

St. Joseph Catholic Church

1300 N. Main St., Bluffton | (260) 824-1380 | stjosephchurch@adamswells.com | stjosephchurchbluffton.org

BERNADETTE WAS THE OLDEST CHILD OF A POOR FAMILY IN FRANCE. SHE WORKED AS A MAID AND SHEPHERDESS BUT COULD NOT READ OR WRITE.

ONE DAY SHE WAS NEAR THE RIVER WITH HER FRIENDS AND SAW A LADY STANDING IN A HOLLOW IN THE HILL.

THE THIRD TIME SHE CAME THE LADY ASKED HER TO COME AGAIN FOR 15 DAYS.

Drink the water!

HM... WELL IT'S A BIT WET HERE...

MIRACLES BEGAN TO HAPPEN TO PEOPLE TO DRINK OR WASHED IN THE WATER.

My hand is cured!

My baby was dying! Now look!

TELL THE PRIESTS TO BUILD ME A CHAPEL.

PEOPLE IN THE GOVERNMENT WERE HARD ON BERNADETTE BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T BELIEVE HER, BUT A CHURCH WAS BUILT ANYWAY!

So now you are 'curing' people!

I never cured anyone!

My God, I love You with all my heart!

SHE ENTERED A CONVENT WHEN SHE WAS 22. AT FIRST OTHERS WERE HARSH TO HER, BUT SHE WAS QUITE SICK. SHE LIVED A HIDDEN LIFE THERE AND DIED AT 35.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Pastor: Fr. David Violi

Fr. David's Email: frdavidvioli@gmail.com | Sacramental Emergency Number: (260) 296-0511

Administrative Assistant / DRE: Michelle Paxton | Director of Sacred Music: Teresa Smith

(cut here)

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 e-mail address: _____

[] New Parishioners, please send a Parish Registration Form [] We've Moved, here is our new information

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - FEBRUARY 16, 2025

Saturday, February 15

8:00 a.m. Special Intention
8:30-9:00 a.m. *Confession*
4:00-4:45 p.m. *Confession*
4:35 p.m. *Rosary*
5:00 p.m. Parish Family

Sunday, February 16

7:10 a.m. *Rosary*
7:30 a.m. Mary Cavanaugh
9:40 a.m. *Rosary*
10:00 a.m. David Paul Butler +

Monday, February 17

No public Mass

Tuesday, February 18

7:00-8:00 a.m. *Adoration*
8:00 a.m. Ronnie Burns +
8:30 a.m. *Confession*

Wednesday, February 19

6:00-7:00 p.m. *Adoration*
6:00-6:45 p.m. *Confession*
7:00 p.m. Al Gillig +

Thursday, February 20

8:00 a.m. Martin & Lois Simon +

Friday, February 21

8:30 a.m. Mabel O'Keefe +

Saturday, February 22

8:00 a.m. Special Intention
8:30-9:00 a.m. *Confession*
4:00-4:45 p.m. *Confession*
4:35 p.m. *Rosary*
5:00 p.m. Paul & Sue Sheeter

Sunday, February 23

7:10 a.m. *Rosary*
7:30 a.m. Parish Family
9:40 a.m. *Rosary*
10:00 a.m. Bill Johnson +



MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon., Feb. 17 - Sixth Week in Ordinary Time - The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order - Gn 4:1-15, 25 / Ps 50:1, 8, 16bc-17, 20-21 / Mk 8:11-13

Tues., Feb. 18 - Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10 / Ps 29:1a, 2, 3-4, 9c-10 / Mk 8:14-21

Wed., Feb. 19 - Gn 8:6-13, 20-22 / Ps 116:12-15, 18-19 / Mk 8:22-26

Thurs., Feb. 20 - Gn 9:1-13 / Ps 102:16-18, 19-23, 29 / Mk 8:27-33

Fri., Feb. 21 - St. Peter Damian, Bishop, Doctor of the Church - Gn 11:1-9 / Ps 33:10-15 / Mk 8:34—9:1

Sat., Feb. 22 - The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle - 1 Pt 5:1-4 / Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6 / Mt 16:13-19

Sun., Feb. 23 - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 / Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13 / 1 Cor 15:45-49 / Lk 6:27-38

This weekend (February 15th/16th), the Church celebrates the **Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**. Traditionally, this started the “*Gesima Sundays*,” or the three Sundays before **Lent**. The word “*gesima*” is a Latin affix that helped create the words for “*seventy*,” “*sixty*,” and “*fifty*.” This Sunday was known as *Septuagesima Sunday*, marking the seventy days from this day until the end of the **Easter Octave** on **Divine Mercy Sunday**.

As we moved towards the forty days of **Lent**, these three Sundays were meant to “*count us down*” (“*seventy*,” “*sixty*,” and “*fifty*”) until we reached the beginning of the *Lenten season* on **Ash Wednesday**. These three *Gesima Sundays*, then, were seen as a period of preparation for **Lent**. That the Church felt that the coming season of **Lent** needed a period of preparation should help give us better understanding of how we are called to approach **Lent** itself.

Differing from *Gesima Sundays*, **Lent** is not merely a time of preparation for **Easter**. Instead, **Lent** is meant to bring about a true change in us so that we might better reflect the *joy of the Resurrection* through our lives. When writing to the church in Corinth, St. Paul compares the Christian life with an athletic contest (1 Cor. 9:24-25). **Lent** serves as a major part of this contest as it is a time when we devote ourselves in a special way to the spiritual life.

Throughout **Lent**, we are meant to face our sins and fight against our daily temptations. Through the Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we wrestle with ourselves and grow in discipline. In the words of St. Paul, “*we discipline our bodies*” as we “*run so as to win*” that “*imperishable crown*.” And, like any athlete, we cannot simply enter into this contest without proper preparation. This is where the *Gesima Sundays* are important.

We are not simply “*ticking off*” the days until Lent over these next few weekends. Instead, we are prayerfully discerning and preparing for the coming season of **Lent**. Prior to a contest, an athlete prepares by planning and training. They do this because they want to win. We are meant to do the same. As we prepare for **Lent**, may we begin discerning now what sins we struggle with and how may we work to overcome them in these coming forty days.

LIVING WITH THE SAINTS - ST. BERNADETTE OF SOUBIROUS

Our Saint Profile this weekend focuses on St. Bernadette of Lourdes. St. Bernadette is most well-known as the young child to whom Our Lady appeared to in Lourdes, France from February 11 to July 16, 1858. During these apparitions, Our Lady, when asked her name, stated that she was “*the Immaculate Conception*.” This was seen as an affirmation of the *Dogma of the Immaculate Conception*, which had only been defined four years prior.

Throughout the eighteen visions that St. Bernadette experienced, Our Lady reaffirmed the Gospel call to prayer, penance and poverty. Likewise, she offered a simple and joyful reminder: **God loves us**. Since then, Lourdes has become one of the most popular pilgrimage sites throughout the world. Even today, countless numbers claim miraculous healings at Lourdes, attested to by crutches left behind by pilgrims as a sign of physical healing.

St. Bernadette was only fourteen years old when these apparitions occurred. Shortly after, she pursued religious life, eventually taking the habit and joining the Sisters of Charity in the distant city of Nevers. She would spend the rest of her life at the motherhouse, working, while she was able in their infirmary. Eventually, she herself contracted tuberculosis and, due to her chronic ill health, entered into eternal life on April 16, 1879 at the age of thirty-five.

Until the latest revision of the liturgical calendar, St. Bernadette’s feast day was celebrated on February 18th. Though a saint’s feast day is often associated with the day of their earthly death, St. Bernadette’s was initially in February to mark the third vision of Our Lady. On February 18, 1858, Our Lady told St. Bernadette: “*I do not promise to make you happy in this world, but in the other*.” How fitting, then, to recognize St. Bernadette as a Saint on this day as we celebrate the fulfillment of Our Lady’s promise to her.

~Faithfully in Christ,
Fr. David



2025 REKINDLE THE FIRE



ALLEN COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM - FT. WAYNE, IN **FEBRUARY 22ND, 2025**

G.I.R.L.'s Night Out
MARDI GRAS
Fundraiser!


Saturday, March 1st - 6:00—9:30 PM
Tickets (\$25) on sale after all Masses
or available in the Parish Office

Recipe:

150TH ANNIVERSARY PARISH COOKBOOK

Submit a recipe for the cookbook, either by filling out the form in this weekend's bulletin and returning to the narthex or by filling out the online form that is available at www.stjosephchurchbluffton.org





Recipes will be collected through
Sunday, March 16th.



PARISH CALENDAR

- **Sat., Feb. 15** - Family Game Night/Potluck following 5:00 Mass in the Parish Social Hall.
- **Sun., Feb. 16** - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.
- **Sun., Feb. 16** - Religious Education Class - 8:30-9:45 a.m.
- **Tues., Feb. 18** - Adoration 7-8:00 a.m. / Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confessions 8:30 a.m.
- **Wed., Feb. 19** - Adoration - 6-7:00 p.m. / Confession 6-6:45 p.m. / Mass 7:00 p.m.
- **Wed., Feb. 19** - Adult Choir Practice - 7:35 p.m.
- **Wed., Feb. 19** - Finance Council Budget Meeting - 7:45 p.m.
- **Thurs., Feb. 20** - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- **Thurs., Feb. 20** - *Catholicism Explained* - 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room.
- **Fri., Feb. 21** - Mass 8:30 a.m.
- **Sat., Feb. 22** - Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confession 8:30 a.m.
- **Sat., Feb. 22** - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- **Sun., Feb. 23** - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.
- **Sun., Feb. 23** - Religious Education Class - 8:30-9:45 a.m.
- **Sun., Feb. 23** - St. Joseph/St. Aloysius Confirmation Class Trivia/Social Night - 6-8:00 p.m. in the Parish Social Hall.
- **Mon., Feb. 24** - Children's Choir Practice Resumes - 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room.
- **Tues., Feb. 25** - Adoration 7-8:00 a.m. / Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confessions 8:30 a.m.
- **Tues., Feb., 25** - Book Study - 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room.

Weekend of February 22nd & 23rd

	5:00 Dan Lautzenheiser
	7:30 Mike Morrissey
	10:00 Jay Crisp
	5:00 Ginny Fenstermaker
	7:30 Carol Butler
	10:00 Patti Clark-Johnson
	5:00 Volunteer
	7:30 Twilla Herr
	10:00 Rick Singer, Jacque Johnson, Kevin Seago
	5:00 Alex Mechling, Volunteers
	7:30 Adrienne/Ainsley Wagner, Annie Herr
	10:00 Charlie Andrews, Sam Smith, Gabby or Olivia or Jacob Hoffacker

St. Joseph Parish Finance Report
for the Weekend of
February 8th & 9th

Adult Envelopes- \$5,730.00
 Loose- \$183.01
 Repair/Rainy Day Fund- \$1,169.94
 Religious Education Fund- \$125.00
 Donation/Bequest- \$165.00
 Hall Rent- \$60.00
 NDFCU Club Benefit- \$39.46

Total- \$7,472.41

Our weekly budget is \$5,116.40

We are \$2,384.55 ahead of our budget for the month of February 2025.

St. Vincent de Paul Fund- \$45.00

Your gifts to St. Joseph Parish are greatly appreciated.
Thank you!

To set up **Online Giving** through Our Sunday Visitor, please visit:
<https://www.osvhub.com/stjosephchurchbluffton/giving/funds>

Our Winter Book Study continues on
Tues., February 25th at 6:30 PM
 in the Parish Conference Room.
 We are reading "*A Good Man is Hard to Find*" by Flannery O'Connor.
 All are welcome!



DID YOU KNOW?



After being ministered to by missionary priests from the 1860s onward, the five original Catholic families in Wells County petitioned Bishop Joseph Dwenger, the second bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne, to establish a mission parish in Bluffton. The bishop agreed and established this new parish in 1875 under the patronage of St. Joseph.

Construction on the new parish church began almost immediately. Land was donated by the Zimmerman family on the corner of Williams and Cherry Streets. The building project cost \$1,300 (equivalent to \$38,000 today) and measured 30 by 50 feet. Upon completion, the Church was dedicated by Bishop Dwenger that same year.

Mariachi LOCO
 MEXICAN GRILL
 1595 HARRISON PLZ
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 Francisco Sanchez, Parishioner




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 Juan & Rosa Ortiz, Family, Parishioners



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Thursday's: 3pm-8pm
 Friday's: 3pm-8pm
 Saturday's: Noon-8pm
 See us on Facebook & Instagram!
The Herr Family
 Parishioners




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Preach the Gospel
 at all times and
 when necessary
 use words.
St. Francis of Assisi


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Knights of Columbus
 Father Aloysius Phillips, Council 7555
BECOME A KNIGHT
 IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



THINK!
 T - is it true?
 h - is it helpful?
 i - is it inspiring?
 n - is it necessary?
 k - is it kind?
 "Saint Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families."
 - St. John Paul II



Before you speak....
THINK!
 T - is it true?
 h - is it helpful?
 i - is it inspiring?
 n - is it necessary?
 k - is it kind?