

Father Ben Nwosu celebrated the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time on Saturday, January 17th at 4:00 PM with 49 in attendance.

Contributions received in January

Offertory Collection:	\$	6,983
Other:	\$	50
Monthly Budgeted:	\$	7,500
		-467

Monday January 26

Jesus and Coffee meets
McCarty Center @ 10 AM

Friday February 6

Adoration 3 PM

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
CELEBRATED**

JANUARY 31, 2026

3:30 PM - Rosary

3:40-3:55 Sacrament of
Reconciliation

4:00 PM – Eucharist

***JoAnn Mertz**

**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 JoAnn Mertz, Vic
Gustin, and Leland 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 THIRD SUNDAY IN OF
ORDINARY TIME
CELEBRATED
JANUARY 24, 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**



It may seem early but Ash Wednesday, February 18th, is rapidly approaching. Father would like you to bring in your palms from 2025 and place them in the basket on the table in Miller Hall. We will then prepare them for use on Ash Wednesday.

"Brothers and sisters support each other in hardship, they do not turn their back on those who are in need, and they weep and rejoice together in the active pursuit of unity, trust and mutual reliance. The dynamic is that which Jesus Himself gives to us: 'Love one another as I have loved you.'"

POPE LEO XIV

World Day for Consecrated Life will be celebrated in the Church on Monday, February 2, 2026, and in parishes over the weekend of February 1, 2026. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

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 memorial service for Leland Hemme, a past parishioner, was postponed due to possible bad weather. I will let everyone know when it is rescheduled. 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.



Reflection for Matthew 4:12-23

In Capernaum, Jesus picks up the proclamation of John. John's arrest in 4:12 marks a critical transition but not an entirely new path. The basic proclamation of both is identical: "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near" (3:2 and 4:17). Later (10:7), Jesus will send his disciples to preach the same message. At the same time, John himself promised that Jesus would be a more powerful and important figure in this story. What is the shape of this reign of God? How is Jesus uniquely bringing it about?

The power of Jesus' call becomes quickly evident. The call of his first followers is profoundly inspired. Jesus doesn't have to pitch the idea to these individuals nor does he need to persuade them. After all, each has little reason to leave their current way of life. Each seemingly has a steady job and, more importantly, familial ties to their vocations as is emphasized in both call narratives.

At the same time, these are unlikely to be individuals of great social power or individual wealth. These fishers are not among the elite of ancient culture. Though Jesus' disciples will play a vital function in the earliest days of the church, on this day

they are utterly ordinary individuals called to an extraordinary task. I imagine that they would not have completely understood what it would mean to become fishers of people at the moment, yet they follow without hesitation. Many *came* to John *seeking* his baptism; here Jesus *calls* a small cadre to *follow* his itinerant path of preaching and healing.

Having begun to assemble his disciples, Jesus turns to his work. He teaches in the synagogues. He pronounces "the good news of the kingdom." He makes the sick and infirmed whole. These will be the defining characteristics of Jesus' daily labors in Matthew. Teaching, proclaiming the kingdom, and healing are integrated components of his ministry, not discrete pieces.

"Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Spoken nearly two millennia ago, how does this promise now function for us today? Is the kingdom of heaven still drawing near even today? It is vital to observe the close connection of preaching, teaching, and healing in Jesus' ministry. The proclamation of the kingdom is not solely verbal, not just a teaching but a series of actions designed to bring wholeness to individuals and communities.

The reign of God has dawned not only because Jesus spoke it into existence but also because he was willing to heal the sick and make whole the broken. Thus, it is not a point of embarrassment for us that Jesus proclaimed the dawning of God's direct rule over the world so very long ago, for he believed deeply and enacted powerfully God's reshaping of the world