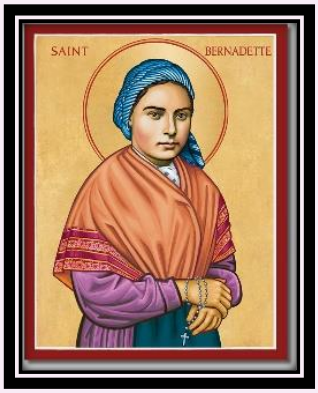


Parish Mass Schedule

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-9:15am
Saturdays
3:45pm-4:45pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

There will be no Adoration on Fridays during Advent. Adoration resumes on January 8

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

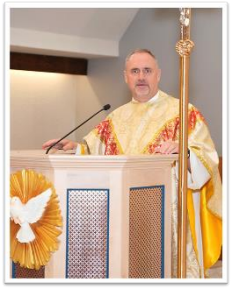
Welcome Desk
Before and after all weekend Masses

St. Bernadette Catholic Church

1st Sunday of Advent November 29, 2026

21 Bayly Street East, Ajax, Ontario L1S 1P2
905-683-1533 | office@stbernajax.com | www.stbernajax.com | Facebook

From The Pastor's Desk



Dear Friends,

This Sunday, we begin the beautiful season of Advent, a time of joyful hope, prayerful preparation, and renewed expectation as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

I often think that Advent invites us to do something we don't always find easy – shifting gears. As December approaches, life can become increasingly busy. There are celebrations to plan, gifts to purchase, commitments to fulfill, and countless things competing for our attention. Before we know it, Christmas arrives, and we wonder where the time has gone!

Advent invites us to approach these weeks differently. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminds us to "stay awake"—to be attentive to God's presence and to what truly matters. Perhaps shifting gears means making more time for prayer, slowing down enough to appreciate the people around us, seeking reconciliation, or finding simple ways to share God's love. Advent isn't about doing more – it's about making room for the Christ Child.

My hope for each of us is that we enter this season with intention, allowing the Lord to renew our faith, deepen our joy, and prepare our hearts to welcome Him.

May this Advent be a season of grace, peace, and joyful expectation!

In the Lord,

Fr. Chris

Parish Team

Pastor:	Father Chris Lemieux	pastor@stbernajax.com
Associate Pastor:	Father Sean Jacob	associate@stbernajax.com
Deacon Assistant:	Deacon Ron Vaz	deacon@stbernajax.com
Office Administrator:	Aquilia D'Costa	office@stbernajax.com
Family Life Coordinator:	Monika Matelski	family@stbernajax.com
Youth Minister:	Stacey Leitmann	youth@Stbernajax.com
Administrative Assistant:	Marva Thomas	office3@stbernajax.com
Director of Music:	Vladimir Soloviev	music@stbernajax.com

Sacraments

Baptisms: A mandatory Baptism class must be attended, and all required registration forms completed. Please contact the Parish Office by phone or email at office@stbernajax.com

First Confession/Communion, Confirmation: Please contact the Parish Office.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults: For adults requiring Baptism, Confirmation, or reception into the Catholic Church, please contact the Parish Office.

Order of Christian Initiation of Young People: For young people ages 7 to 16. Classes designed for their age group are offered to help young people receive all Sacraments of Initiation. Please contact the Parish Office.

Marriage: Please contact the Parish Office one year in advance. One of the priests will arrange an appointment with you.

Sacrament of the Sick: Please contact the Parish Office immediately.

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, click here to register today!

Praying For Our People



We pray for all those who are sick in our parish, for: **Violet Azavedo, and Maura D'Costa.**

We pray for the repose of the souls of **Peter Dwyer, Kevin Castanheiro, Anne Hausdorf, and Marie LeBlanc.**

Anniversaries

If you are a registered member of St. Bernadette's, we would love to celebrate and witness the anniversary of your marriage as a parish community.

This month we celebrate with:

Nov 1	Margaret & Druce Ayres	(57 yrs)
Nov 8	Wilfred & Noreen Pierre	(57 yrs)
Nov 14	Dianne & Don Paulin	(56 yrs)
Nov 22	Saji Parapilly & Raina Varghese	(28 yrs)
Nov 25	Oishee & Peter Halder	(10 yrs)
Nov 27	Cheryl & Carlisle Gomes	(33 yrs)
Nov 27	Rui & Filomena Ribeiro	(55 yrs)
Nov 29	Joseph & Afra D'Lima	(40 yrs)
Nov 29	Joseph & Ida D'Souza	(57 yrs)

OCIA – Becoming Catholic

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) classes begin **this Sunday November 29**, **from 1:30pm to 3:30pm in the Parish Hall**. The OCIA group will meet weekly on Sundays, at this time until May 2027. Candidates and their sponsors are required to attend these weekly classes.

If you are interested in exploring your faith and have not attended one of our OCIA Information Sessions, please contact the Parish Office at office@stbernajax.com.

Please keep our inquirers in your prayers as they get ready to begin this journey of faith.

OCIA – Help Share a Meal!

As we prepare to welcome those exploring the Catholic faith through OCIA, we are looking for parishioners willing to help prepare (ahead of time) or donate easy-to-serve meals, such as pasta dishes, casseroles, quiche, soups, or sandwiches for our weekly Sunday OCIA gatherings. Nothing elaborate is needed. If you are able to help, we would love to hear from you! Please contact the Parish Office office@stbernajax.com

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 28
5:00pm + Cesar Velarde Sr. & Victoria Racelis

Sunday, November 29
8:30am + Tad Watson
12:00pm Missa Pro Populo
5:00pm + Macario O. Zarate
7:00pm + Souls in purgatory

Monday, November 30
8:00am + Shehla Farooqui

Tuesday, December 1
8:00am + José & Eduarda Oliveira

Wednesday, December 2
7:30pm + Margaret McGivern
+ Souls in purgatory that have no one to pray for them
+ Pete Lee
+ Anthony & Jeyarani
~ Evelyn Guaca

Thursday, December 3
8:00am + Lucia Raposo

Friday, December 4
8:00am ~ Susan Dulny

Saturday, December 5
9:00am + Jimmy Junta
+ José & Eduarda Oliveira
+ Souls in purgatory that have no one to pray for them
+ Francisca Baduel Vallon
~ In Thanksgiving for Evelyn Guaca

Coffee Sunday



Join us next **Sunday, December 6**, after the 8:30am, 10:15am and 12 noon Masses in the Parish Hall. Enjoy coffee and fellowship while you explore our Christmas Bake Sale.



Sunday, December 6 | Parish Hall
After the 8:30am, 10:15am, and Noon Masses

Our Parish Vitality Ministry invites all parishioners to attend our annual Christmas Bake Sale for delicious homemade treats, perfect for gifting or enjoying with your family and friends. Parishioners are also welcome to bake and donate items for the sale. For more information, please contact Julia Beattie: 905-683-1373 or Linda Sarang: 416-523-2062, Linda4791@gmail.com

LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT

As we approach the beginning of Advent, we 'change gears' liturgical as well. Here are a few changes you will notice in the liturgical and sacramental celebrations as of the First Sunday of Advent (we begin Year B in the readings again):

- No Adoration on Fridays during Advent
- No Gloria will be sung at Mass
- An Advent Penitential Rite will be used at Mass
- Our Memorial Acclamation will be **"Save us Saviour of the World, for by Your Cross and Resurrection, You have set us free"**
- Our Altar and Sanctuary will be adorned simply
- We welcome families from the parish for the Advent Family Mass on Thursday December 10, at 7:00pm
- We will gather as a community for the Pre-Dawn Novena Masses at 5:30am each morning, starting Wednesday December 16 with the last Mass on Christmas Eve
- We will gather for our Advent Day of Recollection on Saturday December 19, starting with Mass at 9am and concluding at 3pm

May the Lord continue to bless you all.

Fr. Chris

ADVENT FAMILY MASS & SOCIAL



We invite all parishioners to our Family Advent Mass and Social on **Thursday December 10**. Mass will be held at 7pm followed by a festive social in the Parish Hall. Take the time to craft a Christmas card for our residents in local long-term care homes, visit our ornament decorating station, have a hot chocolate with torched marshmallows and buy tickets to enter our Christmas baskets draw! Let's bring in the Christmas season with our parish and school family!

PRE-DAWN NOVENA MASSES



Starting Wednesday December 16th at 5:30am, join us each morning for this Pre-Dawn Novena Mass, continuing daily through Thursday, December 24th. Each Mass will be followed by a light refreshment in the Parish Hall. These Novena Masses are a beautiful devotion, giving us the opportunity to make a small sacrifice as we prepare our hearts to welcome the Messiah.



A Warm Welcome to Our New Director of Music!

It is with great joy that we welcome **Vlad Soloviev** to St. Bernadette Parish as our new Director of Music!

Vlad is an accomplished pianist, organist, conductor, vocal coach and music educator who brings to our parish an impressive wealth of musical experience, both in Canada and internationally, and more than a decade of experience in church music ministry.

Of particular significance to our Catholic community, Vlad served as Assistant Conductor at St. Michael's Cathedral Choir School in Toronto, where he conducted choirs for Mass at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, assisted in the musical formation of young choristers and received specialized training in Catholic liturgy and sacred music. He has also served as Organist and Music Director at churches in Kitchener and Newmarket, developing choral programs and nurturing the musical gifts of singers of various ages and abilities.

Vlad holds two Master of Music degrees, from the University of Toronto and the prestigious Eastman School of Music and pursued further professional studies at Mannes College of Music in New York. His distinguished musical career includes work with the Canadian Opera Company, the Royal Conservatory of Music and numerous renowned choral and orchestral ensembles.

We are excited about the gifts Vlad brings to our parish and the opportunities ahead to build upon the dedication of our existing choirs, cantors and musicians. Together, we look forward to fostering a vibrant music ministry that enriches our celebration of the Sacred Liturgy, encourages the participation of our congregation and lifts our hearts and voices in praise of God.

Welcome to the St. Bernadette's parish family, Vlad!

If you are interested in volunteering in our Music Ministry, please contact Vlad at music@stbernajax.com

ADVENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION



Take some time this Advent to step away from the busyness of daily life and prepare your heart for Christmas.

Everyone is invited to join us for an Advent Day of Recollection led by Father Sean on **Saturday December 19**, from 9:00am to 3:00pm, beginning with Mass. The day will include spiritual talks, prayer and reflection, and fellowship. A light lunch will be provided. Donations are gratefully appreciated. Please register at the welcome desk or parish office.

THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU AT ST. BERNADETTE'S

Share your gifts. Make a difference. Grow together in faith.

St. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12: 4–5, ***"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord."***

This Advent, we ask you to prayerfully consider sharing your gifts with our parish ministries. No matter what your gift is, **there is a place for you at St. Bernadette's**. Not sure where you fit? Prayerfully reflect on these questions:

Baptism Coordinators

- Do you have gifts of organization & management?
- Do you desire to welcome newborns into the Church?
- Can you serve occasionally on Saturdays?

Communion to the Homebound

- Will you bring Christ to those unable to attend?
- Do you have gifts of hospitality?
- Do you enjoy accompanying others?

Communion Outreach & Visiting Ministries

- Are you open to visit the sick & the elderly?
- Will you bring community to those who can't come to our parish?

Parish Vitality

- Do you enjoy volunteering in a team?
- Do you want to help our parish grow?
- Are you open to help at parish events?

Collection Counters

- Do you have experience handling money?
- Can you volunteer on weekday mornings?

Finance Council*

- Do you have a background in finance?
- Do you think you can help our pastor?

***** The Finance Council serves in an advisory role to the Pastor on parish financial matters. Interested candidates must submit a résumé to Fr. Chris at pastor@stbernajax.com. An interview is required.

Eucharistic Ministers

- Do you want to volunteer but have limited time?
- Do you attend Mass and have a strong faith?

Choir Ministries

- Are you open to developing your music skills?
- Do you love elevating worship with music?

Ministry of Hospitality

- Do you want to volunteer but lack experience?
- Are you welcoming & open to serving at Mass?

Parking Ministry (NEW)

- Can you help us help parishioners to find a place to park for Mass?
- Do you enjoy the great outdoors?

Youth Ministry (Junior EDGE, EDGE, Summit)

- Are you open to work with children (Grades 5-8)?
- Do you want to help our youth grow in faith?
- Will you accompany teens in their faith journey?

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

- Will you help children learn the faith hands-on?
- Do you work well with young children?

Children's Liturgy

- Do you attend the Sunday 10:15am Mass?
- Will you proclaim the Gospel to children?

Flowers & Decorating

- Are you passionate about decorating & flowers?
- Do you work well in a team?
- Are you available during weekday daytime?

Curious or interested?

Contact the Parish Office, visit the Welcome Desk, or complete our Volunteer Form.
Our Volunteer Coordinator will follow up and help you find a ministry that's a good fit.

May you be guided by prayer.



Advent, Christmas & New Year's

Special Schedule of Masses and Confessions

Thursday, December 10 | 7:00pm
Advent Family Mass & Social

Wednesday, December 16 – Thursday, December 24
5:30am Pre-Dawn Novena Masses
Light Breakfast Social to follow

Saturday, December 19 | 9:00am – 3:00pm
Advent Day of Recollection

Monday, December 21
Advent Day of Confessions
11:00am – 12:30pm & 6:30pm – 9:30pm
Many Priests will be available during the evening

Thursday, December 24
Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord
4:00pm | 7:00pm | 10:00pm | Midnight

Friday, December 25
Nativity of the Lord
9:00am | 11:30am | 1:00pm

Thursday, December 31
Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
5:00pm | 7:00pm

Friday, January 1
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
10:00am | 12:00 noon

AROUND THE PARISH

Sunday November 29

Sunday Masses 8:30am, 10:15am, 12:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm

10:15am Children's Liturgy (Hall)
1:30pm OCIA Classes (Hall)

Monday November 30

8:00am Mass
9:30am Faith Studies (Hall)
7:00pm Knights of Columbus Mass for the Faithful Departed (Church & Hall)

Tuesday December 1

8:00am Mass
11:30am Funeral - Marie LeBlanc
1:45pm Legion of Mary (Council Room)
5:30pm Confirmation Sacramental Tues. Session 5 (Hall)

Wednesday December 2

8:15am Notre Dame CSS Confession (School)
9:30am Bible Study (Hall)
10:15am St. James CES School Mass (School)
2:00pm Crèche Assembly & Blessing (Front of Church)
6:00pm FHC Sacramental Wed. Session 7 (Hall)
6:15pm Confession
7:30pm Mass

Thursday December 3

8:00am Mass
6:00pm Confirmation HOMESTUDY Session 1 (Council Room)
6:30pm SUMMIT (Hall)

Friday December 4

8:00am Mass
8:30am Confession
No Adoration during Advent

Saturday December 5

7:30am That Man Is You (Hall)
9:00am Mass
10:00am FHC Sacramental Sat. Session 7 (Hall)
10:00am Quo Vadis (Council Room)
11:30am Confirmation Sacramental Sat. Session 5 (Hall)
3:45pm Confession
5:00pm Mass

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CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

SUNDAY DECEMBER 6TH
AFTER 8:30, 10:15 AND NOON MASSES

For more information contact: Julia Beattie, Linda Sarang



Family Advent Mass & Social

Thursday Dec. 10, 2026
Mass 7:00pm

Please join us after Mass in the PARISH HALL

Crafting Christmas cards for Residents

Christmas Ornament Decorating Station

Hot Chocolate Bar with toasted marshmallows!

Christmas Basket Raffle!

Baked Treats & Candy Canes

These Businesses are Supported by Our Parish Community

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