



Saint Bernadette Catholic Church

2025 STEWARDSHIP REPORT

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Ajax, ON L1S 1P2
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www.stbernajax.com

Thoughts from Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with a sense of gratitude and great hope that I present to you our Annual Stewardship Report. This report is more than a summary of numbers and activities—it reflects who we are as a parish family, rooted in our mission to proclaim the Gospel and “make disciples”, to celebrate the sacraments, and to serve one another, grounded in God’s love.

Over this past year, I have been deeply encouraged by the flourishing life of our parish. We have seen a renewed commitment to the Sacramental Life of the Church, with vibrant celebrations of the Eucharist, growing participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and meaningful preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Our ministries continue to flourish, sustained by the generous offering of your time, talent, and treasure.

In a particular way, I am grateful for the increasing engagement of our young people. Through initiatives such as EDGE, SUMMIT, and our school partnerships, we are witnessing the Lord at work in raising up a new generation of disciples who are not only present but actively serving within the life of the parish.

This report also reflects our commitment to responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us. I am grateful for the work of our Finance Council and staff, who strive to ensure that our financial decisions support our pastoral mission while remaining transparent and accountable.

At the same time, we recognize that the Lord is calling us forward. Our parish is not meant to remain in “maintenance mode”, but to grow as a community of missionary disciples. In the year ahead, we will continue to focus on deepening our Sacramental life, strengthening parish engagement and fellowship, fostering vocations, and expanding our efforts in evangelization and outreach.

I invite each of you to take time to read this report carefully. More importantly, I invite you to reflect on your own place within the life of the parish. Stewardship is not simply about what we give, but about who we are—disciples who recognize that all that we have is a gift from God, entrusted to us for His glory.

Thank you for your faith, your generosity, and your commitment to our parish. Be assured of my prayers for you and your families.

Sincerely in Christ,


Father Chris Lemieux
Pastor

Parish Team



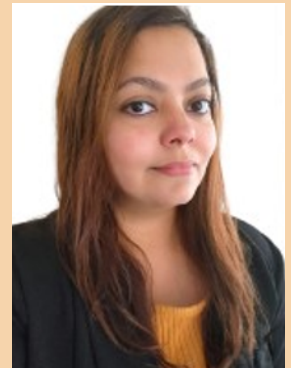
Father Chris Lemieux
Pastor



Father Sean Jacob
Associate Pastor



Deacon Ron Vaz
Deacon Assistant



Aquilia D'Costa
Office Administrator



Robert LeBlanc
Lay Pastoral Associate



Monika Matelski
Youth Coordinator



Marva Thomas
Administrative Assistant

Mission & Sacramental Life

A View Into Our Reach

Registered Families	7,850
Number of Children Baptized (<i>under 1 yr</i>)	72
Number of Children Baptized (<i>between 1 and 7 yrs</i>)	39
Number of Children Baptized (<i>over 7 yrs</i>)	26
Number of Catechumens received into Full Communion (OCIA/OCIC)	19
Number of First Holy Communion	87
Number of Confirmations	83
Number of Weddings	7
Number of Deaths	22
Number of Catholic Elementary Schools	3
Number of Catholic Secondary Schools	2
Number of Retirement and Long-Term Care Facilities	4
Number of Volunteers (<i>ministries and advisory councils</i>)	350

Communion Outreach

The clergy and Communion Outreach volunteers support four retirement and long-term care facilities, offering monthly Mass and bi-monthly visitation and Communion outreach services.

Anointing of the Sick

Our clergy responded to more than 80 Anointing of the Sick calls, mostly at Ajax Pickering Hospital and long-term care facilities.

A Year of Pastoral Review

The Parish of Saint Bernadette, Ajax remains committed to the Lord's call for us **to be disciples and make disciples**. The pastoral plan of our parish remains a **commitment to mission**—renewing our parish life by deepening faith, strengthening community, and forming Christian disciples for Ajax and beyond. Over this past year, our pastoral efforts have focused on five key areas: *Sacramental Life*, *Parish Engagement*, *Vocations*, *Evangelization*, and *Parish Outreach and Social Justice*.

At the heart of our parish is the *Sacramental Life*. We continue to emphasize the beauty and centrality of the Eucharist as the “source and summit” of our faith, while also strengthening preparation and participation in Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion. Through initiatives such as our Days of Recollection and through renewed emphasis on Reconciliation, we are inviting parishioners into a deeper encounter with Christ.

Our *Parish Engagement* efforts have grown as a result of vibrant community-building opportunities such as Coffee Sundays, the Welcome Back Weekend, and the ongoing development of the Parish Vitality Ministry. These moments foster a spirit of hospitality and belonging, helping parishioners connect more meaningfully with one another and with the life of the Church.

We are also placing a renewed focus on *Vocations*—encouraging all parishioners to discern God's call in their lives, especially within marriage, priesthood, and religious life. Through preaching, youth ministry, intentional witness, and through service to the Church and community, we seek to grow a culture where vocations are nurtured within strong, faith-filled families.

In the area of *Evangelization*, we are strengthening our presence in local schools and expanding opportunities for faith formation through programs such as OCIA, youth ministry (EDGE, Jr. EDGE, and SUMMIT), and in developing small group initiatives. These efforts aim to form intentional disciples who live and share their faith with confidence.

Finally, our commitment to *Parish Outreach and Social Justice* continues to grow as we respond to the needs of the wider community with compassion and generosity, rooted in the Gospel call to serve. We are slowly building up our Helping Hands and are blessed with a very active Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

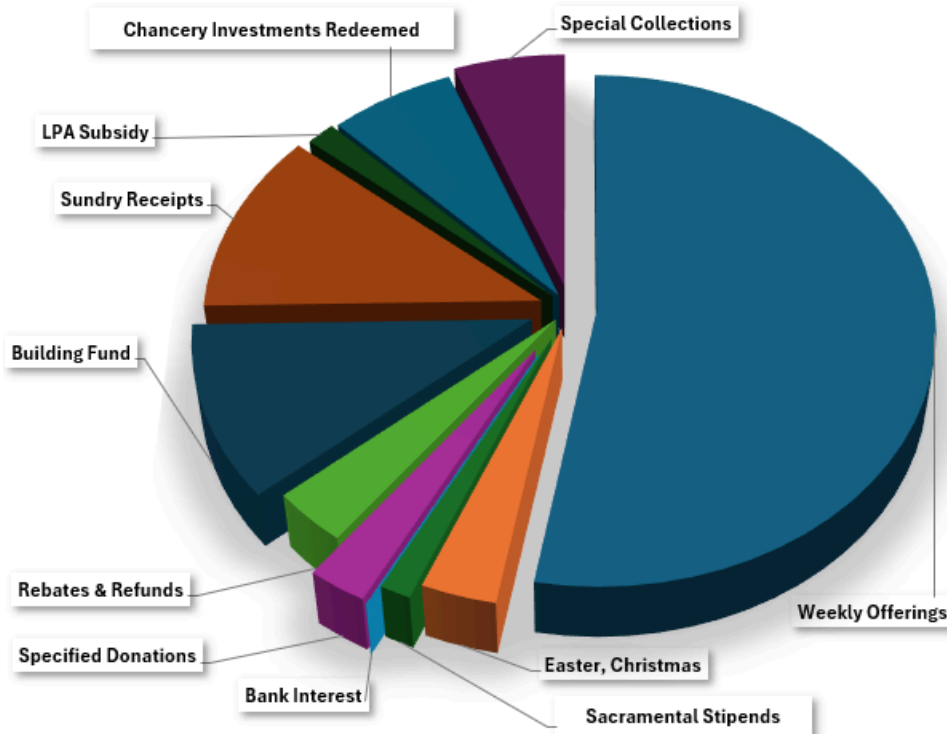
Together, these efforts reflect a parish alive in Christ—hopeful, engaged, and committed to the mission entrusted to us.

Financial Report

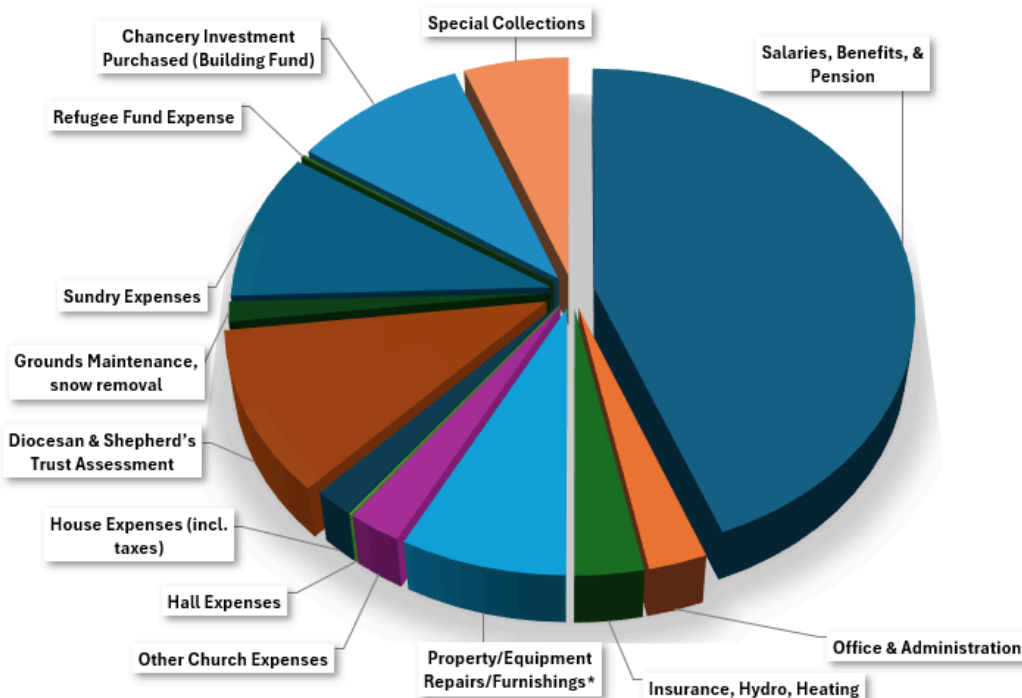
INCOME:	2025	2024
Weekly Offerings	\$ 641,165.62	\$ 607,452.99
Easter, Christmas	\$ 40,748.75	\$ 30,392.70
Sacramental Stipends	\$ 16,841.00	\$ 13,055.80
Bank Interest	\$ 182.60	\$ 236.59
Specified Donations	\$ 32,177.43	\$ 19,194.67
Rebates & Refunds	\$ 41,962.44	\$ 35,753.48
Building Fund	\$ 133,148.09	\$ 117,561.80
Sundry Receipts <i>(Eg. Mass stipends, missal sales, candle rev.)</i>	\$ 139,596.15	\$ 109,048.35
LPA Subsidy	\$ 18,427.50	\$ 30,712.50
Chancery Investments Redeemed	\$ 79,194.78	\$ 239,750.64
Special Collections <i>(Eg. Sharelife, Shepherds' Trust)</i>	\$ 69,912.96	\$ 87,356.65
Total Income:	\$ 1,213,357.32	\$ 1,290,516.17
EXPENSES:		
Salaries, Benefits, & Pension <i>(Clergy, Laity & Musicians)</i>	\$ 532,181.79	\$ 459,515.43
Office & Administration	\$ 32,871.40	\$ 28,698.50
Insurance, Hydro, Heating	\$ 38,625.53	\$ 32,491.49
Property/Equipment Repairs/Furnishings*	\$ 92,636.91	\$ 378,408.33
Other Church Expenses	\$ 30,062.10	\$ 21,083.80
Hall Expenses	\$ 1,155.03	\$ -
House Expenses <i>(incl. taxes)</i>	\$ 22,037.60	\$ 22,586.38
Diocesan & Shepherd's Trust Assessment	\$ 132,724.00	\$ 127,884.00
Grounds Maintenance, snow removal	\$ 15,942.85	\$ 14,034.39
Sundry Expenses <i>(Sacramental programs, retreats, missals, Youth Group, HST)</i>	\$ 118,867.18	\$ 122,316.47
Refugee Fund Expense	\$ 2,390.00	\$ -
Chancery Investment Purchased <i>(Building Fund)</i>	\$ 117,203.71	\$ 57,449.94
Special Collections <i>(Eg. Sharelife, Shepherds' Trust)</i>	\$ 69,912.96	\$ 87,356.65
Total Expenses:	\$ 1,206,611.06	\$ 1,351,825.38
Net Income / (Loss)	\$ 6,746.26	-\$ 61,309.21

Visual Summary

INCOME



EXPENSES



*MAJOR EXPENSES INCLUDE

Church Fire Sys./Audio, Visual Repair	\$1,802.84
Church Heating/AC Repairs	\$10,893.13
Cleaning/Maintenance	\$9,611.55
Rectory Minor Repairs	\$953.13
Hall Minor Repairs	\$142.69
Door repairs/Window Repairs/Locks	\$9,073.13
Plumbing/Electrical Repairs	\$6,398.81
Hall Furnishings/Equipment	\$4,029.66
Church Furnishings/Equipment	\$34,077.71
Office Furnishing/Equipment	\$9,306.84
Rectory Furnishings	\$6,347.42
Total	\$92,636.91

Thanks for
your
support!

Serving Our Community

Parish Operations

Welcome Desk

The Welcome Desk has streamlined parish operations while making it easier for parishioners to find help when they need it. Set in a clear, easy-to-spot location, it's often the first friendly stop—supporting Mass intentions, sacramental information, event registrations, and everyday parish questions.

Just as importantly, the Welcome Desk expresses our parish's spirit of hospitality. It offers a warm, approachable place for parishioners and visitors to ask questions, get oriented, and receive timely, accurate information, helping our community feel connected, supported, and truly welcomed.

POS Debit/Credit Card Transactions & TIPTAP: A Digital Milestone

This year, our parish reached an important digital milestone by introducing TIPTAP and point-of-sale (POS) debit and credit card payments. As one of the few parishes in the GTA offering this option on-site, parishioners can now give or pay quickly, conveniently and securely, right at the parish.

These tools reflect the way many people manage finances today, and TIPTAP also makes contactless donations simple for parishioners and visitors alike. We continue to maintain other options such as: cash, Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG), CanadaHelps, and the Tithe.ly App, ensuring stewardship remains flexible, convenient, and accessible for everyone.

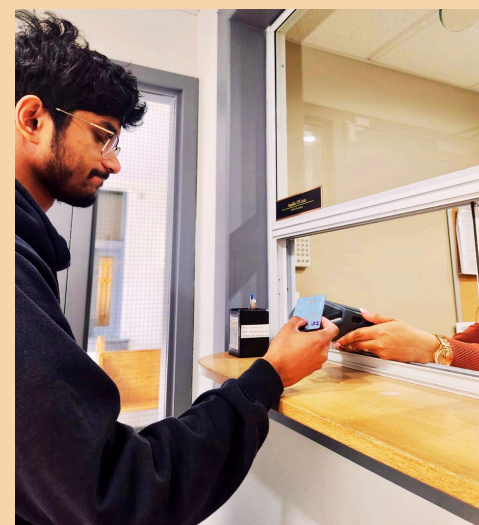
Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP)

The introduction of Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP) has brought a fresh and modern approach to coordinating parish ministries. This easy-to-use platform allows volunteers to conveniently view their schedules, accept assignments, and request substitutions right from their phone, tablet, or computer.

MSP helps volunteers stay connected and engaged with their ministry in a simple and efficient way. It also enables ministry coordinators and parish staff to communicate updates quickly and manage schedules with greater ease.

By streamlining scheduling and communication, MSP has strengthened coordination across our liturgical ministries while offering volunteers greater flexibility and control. This has helped foster increased participation and a stronger sense of collaboration within our parish community.

Together, these three initiatives reflect our parish's ongoing commitment to improving communication, supporting our volunteers, and embracing tools that enhance both ministry and community life.



Sacramental Preparation

The Sacramental Preparation and Faith Studies ministries help parishioners of all ages grow in faith through engaging programs and an opportunity for discussion that deepens understanding of Catholic beliefs and practices. Sacramental Preparation focuses on readiness for receiving the sacraments, while Faith Studies explores a broader range of topics.

FHC - JULIANA JEREZA

Why did you get involved in First Communion Preparation?

The reason for my involvement in First Communion Preparation was an opportunity to help little kids see faith through a youth's perspective.

What does your role in First Communion Preparation look like?

My role is to teach kids about important virtues, such as love and forgiveness, that are vital to understanding why they receive their First Reconciliation and First Communion.

How has your involvement in First Communion Preparation brought you closer to Christ?

My involvement has brought me closer to Christ through those I have met and God's light shining through them, which inspires me to put in that effort with my relationship with God, further deepening my faith.

CONFIRMATION - NINA HOLLINGTON

Why did you get involved in Confirmation Preparation?

As a Catholic teacher, I wanted to teach students around my community about the importance of God in their everyday lives, witnessing to them that getting to know God should be a personal journey.

What does your role in Confirmation Preparation look like?

My role in Confirmation Preparation was to encourage and support the students in order to create a greater relationship with God.

How has your involvement in Confirmation Preparation brought you closer to Christ?

My involvement in Confirmation Preparation has made me more aware of the importance of following Christ's footsteps by welcoming every person with respect, compassion, and acceptance.

RCIA - AGNES SARARUS

Why did I get involved in RCIA?

My husband went through the RCIA process years earlier, allowing me to witness the many fruits it bore not only in his life but in the life of our entire family. It also gave me an opportunity to more intentionally evangelize the Catholic faith.

What does your role in RCIA look like?

As a sponsor, I serve as a spiritual mentor, accompanying a catechumen on their RCIA journey by attending weekly group meetings, sharing personal experiences of faith, and offering guidance and friendship, while supporting them through prayer.

How has your involvement in RCIA brought you closer to God?

Seeing the catechumen's desire to enter the Catholic Church, I am reminded of the powerful ways God is present and active in our lives, leaving me deeply inspired and humbled.



Faith Formation

FAITH & BIBLE STUDIES - SUSAN KENNEDY

Why did you get involved in Faith & Bible Studies?

From my childhood I have always been interested in the Bible, so being involved in faith formation has long been a meaningful part of my life.

What does your role in Faith & Bible Studies look like?

I see myself mainly as a facilitator—helping guide the discussion, preparing materials, and creating a welcoming space where people can learn and share together.

How has your involvement in Faith & Bible Studies brought you closer to Christ?

Preparing and researching the material, and listening to the insights of others, continually deepens my appreciation of Scripture.



Ministry	# of Volunteers	# of Participants
FHC Prep	8	121
Confirmation Prep	6	67
OCIA	22	20
OCIC	1	9
Alpha	4	8
Bible Studies	8	50
Faith Studies	7	24



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy has been part of our parish life for over 20 years, led by dedicated parishioners who serve as program facilitators and teachers. Children's Liturgy sessions take place during the 10:15am Mass and serve our youngest parishioners, generally up to age 9. Through skits, activities, songs, and art, Children's Liturgy helps our youngest parishioners understand and engage with the Sunday liturgical readings.

Parish Youth Ministry

Our youth ministry reflects our parish's belief that the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. Before Jr. EDGE, EDGE, and SUMMIT ministries, dedicated parish volunteers, mothers and ministry coordinators planted the seeds of faith and fellowship through camps and Saturday evening youth nights. Guided by Fr. Chris' pastoral vision and a renewed focus on core teams, we launched EDGE (Grades 5-8) on October 15, 2021, and, in response to families, Jr. EDGE (Grades 1-4) in Spring 2022. EDGE meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays (Oct-Jun), while Jr. EDGE meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays (Oct-Jun). Each night, we joyfully welcome 40-50 participants.

Marco, who has been part of EDGE since the beginning, shares how it shaped him into a Jr. EDGE leader for the past two years:

"I was inspired to be a leader in Jr. Edge by remembering the fun I had with friends and the activities that helped us understand God more. It made me want to help lead so younger kids can learn and enjoy what I once had. I also remember hearing one of the Core Team members proclaim when I was younger—it really moved me to draw closer to God and not push Him away."

His younger brother, Enrique, is now following his example and shares: *"The most meaningful thing in Edge for me is the fun activities and learning about God. I hope to be a core team member one day because I want to help the younger kids."*

EDGE helps youth grow in a personal relationship with Jesus through faith and fun. EDGE Nights include games, teachings, discussions, prayer, and snacks. Jr. EDGE begins at the pre-sacramental stage. Xena enjoys the activities and shares:

"I enjoy PA Day and Summer Camp, because it helps me get closer to God." Looking ahead, she adds: *"I am inspired to be a core team member and help other kids like me. I also want to be part of the Children's choir and join the Altar servers too."*

SUMMIT youth Rashlika first encountered our youth ministry through EDGE. Since her Confirmation, she has served in Jr. EDGE and Totus Tuus Summer Camps, and now shares her testimony:

"At St. Bernadette's my personal journey began when I first started going to EDGE in grade 6. Socially it wasn't quite my go to Friday night activity. Later on in grade 8, I started volunteering for Jr. EDGE which I very much enjoyed and still do. I meet many younger kids that remind me of myself. Through them I get to relive my little kid dreams and if anything the kids I've met have impacted me more than I've impacted them. I continue to serve in the parish through youth ministry in hopes that I can give back what the parish has done and continues to do for me in terms of belonging to a community, and spiritually."



They're
alive in
faith,
rooted in
hope,
driven
by
service.



Parish Youth Ministry

On October 19, 2025, we responded to our high school youth who longed for a ministry for teens. After Chloe won our naming contest, we launched SUMMIT Teen Ministry with this year's theme, "I AM," centered on the Lord's "I AM" statements, and inviting teens to see their lives from a new perspective with Christ. Summit nights begin with dinner, then an intentional team-building activity, we listen to a talk and testimony, share in small groups, journal and prayer in the church. About 30 teens attend regularly.

Our youth ministry also serves beyond weekly gatherings through PA Day Camps, High School Cafeteria Ministry in our schools, Super Saints Lunch Ministry in our elementary schools, and our annual Summer Camp (running since July 2022). A major highlight is the EDGE Camp and High School Leadership Camp at Camp White Pine in Haliburton, ON. Together, these events, camps, and training help integrate our children and youth into our parish and support their personal faith journeys.

Elisa, our first Jr. EDGE Coordinator, describes her involvement in youth ministry as a calling: *"I was inspired to be a leader in parish youth ministry because I felt an indescribable call in my heart to get involved. My favourite moments are when kids share that ministry has led them to want to go to Mass or to know Jesus more personally. That's why I continue to serve, I believe the younger generation can shine their light by following Jesus in the world without being consumed by it."*

Her brother, Joey, now serves with Elisa on our SUMMIT Core Team and shares: *"Getting involved in parish life is so valuable because it helps you meet new friends who are also seeking an adventure in faith. I've been blessed with lasting bonds with fellow parishioners who share the same love for their faith. Ultimately, involvement in parish life isn't a suggestion, it's a calling to grow in discipleship and evangelize. So, if you hear your calling, listen to it!"*



Staying Connected Parish Communications

Effective communication is essential to community engagement, outreach and evangelization within our parish. This past year, we sharpened our communication strategy to help our congregation stay informed and connected.

Bulletins

Our weekly bulletin provides timely updates, notices, and liturgical reflections. It highlights parish events, acknowledges anniversaries, and shares details on special Masses and celebrations. Distributed by email and posted on our website, it keeps parishioners connected. It reaches approximately 1,000 subscribers each week.

Website

Our church website is updated weekly with comprehensive information about our services, ministries, and events. Its user friendly design helps parishioners quickly find what they need, including volunteer opportunities and faith formation signups. The site averages about 600 views each weekend and 60 daily, showing steady engagement from our community and beyond. Find us: www.stbernajax.com

Church Announcement Slides

Last year, we introduced announcement slides shown before and after weekend Masses to support visiting, new, and existing parishioners. The slides highlight key upcoming events while remaining subtle and non-intrusive, preserving quiet time for prayer and preparation.

Facebook

Our newly launched Facebook page has already grown to roughly 125 followers, sharing reminders of upcoming events and special moments from parish life to help engage parishioners and welcome visitors. Follow and Like: [St. Bernadette Parish Ajax](https://www.facebook.com/stbernajax)

Instagram

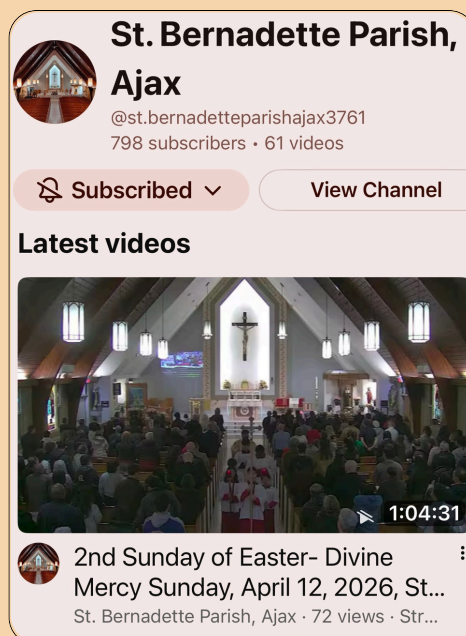
Our Instagram connects with 430 followers, keeping our youth updated. Find us: [@sbyministry](https://www.instagram.com/sbyministry)
[St. Bernadette Youth Ministry.](https://www.instagram.com/stbernadetteyouthministry)

YouTube

We livestream our Sunday 12:00pm Mass each week to support parishioners who cannot attend in person. Our livestreams average 60-90 viewers weekly allowing homebound parishioners, travelers, and families to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist from wherever they are. Find us: [St. Bernadette Parish Ajax](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCstbernadetteparishajax3761)

Testimonial


The announcement slides shown before and after Mass are a wonderful way to keep our parish family connected. Just as families share news when they gather, these slides help us learn about upcoming events, ministries, and opportunities to serve. They gently remind us that parish life continues beyond Sunday and invite everyone to take part. ~Susan Kennedy



St. Bernadette Parish, Ajax
@st.bernadetteparishajax3761
798 subscribers · 61 videos

Subscribed ▾ View Channel

Latest videos

 1:04:31

2nd Sunday of Easter- Divine Mercy Sunday, April 12, 2026, St. Bernadette Parish, Ajax · 72 views · Str...



St. Bernadette Parish Ajax
WELCOME TO OUR PARISH COMMUNITY PAGE



St. Bernadette Parish Ajax

St. Bernadette Parish Ajax
Apr 19 · 🌐

What a joyous occasion! Thank you to everyone for joining us for our Parish Patrones... See more



+24

Our parish communications serve as a vital bridge, connecting our faith community across diverse channels.

Reaches people where they are.
Enriches our parish life.

Stay Connected!

Growing in Faith, Fellowship, & Mission



Sacramental Life & Prayer



Stewardship: Growing Together in Faith

Your Invitation to Take the Next Step

Saint Bernadette Parish is a vibrant parish, growing in faith and community. As highlighted earlier in this report, our call is to renew parish life, strengthen discipleship, and expand our outreach to the wider community. This mission becomes possible when each of us participates.

We invite you to prayerfully consider the many ways you can support our parish community. Your generosity strengthens our parish today and builds its future.

Ways to Give:

- Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG): is one of the easiest and most convenient ways to support our parish. It provides dependable support for the parish while allowing your offertory contributions to continue automatically each month, even when you are away
- Offertory Envelopes: available at the Parish Office and Welcome Desk
- Online Giving: visit us online at: stbernajax.com/give
- Tap to Give: credit/debit card donations after weekend Masses

Ways to Serve:

Our ministries flourish because parishioners step forward to serve. Whether you feel called to liturgical ministry, hospitality, music, youth programs, outreach, administration, or maintenance, your gifts matter.

Choose one step today that will help our parish grow:

- Join a ministry
- Request more information

Fill out the information below, contact the Parish Office or stop by the Welcome Desk to take the next step.

My/our total monthly donation PAG

Offertory \$ _____

Building Fund \$ _____

Total Monthly Donation \$ _____

Name(s) of Donator(s):

Please attach a void cheque

Date: _____

Signature of Contributor(s):

I want to join a ministry

I want more information

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Email me

Call me

Together, We Build the Future of Saint Bernadette's.

Your presence, your gifts, and your "yes" help us continue the Gospel mission entrusted to our parish.

Saint Bernadette Catholic Church

Welcome Home



Stewardship Prayer

I offer this day to you dear God. Thank you for the blessings you have given me. May I use these gifts to build your kingdom. May my actions be a reflection of your love. May what I do today bring others closer to you. May my words be kind and gentle and may they bring joy to others. Today, help me to give back a portion of what you have given me. I ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.