

May your grace, O Lord, at all times go before us and follow after, and make us always determined to carry out good works. 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.

28th Sunday in ordinary time

October 11, 2026



The Parable of the Wedding Feast, Peter Artsen, 1550
Museum of Art Kammer, Jacksonville FL

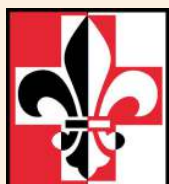


SAINT BERNADETTE
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

28th Sunday in ordinary time

October 11, 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 Executive Assistant, Jean Corday jcorday@stbermpar.org Executive Assistant, Evelyn Vargas, evargas@stbermpar.org Secretary, Janet Chávez-España
SAINT BERNADETTE SCHOOL	703-451-8696, fax 269-1121 Principal, Dr. Kathleen Burgess school@stbermpar.org Assistant Principal, Jennifer Spencer Registrar, Heidi Thomes
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	703-451-8576 Director, Lynn Jones Ljones@stbermpar.org Coordinator of Religious Education, Arlyn Agasen, aagasen@stbermpar.org Administrative Assistant, Victor Mendez vmendez@stbermpar.org
YOUTH MINISTRY	703-451-8576 Director, Grace Mee gmeee@stbermpar.org Assistant Director, Mary O'Malley momalley@stbermpar.org
BAPTISMS	Saturday, 10am, 1 st and 2 nd Saturdays in English; 3 rd Saturday in Spanish. Parish registration is encouraged for parents. Class attendance is required. Please contact the parish office to schedule at least four weeks in advance. All required paperwork must be submitted before a baptism may be scheduled.
WEDDINGS	Sat., 12 & 2pm. Parish registration required somewhere; contact a priest at least six months in advance of desired date.
JOIN US	You are welcome! Registration forms are available in the church vestibule, office, or online www.stbermpar.org . Articles for the bulletin must be submitted to the parish office no later than first thing Friday morning, ten days before publication date. bulletin@stbermpar.org .

calendar

october

- 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**
 - **Taizé Ecumenical Prayer Service**, 8pm in the church, please join us!
- 20 Tuesday, Weekday [Saint Paul of the Cross, Priest]**
 - **Dining Out Night for Rise Against Hunger – Milano's 4-9pm**
- 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
 - **Interfaith Council of Metropolitan Washington, Unity Walk, 1-6pm, See page 17**
- 26 Monday, Weekday**
 - **Dining Out Night for Rise Against Hunger – McAlister's Deli, 4-8pm**
- 27 Tuesday, Weekday**
- 28 Wednesday, Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles**
- 29 Thursday, Weekday**
- 30 Friday, Weekday**
 - Adoration, 7-8pm, chapel
- 31 Saturday, Weekday**
 - Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
 - **ECHO YARD SALE** starting at 8am in the gym

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

Parish Offices will be Closed on Monday 12 October in observance of the Federal Holiday.

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!

Join us for our monthly (third Monday) **Taizé Prayer Service** on Monday night, October 19, 8 - 8:45pm. Come for a peaceful moment of simple song and silence and pray for Christian Unity.

All Saints Day falls on Sunday, November 1st this year, therefore we will follow the regular Saturday and Sunday Mass schedule. .

The **All Souls' Day Mass schedule** for Monday, November 2nd will be 7am, 9am, Noon and 7:30pm (bilingual) for all our deceased. Remembrance envelopes, in which you may include the names of your deceased family or friends, are in the vestibule of the church and parish office. Please return them by October 30.



Parish Dining Out Nights

Support our Work of Mercy ~ Rise Against Hunger

OCTOBER

20 - Milano's, Rolling Road (flyer req'd)

26 - McAlister's Deli, Rolling Road

from the pastor

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

I'm writing this letter on Tuesday morning in the middle of this year's annual forum of Christian Churches Together in Birmingham. CCT is a relatively new ecumenical annual, national gathering of churches who enter into a particular dialogue topic each year. This year, the topic is how we begin the process of deep healing of the deep divisions which wound our world, our country, and our church families..

CCT was actually begun 20 years ago when it was noted that there were families of Christianity that were not intentionally participating in active dialogue because, for whatever reason, they didn't feel like they were being heard. I must admit that, when all the churches are considered individually, the Catholic Church is overwhelmingly large. CCT is a consortium of five Christian *families* which makes the sizes more equal: Roman Catholics, Mainline Protestants, Orthodox, Historic Black Protestants, and Evangelicals/Pentecostals. This is the first group with which such a dialogue has intentionally involved all five of these "families" and given them equal voice.

Each day a different family leads prayer. For some of us the kind of free-flowing prayer of Evangelicals and Pentecostals can seem a bit uneasy. This is one of the benefits of this gathering: we stretch, we come to understand each other more.

CCT is based on a particular kind of ecumenical dialogue (between baptized peoples) called Receptive Ecumenism. *Receptive*, because the emphasis is on listening and receiving what the other has to say with respect and reflection. Often it results in undoing old presuppositions of each other and misunderstandings. We live in a world that is a lot of talk and not a lot of listening.

I am excited about the prospects of our conversation this week. Our emphasis is going to focus on prayer, and in particular the way we pray together as unique families. I have adapted the USCCB prayer service for

immigrants, enslaved persons, and refugees which we did at Saint Bernadette in early September for the Cathedral of Saint Paul tonight here in Birmingham. I'm going to talk the uniquely Catholic and mostly misunderstood practices of prayer asking Mary and the saints to intercede for us, and the difference between veneration and worship. When we place flowers before the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe it is because we honor her, not worship her. We thank her for her patronage of the Americas, and entrust to her all the people who are suffering and at risk today in our continents.

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Next weekend is our parish picnic! Like other years, it is a celebration of our parish family life filled with entertainment, games, activities and good food. Please remember that everyone is asked to bring a side dish according to your last name alphabetically - whether that be a side salad or vegetables, fruit, desserts, or snacks. Look for the pages later in this bulletin for reference. We ask that snacks be nonperishable, because whatever is left over we will give to ECHO.

The picnic is just the beginning! Look forward to our church dedication's anniversary Mass, the visit of the relics of Saint Bernadette the first week of November, and the amazing Rise Against Hunger project the week following that. It is a busy time!

If you recall, the Rise Against Hunger project we were able to accomplish last year provided 175,000 meals for children in East Timor, an island north of the Philippines. Rise Against Hunger sends these nutritious meals to schools in the poorest parts of the world where children actually come to school because they know they will have a meal to eat -- and receive an education, too. We don't really have any concept of this kind of poverty, and yet hundreds of millions of our brothers and sisters across the world don't know anything else. Please be generous in helping us buy the ingredients, and when sign-up opens for volunteers, be sure to join us!

The Lord be with you. *Fr. Dom*

5K Fun Run and Walk

On Saturday, September 26 the Springfield Knights of Columbus hosted its 24th annual 5K Fun Run and Walk at Burke Lake Park. Families, runners, and walkers of all ages gathered at Picnic Shelter A for a morning filled with community spirit, exercise, and charity. Over 13 faculty and staff from Saint Bernadette Catholic School came out to enjoy the fresh air, take in the scenery, and cheer others on, as they traversed the 5K distance. Participants enjoyed a wonderful course through the park, which culminated in a complimentary barbecue lunch, fellow-

ship, an awards ceremony, and exciting door prizes.

Most importantly, the event succeeded in raising funds for two exceptional causes. All proceeds from the day directly benefit KOVAR, a Virginia Knights of Columbus charity that helps individuals with intellectual disabilities, and the Saint Bernadette School Tuition Assistance Program, helping local families afford a Catholic education.

Thank you to everyone who came out to make this event a wonderful success for our community!



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@stbernpar.org, or assistant director Mary O'Malley, momalley@stbernpar.org with any questions you may have.

RE Program upcoming schedule

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@stbernpar.org or 703-451-8576 ext 136 or fill out the volunteer form at the Parish website: <https://stbernpar.org/religious-education-volunteers/>.

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>

Living the Liturgical Year

On October 15, we celebrate the Feast Day of St. Teresa of Jesus otherwise known as St. Teresa of Avila. She is a Doctor of the Church and founder of the discalced Carmelites. Discalced means "without shoes," but it has a greater meaning. They dedicated themselves to a life of prayer. She described the soul as an interior castle made of crystal with God in the center. You can find an Interior Castle craft for St. Teresa of Avila here: <https://www.elevatortotheaven.com/teresa-of-avila-craft/>

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.

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@stbernpa.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.stbernpa.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@stbernpa.org.

Tuesday, October 20 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.

Our next monthly meeting will be at a NEW TIME on Sunday, October 25 2:30pm in the Bradican Room.

Noted local author Melanie Rigney will be our guest speaker. Melanie has published several books about lives of the saints. Her topic will be 'Your Life With the Saints...and How to be One.' Free autographed book for first 30 attendees! ALL WOMEN OF THE PARISH ARE WELCOME.

Walking With Purpose – women's Bible study

All women are welcome to join in our 6th year of Walking With Purpose – a women's Bible study. This year we will be participating in two 9-week sessions that compliment each other. They both study the Old Testament and how it points to the coming of Jesus Christ. "Beholding His Glory," the first session, will run from October–December and "Beholding Your

King," the second session, will run from January–March. Separate morning and evening sessions will be offered and take place in the Bradican Room. Tuesdays from 9:45–11:30am or Thursdays from 7-8:30pm, beginning October 13 & 15. The book fee is \$30 and the suggested hospitality fee is \$10. More information and registration at <https://stbernadettewwp.wixsite.com/stb-wwp>. 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.

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

October 4	
Offertory	\$ 27,226
Rise Against Hunger	10,584

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.

lord of the miracles celebration october 3



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 Davenport
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

The *First* *Apparition*

Did you know?

On February 11, 1858, Bernadette went with her sister and a friend to gather firewood near the Grotto of Massabielle. As the other girls crossed the stream, Bernadette remained behind because of her poor health.

Then something extraordinary happened. Bernadette heard what seemed like a rush of wind. Looking toward the Grotto, she saw a beautiful young woman surrounded by light. Bernadette instinctively reached for her rosary. This was the first of **eighteen apparitions** that would take place between February 11 and July 16, 1858.

Bernadette initially referred to the mysterious figure simply as "the Lady." She did not immediately claim to know who she was. She reported what she had experienced with remarkable simplicity, even when questioned repeatedly by family members, clergy, and civil authorities. The story of Lourdes began quietly—with a young girl, a rosary, and an encounter that would eventually touch the entire world.

Take a Moment to Reflect:

Do we leave enough quiet in our lives to recognize when God may be trying to get our attention?

Prayer:

Our Lady of Lourdes, lead us into deeper prayer and closer friendship with your Son.



2026 - 27 US.
St. Bernadette Relic Tour

Join us for this historic journey!

WWW.STBERNADETTEUSA.ORG

LOURDES
—  SANCTUAIRE



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.



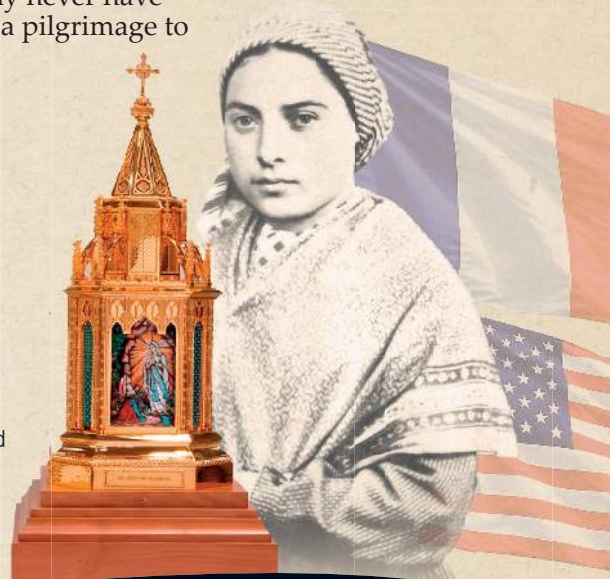
PRAY

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
— SANCTUAIRE

"vatican council II through its documents"

September 30, 2026

Pope Leo, in his General Audiences on Wednesdays, is giving a catechesis on Vatican II, sixty years later. Today he speaks about his recent journey.



"...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..."

The Apostolic Journey in France and visit to UNESCO

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Today I would like to talk to you about the Apostolic Journey I made to France in recent days. It was a great gift for me and for the people of God in that country, and I give thanks to the Lord for it. I wish to express once again my gratitude to all those who welcomed me, the civil authorities and the Pastors of the Church, and to the many people who wished to meet the Pope or even just to greet him in the streets, as an apostle of Christ and a messenger of peace. Thank you to everyone!

I would like to gather my thoughts and impressions – still very vivid – of this pastoral Visit centred on a single great symbol: the Cathedral of Notre-Dame of Paris. There, in the afternoon of the first day, we celebrated Vespers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a solemn yet at the same time joyful liturgy, in which music, song and the beauty of the temple stirred the hearts of those united in prayer.

It is precisely Notre-Dame, with the tragedy it has endured, that can symbolically shed light on this entire Apostolic Journey, offering a perspective that I would summarize in one word: rebirth.

The Cathedral of Paris, which just seven years ago seemed mortally wounded by a devastating fire, has now been rebuilt and is more splendid than ever. That disaster sparked a positive reaction at every level, some more visible and practical, others more hidden and of a spiritual nature.

Its restoration was a test of the possible collaboration between the Church, the State, public institutions and civil society. This approach made it possible to make the most of both the generosity of benefactors and the expertise of professionals and skilled workers. The synergy for the common good should be the norm for institutions, political and social forces, and all those with civil and economic responsibilities. This is the message I wished to convey to the French authorities, as well as to the members of UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which has its headquarters in Paris, highlighting the fundamental criterion upon which such collaboration must be based: the dignity of the human person.

But above all, Notre-Dame is the image of the Church made up of living stones, of the holy people of God.

It is interesting to draw a parallel between the celebration of Vespers in the Cathedral with the vigil of young people which took place the same evening in the huge Stade de France in Paris. Two completely different locations, yet two complementary events, almost united spiritually. What united them? The Church, which is not made up of stones or cement, but of people who love Jesus Christ because they have been loved by Him. At Notre-Dame there were priests and deacons, consecrated persons, and pastoral workers; at the stadium there was the new French generation. New, I would say, not only in terms of age, but even more so in spirit, in the freedom of heart and faith. Young people who sang and shouted, but who also remained silent, listening. Attentive and emotional faces, which revealed hearts yearning for truth and love. To them I said with joy: "You are the saints of France!". The Vigil was a great sign of hope.

The same was true – in the smallness that God favours – of the meeting at the Maison Bakhita, a shelter for various people in need: one of the many places, fruits of the Gospel, where people commit themselves every day to serving the dignity of the human person with love.

There is, however, a sign of renewal within the Church in France that has been evident for some years now, namely the remarkable and growing number of young people and adults seeking Baptism. In response to this beautiful "surprise" from God, a provincial synodal assembly is currently underway in Paris, at which I was able to speak, encouraging the journey of the catechumens and neophytes, together with the communities to which they belong.

The climax of my visit to the Capital was the Mass in Place de la Concorde. There, the sign of rebirth appeared in a surprising way: the liturgical assembly, which in the vast Square brought together the priests, the choir and a remarkable crowd, extended all the way along the Avenue des Champs Élysées up to the Arc de Triomphe and beyond. At the moment of Communion, everyone was able to receive the Eucharist, which was distributed everywhere. This is the true reconstruction, the restoration of the Church that only God can bring about, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary.

And so it was natural and proper that, after



Paris, I should make a pilgrimage to Lourdes to venerate the Mother of the Church, Mary, she who, in the hour of passion and death, keeps alight the lamp of faith and hope. In Lourdes, the Lord, through the maternal care of the Virgin Mary, conveys to everyone, pilgrims and especially those who are sick in body and spirit, a message of hope and rebirth. A message that I wished to openly reaffirm: every human life, in whatever condition, even in the most extreme frailty, retains its inviolable dignity and deserves to be cared for, accompanied and relieved of suffering with human compassion and with the aid of the means offered by science. For this reason, Lourdes represents for the entire world a sanctuary of the civilization of love. In this context I met some people who were victims of abuse, and I asked them to help me express to other victims too my own wish, and that of the whole Church, to listen to them and walk alongside them as they seek healing, acknowledging the pain inflicted upon their lives and working to prevent abuse.

The third and final stage of the Apostolic Journey was the city of Metz, in a region of France and Europe ravaged by the Second World War. It was there that Robert Schuman, one of the principal inspirers of the process of European unification, carried out his work. Contemporary Europe was indeed born as a project for peace in the wake of the destruction wrought by war. We might say that what happened to Notre-Dame in Paris with the fire was what had happened to Europe during the Second World War. And Europe was reborn, founded on those principles of democracy, solidarity and fraternity amongst peoples, which owe much to its Christian roots. Even today, it is on these foundations and with this vital "lifeblood" that the European project can be renewed, in a far more globalized world, where interreligious dialogue plays a role of primary importance. For this reason, at Metz, I met with the representatives of various religious traditions, who read and signed in my presence the "Metz Appeal" for dialogue and peace.

Dear friends, the theme of my pastoral Visit to France was "Pour que le monde ait la vie", "That the world may have life" (cf. Jn 6:51). They are Jesus' words, which encapsulate His entire mission of salvation and which, during the Journey, fully expressed the Gospel meaning of every encounter. May they now inspire our prayer, as we ask God that this event of grace may bear abundant and lasting fruit.

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 interfaith 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.

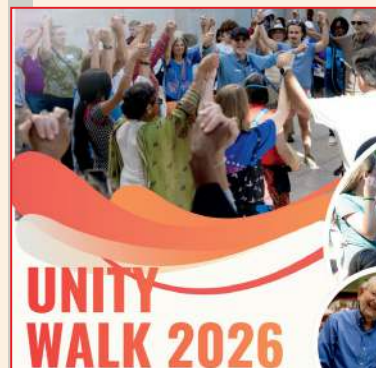
FIAT Day for high school girls

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



around town

This weekend is Mental Health Sunday

Here is a variety of resources relating to mental health as well as making available the attached USCCB Mental Health Novena and suggested petitions.

- USCCB - **National Catholic Mental Health Campaign**, raising awareness, reducing stigma, and advocating for collaborative action around mental health: <https://usccb.org/mentalhealth>
- Bishop Burbidge's 2026 pastoral letter, "The Divine Physician and a Christian Approach to Mental Health and Well-being" - <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/2026/01/20/the-divine-physician-and-a-christian-approach-to-mental-health-and-wellbeing/>
- Deacon Brad Watkins's August 2026 Keynote from the Diocesan Mental Health Day of Prayer, "Grounded in Jesus' Truth: Lifestyles for Mental Health" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0raKUeojVU8>
- Catholic Charities USA - Wholehearted, a parish-based trauma-awareness resource that integrates spirituality and religious praxis with behavioral health: <https://catholiccharitiesusa.org/publications/whole-hearted/>

Parishioners and their pets observed the 800th anniversary of Saint Francis of Assisi's death with a special service of blessing. God is so good to us in all his creatures.

- International Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers, a global leader in networking ministry leaders working in mental health ministry and care: <https://catholicmhm.org>

Thanks from Saint Lucy Food Drive

The St Lucy Food Drive was a success! We collected 8,253 pounds of goods and \$1,350 in monetary donations. Thank you to the congregation for being so generous and for the volunteers that helped make it happen!

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!

Thanks from KofC 5K

Thank you! The Knights of Columbus 24th Annual 5K Fun Run and Walk was a great success with great sponsor support and over 200 participants from the school, parish, and community. You make possible a meaningful donation to KOVAR and to the parish school. See you next year, and reach out if you'd like to become a Knight.



Vocations Awareness Week November 8-9

National Vocation Awareness Week is the first full week of November. Seminarians will speak in parishes on the weekend of November 8-9. There are many events this fall for discerners. If there are any men ages 16-35 who might be considering a vocation to Priesthood, contact Fr. Don by email and register for a dinner with Bishop Burbidge scheduled for October 24.

November 15: High School boys: Quo Vadis Father-Son visit to St. John Paul II Seminary (fathers are welcome but not required)

November 21-23 Adult Men: Weekend trip to Mount St. Mary's Seminary

December 21 Adult Men: Advent Day of Recollection for Discerners

December 21 Adult Women: Advent Day of Recollection for Discerners

Contact our Vocations Director, Fr. Noah Morey, at (703) 841-2537

from the diocese

Bishop Burbidge's short video and the diocesan call to prayer may be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOiXhnieFfM>



PRAY. FAST. VOTE NO.

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge calls all the faithful in the Catholic Diocese of Arlington throughout October to pray and fast, asking God to convert minds and hearts, transform lives, and inspire all Catholics to **vote "No"** on Virginia's Ballot

Questions #1 and #2. Voting is now underway.

PRAY.



Pray the **Rosary** on Sundays



Pray the **Stations of the Cross** on Fridays

FAST.



Fast from social media on Sundays



Commit to **one daily meal** and **no meat** on Fridays

VOTE.



Vote early in-person until October 31



Make a plan to **vote with family and friends**

Election day is November 3. Scan for Virginia election resources and more information about all that is at stake.



Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

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

October

12 MONDAY

7am † Philippe Crory

9am* Lulu Creaven

Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31—5:1/Lk 11:29-32

13 TUESDAY

7am † Janel Benedicto

9am* † Tung Nguyen

Gal 5:1-6/Lk 11:37-41

14 WEDNESDAY

7am † Immaculata Gumboe

9am* Roy Kelly

7am For the parish

Special readings for dedication of church

15 THURSDAY

7am † Mario Josue Valladares

9am* † Hermann Wild

Eph 1:1-10/Lk 11:47-54

16 FRIDAY

7am † Margaret Judith Holub

9am* † Israel Pabon-Torres

10am** † Joan Marie Cormier

Eph 1:11-14/Lk 12:1-7

17 SATURDAY

8am † Alex Blanchar

Eph 1:15-23/Lk 12:8-12

5pm* For the parish

18 SUNDAY

7am † Beatrice Janelle Benedicto

9am* † Diana Lenahan

11am † Manh Tran

1pm* † Leonardo Romero Matos

5pm † Emilio & Marina Chacon

Is 45:1, 4-6/1 Thes 1:1-5b/Mt 22:15-21

* live-streamed Masses

** Mass at Greenspring Chapel

Masses next weekend

Oct 17	5pm	Fr. James
Oct 18	7am	Fr. Cedric
	9am	Fr. Don
	11am	Fr. Daniel
	1pm	Fr. James
	5pm	Fr. Don

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, Cherie Gribshaw, Thomas Snee

Pro-life witness

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

Stewardship resources and reminders: reduce your taxable income!

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

ParishSoft giving update:

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

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

Feel free to reach out to Linda Patterson, our Business Manager, if you need further

assistance, lpatterson@stbernapar.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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