

Father Ben Nwosu celebrated the Baptism of The Lord on Saturday, January 10th at 4:00 PM with 62 in attendance.

Contributions received in January  
Offertory Collection: \$ 6,547  
Other: \$ 30  
Monthly Budgeted: \$ 7,500  
-923

Monday January 19  
Jesus and Coffee meets  
McCarty Center @ 10 AM

Monday January 19  
Red Cross Blood Drive 12-4

**THE THIRD SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
CELEBRATED  
JANUARY 24, 2026**

3:30 PM - Rosary  
3:40-3:55 Sacrament of  
Reconciliation  
4:00 PM – Eucharist

**\*Carol Frey**

**St. Bernadette  
Pray for us**

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,  
Margaret Hastings and the*

*repose of the souls of Jo Ann Mertz, and  
Leand Hemme.*

**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 SECOND SUNDAY IN  
OF ORDINARY TIME  
CELEBRATED  
JANUARY 17, 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



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



**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](http://redcrossblood.org) and use the zip code of 65668. Or call 1-800-red-cross.

**"The heart** is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible center of ourselves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: 'For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also'."

**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.



JoAnn Mertz (arrangements) Friends and family will be received on Saturday, January 31, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at St Joseph Catholic Church in Westphalia, MO with a Memorial Mass at 11:00 a.m. officiated by Rev. Dylan Schrader. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery.

**The office** received word Tuesday that Leland Hemme, a past parishioner, passed away. Leland and his wife Linda attended church at St. Bernadett's for many years before Linda passed and Leland had to move to Springfield to be close to family. Arrangements are pending.



**Reflection for John 1:29-34**

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." This is the beginning of the Gospel of John. The other three gospels are called the "synoptic" gospels because they are more straightforward accounts—synopses—of the life of Jesus. The Gospel of John, on the other hand, begins with this sweeping, mystical poem about God and the nature of God.

After introducing us to the Word, the gospel introduces us to John the Baptist. We zoom in on the Word made flesh, and thus the story of Jesus Christ begins—not with the nativity, but right in the middle. John the Baptist, messenger and prophet, sets the stage for us. He says: "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." John doesn't mean that Jesus is older than him; he speaks of the deepest, ultimate precedence. John goes forth to tell the new story of the incarnation, but also to tell the oldest story that has ever been told. This story proves popular and dangerous; in the end, the king kills John for telling it.

In art, John the Baptist usually points beyond the frame, toward something or someone that the artist does not try to depict.

Leonardo da Vinci painted John pointing upward while he stares directly at the viewer with an enigmatic smile. The painter Titian showed John gesturing horizontally, his eyes fixed on something off to his right.

Like John the Baptist, we are called to gesture toward God. I use the word "gesture" to describe our human limitations. As the Gospel of John reminds us, the Word Incarnate offers a contradiction: The incarnation is physical reality, but it is also the greatest mystery, ineffable and untouchable, absolutely unpaintable.

Though we will never grasp God's transcendence, we cannot stop trying. Art and poetry tantalize us with glimpses of divinity. In this violent world, we must keep gesturing toward God. As the song of solidarity goes: "Give us bread but give us roses." People need bread to survive—our earthly bodies are sacred—but people also need roses, meaning that we cannot survive without beauty. As we feed the hungry and struggle for justice, we must also look to the Word. We must let ourselves be overwhelmed by the enormity of sacred mystery. Let the awe linger.

John the Baptist twice tells us that he did not know the man of whom he spoke. Even John did not fully know what he was talking about. He simply knew that he had glimpsed the Word made flesh because he had seen the Spirit. That was enough to convince him that he needed to spread the story. Following his example, let us gesture beyond ourselves, toward the most beautiful, inexplicable, non-linear, contradictory story. As John reminds us, the story begins with the Word.