

The Bee

Middleton, WI

St. Bernard Catholic Church

Summer 2021

Change in timeline for parish center renovation; Fundraising for \$3.2 million project currently underway



St. Bernard parishioners look at the new renderings from Architectural Design Concepts, Inc., of Lake Delton for the renovation of the parish center. They were made available after all Masses in early May. Fr. Brian said the fundraising phase of the \$3.2 million project has begun with the help of CCSC, a fundraising firm based in Chicago. He added that the price and availability of construction materials will effect the timeline.

By Ellen G. Krenke

Two factors have contributed to a change in the timeline for the renovation of St. Bernard's parish center.

First, construction companies are having a hard time getting steel and lumber.

And two, we need to complete construction financing in conjunction with the Diocese of Madison for the project.

At the end of April, the construction industry reported a 193 percent jump in the price of lumber and 168 percent increase in the price of steel.

"I don't see anything happening before October," said Fr. Brian. "Which I think might be nice, because that gets us through most of the wedding season here."

"But if it gets later into the fall, we then we have to reasonably ask: Do we want it ripped it up for Christmas or should we just wait until next year?"

The delay will also give the parish time to complete fundraising for the project.

"From a timeline standpoint, (the new date) is probably a little more relaxed," Fr. Brian said.

Vogel Construction Inc., of Madison is the construction company for the project.

Architectural Design Concepts, Inc., of Lake Delton provided all the renderings for the project.

Both companies are updating their cost estimates, which Fr. Brian needs to complete the financing, so "I'm in a waiting period here," he said.

The highlights for the 3,500-square foot space include:

- Gathering Space – Our overall goal is to create a more functional gathering space by using the current footprint of the parish center to expand and reconfigure into a larger, more usable space for our parish;
- Kitchen Renovation – The kitchen and appliances have not been updated in 35 years, when the parish center was originally built. With this campaign, the kitchen will be completely renovated and updated with new appliances;
- Serving Area – A new serving area will be added for coffee and snacks, directly adjacent to the renovated kitchen;
- Restrooms – Relocating the current restrooms will allow for the reconfiguration of the parish center and create more gathering space. The bathrooms will be completely

Continued on page 3



Celebrating our past— Building for our future

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We find ourselves ready to begin a new spiritual journey that will leave a lasting impact on our faith community.

For more than 130 years, we have been blessed with a beautiful campus that has served our parishioners well.

This is truly a blessing, but we must also ensure that we give thanks by supporting our church for the next generation.

Today, our parish has more than 1,575 families. Established in 1889, many of our parishioners are multi-generational families of St. Bernard.

Throughout the decades, parishioners have seen our parish expand, our faith grow and our service increase.

We have been able to form a campus for worship, education and ministry – living out our mission to serve the Lord.

As I reflect on our rich history, I pray about our future. I believe the time has come to make necessary upgrades to our campus to fulfill our mission more effectively.

Through much prayer, consultation and research, we have devised a plan that will require support through a spirited capital campaign, which we're calling: "Celebrating our Past-Building for our Future."

The success of this extraordinary effort will depend on the prayerful participation of our loyal families and faithful friends.

We are all called to be good and faithful stewards of God's many blessings.

With support from our St. Bernard family, we will remain a strong, faith-filled community dedicated to serving God and spreading his Good News.

This is a time of great opportunity for our entire St. Bernard community.

We continue to grow and build our church and school – for God, for each other and for future generations.

In Christ, Rev. Brian J. Wilk

Campaign Prayer

Loving God, you bless us each day with the wonders of creation and the gifts of faith and community.

Give us your grace as we seek to transfigure the foundations of our parish.

We ask your continued blessings upon each of us, and upon our future generations, who gather in faith and discipleship.

May your light continue to shine brightly upon the community of St. Bernard as we move forward together.

We pray this through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

You are cordially invited to

St. Bernard's

Welcome Back!

picnic

on Sept. 12
at Lakeview Park,
6300 Mendota Avenue
in Middleton.

Bring your folding chairs.
Mass starts at 10:30 a.m.,
followed by lunch
from 11:30-1:00 p.m.,
in the pavilion.

Watch the bulletin for more
details on how to volunteer!

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The Bee

Publisher: Rev. Brian Wilk

Editor: Ellen Krenke

Contributors: Rev. Brian Wilk, Ellen Krenke, Jenna Ripp, Kevin Laufenberg and Zoe Bernard.

"The Bee" is a quarterly publication of St. Bernard Catholic Church.



"Look to the star, call on Mary" are wise words from St. Bernard of Clairvaux, abbot and doctor of the church. Aug. 20 is his feast day. Please join us at the 8:15 a.m., Mass on that day to celebrate our patron.

Parish center renovation fundraising campaign

We are 68 percent to goal!

The campaign goal is \$3,250,000. As of the week of June 1, Fr. Brian and the volunteer group have received \$2,214,675 in pledged commitments from 67 parish families!

Although we are off to a great start, a campaign this size will require participation from all parish families.

Our volunteers are working diligently to reach out to you! If you have been contacted, please respond to our efforts.

If you have not yet been contacted, please know that we will contact every registered family in the coming weeks.

Thank you to those of you who have supported the campaign with a pledge or with your prayers.

We look forward to the continued success of this important effort!



Shelby Auler-Edge of CCS, a fundraising firm from Chicago, talks with parishioners Rod and Carol Nilles about fundraising for the parish center renovation. She will work at the parish for the next few months to guide us through our fundraising efforts.

TIMELINE continued from page 1 updated, a nursing room will be added.

- Terraced Front Garden – A lovely terraced garden will be created in front of the parish center to host outdoor meetings during the warmer months; and finally a
- Doorway and Glass Wall – The display case and closet outside of the parish center will be removed to widen the doorway into the church.

A glass wall will also be added along the garden side of the gathering space to maintain the natural light coming through the stained glass windows.

The entire space will be multi-functional with partitions available for small meetings and the possibility of using the space for overflow during the holidays, Fr. Brian said.

The entrance from the covered walkway will be retained for drop-offs.

Fr. Brian said that there will also be no changes to the church area and the existing restrooms in the church.

"I have reviewed their work at other parishes and am very excited about the plans they have designed," said Fr. Brian.

The plans are also available for viewing on our website at stbmidd.org/renovation.

The staff, parish council, finance council and a small focus group have reviewed the plans and responded favorably.

The Diocese of Madison has also reviewed the initial plans and gave us the go-ahead to proceed with fundraising.

So, here are a couple of immediate items from Fr. Brian:

First, due to COVID it has been difficult to have an on-site presentation of the plans.

So, the architectural renderings have been made available for viewing in the parish center after all the Masses.

Fr. Brian was also available to answer questions after weekend Masses and during the week.

Second, we have started a capital campaign to make this project a reality.

"Celebrating our Past – Building for our Future" is the campaign theme.

The goal of this campaign is \$3.2 million.

To date, the parish has raised one-third of this amount through unsolicited donations.

The parish has hired CCS, a fundraising firm based in Chicago, to assist us. This is the same company that conducted the very successful diocesan capital campaign for priests a few years ago.

A volunteer campaign committee made up of St. Bernard parishioners has been organized, and they began contacting parishioners in early May.

This effort is designed to be a five-year campaign.

"So, today I am asking that you begin to prayerfully consider how you can help with a financial commitment of up to five years to make this project a reality," said Fr. Brian.

He also encouraged parishioners to contact him with any questions or to learn more about the project.

"This is a time to celebrate our accomplishments and to look toward the future of St. Bernard Parish," said Fr. Brian.

"Thank you for your continued support. Together, we will be 'Celebrating Our Past — Building for our Future.'"

Our History

First Catholic Mass in Middleton celebrated in schoolhouse

By Ellen G. Krenke

The first Catholic Mass celebrated in Middleton was not held in a church.

It was held in a school.

According to the 100-year history of St. Bernard Parish written by Lorena Gordon in 1988, Fr. Mathias M. Gerend celebrated the first Mass on March 31, 1889 in the village's first public high school.

The school was built in 1878 at 7739 Terrace Avenue, located at the corner of Terrace Avenue and what was Verona Street (now High Point Road).

In 1903, when Middleton built a new high school at the corner of Middleton and Franklin Streets, the former high school became a private home for the Shellhorn family.

Since then, the structure has been declared a Historic Middleton Landmark, and it now operates as Little Red Pre-School.

According to the parish history, the first settlers in Middleton were nearly all from New England with very few Catholics among them.

An influx of German Catholic immigrants arrived after 1880.

"People would leave home at two o'clock in the morning and walk the seven, ten or more miles to the nearest church to attend Mass ... on Sundays or Holydays," wrote Gordon. "Priests travelled long dis-



The building that now houses Little Red Pre-School is the site of the first Catholic Mass in Middleton.

tances, mostly on foot, to say Mass once a month in each parish."

Fr. Gerend, who was pastor of St. Mary of the Lake in Westport, began to organize a parish for about a dozen families in Middleton in 1888.

Immediately following the first Mass, the first meeting of the parish was held.

At the meeting, F.W. Dufrenne, Jacob

Stricker, John Walsh, Walter Whalen, John Clark, and Bernard Gruetter were elected to a committee to select a site on which to build a church.

The site chosen became the present site of St. Bernard Church at the corner of Parmenter and Whittlesey streets (now University Avenue).

Four short months after the first Mass was held in Middleton, a cornerstone was laid for a new church on July 14, 1889.

Another four months later, the dedication of the new church was held on Nov. 28, 1889.

It was also about this time that Fr. Gerend was called to St. Francis, Wis., to serve as rector of Pio Nono College.

Like many of the early missionaries, he continued to serve the Middleton community from Milwaukee by train.

Most of the time, Fr. Gerend was only able to visit once a month.

He would put notices in the Middleton Times Herald giving the date and time of the next church service at St. Bernard.

According to the "History of the Catholic Church in Wisconsin," the congregation consisted of only about 15 families, but it "is entirely out of debt, although having to its credit, a handsome and well-equipped church and a large and well-kept cemetery."

In the 'first' place: Milestones in the history of St. Bernard

Here is a collection of "firsts" compiled from the 100-year history of St. Bernard Parish written by Lorena Gordon in 1988.

In Middleton, the first Mass was held by Fr. Mathias M. Gerend in the first public high school. (See story above.)

The first Communion class was held in the high school on May 12, 1889. It included Emily Clark, James Dumphy, Lena Dufrenne Hilgers, Nellie Ryan, Lizzie Schneider and Frances Stricker Van Edig.

The parish was incorporated on May 24, 1889.

The cornerstone of the first church was laid July 14, 1889, and the dedication was held on Nov. 28, 1889.

On March 26, 1890, Martin Phillip Schneider, the son of Phillip Schneider and Anna DuFrenne, was the first baby born in the parish. He was baptized three days after his birth.

The first Confirmation to be recorded in Middleton took place in 1899. The two candidates were Francis Stricker and Thomas Cullen.

The first person to be buried in St. Bernard Cemetery was Fred W. DuFrenne,

the parish secretary, who died on July 18, 1892 at the age of 57.

It was between 1910 and 1915 that English was first introduced into the church.

While the Mass was in Latin, the readings were done in German.

After this point in time, they were read in both German and English.

In 1916, seats in the church were provided for individual families.

Until this time, the women and girls sat on one side of the aisle and the men and boys on the other.

In 1921, it was announced in the Middleton Times Herald that Mass would be followed by instruction for the children.

On June 22, 1940, Rev. Ferdinand A. Mack was named the first resident pastor in Middleton. He celebrated his first Mass at St. Bernard on the same day.

In September of 1946, the doors of St. Bernard School were opened in the church hall for the first time to 85 children in kindergarten through third grade.

Sisters Mary Florian and Jane Frances, both members of St. Francis of Assisi Convent in St. Francis, Wis., were

the first teachers.

In 1949, members of the Holy Name, Christian Mothers, Altar Society and the Young Ladies Sodality published their first cookbook. (If anyone has a copy of the 1949 cookbook, please contact the parish office!)

The first Mass in the new church took place on Holy Thursday, March 26, 1959.

The first parish council was elected and organized on March 1, 1970. It was made up of 15 members.

In 1975, Sister Jane Frances was hired as the first Parish Visitor.

She welcomed newcomers to the parish, visited the sick and worked with senior citizens of the parish.

The first spaghetti dinner was held in the parish center in January 1985.

On Aug. 20, 1988, the feast day of our patron, St. Bernard, the parish held a centennial celebration.

The first 100 years of the parish were eventful as "one of the fastest growing parishes in the diocese," according to Gordon's history.

And the next 100 years promise more of the same.

Repaired stained glass windows may arrive in August



A representative of Willet Hauser Architectural Glass Co., based in Winona, Minn., has told Fr. Brian that our repaired stained glass windows may arrive in August.

“At this time, all the glass has been assessed, disassembled and cleaned as needed and we have the patterning completed for the sections we are recreating,” said Garrick Holey, the director of studio operations for the company.



“We are currently finalizing the glass order and this order dictates my ability to give you an estimated completion date.”

The glass order is being filled by Lambert’s Glass in Waldsassen, Germany.

“We are targeting an August install date,” Holey said in an email to Fr. Brian.

Three panels of stained glass were damaged by an impaired driver in October 2020.



Top photo: Allison dismantles one of the original stained glass panels from St. Bernard. She removed the glass from the damaged leading and placed each piece on a rubbing of the lead frame. Rubbings serve as a map for how the glass was held within the lead frame. **Above photo:** Mark uses a computer program to piece the window wall together to create a template or pattern derived from photography taken before the accident and the damaged panels from St. Bernard that were brought to the studio.

SAVE THE DATE!

Mission nights with Bishop Donald J. Hying
on Sept. 7, 8 and 15 in the church.

Watch the bulletin for more details!

The way, the truth, the life: We don't need to know everything

By Meghan Bonham

Recently, I helped out on a Confirmation retreat for a group of high school freshmen.

In one of the small groups, we taught Lectio Divina using the Last Supper discourse from the Gospel of John: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.

"In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.

"If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way."

Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father.

"From now on you do know him and have seen him." (John 14:1-7)

As we were discussing the passage, one of the girls said something that really struck me.

She shared how comforting she found Jesus words to us about not needing to know everything. Just knowing him is enough.

We experience the truth of this in our human experience of relationships.

If I waited until I learned every detail about one of my friends before introducing them to someone else, I would miss out on a lot of opportunities to share the people I love with each other!

Jesus is the Way and the Truth and the Life; as long as we know him and are striving to know him more each day, he will guide us.

Thinking about writing a reflection on truth is intimidating and a bit anxiety inducing.

How could I possibly know enough to be able to write on the topic of Truth?

I am a self-proclaimed perfectionist, and if I am not certain that I am going to "win" or be absolutely correct, I probably will not participate.

But when it comes to our faith, we do

not have to have all of the answers!

How comforting it is to know that the Church has 2,000 years of wisdom and teaching founded in the words of Jesus Christ to guide us.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says it like this: "The Church, 'the pillar and bulwark of the truth,' faithfully guards 'the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.'"

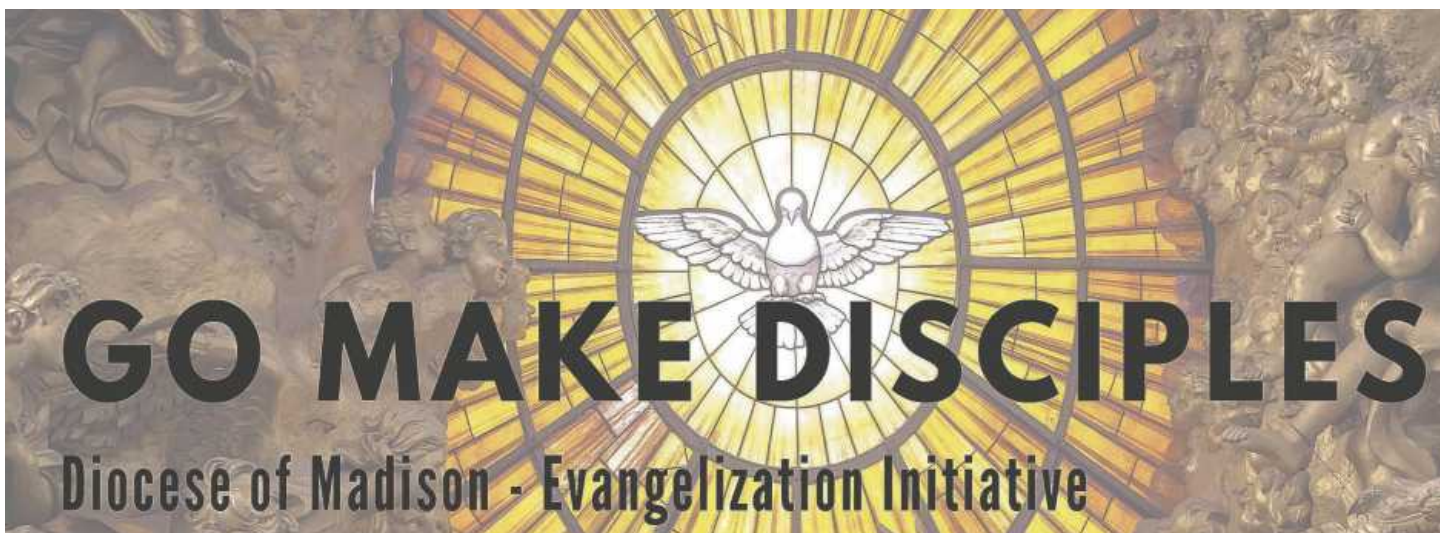
She guards the memory of Christ's words; it is she who from generation to generation hands on the apostles' confession of faith."

The Church holds the truth for us; I just have to continue seeking the answers and sharing the ones that I have found.

Let us strive to be a little less like Thomas the Apostle.

Let's not be worried about having all of the answers, but trust that if we continue to follow Christ and his Church, we will know the way and enter more deeply into the truth.

(Meghan Bonham is the associate coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Formation for the Diocese of Madison. She is also a St. Bernard parishioner.)



Our Community

Parishioner describes experience at CMC pantry garden

By Marie Pauls

I am a self-proclaimed foodie, and one of my favorite ways to show love for people is by cooking good, wholesome meals.

For the last number of years, I have been donating food items for St. Bernard's meal programs at the Luke House and the Catholic Multicultural Center.

The Catholic author Matthew Kelly emphasizes the importance of meeting people where they are and helping to fulfill their most basic needs.

If someone is lacking a life-sustaining necessity, such as food or shelter, these needs must first be met before we are to move on in helping them spiritually and emotionally.

It has given me great joy to know that a simple act, such as baking brownies or donating sandwich meat, can spread the love of Christ and bring hope to a neighbor in need.

About 15 years ago, my interest in fresh, healthy food grew into a love for gardening as well.

As an artist and musician, I came to realize the garden provided another sort of creative outlet, nature's palette and canvas, if you will.

I was constantly amazed by Earth's potential to create, nourish, and beautify.

During this time, a family member was struggling with alcoholism, and I found that working outside in the dirt helped me work through anxiety and cultivate more inner peace.

Once I became a mom, I scaled back my garden projects and tried to involve my children in small ways.

I believe that a greater understanding of where food comes from, and how it is produced, teaches us all to prioritize healthier eating habits, take better care of our bodies, and utilize our resources with intention.

Spending time together outdoors prompts us to wonder at



God's creation, appreciating nature and science in action.

As a Christian parent, these are values I want to pass on to my children.

When I heard about an opportunity to volunteer in the community gardens, I thought this would be a great chance to spend some one-on-one time with my daughter and show her the value of service.

We were able to connect names with faces of fellow parishioners outside of the church context, and together we harvested vegetables to be distributed locally.

It was a simple task to dig up and trim onions, and a safe and meaningful way to offer our time in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As my daughter, Natalie, and I gave ourselves a self-guided tour of the garden



premises, checking out the "almost ready" tomatoes, she asked, "Mom, can we come back here again?"

When I asked her favorite part about volunteering, she replied, to my surprise, "The weeding!"

In the parable of the mustard seed, Jesus reminds us the power behind our simple acts of faith and service:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a per-

About the garden:

During the growing season the Catholic Multicultural Center food pantry garden provides all the fresh produce needs for the food pantry as well as the meal program.

The garden ensures that all who use the food pantry have access to an abundance of fresh, healthy food which might not otherwise be available to them.

The food pantry garden is run completely with the help of volunteers!

Volunteers of any age can help out, and individuals, families and service groups are all welcome to volunteer.

To volunteer, go to cmc-madison.org/basic-needs/food-pantry-garden/

Photo right: Natalie Pauls does some weeding!

Photo below: Marie and Natalie dig for onions at the CMC garden.

Our People



Three St. Bernard parishioners were recently confirmed by Bishop Donald J. Hying on Pentecost Sunday, May 23 at St. Dennis Parish in Madison. From left to right: Jessica King and her sponsor, Paul King; Sergio Aviles and his sponsor, Beverly Anderson; and Jaime Iwanski and her sponsor, Nathaniel Junker. Please remember them in your prayers as they continue their faith journey!

Bishop encourages candidates to be witnesses to Christ

By Ellen G. Krenke

To go into the world as a witness to the power and the truth of the resurrection of Christ was Bishop Donald J. Hying's hope for 26 adult confirmation candidates, who participated in a Mass held on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, at St. Dennis Parish in Madison.

"Every single one of you could come up here and tell us why now you are stepping forward to be confirmed," Hying said. "But I can't help but think for every single one of you it is the sense that Jesus Christ has become increasingly real in your life.

"That God is not simply a beautiful idea, that Jesus is not simply this ideal person who lived 2,000 years ago, but that He is alive in this moment and He is fundamentally present within us and around us.

"In this time of your life, you want Jesus to be the center. You want more of God's grace. You want to live more profoundly in communion with the Blessed Trinity and in the life of the church. Again, that makes us rejoice."

*"My deepest prayer
is that you
will always be faithful
to this commitment
that you make
with Jesus."*

—Bishop Hying

Hying said Confirmation is not just a ceremony. "It is not something we check off the list and say ok we have done another Catholic thing. Rather it is an experience of the power of God. So we are fully equipped to go into the world and give witness to Christ just as those first apostles did" on Pentecost.

"Today you receive the same Ho-

ly Spirit that was poured forth," he said. "You can go into this world as a new creation as a beloved daughter and son of the Father purchased with the precious blood of Christ and anointed in the Holy Spirit."

Hying also encouraged the candidates to always be active in the church, to participate in Mass every Sunday and holy day, to spend time every day praying to God and to live a life of virtue.

Finally, Hying quoted St. Catherine of Siena, who said: "Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world on fire."

"Let this Confirmation be for you an experience of the fire of God's love and the power of the Holy Spirit and the truth of the Gospel," Hying said. "That you will fall ever more deeply in love with God ... and give your heart to Christ and give your life ... to His saving mission.

"My deepest prayer is that you will always be faithful to this commitment that you make with Jesus."

Our Children

'Heart to Heart' with St. Bernard middle-school students

By Zoe Bernard

When I started this job last August, I knew that I was going to be facing some real struggles.

I knew that our people had been away from the church for a long time.

I came in with one goal only and that was to bring people back to prayer - back to The Source of love and hope.

I wanted to create a space for our young people to encounter the person of Jesus Christ.

Lindsay Finn, a parishioner of St. Bernard and also a staff member of the Diocese of Madison, reached out to me with a book she had written about prayer titled, "Heart to Heart."

I was so excited! This was the answer to my desire - to bring our teens to Jesus Christ.

During Lent this year, Lindsay, myself, and six St. Bernard teens met every Wednesday to form community, read about Jesus and to pray in the church.

While we only met for six Wednesdays, these meetings bore much fruit!

Lindsay's book is an excellent resource for teaching on prayer. It is practical, engaging and requires time spent before Jesus.

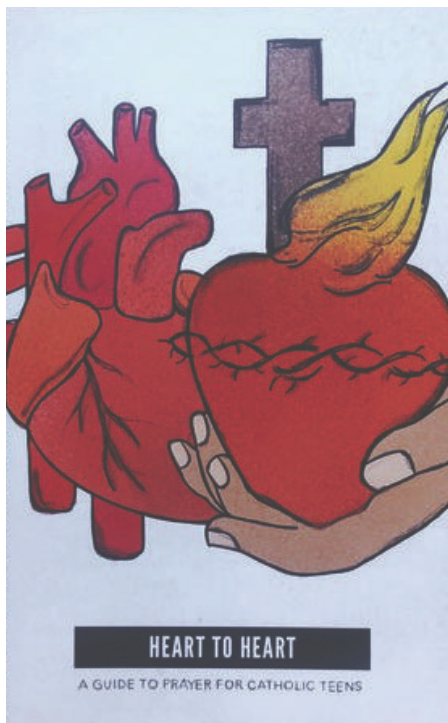
A lot of times, it is tempting to make really elaborate lesson plans in my job.

The reality is that we need to talk about Jesus and place ourselves before Him so that He can transform our lives.

This book provided space for that, and I am very thankful!

You can find more information on this book here: <https://madisondiocese.org/hearttoheart>

We will be using this book next year



St. Bernard parishioner Lindsay Finn wrote a book for teenagers titled, "Heart to Heart, A Guide to Prayer for Catholic Teens." The book was used as a guide for St. Bernard middle school students this past year.

as well if you are interested.

Please pray for our young people who are on a wonderful adventure to encounter Jesus Christ.

(Zoe Bernard is the director of religious education for grades six through 12 at St. Bernard Parish.)

About the book:

Looking ahead to the coming years of the Diocese of Madison's Go Make Disciples initiative, we wanted to help those searching for high quality, engaging resources to help form teens in the way of discipleship.

To begin meeting this need, we have invested in the creation of a resource for parishes to use in teaching teens, especially sixth to ninth graders, how to pray.

"Heart to Heart" is a 136-page guide, which includes teaching on the following six topics:

- What is prayer?
- Forms of Prayer + Prayer/Journal Pages
- Vocal Prayer + Prayer/Journal Pages
- Meditation + Prayer/Journal Pages
- Contemplation + Prayer/Journal Pages, and
- Prayer in Daily Life

"Heart to Heart" is produced as a spiral bound book - perfect for use in a classroom, a church and the home.

"Heart to Heart" is meant to be supplementary to other catechetical materials, yet the content is the most essential to be communicated to young Catholics.

The prayer/journal pages are intended to be used much more frequently, in the course of catechetical instruction or formation with middle school and high school teens.

"Heart to Heart" also includes short biographies of 18 blessed and saints, exploring how their lives were transformed by giving their hearts to God in prayer.

Each copy includes a sticker sheet to help teens track their progress in learning about the life of prayer.

(Information from the Diocese of Madison website.)

On eagle's wings

Three St. Bernard Boy Scouts recently completed the coursework necessary for the Eagle Scout award.

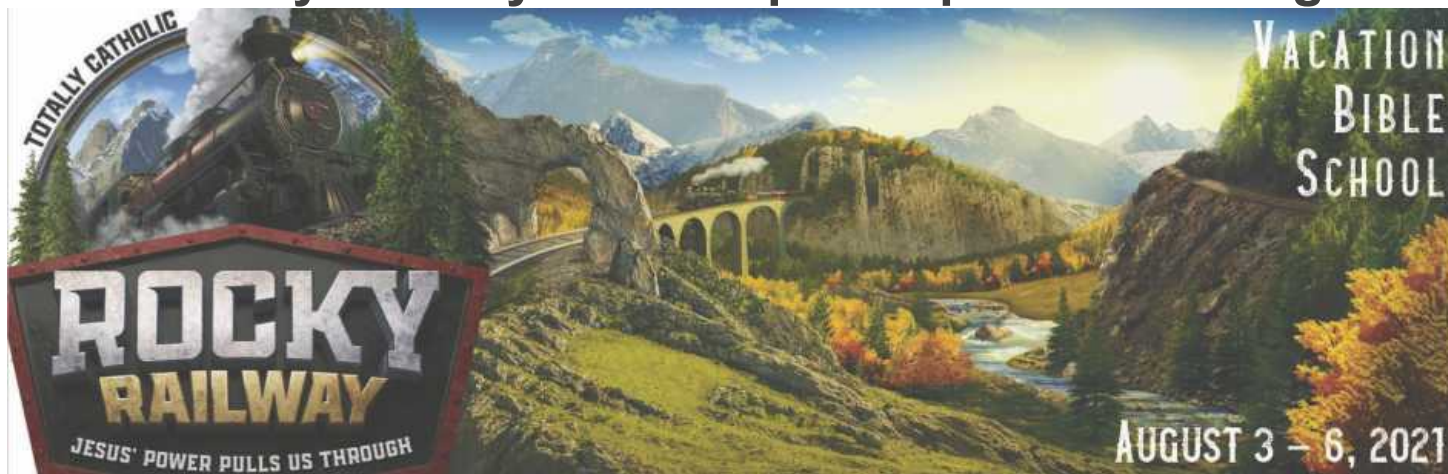
From left to right, Joe McNerney, Michael Brenton and Karson Wilson were recently recognized by Fr. Brian.

After graduation, McNerney and Brenton plan to attend the University of Wisconsin in Madison, and Wilson plans to attend Colorado State University.

Please remember these outstanding young men in your prayers!



VBS: Rocky Railway—Jesus' power pulls us through



Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway!

On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs.

Vacation Bible School is for children entering grades pre-kindergarten through

fifth in the 2021-22 school year and will be held from 9 a.m., to noon on Aug. 3-6.

The cost is \$20 for the first child and \$15 for each additional child.

Registration forms, which are due by July 9, are available at stbmidd.org/

vacation-bible-school. Paper copies are located outside the parish center.

Teens and adults are also needed to help make this week a success!

For more information or to volunteer, contact Jenna Ripp at 829-5878 or jenna@stbmidd.org.

Kubsh receives Fr. Higgins scholarship

Genevieve Kubsh is the recipient of the Fr. Pat Higgins Memorial Scholarship for the class of 2021.

Applicants for this scholarship are asked to reflect on Fr. Pat's favorite hymn, "The Servant Song."

Kubsh said she met an older lady during a mission trip and has remained friends with her for many years.

"Since meeting Audrey, I've worked to acquire her gift of kindness and love while never sacrificing adventure.

"I've learned that happiness and faith are the greatest of all quests and are contagious as they are fulfilling.

"As purely amazing as that gift is, it is not easy to obtain. But as I falter, I correct myself and live by forgiveness

and selflessness as best I can."

Kubsh shared in her application that she believes it is important to "hold out our hands for others and accept the ones offered.

"Moving forward in my own journey, I know I will continue to offer my hand to those around me."

Throughout high school, Kubsh has participated in Love Begins Here and Feed My Sheep.

She has also been an altar server, a religious education teacher and a counselor during Vacation Bible School here at St. Bernard.

Kubsh plans to attend Creighton University in the fall. She is the daughter of William and Dianne Kubsh.



OLGH preschool plans park playdates during summer months



Our Lady's Good Helpers (OLGH) Preschool Co-op is a vibrant, friendly, faith-filled community that serves families with children ages up to five.

We have three, parent-led classrooms and a "Toddler-Time" room for children under the age of two.

OLGH meets Tuesday mornings from 9-11 a.m., September through May.

We are just wrapping-up a fantastic first year at St. Bernard!

Please visit stbmidd.org/olgh for more information.

You can also find us on Facebook at:

Our Lady's Good Helpers Preschool Co-op.

To stay connected, OLGH will host informal park playdates Tuesday mornings throughout the summer at various area playgrounds.

This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know some current members, ask any questions you may have about joining OLGH Preschool Co-op, or to just come play and make new friends.

Email olghpreschoolcoop@gmail.com to be added to our "summer park playdate" email list.

First Communicants learn how to reverently receive the Lord

St. Bernard second-graders got one piece of advice from Fr. Brian as they practiced for their First Communion:

"Don't be nervous!"

Easier said, than done.

Along with everything else, they had to remember--when to bow, what to say--this year's class also had to contend with the mask.

"You have to take it off before you get to Father," said Jenna Ripp, the director of religious education for the elementary grades at the parish.

At their retreat, Fr. Brian had some unconsecrated hosts for the children to try before their big day on Sunday, May 16.

The first in line put his mask in his pocket.

The next in line looped her mask on her wrist.

Then things got a little harried.

One of the boys bowed, took his mask off and looked up at Fr. Brian.

Fr. Brian asked, "What do you say?"

"The Body of Christ!" the boy said.

"No, that's what I say," said Fr. Brian with a smile. "Do you want to do the homily too?"

Everyone was put at ease after this exchange.

But maybe a little too at ease.

The next boy in line put his mask on a metal folding chair that Fr. Brian was standing next to in the parish center.

The next couple of children thought that was a good idea and also put their masks on the chair.

"I think we will need to bring the chair on Sunday," Fr. Brian said to Ripp.

Finally, all the children had been through the line.

After all the missteps, they were encouraged to keep practicing receiving the host at home.

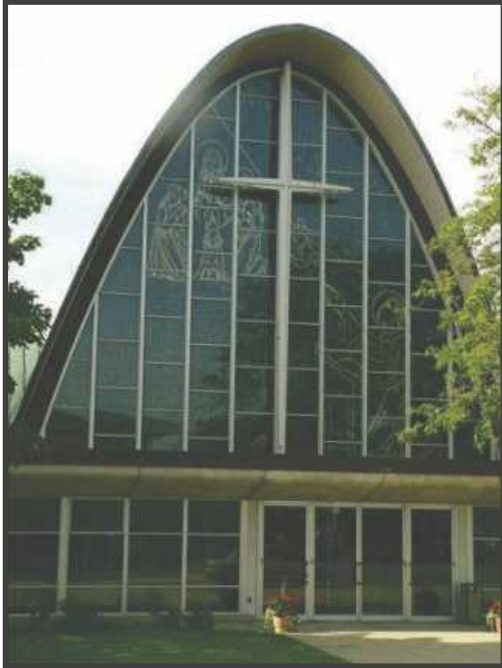
Fr. Brian told the children that he looked forward to seeing them on Sunday, because "this is my favorite time of the year!"



Top photo: First Communicants made banners at a retreat held before their First Communion. **Above photo:** Jenna Ripp, the director of religious education for elementary grades here at St. Bernard, shows how the host and chalice should be displayed on the banner. **Left photo:** A First Communicant tries an unconsecrated host for the first time.



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“The Bee” is also posted on our Website at www.stbmidd.org. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact us at 608-829-5872.



If you do not receive Fr. Brian's weekly email, please contact Barb Harrington at 831-6531 to add your email to our list. In our changing environment, Fr. Brian sends updates to our schedule as well as making other important announcements.

Calendar of upcoming events at St. Bernard Catholic Church

June

2 - Luke House Meal Program
6 - Graduation Liturgy
8 - KC Officer Meeting
9 - SVdP Meeting with speaker
9 - Prayer Shawl Meeting
15 - Human Needs Meeting
16 - Creation Care Meeting
20 - Father's Day
21 - CMC Meal Program
22 - KC Rosary and Meeting

July

1 - SVdP Meeting
4 - Independence Day
6-9 - MS Love Begins Here
7 - Luke House Meal Program
11-16 - HS Love Begins Here
13 - KC Officer Meeting
14 - Prayer Shawl Meeting
19 - CMC Meal Program
20 - Human Needs Meeting
27 - KC Rosary and Meeting

August

2-6 - Vacation Bible School
4 - Luke House Meal Program
5 - SVdP Meeting
10 - KC Officer Meeting
11 - Prayer Shawl Meeting
16 - CMC Meal Program
17 - Human Needs Meeting
20 - St. Bernard of Clairvaux
24 - KC Rosary and Meeting