

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

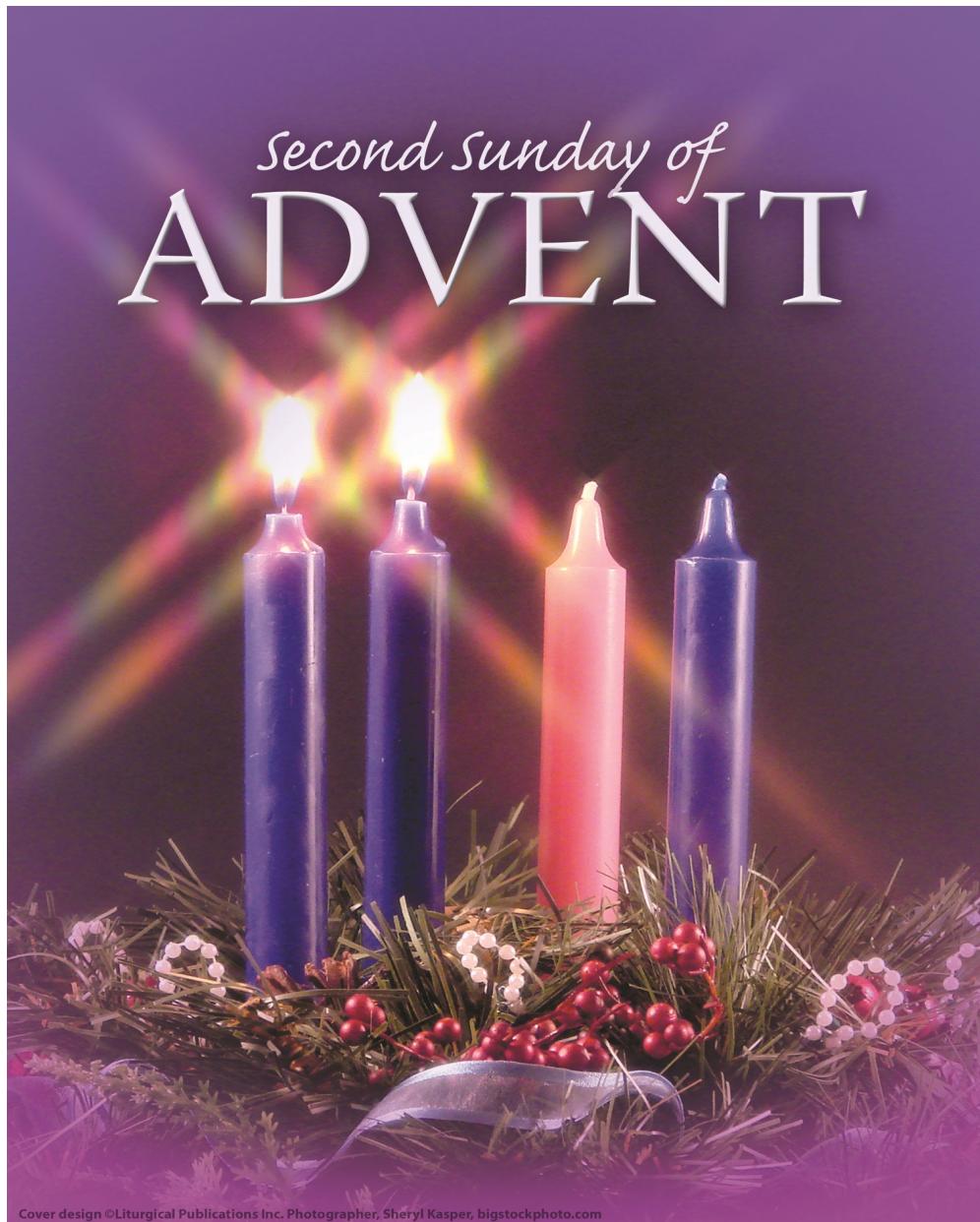
To begin the process of having your child baptized, please call the office or visit our website.

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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John the Baptist taught the people to prepare for the kingdom of heaven by repenting of sins and producing "good fruit." What could you do this second week of Advent to make a positive impact?

WELCOME



Readings for the Week

Monday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10 -11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15- 16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday:	Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

FAITH COMMITMENT OF TREASURE

Sunday Nov. 23, 2025	\$ 19,790.12
Online Giving**	<u>14,160.50</u>
Total Collection	\$ 33,950.62
Budget	<u>34,752.31</u>
Under budget	\$ (801.69)

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

Upcoming Second Collection: December 14 – Retirement Fund for Religious

2025-Diocesan Services Fund As of Nov. 25, 2025

Goal	\$ 159,000
Paid to Date	\$ 128,256
Under Goal	\$ (30,744)

Refresh and Renew Capital Campaign As of Nov. 25, 2025

Total Goal	\$ 2,500,000
Total Pledges to Date	\$ 3,024,413
Payments Received to Date	\$ 2,174,365
Total Number of Donors	641
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!



Current St. Bernadette Parishioners Update

Your Family Information Parish Soft gives

current parishioners the opportunity to log in and update family information.

1. Go to the following link <https://galveston.parishsoftfamilysuite.com>
2. A **New User Registration Form** will come up. Fill out the form and hit submit.
3. Your request will be sent to St. Bernadette to obtain confirmation.
4. Once you receive confirmation, you may set a permanent password and make changes to your family information.

This system allows you to add family members but it does not allow you to delete them. If you need assistance in adding and/or deleting information or would like to provide your updated information via telephone or e-mail, please contact Ann Zajac at 832-915-5652 or finance@stbchurch.org.

HOW LOCUSTS AND HONEY CAN CHANGE YOUR ADVENT

This week we hear that John the Baptist is out in the wilderness eating “**locusts and wild honey**” (**Mark 1:6**). It’s not just a strange historical detail. It’s a symbolic expression of a healthy spiritual diet. The path to Christ includes both the hard and the beautiful, the gritty and the sweet. We have to learn to gulp the locusts and savor the honey.

I remember working with a young couple preparing for marriage. They were sincere, but raw — barely beginning to discover faith. Part of me wanted to rush them ahead, to fill in all the gaps, to bombard them with scripture and church documents. I swallowed that instinct. It was like eating locusts.

But I also recall them light up as they spoke about each other, about their first child, then their second. And they wanted to be close to God. Something innocent and

beautiful was unfolding. That was the honey. I knew God was asking me to savor it.

This Advent, maybe we’re each being invited to accept both locusts and honey. Maybe it’s time to stop avoiding the difficult parts of faith — prayer that feels dry, the call to repentance, the patience with the troublesome. It’s time to eat some locusts.

But we also need to notice the small gifts God gives us: a peaceful moment, a good conversation, the joy of serving someone else, new life, good intentions of our friends. That’s the honey. Savor it!

John didn’t avoid either. He took it all in. And so can we. What are your locusts? Your honey? If we let God feed us with both, we’ll be ready — really ready — for the coming of Christ.

— Father John Muir ©LPI



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

All Services Start at 7:00 p.m.

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

Examination of Conscience, Explained

In Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, the apostle writes that it is imperative for a Christian to reflect on his conscience before he partakes of Holy Eucharist: "Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup" (1 Corinthians 11:28). The practice of examining one's conscience before seeking the Sacrament of Reconciliation thus dates to the very beginning of the Christian faith and was encouraged as a regular practice by many saints and founders of religious orders as a means of growing in virtue.

An examination of conscience, when it relates to the sacrament, simply means reflecting on one's actions (and particularly the intentions behind those actions) since the penitent's last absolution, making note of lapses in judgment that should be confessed. A good basis for this reflection can be the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and the seven deadly sins.



CHRISTIANS IN CONFLICT: HOW WE CAN PRAY TOGETHER

This December, Pope Leo XIV invites us to pray for Christians living in war-torn and conflict-ridden areas — especially in the Middle East — that they may become "seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=muFKCdDeBxQ>

Even when surrounded by pain and uncertainty, may they continue to feel the gentle kindness of God's presence and the love of their sisters and brothers in faith. Let us pray that they find strength to forgive, heal, and build bridges of justice and mercy.

As we watch the Pope's monthly video and unite our hearts with believers around the world, let us ask ourselves: ***How can we become instruments of peace in our own community and beyond?***



SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Mass
Monday, December 8
At 7:00 p.m.
Holy Day of Obligation.
Parish Offices Closed

Question: I've heard people call Jesus' conception by the Holy Spirit being "immaculately conceived." Is that what the Immaculate Conception is?

Answer: While these two events are often confused, they are not the same thing. We celebrated the conception of Jesus on March 25th, the feast of the Annunciation. While that was surely miraculous, it isn't what we refer to as the "immaculate conception." The Immaculate Conception is *Mary's* conception, and we typically celebrate it on December 8th. If the 8th happens to be a Sunday, the Church moves the feast to December 9th. It is a holy day of obligation. Why does the Church consider it so important to celebrate?

Mary's conception is immaculate because she was conceived without original sin. The angel Gabriel acknowledges this when he hails Mary as "full of grace" (Luke 1:28). Scripture scholars identify several theological ideas that confirm this. In the Old Testament, the sacred, pristine Ark of the Covenant held the presence of God. The presence of God is now held within a new "arc" — the womb of Mary. Genesis 3 also prophesies of a woman who would oppose the devil and whose child would crush the devil's head. Christ is the "New Adam." This passage sets up Mary, then, as the "New Eve." Jesus and Mary are the beginnings of a new creation, one we all can participate in through the grace of our baptism. After all, God's love is more "original" than our sin!



Where would you see this stained glass window at St. B's?

Gazebo (AKA Fr. Martinus Prayer Chapel)

SPIRITUAL LIFE

For more information concerning Spiritual Life, contact Laura Breaux at breauxl@stbchurch.org, 832-915-5643.
Access all Spiritual Life programs at www.stbchurch.org => Parish Life => Spiritual Life

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! We begin in the church at 3 p.m., then go in a procession around the campus, ending in the PLC for the fiesta! Children can come dressed as angels and shepherds, if they want.



Participants have mobility challenges are welcome to wait in the PLC for the procession to end. Visit www.stbchurch.org/las-posadas for more information. Volunteers are needed! If you would like to help with this event, please contact Laura Breaux at 832-915-5643, breauxl@stbchurch.org.

MEN'S RETREAT: All adult men are invited to attend the annual men's retreat, which is scheduled for **Saturday, January 31st** and will be held at the Armand Bayou Nature Center from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., followed by 5 p.m. Liturgy at St. Bernadette. The cost



is \$40. Registration is now open at www.stbchurch.org/mens-retreat. The theme is Eucharistic Spirituality. Join us as we explore how we can embrace Eucharistic spirituality in our daily lives. exploring the Eucharistic themes of gathering, listening, blessing, eating, and going forth. There will be time for personal prayer, reflection, and meditation. The retreat will be a guided silent retreat, led by our very own Deacon Kevin Woodvine! Space is limited, so register today!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: All are invited to join our Prayer Shawl Ministry on the **second Tuesday** of each month at **11:30 a.m.** in the **Conference Room** of the church office. As we knit and crochet the shawls, we pray that those who will receive them will receive God's comfort, strength and love. The prayer shawls are then given to those in need of them. If you know of anyone who would benefit from our prayer shawls, please contact Lillian Teixeira, 281-488-4412.

YOUNG ADULTS - SAVE THE DATE! St. Bernadette is hosting a young adult day of prayer on **Thursday, January 8th**, 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!

A WONDERFUL THANKSGIVING POTLUCK CELEBRATION!

Our Thanksgiving Potluck was a great success! Thank you to everyone who joined us for an afternoon filled with delicious food, warm fellowship, and the joy of connecting with both familiar faces and new friends.

A very special thank-you goes to all the volunteers who helped make the event run so smoothly—your time, energy, and hospitality truly made the day. We are also grateful to the *Clear Lake Intermediate Advanced Chorus* for sharing their beautiful talent with us. Their performance was absolutely outstanding and even earned a heartfelt standing ovation!

Thank you again to everyone who cooked, served, sang, visited, and celebrated with us. What a blessing it was to come together as a parish family! The next potluck lunch will be Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. Hope to see you then!



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-25	94	443	11	\$3,351.69	220

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 DUE THIS WEEKEND!

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). 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, Chili, Canned, pasta, Toothbrushes (Kids and Adults) Tuna. 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.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CONNECTIONS

Registration 2025–2026: ECC offers a faith-based, nurturing early learning environment for children ages 1–5. Classes run 9:05 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Final placement is determined by the teacher/director. Back-to-School paperwork is also required. Register: Scan the QR code or visit MyProCare.com.

Registration Fee: \$250 Tuition Options

2 days (Mon/Wed – 1s & 2s only): \$305

2 days (Tue/Thu): \$310

3 days (Tue/Wed/Thu): \$440

4 days (Mon–Thu): \$510

Pre-K Fun Friday: \$80

Classes require a minimum enrollment.

Discounts: Sibling Tuition Discount: 10% off total tuition; Family Registration Fee: \$200 first child, \$125 second, \$50 for each additional child; Military Discount: 10% off tuition with Active Military ID



Question: What are the names of the three biblical archangels?

Answer: Gabriel, Michael, and Raphael.



WFC, JR. HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

JrH AND High School Information
(see below for JrH and High School specific events)

- **Faith Formation Today!** – Drop off at PLC today. 3:30 pm doors open, opening prayer 3:45 p.m. JrH pick-up in the gym.

- **Brave (High School) Summer Camp** – Brave 2026 will be from June 28th to July 3rd. Register on the HS website.

- **Expedition (Junior High) Summer Camp** – Expedition 2026 will be from June 3rd to June 6th. 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

JRHIGH *and HIGH SCHOOL Events**

- **Social events for JrHigh** – Email with ideas for JrHigh activities this year!

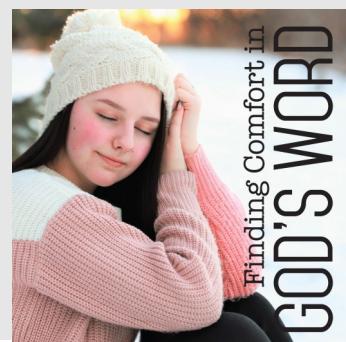
- **Upcoming Events** to look for: JrH Youth Rally and JrH Extreme Challenge

- **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 => Faith Formation => JrHigh 6th-8th

**www.stbchurch.org => Faith Formation => High School

**sentmanat@stbchurch.org
Christopher Sentmanat, High School and Junior High FF, 6th-12th.



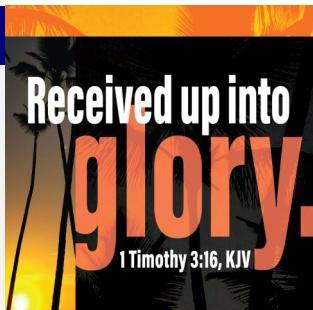
MASSES FOR THE WEEK DECEMBER 7 THRU DECEMBER 13, 2025

Sat. Vigil	5:00 pm:	Kristin Nikiel Rubbico+
Sun.	8:30 am:	All Parishioners
Sun.	11:00 am:	David Velasco, Jr.+
Sun.	5:00 pm:	Brent Evans II +
Mon.	7:00 pm	For all Parishioners
Tues.	8:30 am:	Constance Lewandowski+
Wed.	7:00 pm:	Ellen Kelly +
Thurs.	8:30 am:	Fr. Ed Burba+
Fri.	8:30 am:	Mariamma Antony+ Fdunn family
Sat.	No am Mass	

BORN INTO ETERNAL LIFE

Robert Chin on April 12, 2024
Ralph John Chauvin on November 23, 2025

DECEMBER 2023 AND 2024: Please remember our parishioners on the anniversaries of their entrance into heaven.
John F. Cornwell



BORN INTO THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

November 2025

Willow Delphine Bertsch
Jazzlyn Marie-Faye Castillo
Eleanor Jane Quick
Eli Jackson Winterhalter
Keanu Martin Gallardo



PILGRIMS OF HOPE

As the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025 comes to a close, we look back with gratitude on a year centered on renewal, mercy, and rediscovering the hope Christ offers to the world. Pilgrims around the globe crossed Holy Doors, embraced prayer and reconciliation, strengthened their commitment to service, and sought a deeper encounter with God's healing love. This Jubilee invited us to lift our eyes beyond fear and uncertainty and to recognize the signs of hope that God plants in everyday life. As we conclude this sacred year, may the hope we've celebrated continue to guide our steps and inspire our faith long after the Jubilee ends.

The closing of the Holy Doors for Jubilee 2025 will be streamed and televised through official Vatican channels and partner broadcasters.

- **December 25, 2025:** Closing of the Holy Door at the Basilica of Saint Mary Major.
- **December 28, 2025:** Closing of the Holy Door at the Basilica of Saint John Lateran.
- **January 6, 2026:** Closing of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica.



GIFTS OF TIME AND TALENT: ADVENT SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Bake Holiday Cookies for Our Parish!

Love to bake but don't have anyone to bake for? Share your holiday treats with our parish visitors and staff! Drop off homemade cookies or sweets. Please call Suzanne Staron at 832-915-5644 ahead of time to arrange drop off time, weekday or weekend. *Teens can earn 1 service hour for every dozen of cookies or treats.*

Make a Paracord Lanyard for the Military

Create a paracord lanyard to show appreciation for service members and first responders! Each lanyard provides 5 feet of emergency-use cord. All ages are welcome. A limited amount of paracord is available through the Time & Talent Office—please call before pickup, or feel free to use your own. Finished lanyards may be dropped off at the Time & Talent Office (please label clearly). Donations will be sent to Operation Gratitude. Teens earn 1 service hour for every 5 lanyards. Details at stbchurch.org/time-talent.

Parish Grounds Clean-Up

Help keep our parish grounds beautiful! Volunteers of all ages can help with light tasks like picking up trash, weeding, and raking. Parents/guardians must accompany minors. Adults (21+) may also help with mowing, edging, and leaf blowing. All equipment and training are provided.

Service hours available. Meet at the garage in the back parking lot at **8 a.m. on**

Saturdays. Please wear closed-toe shoes and bring garden gloves if you have them.

Bake Cookies for First Responders

Brighten someone's day—anytime! Bake cookies and make a thank-you card for local first responders. Drop your treats off at a nearby fire house, constable, or police station (please call ahead to confirm they can accept home-baked goods). Teens can earn 1 service hour by sending photos of their completed project to starons@stbchurch.org.

Donate Blood on Your Schedule

Give the gift of life! Gulf Coast Blood Center on Clear Lake City Blvd. is open **7 days a week**. Sign up at giveblood.org and use sponsor code **1122** so St. B's receives credit.