



**T**his year we marked 50 years since our beautiful church was built. It certainly is an occasion for us to celebrate!

Many of our first parishioners are still with us. They witnessed every stone being placed upon stone to build this edifice for the glory and honor of God in honor of St. Bernadette, patroness of our Church.

Just as stone upon stone was used to build our Church so too, we are the living stones who make our Church: so strong, so vibrant, so active. As living stones, we all work together as brothers and sisters and then great things happen!

St. Bernadette Church was officially dedicated by Bishop George Guilfoyle on October 26, 1969. The founding Pastor was Msgr. Charles C. Beausang who worked very hard with the Parishioners to form St. Bernadette. The Church cost \$365,000 to construct with another \$40,000 for furnishings; all paid for by the new Parishioners of St. Bernadette.

We give thanks to Msgr. Beausang and the good people who assisted him to bring St. Bernadette to Northfield. They sacrificed their talents of time, talents and treasures and we see the flowering of all their efforts today.

Exactly what have we seen over these last 50 years at St. Bernadette? How many souls have been changed? How many people have been brought into the Catholic Church? How many of our young people have we sent into the world with a Catholic foundation to face the world? How many weddings, baptisms, funerals and First Masses can one church have? If the past 50 years are any indication, there are no limits with our God.

We can't imagine the extraordinary things that God is going to do in the next 50 years.

Our Church is built in the shape of the Cross. If you looked at an aerial shot you would see that.

But I can promise you, if we work together, if we support and take care of one another, just like the stones that make up the walls of our Church, the possibilities are endless.

And who is the best example for doing this? Our Blessed Mother and our Holy Patroness St. Bernadette who constantly cooperated with God's Graces!

The psalmist says "He has not done this for any other nation."

And so He has not done this except for us Catholics – The Most Blessed Sacrament.

Our Church is Sacred and hallowed ground because Our King, Our Lord, Our God dwells in our Church in the Tabernacle, the center, the heart, the life of our Church.

All the beauty in our Church is because God lives there!

Our Church is a place of love, of comfort and consolation, a place where we run to be with Jesus present in the Tabernacle.

Everything in our Church points to the Tabernacle and the Altar. How blest we are as Catholics to have such a beautiful Church in which to adore our God.

I ask the good God to bless and reward all the Pastors and Associates who served here at St. Bernadette and who laid such a splendid foundation for St. Bernadette's to flourish.

We will celebrate on Sunday, October 20, 2019 at the 11:00 Am Mass!

Bishop Sullivan will honor us with his presence and will also bless our new organ console purchased 2 years ago and the pipes that adorn the walls of the Church which enhance the sound of our organ. After the Mass you are invited to the Atlantic City Country Club for a delicious brunch!

In the evening at 5:00 PM we will have a beautiful Organ recital featuring three different organists; Dr. Michael Phelps, Mr. Steve Beddia and Mr. Bobby Gladden; and several choral pieces will be sung.

I hope to see many of you at the Mass, Brunch and the Organ recital.

