Van Gogh, 1888
Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts, Moscow



SAINT BERNADETTE
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

27th Sunday in ordinary time

October 4, 2026

welcome



SUNDAY MASS	Saturday Vigil in church 5pm (live-streaming) Sunday 7am, 9am, 11am, 1pm (Spanish), 5pm
DAILY MASS	Mon.-Fri., 7 & 9am (live-streaming); Sat., 8am (live-streaming) Holy Days of Obligation, as announced
LIVE-STREAMING	Monday-Friday, 9am; Saturday, 8am; Vigil Sat., 5pm and Sundays 9 & 11am
DEVOTIONS	Adoration & Benediction, Fridays, 7-8pm (church) Rosary after 9am weekdays/8am Saturday Masses in church Taizé Prayer Service, 3 rd Mondays, 8-8:45pm (church)
CONFESSION	Sat., 3:30-4:30pm, or by appointment. English and Spanish Confessions
PARISH OFFICE	703-451-8576 , fax 703-269-1121 office@stbermpar.org Monday-Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm Pastor, Fr. Don Rooney frdonrooney@stbermpar.org Fr. James Waalkes frjameswaalkes@stbermpar.org Fr. Daniel Rice frdanielrice@stbermpar.org Deacon Orlando Caicedo Pastoral Associate, Rick Caporali rcaporali@stbermpar.org Business Manager, Linda Patterson lpatterson@stbermpar.org Music Director, David Mathers dmathers@stbermpar.org Bookkeeper/Compliance (OPCYP), Zory Conde, zconde@stbermpar.org Executive Assistant, Jean Corday jcorday@stbermpar.org Executive Assistant, Evelyn Vargas, evargas@stbermpar.org Secretary, Janet Chávez-España
SAINT BERNADETTE SCHOOL	703-451-8696, fax 269-1121 Principal, Dr. Kathleen Burgess school@stbermpar.org Assistant Principal, Jennifer Spencer Registrar, Heidi Thomes
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	703-451-8576 Director, Lynn Jones ljones@stbermpar.org Coordinator of Religious Education, Arlyn Agasen, aagasen@stbermpar.org Administrative Assistant, Victor Mendez vmendez@stbermpar.org
YOUTH MINISTRY	703-451-8576 Director, Grace Mee gnee@stbermpar.org Assistant Director, Mary O'Malley momalley@stbermpar.org
BAPTISMS	Saturday, 10am, 1 st and 2 nd Saturdays in English; 3 rd Saturday in Spanish. Parish registration is encouraged for parents. Class attendance is required. Please contact the parish office to schedule at least four weeks in advance. All required paperwork must be submitted before a baptism may be scheduled.
WEDDINGS	Sat., 12 & 2pm. Parish registration required somewhere; contact a priest at least six months in advance of desired date.
JOIN US	You are welcome! Registration forms are available in the church vestibule, office, or online www.stbermpar.org . Articles for the bulletin must be submitted to the parish office no later than first thing Friday morning, ten days before publication date. bulletin@stbermpar.org .

calendar

october

- 4 Sunday, TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
 - Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm
 - **Life Chain, parish meets at Key Middle School on Franconia Rd., 2pm**
 - **Fall Confirmation 2028 Kickoff, Parents and Students, 6:15pm, Gym/Cafeteria**
- 5 Monday, Weekday [Saint Faustina Kowalska, Virgin]**
 - **Dining Out Night for Rise Against Hunger – El Paso – All Day**
- 6 Tuesday, Weekday [Saint Bruno, Priest]**
- 7 Wednesday, Our Lady of the Rosary**
- 8 Thursday, Weekday**
- 9 Friday, Weekday [Saint John Henry Newman, Priest and Doctor]**
 - Adoration, 7-8pm, chapel
- 10 Saturday, Weekday**
 - Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 11 Sunday, TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
 - Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm
- 12 Monday, Weekday**
 - **Parish Offices Closed for the Federal Holiday**
- 13 Tuesday, Weekday**
- 14 Wednesday, Weekday [Saint Callistus I, Pope and Martyr]**
 - **PARISH FEAST OF SAINT BERNADETTE:** bilingual Mass at 7pm
- 15 Thursday, Saint Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor**
- 16 Friday, Weekday [Saint Hedwig, Religious]**
 - Adoration, 7-8pm, chapel
- 17 Saturday, Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr**
 - Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
 - **PARISH PICNIC!** 1-5pm, see pp. 8-9 in this bulletin
- 18 Sunday, TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
 - Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm
- 19 Monday, Saints John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs**
- 20 Tuesday, Weekday [Saint Paul of the Cross, Priest]**
- 21 Wednesday, Weekday**
- 22 Thursday, Weekday [Saint John Paul II, Pope]**
- 23 Friday, Weekday [Saint John of Capistrano, Priest]**
 - Adoration, 7-8pm, church
- 24 Saturday, Weekday [Saint Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop]**
 - Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- 25 Sunday, THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
 - Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm

announcements

Don't forget, if you haven't, to return your commitment card for parish ministry – Pray, serve and give, for the coming year. Please drop it in the mail or bring it by the office

This weekend's Second Collection will support our parish's annual Corporal Work of Mercy for 2026 — Rise Against Hunger. Our goal is to raise **\$75,000 to purchase the raw ingredients needed to pack 150,000 nutritious meals.** These meals will be shipped to educational and feeding programs in schools around the world, as well as to communities where families and children have limited access to food. Last year, more than 1,000 volunteers came together for this special three-day event. For more information, please visit the parish website. Donations can be made through the Tap to Give plates in the pews, ParishSOFT Giving, under "Second Collections" or the Parish Second Collection or Visitor Envelope. It starts with a meal, and it starts with YOU!

Please note the **change in Date and Time for the Blessing of the Animals.** We will gather at the grotto Friday evening, October 2 at 6pm due to our Lord of the Miracles Celebration the following morning.

All couples celebrating a Golden or Silver Anniversary are invited to a **Wedding Anniversaries Mass on Sunday, October 18, 2:30pm at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More.** Please call the parish office to register no later than Monday, October 5.

Please join us for our **Anniversary Mass for the Dedication of our Church on Wednesday, October 14 at 7pm** in the Church. Light reception to follow.

All are invited to our **Saint Bernadette Parish Picnic on Saturday, October 17th**, from 1-5 pm. There will be great music, food, and games for the whole family. Please check the bulletin to see what food you should bring. Volunteers are also needed!

from the pastor

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

STIR UP THE WATERS
OF BAPTISM
AMONG YOU.



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

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

This week Bishop Burbidge sent out an appeal to all Catholics to use the tools of prayer and fasting to form their consciences with regard to the upcoming ballot. Fasting is a practice that is used by many religions as a discipline to help growth in spirituality. Muslims don't eat anything (or drink water, if possible) for nearly a month whenever the sun is shining. They break their fast with an *iftar* dinner at sunset each day. Imagine if the Catholic Church required that of all her members - that, and pausing to pray five times a day...

The Jewish people just celebrated Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, their holiest day of the year, when adults abstain from all food and water from sunset to nightfall the next day, about 25 hours. They also fast on specific holy days and historical commemorations throughout the year from sunrise to sunset. Imagine.

The Catholic Church used to use the same tools. Up until Vatican II, you would have to fast from food or water from midnight if you were to receive Eucharist at Mass. Shortly before Vatican II, it was reduced to three hours. Now it is one hour. And for ten minutes after receiving Holy Communion. It seems like so little, especially if you have a distance to drive to Mass and the homily is long, you might be able to eat right up to leaving home. As for donuts after Mass, that is why we have so, so many announcements after Communion, so you can be sure to observe your ten minute fast after Communion! (not really, but it works, if you think about it).

He is asking us, in October, to pray the rosary on Sundays, and the Stations of the Cross on Fridays. And he is asking us to fast from social media on Sundays, and to commit to one daily meal and no meat on Fridays. Of course, we fast on two days a year now, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and no longer have the requirement to abstain from meat on Fridays (except Fridays in Lent) as long as you replace it with a corporal or spiritual Work of Mercy.

Interesting, a new form of fasting, social media. With the usual forms of fasting, I don't think there is such an immediate benefit to one's self. You are not going to lose weight by cutting back on the carbs two days a year. But in the case of social media...

I did a little AI investigation. What has the Church been saying about social media? It turns out, the Church has been talking about it for a while. Church leadership, including recent warnings highlighted in Vatican communications guidelines and papal messages, has repeatedly condemned how digital platforms foster "spirals of hatred," misinformation, and ideological silos that damage Church unity. (I personally avoid these feeding frenzies because they are the least Christian expressions of "Christianity" that find today.)

I discovered a document from the Dicastery for Communications I somehow overlooked in 2023, a 20-page document titled "Towards Full Presence. A Pastoral Reflection on Engagement with Social Media." It asks the questions: What kind of humanity is reflected in our presence in digital environments? How much of our digital relationships is the fruit of deep and truthful communication, and how much is merely shaped by unquestioned opinions and passionate reactions?

The first two, not much. The third? Who knows? And how much of our faith finds living and refreshing digital expressions? And who is my "neighbor" on social media?

The 2023 document says "...the role of artificial intelligence in the years to come will increasingly impact our experience of reality." Yes, indeed. Experts and clergy note that the constant emotionalism and personalization of online feeds compromise critical thinking, replacing traditional communal worship and charity with reactive hostility.

From my vantage point, social media is not making us better people, but rather less human and more divided. Rather than allowing social media algorithms reward extreme opinions that do us damage, simply fast. Fast.

The Lord be with you. *Fr. Dom*

A retreat for middle school

On Friday, September 25 our middle school students gathered together for a special retreat focused on the virtue of prudence. Simply put, the virtue of prudence helps us to choose to do what is right, even when no one is looking. Prudence gives us the wisdom to pause, pray, and make choices that lead us closer to Christ.

The morning began as students in grades six through eight joined Dr. Burgess in the gym for a discussion about the meaning of this cardinal virtue. Throughout the retreat, students participated in a rotation of meaningful activities designed to help them understand how prudence can guide their everyday decisions. Students engaged in a guided meditation including a reading from Matthew's Gospel to illustrate this virtue. Students created their own prayer cards, taking a moment to decorate one side while adding their favorite bible verse or prayer to the other.

Our middle schoolers also worked through real life scenarios, discussing how prudence can help them respond to challenges with wisdom, courage, and compassion. These conversations encouraged them to think beyond simply asking "What do I want to do?" and instead consider, "What choice would bring me closer to God and help me love others?"

After a week of rainy weather, the skies cleared to allow for an outdoor rosary walk and a moment to quietly sit on our beautiful campus amidst God's gift of creation and contemplate on the morning's activities. To conclude the morning, students met Father James in the church for additional time of reflection and for Eucharistic Adoration, where they could pray and spend time with the Lord.

We are so very grateful to all of our middle school teachers and advisors who helped to make this retreat possible and especially for the opportunity to see our young people grow in their faith. May our students continue to practice prudence each day, trusting God to guide their hearts, minds, and choices.



cardinal corner



FORMING
HEARTS
& MINDS
IN CHRIST

religious education program

Weekly update

Please contact Lynn Jones, Director of Religious Education, at 703-451-8576, ext 136, Arlyn Agasen, Coordinator of Religious Education, at ext 132, or Victor Mendez, Admin Assistant, at ext 138.

youth ministry

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

RE Program upcoming schedule

Regular classes: Oct. 6/7, 20/21, 27/28
Family Mass Learning: Oct. 3/4, bring rosary
Family Faith Formation: Oct. 4
Sunday Doughnut Social: Oct. 25

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

Volunteers needed for this year!

If you feel called to help with the Religious Education program, we are in need of volunteers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6:00-7:15pm (arrive by 5:45pm). We are in need of classroom aides and hallway monitors. Please contact Lynn Jones at ljones@stbernpa.org or 703-451-8576 ext 136 or fill out the volunteer form at the Parish website: <https://stbernpa.org/religious-education-volunteers/>.

High School Tuesday Socials

All high schoolers are invited to join us for Tuesday Socials every Tuesday from 7-8:30pm! Meet in the youth room (in the parish office) for games, ice cream, and a discussion on the faith. Contact Grace Mee for more information!

RALLY 2026 - Permission slips due October 19

Join high schoolers all throughout the diocese of Arlington at RALLY on October 25 from 11am-9pm. RALLY is an all-day event that includes Mass with Bishop Burbidge, speakers, music, games, and more! Check out the Youth Ministry page on the parish website for more information and permission slips.

Middle School Youth Ministry

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

Children's Liturgy of the Word

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



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

Year 1 Confirmation Kick-off

Don't forget to join us this Sunday, October 4 at 6pm in the Gym. All students should attend with a parent. We will be going over important information for Confirmation preparation. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Living the Liturgical Year

October is the month of the rosary. Check out <https://www.usccb.org/how-to-pray-the-rosary>.

CYO Sports - winter registration now open

Joining sports teams can be a rewarding experience for young athletes. Saint Bernadette's CYO sports offers a variety of options, including cross country, tennis, track & field, basketball, cheer, and volleyball, fostering both physical fitness and teamwork. Participating helps in developing athletic skills but also emphasizes the importance of faith, sportsmanship, discipline, and community involvement, and players can build lasting friendships and learn valuable life lessons. CYO sports are open to children who attend St. Bernadette School or are enrolled in the parish Religious Education program this school year.

Registration for basketball (closes 10/19) and cheer (closes 11/1) is now open.

Please register at <https://reg.sportspilot.com/106541/leagues>. If you have any questions, please reach out to your parish CYO Reps - Gina Soriano (gvsoriano@gmail.com) or Catherine Luby (catherineeluby@gmail.com).

Join one of our choirs!

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

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

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

Catholic Women's Group

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

Tuesday, October 6 is our next **Dinner with Friends** at 5pm, at Saratoga Pizzeria, 8050 Rolling Road. We meet for this casual meal on the 1st and the 3rd Tuesday of every month. No need to RSVP.

Walking With Purpose – women's Bible study

All women are welcome to join in our 6th year of Walking With Purpose – a women's Bible study. This year we will be participating in two 9-week sessions that complement each other. They both study the Old Testament and how it points to the coming of Jesus Christ. "Beholding His Glory," the first session, will run from October–December and "Beholding Your King," the second session, will run from January–March. Separate morning and evening sessions will be offered and take place in the Bradican Room. Tuesdays from 9:45–11:30am or Thursdays from 7-8:30pm, beginning October 13 & 15. The book fee is \$30 and the suggested hospitality fee is \$10. More information and registration at <https://stbernadettewwp.wixsite.com/stb-wwwp>. Questions about our WWP group? Email: stbernadettewwp@gmail.com.

It starts with You and ends in a meal

THIS weekend's Second Collection will support our parish's annual Corporal Work of Mercy for 2026 — Rise Against Hunger. Our goal is to raise \$75,000 to purchase the raw ingredients needed to pack 150,000 nutritious meals. These meals will be shipped to educational and feeding programs in schools around the world, as well as to communities where families and children have limited access to food. Last year, more than 1,000 Saint Bernadette volunteers came together for this special three-day event. Our parish helped bring hope and nourishment to people in need. This year, we have the opportunity to do it again. Please prayerfully consider supporting this important Corporal Work of Mercy. Your generosity will help turn a simple contribution into a meal — and a meal into hope for someone who needs it. For more information, please visit the parish website. Donations can be made through the Tap to Give plates in the pews, ParishSOFT Giving, under "Second Collections" or the Parish Second Collection or Visitor Envelope. Let's end world hunger by 2030 – It starts with a meal, and it starts with YOU! See page 9 for more information.

Parish Feast Day October 14

We will celebrate our parish feast with a special bilingual 46th Anniversary Mass on Wednesday, October 14 at 7pm. Patronal feasts carry the same solemnity as Christmas and Easter! Plan to come!

Open house at John Paul the Great High School Nov. 1

Saint John Paul the Great's Open House is fun for the whole family! Learn more about our rigorous college-preparatory curriculum, competitive athletics, inspiring visual and performing arts, and abundant extracurricular opportunities. Meet students, faculty, coaches, administration, and parents to learn more about the programs you love. Pre-register at <https://jpthegreat.fsenrollment.com/portal/new-inquiry>

up and coming

Parish Offertory

September 27

Offertory \$ 21,799

Thank you for your faithful support!



Consider using Faith Direct to make your parish contributions through either direct debit to your checking account or through credit cards, the same way you make car or tuition payments. Faith Direct also offers personalized offertory cards to replace your envelopes for the collection basket. You may enroll securely online. Visit <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/FD-70> or call (866)507-8757. Our parish code is VA70.

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



how to use your renewal handbook and ministry catalog

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

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

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

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

Parish Life Weekend.

Many of you visited with representatives from our parish ministries and groups under the tents at our Saint Bernadette Ministry Fair outside the church before and after Masses. We no longer have sign-ups that weekend; please fill out your commitment card and we will collect them as an offering at Masses.

Please return your Commitment Card.

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

Faith & Blue Weekend - October 10-12

National Faith & Blue Weekend is based on the premise that strong communities are built on mutual respect and understanding. At the heart of this initiative is the reinforcement of connections between law enforcement professionals and the communities they serve through the reach of houses of worship. There is no resource that can match the depth of the faith community in facilitating productive engagement with law enforcement, which is needed now more than ever. The national organizers represent every major national

law enforcement membership and professional organization in the United States and every faith tradition. This year our parish school will observe Faith & Blue Weekend by sponsoring an essay contest.

KofC Fall Coat Drive

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

Rise Against Hunger returns in November

Bishop Burbidge has invited all parishes in our Diocese to participate in a special Week of Service this November once again. Saint Bernadette Church and School will partner with **Rise Against Hunger** to pack 150,000 meals that will

support educational programs around the world—a true **Corporal Work of Mercy in action**.

To make this life-changing event possible, both financial gifts and volunteers are needed. Three dollars can provide six nutritious meals for a hungry child! Please see this week's bulletin or visit our parish website for more details.



Rise Against Hunger is coming to Saint Bernadette in November!



We are now seeking donations to purchase the raw ingredients and pack **150,000 life-changing meals** to fight world hunger.

Join the movement!
Your gift will have life-changing impact on a child!



SAINT BERNADETTE
CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

For more information contact: rcaporal@stbernpar.org or jcorday@stbernpar.org



or visit our parish website for more information and details

rise against hunger

Our Sign-up for the meal packing event will open October 17.

It starts with a meal — together, we can make a world of difference.

Gratis para toda la parroquia - ¡siempre se necesitan voluntarios!

picnic de familia parroquial

**sábado
17 de octubre
1 - 5pm**

**burgers y hot dogs
bebidas**

**(TRAES guarnición,
postre, o bocadillo)**

SI TU APELLIDO:

comienza con A-M:
guarniciones como
verduras, ensaladas, etc.

comienza con N-T:
postres, galletas, etc.

comienza con U-Z:
snacks no perecederos

**música en vivo,
juegos inflables y más**

**bus desde Daventry
estacionamiento
(considere compartir
el vehículo)**

Las donaciones de pasteles son bienvenidas para la caminata de pasteles en el gimnasio. ¡Hornea un pastel y gana un pastel! Tu creación será aceptada la mañana del evento en nuestro lugar de entrega designado.



Free for all the parish - volunteers are always needed!



family fall parish picnic

**saturday
october 17
1 - 5pm**

**burgers and dogs
beverages**

**(YOU bring a side,
dessert or snack)**

IF YOUR LAST NAME:

starts in A-M:
side dishes like potato
salad, salads, chips, etc.

starts in N-T:
desserts, cookies, etc.

starts in U-Z:
non-perishable snacks

Please consider using
biodegradable containers when
possible; together we can do
better to Care for Creation.

**live music, games,
inflatables**

**shuttle from Daventry
commuter parking
(please consider
carpooling)**

Cake Donations are warmly
welcomed for the PTO Cake
Walk in the gym. Bake a cake,
win a cake! Your creation will be
accepted during morning /after-
noon school carpool on Friday,
October 18 or the morning of
the event at our designated drop
off location.

SAINT BERNADETTE
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

www.stbernapar.org | page 11

around town

Burke/Springfield Faith250 group visits Capitol

The dialogue continued last week as the Faith250 group representing 20 houses of worship visited the sacred space of our nation and took a wonderful tour.

Having gathered for the past year, reviewing texts that are sacred to the founding of our nation such as the Declaration of Independence, the group took the witness of unity and returning civility to civil discourse in a meeting with our Congressman James Walkinshaw.



Knights of Columbus 5K Fun Run/Walk

What a fantastic way to kick off a crisp fall morning on September 26th. Saint Bernadette Catholic School and Parish joined forces for a fun-filled day at Burke Lake Park, with staff, students, and Cardinal families turning out in droves to run (or walk!) for a great cause, the Knights of Columbus 5K Fun Run/Walk. Many of our staff celebrated running for the fifth year in a row.

This event perfectly embodies our mission: The community of our school and parish works together to form hearts and minds in Christ. Our partnership with the parish was on full display, as families and faculty laced up their sneakers to support our shared values and strengthen our community spirit.



Relics of Saint Bernadette of Lourdes coming Thursday and Friday, November 5–6

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

The national pilgrimage began in September 2026 and will continue through August 2027, bringing the message of Lourdes to communities throughout America and inviting the faithful into a deeper encounter with Jesus Christ through the witness of St. Bernadette. Host locations across the country include cathedrals, basilicas, shrines, seminaries, Catholic universities, hospitals and parishes dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette. The Springfield visit holds particular significance: our parish dedicated to St. Bernadette will have the opportunity to welcome the relics of our own patron saint.

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

All are welcome. Admission is free.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, November 5

3pm — Relics Welcoming Celebration
The arrival of St. Bernadette's relics will be marked by a welcoming celebration, followed by an opportunity for veneration.

6:30pm — Mass
Mass will be celebrated, followed by veneration of the relics.

8pm — Candlelight Rosary Procession
The parish community will gather for a candlelight Rosary procession, followed by continued veneration of the relics until 10pm.

Friday, November 6

The campus is not open to the public on Friday morning.

1pm — Mass
Mass will be celebrated, followed by veneration of the relics.

3pm — Farewell Celebration
The pilgrimage seeks not only to provide an opportunity for veneration, but also to bring the enduring message of Lourdes—prayer, penance, healing, and hope—to people who may never have the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Lourdes themselves.

"I shall spend every moment loving."

Saint Bernadette
Soubirous

Born: Lourdes,
7 January 1844

Died, Nevers,
16 April 1879



ATTEND

Join a Mass or devotion when the Relics visit your community.



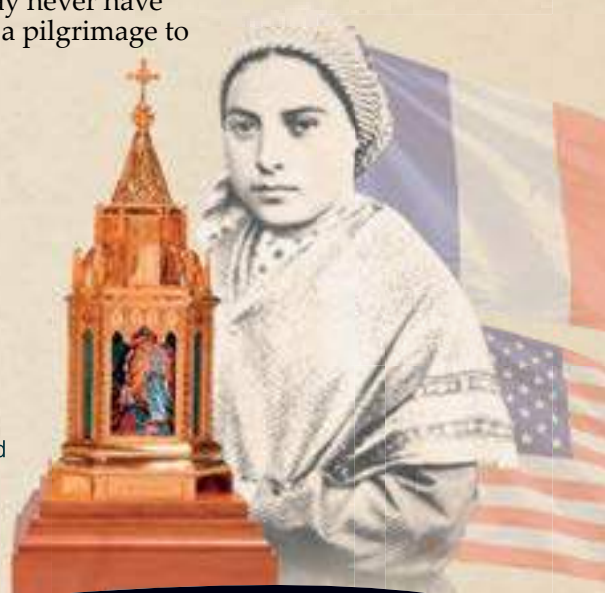
PRAY

Experience the grace and intercession of Saint Bernadette.



SHARE

Invite your family and friends. Everyone is welcome.



Join us for this historic journey!

www.stbernadetteusa.org

LOURDES
— SANCTUARY —

Our Lady Chose an Ordinary Girl

Did you know?

When the Blessed Virgin Mary first appeared to Bernadette Soubirous on February 11, 1858, Bernadette was just fourteen years old. She was the eldest daughter of a family that had fallen into extreme poverty, she suffered from poor health, and her education had been limited. By the standards of the world, there was nothing powerful or influential about her.

And yet, Our Lady chose Bernadette.

Her story reminds us that Mary does not measure us by wealth, education, status, or influence. She looks at the heart—and extraordinary things can begin with one humble "yes."

Take a Moment to Reflect:

Where might Virgin Mary be asking for your simple "yes" today?

Prayer:

St. Bernadette, teach us to listen for Virgin Mary's voice and to respond with humility and trust.



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A *Family* Tested by Hardship

Did you know?

Bernadette was not born into poverty. Her father, François Soubirous, was a miller, and during Bernadette's early childhood the family enjoyed a modest degree of security. But a series of hardships changed everything.

Eventually, the family became so poor that they were forced to live in the Cachot, a former jail cell considered unfit even for prisoners. The small, dark room became home to Bernadette, her parents, and her siblings.

Yet poverty did not extinguish the love within the Soubirous family or Bernadette's growing faith. It was during this difficult period of her life that the extraordinary events at the Grotto began.

Bernadette's story speaks powerfully to anyone who has experienced financial hardship, illness, uncertainty, or loss. God's presence is not reserved for moments when life is comfortable. Sometimes grace enters precisely where we feel poorest and most vulnerable.

Take a Moment to Reflect:

Can we recognize God's presence even during the difficult seasons of our lives?

Prayer:

St. Bernadette, help us to trust that God remains close to us in times of hardship and uncertainty.



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"vatican council II through its documents"

September 23, 2026

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



"...this vision of humanity as a 'community of people' is a valuable legacy that the Second Vatican Council has left us. It helps us all to engage in personal and communal discernment, so that we may responsibly evaluate today's social and political projects, based on the dignity of the human person..."

IV. Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et spes* (GS 33–39).

4. The meaning of man's activity throughout the world

Brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

As we continue our journey through the Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et spes* of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, we come to the third chapter of the first part, which bears the intriguing title: "Man's Activity Throughout the World." The fundamental question is this: what is the value of human activity in the world, and therefore of technical, social and scientific progress? We may recall that, less than four years after the close of the Council, on the night of 20–21 July 1969, man set foot on the Moon for the first time.

Created in the image and likeness of God, the human being is the agent of progress. With freedom and intelligence, he increases his knowledge, thereby advancing society as a whole. We can easily see this by considering the improvements in living conditions over successive generations. Indeed, the Document states, "many benefits once looked for, especially from heavenly powers, man has now enterprisingly procured for himself" (no. 33).

For this reason, some thinkers have portrayed scientific and technical progress as something that weakens man's relationship with God, to the point of making it seem superfluous, or even as antagonistic to the Christian faith. And this interpretation has brought about a change in the way contemporary man views the world, compared with previous ages. Such a prejudice is particularly prevalent in that part of Western culture which has lost its reference to Christian Revelation. In post-Christian humanisms, the human being and God are mistakenly presented as rivals: in order to assert his knowledge, his freedom and his progress, man would have to emancipate himself from God. Ultimately, however, by denying the relationship with God, one also loses the possibility of affirming the transcendent value of the human person. This is the "tragedy of atheistic humanism," well described by a leading theologian of the Second Vatican Council, Henri de Lubac.¹

The Council wishes to provide a clear answer: Christians, states *Gaudium et spes*, "can justly consider that by their labor they are unfolding the Creator's work, consulting the advantages of their brother men, and are contributing by their personal industry to the realization in history of the divine plan" (no. 34). Indeed, the Constitution continues, "far from thinking that works produced by man's own talent and energy are in opposition to God's power, and that the rational creature exists as a kind of rival to the Creator, Christians are convinced that the triumphs of the human race are a sign of God's grace and the flowering of his own mysterious design" (ibid.). In essence, God has placed in the hands of men and women a creation that is still in *statu viae* – that is, on a journey, in the process of growth – so that they may bring it to fulfilment through their wise activity.²

Here there is an important reference to the mystery of the Incarnation. Humanity – and with it work, progress, and the autonomy of created realities – is not absorbed or nullified by the encounter with God, but rather taken up in its entirety, continuing to be, in Christ, free and active: indeed, it is in him that it finds full truth and freedom. Furthermore, in the Eucharistic celebration, the fruit of human labor, represented by bread and wine, is placed upon the altar every day to be transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ.

From this perspective, an important truth emerges: to encounter God, the human being must not abandon his earthly occupations, but can live his vocation fully, carrying out his daily work well and sanctifying it.³ Christians, like everyone else, are involved in building the city of man, striving towards the end of all things and the encounter with God, and reminding those with whom they share the adventure of progress, science and life of this ultimate purpose.

Earthly progress must certainly be clearly distinguished from the development of the Kingdom of Christ; however, the Council affirms that "to the extent that the former can contribute to the better ordering of human society, it is of vital concern to the Kingdom of God. ... All the good fruits of our nature and enterprise, we will find them again, but freed of stain, burnished, and transfigured" (no. 39).



Finally, let us recall that in order to become authentic human progress – that is, progress for the whole person and for all people – technical and scientific progress must be inspired and guided by charity. Only in this way can it always be placed in the service of human dignity and promote the living conditions of all, especially the most disadvantaged.

Dear brothers and sisters, the Second Vatican Council invites us to share the bread of knowledge and know-how, so that every person and every people may develop their potential, and together, with God's help, we may build a better future.

¹ Cf. H. de Lubac, *Le drame de l'humanisme athée* (1944).

² Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 302, 306, 307.

³ Cf. Saint John Paul II, Homily for the Canonization of Josemaria Escrivá de Balaguer (6 October 2002).

Bishop's annual Mass for persons with disabilities

Join Most Rev. Michael F. Burbidge and families across the Diocese of Arlington for this annual Mass for Respect Life Month and Persons with Disabilities. This yearly Mass celebrates disability awareness for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the need for us to provide opportunities for them to reach their full potential through inclusive education and meaningful employment throughout the Diocese. The Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More on October 11 at 11am. A light reception will follow in Burke Hall, hosted by Porto Charities and the Respect Life Office. All are welcome, and families who have a loved one with a disability are especially encouraged to attend. Come give thanks to God for the blessings that our brothers, sisters, and children with disabilities bring to our lives!

Annual Unity Walk Sunday, October 25, 1–6pm

The Interfaith Council of Metropolitan Washington D.C. will celebrate their annual Unity Walk where people of all faiths walk together the length of Massachusetts Avenue and visit 10 different houses of worship, each with a welcome, explanation, and activity. Walk together, experience joy, make an impact. Learn

about community resources, make inter-faith connections, and find service, understanding, and action for good. Learn more and register at IFCMW.ORG. Fr. Don is a member of the board of directors and Saint Bernadette is a sponsoring partner.



FIAT Day for high school girls

God is calling each of us to be a saint. What does that look like for you and me? Experience a day of FIAT Camp with the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church. The group will meet at Bishop Ireton High School for a day that will include Mass, talks, adoration, crafts and fun. Cost is \$20. Financial aid is available. Register by October 26 with the Office of Vocations, vocations@arlingtondiocese.org, visit ArlingtonDiocese.org/FIAT, or call 703-841-2514. FIAT events are for young women in high school (ages 14-18) interested in growing in their spiritual life and exploring their vocation.

Quo Vadis seminary visit for high school boys

Ever wondered what college seminary is like? Join Vocations Director Father Noah Morey and Quo Vadis on November 14, 2026 to experience it firsthand on a visit to St. John Paul II Seminary in Washington, D.C. Meet the college seminarians and their formators, see where they live, pray, eat and study, celebrate Mass together and tour parts of Catholic University where they have classes. Dads are welcome but not required. Cost is \$15 per person; deadline to register is November 2. Space is limited! Visit www.ArlingtonDiocese.org/QuoVadis, or contact the Office of Vocations, vocations@arlingtondiocese.org or 703-841-2514. Quo Vadis events are for high school boys interested in growing in their spiritual life and exploring their vocations.

coming up

Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

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

October

5 MONDAY

7am † Lois Flach
9am* † Jan Usinger Sanchez
Gal 1:6-12/Lk 10:25-37

6 TUESDAY

7am † Zepheryn Fernandes
9am* † Mike & Imelda Robish
Gal 1:13-24/Lk 10:38-42

7 WEDNESDAY

7am † Ramonet Alvarez
9am* † Thomas Kelly
Gal 2:1-2, 7-14/Lk 11:1-4

8 THURSDAY

7am Fr. Daniel Rice
9am* † Benigno Fernandez
Gal 3:1-5/Lk 11:5-13

9 FRIDAY

7am † Souls in purgatory
9am* † Lai Nguyen
10am** † Raymond Staffieri
Gal 3:7-14/Lk 11:15-26

10 SATURDAY

8am † Enrique Denegri
Gal 3:22-29/Lk 11:27-28
5pm* † Julius Lobo

11 SUNDAY

7am † Beatrice Janella Benedicto
9am* † Josephine Soriente
11am † Tanuja Ghanasekaran
1pm* † Valeria Cuya
5pm For the parish
Is 25:6-10a/Phil 4:12-14, 19-20/Mt 22:1-14

* live-streamed Masses

** Mass at Greenspring Chapel

Masses next weekend

Oct 10	5pm	Fr. Don
Oct 11	7am	Fr. James
	9am	Fr. Daniel
	11am	Fr. Don
	1pm	Fr. Cedric
	5pm	Fr. Daniel

Parish prayer list

John Yost, Wiotto Helenius, Robert Holzhauser, Gloria Tortoriello, Bob Atwell, Charles Roby, Kathleen Murray, Alan Curtis, Brian Keller, Cassi Smith, Edward Fitzgerald, John Winkler, Antonio & Maria Benedi, Donna Lash, Llewellyn Salsado, Cristina Perez, Rev. William Hower, Jane Springer, Ed Wyse, Linda Robish, Robin Cookson, Jesse Perry, Carol Flournoy, Sharon Hudson, Rosa Cortez, Carmen Peri

Pro-life witness

The Saint Bernadette Pro-Life Committee invites you to pray the rosary on Tuesday or Saturday mornings in front of the abortion facility at 2616 Sherwood Hall Lane in Alexandria (ample free parking across the street). We legally, peacefully, and respectfully gather for an hour starting at 10am; no sign-up or commitment required. Questions? Email Tom Palumbo at topalumbo@outlook.com.

Stewardship resources and reminders: reduce your taxable income!

If you are 70 1/2 and over, consider using your IRA for a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). If you are 73 and over, consider using some or all of a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) as gifts to Saint Bernadette. This is an easy way to reduce your taxable income and benefit the parish. Contact Rick Caporali at or Linda Patterson at the parish office.

ParishSoft giving update:

Saint Bernadette realizes that the transition from Faith Direct to Parish Soft was less than ideal. Online giving enables you to change your giving, set up second collection donations and have access in real time your support of Saint Bernadette ministries.

Here's how you could set up online giving or access Parish Soft to move toward online gifts. <https://giving.myparishsoft.io/app/giving/FD-70> you can click on sign in, using the same username and password as in Faith Direct, log-in, you can give now or set up a one-time gift. If you have difficulty, reach out to Donorsupport@parishsoft.com or call 1-866-930-4774, opt. 6

Feel free to reach out to Linda Patterson, our Business Manager, if you need further assistance, lpatterson@stbernpar.org or

call her at the Parish Office, 703-451-8576, ext. 122.

Mary's Comfort update

Thank you St. Bernadette parishioners for your support of pregnant women in crisis here in Springfield! We are trying to expand our services and your baby-bottle donation can make this possible. If you took a baby bottle this weekend, please fill it with bills of any denomination or a check made payable to Mary's Comfort. Don't forget to return this bottle next week! Your donation is tax-deductible. Donations can be made anytime by visiting our website: <https://www.maryscomfort-va.org/>. We're grateful for your continuing support.

Golfing with Wolves-Friday, October 23

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

Whether you golf, sponsor, or simply help spread the word, your participation makes a difference for our students. Register or learn more: jpthegreat.org/golf26

Thursday men's group

Join the men's group every Thursday night from 7 to 8pm on the patio behind the rectory. A great way to find support in the faith through reading the Gospel, praying and sharing together.

Prime Time Single Catholics

We are a non-profit social group serving single practicing Catholics 35 and over. On September 3, 2019, Bishop Burbidge granted our group a Letter of Good Standing from the Arlington Diocese. We are listed in the Arlington Diocesan Directory (see Non-diocesan Catholic Entities - Catholic Diocese of Arlington). Our chaplain is Deacon Richard Kelly of Nativity Church in Burke. Our events are listed in "The Scene" section of the Arlington Catholic Herald. Our public website, <https://ptscnva.wixsite.com/website> (or bit.ly/ptsc), provides detailed information about the group.



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