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*You are Worth More
Than Many Sparrows*

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 21, 2026

Dear Parish Family,

In the children's book, "Dear Pope Francis" the late pontiff answered a great number of children's questions from throughout the world. One child asked Pope Francis, what is the hardest thing to do in life? Pope Francis, in his traditional simplicity, still gave the most profound answer... "To say goodbye." Saying goodbye is probably the hardest thing we have to do in life.

Saying goodbye is hard because we love. We say goodbye to people we cherish, to stages in life, to places, to certainty, even sometimes to dreams. And the more the goodbye hurts, the more it means something mattered. A seemingly simple answer from Pope Francis on the surface, it is far from simple, because this answer ties back to love... And God is love.

Fr. Racco's pastorate has been a pastorate grounded in NOTHING but the love of God. Indeed, every second of Fr. Racco's entire priesthood, has been grounded in nothing but the love of God and seeking his presence in every aspect of our lives. Fr. Racco didn't just visit the sick, he loved them, and prayed relentlessly for the dying. Fr. Racco never went through the motions of a single baptism. In a deep state of prayer, he served as the very conduit through which Christ would envelop every child into his life as a new creation. And in nearly 50 years of priesthood, Fr. Racco never once read the Roman Missal. He served as a faithful presider over the People's sacrifice of the Mass. Unlike what so many of us heard growing up, Fr. Racco never once asked us to check the box and attend Mass out of Catholic duty. Don't even attend in vain. By virtue of his ordination, as a mediator between

Christ and his Church, Fr. Racco guided us to offer and completely surrender ourselves to Christ in the Holy sacrifice of the Mass. Then, as an icon through which Jesus Christ would speak to us, in his homilies, and in the prayers of the Church, Fr. Racco never let us forget that we do not leave our Christian mission at the doors of the church.

Fr. Racco has said many "goodbyes" to so much in his life. He said goodbye to family, to friends, to those who mentored him, and to those occasions where he would sacrifice receiving love from family and friends, all to be faithful to the promises he made when he laid his life down at the altar... For us, the people of God he would not have even known 49 years ago. James Aloysius Cardinal Hickey placed his hands on Philip's head, and with great courage, Fr. Racco stood up changed, a priest of Jesus Christ forever.

Some years ago, Fr. Racco had to be brave and say goodbye to the people of St. John Bosco parish. Some years after that, he had to say goodbye to the people of St. Margaret Mary Parish. Some years after that he had to say goodbye to the people of St. Philomena Parish. Some years after that, his courage was tested, yet again, and he had to say goodbye to the people of Holy Rosary Parish. Since that devastating goodbye, we, the people of St Bernadette's, would be blessed to have the most loving, hard-working, dedicated, assiduous, diligent, AND grumpy, FAITHFUL priest of Jesus Christ in every way. However this time, we are sharing the goodbye as well.

Father Racco, as the fifth pastor of Saint Bernadette's Catholic parish, your pastorate has been everything the people of God could ever need to find the presence of Jesus Christ in our midst. Your pastorate mattered, and led us to a 75th anniversary with so much to be proud of as the people of God, under the patronage of Saint Bernadette. Because of this, there is nothing easy about this goodbye we are all sharing as a parish family. But just as Christ promised the apostles, "I Am with You Always until the end of time", you are with us, Fr. Racco, and we are with you. You have taught us to learn, live, and love the Mass, and this is what will make us a Eucharistic people forever, together as the body of Christ.

A painful goodbye indeed, Christ continues to make all things new, because as Fr. Racco remains with us in the Eucharist, Christ still needs to impart himself to others through Fr. Racco's priestly ministry.

Thank you for being our Spiritual Father, Fr. Phil. Thank you for making us better Christians. Thank you for being Christ to us. Thank you for making me a better organist and liturgist. We share this goodbye with you, with faith, hope, and love, trusting that together in Christ, he continues to make all things new for His great glory.

I remain your servant in Christ,

Brook Benedict



***We would like to wish all
fathers a very Happy
Father's Day!***

Bulletin Sponsor of the Week

Catholic Cemeteries Association

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

You are cordially invited to a Celebratory Luncheon honoring

Father Philip Racco

on the occasion of his

Retirement

“Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Matthew 25:21

SUNDAY, JUNE 28TH

10:30AM Mass

12:00pm-3:00PM Luncheon

St. Bernadette Dempsey Hall



*Please join us as we give thanks for
Father Racco's faithful service, dedicated ministry, and the
many blessings he has shared with St. Bernadette Parish.*



The Parish Pastoral Council will be hosting this farewell on behalf of the parish.

+ Intentions for the Week +

Monday, June 22, Weekday

9:00 Paul O'Donnell

Tuesday, June 23, Weekday

8:00 Special Intention-Barbara Gomes

Wednesday, June 24, The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

9:00 Special Intention– The Keller Family

Thursday, June 25, Weekday

8:00 Noreen Sweeny

Friday, June 26, Weekday

9:00 Mary and Ted Cahill

Saturday, June 27, Weekday

8:00 Laura Radca

5:00 Judith Cattani

Sunday, June 28, Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 For the Parish

10:30 Special Intention– The Evans Family

**Please Note: The Parish Office will close on
Monday, June 22nd at Noon for the day.**

Catholic Charities Appeal You may have noticed Catholic Charities envelopes in the pews. If you have not yet made a donation, please consider supporting this important ministry. Your generosity helps provide vital assistance and hope to those most in need in our community. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and support.

Please pray for: Ron Monyak; Mary Stepic; Bev Pasko; Mickey Gallagher; Cailyn Wagner; Linda Mencke; Dan Curran; Fr. Lanning; Gerri Popovich; 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.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND Next week we will take up the Peter's Pence Collection to support the Universal Church and the work of the Holy See, including the charitable works of Pope Leo XIV. These works benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Be a sign of hope with your generosity. ***Please make checks payable to St. Bernadette Parish.** For more information, visit <https://www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html>.

First Friday Adoration, July 3, 2026

**Mass 9:00 AM; Adoration 10AM-5PM;
Benediction 5:00 PM**

Two guardians are needed each hour between 10:00AM-5:00PM. Please call the Parish Office to sign-up.

There will be NO First Saturday devotions on July 4th due to the holiday.

Before You Wave Goodbye... Please remember to consider St. Bernadette Parish in your Estate Planning! "75 Years" is a graced achievement in the life of a parish, but the hope remains that the generosity and commitment of our parishioners will continue for generations to come! Any gift you consider builds the Perpetual Endowment Fund and provides for sustaining this beautiful testament to God's Glory and our Faith. May St. Bernadette Parish always continue God's Work!

Christ Present in Action Committee Sandwich Making
Please Note: During the summer we will start our activity at 12:00PM in Dempsey Hall. Feel free to bring sandwiches from home noting their contents. ***Our next sandwich making days are June 24th and July 8th.***

This weekend, June 20-21, our brothers and sisters representing the Land of Peace mission-a nonprofit organization- will be with us speaking about the Christian situation in the Holy Land and selling Crucifixes, religious art work, and rosaries-all made of olive wood which is native to Israel and Bethlehem. Since tourism has greatly depleted, Christian families in the Holy Land, who depend on tourists, have been greatly affected. The goal of this mission is to help the poor and needy families in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Sale of these goods will help them very much and also give you the opportunity to have "something" authentic from the Holy Land. Please browse and buy some articles. It is for a good cause and also a help to your personal devotion.



St. Bernadette Parish Silver Rose Prayer Service

The Knights of Columbus Council at St. Bernadette Parish warmly invite all parishioners of St. Bernadette Parish, along with friends and neighboring communities, to attend a special Silver Rose Prayer Service on Friday, June 26 at 7:00 PM in the church.



The Silver Rose program is a cherished Knights of Columbus tradition that honors Our Lady of Guadalupe and celebrates the sanctity of every human life through prayer, devotion, and reflection. As the Silver Rose travels throughout North America, it serves as a powerful symbol of faith, unity, and our call to protect and cherish life at every stage.

Please join us for this meaningful evening of prayer and fellowship as we gather together in devotion to Our Blessed Mother. A brief reception will follow the service.



SUMMER PRAY & PLAY

Wednesdays, 9:00 am Mass

Playtime following, begins June 10th, check social media for updates



BRATS AND BENEDICT

Saturday, July 11 - for 21+, for Singles, Dating, Married, and Discerning

5:00 pm Vigil Mass, Cookout with the Clergy at the Rectory, BYO Lawn Chair



ADORATION XLT AT SUNSET

Wednesday, July 22 - Outdoor Altar - 8:00 pm

Join us for Adoration and song as we praise God until dusk! Bring your own chair or blanket.



BACK TO SCHOOL MASS + COOKOUT

Sunday, August 23 - 10:30 am Mass

Supply Drop Off 9:30 am to 10:30 am, Cookout following Mass



HEART & HARVEST FESTIVAL

Friday, September 11 and Saturday, September 12

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