

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

RECONCILIATION

Wednesdays 5:30 - 6:30 pm (resumes
 Jan. 7) 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.



THE HOLY FAMILY

He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth,
 so that what had been spoken through the
 prophets might be fulfilled. - Mt 2:23

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPi



THink
About It.

We hear how the Holy Family faced some very dangerous
 circumstances early on. Can you think of some challenges your family
 has had to overcome?

WELCOME



Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18

Thursday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Friday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



FAITH COMMITMENT OF TREASURE

Sunday Dec. 14, 2025	\$ 32,630.62
Online Giving**	13,910.54
Total Collection	\$ 46,541.16
Budget	34,752.31
Over budget	\$ 11,788.85

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

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

2025-Diocesan Services Fund As of Dec. 16, 2025

Goal	\$ 159,000
Paid to Date	\$ 135,131
Under Goal	\$ (23,869)

Refresh and Renew Capital Campaign As of Dec. 16, 2025

Total Goal	\$ 2,500,000
Total Pledges to Date	\$ 3,017,983
Payments Received to Date	\$ 2,205,082
Total Number of Donors	644
Expenditures to Date	\$ 2,053,327

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.

BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER: GOD'S PLAN FOR LIFE

... bearing with one another and forgiving one another.
(Colossians 3:13)

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. We can take for granted that Jesus, the Son of God, Mary, the Mother of God, and St. Joseph, the Just, must have been holy. But what about the rest of us? What is the key to living as a holy family?

In his Letter to the Colossians, St. Paul puts his finger on one of the best ways to experience holiness in family

life: *bearing with and forgiving one another* (3:13). Because despite our love for each other, annoyances or misunderstandings or frustration will arise. So what do we do? Paul tells us that when we have grievances against someone else, we

need to bear with them and be willing to forgive them just as the Lord has forgiven us.

That's the beauty of today's second reading. Paul doesn't present a stained glass image of holiness for us to strive for but never attain. He shows us how to get there! It starts as we acknowledge that we are all God's chosen ones, forgiven and beloved. So living as a holy family isn't just a matter of doing the "hard work" of loving one another. It's also a matter of receiving the grace and mercy God offers so that we can love in ways that we can't do on our own. It's a matter of giving away what we've received.

Practically, this means treating our family members with the heartfelt compassion and patience that we have received from Christ. It means bearing with our fellow sinners because we know how much Jesus bears with us.

What a relief this is! We don't have to pretend to be perfect. We could never do it on our own anyway. But we do have to receive from Jesus the forgiveness that can move us to extend the same mercy to our loved ones. And that will make for a holy family!

"Heavenly Father, thank you for your mercy that moves me to show mercy to my loved ones!"



MARY, MOTHER OF GOD — HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION



MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

And Mary kept all these things,
reflecting on them in her heart. - Lk 2:19

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1988, 1970 CCD. ©LPi

Mass Schedule

Vigil: Wednesday, December 31 at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 1, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Parish Offices Closed Until Jan. 5, 2026

Q: If God is eternal and infinite, how can He have a mother? Why don't we call Mary just the mother of Jesus?

A: The title of "Mary, Mother of God" can be confusing. We aren't implying that Mary existed from eternity or that she is divine herself. We aren't promoting some kind of Marian superpowers. The Church has fought for this title throughout the centuries for one simple reason: Christ's identity is at stake.

As the Church grew in the early centuries, theologians wrestled with what it meant for Jesus to be both God and man. Many distortions of his identity began to emerge. One of these was propagated by a man named Nestorius. Nestorius and his followers denied that Jesus' human nature and his divine nature were inseparable. Following that logic, Mary could have only conceived Jesus' human nature. But people don't give birth to a "nature." They give birth to a whole person. For Jesus, his whole person is both human and divine. In 431 A.D. the Council of Ephesus denounced Nestorius. The bishops affirmed that Jesus is both fully human and fully divine and proclaimed Mary Theotokos. Translating the Greek to English, that means "God-bearer." Note that this isn't "God-generator" or "God-creator." Mary bore Jesus, God and man, in her womb and gave him birth. She is mother to the whole person, the whole Jesus, and therefore Mother of God.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

TAMALE FUNDRAISER

Support your Knights of Columbus' charities by ordering handmade tamales now! Get them in time for Football's Favorite Sunday by picking up your tamales (hot) behind the Parish Life Center (PLC) on Friday, Feb. 6 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. or by picking up the tamales, that will have been frozen, in the PLC Kitchen on Sunday, Feb. 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Orders must be in by Thursday, January 22, 2026! Tamales: \$15.00 / dozen Salsa: \$12.00 / 32 oz. jar.

MORE TAMALES = MORE CHARITY = MORE LOVE Go to <https://kofc10959.org/tamale-fundraiser> or scan the QR code for ordering and pick-up information. Questions? Contact Kyle Zandy at kzandy5953@gmail.com or 281-620-1102.



LOOKING FOR A CHURCH TO CALL HOME?

Are you new to the area, returning to church after some time away, or curious about the Catholic faith? St. Bernadette Church welcomes you with open arms!

Join us to learn more about our parish community, meet fellow parishioners, and discover opportunities to worship, serve, and grow in faith. You're also invited to tour our beautiful grounds and experience our parish life firsthand.

For more information or to arrange a tour, contact our Newcomer Coordinator, Suzanne Staron at 832-915-5644 or starons@stbchurch.org. To register in the parish: www.stbchurch.org => About => Join Our Parish. We can't wait to meet you and share the joy of our faith community!

YOU ARE
Welcome Here

JOB OPENING

St. Bernadette Catholic Church is seeking a part-time (15 hrs/week) Time & Talent Assistant. Responsibilities include preparing the parish bulletin and providing clerical support for the protecting children and youth program. Ideal applicants are detail-oriented, proficient in Microsoft Office, and comfortable working with technology and people. Send a cover letter, résumé, and salary requirements to Kathleen Keating at keatingk@stbchurch.org with the job title in the subject line. Visit <https://www.stbchurch.org/employment-opportunities> for more information.

We're
Hiring

A PRAYERFUL
NEW YEAR'S
RESOLUTION
IDEA:

KEEP A
GRATITUDE
PRAYER JOURNAL
AND SAY
A PRAYER OF
THANKSGIVING
EVERY EVENING.

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](https://www.stbchurch.org/Parish%20Life/Spiritual%20Life)

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!

NEW!! WALKING WITH PURPOSE: *Walking with Purpose* is a Catholic women's apostolate offering Bible studies for women and girls of all ages, providing practical Biblical teachings consistent with Church doctrine. Our next study will be a little different with no book to buy and no homework. We will listen to and discuss the *Walking with Purpose* podcast (*Hope for Right Now*) 4-part series on the Feminine Genius. Saint John Paul II coined the phrase "feminine genius" in his open letter titled, *Mulieris Dignitatem* (On the Dignity and Vocation of Women). Each week, through the writings of Saint Edith Stein, personal stories, and the Word of God, we will unpack one of these components. For more information, join us on



January 8 for a Women at the Well/ Walking with Purpose combined event. We will meet in the **mini hall at 6:30 p.m.** to enjoy a potluck supper, followed by an introductory talk on the Feminine Genius and *Mulieris Dignitatem* (*On the Dignity and Vocation of Women*).

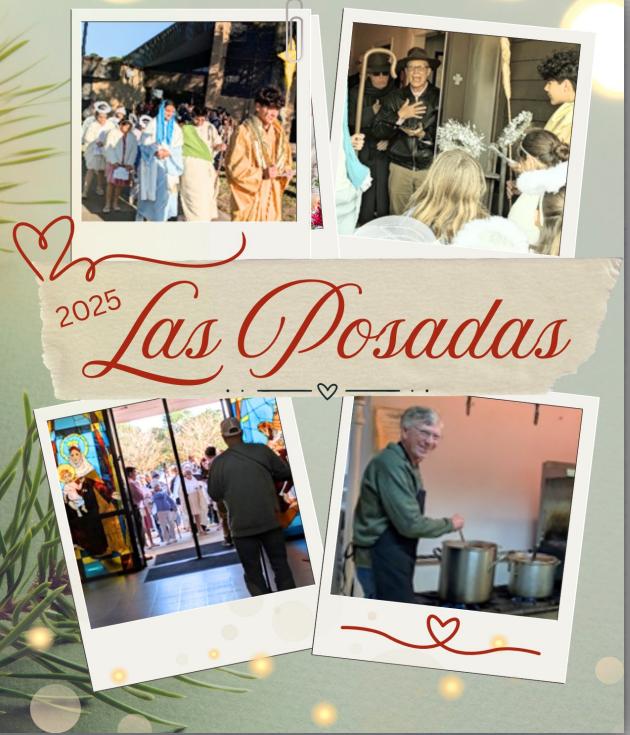
YOUNG ADULT DAY OF PRAYER:

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.

Wise Ones
STILL SEEK HIM

Thank You for a Wonderful Las Posadas Celebration on December 14

Las Posadas is a cherished Advent tradition that led us to reflect on Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem in search of shelter. We gathered in prayer, song, and hospitality, opening our hearts to Christ present among us and in one another. This meaningful celebration reminded us of the call to compassion, generosity, and hope—and beautifully closed out St. B's Jubilee Year of Hope.



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-25	75	366	10	\$808.38	129

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.**

THANK YOU! Your Christian Action would like to say thank you for your amazing acts of kindness and generosity. Thank you for your supportive and loving heart. As a community, together we can move mountains! This year for Christmas, your St. Bernadette Christian Action supported students in the CCISD by collaborating with Hope Active and CCISD (we provided 70 gift cards), supported

Immaculate Heart of Mary, our twinning parish (70 gift cards for the Jr High and High School students), The Mercy Tree (blankets, gloves, socks, sweatpants, disposable razors), the Crossing Guards, 2 families in Denver Harbor, and 6 families adopted through CHRISTUS Point of Light Clinic.

CHRISTIAN ACTION WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 22, 2025-JANUARY 2, 2026. Have a safe and blessed New Year!

You're
amazing!

START THE NEW YEAR TOGETHER – POTLUCK GATHERING

Everyone is invited to a **Parish Potluck on Thursday, January 15, at 11:30 a.m.** in the **Parish Life Center**. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather as a parish family, meet new faces, and catch up with friends in a relaxed and welcoming setting.

Please bring your favorite dish to share (enough for 6–10 people). Short on time? No worries—pizza or fried chicken picked up on the way is perfectly fine. Come enjoy good food, warm conversation, and fellowship as we share holiday highlights and share our hopes for the new year with one another.

Want to help? Volunteers are welcome and appreciated! If you'd like to assist with setup, serving, or cleanup, please let us know.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Suzanne Staron at 832-915-5644.

MEET
on
EAT

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.**
Have a Merry Christmas break! First Faith Formation back is January 11, 2025.
- **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 31st.

*www.stbchurch.org => Faith Formation => JrHigh 6th-8th
**www.stbchurch.org => Faith Formation => High School
**sentmanatc@stbchurch.org
Christopher Sentmanat, High School and Junior High FF, 6th-12th.

O Lord, let my
New Year's resolution
be to **follow you**
more closely
and to **trust in your**
loving guidance.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK DECEMBER 28 THRU JANUARY 3, 2026

Sat. Vigil	5:00 pm:	Robert J Hones+
Sun.	8:30 am:	All Parishioners
Sun.	11:00 am:	Roen Medrano
Sun.	5:00 pm:	Sam Long+
Mon.	No Mass	
Tues.	8:30 am:	Fr. Jerome Duke +
Wed.	7:00 pm:	Jack Van Gundy+
Thurs.	10:00 am:	For Our Parishioners
Fri.	8:30 am:	Angie Carrasco & Family
Sat.	No am Mass	

Trusting God When the Detours Never End

We don't know exactly what kind of life Mary and Joseph envisioned when they were first betrothed — back in those simple times when they were just like any other couple who had hopes, dreams and no angels telling them what to do.

Whatever their plans were, I think it's safe to say that the future God had in store for Mary and Joseph was not one either of them expected. I would imagine they both anticipated something a little quieter. A little more stable (no pun intended). A little less tumultuous.

It exhausts me simply to read through the chaos of their movements in today's Gospel. Flee to Egypt, return to Israel (but not Judea! Herod's son is there! Divert to Galilee! Divert!). Settle in Nazareth (let me remind you, this is all happening with a baby in tow, and without the aid of a minivan). Take a deep breath, but don't get too comfortable — now it's almost time to lose your kid in Jerusalem. Then you'll have about 20 years off before he starts raising people from the dead, and that's when things start to get *really* crazy.

The story of the Holy Family is the ultimate example of the phrase "God had other plans." If any four-word sentence encapsulates what we can expect from the Christian life, it is this.

I thought I was meant for that job, but God had other plans. I thought I would live in this place, but God had other plans. I thought I was supposed to become this person, but God had other plans. We can do all the right things. We can make all the right choices. We can say, over and over again until our voice wears out, "Thy will be done." But all we can know for sure is that God has other plans.

—LPI



WHOLE FAMILY CATECHESIS (WFC) PREK FAITH FORMATION 2 1/2 TO PREK 5 YEARS OLD

Gospel Weeklies Wishing you a blessed Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Pflaum FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM No meeting in the classrooms for all PreK classes on Dec. 28, and January 4.

The Pflaum Gospel Weeklies handouts, coloring/activity pages can be found in your child's folder. Additional resources can be found at <https://www.pflaum.com/>. For all WFC PreK FF classes, see you in the classrooms on January 11, 2026. Call Aurora Winstead at 832-915-5648 or email at winsteada@stbchurch.org if you have any questions or are interested in registering or volunteering in the WFC Pre-K Faith Formation ministry. Junior High and High School students, we have opportunities for service hours.

TIME AND TALENT: RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES

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

Electronic Recycling at Ellington, Saturday, January 10. The City of Houston is offering an electronic recycling drop-off day at the Ellington Airport/Clear Lake Neighborhood Recycling Center on January 10 (second Saturday), from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. or until the truck is full. Recycle unwanted televisions, cell phones, fax machines, DVD or VCR players, and other electronic devices. There is NO COST. Consider reaching out to neighbors or seniors and offer to take their items as well. For more information including size limit on TV's: <https://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/clearlake.html> **PS.** For your safety, don't forget to wipe/destroy your computer hard drive before donating. For cell phones, remove your SIM and SD cards, and perform a factory reset to erase all personal information; then check that the device is no longer linked to your Apple ID or Google account.

Recycle Christmas Lights

- Recycle your old Christmas lights and receive a coupon for HolidayLEDs.com! Christmas lights aren't biodegradable and can sit in landfills for hundreds of years, posing risks to wildlife. Learn more: <https://www.holidayleds.com/free-light-recycling>
- The Houston Zoo's holiday light recycling program runs until January 4, 2026, with a special bin at the main entrance for string lights, helping divert waste from landfills to protect animal habitats. Call (713) 533-6500 for information.

Do you know of a local place to recycle lights? Please send me an email and let me know. Suzanne Staron at starons@stbchurch.org

NEW OR LIKE NEW TECHNOLOGY

Do you have new or gently used technology looking for a new home—such as flat screen LCD TV's, laptops, tablets, speakers, large room projectors, other devices? The church may be able to put it to good use. Please contact Suzanne Staron at 832-915-5644 or starons@stbchurch.org. Thank you for keeping your parish in mind!

EARLY CHILDHOOD CONNECTIONS



2026-2027 Registration
Information Coming Soon!
Scan the QR for our website

