



SAINT BEDE

CATHOLIC CHURCH



Welcome Home!

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025 | THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



Welcome to Saint Bede Catholic Church, whether you're just visiting us for a brief time, looking for a new parish home, returning to the practice of your Catholic faith, or interested in discovering more about the Catholic Church, we're happy to have you here.

ADDRESS:

3686 Ironbound Road
Williamsburg, VA 23188

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

PHONE:

757.229.3631

**SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCIES
AFTER HOURS**

757.220.4233

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

Our Website: www.bede.va.org



SaintBedeCatholicChurch



saint_bede_va



SaintBedeCatholicChurchVA



3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it
to them, and in like manner the fish. - Jn 21:13

3ER DOMINGO DE PASCUA

Jesús se acercó, tomó el pan y se lo dio
y también el pescado. - Jn 21, 13

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 OCD. Lectionario II © 1987 Conferencia Episcopal de Pastoral Litúrgica de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano. ELP

"Christ is the Morning Star, who opens everlasting day." - Saint Bede

SANCTUARY CANDLE

Sasha Diggs



Peter Donnelly
Tim Nolan
Patricia Stromfors



PRAYER REQUESTS

*May the healing hand of God rest on
these people and all others in need.*

Laurette Albert	Ed Schell
Mary Andersen	Ed Schmidt
Andrade Family	Maureen Sotis
A. Belfiore & Friend	Claudette Tallon
Margaux Campbell	Glen Tuck
Mary G. Curry	Nancy Vanderhoof
Gerald Della Sala	Sharon Wandtke
Jim Ebert	Paul Werder
Amy Formsby	Jessy Wheatley
Colby Frein	Harold Wheatley
Alfred Guzzi	
Emanuel Halioris	
Michelle Hall	
Eleanor Knowles	
Rita Krause	
Claire Lee	
Larry Lobo	
Lobo Family	
Christopher Marcario	
Nancy Obadal	
Lynne Rasmussen	
Langdon Richardson	
Clare Robinson	

OUR TROOPS

Cullen Anderson	Nicholas Koch
Whit Armbruster	Michael John Loh
Kellen Baye	James M. Ryan
Ryan Carey	Alexander Seaberg
Brian Connolly	Anders Stanke
Adam Dillon	Erica Stanke
James Dillon	Lee Stephens
Matt Gray	Jasper Swan
Patrick Hart	Edward A. Ustaris
David Holland	Jonathan Weiler
Sorenna Jean	Veronica Williams
Thorin Jean	

SATURDAY, MAY 3

9:00 am Lancour Family
Christin Lockhart
5:30 pm Mary Dolph †
Warren Miller †

SUNDAY, MAY 4

8:30 am Cherokee Baer †
Sasha Digges †
Eileen M. Silverbrand †
11:00 am Joshua & Carly Morris
All living in Need of
Prayers
Dan Trammell
Parishioners
2:00 pm Ricardo A. Bassig †
5:00 pm Hardee Ray Mills †

TUESDAY, MAY 6

9:00 am Francis M. Donovan †
Joeann Powroznick
Jacobus †
Frances Parr-
Domcracki †

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

9:00 am Janet Bonoveto †
Susan Haaga †
Jeanne Murtaugh †

THURSDAY, MAY 8

9:00 am William Donovan †
Joeann Powroznick
Jacobus †
Gwendolina Villuan †

FRIDAY, MAY 9

9:00 am Patrick Malarkey †
Patricia Nelson
Schmidt †
Joan White †

SATURDAY, MAY 10

5:30 pm Lynne Rasmussen
Rosemary Basquill
Elizabeth Basquill

**Subject to change if there is a funeral
or if a celebrant is unavailable.**

LITURGY SCHEDULE

DAILY MASS

Tuesday-Friday 9:00 am
1st Saturday 9:00 am

DIVINE OFFICE

Lauds (Morning Prayer)
Tuesday-Friday 8:40 am

WEEKEND MASS

Saturday Vigil 5:30 pm
Sunday 8:30 am
11:00 am
(Español) 2:00 pm
5:00 pm

ADORATION
SCHEDULE

Monday 7:00 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesday 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Friday 9:45 am - 11:00 am



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday/Friday 8:00 am - 8:45 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Saturday 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

**Sunday Mass is live-streamed
at 8:30 am and 2:00 pm**

LIVESTREAMING

BULLETIN DEADLINES

Articles should be submitted two
weeks before the weekend you
want it printed.

During holidays, deadlines will be
earlier. Please check with
communications for any
questions you may have.

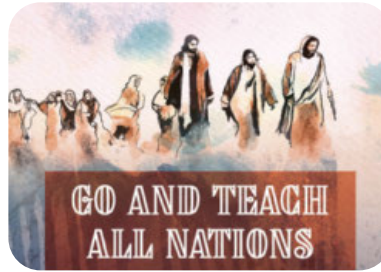
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Anabelle Morales | Ext. 2316
amorales@bedeva.org

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading:

God exalted him at his right hand as leader and savior to grant Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins. (Acts 5:31)

Psalm:

I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me. (Ps 30)
Or: Alleluia.

Second Reading:

"To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor, glory and might, forever and ever." (Rv 5:13)

Gospel:

Jesus said to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" They answered him, "No." So he said to them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something." So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. (Jn 21:5-6)

©LPi

WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday:

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a)/Rv 5:11-14/
Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

Monday:

Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30/Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday:

Acts 7:51-8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab/Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday:

Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a/Jn 6:35-40

Thursday:

Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20/Jn 6:44-51

Friday:

Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 6:52-59

Saturday:

Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Jn 6:60-69

©LPi

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

FOR ALL MOTHERS



UPPER ROOM EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

May 14th
June 11th
July 9th
Aug. 13th





LITURGY AND MUSIC STAFF

DIRECTOR OF LITURGY AND MUSIC

Aaron Renninger | Ext. 2105
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Laurel Eckenrode | Ext. 2117
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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Susan Ribeiro | Ext. 2106
sribeiro@bedeva.org

GOSPEL MEDITATION

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

John 21:1-19



I eat breakfast. If I don't have something substantial, I'm fading by midmorning. Breakfast is my key meal because it sets up my physical wellbeing for the rest of the day.

Spiritually speaking, we need sustenance to get us going. This is true for the Apostles in this Sunday's remarkable Gospel reading. The risen Jesus makes his third appearance to them in the early morning light and calls, "Come, have breakfast" (John 21:12). The exhausted and

cold fishermen sit, and he feeds them bread and fish as the dawn breaks. They are overwhelmed by his presence to the point of awestruck silence. As they eat, their bodies and their hearts come alive. Once refreshed by their morning meal, they will be ready to feed others — indeed, the whole world — with the love of the risen Jesus. But first, they need breakfast from him.

Do you realize how essential early morning prayer is? Jesus desires to refresh us every morning with his word of love, with his grace-filled presence. This week, hear Jesus calling to you: "Come, have breakfast!" Embrace some form of spiritual, meditative practice each morning for spiritual strength to get you going. ©LPi

OBSERVANCES FOR

THE WEEK OF
MAY 4, 2025

SUNDAY:

3rd Sunday of Easter

MONDAY:

Cinco de Mayo

TUESDAY:

None

WEDNESDAY:

None

THURSDAY:

None

FRIDAY:

None

SATURDAY:

St. John of Avila, Priest and Doctor of the Church; St. Damien de Veuster, Priest

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

FIRST READING:

The Apostles "rejoiced" when they suffered public dishonor for preaching that Jesus rose from the dead. Have you ever found joy amid your own suffering?

SECOND READING:

John has a vision of the whole created order worshipping and praising Jesus as the slain and risen Lamb. In what ways will you praise and worship Jesus this week?

GOSPEL:

The resurrected Jesus reveals to Peter that the cost of following him and leading the disciples will be his own martyrdom. How are you sometimes challenged in following Jesus?

ACCESSIBILITY & SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCES

Please feel free to ask our ushers for assistance with any of the available resources for wheelchair access, sensory bags, or hearing coil system to make your Mass experience more enjoyable.



Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima

.....

Tuesday, May 13th

ALL ARE WELCOME!



9am Mass with Investiture of the
Brown Scapular

7pm Vespers with May Crowning,
Investiture of the Brown
Scapular and the Celebration
of Deacon Francis' 30th
Anniversary

Saint Bede Catholic Church
3686 Ironbound Rd.
Williamsburg, VA 23188

06 EVANGELIZATION & FAITH FORMATION

Sunday, May 4, 2025 | Third Sunday of Easter

EVANGELIZATION STAFF

DIRECTOR OF EVANGELIZATION

Michelle Tomshack | Ext. 2309
mtomshack@bedeva.org

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Deacon Grimm | Ext. 2314
ppalm@bedeva.org

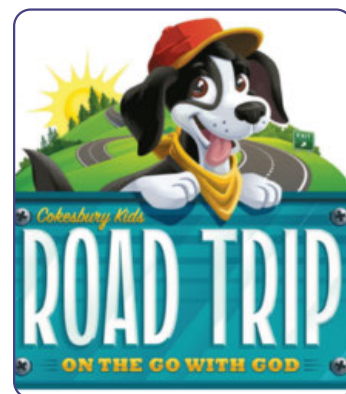
CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

Rita Hipple | Ext. 2303
rhipple@bedeva.org

YOUTH MINISTRY

Brittney Kinstetter | 2317
bkinstetter@bedeva.org

LAST DAY FOR REGISTRATION
THIS WEEKEND MAY 4



PRAYER OF BELIEF

Lord,
Help me to see You and to recognize
what I see.
Help me to hear Your invitation and
to respond.
Help me to join You where and when
You call.

Amen.



JOIN US
FOR MASS
INVITE A FRIEND

Easter Blessings!

Catechesis of the
GOOD SHEPHERD

"Let the little children
come to Me"
Matthew 23:14

REMAINING ATRIUM SESSIONS

<u>WEDNESDAYS</u>	<u>FRIDAYS</u>
APRIL 30	MAY 2, 16, 30
MAY 7, 14, 21	10:00AM-12:00 PM
3:30PM - 5:30PM	

THANK YOU CATECHISTS!

MAY 30 6 PM KAPLAN PARISH HALL

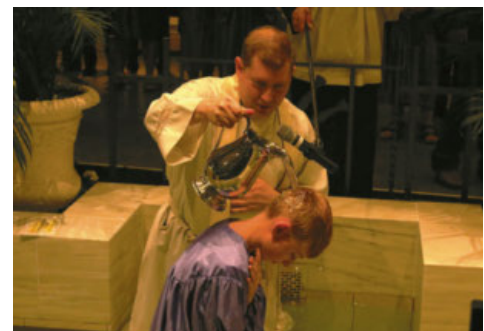
Please join us for fellowship and food to **THANK YOU** for your dedication for sharing your faith with our parishioners, youth, and children.

We will provide hotdogs, hamburgers, and the fixings. Please feel free to bring your families and a dish or dessert to share.

*We will have activities for everyone!
*Don't miss the chance to win a raffle basket!



Easter Vigil





MINISTERIO HISPANO/HISPANIC MINISTRY STAFF

VICARIO PARROQUIAL

Padre Rafael Rivas | Ext. 2109
rrivas@richmonddiocese.org

ASOCIADA PASTORAL DEL MINISTERIO HISPANO

Alfie Martinez | (757) 229-3631 Ext. 2107 o
amartinezcoble@bedeva.org

MINISTERIO HISPANO

Linda Flores | (757) 871-4949

CONTACTOS DE MINISTERIOS

BAUTISMOS (NIÑOS MENORES DE 7 AÑOS)

Clase es pre-requisito para escoger la fecha
Linda Flores (757) 871- 4949

FORMACIÓN EN LA FE/ CATECISMO -GRADOS PREK3 A 8 GRADOS - VIERNES @ 6PM

Ileana Garcia (910) 689-5603

PREPARACIÓN SACRAMENTAL (RECONCILIACIÓN, COMUNIÓN, CONFIRMACIÓN)

Niños de 7 a 18 años (Bautizados)
Linda Flores (757) 871-4949

RITO INICIACIÓN CRISTIANA (NIÑOS MAYORES DE 7 AÑOS Y ADULTOS NO BAUTIZADOS)

Alfie Martinez (757) 229-3631 ext. 2107

MATRIMONIOS Y QUINCEAÑERAS

LLAME POR LO MENOS 9 MESES ANTES DE LA FECHA
Alfie Martinez (757) 229-3631 ext. 2107

GRUPO DE FE ADULTOS – MEDITANDO EN EL EVANGELIO, MARTES - 7PM POR ZOOM

Ileana & Omar Garcia (910) 689-5603

GRUPO DE ORACIÓN CON ESPIRITUALIDAD CARISMÁTICA, SÁBADOS @ 7PM EN LA IGLESIA

Hugo Gonzalez (757) 816-7190

LEGIÓN DE MARÍA, PRESÍDIUM REINA DE LA PAZ JUEVES @ 6PM EN LA IGLESIA

Marvin Garcia (757) 503-4954

Elda Jacobo

CABALLEROS DE COLÓN PARA ESPAÑOL

Bob Garcia (757) 570-8850

CURSILLOS DE CRISTIANDAD

Ana Mihok (757) 508- 6515

SOCIEDAD GUADALUPANA

Rosarios de Difuntos, Peregrinación de Virgen de Guadalupe y Más

Liz Alcantar (757) 775-4516

MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO

III DOMINGO DE PASCUA

Hch 5, 27-32. 40-41/Sal 29, 2. 4. 5-6. 11-12. 13 (2)/Ap 5, 11-14/Jn 21, 1-19 o 21, 1-14



Te apareciste de nuevo a tus discípulos a orilla del lago de Tiberíades. Ahí les preparaste de comer un pescado que Tú mismo habías cocinado en las brasas. Con este hecho, les mostraste que también al evangelizar se disfruta comiendo todos juntos en comunidad. Señor, enséñame a compartir la alegría de tu Buena Nueva a mi familia y amigos.

Que no pase desapercibido el amor que nos muestras con tus detalles de ternura en hechos sencillos, como el de una invitación a almorzar. **“Jesús, se acercó, tomó el pan y se lo repartió. Lo mismo hizo con los pescados” (Juan 21:13).**

“En la Eucaristía se comunica el amor del Señor por nosotros: un amor tan grande que nos nutre de sí mismo, un amor gratuito siempre a disposición de toda persona hambrienta y necesitada de regenerar las propias fuerzas. Vivir la experiencia de la fe significa dejarse alimentar por el Señor y construir la propia existencia no sobre bienes materiales, sino sobre la realidad que no perece: los dones de Dios, su Palabra y su Cuerpo. El alimento que nos nutre verdaderamente y que nos sacia es solo el que nos da el Señor” (Papa Francisco).

¿Qué enseñanza podemos llevar a cabo de este hecho concreto de Jesús al preparar el desayuno a sus discípulos? ¿De qué forma expreso detalles de amor a mi familia y amigos? La presencia de Jesús en nuestra vida nos debe llenar de esperanza. ¡Aleluya!

©LPI



MAYO Mes de la Virgen María

Coronación de la Virgen

11 de mayo en la Misa en español
Traiga sus flores.

HORAS Y SACERDOTES EN ESPAÑOL

MARTES / VIERNES - 8AM

MIÉRCOLES - 7PM

SÁBADOS - 3:30PM

Si desea saber cuál sacerdote estará ofreciendo el sacramento en cada ocasión, vaya a Misas y Confesiones en la página principal de <https://www.bedeva.org/>





¡Felicidades a todos los niños de la parroquia y sus familias en su primera Comunión! Permanezcan siempre cerca del Señor Jesús, que nos dice: "El que permanece en mí y yo en él, ése da fruto abundante, porque sin mí nada pueden hacer." Juan 15:5

A Nuestros Catequistas de Niños, Jóvenes y Adultos

¡Muchas Gracias
por servir con amor,
compartir su fe y guiar
a nuestros hermanos a Cristo!
¡El Señor les bendiga
siempre!

Año Catequético 2024-25

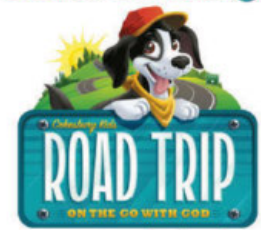


**EXPERIENCIAS DE VERANO
PARA JÓVENES**
Steubenville - Atlanta
Conferencia de Jóvenes
Julio 11 - 13 Grado 9 (en sept) - 12
¡Acompañados por Padre Rafael!
Inscriba a sus Hijos en
<https://bedeva.org/summer>
Habrá oportunidades para recaudar fondos

PARA NIÑOS PREK4 AL 6TO GRADO (EN SEPT)

INSCRIPCIONES CIERRAN EL 4 DE MAYO
Adolescentes que participen de voluntarios
en Vacation Bible recibirán horas de
voluntarios para la escuela.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025



23- 27 de junio
9am -12pm

¡INSCRIPCIONES ABIERTAS!
Para Niños y Voluntarios



<https://bedeva.org/vbs-registration>

RETIRO CARISMÁTICO Camino a Pentecostés SÁBADO, 24 DE MAYO

Iglesia Católica Saint Bede
3686 Ironbound Rd, Williamsburg, VA

Invitados

Padre Rafael Rivas, Iglesia Católica Saint Bede
Diácono Ramón Rivera, Iglesia Católica San Agustín
Hno. Lorenzo Linares

Min. Alabanza Alma Misionera,
Iglesia Católica Ntra. Sra. de los Dolores, MD

Min. Danza Llamas de Fuego
Iglesia Católica San Agustín

Ofrenda \$20

Contacto: Hugo 757-816-7190
Auspiciado por Renovación Carismática Católica
La Fuerza del Espíritu Santo - Iglesia Católica Saint Bede

CONOZCA SUS DERECHOS



martes, 13 de mayo 6pm
Salón Parroquial Kaplan



EN TEMAS DE
INMIGRACIÓN

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

UNFURL THE SAILS PODCAST

Wonder what's happening in our ministries? What do some of the ministries do to share the Love and Joy of Christ? Check out our Unfurl the Sails podcast series.



Catch the latest episode at <https://bedeva.org/podcast> or go back and catch up on all of them on our YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/@SaintBedeCatholicChurchVA/videos>

Currently Playing: Haiti Ministry

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter,
 "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?"
 Simon Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."
 Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."
 He then said to Simon Peter a second time,
 "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"
 Simon Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."
 Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep."
 Jesus said to him the third time,
 "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"
 Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time,
 "Do you love me?" and he said to him,
 "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you."
 Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."
 Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger,
 you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted;
 but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands,
 and someone else will dress you
 and lead you where you do not want to go."
 He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God.
 And when he had said this, he said to him, "Follow me."

John 21:15-19

STEWARDSHIP RESOURCES AND REMINDERS:

WELCOME TO NEW FAMILIES!



OUR SEMI-ANNUAL WELCOME DINNER WILL BE FRIDAY, MAY 16 AT 6:00 PM IN KAPLAN PARISH HALL.

All new families since December of 2024 are encouraged to attend. Invitations will be emailed to new families. Feel free to RSVP to ssamorian@bedeva.org if you are able to attend.



ARE YOU CALLED TO SERVE AT THE LORD'S TABLE?

We are looking for adults and young people to serve our parish, priests, and deacons at the Altar.

We are hosting a training for new Adult Acolytes (over 18), Senior Servers (14-18 yrs old), and Altar Servers (9 yrs old and over) on **Saturday, May 10 from 10:00- 11:15 am.**

Please email ssamorian@bedeva.org to express your interest.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 10/11
Haiti Weekend

MAY 16
Newcomers Semi Annual Dinner



Joseph Chozhiyath	Nicolas Padallino	Robert Schell
Ana Coca	Christine Patagis	Cynthia Sherman
Rapheal Plakka	Stephen Patagis	Kevin Sherman
Ricardo Famisan	Benjamin Phillips	Amie Smith
Erlinda Famisan	Nancy Phillips	Charleen Tench
Catherine Gleason	Ania Prochowska	James Tench
John Hanson	Jay Rakentine	Christopher Williams
Ann Martin	Vivianne Rakentine	
Charles Martin	Evelyn Rubio	
Claire Moore	Lorie Sartore	
Joshua Moore	Steven Sartore	
Alan Naranjo	Audrey Sauer	
Margaret Malone	Melissa Schell	

HAITI MINISTRY

The annual Haiti Ministry Parish collection will be on Sunday, May 11, 2025.

To celebrate, the Haiti Ministry will be hosting a gathering in Kaplan Parish Hall on Saturday, May 10, from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

Please plan to join the Haiti Ministry members for a lite lunch, and a robust program to include a raffle and a presentation from Fr. Bertrand, Pastor, of our twin parish.

The lunch will be free, goodwill donations accepted. Make your reservation today - there is a signup sheet in the commons.

GROUNDS LANDSCAPE MINISTRY



Adopt-A Highway
 Adoration
 Adult Acolytes
 Altar Servers
 Ancient Order of Hibernians
 Art and Environment Ministry
 Bereavement Ministry
 Cenacle of Divine Mercy
 Children's Faith Formation
 Ecumenical/Interreligious Affairs
 Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion
 Faith and Racial Awareness
 Filipino-American Ministry
 Friends for Life
 Funeral Ministry
 Funeral Hospitality
 Grounds Landscape Maintenance
 Growing for Giving Garden Ministry
 Haiti Ministry
 Hispanic Ministry
 Holy Mamas
 Homeschool Ministry
 JOY Ministry
 Knights of Columbus
 Knitting Ministry
 Lectors Ministry
 Legion of Mary
 Legion of Mary - Hispanic
 Mens Fellowship Ministry
 Monthly Maintenance Ministry
 Nurse Ministry
 Parish Life Ministry
 Pope Benedict XVI Library Ministry
 Prayer Shawl Ministry
 Prison Ministry
 Sacred Linens Ministry
 Sacristans
 Sound Ministry
 Special Needs
 Usher Ministry
 Vacation Bible School
 Votive Candle Ministry
 Welcome Ministry
 WHOM - House of Mercy
 Women's Circle of Faith
 Young Adult Ministry
 Young at Heart
 Youth Ministry

CLERGY AND STAFF**PASTOR**

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PAROCHIAL VICAR

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PAROCHIAL VICAR

Father Kyle O'Connor
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PAROCHIAL VICAR

Father Rafael Rivas | Ext. 2109
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DEACON

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DEACON

Rev. Mr. Bill Westerman
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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Stacie Cayci | Ext. 2102
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RECEPTIONIST

Elizabeth Gorny - egorny@bedeva.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**WHO DO I CONTACT TO REGISTER MY CHILDREN FOR BAPTISM?**

Michelle Tomshack | mtomshack@bedeva.org

WHO DO I CONTACT TO REGISTER MY CHILDREN FOR SACRAMENT PREPARATION?

For children receiving First Reconciliation and First Communion, Rita Hipple | rhipple@bedeva.org

For teens preparing for Confirmation, Brittney Kinstetter | bkinstetter@bedeva.org

WHO DO I CONTACT TO BECOME CATHOLIC?

Michelle Tomshack | mtomshack@bedeva.org

WHO DO I CONTACT TO GET MARRIED AT SAINT BEDE?

Kathleen Nolan | knolan@bedeva.org

WHO DO I CONTACT TO REQUEST SICK, HOMEBOUND AND HOSPITAL VISITS?

Deacon Bill Westerman | wwesterman@bedeva.org

WHO DO I CONTACT TO RENT KAPLAN PARISH HALL?

Jennifer Murtha | jmurtha@bedeva.org

WHO DO I CONTACT ABOUT RESERVING A NICHE IN THE COLUMBARIUM?

Jennifer Murtha | jmurtha@bedeva.org

WHO DO I CONTACT FOR SPANISH INQUIRIES?

Alfie Martinez-Coyle | amartinezcoyle@bedeva.org **HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL**

JUBILEE 2025 YEAR OF HOPE

During the Holy Year, we are called to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind. I think of prisoners who, deprived of their freedom, daily feel the harshness of detention and its restrictions, lack of affection and, in more than a few cases, lack of respect for their persons. I propose that in this Jubilee Year governments undertake initiatives aimed at restoring hope; forms of amnesty or pardon meant to help individuals regain confidence in themselves and in society; and programmes of reintegration in the community, including a concrete commitment to respect for law.

This is an ancient appeal, one drawn from the word of God, whose wisdom remains ever timely. It calls for acts of clemency and liberation that enable new beginnings: "You shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants" (Lev 25:10). This institution of the Mosaic law was later taken up by the prophet Isaiah: "The Lord has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (Is 61:1-2). Jesus made those words his own at the beginning of his ministry, presenting himself as the fulfilment of the "year of the Lord's favour" (cf. Lk 4:18-19). In every part of the world, believers, and their Pastors in particular, should be one in demanding dignified conditions for those in prison, respect for their human rights and above all the abolition of the death penalty, a provision at odds with Christian faith and one that eliminates all hope of forgiveness and rehabilitation. In order to offer prisoners a concrete sign of closeness, I would myself like to open a Holy Door in a prison, as a sign inviting prisoners to look to the future with hope and a renewed sense of confidence.

Pope Francis, Spes non confundit, #10



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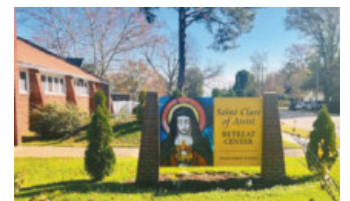
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