

Bethany Charismatic Catholic Church

February 2026

Vol. 30, Issue 2

Bishop: THE MOST REV. RAYMOND CONTOIS
Assistant Pastor: FATHER JUDE PAIYAGALA BADUGE DON

Chapel of Mercy



"At Bethany there is no Past, only the Present and Future Hope!"

In times of trouble it's common to use the expression "I haven't got a prayer!" However, no matter how bad things get, the one thing we all have is prayer. What's more, prayer can actually bring about change, even in times of great need. That's what Scripture frequently declares. For example, there's the account of how Jesus stilled the threatening storm at sea. "Peace, be still" was his simple prayer, and the storm instantly calmed. One minute his companions were in fear for their lives. The next moment they were awestruck at how their teacher's prayer kept every one safe.

Facing the financial and social storms of our time – as individuals, as a nation, or as a global family – we always do have a prayer, even if we're down to our last cent, or way beyond that. We can mentally address the fears washing into our thoughts by praying "Peace, be still!" with the expectancy that our fears and doubts will be calmed by God's response to our need, and that His inspirational ideas of how to go forward in practical ways will emerge in thought.

Not that "words" have power in themselves. Prayer is not a mantra. Jesus could not have stilled the storm just by mouthing the right words. His words were the visible, or audible, tip of a profound conviction of God's goodness, founded on a conscious ability to commune with the divine Spirit and based on the countless times healing had resulted from that communing.

Based on this communion with His Father, Jesus spoke with the authority of Christ in the awareness of the underlying spiritual dimension in which peace is not only natural, but inevitable, because it is divinely formed and maintained. In communion with God, it's possible to perceive a calm, harmonious creation right where a stormy world appears to be, and to know that the former trumps the latter, irrespective of the sensual evidence to the contrary.

In today's storms, everyone can commune with God and feel the touch of Christ and express that conviction even as Jesus commanded us to do. The Father to whom Jesus entrusted His safety in that wind tossed boat was and is ever-present Spirit, freely accessible Infinite Intelligence, and wholly dependable Principle. This knowledge subdues and removes the opposite apparent influence of what the Bible calls "the carnal mind," the "would be" source of all that is negative and distressing. Jesus proved that this force is not genuine. His prayer which recognized only the presence of His Father, who is Perfection and Goodness, saw through the carnal mind's lie of an absence of good, called evil.

Since God remains the same forever, His divine power is the same now to help and heal. God responds to today's prayers with the peaceful stillness needed to open the eyes of those needing to see practical solutions that will make a difference. Reaching for and attaining, mental and emotional stillness lets in the Lord's ideas, which point the way to the proper next steps.

Whether or not one's financial needs, or society's, turn around as immediately as the storm did when Jesus demonstrated the power of prayer, our prayers can at least begin to lessen the wail of the winds and turn back the threatening tides of our own contemporary storms. Step by step, individually and collectively, the heartfelt prayer always available to everyone, can access God's perfect goodness and begin to transform today's crisis into tomorrow's calm, strong current of true spirituality with genuine progress towards wholeness of being as the inevitable result..

In His Light,

Bishop Raymond Contois

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Just 1 mile off route 20

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WEEKLY MASSES

Saturday - Cancelled

Sunday - 9:00 AM

Wednesday - Cancelled

RECONCILIATION & PASTORAL MEETINGS

By Appointment (413) 324-1164



February Schedule

Eucharistic Ministers

- 1st Clergy Only
- 8th Clergy Only
- 15th Clergy Only
- 22nd Clergy Only



Ministers of the Word

- Beth, Ron
- Catherine, Jayne
- Ron, Paula Anne
- Beth, Dan



Notify Fr. Jude 24 hours in advance if you are unable to serve.

Bethany Food Drive

We will continue collecting non-perishable food items for area food pantries. Please drop off your donations of canned goods and dry goods, and leave them in the foyer.

Thank You for your constant generosity.



“Hunger never takes a vacation.”



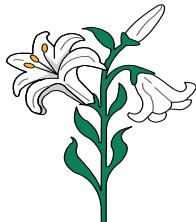
Bethany will begin its tradition of using the “Warming Tree” to collect scarves, mittens, and hats for children who, due to personal circumstances, live in group children’s homes. Please join us in our effort to provide warmth-giving clothing to children in need by decorating our “Warming Tree” with your gifts of Winter apparel.

Thanks to your generosity last year, many children were blessed with your gifts or warmth.

** Mid-Winter Pot Luck **

Bethany will be hosting a Pot-Luck Meal on Sunday, March 1st following mass. Please join us for a sharing meal. If you feel inspired to do so, please bring a sharing dish.

The Stations of the Cross will follow Wednesday evening mass through the season of Lent.



During the season of Lent we will have a special collection at Lord's Day services to buy Lilies to decorate the chapel for Easter Sunday. Please consider an additional donation to beautify the House of the Lord.

Dates to Remember

February 2026

1st: SUN. 9:00 AM Lord's Day Mass

8th: SUN. 9:00 AM Lord's Day Mass

5th: Wed. 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Mass

*** Lenten Season Begins ***



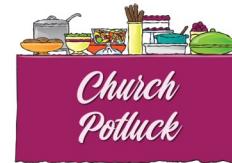
15th: SUN. 9:00 AM Lord's Day Mass

18th: **Wed. 7:00 PM Wednesday evening Mass**

22nd: SUN. 9:00 AM Lord's Day Mass

25th: **Wed. 7:00 PM Wednesday evening Mass**

March 1st: Pot Luck Sharing Meal following Mass



Ash Wednesday

The Lenten Season begins. Ash Wednesday mass will be on February 18th at 7:00 PM

(Lent Begins on February 18th with Ash Wednesday)

During the season of Lent we will have a period of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament before the start of Sunday morning masses.

This is an opportunity to spend quality time with the Lord and to prepare ourselves for Holy Eucharist.



Remember, before the service, be silent and speak to the Lord. During the service, let the Lord speak to you. After the service, speak to one another.

Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in love.
Joel 2:13



“If you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother...”

Mathew 5:23-24

