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PARISH

SAINT BERNADETTE PARISH

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The Ascension

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026

My Dear Parish Family,

The parish family of St. Bernadette rejoices along with the Diocese of Cleveland as we ordain six men to the priesthood. One being our own Joseph Ho. Fr. Joseph has spent two years enriching and enjoying the support of our parish community. His personal story and desire for priesthood has inspired both Fr. Joe and myself. I know that your experience of Fr. Joseph Ho has been the same. When I stop and think about the great sacrifice he has made to learn a new language, adopt a new culture, and to leave behind his parents, one can only be inspired. The newly ordained Fr. Joseph is presently hosting his parents, two of his sisters, and an aunt who is a Dominican Sister. They are here for a period of three weeks rejoicing in his ordination. Many of our younger priests have resurrected a wonderful tradition entitled “manutergium”. I regret that this tradition had fallen into disuse when I was ordained. When a newly ordained priest celebrates his first Mass, one of his final gestures is often not toward the congregation, but toward his mother. In his hands is a simple strip of linen—a manutergium, used days earlier at his ordination to wipe the sacred chrism oil from his newly anointed hands. At the end of Mass, he places it in her hands, entrusting her with a quiet but profound symbol of his vocation: one she will carry, by tradition, to the grave. For many Catholic families, the manutergium — derived from the Latin terms of *manus* (“hand”) and *tergium* (“to wipe”) — represents something deeper than custom. It is a sign of the offering of a son given to the Church and of a mother’s hidden sacrifice in letting him go. Tradition holds that when the mother comes before the Lord in judgment, he will ask, “I have given you life. What have you given me?” She presents the cloth and answers, “I have given you my son as a priest.” While not a guarantee of salvation, the story captures the spiritual weight the custom has come to carry. We congratulate and welcome Fr. Joseph’s family, especially his mother and father.



Father will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving on the evening of his ordination for our parish community. There will be a parish reception after the Mass where you may greet our newly ordained priest, congratulate his parents and also receive his first priestly blessing. Although we have not given Joseph Ho life as did his parents, we have hopefully expressed our love and support for him, and will continue to do so in the years to come.

Although I will not be the pastor of St. Bernadette Parish, I promise to be that elder brother to this newly ordained priest. I know that Fr. Joe and I hold our newly ordained brother with great affection. As I mentioned last Sunday, Fr. Joe has been assigned as Administrator of St. Bernadette Parish. In answering many inquiries, Fr. Menkhaus holds the authority as would a pastor until a permanent pastor is officially installed. The parish has not been left orphaned and I believe is in capable hands. I ask that you keep him in your prayers. I stated last Sunday, lets us not simply congratulate him, but lend him our support and helping hands in the year to come. Shepherding this parish alone demands the cooperation of all. When will a new pastor be installed in the parish? It is usually after a period of one year. I hope that both the newly ordained Fr. Joseph and Fr. Joe Menkhaus know of my prayers and support for both of them as they live out their vocational calling.

As I take leave of the parish I am also pleased to know that two sons of the parish are entering the seminary. Please keep them in your prayers.

God Bless, Father Philip



Prayers of the congregation are requested for the repose of the soul of: **Madeline Szell.**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And may perpetual light shine upon them.

+ Intentions for the Week +

Monday, May 18, Easter Weekday

9:00 Eileen Lenhard

Tuesday, May 19, Easter Weekday

8:00 Shirley Dellafiora

Wednesday, May 20, Easter Weekday

9:00 Paul O'Donnell

Thursday, May 21, Easter Weekday

8:00 Diane Menkhaus

Friday, May 22, Easter Weekday

9:00 John Cabala (Anniv)

Saturday, May 22, Easter Weekday

8:00 Allen David Dallacheisa

5:00 Tom, Ruth and Tom Howard, Jr.

Sunday, May 24, Pentecost Sunday

8:30 For the Parish

10:30 Catherine Marie Waters

Please pray for: Mickey Gallagher; Cailyn Wagner; Linda Mencke; Dan Curran; Fr. Lanning; Gerri Popovich; Frank Stepic; Nancy Thorn; Bobbie Corrigan; John Dawson; Natalie (Partee) Hallis; Mackenzie Miles; James Tunney; Mandi Petonic; Mercedes Aemilia Scullion & her Da; Bernadette Andrews; Roberta Werner; James Faddoul; Herbert Hastings; Lynda Arth; The Bartko Family; Vicki Gannon; Lydia Caroline Milligan; Ellen Burch; Rob Geszler; Betty Logue; Evan; Janice Thomas; Mary Burich; Michael Coyne; McKayla Coyne; Tom Seltel; John Keys; Mary Mertus; Leslie Ann Kosenta; Greg Harrison; Carol Brown.

Bulletin Sponsor of the Week

Layla George-Khoury, Realtor, Notary Public

Please support our bulletin sponsors. Because of their generosity, our bulletin is supplied to our parish free of charge.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Ministry of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine

The ministry of Joseph & Mary’s Home cares for 21 medically fragile homeless adults by providing medical respite after hospitalization. About 80 patients are cared for per year. Upon transition to other housing sources after recovery, a “gift bag” of essentials helps them begin a new life with hope and dignity.


St. Bernadette Parish is blessed to assist with a goal of 40 items of each listed below. Gifts need to be “small” but not travel items. If we exceed our goal, other service agencies who care for the needy will benefit from your generosity.

A Sign-Up Genius link is available to indicate needed items. Information will also be on the website under ‘Social Concerns’ tab. Parishioners are welcome to donate next weekend, May 23 and 24.


<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E4FA5AF2CA1FB6-62588663-Joseph>

Item	Description	Item	Description
Mouthwash	Small bottle (non-alcohol)	Dish detergent	Small squeeze bottle
Hand lotion	Small bottle or tube	Scrub sponge	For dish washing
Combs	Men	Can opener	Small manual type
Hairbrush	Women’s small	Cutlery	3 or 4 pc stainless steel
Deodorant (Women)	Solid Stick	Potholders	Potholder
Shampoo	Small bottle	Laundry bag	Mesh bag
Body wash	Small pump bottle	Pump hand soap	Liquid pump
Deodorant (Men)	Solid stick	Tissues	Kleenex box
Toilet Paper	4 pack	Paper towels	1 pack
Bath Towel	Standard size	Kitchen towel	Standard size
Wash cloth	Standard size	Small laundry detergent	Small e.g. 25 loads

April Monthly Collection: \$29,992.42
Easter Collection: \$30,784.50

 The next Baptism Class will be held on Sunday, May 31, 2026 at 12:00PM in the Community Room in the church. Call the Parish Office to register.

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, May 25th in observance of Memorial Day.



**21st Annual Pancake Run
June 6, 2026**

Join us at the **West Side Catholic Center** for our 21st Annual Pancake Run! Run or walk to support vital programs serving those in need in our community. Register today: <https://www.wscenter.org/events/pancake-run>. If you have any questions, please email mloesch@wscenter.org



Christ Present in Action Committee Sandwich Making
 We start our activity at 1:30PM in Dempsey Hall. Feel free to bring sandwiches from home noting their contents. ***Our next sandwich making days are May 27th and June 10th.***



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WOMEN'S MINISTRY

New Summer Series!
LETTER TO WOMEN
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7:00 PM - 8:00 PM IN THE
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CLUB NIGHT
A NEXT-LEVEL MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH EVENT

WHEN: SATURDAY, MAY 30TH

WHERE: SAINT BERNADETTE PARISH

5:00 PM VIGIL MASS - THE WHOLE FAMILY IS INVITED!

6:00 PM - 8:45 PM - ALL MIDDLE SCHOOLERS INCLUDING INCOMING 6TH GRADERS & GRADUATING 8TH GRADERS ARE INVITED!



RSVP: SCAN THE QR CODE OR EMAIL MARIA AT MNICAISE@STBERN.NET



Flowers for our Blessed Mother You are invited to bring flowers to honor our Blessed Mother all through May.

PASTORAL STAFF:

Rev. Philip G. Racco, *Pastor*
 Rev. Joseph D. Menkhous, *Parochial Vicar*
 Rev. Joseph Ho
 Deacon Jeff Stutzman
 Mary Egan, *Financial Manager/Institutional Manager*
 Mary Beth Sullivan, *School Principal*
 Lane Forthofer, *Assistant Principal*
 Sister Donna Marie Bradesca, O.S.U., *Pastoral Associate*
 Denise Feyes, *CARE Ministry/Bereavement*
 Elizabeth Hajduk, *PSR Principal*
 Brook Benedict, *Director of Music Ministries*
 Maria Nicaise, *Associate for Parish Family Ministries*

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Friday
 9:00AM to 4:30PM
 Saturday: 9:00AM to 2:00PM
 Closed Monday – Friday: 12:30-1:00PM

MASS SCHEDULE:

Sunday Vigil: Saturday, 5:00PM
Sunday: 8:30AM & 10:30AM
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00AM
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 8:00AM
Livestream: Daily Mass & Sunday's at 10:30AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Winter Schedule: Saturday, October through March:
 3:00 – 3:45PM
Summer Schedule: Saturday, April through September:
 4:00-4:45PM
 *Confessions may also be arranged by an appointment with a priest.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Please contact the Parish Office to schedule a Baptism. Parents are required to attend a Pre-Baptismal class. Arrangements to be made at the Parish Office.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Contact the Parish Office to make arrangements at least **one year** before intended date.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Monday at 12:00PM. Please send articles to emorris@stbern.net.

Parish Office: 440-734-1300 **School:** 440-734-7717

Parish Web Site: www.saintbernadetteparish.org

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Mission Statement

As parishioners of St. Bernadette, we commit ourselves to refresh our participation of Liturgy through attentive listening to God's Word, in raising our voices in prayer and song, and in reverent reception of the Body and Blood of Christ. We pledge to work for justice for those inside and outside of our boundaries and to be instruments of healing in our families and in our community.

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