



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

DECEMBER 15, 2024 — THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We will hear it at least a few times over the next two weeks: "It's better to give than to receive." We recognize this when we see the expressions of joy in a child's face or tears of appreciation from a parent or spouse when they open a gift we've given them. Jesus himself said the same words to his disciples, though in a context more like the one we hear today with John the Baptist preaching to the crowds to share what they have with those who have less. As we prepare for the Lord's coming, let us share from the bounty the Lord has blessed us with and give to those in need. In our hearts, may we continually relearn the blessings of giving.

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.

WEDNESDAY ADORATION takes place in church every Wednesday through May following the 8:30am Mass and concluding at 7pm with devotions and benediction.

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 for the Intentions for the Week

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 14

4:30pm Living and Deceased of St. Bernadette Parish

Sunday, December 15

9:00am Patty Kelly (15th Anniversary)

11:00am Bob McKenna and Mary Copley

Monday, December 16

8:30am Deceased Members of Colden Family

Tuesday, December 17

8:30am Marianne McLaughlin

Wednesday, December 18

8:30am Mary Ellen Diehl

Thursday, December 19

8:30am James P. McDonald

Friday, December 20

8:30am Charles Alfred Walker

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 21

4:30pm Paul and Michael Lumi

Sunday, December 22

9:00am Living and Deceased of St. Bernadette Parish

11:00am Joseph and Virginia DiMario



FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

This week's readings will be:

First Reading - Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Second Reading - Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel - Luke 3:10-18

Next week's readings will be:

First Reading - Micah 5:1-4a

Second Reading - Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel - Luke 1:39-45



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



2024 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

CONFESSIONS

Saturday, December 14 and 21

3:00pm – 4:15pm

Monday, December 16

7:00pm – 8:00pm

MASSES

Vigil Mass

Tuesday, December 24

4:00pm and 6:00pm

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25

9:00am and 11:00am

2025 NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

CONFESSIONS

Saturday, December 28

3:30pm – 4:15pm

MASSES

Vigil Mass

Tuesday, December 31

4:30pm

New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 1

8:30am and 7:00pm

FINANCIAL FACTS

December 8, 2024

Weekly: \$14,586 target of \$15,000

\$9,589 (Collection) + \$4,997 (Parish Giving)

HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES

December 22 due noon – Monday, December 16

December 29 due noon – Monday, December 16

January 5 due noon - Wednesday, December 18

SYMPATHIES AND PRAYERS

We extend our sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of Donna Donohue who was recently buried from our church.



Christmas Giving Project

PARISH GIVING TREE

Christmas is a time for giving. Give a gift to the less fortunate families. Remove a tag from the tree and return the gift with the tag attached. **SPECIAL NOTE:** Gifts should **NOT** be wrapped and **NOT** placed in gift bags. We have been asked to bring the gifts with just the tags attached to ease the distribution of the gifts by the various organizations. You may bring the gifts in the boxes or bags from the store. **All gifts must be returned no later than Sunday, December 15. The gifts will be distributed on December 16, 17 and 18.**

St. John's Hospice (Men)

Knitted hats, scarves, gloves, belts, long underwear (tops and bottoms), regular underwear, flannel shirts, hooded sweat-shirts (L & XL)

Women of Change

Single bed sheets, towels, wash cloths, nightgowns, robes, slippers, sweatshirts, sweatpants, flannel shirts, regular underwear, woolen hats and gloves (no scarves) - sizes L, XL and XXL for clothing items

Gift of Mary

(Mother Teresa's Sisters in Chester)

SPECIAL NOTE: This year, instead of toys, the Sisters have asked for diapers (especially large sizes), wipes, hats, gloves, napkins, disinfectant wipes, children's sweatpants and adult sweatpants.

PARISH CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

The Christmas Food Drive ends on Sunday, December 15 from 1pm - 3pm. Please leave any donations behind the last pew in the back of the church on the Blessed Mother side. If you wish to donate a fresh or frozen turkey please contact Amy Sandman at 610-931-5692 before December 15. Any monetary donations should be sent directly to the rectory labeled Food Pantry. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Items needed for the Christmas food drives:

turkey gravy, cranberry sauce, canned yams, canned vegetables, canned soup, applesauce, canned fruit, pasta and pasta sauce, boxed side dishes, boxed mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter and jelly, condiments, salad dressings, cooking oil, cereal, oatmeal, breakfast bars, pop tarts, snacks, crackers, cookies, protein bars, mixed nuts, pancake mix, pancake syrup, boxed cake mix, boxed brownie mix, coffee, tea, juice, pudding cups, canned Chef Boyardee, canned beef stew, canned chili, canned tuna, Clorox wipes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, shaving cream, shampoo and conditioner, toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, laundry pods, bars of soap, body wash, and lotion. Gift cards and any monetary donations should be dropped off at the rectory labeled Food Pantry.

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

Those who wish to adopt a family or a person in need in the parish who would otherwise not be able to provide Christmas presents, please call or text Amy Sandman at 610-931-5692.



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



December 16 Confessions - 7pm - 8pm

We will be decorating the Church for Christmas on

December 15 Following the 11am Mass

December 23 Following the 8:30am Mass

Feel free to join us on the 15th and/or the 23rd to help us decorate the church. ALL are welcome.

Third Advent Candle: Joy – “Gaudete Sunday”

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’”

(Luke 2:10-12)

The third candle of Advent symbolizes **Joy**. As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more and more. The third candle takes us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even before the wise men. On this third Sunday of Advent, which the Church calls “Gaudete Sunday,” meaning rejoice or praise, we light the third candle and rejoice like the shepherds. For this reason, the third candle of Advent is called the **“Shepherd’s Candle,”** and its color is **pink**, the liturgical color for joy. This Advent, light the third candle on **Sunday, December 15, 2024.**

THE PASTOR'S COLUMN

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!

Paul writes in today's second reading, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!" or as another translation has it, "I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness." (Phil 4:4) Notice where he says we will find our happiness, "in the Lord." We will find our happiness by living a life of Faith.

There are a number of times in scripture that we see Jesus being happy and joyful. In John 15:11 we read Jesus saying, "I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete." Jesus was joyful and wanted his disciples to share his joy, "I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete." Jesus attended many dinners: the one given him by Matthew after he called him; at Zacchaeus' house; and Pharisees invited Jesus to dinner; and there was dinner at Lazarus' house. At Cana, Jesus changed water into wine so that the wedding guests could continue to enjoy themselves.

The first step to become happy in the Lord is to give up sin so that we can live a life of grace with the Lord. In the Gospel today three times people asked John the Baptist, "what should we do?" Each time he told them to give up something or not to be greedy. Our journey of conversion is a journey from wanting and being greedy and possessive to becoming unselfish. That was the journey John the Baptist asked his hearers to make and the journey we are challenged to make this Advent so that we will have true joy and happiness to celebrate at Christmas rather than just Santa Claus coming to town.



WE PRAY FOR THE SICK - Bill Albertson, Fred Amatucci, Elizabeth Burrichter Arginteanu, Hannah Atkins. Frank Barba, Anna Benoit, Marcus Bianco, Dan Bigioni, TPamela Bower, Joseph Bradley, Marie Bree, Theresa Caputo, Michael Carroll, Anne Casey, Peter Celucci, Robert & Joanne Christopher, Elaine Cole, Mike Connors, Quinn Connors, Dennis Conway, Dave Costella, Tom Coyle, Floyd Crouch, Barbara Cunningham, Laurel Dee, Michael DeEmilo, Alicia DeStefano, Frances Diegnan, Christopher DiMarto, John DiSalvatore, Gabriella DiSaverio, Darrin Dougherty, Dawn Dougherty, Michael Dougherty, Lexi Dunn, Bernie Dupras, Jason Durkee, Matthew Dwyer, Bruce Einstein, Emily Einstein, Marie Feola, Abby Fitzpatrick, 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, Jim Light, 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, Theresa Merlini, Christopher Milecki, Sue Mitchell, Will Mooney, Rita Morley, Eileen Morris, Baby Kyle Patrick Muldoon, Karyl Murray, Stephen Murray, Matthew Nicholas, Nancy Nicholas, Roman O'Brien, Nicole Pagett, Theresa Perry, Steve Piperno, Joseph Polto, Pearl Polto, Joseph Pozzuolo, Sharon Pozzuolo, Patty Quirk, Christopher Rafferty, Lucy Rapp, Mary Rhodunda, Alicia Ridge, Dan Rock, Rich Rogge, Anna Rokos, Evelyn Runk, John Rusenko, Tony Anthony Sarmiento, Marie Seiler, Shane Seningen, Michael Shane, Pamela Shapiro, Amy Sheeler, Theresa Sherwin, Marion Sloan, Kristin Sorrentino, Ron Spade, Kevin Spaziani, Joe Subio, Daniel Suskevich, 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, 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.

FOOD PANTRY

For the month of November the food pantry helped 8 families. We distributed non-perishable food items as well as milk, eggs, bread, butter and frozen turkeys that were provided by our parishioners. Thank you to the Cub Scouts for their donations and to the CYO for their help, donations and support. The food pantry in the Wright Center is open on Sundays after the 11:00am Mass for donations and to pick up food for those in need. All are welcome to volunteer, young and old. Monetary donations and gift cards can be sent to the rectory labeled "Food Pantry". We are also doing an emergency coat drive for the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County. We will continue to collect hats gloves, scarves and blankets but we are also asking for men's and women's gently used or new coats (medium, large, xlarge, xxlarge). We are also asking for items like laundry pods and hoodies. They can be left in assigned areas in the church or dropped off in the Wright Center after each Mass. Thank you and God bless you.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

You might hear it in a sales pitch for buying into solar panels. Or in a conversation about a new diet plan. Or an over-the-fence conversation about a new landscaper. It's the question "What should you do now? Call an 800 number? Tap your text icon? Whatever you do, do it now before it's too late!"

The avid fans of the Baptist felt the pressure to act. John had preached so well and wisely. His topic was exhilarating and his enthusiasm catching. He charged people to reform and be ready to greet the longed-for Messiah because he is coming! In their excitement, people mistakenly thought that maybe John himself was "the One."

John knew that nonsense had to stop. It is a tribute to John's humility that he did it as fast as he could. "No, I am not him. More than that, I'm not even worthy to untie the man's sandal straps." He never let on that he had Jesus' special favor as a cousin. Later, we know that Jesus would pay John quite the compliment.

Today's Scriptures together speak of joy as the perfect reaction to the good news of the Savior's arrival. Of course, the way of His coming was not expected. There was no mounting of a stallion or a large assembly of troops. Certainly, no triumphant banners fluttering in the breeze.

Instead, He would be gently humble and strongly self-assured, bringing with Him a baptism with "the Holy Spirit and fire." He would separate the wheat from the chaff and burn away the latter with a catching fire.

Such descriptions left the people confused and not a little disappointed, considering what the long wait did to change the concept of Messiah into a military hero. What John was saying was startling. But it was also compelling. But they didn't flee the scene because John had an inherent magnetism. What he had to say was altogether new. It challenged their preconceptions conceptions of the Messiah. John spoke of an interior renewal that would lead one away from sinful ways.

There was also a resounding note of joy in John's message. Sharp contrast to their disillusion because of the long wait for relief from oppression. So many years they and their children had asked: "Where is God?"

To be frank, we've often asked ourselves that question. The devil seems to be in control of our world too. Aren't fellow Christians being persecuted in parts of our world? Aren't the jabs of sarcasm still aiming our way as they were for the early Christians reasons to doubt our faith? Isn't the relentless push to justify abortion on demand and the unchallenged indulgence in pornography simply evil with another name?

Those are just two reasons why we must turn to the gospel message of joy that comes with the approach of Christmas. It is the rebirth of hope. It is the powerful antidote to pessimism. It is the call to childlike trust because it's all about the birth of a holy Child. We can enjoy a rosy outlook (like the color of the vestments today) because we have the best Truth to believe in.

God love you and give you His peace.