

# Saint Bernadette Catholic Church

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

## CLERGY

Fr. Robert Barras, Pastor  
 Deacon Rick Ewan  
 Deacon Jason Fossati  
 Deacon Kevin Woodvine

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

## MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:30 am  
 Wednesday: 7:00 pm  
 Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm  
 Sunday: 8:30 am,\* 11:00 am and  
 5:00 pm  
 \*Live streamed on YouTube

## ADVENT RECONCILIATION

See schedule inside or by appointment.

## BAPTISM

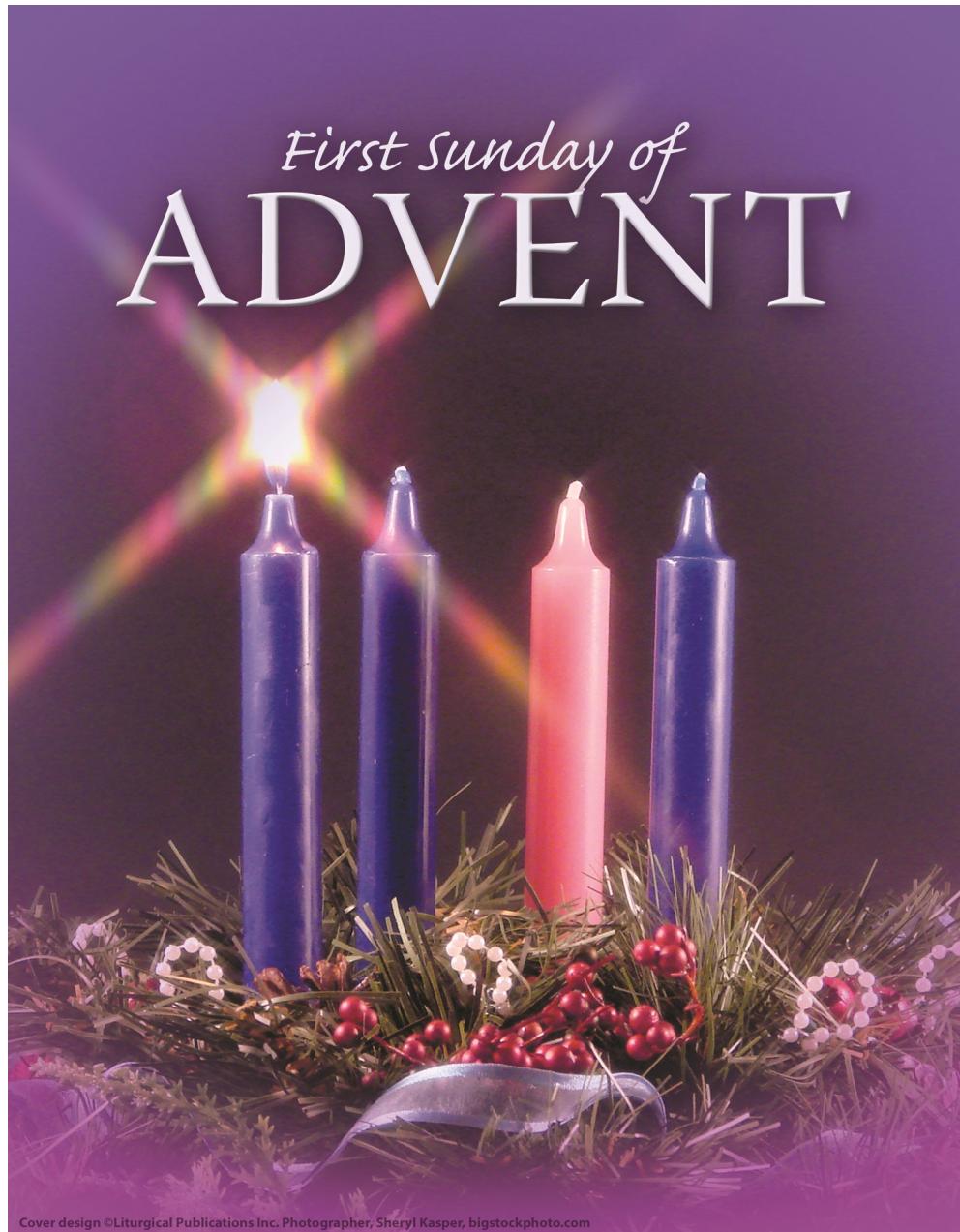
To begin the process of having your child baptized, please call the office or visit our website.

## FUNERALS

Please contact the parish office if there is a death in the family. The parish will cooperate with funeral arrangements.

## 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.



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Jesus assured the repentant criminal crucified next to him that he would be with him in paradise. Who might you offer words of comfort to this week?

## WELCOME



### Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11  
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24  
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37  
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27  
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31  
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8  
Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17  
(see 7)/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

## FAITH COMMITMENT OF TREASURE

Sunday Nov. 16, 2025	\$ 31,669.62
Online Giving**	<u>14,160.50</u>
Total Collection	\$ 45,830.12
Budget	<u>34,752.31</u>
Over budget	<u>\$ 11,077.81</u>

\*\* Online giving is a weekly average based on a monthly total

**Upcoming Second Collections** December 14 – Retirement Fund for Religious  
**2025-Diocesan Services Fund** As of Nov. 18, 2025

Goal	\$ 159,000
Paid to Date	\$ 127,216
<b>Under Goal</b>	<b>\$ (31,784)</b>

**Refresh and Renew Capital Campaign** As of Nov. 18, 2025

Total Goal	\$ 2,500,000
Total Pledges to Date	\$ 3,018,578
Payments Received to Date	\$ 2,156,241
Total Number of Donors	638
Expenditures to Date	\$ 2,050,014

*The Campaign Committee would like to thank all the families who have contributed to this campaign and have made it a great success. May God Bless Your Stewardship!*

## THE PROMISE OF A MERCIFUL KING

*The Son of Man will come. (Matthew 24:44)*

Welcome to Advent! It's a season filled with anticipation as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas. It's also a season of waiting and hoping for his return at the end of time. That makes Advent a time both of certainty and uncertainty. It's a time of certainty because we know for sure that Jesus came into our world over two thousand years ago. But it's a time of uncertainty because we don't know when he will return. As Jesus himself told us, "You do not know on which day your Lord will come" (Matthew 24:42).

But even in the midst of this uncertainty, there is one definitive fact that we can rely on right here and right now: we may not know when Jesus will come again, but we do know that "the Son of Man will come" (Matthew 24:44). He can come into our hearts each and every day. He can come and show us his love and care for us. He can heal us. He can give us new insights as we prayerfully read his word. He can bring peace amid our anxiety. And he can fan into flame our hearts' longing for him.

And so every year at this time, Jesus urges us to "stay awake" (Matthew 24:42). Because even as we are waiting, he will still be present to us—and he doesn't want us to miss him!

What can you expect as you look for Jesus' coming each day? He might come to you in the whisper of an urge to pray as you run errands. He might come in an anxious child who draws you out of yourself to care for them. He might come during a candlelit liturgy as he gives you the comfort and conviction that he will take care of you.

So this Advent, of course prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas. And of course be ready for his final coming, whenever that will be. But also be on the lookout for the ways that Jesus will come into your life every day this Advent. Because the Son of Man will indeed come!

*"Jesus, I want to be ready for you!"*



## ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

All Services Start at 7:00 p.m.

December 2, Mary Queen —Friendswood

### December 3, St. Bernadette at 6:30 p.m.

December 4, St. Mary —La Porte

December 9, St. Helen —Pearland

December 10, St. Luke the Evangelist

December 11, St. Mary —League City

December 16, St. Clare of Assisi

December 18, St Paul the Apostle —Nassau Bay

## PASTORAL COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT ANDREW CHING

Andrew Ching has been a parishioner at St Bernadette since 1996. Over the years, he has actively participated in the Knights of Columbus as a member and by serving as chancellor, Deputy Grand Knight, Grand Knight, and District Deputy. He served as a member of RCIA under Dick Johnson's guidance, and is now serving as a Sponsor in the OCIA team. He also serves as a Eucharistic Minister at the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturdays. After retiring, he felt God's call to serve on the Pastoral Council.

Andrew received a BA Business Management and MS Computer Science from University of Southwest Louisiana (USL Ragin Cajuns, currently University of Louisiana at Lafayette). He and his wife Kathy (Kitty) Ching are married in 1975 and have 3 grown children and 2 grandchildren. The family moved to Houston in 1991. Andrew worked in the IT industry including working for NASA sub-contractors in the Space Shuttle and Space Station programs.

A fun fact about Andrew: He was baptized at the Easter Vigil Mass in 1996 by Fr. JJ McCarthy in a rented swimming pool placed in the Parish Life Center while the church was under renovation. Andrew considers St. Bernadette Community as family members. He looks forward to meeting our parishioners, so be sure to introduce yourself to him when you see him.



## SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Mass  
Monday, December 8  
At 7:00 p.m.

Holy Day of Obligation.



## INDOOR WALKING GROUP

Looking for a simple way to stay active and healthy? Join our **Indoor Walking Group** every Monday and Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. in the Brandsma Building gym—complete with air-conditioned comfort!

The entrance will be open for walkers from 1:30 to 1:40 p.m., so be sure to arrive on time. All fitness levels are welcome, and you can walk at your own pace. Whether you're in physical therapy, using a cane or walker, or simply wanting some steady exercise, this group is for you.

Bring a friend, enjoy some fellowship, and take a step toward better health. No registration needed—just come walk with us!

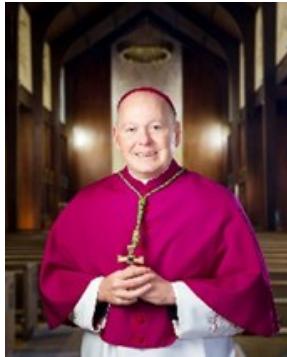
**No Walking, Monday, December 8.**



## SPIRITUAL LIFE

For more information concerning Spiritual Life, contact Laura Breaux at [breauxl@stbchurch.org](mailto:breauxl@stbchurch.org), 832-915-5643.  
Access all Spiritual Life programs at [www.stbchurch.org](http://www.stbchurch.org) => Parish Life => Spiritual Life

**December 1-2, 2025 – PARISH ADVENT MISSION** with BISHOP BRENDAN CAHILL! ALL ARE WELCOME! Visit [www.stbchurch.org/parish-missions](http://www.stbchurch.org/parish-missions). No registration necessary. Come reflect on the fruits of this Jubilee Year of Hope with our family of faith. Bishop Cahill will speak both days, and there are sessions in the afternoon from 2-3:30 p.m. that will be repeated in the evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided for the evening sessions. Also in the evening sessions, Bishop Cahill will speak to everyone (ages 6 and up), followed by discussion groups for adults, school-aged children's activities, and a special session for grades 6-12 with Bishop Cahill! *Come, be filled with hope, joy, peace, and love this Advent season!*



sacred music, art and meet with a spiritual director for one hour on three different days individually. We conclude with a ceremony on **Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 a.m. This individual retreat in ordinary life is offered for a small \$10 donation, but the time spent in prayer and reflection is truly priceless. **Register by Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** on the parish website at: [www.stbchurch.org/advent-retreat-1](http://www.stbchurch.org/advent-retreat-1).



**LAS POSADAS** is **Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 3 p.m.** – ALL ARE WELCOME to this WHOLE PARISH EVENT. We will have music, food, fun, and piñatas for the children! Visit [www.stbchurch.org/las-posadas](http://www.stbchurch.org/las-posadas) for more information. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Laura Breaux at 832-915-5643, [breauxl@stbchurch.org](mailto:breauxl@stbchurch.org).



**YOUNG ADULTS - SAVE THE DATE!** St. Bernadette is hosting a young adult day of prayer on **Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**, following the 8:30 morning Mass. All young adults returning to college in the Spring of 2026 are invited to attend. More details coming soon!

**ADVENT DIRECTED PRAYER IN ORDINARY LIFE:** This is a wonderful way to prepare your heart and mind for the birth of our Blessed Hope, Jesus, this Advent! This special time of prayer begins with an opening session & luncheon **Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** at 12:30 p.m. During this special week participants will prayerfully focus on Scripture,



## KofC

**Monthly Breakfast:** Please join your fellow parishioners for breakfast and socializing on Sunday, Dec 7 after the 8:30 Mass in the Parish Life Center. Breakfast is prepared and served by the St. Bernadette's Knights of Columbus Council 10959. All proceeds go to the parish.

**Family Rosary:** The Monthly Rosary, that is normally on the first Monday of the month, will not be held in December. All are invited to the PARISH ADVENT MISSION that begins on Monday. The Knights of Columbus, Spiritual Life Committee & the Faith Formation team invite you and your families to join us for the next Family Rosary on Monday, January 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the Church.

**Parish Movie Night:** Friday, Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Life Center. Cabrini - Francesca Cabrini risks everything when she petitions New York's mayor to house the city's orphans. Cabrini is a powerful reminder of what can happen when people are willing to make sacrifices for the things they believe in. (2h 22m). The King of King's - An animated film in which an imaginative boy discovers faith through his father's story of Jesus Christ. (1h 41m) Join the St. B's Knights for a free showing of these films. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Pizza, snacks, and drinks will be available. Charitable donations are appreciated. To attend, please register by Dec. 1 using the QR code or go to: [www.kofc10959.org/family-events](http://www.kofc10959.org/family-events)



## Welcome to St. Bernadette Church!

Whether this is your very first visit, your first time back in a while, or a step in exploring the Catholic faith, we're delighted you are here. At St. Bernadette, you'll find more than a parish—you'll find a family of faith, prayer, and support. If you'd like to learn more about our ministries, upcoming events, or ways to get involved, contact Suzanne Staron, Newcomer Coordinator, at 832-915-5644 or [starons@stbchurch.org](mailto:starons@stbchurch.org). We can't wait to journey with you!

Are You  
N E W  
Here?

# CHRISTIAN ACTION

832-915-5677, 832-915-5678

NEIGHBORS  
SERVED BY  
YOUR  
CHRISTIAN  
ACTION IN 2025:

Date	Families	Individuals	# of Individuals Clothing	Electricity Assistance	# of Volunteer Hours
Sep-25	85	406	15	\$5,242.91	196
Oct-25	69	327	2	\$0.00	140
Nov 1-17, 2025	87	416	11	\$1,590.07	165.5

## FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

1. Christian Action is not currently accepting clothes or shoe donations.
2. Please use the green Christian Action bin in the narthex of the Church for Christian Action donations only.
3. Please do not put fresh produce or bread in the green bin in the Church.

## CHRISTIAN ACTION GIVING TREES ARE HERE!

“The Christmas Giving Trees” are adorned with paper ornaments that express Christmas wishes from children or organization. Please feel free to choose an ornament. Each will have a requested gift. If you are able to purchase a gift, please do. Please do not wrap the gifts, and attach the paper ornament to the gift.

You may bring the gift to the Mass you attend by **Sunday, December 7, 2025**, and place them in the Christian Action bin (there's a box attached to the bin for gift cards) or drop them off at the Christian Action office Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. Thank you for all that you do. We are blessed to have parishioners so kind and generous as you!



## YOUR CHRISTIAN ACTION NEEDS THE FOLLOWING ITEMS...

Shampoo, Cereal, Instant potatoes, Brown paper grocery bags, Soup, Oatmeal, Chili, Canned pasta, Pasta Sauce (no glass jars), 1lb Pasta. Thank you for keeping Christian Action in mind on your next trip to the grocery store.

## CHRISTIAN ACTION WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 8-9, 2025.

## ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION

Happy Thanksgiving! I am thankful for my catechists and Elementary Families! I pray you all enjoy the blessings God has given you all and that you enjoy this time together!

### Thanksgiving Prayer

For each new morning with its light,  
For rest and shelter of the night,  
For health and food,  
For love and friends,  
For everything thy goodness sends.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



Faith Formation Classes will resume December 7<sup>th</sup>! Don't forget to save the date for Las Posadas on December 14<sup>th</sup>!

Courtney Fossati — Fossatic@stbchurch.org

## WFC, JR. HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

### JrH AND High School Information

(see below for JrH and High School specific events)

- **No Faith Formation Today.**
- **Brave (High School) Summer Camp** – Brave 2026 will be from June 28<sup>th</sup> to July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Register on the HS website.
- **Expedition (Junior High) Summer Camp** – Expedition 2026 will be from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 6<sup>th</sup>. Register on the JrH website.
- **Do you get the Thursday emails?** If not, email \*\* us.
- **How can I help?** The first step is to take Safe Haven, our safe environment approval process: [www.stbchurch.org/safe-environment-virtus](http://www.stbchurch.org/safe-environment-virtus)

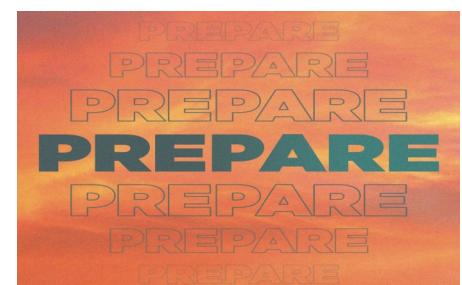
### JRHIGH \*and HIGH SCHOOL\*\* Events

- **Social events for JrHigh** – Email with ideas for JrHigh activities this year!
- **Upcoming Events** to look for: JrH Youth Rally and JrH Extreme Challenge
- **High School Bible Study** - weekly event. Wednesday High School Bible Study will be from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Location: Brandsma Youth Room. Check email for cancellations.

\*[www.stbchurch.org](http://www.stbchurch.org) =>  
Faith Formation => JrHigh  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>



\*\*[www.stbchurch.org](http://www.stbchurch.org) =>  
Faith Formation => High School  
\*\*[sentmanatc@stbchurch.org](mailto:sentmanatc@stbchurch.org)  
Christopher Sentmanat, High School and Junior High FF, 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>.



## MASSES FOR THE WEEK NOVEMBER 30 THRU DECEMBER 6, 2025

Sat. Vigil	5:00 pm:	Alex Kristi Paz Quinn
Sun.	8:30 am:	All Parishioners
Sun.	11:00 am:	Mike and Margaret Widmar+
Sun.	5:00 pm:	Maria Magdalena Nguyen Thi Hien+
Mon.	No Mass	
Tues.	8:30 am:	For our Parish Volunteers
Wed.	7:00 pm:	The Alexander Family
Thurs.	8:30 am:	Angelica & Stephen Kwong
Fri.	8:30 am:	Kelly Broge
Sat.	No am Mass	

## FROM FAITH TO ACTION: GET INVOLVED IN YOUR PARISH!

Volunteering is a wonderful way to share your gifts of time and talent, meet new people, and deepen your faith. Whether you enjoy helping at events, greeting, serving others, or working behind the scenes, there's a ministry that's a perfect fit for you.

Signing up is easy—contact Suzanne Staron at 832-915-5644 or email [starons@stbchurch.org](mailto:starons@stbchurch.org) to learn about current opportunities. Your time and talents make a real difference in our church community!



## AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

**Vocations Silent Retreat:** Join us for a day of peaceful reflection at our silent retreat on December 14 at St. Mary's Seminary. Immerse yourself in St. Ignatius' Rules of Discernment and learn to listen to God's voice. This event is designed for young adults aged 18 to 35. Register today: <https://houstonvocations.com/events/>

**Young Adults:** Frassati Service at Casa Juan Diego Join the Archdiocese for our second Frassati Service opportunity on Saturday, December 13 at Casa Juan Diego for their weekly food drive. Come learn about the mission of the Catholic Worker House and help serve those in need. Volunteers should arrive by 8:15 a.m., dress comfortably, bring a water bottle and any items you wish to donate. Space is limited to 15 volunteers, but if spots are full, you can still help by selecting the "Donate and Help Package" option during registration. Register by December 5 at: [www.archgh.org/frassatiservice](http://www.archgh.org/frassatiservice)

**Texas Catholic Herald:** Check out the digital edition of the Texas Catholic Herald! Read the latest issue online now at [digitaleditions](http://digitaleditions.com) or visit [www.archgh.org/tch](http://www.archgh.org/tch).

## Ready or Not: Preparing Our Hearts for the Journey

Remember that time when you arrived at school to take a test or quiz on material you failed to read? Maybe it was on a classic book or a chapter in a science textbook. Did your blood pressure go sky high and the sweat start to show on your forehead? Squirming in the seat, you wondered what you could have done to avoid feeling this way. Then it came to you: you should have read what you were supposed to read!

Procrastination, indifference, poor scheduling of time, and stubbornness are all reasons why we fail to be prepared for a situation that arises in our lives. We lack commitment in doing what we are asked to do or what we know we should do. This is certainly true in our spiritual lives as well. We may choose to bear the label of disciple or good steward, but we don't really prepare ourselves for the daily journey of life.

Sacred Scripture can prepare us more fully for the circumstances of life, but not if we fail to read it. The words contained there are Spirit and life for us. They help us to understand where we fit into the Body of Christ and how we are to respond to the daily call of Christ. Everyday Stewards should be committed to reading and reflection of the Word of God. We know we should spend time with God's Word, but too often we fail to do so due to the same reasons already mentioned. When we failed to read in school, perhaps we failed the test and it hurt our grade. When we fail in life due to lack of preparedness, sometimes the consequences are more severe.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS