

Father Ben Nwosu celebrated the Solemnity of Mary on New Years Day with 54 in attendance, and on Saturday, January 3rd at 4:00 PM Father, assisted by Seminarian Gabriel Eckstein, celebrated Mass for the Epiphany of the Lord with 67 in attendance.

Contributions received in January
 Offertory Collection: \$ 5,142.
 Other: \$
 Monthly Budgeted: \$ 7,500
 -2,358

Monday January 12
 Jesus and Coffee meets
 McCarty Center @ 10 AM

Wednesday January 14
 Parish Council meets 2:00 PM

Monday January 19
 Red Cross Blood Drive 12-4

**THE SECOND SUNDAY
 OF ORDINARY TIME
 CELEBRATED
 JANUARY 17, 2026
 3:30 PM - Rosary
 3:40-3:55 Sacrament of
 Reconciliation
 4:00 PM – Eucharist
 *Vocations**

Please pray for our Parishioner residing in Hermitage Nursing & Rehabilitation Center: Sally Fleenor.



JANUARY PRAYER REQUESTS
 Clif and Mary Kay Brooks,
 Helen Taylor, Bonnie Salmon,
 Tracy Rotert, Jean Precht,
 Helen Lutz, Mary Berry,
 Jo Ann Mertz, and the repose
 of the souls of Richard Burton and Jan Nelson.



PRAY FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN IN HARMS WAY
 Caitlin Schaefer, Addie Schaefer,
 and Faith Schaefer,

The January issue of "Word Among Us" is available in the basket in Miller Hall. Please pick yours up and consider picking one up for our homebound members.

*Pope Leo XIV's
 Prayer Intentions for January*

Let us pray that praying with the word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.



**THE BAPTISM
 OF THE LORD
 CELEBRATED
 JANUARY 10, 2026
 AT 4:00 PM**

Office Hours: Mon, Tues, & Thurs, 8:30a.m.– 1:30p.m.
 Wed. By Appointment
 Pastor: Father Benjamin Nwosu
 bnwosu@diojeffcity.org
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays 3:40 – 3:55 p.m.
 Rosary: 3:30 p.m. Eucharist: 4:00 p.m.
 Like us on Facebook
 (facebook.com/stbernadettehermitage) St Bernadette's
 website: stbernadette.diojeffcity.org

**ST BERNADETTE CHURCH IS A CENTER OF
 CHARITY WHERE WE PRAY, GROW, LOVE,
 AND LEARN TO LIVE LIKE JESUS CHRIST**

**PO Box 167
 24798 HWY 254
 Hermitage, MO 65668
 417-745-6361
 stbernadettechurch@hotmail.com**





BE THE LIFELINE PATIENTS NEED. Mark your Calendars for our next community Blood

Drive on Monday January 19, 2026, 12:00 to 4:00 pm. Sign-up at redcrossblood.org and use the zip code of 65668. Or call 1-800-red-cross.

"Yet human beings receive life as a gift: they do not ask for it, they do not choose it, they experience it in its mystery from the first to the last day. Life has its own extraordinary specificity: it is offered to us, we cannot give it to ourselves, but it must be constantly nurtured: it needs care to maintain, energize, protect and revive it."

POPE LEO XIV

If you would like a copy of your 2025 contributions, please send Ron a note requesting them. Be sure to specify whether you would prefer printed copies or by e-mail. This year because of a bookkeeping program change in October, there will be two reports generated that you will need to add together for the total contribution.

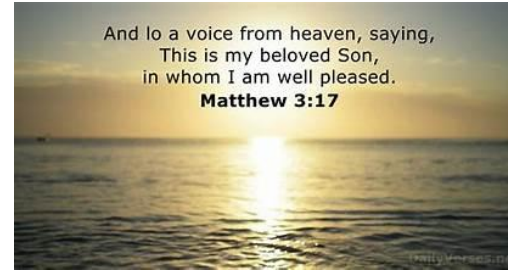
2026 Catholic Calendars have arrived and are available on the table in Miller Hall. Please feel free to pick up one.

The Parish Council would like your help in our church Stewardship to our community. We are collecting one or more items a month from each church family. The item(s) for January are condiments. Please place items in the tub by the water cooler in Miller Hall. The items will go to Hickory County CARES Food Pantry for distribution. We thank you for your support in the act of giving.



What are Mass Intentions?

Mass intentions refer to the practice of offering a Mass for a specific person or intention. This can include prayers for the deceased, special occasions like birthdays, or general intentions for health and well-being. The tradition of offering Mass for specific intentions date back to the early Church, with evidence found in inscriptions from Roman catacombs. We have several open dates for Mass intentions in 2026. Intentions are \$10.00 each. Please schedule your intention through Ron in the office.



Reflection for Matthew 3:13-17

Our gospel passage today is Matthew's version of a familiar story: the baptism of Jesus. There are four gospels in the New Testament: different versions of the story of Jesus' life. Three of them: Matthew, Mark, and Luke, tell the story of Jesus' baptism.

Matthew's version of the story is a bit more brief than the others: basically, Jesus goes to his cousin John, who was a kind of itinerate preacher, and asks him to be baptized in the Jordan River, as many other people were doing in those days. John doesn't want to do it—who is he to baptize Jesus? But John goes ahead, and when Jesus comes up out of the water, the heavens open, a dove comes down, and the Jesus hears God's voice calling Jesus a beloved child of God. Most New Testament scholars agree that this language is a quotation or reflection of the first verse of chapter 42 of Isaiah that reads, "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations."

An important question to ask when reading this text is: why would Jesus need to be baptized? Matthew's gospel was written near the end of the first century and it wasn't until the fourth century that Christians got to arguing about whether Jesus was human or divine or some combination of the both. In other words, Jesus didn't really need the endorsement, so the reader might wonder why he did it and even why Matthew, Mark, and Luke felt it was important enough to include in their accounts of Jesus' life.

Another important detail to notice in this passage is that the crowd doesn't hear God's voice or see the dove come down from heaven. The text says, "the heavens were opened to him." Was this a private moment for Jesus?

This incident occurs just as Jesus was beginning his ministry—preaching a message of radical love that flew in the face both of the corrupt Roman occupation and also the religious machinery of the Temple. Careful exegesis might lead us to conclude that what we are witnessing here is a moment when Jesus was facing doubt or fear, when he needed to gather resolve or courage for the work ahead of him, when he needed most of all to remember who he was.

St. Bernadette Pray for us