

So fear the Lord and serve Him wholeheartedly...
But if you refuse to serve the Lord,

CHOOSE TODAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE

But as for me and my family,
WE WILL SERVE THE LORD!

Joshua 24:14-15

SAINT BERNADETTE OF LOURDES PARISH
"WHERE MIRACLES HAPPEN"

1035 TURNER AVENUE † DREXEL HILL PA 19026
RECTORY: (610)789-7676 † FAX: (610)789-9539 † SCHOOL: (610)449-5184
† PARISH WEBSITE: WWW.STBL.ORG

AUGUST 25, 2024 — TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASSES

SATURDAY VIGIL: 4:30PM

SUNDAY: 9:00AM AND 11:00AM

WEEKDAY MASS

MONDAY—FRIDAY 8:30AM

HOLY DAY MASSES

TIMES ANNOUNCED IN SUNDAY BULLETIN

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 3:30PM — 4:15PM

Pastor

Rev. John P. Masson (Ext. 104)
Email (frmasson@stbl.org)

Retired Priest

Rev. Lawrence F. Crehan

Retired Deacon

Deacon Thomas P. Fitzpatrick
Email (deacontom@stbl.org)

Director of Religious Education

Marykate Murphy (Ext. 212)

School Principal

Mrs. Fran McElhenney

Parish Business Manager

Robert J. Helmig (Ext. 103)

Administrative Secretary

Helen V. Kraus (ext. 101)

Parish Music Coordinator

Dorothy Toomey

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Life is difficult. We struggle each day as we try to balance our checkbooks, our time, and our obligations. We come here to worship each week when we could be somewhere else, doing something else. Our faith, our sense of what God is calling us to do, and the Holy Spirit draws us here instead. But each Sunday it is ultimately our decision. We have made the decision to give this hour to the Lord. The readings we hear today remind us that each of the Chosen People and each of Jesus' disciples were faced with the same decision. May their inspire us.

Parish Information

NEW FAMILIES

Welcome to St. Bernadette Parish! To register in the parish, please email Deacon Tom Fitzpatrick at deacontom@stbl.org. He will get back to you to arrange a convenient time to meet with him to register. We are eager to greet new members of our parish community and look forward to meeting you.

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

The rectory office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00am to noon and 1:00pm to 5:00pm. **During the summer the rectory will close at 3:00pm on Fridays.** Items for the Sunday newsletter must be at the rectory by Monday at noon for publication the following Sunday.

BAPTISMS

Baptisms are held at 12 noon on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. **Parents must attend a Pre-Jordan class held in the Wright Center at 12 noon on the first Sunday of every other month. Registration for the class is required. In order to arrange for a baptism, the parents must be active members of the parish. To register, please call the rectory office at 610/789-7676 ext. 101.** Godparents should be practicing Catholics, confirmed and at least 16 years of age. If not from this parish, sponsors must have a letter of eligibility from their parish stating that they have been actively participating. St. Bernadette Parishioners must be registered and actively participating.

MARRIAGES

We request that couples contemplating marriage call the rectory to make an appointment with the priest. At this initial interview, the date and time of your request will be recorded and you will receive a copy of the Parish Wedding Guidelines.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK/COMMUNION CALLS

A priest will administer Holy Communion to parishioners who are unable to come to Church. If you desire, Eucharistic Ministers can bring Communion each week. Please contact the Rectory to be placed on our Sick List. Parishioners who are to undergo serious surgery at a hospital are encouraged to make an appointment at the Rectory before going to the hospital.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St. Bernadette School offers sessions for Pre-School and Kindergarten and conducts full-time classes from first through eighth grades. PREP classes are held in the parish school for all students attending public school. PREP classes are held on Monday evenings at 6:30pm. Adults seeking religious instruction should call Marykate Murphy, Director of Religious Education at (610) 789-7676 ext. 212. The RCIA Program begins in October.

SAINT BERNADETTE PARISH ON FACEBOOK

We can be found at "Saint Bernadette of Lourdes Parish". Check out the page and "like" us to keep up with the latest parish news.

Entrance to the Chapel is through the Prayer Garden. The entrance code is 5076.

VISITS TO THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT can be made in the Chapel

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY takes place every Monday through Friday at 8:00am in the church.

DEVOTION TO ST. LEONIE AVIAT takes place every Tuesday at 7:00pm in the Chapel.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP meets in the Wright Center/chapel every Tuesday at 7:30pm.

FLAME OF LOVE PRAYER CENACLE takes place Thursday at 7:00pm in the chapel.

RESPECT LIFE GROUP information can be obtained by calling Doris Hurd at 610-789-2708.

MUSIC MINISTRY is open to all who wish to share their time and talent in praise and thanksgiving to God – call Dottie Toomey at 610/449-4013 for rehearsal times.

MARTHAS AND JOSEPHS meet every Thursday in Church following the 8:30am Mass. All who wish to help clean the church are welcome to join us.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Ave Maria Council #4063 serve St Bernadette Parish invites interested men 18 years of age and older to join in fraternity and the service to our parish and greater community; contact jsavaresejr@gmail.com

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS meetings are held every Thursday at 9:30am in O'Brien Hall.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPICE Casseroles to feed the homeless sponsored by St. John's Hospice in Philadelphia are collected in O'Brien Hall before the weekend Masses that precede the first Thursday of the month. Casserole pans are available in the main entrance of church. Call Mary at 610/789-6206.

FOOD PANTRY

Non-perishable food items for the Food Pantry can be placed in bags and left in the vestibules of church. Any monetary donations or donations of gift cards should be sent to Fr. Masson. If you have a question, contact Amy Sandman at foodpantry@stbl.org.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 24

4:30pm Gloria Luongo

Sunday, August 25

9:00am Dolores Kearney

11:00am Living and Deceased of St. Bernadette Parish

Monday, August 26

8:30am Thomas Coyle and Family

Tuesday, August 27 - St. Monica

8:30am Healing of Mary Jane Latella

Wednesday, August 28 - St. Augustine

8:30am Michael Johnson

Thursday, August 29 - Passion of St. John the Baptist

8:30am Eileen M. Collins

Friday, August 30

8:30am Michael Johnson

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 31

4:30pm Charles Luongo

Sunday, September 1

9:00am Deceased of Johanneson & Grace Families

11:00am Living and Deceased of St. Bernadette Parish



FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

This week's readings will be:

First Reading - Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b

Second Reading - Ephesians 5:21-32

Third Reading - John 6:60-69

Next week's readings will be:

First Reading - Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

Second Reading - James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27

Gospel - Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into Hell Satan and the other evil spirits who prowl about the world for the ruin of souls. Amen

FINANCIAL FACTS

August 18, 2024

Weekly: \$9,846 target of \$15,000

\$7,544 (Collection) + \$2,302 (Parish Giving)



- September 1 PreJordan Class
- 2 Labor Day Holiday
- 3 St. Bernadette School Opens
- 4 Adoration begins every Wednesday following the 8:30am Mass
- 6 School Mass - 8:30am



St. Bernadette Scrip Program is the parish program where you purchase gift cards to your favorite stores and receive a rebate that can be applied towards school tuition, PREP, high school tuition or donated to the parish. The purpose of the program is to help St. Bernadette families earn cash back on everyday purchases and support the parish.

Thank you to the parishioners who offer their rebate back to the school & parish. Your donation and support is greatly appreciated! If you are a school family, you know the rebates add up and significantly reduce your tuition payment over the course of the year. Please tell a friend so more families can save!

Gift card sales are Sunday mornings from 9:30am - 11:00am in the Wright Center. On-hand inventory for purchase includes: Giant, ACME, ShopRite, Colonial Village, CVS, Sam's Boardwalk Pizza & Dairy Bar, JD McGillicuddy's, Amazon, Dairy Queen, Krispy Kreme, Freddy's, Chipotle, WaWa, Dunkin, Panera & Kohl's. VISA gift cards are available with no activation fee; \$25, \$50 & \$100.

For national card orders — order by 7pm on Monday for pick up on Sunday. For more info and a full list of retailers, please visit: <https://www.st-bernadette.org/scrip-program>. Questions: email scrip4bernies@gmail.com Thank you!

Susan Coyne & Karen Murphy
Scrip Coordinators

NO REGRETS

You may be sorry that you spoke, sorry you stayed or went, sorry you won or lost, sorry so much was spent. But as you go through life, you'll find — you're never sorry you were kind.

— Herbert V. Prochnow and
Herbert V. Prochnow, Jr.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ST. BERNADETTE PARISH PRE-JORDAN CLASS

Baptisms are held at 12 noon on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Parents must attend a Pre-Jordan class held in the Wright Center at 12 noon on the first Sunday of every other month. The next class is on **Sunday, September 1**. Registration for the class is required. To register, please call the rectory office at 610/789-7676 ext. 101.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

Are you interested in learning more about our Catholic Faith? Would you or a friend be curious about becoming a member of the Catholic Church? St. Bernadette Parish offers classes for the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults or OCIA (formerly known as RCIA) from October through the Easter Season. Please reach out to Marykate Murphy ~ mmurphy@stbl.org for more information.

GRIEVING SUPPORT GROUP

A Grieving Support Group will be offered for 8 consecutive Tuesday evenings beginning September 10, 2024, starting at 7pm until 8:30pm, for adults who have experienced the death of a loved one. The program will be held on the 1st floor of St. Bernadette's Wright Center. No matter how long it has been since your loss, unattended grief may linger. This is an opportunity to be with others who are also grieving and seek ways to help each other through the grieving process. Literature regarding loss and grief will be available. The program is facilitated by George Salloom, a retired healthcare social worker, hospice volunteer, and a member of the Havertown Ministerium. For more information call George Salloom @ 610-306-0252 or email-georgesalloom@hotmail.com. Thank you, Rev. John Masson, and St. Bernadette's Parish, for providing the support and space for this program.

"Grieving is a difficult and challenging process, and it affects us all in different ways.

Working together we can find ways to help one another work through our grief."

ST. BERNADETTE BIBLE GROUP

Want to learn more about the Bible and grow in your faith? A group of us do here at Saint Bernadette. Deacon Tom our presenter, will begin a four- part series beginning Thursday, September 19th, 26th, October 3rd and 10th, in the Wright Center at 6pm. We are very excited and would love if you and someone you know could join us as we embark on this journey together. If you have any questions, please call Amy at 610-931-5692 or Debbie at 215-470-8086. We look forward to having you join us and meet some new friends.

ST. BERNADETTE FAIR #2

ONE, TWO....WOW, we are gearing up for #2 - St. Bernie's Fun Fair and we are looking for YOU!

Website Design & Maintenance: We're seeking a person who can work closely with our marketing team to be able to design/create a website that is conducive to our marketing needs for fundraising. Specifically, digital tickets and a software package that may be associated with this as well.

Grant's Admin: This is for someone who loves some good paperwork for a great cause. We'd seek someone who is able to fill out a few applications to major organizations.

If you feel you may be THAT person and want to work with a group of great people and get involved in your parish, please reach out to Kat Hernandez at berniesfair@gmail.com – Thank you!

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

Dearest St. Bernadette parishioners!

I trust that everyone is enjoying a restful summer and has had some memorable vacation time with family and friends. I look forward to welcoming back the members of the St. Bernadette Music Ministry. I love to listen to the beautiful voices I hear in the congregation as I sit at the organ in the choir loft and I really appreciate the wonderful community support that you give to help enhance our liturgies each week. We have been blessed with the talents of Jennifer Burnett, Rose Marie Erl, Steve Clement and Susan Borio to lead us in song this summer. As always, everyone (from ages 4-144) is invited to join us as we praise and worship our God in song. If you or anyone in your family is contemplating joining the Adult Choir, the Cherub Choir, the St. Bernadette School Choir, or Adult Guitar Group, this is the year. In addition, if you play a musical instrument and are in high school or older, please come and see Dottie Toomey in the choir loft any Saturday after the 4:30pm Mass or Sunday after the 9:00am or 11:00am Masses.

The rehearsal schedule will be as follows:

Adult Choir - Wednesday, 9/11 7:30pm (choir loft)

Cherub Choir (preK 4-2nd gr) Sunday 9/15 8:15am (BVM altar)

School Choir (gr. 3rd-8th) Wed/ Thurs 9/11 and 9/12 7:30am -8am (loft)

Adult Guitar Group...please see Dottie Toomey or Kathy Markopoulos.

God has truly blessed us with many gifts and He wants us to share them with our family and community. Always keep a song in your heart.

Musically yours,
Dottie Toomey
Parish Music Director

THE PASTOR'S COLUMN

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSEHOLD, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.

Today's readings remind me of meditation in the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. In the first reading we hear a speech from Joshua who took over after Moses and is establishing the Chosen People in their new land. He gives them a choice to follow the Lord or follow other false gods. In the Gospel, Jesus, after giving the hard teaching about the Bread of Life and some people returning to their former ways of life, asks the apostles if they also want to leave. In both readings there are hard choices to be made. So it is in the Meditation on the Two Standards.

The Meditation of the Two Standards asks retreatants to imagine two armies on a battlefield, each holding a flag (a "standard"), and ready to charge into battle. On one side is the army of Christ; on the other, the army of the devil. It is an imaginative scene that might evoke in some people images from their favorite war epic. I personally always think of the opening of the Lord of the Rings, the Fellowship of the Ring. Ignatius is showing us in this meditation that what seems attractive can lead us nowhere or, worse, can even destroy us. The two 'standards' are two banners, and Ignatius is asking us, which banner do you stand beneath – the banner of Lucifer or the banner of Jesus? Whose kingdom am I going to work for – my own or God's? Are we going to build Babylon or a New Jerusalem? He puts before us two value systems and places in stark contrast the values of Jesus, who leads us to God and life, and the values of Lucifer, the Enemy who leads us away from God and our true selves. Ignatius is saying that these two sets of values are in opposition to one another, that we cannot have both, that we cannot worship both God and Mammon, and that we cannot make both ourselves and God the center of our world. This exercise forces us to choose.

Moreover, we need to recognize that these forces are active and at work in our world today. Authentic spirituality requires us to be dedicated to reality at all costs – to see things as they are, to be aware and consciously self-honest. Most of us realize that we can be very creative at times and very destructive at others; that we can be both big-hearted and mean-spirited; that our belief in ourselves grows sometimes, at others it diminishes; that some things draw us closer to God, others turn us away from God and in on ourselves. This meditation makes us confront the whole question of where our allegiance lies and in dramatic form puts before us a fundamental decision: I have a choice, and I need to make a choice. It is a choice that we face not just once, but frequently in our decisions, in our daily lives. The choice to stand with Jesus is a choice for life, as opposed to death, for God's blessing rather than curse.

(Excerpts from: 'Give them exactly what they want':
The Meditation on the Two Standards by Roger Dawson SJ)

What's Happening

THANK YOU FROM MOTHERS' HOME

Dear Fr. Masson,

On behalf of Mothers' Home, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you and your parishioners for their gracious donations of \$1,730.29 for the 2024 Bottle Drive held by St. Bernadette Parish and School. Monetary gifts to Mothers' Home are so important in keeping the daily operations of Mothers' Home functioning. Your donations help us to be able to purchase much needed items for the residents and their children as they move toward reaching their goals while here at Mothers' Home. Other monetary support, such as grants, must be used for specific reasons, but the baby bottle drives enable us to provide the additional resources needed for general operating expenses. Your support for our mission at Mothers' Home is so greatly appreciated. Without your willingness to participate in the baby bottle drives, we could not accomplish all that we do for these women and their babies.

Sincerely,

Mary Rose Worrilow, Ed.D. — Coordinator, Baby Bottle Drives

PRE-CANA

St. John Chrysostom Parish in Wallingford will offer their fall **in-person Pre-Cana Day** on **Saturday, Sept. 14**. St. John's is one of the few Delco parishes that offers Pre-Cana and welcomes couples from all over. Couples may learn more and register online at www.sjcp parish.org/pre-cana or call us with any questions at (610) 874-3418.

NINTH ANNUAL PADRE PIO FESTIVAL

ST. BEDE THE VENERABLE PARISH — SEPTEMBER 14 - 15, 2024

Saint Bede the Venerable Church, located in Holland, Pennsylvania (Bucks County, Northampton Township), welcomes all to its Eighth Annual Festival to honor St. Pio of Pietrelcina, better known as "Padre Pio," on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 14 and 15. The two-day event begins with Saturday's All-American Picnic Buffet (tickets will be sold at the event), featuring games and amusements for children, food and craft vendors, and live music. The highlight will be a **5:30pm Vigil Mass**, followed by blessings with holy relics of Padre Pio.

The Sunday Sept. 15 **12:30pm Solemn Mass** will be extra special this year, as it will be celebrated by **Fr Pio Mandato**. The Mass is followed by a street procession with a statue of Padre Pio through the surrounding neighborhood. After the procession, there will be a healing service with confessions and veneration of holy relics. All day there will be specialty food and craft vendors, amusements for children, and live musical entertainment.

Plenty of free parking will be available, and pilgrim buses are welcome. For more information, go online to padrepiofestivalhollandpa.com, or call the St. Bede parish office at **215-357-5720**.



WE PRAY FOR THE SICK - Bill Albertson, Fred Amatucci, Elizabeth Burrichter Arginteanu, Hannah Atkins.

Frank Barba, Marcus Bianco, Dan Bigioni, Tom Blisard, Pamela Bower, Joseph Bradley, Marie Bree, Chrissy Campbell, Theresa Caputo, Michael Carroll, Anne Casey, Peter Celucci, Robert & Joanne Christopher, Elaine Cole, Jennie Colianni, Mike Connors, Quinn Connors, Dennis Conway, Dave Costella, Tom Coyle, Floyd Crouch, Barbara Cunningham, Laurel Dee, Michael DeEmilo, Alicia DeStefano, Frances Diegnan, MaryEllen Diehl, Christopher DiMarto, John DiSalvatore, Gabriella DiSaverio, Darrin Dougherty, Dawn Dougherty, Michael Dougherty, James Drumm, Lexi Dunn, Bernie Dupras, Jason Durkee, Matthew Dwyer, Bruce Einstein, Emily Einstein, Marie Feola, Patrick Flanigan, Jr., Emily Flynn, Jerry Flynn, Joe Flynn, Maggie Franz, Stu Glatsky, Christine Grosso, Joan Grycewicz, Rachel Hagan, Ruth Harold, Greg Harvey, Gail Hawthorne, Kim Hayman, Pat Henningsen, Kenneth Hernandez, Judith Holmes, Baby Lila Holmes, Adrian Hughes, Baby Rita May Hughes, John Huver, John Ingle, Ashley Juliano, David Kisella, Carla King, Linda King, Wilmer Lehman, Steven Little, Theo Lockhart, Betsy Long, Avi Lurie, Michele Malolie, Joseph Maturo, Patricia McDevitt, Kathy Martin, James Maynard, Donald Mayo, Neil McClelland, Helene McCole, Jean McCormack, Karen McIlvaine, Sean McKeefery, Theresa McKeefery, Rosie McKenna, Emily Meakim, Theresa Merlini, Christopher Milecki, Sue Mitchell, Will Mooney, Eileen Morris, Karyl Murray, Stephen Murray, Matthew Nicholas, Nancy Nicholas, Roman O'Brien, Nicole Pagett, Fr. Francis Pileggi OSF, Steve Piperno, Joseph Polto, Joseph Pozzuolo, Sharon Pozzuolo, Christopher Rafferty, Lucy Rapp, Mary Rhodunda, Alicia Ridge, Dan Rock, Rich Rogge, Anna Rokos, Evelyn Runk, John Rusenko, Tony Anthony Sarmento, Marie Seiler, Shane Seningen, Michael Shane, Pamela Shapiro, Amy Sheeler, Theresa Sherwin, Marion Sloan, Kristin Sorrentino, Ron Spade, Kevin Spaziani, Joe Subio, Daniel Suskevich, Kathleen Coyle Tewey, Emily Tong, Renee Trivelis, Mario Turchiarolo, Jim Tyson, Annie Walker, Lily Walker, Zoe Wallace, David Weaver, Jim Weaver, Jerry Weiss, Mary Wieners, Susan Sterner Wood and those suffering from serious illnesses & incurable diseases.

HOSPITAL SICK CALLS - Emergency sick calls may be made to the rectory at any time. If surgery or admission to the hospital is scheduled, please call the rectory ahead of time to make arrangements to receive the Sacrament of the Sick. Due to the privacy act, if you are in the hospital and wish to see a priest while you are there, you must register as a Catholic when admitted or make sure a family member does so for you to assure a visit by a priest or Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist.