

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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THiNK
About It.

In prison, John the Baptist seemed uncertain about who Jesus is. Who do you talk to when you have questions about Jesus?

WELCOME



Readings for the Week

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

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

Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

Thursday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Saturday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24



FAITH COMMITMENT OF TREASURE

Sunday Nov. 30, 2025	\$ 12,907.62
Online Giving**	<u>\$ 13,624.91</u>
Total Collection	\$ 26,532.53
Budget	<u>\$ 34,752.31</u>
Under budget	<u>\$ (8,219.79)</u>

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

Upcoming Second Collection: January 25 – Bishops' Fund for Latin America

2025-Diocesan Services Fund As of Dec. 2, 2025

Goal	\$ 159,000
Paid to Date	\$ 130,486
Under Goal	\$ (28,514)

Refresh and Renew Capital Campaign As of Dec. 2, 2025

Total Goal	\$ 2,500,000
Total Pledges to Date	\$ 3,026,778
Payments Received to Date	\$ 2,178,734
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.

WHEN THE WORLD WAVES ITS BANNERS—WHAT DO YOU CHASE?

When I was 11, I was riding my bike on a Friday night in Scottsdale, Arizona. I saw giant spotlights swirling in the sky. Something amazing had to be happening. I pedaled after them with excitement. Sweaty and tired, I arrived, only to find a used car lot. Bright lights, flapping banners, inflatable balloon men swaying wildly in the wind. I stood there, heart sinking. All that spectacle, and all my effort ... for this?

As life proceeds, we learn what it is like to pursue promising but fruitless searches. This week we hear Jesus ask the crowds regarding John the Baptist: **“What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?”** (Matthew 11:7). He’s not just describing the crowd’s mis-aimed pursuit. He’s naming our tendency to chase after what’s flashy but flimsy.

What are our swaying reeds? For me, it is endless video

reels on my phone, worldly pleasures, entertainment in sports, and the good opinion of others. Inflated distractions that bend whichever way the wind blows. But they can’t satisfy my soul. What are your flimsy reeds?

John the Baptist wasn’t a swaying reed. He was rooted, grounded, unafraid to speak the solid truth. The people went to see him because, deep down, they were starving for something real.

This Advent, the Church asks us to reassess: What are we really looking for? Are we chasing the dazzling but hollow? Or are we seeking what is solid and lasting — that which points to Christ?
— Father John Muir



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

All Services Start at 7:00 p.m.

December 16, St. Clare of Assisi

December 18, St Paul the Apostle —Nassau Bay

The Doors We Lock

As a child, and even for a while as a teenager, I experienced an enormous amount of anxiety whenever I went to confession. For so many years I feared it. For so many years I waited in the confession line trembling, feeling sick to my stomach.

In the upper room after Christ's Passion and death, the anxiety of the disciples was so strong that they locked themselves away. But still Christ found a way into their midst. He would not be prevented from bringing mercy and hope to a place shrouded in despair. No door barred in a moment of fear could keep him out.

This is the genius of the sacrament of Reconciliation — and of all sacraments, really. Here we are, restricted in so many ways by an existence that is woefully physical. We feel fear, and our body reacts, just as we feel anger and our body reacts.

How can God deliver mercy to us in this flesh-bound state? Through that very flesh which can feel so confining. Through confession, which requires a physical action, and the physical participation not just of the penitent but of the priest.

Let the house of Aaron say, "His mercy endures forever." — Psalm 118:3
—Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



CHRISTMAS AT ST. BERNADETTE

Invite your family and friends and join us!

Wednesday, December 24th

4:30 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Mass

Prelude music starts at 4p.m.

4:45 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass in the PLC

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass

Prelude music starts at 6:40p.m.

10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass

Prelude music starts at 9:40p.m.

Thursday, December 25th

8:30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass

Glory to the newborn King!



From the Pastor

Sometimes they are called Romani and other times Gypsies. Just like the swallows at Capistrano, they have appeared on time again for Christmas. It is an annual event for us to see them as we leave Eucharist these days.

They do not live near us. They come from across town in a van. They are delivered to Churches in the area on Sunday and are picked up and taken home later. Their job is to tug on your very generous and loving and tender hearts. They want cash and nothing else and use children and babies to make the grab. They do not want to come on Monday and receive the benefits of Christian Action. They only want cash. Be aware. They



YOUR GIFTS ARE ALREADY HELPING—STAY MINDFUL A MESSAGE FROM FR. BOB

do no like no for an answer, not from me or others and we often have to rely on the Police to resolve matters. Usually at the sight of an officer they quickly disappear.

Be mindful, also, that from the very first days of the parish, **5% of every Sunday Collection goes to support Christian Action**. We have, in Christian Action, everything they need, except cash. We never give cash.

All of this means that you have already helped them. **You have already provided for them** and there is no need to fall into their trap. Be aware. **Smile and keep walking**. Just like the swallows, they have come to roost for the Christmas season. We have everything they need in Christian Action.

Another Reminder: We will never solicit money or gift cards for staff or clergy by text, email, or social media.

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 TODAY 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 that have mobility challenges are welcome to wait in the PLC for the procession to end. Visit www.stbchurch.org/las-posadas for more information.



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!



CORRECTION - PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: All are invited to join our Prayer Shawl Ministry on the **second Tuesday** of each month at **10:00 a.m.** in the **Tasker Room** of the **Parish Life Center**. 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 ADULT DAY OF PRAYER:

St. Bernadette is hosting a young adult day of prayer, entitled, **Wise Ones Still Seek Him**, on **Thursday, January 8th**, following the 8:30 morning Mass and concluding at 1 p.m. All young adults returning to college in the Spring of 2026 are invited to attend. REGISTER TODAY at www.stbchurch.org/retreats.

A JUBILEE OF HOPE: REFLECTIONS THAT CARRY US FORWARD



As we wind down the Jubilee Year of Hope, our parish held a special Advent Mission with Bishop Brendan Cahill to help us reflect and find renewed inspiration for the journey of hope ahead.

Day 1—Mercy That Gives Us Hope

Our first session, Bishop Cahill invited us into the beauty and depth of Psalm 51, King David's heartfelt plea for mercy after being confronted by the prophet Nathan. Through this Psalm—and with the guidance of St. Augustine's reflections—we were reminded that God's mercy is the foundation of our hope: He sees us, forgives us, and stays with us even when we fail.

We also reflected on the call, echoed by St. John Paul II and Pope Francis, to extend that same mercy toward others—especially the poor—by recognizing the dignity of every person and stepping beyond ourselves to be present with those who suffer. Participants closed with small-group conversations and a quote from Pope Francis to guide further reflection.

Day 2—A Message of Hope

Our reflection on Exodus 6:2–8, reminds us that God sees us, hears us, and never forgets His promises. Even in times of struggle, God stays close—just as He did for His people in Exodus. Drawing on the witness of leaders like Archbishop Desmond Tutu, we are reminded that God always stands with

those who suffer and brings freedom in His time. During this Advent season, the Eucharist becomes our sign of hope: Christ walks with us, strengthens us, and sends us out to bring His love to others. We concluded the Mission with reflection, prayer, and an inspirational music video on Hope, featuring singers from around the world. Watch it here: <https://youtu.be/d48-qbcovVY?list=PL4eVTeEZA-GNAHfMttQliPEFuxWgi3RZsK>



We extend our heartfelt thanks to **Bishop Cahill** for his inspirational presentation, to all the **volunteers** who made this Mission possible, and to the **participants** whose prayers and presence contributed to its success. Your dedication and faith made this Mission a true blessing for our parish community.



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
Oct-25	69	327	2	\$0.00	140
Nov-25	94	443	11	\$3,438.60	220
Dec 1-3, 2025	25	119	2	\$348.35	39.5

Christian Action is here to serve registered parishioners and families in our community. We serve our neighbors in crisis living in the following zip codes: 77062, 77058, 77059, 77598. We assist with electricity, food, and clothing. We have a clothing distribution 2 times a year. Neighbors in need may call on Monday or Wednesday (9:30 - 11:30 a.m.) to pick up bags of supplemental groceries on Tuesday or Thursday (9:30 - 11:00 a.m.). No walk-ins. Families in need are eligible for food assistance once a month.



We **DO NOT** accept expired food items, glass containers, large items or furniture. **WE ARE THANKFUL FOR ALL THE DONATIONS, BUT PLEASE DO NOT USE THE CHRISTIAN ACTION BIN AS A DUMP BIN!** Christian Action accepts donations of **non-expired food, gently used or new clothes, and shoes**. Donation days and hours at the Christian Action office are M-Th 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. THANK YOU.

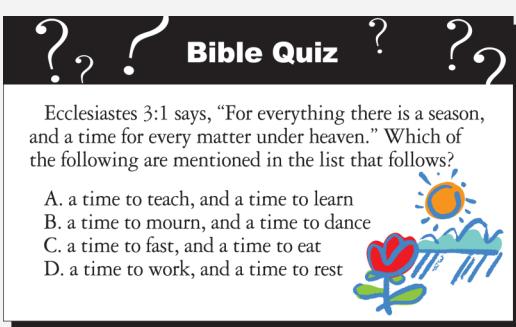
FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

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 WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 22, 2025- JANUARY 2, 2026.

ADULT FAITH SPRING STUDY! ECCLESIASTES & WISDOM

Join us for an in-depth study of these often overlooked and underappreciated books of the Old Testament. The semester begins on Tuesday, January 6th. Sessions are offered at both 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. in the Marius Room of the PLC. No registration needed, just you and a Bible! Any questions or concerns, please contact Jason Honeycutt at honeycuttj@stbchurch.org



Answer: B (See Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.)

WFC, JR. HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

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

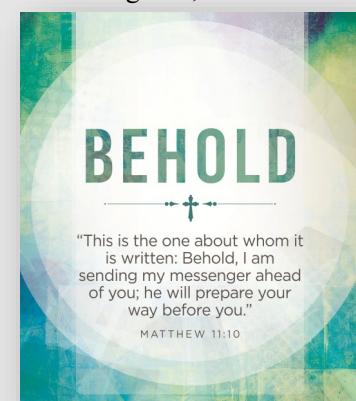
- **No Faith Formation Today.** Instead join us for the tradition of Las Posadas today at 3 pm! Youth can dress as shepherds and angels.
- **Brave (High School) Summer Camp** – Brave 2026 will be from June 28th to July 3rd. Register on the HS website.
- **Expedition (Junior High) Summer Camp** – Expedition 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. No Bible Study December 24th and 31st.

*www.stbchurch.org => Faith Formation => JrHigh 6th-8th

**www.stbchurch.org => Faith Formation => High School
 Christopher Sentmanat, High School and Junior High FF, 6th-12th



MASSES FOR THE WEEK DECEMBER 14 THRU DECEMBER 20, 2025

Sat. Vigil 5:00 pm: Kristin Nikiel Rubbico+
Sun. 8:30 am: Dawn Jimenez-Salta+
Sun. 11:00 am: Marvin Mosgrove+
Sun. 5:00 pm: All Parishioners
Mon. No Mass
Tues. 8:30 am: Robert J. Setele+
Wed. 7:00 pm:
Thurs. 8:30 am: Joseph, & Mary Manickam Family+
Fri. 8:30 am: Kristin Nikiel Rubbico+
Sat. No am Mass

The floral arrangement at the shrine last week was in honor of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

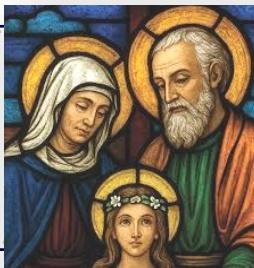
EARLY CHILDHOOD CONNECTIONS



REGISTER TODAY. Registration Fee: \$250. For more information contact Jennifer Nevins, Director 832-915-5700 www.stbchurch.org => preschool => registration
2 Days: Mon/Wed (1s & 2s): \$305; Tue/Thu: \$310; 3 Days: Tue/Wed/Thu: \$440; 4 Days: Mon–Thu: \$510. Add-On Pre-K Fun Friday: \$80

Question: According to tradition, what are the names of Mary's parents?

Answer: St. Anne and St. Joachim



AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

December 19: All are invited to the Filipino community's *Simbang Gabi*, a nine-night Advent tradition preparing for the birth of our Lord. The 5th night will be celebrated at 6 p.m. on Friday, December 19 at Mary Queen Catholic Church (606 Cedarwood Dr., Friendswood). A Filipino potluck dinner will follow. For details, contact Charity Concepcion at 832-630-2960.

Dec. 20: Live nativity, 4 to 7 p.m., Sacred Heart (109 N Frazier St., Conroe). Event features a live nativity outside the church on the corner of Frazier St. and FM 2854 with live animals, prayer and music. Children's activities and light refreshments. Free. the99SH@gmail.com

Dec. 21: Christmas Concert, 2 p.m., University of St. Thomas St. Basil Chapel (1018 West Alabama St., Houston). Cor Mundi Chamber Choir, presents a collection of compositions and carols celebrating the Christ Child. Cost: \$45 General, \$20 Student. info@cormundi.org

Dec. 23: Simbang Gabi Culmination Mass, Dec. 23, 7 p.m., St. Helen (2209 Old Alvin Rd., Pearland). Archbishop Joe S. Vásquez celebrates Archdiocesan celebration of the Filipino Simbang Gabi novena of Advent Masses.

GIFTS OF TIME AND TALENT: ADVENT SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Contact Suzanne Staron 832-915-5644 or starons@stbchurch.org

Make a "Thinking of You" Card or Craft

Help brighten the day of a homebound parishioner! All ages can participate by creating a homemade card or small craft. Cards should be 8½ x 11 or smaller, any medium, and no envelopes are needed. Please sign with your first name. Small craft items for shut-ins are also welcome. Drop off all items at the Time & Talent Office.

Bake Holiday Cookies for Our Volunteers.

Love to bake? Share your holiday cookies or sweets with our volunteers! Please call Suzanne Staron at 832-915-5644 to coordinate a weekday or weekend drop-off time. Teens earn 1 service hour for every dozen homemade cookies or treats.

Create a Snack Pack.

Support volunteers working on parish projects by making decorated snack packs! Decorate a lunch sack with encouraging words or artwork, and fill it with two store-bought, non-perishable snacks (examples: crackers, nuts, granola bars, fruit cups, trail mix, etc.). Label for Time & Talent and drop off at the office. Teens earn 1 service hour for every 10 completed bags.

Make a Paracord Lanyard for the Military

Show appreciation to service members and first responders by making paracord lanyards—each one provides 5 feet of emergency cord. All ages are welcome to participate. A limited supply of paracord is available through the Time & Talent Office (please call before picking up), or you may use your own. Drop off finished lanyards at the office. Teens earn 1 service hour for every 5 lanyards. More details at stbchurch.org/time-talent.

Parish Grounds Clean-Up

Join us in keeping our parish grounds beautiful! Volunteers of all ages can assist with light tasks like trash pickup, weeding, and raking (minors must be accompanied by a parent/guardian). Adults age 21+ may also help with mowing, edging, and leaf blowing. All equipment and training are provided. **Meet at 8 a.m. on Saturdays** at the back parking lot garage. Service hours available.

Donate Blood on Your Schedule

Give the life-saving gift of blood! The 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 for your donation.