Almighty ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe, grant that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise. 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.

Christ the King

November 22, 2026



Jesus Washing Peter's Feet, Ford Madox Brown, 1854
Tate Britain, London

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

SAINT BERNADETTE
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Christ the King

November 22, 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.

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calendar

november

22 Sunday, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE
- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm
- Keep Christ in Christmas Card sales, after all Masses, Church Vestibule
- Cub Scout Popcorn Sales after all Masses , Church Vestibule

23 Monday, Weekday (34th Week)

24 Tuesday, Saint Andrew Dũng-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs
- **43rd Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service,** 7pm, All are welcome!

25 Wednesday, Weekday [Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr]

26 Thursday, Thanksgiving
- Only one Mass at 10am, bring food for the poor (St. Lucy Food Drive)

27 Friday, Weekday
- Adoration, 7-8pm, chapel

28 Saturday, Weekday
- Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- Christmas Tree sales begin, lower parking lot, 9am - 9pm

29 Sunday, FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm

30 Monday, Saint Andrew the Apostle

december

1 Tuesday, Advent Weekday

2 Wednesday, Advent Weekday

3 Thursday, Saint Frances Xavier, Priest

4 Friday, Advent Weekday [Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor]
- Adoration, 7-8pm, church
- **Saint Bernadette Concert Series: Advent Lessons and Carols,** church, 7:30pm

5 Saturday, Advent Weekday
- Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass
- Breakfast with Santa, School Cafeteria, 8-11:30am
- Saint Bernadette Christmas Shop, School Gym, 7:30am-Noon,

6 Sunday, SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- Live-streaming Masses continue at 9am and 1pm

7 Monday, Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor
- **Vigil Mass for Immaculate Conception**, 7:30pm

8 Tuesday, The IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
- **A Holy Day of Obligation,** Masses at 7 & 9am, Noon, 7:30pm (bilingual)

9 Wednesday, Advent Weekday [Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin]

10 Thursday, Advent Weekday [Our Lady of Loreto]

11 Friday, Advent Weekday [Saint Damasus I, Pope]
- **Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe**, special Mass at 7pm with procession at 6:30 and reception following

12 Saturday, Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Live-streaming Mass for Sunday begins with the 5pm Vigil Mass

13 Sunday, THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

announcements

Please plan to join us for the **43rd Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service**, on Tuesday, November 24 at 7pm at Congregation Adat Reyim. Meet and pray with your friends who belong to the many area participating congregations! Invite your ecumenical and interfaith friends to join us.

There will be only one Mass on Thanksgiving Day at 10am. 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 the Catholic Charities' St. Lucy Food Project which helps address the problem of the invisible hunger within the 21 counties and 7 cities in the Diocese of Arlington.

The Knights of Columbus are selling "Keep Christ in Christmas" Christmas Cards after each Mass next weekend. Proceeds will support WorkCamp and the Saint Bernadette School.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in our Parish Bake Sale December 12-13 by contributing baked goods, helping with setup and cleanup, or shopping during the sale. All proceeds support our Capital Campaign.

Mark your calendars NOW - our Parish Advent Penance Service is December 15 at 6:30pm, your best opportunity for Reconciliation before Christmas.

Mark your calendars for events in December in the parish:

December 12-13 - **Catholic Charities Christmas Collection**
December 8 - **Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation**
December 11 - **Our Lady of Guadalupe** procession/Mass/reception starting at 6:30pm

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

from the pastor

Dear Good People of Saint Bernadette,

There is something just right about how we end one year with the feast of Christ the King, thinking about what is ending, and looking forward to the time to come, the Year of Grace 2027 which is next weekend. And in between the two (and hopefully throughout) is Thanksgiving.

You are priest, prophet and king: each and every one of you who are baptized. Remember our theme for the year? This is Christ the King Sunday. Happy feast day!

How might the Church live this kingly office? Vatican II says it belongs to you, the laity, "to seek the **king**dom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will … so to illuminate and order all temporal things with which they are closely associated that these may always be effected and grow according to Christ and to the glory of the Creator and Redeemer" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 898*).

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

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

At the beginning of each of our Rise Against Hunger shifts I asked everyone to pause and to look around, to look at each other. "This is what the Body of Christ looks like. You are the Body of Christ and this is what he does." We lead by example, we rule by our service. We are sent out to make Jesus known—not by talking about him, there is plenty of that—but by being him. Carrying with us his peace, caring for the poor and the sick, bringing healing to so many places in need of it in today's struggling world: creation itself, relationships, division, and exclusion.

I was looking for art for the cover of today's bulletin. I've used that image of Jesus in judgement up in the apse of the Basilica in D.C., you know, the one with fire coming out of his ears? David, our music director, said that when he teaches our online Baptism preparation class for parents and godparents he likes to use the moment of Jesus washing the feet of the Apostles at the Last Supper as an image of the kingship of Jesus, the kind of king that defies every earthly understanding of monarchs or authoritarian rulers. It shatters them, really, when we see what is so totally lacking behind the power of rulers today.

Did you know that today's feast was born in resistance to fascism? When Pius XI became pope in February 1922, Europe was still destroyed by the First World War, and within months Mussolini's Fascists had marched on Rome. That December, Pius XI issued his first encyclical, *Ubi arcano Dei*, under the motto that would define his papacy: *the peace of Christ in the kingdom of Christ*. In it he warned against an "immoderate nationalism" that set nations against one another. He also warned against a public life that had pushed God aside and treated human authority as answerable only to itself. Christ the King, one of the newest feasts in the Christian year, grew out of these concerns, that rulers and nations are not ultimate. Their authority is borrowed and limited; they answer to God, and no state can command the conscience that belongs to God alone. In 1969, Pope Paul VI moved the feast from October to the last Sunday of the church year, making it the end of the year and the threshold of Advent.

———————

I want to thank ALL of you who made Rise Against Hunger such a success again this year. Special thanks go to Rick Caporali and Jean Corday and their team of leaders who worked constantly. 175,000 meals are on their way children in a school feeding program in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a place of desperate hunger, famine, disease, and violence. That is enough to feed a school for a year! Children will come to school because they know they will get lunch rather than searching for food elsewhere, and will get an education besides. "It begins with a meal," is RAH's motto. The "it" is hope for a brighter future where education and health will transform lives and grow this kingdom we are talking about one little bowl of rice at a time. Our community is blessed by this opportunity, and by your commitment.

The Lord be with you. Fr. Dm

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School students RISE to the occasion

The Corporal works of mercy are Catholic charitable actions that address the physical and bodily needs of others, inspired by Jesus' teaching in the Gospel of Matthew. Our students had a wonderful opportunity this week to focus on one of the seven corporal works of mercy: feed the hungry.

From November 12-14, Saint Bernadette Church and School partnered with Rise Against Hunger to raise funds and put together meals. Our Rise Against Hunger event will create a lasting impact through our start-to-finish meal assembly experience. On Friday, November 13 our students all worked diligently in our school gym to fill bags with rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and a packet of 20 essential vitamins and minerals; they packed over 19,800 meals. Father Don shared with us that the meals we packed will be sent to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This experience has been a profound way for our students to complete a corporal work of mercy. It also has served to instill a sense of gratitude for all our blessings.

cardinal corner

FORMING HEARTS & MINDS IN CHRIST









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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.

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

Happy feast of Christ the King, or the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. It always occurs on the last Sunday of Ordinary Time. Celebrate Christ the King Sunday by making Christ the King crowns and having a royal feast! You can find instructions for the crowns here: https://www.catholicicing.com/christ-king-craft/

Sunday Doughnut Social

Plan to join us this Sunday after the 9am Mass! Come visit with other parish families while you enjoy coffee, juice, and doughnuts while your children do some fun activities with volunteers!

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.

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.



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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, December 1 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.

Get ready for the parish Christmas bake sale!

December 12-13 after all Masses in the church vestibule. Everyone is invited to participate – share your favorite Christmas baked goods, especially loaf breads, cookies, brownies, ethnic breads, and cake pops! Great gifts. Proceeds benefit our Capital Campaign. If you would like to volunteer to help with sales, contact Pat Creswick at patcreswick@yahoo.com or 703-400-9903. Questions? Contact Kathy Marchetti kathmarc@yahoo.com or 703-644-1689.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development working on the margins

Our second collection this weekend supports the Catholic Campaign for Human Devel-opment. There are over 46 million people in the United States living in poverty, and this collection supports programs to empower local communities to identify and address the unique obstacles they face as they work to lift themselves out of poverty. In addition, 25 percent of funds collected will remain in our diocese to fund local anti-poverty projects. By supporting this collection, you are giving those on the margins a hand up, not a handout. Please be generous.

Porto Charities' Special Kids/ Special Needs Campaign November 29–30

We will have a second collection for Special Kids/Special Needs that will benefit Porto Charities, a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing access to diocesan Catholic schools for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. All proceeds will go directly to establish and advance inclusive education programs in Catholic Schools throughout the Diocese of Arlington. Please consider donating to this important collection at Mass or online at: www.portocharities.org/2ndcollection

Women's Advent Evening of Reflection

Join us on Saturday, December 5 in the Saint Bernadette School gym, from 6:30-8:30pm for a night of fellowship, Christmas goodies and a talk by Lela Heick. Lela is a Ministry Coach with Walking With Purpose, a national ministry devoted to bringing women closer to Christ and deeper into their faith through Scripture-centered community. Inspired by Mary's faithful response, "I am the handmaid of the Lord," this talk will explore how we can prepare our hearts this Advent to draw closer to the Lord, deepen our trust in his love, and surrender more freely to his will. Registration is suggested but not required. Please register at St. Bernadette Women's Advent Evening of Reflection

school salutes veterans

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rise against hunger

With Rise Against Hunger we packed 175,000 meals, enough to feed lunch for an entire school for a year.










HUMANITARIAN
RELIEF

rise against hunger





















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who our parish is feeding this year

With Rise Against Hunger we packed 175,000 meals, enough to feed lunch for an entire school for a year.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo: A Nation of Extraordinary Heritage and Enduring Tragedy

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), located in the heart of Central Africa, is a country of extraordinary natural wealth, cultural diversity, and historical significance. It is the second-largest country in Africa by area and possesses some of the continent's most extensive natural resources. Yet, despite its enormous potential, the DRC has endured decades of colonial exploitation, political instability, armed conflict, and humanitarian catastrophe. Its story is one of remarkable cultural achievement, extraordinary human resilience, and profound suffering.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Before European colonization, the region was home to numerous kingdoms and societies, most notably the Kingdom of Kongo, which flourished from the 14th century onward. These societies developed sophisticated political structures, commercial networks, artistic traditions, and religious practices.





In the late 19th century, King Leopold II of Belgium claimed the territory as his personal possession, establishing the Congo Free State. His regime became infamous for forced labor, brutality, mutilations, and mass death, particularly in the exploitation of rubber and ivory. Millions of Congolese people died as a consequence of this exploitation. In 1908, international pressure forced Belgium to assume direct colonial control.

The country gained independence on June 30, 1960, but its early years were marked by political turmoil, the assassination of its first prime minister, Patrice Lumumba, and the eventual rise of Mobutu Sese Seko. Mobutu ruled for more than three decades, establishing an authoritarian government characterized by corruption, repression, and economic decline. His government fell in 1997, following a rebellion that brought Laurent-Désiré Kabila to power. Subsequent wars, involving neighboring countries and numerous armed groups, devastated the nation.

CULTURAL HERITAGE, NATURAL WEALTH

The DRC is home to more than 200 ethnic groups and hundreds of languages. French is the official language, while Lingala, Swahili, Kikongo, and Tshiluba are among the principal national languages. Its cultural heritage is exceptionally rich, encompassing traditional music, dance, sculpture, textiles, oral storytelling, and religious traditions.

Congolese music, particularly soukous and its contemporary expression, has influenced popular music throughout Africa and internationally. The country has also produced celebrated visual artists, writers, and musicians. Christianity is the predominant religion, with Catholicism playing a particularly important role in education, healthcare, social services, and community life.

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The country possesses immense natural wealth, including copper, cobalt, diamonds, gold, and coltan, an essential mineral used in electronic devices. Its Congo Basin rainforest is the second-largest tropical rainforest in the world and is vital to global biodiversity and climate stability. The Congo River, one of the world's largest river systems, is central to transportation, agriculture, and economic life.

RECENT STRUGGLES AND HUMANITARIAN TRAGEDY

Today, the DRC faces one of the world's most severe and prolonged humanitarian crises. Although the country possesses extraordinary mineral wealth, much of its population lives in poverty. Corruption, weak governmental institutions, competition for natural resources, and interference by neighboring countries have contributed to decades of instability.

The eastern provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri have suffered particularly devastating violence. Numerous armed groups operate in the region, including the March 23 Movement (M23), which has received support from neighboring Rwanda. In 2025, M23 captured the major cities of Goma and Bukavu, displacing enormous numbers of civilians. Other armed groups, including the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), have carried out massacres, kidnappings, and attacks on villages and religious communities.

The human consequences are staggering. Millions of Congolese have been forced from their homes, many repeatedly, seeking refuge in overcrowded displacement camps or neighboring countries. Families have been separated, children recruited into armed groups, women subjected to widespread sexual violence, and entire communities destroyed. According to the International Organization for Migration, more than 3.5 million people were internally displaced in the eastern provinces alone in the summer of 2026. Nationwide displacement figures are considerably higher.

Hunger, disease, and inadequate medical care compound the suffering. By mid-2026, approximately 26.5 million people faced acute food insecurity. The country has also experienced devastating outbreaks of infectious diseases. Particularly tragic is the Ebola outbreak declared in May 2026. By November 1, reported cases had exceeded 10,500, with more than 5,100 deaths. Insecurity and attacks on healthcare facilities have made containing the epidemic especially difficult.

International diplomatic efforts, including peace agreements negotiated in Washington and Doha, have offered some hope. However, continued fighting and the failure to implement important commitments demonstrate how fragile these efforts remain.

A PEOPLE WHO MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN

The tragedy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is particularly heartbreaking because it is not simply the consequence of poverty or natural disaster. It reflects generations of exploitation, political failure, international competition for resources, and violence inflicted upon an innocent population. The country's extraordinary mineral wealth, so essential to the world's modern technological economy, has too often become a source of conflict rather than prosperity for its people.

Nevertheless, the Congolese people continue to demonstrate remarkable faith, courage, creativity, and resilience. Their cultural traditions, strong family bonds, religious communities, and determination to build a peaceful future remain sources of hope.

The DRC deserves to be remembered not merely as a country of war and suffering, but as a nation of extraordinary human and cultural riches. Its people deserve peace, security, justice, and the opportunity to share in the abundance of their own land. The international community has a moral responsibility not to look away.

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Pope visits his home diocese in Peru

November 13, 2026

We pause with Pope Leo's General Audiences on Wednesdays this week, as he is on his Apostolic Journey to Uruguay, Argentina, and Peru. He celebrated Mass in an open space near the "Pampas de Pimentel in his former diocese of Chiclayo, Peru.

"...no baptized person can be indifferent to the task of evangelization, given that it is the Church's essential mission, her deepest vocation, and her very reason for being."



Homily of the Holy Father Leo XVI

Dear brothers and sisters:

What a joy it is to return to Chiclayo! It is a blessing for me to be with you once again. Thank you for your affection, the support and your prayers, especially for my health during this time of trial which, with God's help, I am overcoming. As I look at your faces, a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord arises in my heart for the blessing you have been and continue to be in my life and episcopal ministry. I keep you very much in my prayers. I also ask you to continue praying for me, that Our Lord Jesus Christ may grant me the grace to strengthen always my brothers and sisters in the faith.

Today's liturgy invites us to consider the urgent and binding duty of every baptized person to proclaim the Gospel. At the same time, it presents an opportunity to grow in the awareness that all Christians, whether ordained ministers or lay faithful—regardless of the degree of formation we have received in the faith—are missionary disciples. In the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii nuntiandi*, Pope Saint Paul VI recalls that no baptized person can be indifferent to the task of evangelization, given that it is the Church's essential mission, her deepest vocation and her very reason for being.

In his wisdom, God willed that the Church should be "like a universal sacrament of salvation" (*Lumen gentium, 48*). Sustained by the Holy Spirit, the Church carries forward the mission of proclaiming Jesus Christ, so that, in obedience to the missionary mandate she received from him (*cf. Mt 28:19-20*), his redemptive work may reach the ends of the earth and transform human realities according to the values of the Gospel.

Proclaiming Jesus Christ is a crucial task, and for which we often feel inadequate. As missionary disciples in the twenty-first century, how can we proclaim him today? As a family, or as a parish or diocesan community, how can we carry out the mission to evangelize? The answer is through the witness of an authentically Christian and coherent life. First, we must place Jesus Christ at the center, both of our proclamation and of our existence. Then, we must understand that coherence is not merely the fruit of our own will, but it is also a grace for which we must implore the Lord and with which we are called to cooperate through our personal commitment and effort. For he alone has the power to transform our lives and thus renew our enthusiasm for proclaiming and handing on the faith, enabling us to help the brothers and sisters we meet along our pilgrimage to live a personal relationship with Christ and discover the joy of the Gospel.

A personal encounter with Jesus Christ—a gift that is freely given—has its focal point at the Last Supper, where, in offering his body as the bread of life and his blood as the drink of salvation (*cf. Mt 26:26–28*), he asks the Father that all his disciples may be one so that the world may believe (*cf. Jn 17:21*). The Lord awaits us above all in the Eucharist and in the word, the two "tables" that nourish us and give us life. But he also comes to us through ecclesial communion and the fraternal welcome we extend to our neighbor, where we find him present and in need. Evangelizing, therefore, does not mean imposing doctrines or trusting in efficient strategies, but bearing witness to that real encounter with Jesus Christ.

Indeed, evangelization is centered on the witness of life and closeness within the believing community. Without this witness, the explicit proclamation of Jesus Christ is not possible. As Pope Francis reminded us, evangelization is based on faith and on "the beauty of the saving love of God made manifest in Jesus Christ who died and rose from the dead" (*Evangelii gaudium, 36*), and not on persuasive speeches based on mere human wisdom or on proselytism (*cf. 1 Cor 2:1–5*). It is also a task marked by joy, since the joy of the Gospel is renewed and multiplied when it is shared.

The joyful and life-giving transmission of the message of salvation calls for an attitude of humility and solicitude on our part, as well as profound respect for each person's conscience and freedom. In this task, it may help us to recover the practice of "praying together," especially in our

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ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Friday, December 4, 2026 at 7:30pm

A Service of Sacred Music and Scripture Celebrating the Advent Season.

Sing hymns, listen to our choirs and experience the organ and other instruments as our Saint Bernadette Music Ministry leads a peace-filled evening of joyful expectation and longing for Christ's coming!

This beautiful service will last about one hour and is appropriate for the whole family.

homes, remembering that Christian families are the missionary nucleus. As "domestic Churches," they lead their members to participate actively in the life of local communities, of the larger community of the universal Church and of society as a whole.

In this regard, the reading we have heard from the Second Letter of John also helps us to consider the dimension of charity as indispensable to evangelization, because the proclamation of the faith is linked to charity and the care of those most in need. In that letter, Saint John makes an urgent appeal to fraternal love. For a baptized person, love of neighbor is at the heart of the Christian message, the commandment received "from the beginning" (*2 Jn 1:5*). This practical, committed and respectful love also demonstrates the unbreakable bond between the proclamation of the Gospel and the effort to transform the structures of human coexistence (*cf. Magnifica Humanitas, 30*).

At the same time, charity is inseparable from truth, which is not a theory, an abstract idea or a utopia, but a person, Jesus Christ, who invites us to conform our lives to his in faithful obedience to his commandments. The harmony between charity and truth calls us to make our faith concrete, so as to spread, with renewed joy, the fragrant perfume of holiness. Let us remember that without truth, love degenerates into mere sentimentality, while truth without love becomes rigid and cold (*cf. Caritas in Veritate, 3*).

For this reason, evangelization today must face the changing conditions and dynamics involved in the transmission of the faith. In some regions of the world, this transmission has been almost entirely abandoned. Faced with this situation, we must all have the courage to take on new challenges, such as the religious indifference, materialism and selfishness that dictate everyday decisions. This commitment calls us to maintain harmony between a heart filled with love for God and neighbor and a mind anchored in the truth of the Gospel.

Dear friends, mission cannot be improvised. Indeed, we proclaim what we have encountered, the salvation we have experienced, the forgiveness of sins granted to us and the discovery of the true meaning of life, because "every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus" (*Evangelii Gaudium, 120*).

I pray that this love may set fire to the life of each one of us, so that, as baptized persons and as a Christian community, we may go out into the world and spread to others the joy born of our encounter with the risen Lord. May we make that joy present in our families, in our workplaces through the

continued on page 18

happening here

Parish Offertory

November 15

Offertory	*$ 40,228*
Facilities/Maintenance	*5,818*

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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ADVENT YEAR *of* GRACE 2027

Daily Mass

Monday—Friday • 7 & 9am, Saturday • 8am
Adoration, Fridays • 7pm

December 5, 12, 19: Regular Confession Schedule

Saturdays • 3:30pm, *or by appointment.*
All are kindly asked to arrive as near as possible to the beginning of scheduled times, and to be patient.
Confessions end once Mass begins.

Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation, December 8

Vigil Mass, December 7, Monday • 7:30pm
Tuesday, December 8 • 7 & 9am, Noon, 7:30pm
The 7:30pm Mass is bilingual, English and Spanish.

Advent Lessons and Carols

Friday, December 4 • 7:30pm
Join us for scripture and seasonal music.

Parish Advent Penance Service

Tuesday, December 15 • 6:30pm
a special evening service of reconciliation will be offered with 16 priests. Please be sure to come.

•

Please note: opportunities probably will be limited for confessions, although we will have three priests on Sundays of Advent this year. Please plan to attend the parish penance service on December 16.



CELEBRATING *the* CHRISTMAS SEASON

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES
4:30pm, 8:30pm (*preceded by a Choir Carol Prelude at 4 and 8pm respectively*)
Midnight Mass • 12am (*preceded by Saint Bernadette Choir Prelude of Carols at 11:15pm*)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES
(Midnight Mass)
7, 9, 11am & 1pm *(en español)*
Note: There is NO 5pm Mass on Christmas Day

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

FEAST *of the* HOLY FAMILY
We will follow the regular Saturday Vigil and Sunday Mass schedule for the parish

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

SOLEMNITY *of* MARY, MOTHER *of* GOD
A Holy Day of Obligation
Regular Holy Day schedule: **Vigil Thursday, 7:30pm**
Thursday: 7 & 9am, Noon, 7:30pm (bilingual)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

SOLEMNITY *of the* EPIPHANY *of the* LORD
We will follow the regular Saturday Vigil and Sunday Mass schedule for the parish

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

***The* BAPTISM *of the* LORD**
The Christmas season ends today with our regular daily Mass schedule.

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

Announcing Saint Bernadette's 2026 Giving Tree

Welcome to our Giving Tree Program.
We welcome you to select an organization from the tree and use the URL or QR code on the tag. We encourage everyone to take this opportunity to help those less fortunate and bring some Christmas joy into others' lives. Some items will be accepted here at the Church. **Plan to make your donation/gift available to the organization by noon on December 4**, to ensure delivery by Christmas. Remember, the most fulfilling way to enjoy Christmas is to give!

Gift Cards can be dropped off @ Parish Office - Sleeping Bags Church
CATHOLIC CHARITIES of the Diocese of Arlington receives hundreds of calls from seniors, the disabled or working poor, families and the unemployed seeking food, toiletries,clothing, and financial assistance for prescriptions, utilities, and rent. Gift cards in $25 increments to any of the following: Aldi, Wegman's, Sheetz or Shell Gas Cards. 50 Sleeping bags with a 32 ° rating.

Visit the QR Code on the Gift Tag
CHRIST HOUSE This is a men's transitional shelter, and emergency aid office in Old Town Alexandria run by Catholic Charities. It provides food and clothing and helps people in crisis situations to avoid eviction or termination of essential utilities. We are in need of weather-rated sleeping bags.

Visit ECHO's Website for their Amazon Wishlist
ECHO Ecumenical Community Helping Others is a local service which provides for those in the Springfield area who have difficulty providing for themselves. Please do not buy gift cards for ECHO recipients. ECHO will be collecting their gifts earlier than the other charities.

Visit the QR Code on the Gift Tag
PROJECT GABRIEL / PROJECT RACHEL This organization provides aid for people suffering from the pain of abortion and provides aid for pregnant women in desperate situations.

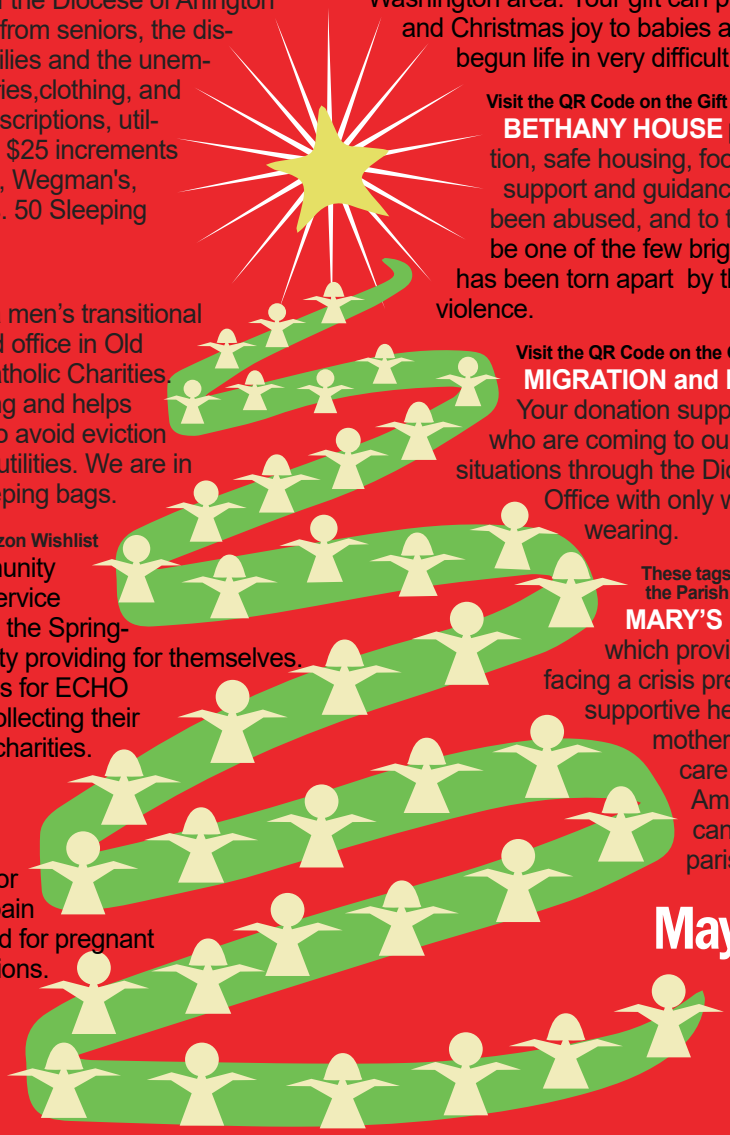
SAINT BERNADETTE LOCAL WORK OF MERCY
Help us share the warmth this season by supporting children at North Springfield Elementary School with the gift of a new winter coat. They are requesting 50 coats for children in all grades. For your convenience you may use the Tap to Give plate on the back of the pew to check out our published list or check out the list here. Thank you for supporting our local Work of Mercy.

Visit the QR Code on the Gift Tag
ST. ANN'S CENTER FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES is a Catholic Care Center that provides for teen mothers and their children in great need within the Washington area. Your gift can provide support to mothers and Christmas joy to babies and children who have begun life in very difficult circumstances.

Visit the QR Code on the Gift Tag
BETHANY HOUSE provides crisis intervention, safe housing, food, clothing and emotional support and guidance to spouses who have been abused, and to their children. Your gift will be one of the few bright spots in a family which has been torn apart by the tragedy of domestic violence.

Visit the QR Code on the Gift Tag
MIGRATION and REFUGEE SERVICES Your donation supports individuals or families who are coming to our country from very difficult situations through the Diocesan Resettlement Office with only with the clothes they are wearing.

These tags / Gift Cards can be dropped off in the Parish Office
MARY'S COMFORT is a program which provides housing for women facing a crisis pregnancy, along with supportive help and guidance for mother and baby in all stages of care. $25-$50 Walmart or Amazon gift cards. Gift cards can be dropped off in the parish office.



May God bless you for your generosity!

Thank you for your continued generosity and support!!

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

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

23 MONDAY
7am † Roberto Bombasi
9am* The Alain Family
Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5/Lk 21:1-4

24 TUESDAY
7am † Socorro Masakayan
9am* † Frank & Jeanette Devoti
Rv 14:14-19/Lk 21:5-11

25 WEDNESDAY
7am † John Rafferty
9am* † Edward Mountel
Rv 15:1-4/Lk 21:12-19

26 THURSDAY
10am* † Mary Mountel
Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a/Lk 21:20-28

27 FRIDAY
7am Zenaida Cruz
8:30a † Gert Cutter
10am** † Bob Kaiser
Rv 20:1-4, 11—21:2/Lk 21:29-33

28 SATURDAY
8am † Diana Lenahan
Rv 22:1-7/Lk 21:34-36
5pm* For the parish

29 SUNDAY
7am Alexander Rooney
9am* † Consuelo Fernandez
11am † Stanley Dereska
1pm* † Frank Duff
5pm † Helen Mary Reid
Is 63:16b-19b; 64:2-7/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

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

Masses next weekend

Nov 28	5pm	Fr. Don
Nov 29	7am	Fr. Don
	9am	Fr. Daniel
	11am	Fr. Don
	1pm	Fr. Daniel
	5pm	Fr. Cedric

Parish prayer list

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, Cherie Gribschaw, Dan Tobin, Gene O'Neill. Robert Williams, Jr., Mary Walker, Mark Williams

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

Mary's Comfort is excited that we will have our first full-program graduate this month! Our longest residing guest will be moving out with her toddler into an apartment. Thanks to your support she is managing a full-time job, car and savings account (in addition to her adorable little girl!). We continue to support another guest and her infant and we are trying to expand our services, too. If you are interested in learning more or supporting our efforts, view our website https://www.maryscomfortva.org/ and contact us at maryscomfortva@gmail.com.

continued from page 18

excellence of our professional work and in the public sphere, resisting the temptation to relegate faith to the private realm. In this apostolic commitment, the Church helps us become aware that, as living stones, we share a common responsibility for building God's temple (*cf. 1 Pet 2:5*).

Dear brothers and sisters, the world is waiting for us and the mission is only beginning. Therefore, here in Chiclayo and throughout Peru, I invite you—beginning with this first celebration of our reunion at the Lord's altar—to commit yourselves to sharing the living hope that is Jesus Christ and to let the Gospel "overflow" from our hamlets, towns and cities, proclaiming to all the "glory of the Lord." May the intercession of Our Lady of Evangelization help us in the task of proclaiming the Good News to all creation (*cf. Mk 16:15*). Amen.

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