Almighty ever-living God, by whose gift we venerate in one celebration the merits of all the Saints, bestow on us, through the prayers of so many intercessors, an abundance of the reconciliation with you for which we earnestly long. 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.

All Saints' Day

November 1, 2026



The Last Judgement (Winged Altar) (detail), Fra Angelico, between 1435 and 1440
Gemäldegalerie, Berlin

7600 OLD KEENE MILL ROAD | SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA 22152 | www.stbernpar.org

SAINT BERNADETTE
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

All Saints' Day

November 1, 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, 3rd 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@stbernpar.org** Monday–Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm
	Pastor, Fr. Don Rooney frdonrooney@stbernpar.org Fr. James Waalkes frjameswaalkes@stbernpar.org Fr. Daniel Rice frdanielrice@stbernpar.org Deacon Orlando Caicedo
	Pastoral Associate, Rick Caporali rcaporali@stbernpar.org Business Manager, Linda Patterson Lpatterson@stbernpar.org Music Director, David Mathers dmathers@stbernpar.org Executive Assistant, Jean Corday jcorday@stbernpar.org Executive Assistant, Evelyn Vargas, evargas@stbernpar.org Secretary, Janet Chávez-España
SAINT BERNADETTE SCHOOL	703-451-8696, fax 269-1121 Principal, Dr. Kathleen Burgess school@stbernpar.org Assistant Principal, Jennifer Spencer Registrar, Heidi Thomes
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	703-451-8576 Director, Lynn Jones Ljones@stbernpar.org Coordinator of Religious Education, Arlyn Agasen, aagasen@stbernpar.org Administrative Assistant, Victor Mendez vmendez@stbernpar.org
YOUTH MINISTRY	703-451-8576 Director, Grace Mee gmee@stbernpar.org Assistant Director, Mary O'Malley momalley@stbernpar.org
BAPTISMS	Saturday, 10am, 1st and 2nd Saturdays in English; 3rd 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.stbernpar.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@stbernpar.org.

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

calendar

november

1 **Sunday, ALL SAINTS**
- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm

2 **Monday, ALL SOULS' DAY**
- All Souls' Masses at 7 & 9am, Noon, and 7:30pm (bilingual)

3 **Tuesday, Weekday (31st Week) [Saint Martin de Porres, Religious]**

4 **Wednesday, Saint Charles Borromeo, Bishop**

5 **Thursday, Weekday**
- **RELICS of SAINT BERNADETTE see page 8.** Welcome at 3pm, Mass at 6:30pm, Candlelight Procession following Mass, Veneration until 10pm.

6 **Friday, Weekday**
- **RELICS of SAINT BERNADETTE see page 8.** Mass at 1pm, Farewell at 3pm. **There is NO 9am Mass today.**
- Adoration, 7-8pm, chapel

7 **Saturday, Weekday**
- Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass

8 **Sunday, THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm

9 **Monday, The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**

10 **Tuesday, Saint Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor**

11 **Wednesday, Saint Martin of Tours, Bishop**

12 **Thursday, Saint Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr**
- **RISE AGAINST HUNGER Meal Packing event,** in the gym. Signup is OPEN

13 **Friday, Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin**
- **RISE AGAINST HUNGER Meal Packing event,** in the gym. Signup is OPEN
- **Concert**
- Adoration, 7-8pm, church

14 **Saturday, Weekday**
- **RISE AGAINST HUNGER Meal Packing event,** in the gym. Signup is OPEN
- Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass

15 **Sunday, THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm

16 **Monday, Weekday [Saint Margaret of Scotland]**

17 **Tuesday, Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious**

18 **Wednesday, Weekday [The Dedication of the Basilicas of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles; USA: Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne, Virgin]**

19 **Thursday, Weekday**

20 **Friday, Weekday**
- Adoration, 7-8pm, chapel

21 **Saturday, The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass

22 **Sunday, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE**
- 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

All Saints Day falls on Sunday, November 1 this year. We will follow the regular Saturday and Sunday Mass schedule. The **All Souls' Day** Mass schedule for Monday, November 2 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.

During the visit of Saint Bernadette's Relics November 5-6, there will be NO 9am Mass on Friday morning. Please see page 8 for the full schedule. Parish Ministry Volunteers are needed, please check out our parish website for opportunities to welcome our Patroness, Saint Bernadette.

Rise AGAINST HUNGER

Parish Dining Out Nights

Support our Work of Mercy ~ Rise Against Hunger

NOVEMBER

5 - Malek's Pizza Palace
Springfield Plaza

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

from the pastor

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

This week I found myself having to defend myself to a friend who invited me for a coffee two months ago and that I didn't respond. Well, I responded, but my response was that I would let him know when that might be. I never did.

Then I began to think. Do you realize all we have done in the past two months? And what is yet to come? Sometimes it is good to pause, take a breath and see how far we have come.

With the beginning of school the middle of August there was a lot as last-minute preparations had to be completed, a lot of back-to-school events, and the parish ministry year's first gatherings in all areas of parish life came back to full speed. It was that week that I read something about the relics of Saint Bernadette coming to the USA and I called right away and got on the list. We have been preparing all this time.

Interviews of confirmation teams completing their preparation for the sacrament last weekend were happening, and I was meeting all the applicants for our OCIA program, so many good people who are looking for more in their faith and community. I was a week in Wyoming meeting donors for our non-profit Holy Land Christians Society. The middle school lockers were still not here.

The first full week in October, after our Lord of the Miracles festival I was in Birmingham at the Christian Churches Together Forum. There were a lot of meetings on the search committee for the new CEO of Catholic Charities and design development meetings about our new Parish Life Center.

We are now in the midst of one big week after another. After the parish picnic (about 3K people came, I estimate), Confirmation was celebrated last Saturday. Now the diocesan Catholic schools accreditation team is here this week, after our faculty and staff completed a year of preparation.

Then next week, of course, we are the Virginia stop on the national tour of the relics of Saint Bernadette (who even knows how many pilgrims might come?), and the week after that is the meal packing event Rise Against Hunger for three days. The next week Rick and I will be attending the National Workshop on Christian Unity in Chicago. It has been crazy.

If you have contacted me and I haven't replied please know it hasn't been intentional. I'd like to say that things after Thanksgiving will be a little slower but, right, that will be Advent! Let's just say "Happy Easter" now!

We mentioned that Bishop Burbidge asked everyone to fast and pray during October for the election this week. This is so you can clear your minds and put God back into the confusing moments of our todays. I would ask everyone to do two things. As we spoke about conscience formation and Catholic Church teachings, about the reverence we must have for all lives whose dignity is rooted in the image and likeness of God, I hope you have had the chance to really take some peaceful time and pray, and think this through, and then VOTE! Americans all have a right to vote and to a free and fair election and I pray that there isn't a lot of drama and efforts to do damage to the process.

I was disheartened to see the alleged manipulation of our 12 arch/bishops and the photo taken in the oval office. I can't understand what they were doing there anyway, arranged for a photo whose likeness to the Last Supper was not lost on me. The timing is just too curious right before elections and most bishops have rightly claimed that what happened is wrong, this administration trying to look like (even claiming that) they have the Catholic Church in their back pockets. Try to free yourselves from the blindness of party politics, and just vote for what you believe to be right, not wrong. There is so much deception in the world right now that it is often difficult to discern what is even true. The remedy to finding the truth isn't fighting, it is prayer asking God to show us the path.

Finally, do what I've been trying to do. These fall days have been so beautiful. It is okay to get lost in this beauty that God has given to us. Go for a short walk and allow yourself a clear head and a blameless heart. Imagine God there with you (he is) and listen for his Word in the whisper of blowing leaves. His voice isn't in the ugliness we hear in the news, it isn't in all the sadness and suffering we see; it is in the response we notice in our hearts to do something to help those who are sad and suffering. We're on the right path when we are so busy we don't know how we will get from this week to next. With God, we do.

The Lord be with you. Fr. Dm

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School students Rise Against Hunger

In response to Bishop Burbidge's call to participate in the Diocesan Week of Service November 9-15, our school will partner with Rise Against Hunger to raise funds and pack meals to be sent to those in need. Our Rise Against Hunger event will create a lasting impact through our start-to-finish meal assembly experience. During school, students in grades K-8 will pack meals of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and a packet of 20 essential vitamins and minerals. By providing nutritious meals that will give long-lasting nourishment to those in need, we will support communities around the world -- a true Corporal Work of Mercy, in action. Together, we can nourish bodies, open classrooms, and build hope for a brighter future. Please consider joining us or prayerfully consider making a monetary donation. To volunteer and/or donate, visit https://stbernpar.org/home-copy/. Your support is most appreciated.







cardinal corner

FORMING HEARTS & MINDS IN CHRIST

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

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.

Congratulations to our RE and St. Bernadette school students who had received the Sacrament of Confirmation yesterday! May the Holy Spirit guide, strengthen, and bless you in you journey as missionaries of Christ.

Volunteers needed for this year!

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

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

Living the Liturgical Year

Happy 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time! This Sunday we celebrate All Saint's Day. It is a solemn Christian feast dedicated to celebrating the lives and examples of all saints. "Saints" refers to people who lived lives of exceptional holiness and are believed to be in heaven. As Catholics, we are called to be Saints. You can find suggestions to celebrate All Saints Day here: https://www.catholicicing.com/saint-post-directory/

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.

High School Tuesday Socials

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

Daily Mass and Donuts - November 2

Join us this Monday for Daily Mass and Donuts from 9-10:30am! All high schoolers are invited to spend their day off with us, beginning with 9am Mass, followed by donuts and games in the Youth Room.

Rise Against Hunger - November 14

All high schoolers are welcome to join us in serving the community from 10:30am-1pm. Instead of our monthly Saturday dinner, we will join the parish in packing meals for hungry kids, followed by lunch in the Bradican Room

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 cheer closes this weekend. 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).

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Saint Bernadette Scout Troop 995 gathers for Mass a dawn in Burke Lake Park at sunrise on October 26 during their autumn family campout.

Thanksgiving Day St. Lucy food drive

As a way of giving thanks to God for the many blessings in our lives, please help those who are experiencing food insecurity by bringing non-perishable food items to Mass on Thanksgiving Day. You will be invited to place your contribution at the foot of the altar during the offertory. A basket will be available for donations of cash, checks, or gift cards. All donations will benefit Catholic Charities' St. Lucy Food Project which helps to address the problem of the invisible hunger within the 21 counties and 7 cities in the Diocese of Arlington.

Catholic Women's Group

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

Tuesday, November 3 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 on November 10 at 7pm in the Bradican Room. We will be assembling the gift labels for the parish annual Giving Tree as well as addressing Christmas cards for seminarians and other religious. It's a great way to start getting into that holiday spirit!

It starts with You and ends in a meal

November 12-14 we will again come together as a parish family to feed the poor with 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.

in the parish

Parish Offertory

October 25

Offertory	*$ 24,295*
World Mission Sunday	*6,463*

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.

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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

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Rise AGAINST HUNGER

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

or visit our parish website for more information and details

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

Rise Against Hunger returns November 12 - 14

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

Volunteer signup is now OPEN!

We NEED You!

Bring your family, friends, ministry partners, work-mates and friends.

There is a place and time for everyone.

1 hour and 15 min shifts remain available Thursday and Friday evenings beginning at 6pm, and Saturday at 8:30am.

Let's serve together to feed those less fortunate.

For the least of these, we

Rise AGAINST HUNGER

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"vatican council II through its documents"

October 21, 2026

Pope Leo, in his General Audiences on Wednesdays, is giving a catechesis on Vatican II, sixty years later. Today he speaks about the Church's mission in the modern world.

"the social function of the family [is] defined as 'a school of deeper humanity' and 'the foundation of society,' calling upon all those with social responsibilities, especially in the political and cultural spheres, to fulfil their duty to 'work efficiently for the welfare of marriage and the family.'"



IV. Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et spes (GS 47–52).*

6. Commitment to the family in today's society

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

The first think I would like to say is thank you!. Thank you for the support of your prayers. Thanks be to God for his generosity. Let us all renew our trust in God's goodness and mercy.

The pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et spes* (*GS*) of the Second Vatican Council, having illustrated in the first part the dignity of the person and his or her vocation in the world, goes on to consider, in the second part, "in the light of the Gospel and of human experience," some of the most pressing contemporary issues (cf. *GS, 46*). It focuses primarily on marriage and the family, in the conviction that "the well-being of the individual and of human and Christian society is intimately linked with the healthy condition of that community produced by marriage and family" (*GS, 47*).

To this end, it does not merely reaffirm their values and aims, but proposes a renewed conception of marriage as an "intimate partnership of married life and love" (*GS, 48*). By incorporating the legal dimension of marriage as a contract, the foundation of this union is recognized in the "conjugal covenant," understood as the "human act whereby spouses mutually bestow and accept each another" (*ibid.*). The mutual self-giving of man and woman, such that 'they are no longer two but one flesh' (*Mt 19:6*), underlies the requirement for "total fidelity" and the "unbreakable oneness" of the spouses, finding vivid expression in the procreation and upbringing of children (*cf. GS, 48*). As a reflection of the Divine Trinity, conjugal and parental love, through the Sacrament of Marriage, is "governed and enriched by Christ's redeeming power," so that spouses may love one another "just as he loved the Church and handed himself over on her behalf" (*ibid.*).

Having shed light on the reality of marriage in the light of Christ's love, which is the truth of both human and divine love, *Gaudium et spes* turns its attention to conjugal love and marital fruitfulness. Not limited to erotic attraction, which it nonetheless encompasses, conjugal love involves the entire will of the spouses, enlivening the affections of their hearts and expressing itself through sentiments and gestures of tenderness (*cf. GS, 49*). Embracing the good of the whole person of both man and woman, who are equal in dignity, this love pervades the entire life of the spouses, finding expression in acts proper exclusively to marriage (cf. *ibid.*). Whilst signifying integral love from person to person, the unique intimacy between the spouses fosters their mutual self-giving and enriches their shared joy (*cf. ibid.*).

Furthermore, the fruitfulness of conjugal love is expressed in the procreation of children, "the supreme gift of marriage" (*GS, 50*). By transmitting and educating human life, which must never be rejected, spouses become "cooperators with the love of God the Creator, and are, so to speak, the interpreters of that love" (*ibid.*). Called to this human and Christian responsibility, they are bound to allow themselves to be guided by a sound judgement regarding their own good and that of their children, whether already born or yet to be born. Such a judgement, which, in the final analysis, the spouses themselves must form before God, requires that their conscience conform to divine law, as interpreted by the Magisterium of the Church in the light of the Gospel (*cf. ibid.*).

The emphasis on loving communion and procreative fruitfulness within marriage leads the Council to rule out the possibility of there being "a true contradiction … between the divine laws pertaining to the transmission of life, and those pertaining to authentic conjugal love" (*GS, 51*) and to affirm, instead, that "when there is question of harmonizing conjugal love with the responsible transmission of life," one must "preserve the full sense of mutual self-giving and human procreation in the context of true love" (*ibid.*). From this it follows both that "from the moment of its conception life must be guarded with the greatest care," renouncing "abortion and infanticide;" and that "the acts themselves which are proper to conjugal love and which are exercised in accord with genuine human dignity must be honored with great reverence" (*ibid.*).

The teaching of *Gaudium et spes* on the conjugal and family community thus goes on to highlight the social function of the family,

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defined as "a school of deeper humanity" and "the foundation of society" (*GS*, *52*), calling upon all those with social responsibilities, especially in the political and cultural spheres, to fulfil their duty to "work efficiently for the welfare of marriage and the family" (*ibid.*).

Dear friends, this task is more urgent than ever before. The Church is well aware of this, as shown by the pastoral concern of the Popes who have succeeded one another since the last Council, right up to the two Synodal Assemblies convened by Pope Francis, which were addressed again in recent days by the Heads of the Eastern Catholic Churches and the Presidents of the Episcopal Conferences. May the Holy Family of Nazareth enlighten us on our journey and protect families throughout the world.



Knights of Columbus host Box of Joy Program this weekend

Our Council 6153 of the Knights of Columbus is partnering with Cross Catholic Outreach again this fall to bring its Box of Joy ministry project to our parish!

Last year we responded with tremendous generosity and blessed hundreds of children with boxes. These are always cherished by the many children who will be blessed with the boxes from our parish. Shoebox size boxes will be distributed to parishioners at all Masses this weekend. You are invited to take it home and fill it with items such as soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, Bible stories, rosaries, toys, crayons, and school supplies for boys and girls ranging from ages 2 to 15. You also are encouraged to include a $9 check for each box to cover international shipping costs. The boxes will be collected at all Masses next weekend. This gift is a special experience for everyone involved!
For more information, contact PGK Franklin Mendoza at 703-282-2163 or at franklin-mendoza@yahoo.com Thank you for your generosity!



The Catholic Community's new Council was installed at Mass last week. The new members are:

Fred Walker
Mary Walker
Clarence Thompson
Mary Thornton
Charley Tichenor
Pam Blankenship
Pat Hyland, and
Louise Dwyer (front row)

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confirmed in the holy spirit 2026



Confirmation



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94 students were confirmed on October 24 by Archbishop Broglio of the Archdiocese for Military Services. It was a beautiful Mass, a beautiful day, and well executed by our Religious Education and Youth Staff, seen below right.



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coming soon

How to Be Safe - Security and Safety for Everyone*

Mary's Comfort welcomes you to learn about personal security and safety for everyone, particularly women, children, and seniors. This presentation will cover most aspects of security, such as physical, digital, financial, and travel security. Lydia Wilson, our speaker, is a security management educator with experience training Chief Security Officers in government, universities and in the private sector. She is offering this pro-bono session for Mary's Comfort guests, volunteers, and all parishioners at St. Bernadette.

Sunday, November 22 in the Bradican Room, 2:30–3:30pm. Please RSVP on this Google Form: https://forms.gle/Fh2FiYv5tGJXzQi89, or use the QR Code at left, or by email maryscomfortva@gmail.com, or call 703-455-4500. We will cap attendance at the first 50 RSVPs.

**This session is informational only and is not personal advice or counseling; no follow-on services or consultations will be solicited or offered.*

Mornings of Mercy for divorced Catholics

Divorced Catholics in the Diocese of Arlington are invited to join us at a Morning of Mercy, a time of prayer, adoration and fellowship with divorced Catholics from around the Diocese on November 14 at St. Veronica, Chantilly. For more information and to RSVP for this free event, see please go to arlingtondiocese.org/event/morningsofmercy.

Holy Land Christians' olive wood items for sale Nov. 7– 8

On the weekend of November 7–8th there will be a display of beautiful olivewood handmade carvings from the Holy Land in our church. These Carvings made by the Christians of Bethlehem who use them as their source of income. During this difficult time in the Holy Land, Bethlehem is still isolated and suffering. Tourism has completely stopped for more three years. Most Christians in Bethlehem have no jobs and no support for their Families, they are living in constant fear.

Christians in the Holy Land once were more than 37% of the population. They are **.04%** now. The presence of Christianity in the Holy Land is in critically danger.

As Christians of faith, it is our duty to support our brothers and sisters in Bethlehem. YOU can support them by purchasing some of these beautiful carvings after Mass. For more information, please contact us at 202-302-5889 or visit www.BethlehemCarvings.org." Thank you in advance for all your help and support!

Collecting U.S. flags for retirement

The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus from Marian Assembly will be collecting your worn and tattered U.S. flags to be respectfully retired at St. Lawrence on Saturday, November 14. Please put your worn U.S. flags in the box provided in the vestibule of the church from October 24 – November 7.

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.

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MEETING ST. BERNADETTE

A Hidden *Life* of *Love*



Did you know?

Bernadette eventually left Lourdes—not to become a public figure, but to disappear into the quiet life of a religious sister. In July 1866, at age twenty-two, she entered the Mother House of the **Sisters of Charity of Nevers** at Saint-Gildard. The following day, before approximately 300 sisters, Bernadette recounted the story of the apparitions one final time. Then she began an entirely different chapter of her life.

She wanted to care for the poor and the sick. Because of her own fragile health, her assignments included serving as an assistant nurse, working in the infirmary and later serving as a sacristan. She also embraced what the community described as a "mission of prayer."

Bernadette spent thirteen years at Saint-Gildard. Her life there was largely ordinary and hidden, marked by service, prayer, illness, and love. One of her beautiful resolutions captures the heart of her vocation: **"I want my whole life to be inspired by love."**

That may be one of the simplest definitions of holiness we could ever find.

"Then she began an entirely different chapter of her life, as Sister Marie-Bernard". She has had a new name as Sister when she inter the Convent in Nevers.

Take a Moment to Reflect:

What would change if we tried to let everything we do today be inspired by love?

Prayer:

St. Bernadette, help us to discover holiness in the ordinary acts of love and service that God places before us each day.

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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.

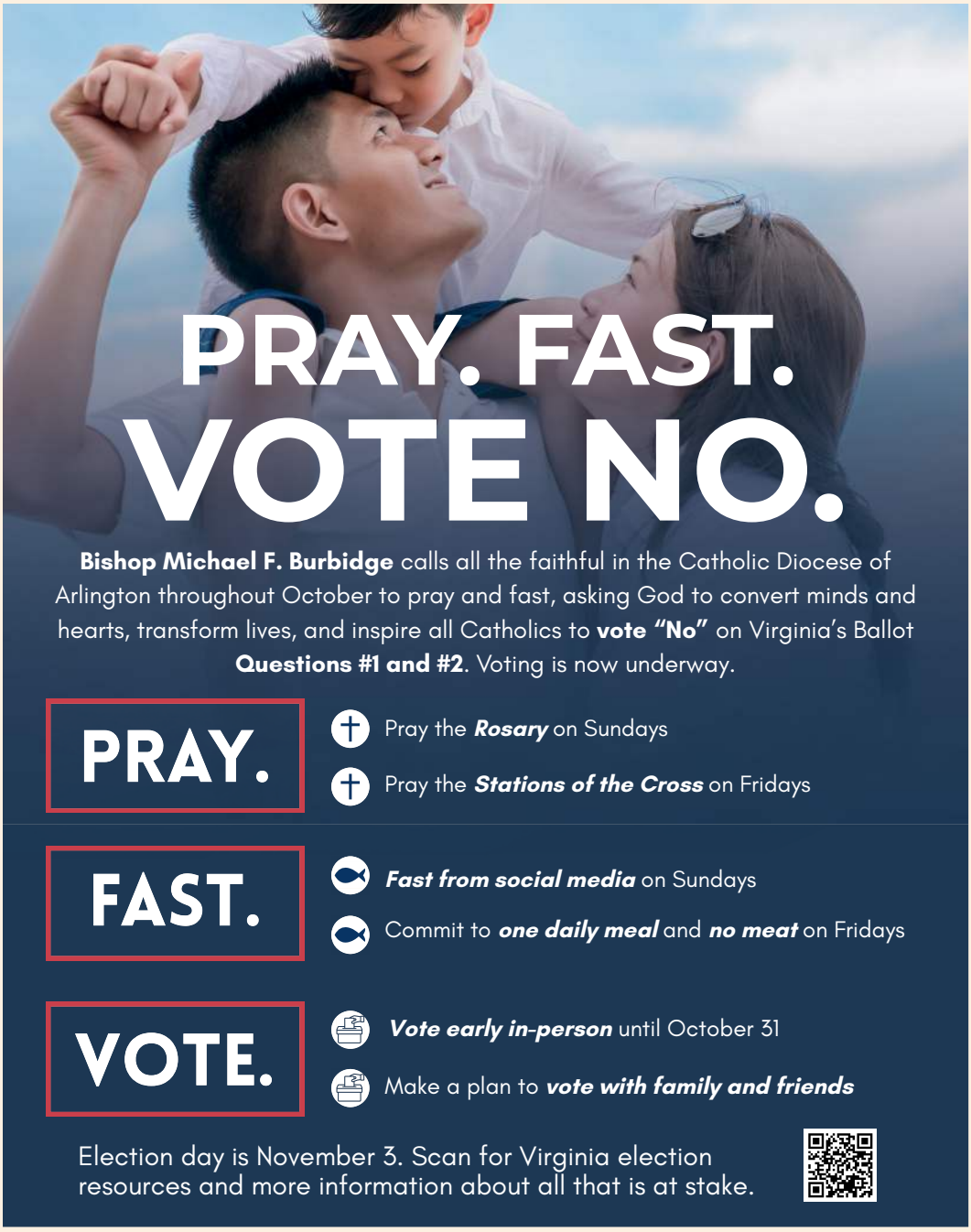
November 15: High School boys: Quo Vadis Father-Son visit to St. John Paul II Seminary (fathers are welcome but not required)

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=hOiXhnieEfM

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Daily Mass Intentions and Readings

The Mass Book for 2027 is open. Because of the high demand and the limited number of Masses, there is a limit to two Mass intentions per month per person.

November

2 MONDAY
7am † All Souls' Novena
9am* † All Souls' Novena
Wis 3:1-9/Rom 5:5-11/Jn 6:37-40

3 TUESDAY
7am † All Souls' Novena
9am* † All Souls' Novena
Phil 2:5-11/Lk 14:15-24

4 WEDNESDAY
7am † All Souls' Novena
9am* † All Souls' Novena
Phil 2:12-18/Lk 14:25-33

5 THURSDAY
7am † All Souls' Novena
9am* † All Souls' Novena
Phil 3:3-8a/Lk 15:1-10

6 FRIDAY
7am † All Souls' Novena
8:30a † All Souls' Novena
10am** † Jack Finley
Phil 3:17—4:1/Lk 16:1-8

7 SATURDAY
8am † All Souls' Novena
Phil 4:10-19/Lk 16:9-15
5pm* For the parish

8 SUNDAY
7am † All Souls' Novena
9am* † All Souls' Novena
11am † All Souls' Novena
1pm* † All Souls' Novena
5pm † All Souls' Novena
Wis 6:12-16/1 Thes 4:13-18/Mt 25:1-13

** live-streamed Masses*
*** Mass at Greenspring Chapel*

Masses next weekend

Nov 7	5pm	Fr. Daniel
Nov 8	7am	Fr. Cedric
	9am	Fr. James
	11am	Fr. Don
	1pm	Fr. Daniel
	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, Angel Cruz, William Killoran

Pro-life witness

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

Stewardship resources and reminders: reduce your taxable income!

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

ParishSoft giving update:

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

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

Feel free to reach out to Linda Patterson, our Business Manager, if you need further assistance, lpatterson@stbernpar.org or call her at the Parish Office, 703-451-8576, ext. 122.

Mary's Comfort update

Thank you St. Bernadette parishioners for your very generous response to the recent Mary's Comfort Baby Bottle campaign. It was a huge success and we are grateful for your continuous support. We are trying to expand our services and your prayerful, financial and volunteer support will make this possible. If you are interested in learning more, view our website : https://www.maryscomfortva.org/. We're grateful for your continuing support.

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 serv-ing 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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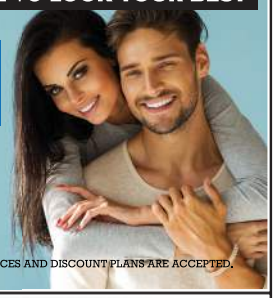
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