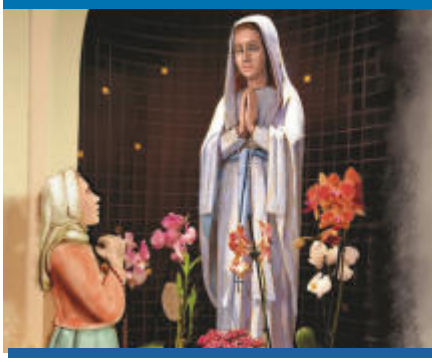


Saint Bernadette Catholic Church

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

CLERGY
Fr. Robert Barras, Pastor
Fr. Dominic Pistone, in Residence
Deacon Bob Rumford
Deacon Kevin Woodvine

PARISH OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00 a.m. until 12 noon

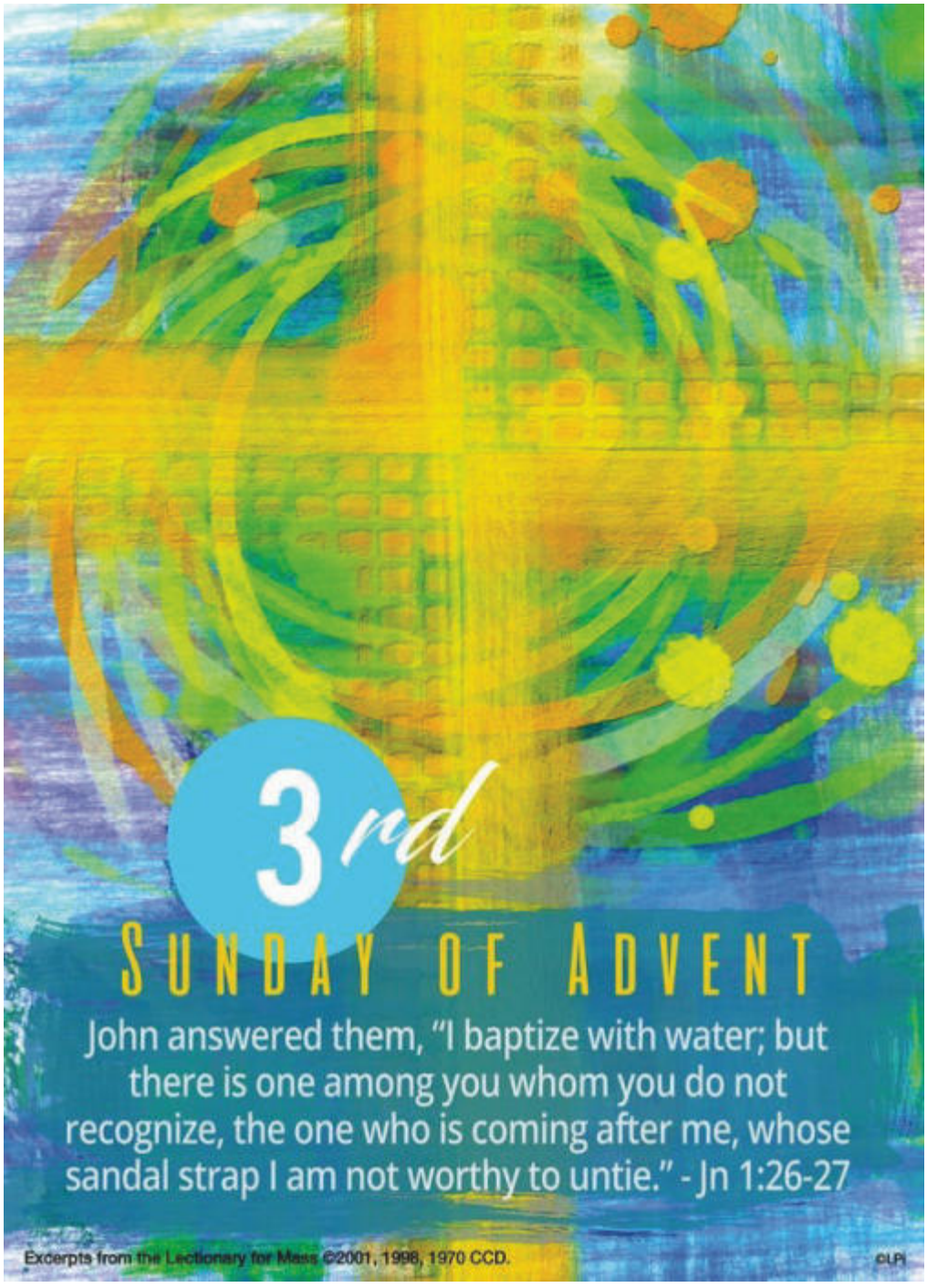
MASS SCHEDULE
Tuesday and Thursday: 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. followed by Adoration.
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m., noon, 5:30 p.m.
Recorded Mass at www.stbchurch.org

RECONCILIATION
See inside for schedule.

BAPTISM
To begin the process of having your child baptized, please call the office.

FUNERALS
Please contact the parish office if there is a death in the family. The parish will cooperate with funeral arrangements. A priest will assist the family with funeral preparations.

MARRIAGE
It is necessary for couples to contact the parish when the engagement is made. You should be a registered active member of the parish. Allow nine to twelve months for preparation for the sacrament. Extra time must be allotted if either of the parties has been married before.



Welcome to

St. Bernadette Church

With Mary we sing: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46-47, NIV). Welcome to worship.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/ Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4 -5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/ Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/ Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/ Lk 1:5-25

Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/ Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Faith Commitment of Treasure

Month of November	
Mail in/Mass Contributions	$ 61,647.20
Faith Direct	62,128.00
Total Collection	$123,775.20
Budget	149,913.04
Over (under) budget	$ (26,137.84)

2020-Diocesan Services Fund (DSF)

Goal	$ 184,800.00
Pledged by Parishioners	$ 158,263.00
Paid to date	$ 157,199.25
Over (under) goal	$ (27,600.75)

Thank you for your continued commitment to St. Bernadette Parish. We pray for your continued generous support of God's work here at St. Bernadette.

With more people staying home to protect their health, we wanted to remind you we have online giving through Faith Direct.
Go to *www.stbchurch.org* => *News & Events* => *Giving* for more details or call the parish office.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Due to COVID, there will not be the traditional penance services, however area priests will be available to hear confessions at the following parishes at 7:00 p.m.

December 15 Mary Queen
December 16 St. Hyacinth
December 17 St. Bernadette
December 22 St. Francis Cabrini

Journey with the Magi
a virtual Advent retreat for 2020

Everyone is welcome to join us on the Mondays of Advent as we explore the Magi's journey and our own journey to Christ.
The virtual doors will be open at 6:45 p.m. and we will begin promptly at 7 p.m. The retreat will be one hour in length. Please visit *www.stbchurch.org/advent-retreat* for the zoom link and more information.

First Reading:
Isaiah shares his understanding of his prophetic call and his experience of the Lord as a God of justice and compassion. As we continue in the season of Advent, what new spiritual insights are you discovering?

Elementary Faith Formation

Happy 3rd week of Advent...Gaudette Sunday! I hope you are enjoying this beautiful Advent season preparing for Jesus. On this third week of Advent, I pray you see JOY all around you! May the Light of His presence bring JOY to our hearts!

Please remember to drop off your Christmas sponsored item no later than December 15!

It's not too late to sign up for Faith Formation! You can sign up online or e-mail me, Courtney Fossati at Fossatic@stbchurch.org

Please keep the children who just made their 1st Reconciliation in your prayers as they prepare for their 1st Eucharist!

Christmas Season Worship Schedule

Solemnity of Christmas

Thursday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)
4:00 p.m., Church Mass; 4:15 p.m., PLC Mass
7:00 p.m., Church Mass, 7:15 p.m., PLC Mass
10:00 p.m., Church Mass

Friday, December 25 (Christmas Day)
9:00 a.m., Church Mass

Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
Holy Day of Obligation
Thursday, December 31, 7:00 p.m.

Solemnity of the Epiphany of The Lord
Sunday, January 3

Feast of The Baptism of The Lord
Sunday, January 10

Jr. High Faith Formation

- Join us for our **JrHigh Zoom call Live Event today, December 13 at 4:00** – see and interact with JrHighers from St. Bernadette for a fun get together! Go to *www.stbchurch.org* => *Education* => *WFC Online* and watch your email for access details!
- **Adopt a Family gifts are due on Tuesday, December 15.** Check email and webpage (WFCOnline JrHigh) for details on how to sign up and how to label your donation.
- If you have not registered yet, it's not too late. Go to *www.stbchurch.org* => *Education* => *Faith Formation Registration*
- Important Note about our website: We are continuously improving and updating the content of our website. In order to get the most up-to-date information, refresh your screen often when you enter the webpage (that's the circle with the arrow in the upper left of your browser screen.)

Questions? email me bartosm@stbchurch.org
Marianne Bartos, JrHigh FF

Gospel Weeklies
Pflaum FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Courses
Week of December 13

Sunday, December 13: 'The Book of Job' - 9:30-10:30 a.m., Live, Online
Tuesday, December 15: 'The Gospel of Luke' - 7:30-8:30 p.m., Live, Online
Wednesday, December 16: 'Sunday to Sunday': Upcoming Mass Readings – 7:00-8:00 p.m., Live and Recorded, Online
Friday, December 18: 'Whole Family Catechesis': WFC Flocknote.

Links to access the courses are found on the Parish Website. For information about the courses or for access information, please contact Jason Honeycutt at honeycuttj@stbchurch.org

Christian Action

ST. BERNADETTE'S CHRISTMAS GIVING TREES

We were overwhelmed with **JOY** at your response to St. B's Christmas Giving Trees! The Virtual Christmas Giving Trees will be available until Tuesday, December 15, 2020. Please visit our website at *www.stbchurch.org* and click on the *Advent* page under the *News and Events* tab.

This year St. B is supporting Casa Juan Diego, St. B's Early Childhood Connections classrooms, and our twinning parish, Immaculate Heart of Mary. In addition, several St. B's ministries are sponsoring families from Clear Lake Intermediate and some individual families that do not have an agency that can provide them with assistance.

If you took a tag, in person or virtually, please return your **unwrapped** gift, no later than Wednesday, December 16, 2020 to the Christian Action donation bin in the narthex of the church or drop them off at the Christian Action office Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Remember to attach the tags to the gift or label the gift.

Thank you for your generosity and especially for bringing some familiarity to our lives during this "odd" year!

FOOD DISTRIBUTION EVERY THURSDAY from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

What is included in each bag every Thursday? Each bag contains enough food for 4-6 people. The number of bags the family receives depends on the number of members in the household. Our neighbors in need are welcome to come by every Thursday.

Every Thursday, bags include:

- Cereal (Cheerio style)
- Chili, canned 15 oz
- Saltine crackers
- Vienna sausage
- Peanut Butter, plastic jar 18 oz.
- Jelly
- Spaghetti or Pasta
- Pasta sauce, canned
- Soup, 10.5 oz
- Small bag dried beans (pinto, black)
- Canned vegetables, 15.25 oz
- Fruit, canned 15 oz or Applesauce
- Tuna, canned, 5 oz
- Mac & Cheese
- Corn muffin mix
- Bagged rice, 1 pound
- Bread
- ½ dozen eggs
- Margarine/butter
- When available fresh carrots, potatoes, chicken, fruit
- Toilet paper
- Bar soap
- Laundry detergent (1-pound bag)
- Diapers and baby wipes as needed

On the first Thursday of the month, additional toiletry and cleaning bags are offered.

Because of your tremendous generosity, Christian Action distributed 98 bags of goods on November 19, and 77 bags on December 3.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory.

During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing." This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give him all your time and let his presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connected with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most, the Incarnation himself.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

ARE CATHOLICS OBLIGATED TO ATTEND MASS EACH SUNDAY, OR RECEIVE COMMUNION EACH SUNDAY?

The questions about Mass attendance and the reception of Holy Communion are clearly outlined in what are traditionally called the "Precepts" of the Church. These specific teachings are intended to stand alongside the Ten Commandments as fundamental practices for Catholics and are outlined in the *Code of Canon Law*. The obligations related to Mass attendance and receiving Communion are outlined in the first and third precepts, which we find quoted in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (no. 2042):

> The first precept ("You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor") requires the faithful to sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord as well as the principal liturgical feasts honoring the mysteries of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints; in the first place, by participating in the Eucharistic celebration, in which the Christian community is gathered, and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days.

The third precept ("You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season") guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy.

Rather than seeing these as obligations that are simply to be fulfilled out of a sense of duty, Pope Saint John Paul II reminds us of the grace that is made available to us when we gather for Sunday celebrations of the Eucharist: "Sunday is the day which is at the very heart of the Christian life... Time given to Christ is never time lost, but is rather time gained, so that our relationships and indeed our whole life may become more profoundly human" (*Dies Domini*, no. 7).

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR PARISHIONERS:
Richard Carnes 12/13/1978; Roger Thomas, 12/14/1999; Tony Garcia, 12/14/2015; Rose Raborn, 12/15/1992; John Simon, 12/15/2006; Jesse Dollar, 12/16/1990; Judith Newcomer, 12/16/1994; James Rodrigues, 12/16/1999; James White, 12/16/2006; Anna Dorstewitz, 12/18/1990; Robert Murphy, 12/19/1992; Robert Brown, 12/19/1998; Florence Chauvin, 12/19/2003 on the anniversaries of their entrance into Heaven.

Grief and Loss Support Group

At this time, we are not meeting in-person. We are exploring virtual meeting options. If you would be interested in meeting virtually or attending an in-person meeting when we are able to do so, please contact Deacon Kevin at: woodvinek@stbchurch.org or 281-486-0773 ext. 104

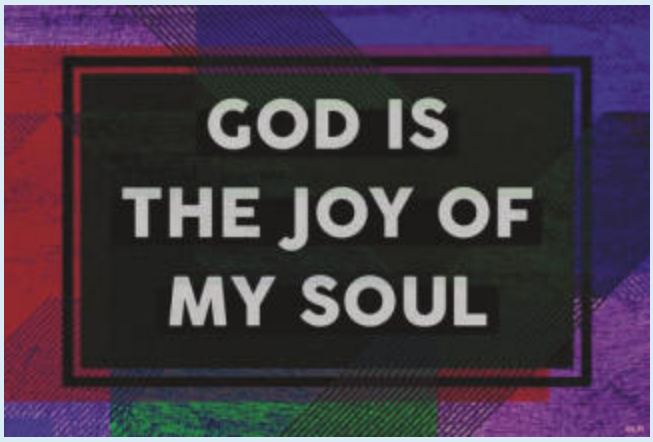
The floral arrangement at the shrine honoring the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is in remembrance of the active members of the Legion of Mary and the beloved deceased members of the Legion of Mary.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Did you ever stop and realize that there is no earthly gain that can ever really satisfy us? Think of winning the Lotto. On this side of the winning ticket, it's all about the money, the new car, house, vacations, bank accounts, and infinite pleasures. The possibility of acquiring all of these earthly securities brings us back again and again to the purchase of a ticket. Then, one day we win! Our dreams are fulfilled, and happiness is on the horizon. Then one day, we wake up and realize that nothing has really changed, and I am not as satisfied as I thought I was or would be. I find myself living in my incompleteness and with my profound sorrow and grief. I did not find joy.

Glimpses of joy are possible but not by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to face with real and authentic faith, hope, and love. And, they are glimpses that do not last. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, they are gone, and we find ourselves remembering the moment in memory. To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not something I create, manufacture or even acquire. It is not able to be purchased. It is a gift. My need for joy mirrors my need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence of who I am and desires a home within me. As C. S. Lewis discovered, joy is a surprise that speaks to my very soul and is given as a gift by the God who loves me.



The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses. They never satisfy us, sustain us or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of my soul. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal Otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow.

WHO DO YOU CALL

All numbers are (281) unless otherwise noted.

Adult Faith Formation	Jason Honeycutt	486-0337 x315
Baptismal Preparation	Jeanette Valdez	486-0337 x102
Blades of Grass	Andy Romero	286-1147
Blood Services	Kathy Bjork	713-870-3543
Christian Action	Eli Woodvine	486-7664
Communion for Sick	Carol Kuhl	713-398-1002
Cub Scouts	Elvis Mikel	281-726-8780
Early Childhood Connections	Jennifer Nevins	486-0337 x114
Faith Formation (PreK 3-5)	Aurora Summa	486-0337 x254
Faith Formation (K-5th)	Courtney Fossati	486-0337 x112
Faith Formation (6th-8th)	Marianne Bartos	486-0337 x113
Finance Council	Melissa Teets	636-1458
Helping Hands	Lillian Teixeira	488-4412
Knights of Columbus	Richard Guzman	658-3656
Ladies of St. Bernadette	Carmen Moreno	486-5186
Music and Worship	Cristina Garcia-Luense	832-915-5616
Newcomers	Suzanne Staron	832-915-5644
Nursery	Aurora Summa	486-0337 x254
Pastoral Council	Yolanda Lopez	832-818-0295
Prayer Heartline	Amparo Zabak	488-5562
Parish Administrator	Kathleen Keating	486-0337 x105
RCIA / Evangelization	Matthew Crews	486-0337 x317
Sacrament Coordinator	Deacon Kevin Woodvine	486-0337 x104
Scouts BSA	Donna Sue Dolle	832-723-5200
Time and Talent	Suzanne Staron	832-915-5644
Youth Ministry (9th-12th)	Kate Court	486-0337 x311

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