



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time September 7, 2025

St. Bernadette Catholic Church

21 Bayly Street East, Ajax, Ontario L1S 1P2

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

PARISH MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND MASSES

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

EARLY MORNING MASS:

Wednesday 6:30am

MORNING MASSES:

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

EVENING MASS:

Wednesday 7:30pm

PARISH CONFESSIONS

Wednesdays

6:30pm-7:15pm

Fridays

8:30am-9:30am

Saturdays

4:00pm-4:45pm

ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesdays

6:15pm-7:15pm

First Fridays

8:30am-12:00pm

All other Fridays

8:30am-9:30am

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

WEEKDAYS:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

9am-4:30pm

Wednesday

9am-4:30pm, 6pm-9pm

Friday 9am-4:30pm for

Phone calls only

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

WEEKENDS:

Saturday 9:00am-1:00pm

Sunday 9:00am-1:30pm

From the Pastor's Desk



Dear friends,

This weekend, as we celebrate the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, we hear Jesus speak powerfully in the Gospel of Luke: "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple" (Lk 14:27). His words remind us that discipleship is not casual—it is a wholehearted commitment. To follow Christ means

ordering our lives around Him and trusting that even when the road is challenging, it leads us to true life and joy.

As we enter into a new ministry year together, I am filled with gratitude for the gift of our parish family here at St. Bernadette's. After the slower pace of summer, this is a moment to renew our faith, reconnect with one another, and recommit ourselves to Christ's mission in our parish and in our community.

With that in mind, I warmly invite you to join us for our **Welcome Back Weekend** celebrations this weekend. We will gather for fellowship, food, and joy at our parish BBQ on Saturday evening and at our Sunday Brunch after Mass, along with our Parish Ministry Expo before and after all the Masses. This is a wonderful opportunity to discover ways to serve, to meet parish leaders, and to strengthen the bonds of our parish family.

Let us carry our crosses with courage and hope, knowing that Christ walks with us and unites us as His disciples. I look forward to seeing you and journeying together in faith this year.

In your service, I remain,

Father 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 lpa@stbernajax.com

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

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

Aquilia D'Costa

Robert LeBlanc

Monika Matelski

Marva Thomas

Sue McGee

Pastor

Associate Pastor

Parish Deacon

Office Administrator

Lay Pastoral Associate

Youth Coordinator

Administrative Assistant

Parish Bookkeeper

pastor@stbernajax.com

associate@stbernajax.com

deacon@stbernajax.com

office@stbernajax.com

lpa@stbernajax.com

youth@stbernajax.com

office3@stbernajax.com

admin@stbernajax.com

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!

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.

This month we celebrate with:

Sep 3	Ada & Ron Larock	(42 years)
Sep 4	Harry and Sylvia Prabhu	(48 years)
Sep 4	Sarah Victor & Kale Trinier	(4 years)
Sep 8	Malcolm & Gillian Victor	(35 years)
Sep 16	Luisa and Joe Guzzo-Foliaro	(30 years)
Sep 22	Carlos and Maria Da Silva	(41 years)
Sep 23	Kresstine Fernando & Nirmal Patel	(8 years)

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, Jaime Villafuerte, and Faye Marechal.

We pray also for those who have died and their family and friends who mourn their passing. We pray especially for Rose Marie Van Staveren.



We invite you all to **Welcome Back Weekend** as we kick-off our parish's fall season! Whether you attend the Saturday evening or Sunday Masses, there's something for everyone to enjoy! Explore the **Ministry Expo** and discover many ways you can serve your parish. Celebrate the upcoming season with your fellow parishioners at the **Coffee Socials**, **BBQ after the Saturday 5pm Mass**, or join us for **Sunday Brunch following the Noon Mass**. A suggested donation of \$8 per person or \$20 per family for the BBQ or Brunch, will be appreciated. Donations will be collected on entrance to the parish hall.

Mass Intentions

Sunday September 7th - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

830am	+ Kelly Anne Butterworth
500pm	+ Benedicta Mingi
700pm	+ Majorie Marie Hillman

Monday September 8th - Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

800am	+ Victoria Fuoco
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Tuesday September 9th - St. Peter Claver

800am	+ Brian Orgias
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Wednesday September 10th

730pm	+ Joaquin Augusto Moreno Lesmes
	+ Lucia Carneiro
	+ Marijoan Egan
	~ The Rita family

Thursday September 11th

800am	+ Peter Sunderland
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Friday September 12th - The Most Holy Name of Mary

800am	~ Champa
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Saturday September 13th - St. John Chrysostom

900am	+ Victor D'oliveira
	+ Eufrocina Tolentino
	+ Remedios Nuguid
	~ Fate La Madrid
500pm	+ Leokadia Prystasz

Pilgrimage to Canadian Martyr Shrine



Come on a **Pilgrimage to Canadian Martyr Shrine** and **gain a special 2025 Jubilee Indulgence**. This year, you can obtain two plenary indulgences on the same day: one for yourself, and one for a soul in purgatory.

What to expect:

- Stops in Huronia to see Martyrdom sites
- Outdoor Mass at St. Ignace II with Fr. Chris
- Free time at Canadian Martyrs' Shrine

This pilgrimage will be led by Fr. Chris and Amanda Wetmore. Departs from St Bernadette's at **7:45am** and returns around **6:30pm**. \$52 per parishioner. **Very limited space remaining, reserve yours soon!**

Please register and pay at the Parish Office or Welcome Desk. Contact Amanda Wetmore for more information: amandajohanwetmore@gmail.com Or 647-283-1593.

New Parish Vitality Ministry

Building Fellowship, Strengthening Community, Deepening Faith

One of the greatest gifts of parish life is the sense of belonging to a faith-filled community. At St. Bernadette's, we are called not only to worship together, but to grow together – as brothers and sisters in Christ. To help strengthen this spirit of unity and belonging, we are launching a new initiative: the **Parish Vitality Ministry**.

What Is the Parish Vitality Ministry?

This new ministry will take the lead in organizing parish breakfasts, dinners, socials, and special seasonal gatherings. But more than simply planning events, the ministry will focus on creating spaces where relationships can grow, where newcomers feel welcomed, and where longtime parishioners deepen their sense of community.

Why Does It Matter?

Christian fellowship is essential in the life of a disciple. In the early Church, believers gathered not only for prayer and the breaking of bread, but also for mutual support and joyful community (Acts 2:42-47). Fellowship builds trust, opens hearts, and strengthens our commitment to Christ and His Church. A vibrant parish is one where people feel seen, known, and loved.

How Will This Ministry Help Our Parish Grow?

- ✚ **Welcoming Atmosphere:** By creating regular opportunities to gather, especially after Mass, we give people a chance to connect and feel at home.
- ✚ **Engagement Pathways:** These gatherings serve as gentle entry points for parishioners who are not yet involved in ministries or faith formation.
- ✚ **Support for Other Ministries:** Fellowship events strengthen relationships that ripple out into deeper ministry participation and cooperation across parish life.
- ✚ **Celebrating Milestones Together:** From feast days to parish anniversaries, this ministry helps us celebrate as a family of faith.
- ✚ **Evangelization Through Hospitality:** Inviting friends and neighbors to parish meals and socials is a low-barrier way to share the joy of our faith.

How Can I Help?

We are looking for joyful, welcoming, and creative parishioners to help form this new ministry. Whether you enjoy hosting, cooking, decorating, organizing, or simply being present to greet others – there's a place for you! Training, support, and guidance will be provided. **If this sounds like you, stop by the Parish Office or Welcome Desk to sign-up.**

NEW Point of Sale Machines



We're excited to announce that starting this weekend, new Point of Sale (POS) machines will be available to **make payments more convenient than ever**. You'll now be able to use *Credit or Debit Cards, Apple Pay, Google Pay, and Samsung Pay*. Simply **tap, insert or swipe**. It's quick and easy! We're pleased to serve you better with this secure option. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Faith Formation

First Communion & Reconciliation Parent Info & Registration Meeting

If your child is in grade 2 or higher and wishes to receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, parents **MUST** attend one of the two information sessions which will be held in the Parish Hall:

Thursday September 25 @ 6-7pm
Saturday September 27 @ 10-11am

Parents can begin the registration process at: www.stbernajax.com/first-communion-preparation

For more information, please contact Robert, our Lay Pastoral Associate: lpa@stbernajax.com

Note: *If your child is in grade 2 or higher and is not baptized or not baptized in the Catholic church, and would like to receive any of the sacraments, please contact Robert.*

Confirmation

Parent Info & Registration Meeting

If your child is in grade 7 or higher and wishes to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, parents **MUST** attend one of the two information sessions which will be held in the Parish Hall:

Thursday September 25 @ 7:30-8:30pm
Saturday September 27 @ 11:30am - 12:30pm

Parents can begin the registration process at: www.stbernajax.com/confirmation-preparation

For more information, please contact Robert, our Lay Pastoral Associate: lpa@stbernajax.com

Becoming Catholic

Christian Initiation for Adults

The Christian Initiation of Adults is for individuals who wish to become Catholic; and have not received some or any of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist). This group meets on Tuesday evenings 7:30-9pm from October through May.

For more information, please contact Robert, our Lay Pastoral Associate: lpa@stbernajax.com

Christian Initiation of Young People

The Christian Initiation of Young People is for children aged 7 through 17 who have not received some or any of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist). This program will run from mid-October to mid-December.

For more information, please contact Robert, our Lay Pastoral Associate: lpa@stbernajax.com



Help out with Alpha

Alpha is a place to explore the big questions of life, faith, and meaning through a Christian lens in a Catholic context, but this can't happen without many hands helping out. Our Alpha team at St. Bernadette's is always welcoming new members who would like to help others encounter Christ. Whether it's helping prepare a meal, praying for Alpha participants, or helping lead conversations - it all helps make for a great Alpha experience of faith, food, and fellowship.

Reach out to Robert at lpa@stbernajax.com to see how your talents can help others discover our faith with Alpha.

Faith Studies



Come and discover the richness of our Catholic faith and see how God's truth can transform your life today. Join us **Monday mornings at 9:30am** starting **September 8** for a variety of engaging videos, inspiring books, and meaningful small group discussions.

September topics:

- o Sept 8 - Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Papacy
- o Sept 15 - The Crusades: What Really Happened?
- o Sept 22 - The Hidden King: Jewish Roots of St. Joseph

Coming Soon!!! Tip Tap Pay



We will soon be launching **Tip Tap Pay for Offertory**, along with our other giving options. It's a safe, easy and contactless way to give your offertory donations. **Simply tap the "tiptap" device. That's it!** You will be eligible to receive tax receipts from your "tiptap" donations as well. More information will be provided before the launch. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Bible Studies



Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come

*An 11 Week Study - Begins
Wednesday, Sept 17 at 9:30am*

Join Jeff Cavins for an in-depth look at the Book of Revelation. Discover how its powerful images and prophecies connect Christ's kingdom on earth with the kingdom of heaven, especially through the Mass. Learn what Revelation teaches about the Second Coming, what has already been fulfilled, and how God's plan continues unfolding today.

New!!! Summit Teen Ministry

****In need of Volunteers****

On **Sunday October 19**, our parish inaugurates a **New Summit Teen Ministry** which will care for our teens in high school. As part of this ministry, we will be offering dinner & fellowship nights, and are looking for parishioners to join us, as part of our kitchen crew. We're also looking for food donations (*frozen lasagnas, meatballs, etc*) for our nights. Contact Monika if you could assist with this ministry: youth@stbernajax.com

Youth Ministry Launch Dates

Junior Edge (Grades 1-4)

Every 2nd & 4th Monday of the month
6:30pm-8pm in the Parish Hall
Semester 1: Kindle the Fire

LAUNCH DATE: Monday October 27, 2025

EDGE (Grades 5-8)

Every 2nd & 4th Friday of the month
7:00pm-8:30pm in the Parish Hall
Semester 1: Sacred Flame

LAUNCH DATE: Friday October 24, 2025

SUMMIT TEEN MINISTRY (Grades 9-12)

Bi-weekly Sundays (see schedule)
6:00pm-8:00pm in the Parish Hall
Semester 1: I AM

LAUNCH DATE: Sunday October 19, 2025

What's Happening at the Parish!

UPCOMING EVENTS	September 6-13		
	<u>Saturday Sept 6</u> After 5pm Mass Welcome Back Weekend: Ministry Expo, BBQ & Coffee Social (Hall)	<u>Monday Sept 8</u> 9:30am - Faith Studies (Hall) 7:00pm - Knights of Columbus Officers Meeting (Council Room)	<u>Thursday Sept 11</u> 6:30pm - Christian Initiation of Adults Team Meeting (Hall)
	<u>Sunday Sept 7</u> After 8:30am, 10:15am, 12noon & 5pm Masses Welcome Back Weekend: Ministry Expo, & Coffee Socials (Hall) Brunch after 12noon Mass (Hall) <u>Sept 6-7 - Back to School Blessing</u> After all weekend Masses	<u>Tuesday Sept 9</u> 1:45pm - Legion of Mary (Council Room) 6:00pm - First Holy Communion Team Meeting (Hall)	<u>Friday Sept 12</u> 9:30am - Parish Bazaar Planning Meeting (Hall)
		<u>Wednesday Sept 10</u> 7:00pm - Catholic Women's Guild Executive Meeting (Council Room)	<u>Saturday Sept 13</u> 7:45am - Huronia Holy Land Pilgrimage 11:00am - Baptism (Church)
	September 14-20		
	<u>Monday Sept 15</u> 9:30am - Faith Studies (Hall) 7:00pm - Knights of Columbus Meeting (Stage Side)	<u>Tuesday Sept 16</u> 1:45pm - Legion of Mary (Council Room) 6:00pm - Confirmation Team Meeting (Hall)	<u>Thursday Sept 18</u> 7:00pm - Alpha Team Meeting (Hall)
		<u>Wednesday Sept 17</u> 9:30am - Bible Study (Hall) 7:15pm - Catholic Women's Guild (Hall)	<u>Friday Sept 19</u> 7:00pm - Jesus Youth (Hall)
	September 21-27		
	<u>Monday Sept 22</u> 9:30am - Faith Studies (Hall)	<u>Wednesday Sept 24</u> 9:30am - Bible Study (Hall) 12:30pm - Catholic Women's Guild Senior's Lunch (Hall)	<u>Saturday Sept 27</u> 10:00am - First Holy Communion Parent Info Meeting (Hall) 11:00am - Baptism (Church) 11:30am - Confirmation Parent Info Meeting (Hall)
	<u>Tuesday Sept 23</u> 1:45pm - Legion of Mary (Council Room)	<u>Thursday Sept 25</u> 6:00pm - First Holy Communion Parent Info Meeting (Hall) 7:30pm - Confirmation Parent Info Meeting (Hall)	
FALL 2025	September 28-October 4		
	<u>Monday Sept 29</u> 9:30am - Faith Studies (Hall) 6:00pm - Baptism Prep Class (Stage Side)	<u>Wednesday October 1</u> 9:30am - Bible Study (Hall) 7:00pm - Marriage Prep Course (Stage side)	<u>Saturday October 4</u> 7:30am - St. Joseph's Men's Prayer Breakfast (Hall)
	<u>Tuesday Sept 30</u> 1:45pm - Legion of Mary (Council Room)	<u>Thursday October 2</u> 10:00am - Hope and Life (Kitchen Side) 6:30pm - Alpha (Hall)	

Supporting our Parish Community

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Ministry Volunteers Needed - inquire at the parish office or welcome desk

Visiting & Communion Outreach

The Visiting & Communion Outreach Ministries bring the love and presence of Christ to the sick, elderly, and homebound by offering prayer, companionship, and the gift of Holy Communion. Volunteers extend the care and engagement of the parish community to those unable to attend Mass, reminding them they are not forgotten.

Parish Vitality Ministry

The Parish Vitality Ministry supports community life by organizing parish breakfasts, dinners, and social events that bring people together. Rooted in Christian fellowship, this ministry helps strengthen the bonds of faith and friendship among parishioners, fostering a more vibrant, welcoming, and connected parish community.

Sunday School Catechists Help Launch - Sunday School

We're seeking faith-filled adults and responsible teens from our parish to help launch our Sunday School program during Mass. Share Bible stories, faith, and fun with young children—no experience needed! Training and materials will be provided. Help plant seeds of faith in the hearts of our youngest parishioners. Join this joyful ministry today!

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