



PARISH MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday (Vigil) 5:00pm
Sunday 8:30am, 10:15am
12:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

MORNING MASSES:

Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday 8:00am
Saturday 9:00am

EVENING MASS:

Wednesday 7:30pm

PARISH CONFESSIONS

Wednesdays
6:15pm-7:15pm
Fridays
8:30am-9:30am
Saturdays
3:45pm-4:45pm

ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

First Fridays
8:30am-12:00pm
All Other Fridays
8:30am-9:30am

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

WEEKDAYS:

Monday - Thursday
9:00am-4:30pm

Friday
9:00am-4:30pm
(Phone calls only)

Weekdays closed for lunch
12:30-1:30pm

WEEKENDS:

Saturday 9:00am-12:00pm

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

January 4, 2026

St. Bernadette Catholic Church

21 Bayly Street East, Ajax, Ontario L1S 1P2

Phone: 905-683-1533 | Email: office@stbernajax.com | www.stbernajax.com

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,



On the Solemnity of the Epiphany, the Church celebrates a beautiful and challenging truth: Jesus Christ is revealed not only to a chosen few, but to all nations, all peoples, all hearts. In the Gospel, the Magi—foreigners and outsiders—set out on a long and uncertain journey because they were attentive to a sign, a star that pointed beyond itself to something greater.

What is striking is that God chose to use ordinary means to lead them to Christ: a star in the sky, the Scriptures of Israel, and the quiet faithfulness of Mary and Joseph. Each played a role in revealing the presence of the Saviour. None of them preached loudly—but all of them pointed clearly.

The Epiphany reminds us that we, too, have an important part to play in bringing Christ into the minds and hearts of others. Like the star, our lives are meant to point beyond ourselves. Through simple acts of kindness, integrity, patience, forgiveness, and quiet faith, we can help others notice that God is near.

Herod and the scholars knew about the Messiah, but it was the Magi who went searching and were transformed. When they encountered Jesus, they were changed—and Scripture tells us they “returned home by another way.” A true encounter with Christ always changes our direction.

This feast invites us to ask: Who might God be drawing through my witness? How might my words, choices, and love help someone take one step closer to Christ?

May we never underestimate the power of a faithful life to reveal the Light of the world.

Fr. Chris

Sacraments

Baptisms – every 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 11:00am. A mandatory Baptism class must be attended and required registration forms completed. Please call the Parish Office or email office@stbernajax.com

First Confession/Communion – Please speak to Robert or email ipa@stbernajax.com

Confirmation – Please speak to Robert or email ipa@stbernajax.com

Christian Initiation of Adults – Adults requiring Baptism, Confirmation, or reception into the Catholic Church. Please speak to Robert or email ipa@stbernajax.com

Christian Initiation of Young People – For young people ages 7 through 16, age-appropriate classes will be offered to help our young people receive all Sacraments of Initiation. Please speak to Robert or email ipa@stbernajax.com

Marriage – Contact the Parish Office **one year in advance** and one of the priests will arrange an appointment with you

Sacrament of the Sick – Contact the Parish Office immediately

Parish Staff

Father Chris Lemieux
Father Sean Jacob
Deacon Ron Vaz
Aquila D'Costa
Robert LeBlanc
Monika Matelski
Marva Thomas
Sue McGee

Pastor
Associate Pastor
Deacon Assistant
Office Administrator
Lay Pastoral Associate
Youth Coordinator
Administrative Assistant
Parish Bookkeeper

pastor@stbernajax.com
associate@stbernajax.com
deacon@stbernajax.com
office@stbernajax.com
ipa@stbernajax.com
youth@stbernajax.com
office3@stbernajax.com
admin@stbernajax.com



Dear Friends,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who shared the joy of Christmas through your generous gifts, thoughtful cards, and many prayers for Father Sean and me. Both of us were deeply moved and humbled by your kindness and appreciation. It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve you as priests at St. Bernadette's.

While we wish we could thank each of you personally, please know this message comes with our heartfelt gratitude and sincerity. Our parish staff also joins us in expressing thanks for the generosity and support shown to them. For all of us, service flows from a place of love—a love you so beautifully witness to us.

Thank you, and may God bless you abundantly.

Father Chris and Father Sean

Register at Our Parish

Welcome to St. Bernadette's! Register to fully participate, access sacraments, connect with our community, and help us serve you better. If you live outside of our parish boundaries but worship here, registration is key for official requests.

[Click here to register](#) today!

Praying for Our People



Praying for one another is an important part of our Christian Discipleship, the mission entrusted to us by Jesus.

We pray for all those who are sick in our parish, for: **Violet Azavedo, Anne Sinclair, Albertina Caruso, and Fred Chafe.**

If you would like to be prayed for, please email us at office@stbernajax.com, or call the office.

Wedding Anniversaries

If you are a registered member of St Bernadette's and will be celebrating a wedding anniversary we would love to celebrate and witness your marriage as a parish community. Please contact the Parish Office with your names and upcoming anniversary dates.

For the month of January, we celebrate with:

Jan 2	John & Ogochukwu Aruwa	(7 years)
Jan 5	Martha & Rudy Thomas	(46 years)
Jan 7	Joseph & Juliet Rupin	(31 years)
Jan 17	Jose & Linia Shaji	(27 years)

Mass Intentions

Saturday January 3 - The Most Holy Name of Jesus

500pm + Valentino Castelli
+ Michael Browne

Sunday January 4 - Epiphany of the Lord

830am + Yvonne Jezioranski
500pm ~ Ethan Chen
700pm + Danilo Cruz

Monday January 5

800am + Jose & Maria DSousa
~ Clergy & Parish Staff

Tuesday January 6

800am ~ Clergy & Parish Staff

Wednesday January 7 - St. André Bessette

7:30pm + Tom King
+ Tony Bakermans
+ Mary Spillane
~ Linda Saville
~ In thanksgiving for the wedding anniversary of Joseph & Juliet Rupin

Thursday January 8 - St. Raymond of Peñafort

800am ~ For all the people that prayed for Julia Beattie

Friday January 9

800am + Phyl Birch

Saturday January 10

900am + Owin McMullkin
+ John McMullkin
+ Sheila Donegan
+ Lucienne Sabourin
+ Juanita Santiago Santos

Coffee Sunday 2026



We invite all parishioners to join us next weekend for our first Coffee Sunday of 2026 - **January 11**, following the 8:30am, 10:15am, and Noon Masses in the Parish Hall. Coffee Sundays are an important part of parish life at St. Bernadette's. Let's make 2026 a year of joyful community.

Next Coffee Sunday: **January 25**.

Weekend Parish Office Hours

The Parish Office is available through the Welcome Desk before and after all weekend Masses:- Saturday at 5:00pm, Sunday at 8:30am, 10:15am, 12:00pm, 5:00pm, and 7:00pm. Stop by the Welcome Desk for assistance, information, or to connect with our parish staff!

Children's Liturgy



We're excited to welcome back our youngest parishioners! Children's Liturgy will resume next **Sunday, January 11**, during the 10:15am Mass.

For Our Young People

Our Youth Ministry programs are back and ready for an exciting new year! Join us for faith, fun, and fellowship.

JUNIOR EDGE (Grades 1-4) | 6:30pm-8:00pm

January 12: We are the Church

EDGE (Grades 5-8) | 7:00pm-8:30pm

January 9: Everlasting

SUMMIT (Grades 9-12) 6:00pm-8:30pm

January 11: I am the Good Shepherd (Pt. 1)

Faith Studies

A Biblical Explanation of the Mass

Join us on **Monday, January 5 at 9:30am** in the Parish Hall, for a video study with Dr. Brant Pitre - A Biblical Explanation of the Mass. Discover the Scriptural roots of what we say and do at Mass, and deepen your love for the Eucharist. All are welcome!

Gaudium et Spes - The Church in the Modern World

Join us on **Monday, January 12 at 9:30am** in the Parish Hall as we explore the Vatican II document Gaudium et Spes, which reflects on the Church's mission in today's world. This study runs for 4 sessions and includes a video presentation and small group discussion. All are welcome!

Fr. Augustus Tolton - From Slavery to Sainthood

Join us on **Monday, February 9 at 9:30am** in the Parish Hall for an inspiring video and discussion on the life of Fr. Augustus Tolton, the first recognized Black Catholic priest in the United States. Born into slavery and facing great obstacles, Fr. Tolton persevered in faith and became a powerful witness to the Gospel. His story is one of courage, perseverance, and deep love for the Church. All are welcome!

Bulletin Advertising

If you own or operate a business, you are invited to advertise in our Parish Bulletin beginning 2026. It's an opportunity to promote your services while supporting parish initiatives. For more information, please email office3@stbernajax.com



Alpha

On **Thursday January 8 at 6:30pm - 8:30pm**, we will begin the Alpha Course at St. Bernadette's. Alpha provides a space to ask all your questions about life, faith, and meaning in a friendly setting with people who, like you, want to explore life's big questions in a low-pressure environment.

Breaking bread together is one of the ways Jesus shared life with people, so every Alpha session will begin with a meal to build community over casual conversation. For more information, please visit our website: <https://www.stbernajax.com/alpha>

We're also looking for parishioners to help by cooking a casserole for one of our Thursday evening meals. Recipes will be provided, and meals can be dropped off during the week to be re-heated when needed. Please contact Robert at ipa@stbernajax.com if you can prepare 1 meal over the next 10 weeks.

Your Parish Needs You!

As we begin a new year, there are many ways to share your time and talents at St. Bernadette's. Your involvement helps strengthen our parish community and bring Christ's love to others. Above all, becoming a volunteer allows you to answer God's call by using the gifts he has entrusted you with.

Explore the opportunities below and consider how you can make a difference this year. For a complete list, see our Ministry Page, or come by the Welcome Desk for more information!

Ministry of Hospitality

The Ministry of Hospitality serve the Liturgy by establishing a climate of welcome, by helping people find a seat, and by receiving the collection! They assist the assembly with practical details so that the Liturgy can be celebrated with ease and grace. The Hospitality Ministers are essential as even one smile can make a huge difference to everyone who enters our parish for Mass.

Welcome Desk

Our Welcome Desk plays an important role in parish life. It is where we welcome new parishioners, help people connect with ministries, and assist visitors and parishioners with finding what they need.

Ready to Make a Difference?

If you feel called to serve as a parish volunteer and have a friendly spirit and enjoy helping others, we'd love for you to get involved as a parish volunteer! If you are interested but do not know which ministry you are called towards, you can still reach out to us! Sign up online, stop by the Welcome Desk, or contact the Parish Office for more information!

Discover Your Ministry, Share Your Gifts

At St. Bernadette's, there are many ministries where you can serve as a volunteer or participate as a member. Below is a list of our ministries, from liturgical roles that are part of the Mass, to opportunities for deepening and sharing your faith, to groups centered around fellowship and social connection.

To serve as a volunteer, join a group or simply learn more, please contact the parish office, stop by the Welcome Desk, or [click here to fill in our Volunteer Form](#). Our volunteer coordinator will follow-up with you to answer questions, connect you with ministry leaders, or help you find a ministry that best matches your interests and skills.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES:

Altar Servers - Children and youth assisting at Mass
Baptism Coordinator - Assist to organize and set up for Baptisms
Choir/Music Ministry - Choirs at Masses, funerals, weddings & *the children's choir
***Collection Counters** - Assist in the secure counting of weekly offerings
***Communion Outreach** - Bring Communion to the sick or homebound
Eucharistic Ministers - Assist in distributing the Body of Christ at Mass
Lectors - Proclaim the Word of God at Mass
Ministry of Hospitality - Greet and welcome all who join together for Mass
Wedding Coordinator - Assist couples on their special day

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES:

The Alpha Course - Explore the basics of Christian faith
Bible Study - Journey deeper into Scripture and grow in understanding.
Faith Studies - Small group sessions designed to build discipleship
Marriage Prep Course - Help couples prepare for a lifelong commitment
Christian Initiation for Adults - Help adults preparing for Baptism
***Christian Initiation for Young People** - Help children (7-17yrs) preparing for Baptism
***Sacramental Preparation Assistant** - Help with FHC and/or Confirmation classes

CHILDREN & YOUTH:

***Altar Servers** - Children and youth assisting at Mass
***Children's Liturgy/Sunday School Catechists** - Sharing the Word of God in a child-friendly way.
***Choir Sunday 10:15am (Children)** - Children's voices lifting praise to God
***EDGE Youth Group (Grades 5-8)** - Faith, fun, and fellowship for middle schoolers
***Jr. EDGE (Grades 1-4)** - Building a foundation of faith for younger students
***Jesus Youth** - Youth growing together in spirit and service
***Summit Teen Ministry** - Chosen for More. Climbing with Purpose. Elevating a faith life for teens

FAITH, FAMILY, FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE:

Catholic Women's Group - Social and service opportunities for women
Coffee Sundays - Fellowship after Mass with coffee and conversation
Craft Group - Creative fellowship - knitting for the homeless
Flowers & Decorating - Help beautify the church for seasons and liturgies
Funeral Receptions - Hospitality for grieving families
Gardening Committee - Keep our church grounds beautiful
Helping Hands - Supports those experiencing homelessness in our community
Hope & Life for Widows - Support and community for women who have lost a spouse
Knights of Columbus - Catholic men in service and fraternity
Legion of Mary - Evangelization through prayer and service
Livestreaming Team - Help broadcast Masses and events online
Meditation - Come find peace in Christ through contemplative prayer
Parish Vitality Ministry - Supports community life organizing social events that bring people together
***Rosary Apostolate** - Foster devotion to Our Lady through prayer
Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Serving those in need with compassion. Food bank and other resources

Notes:

Parental/Guardian consent is required for youth under the age of 18

* May require a vulnerable sector/police check

AROUND THE PARISH

January 4 - January 10		
<u>Sunday January 4</u> 8:30am, 10:15am, 12:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm: Sunday Masses	<u>Wednesday January 7</u> 9:30am: Bible Study (Hall) 10:30am: Communion Outreach Mass (Lakeridge Gardens) 6:00pm: Confirmation Discussion Group (Council Room) 6:00pm: First Holy Communion Class (Hall) 6:15pm: Confession 7:30pm: Mass	<u>Friday January 9</u> 8:00am: Mass 8:30am: Adoration 8:30am: Confession 7:00pm: EDGE Night (Hall)
<u>Monday January 5</u> 8:00am: Mass 9:30am: Faith Studies (Hall) 6:30pm: Youth Ministry Core Teams Christmas Social 7:00pm: Society of St. Vincent de Paul Meeting (Council Room)	<u>Thursday January 8</u> 8:00am: Mass 6:30pm: Alpha (Hall)	<u>Saturday January 10</u> 7:30am: St Joseph Men's Prayer (Hall) 9:00am: Mass 9:30am: Catholic Initiation of Young People Class (Hall) 11:00am: First Holy Communion Class (Hall) 3:45pm: Confession 5:00pm: Mass
<u>Tuesday January 6</u> 8:00am: Mass 1:45pm: Legion of Mary (Council Room) 7:30pm: Christian Initiation of Adults (Hall)		

Supporting our Parish Community

These Businesses are Owned & Operated by Parishioners



Qdine Japanese & Thai Fusion

676 Monarch Ave Unit 12, Ajax, ON L1S4S2
Hours: Wed-Mon: 12-9pm, Tues: CLOSED
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