

Office: (608) 831-6531 **Fax:** (608) 831-8101 Email: parish@stbmidd.org Web www.stbmidd.org Parish Office/Mailing Address: 2015 Parmenter Street Middleton, WI 53562-2627

PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor

Pastoral Associate

Director of Music Joy Bauman/joy@stbmidd.org Coordinator of Evangelization and **Parish Outreach** Kevin Sullivan/kevins@stbmidd.org Director of Rel. Ed. (Grades 6-12) Zoe Bernard/zoe@stbmidd.org Director of Rel. Ed. (Grades Pre-K-5) and Baptism Preparation Jenna Ripp/jenna@stbmidd.org Financial Specialist

Rev. Brian J. Wilk/frbrian@stbmidd.org

Kevin Laufenberg/kevin@stbmidd.org

Laurie Zimmerman/laurie@stbmidd.org **Communications Coordinator**

Ellen Krenke/ellen@stbmidd.org **Administrative Assistant**

Barb Harrington/barb@stbmidd.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Morning Masses

Tuesday-Friday: 8:15 AM First Saturday: 8:15 AM

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Private:

All Saturdays: 3:45 to 4:45 PM By Appointment: Contact Parish Office

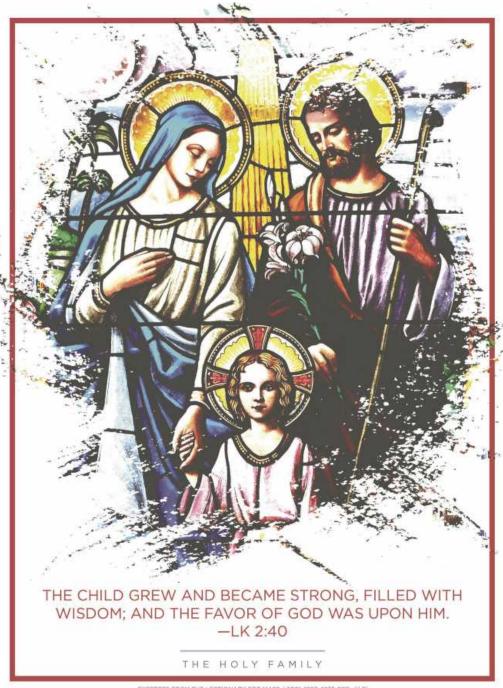
EUCHARISTIC CHAPEL

Private Prayer: 7 AM to 5 PM daily Adoration: 8:45-11 AM on Tuesdays **DEVOTIONS**

Chaplet of Divine Mercy: 8:45 AM

on Thursdays

Mother of Perpetual Help: 8:45 AM on first Saturday of the month



EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS #2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. @LPI

December 27, 2020

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 27 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00 St. Bernard parishioners

10:30 †Gilbert Esser

Monday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents

Tuesday, December 29 - St. Thomas Becket 8:15 †Beatrice Hellenbrand

Wednesday, December 30

8:15 †Doreen Laufenberg

Thursday, December 31 - St. Sylvester

8:15 †Caroline Fitzgerald

5:00 †Mary Brackin and Tony Somsky

Friday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

9:00 St. Bernard parishioners

Saturday, January 2 - Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

8:15 †Eleanor Slattery

5:00 †Apollonia and Edwin Acker

Sunday, January 3 - Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 St. Bernard parishioners

10:30 Mass of Thanksgiving



GOSPEL READING

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. —Luke 2:40

READINGS FOR THE WEEK December 27, 2020

Sunday: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14/Colossians 3:12-21 /Luke

2:22-40

Monday: 1 John 1:5—2:2/Matthew 2:13-18 Tuesday: 1 John 2:3-11/Luke 2:22-35 Wednesday: 1 John 2:12-17/Luke 2:36-40

Thursday: 1 John 2:18-21/John 1:1-18

Friday: Numbers 6:22-27/Galatians 4:4-7/Luke 2:16-21

Saturday: 1 John 2:22-28/John 1:19-28

Next Sunday: Isaiah 60:1-6/Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6/

Matthew 2:1-12

USCCB daily Bible readings:dailyreadings@usccb.org



An icon of the Holy Family has a prominent place in Fr. Brian's office.

This weekend, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

As we think of the Holy Family it is also an opportunity to think of our own families and of the family of the Church.

There is no reason to believe that Mary and Joseph had a clear understanding of either the full identity or the great destiny of the Child Jesus.

Every child is a gift from God. But consider this. Every child has a unique destiny. But that destiny is hidden from the parents. They wonder what will become of their children.

Naturally, they want the best for them. But all they can do is launch them on their way. Having given them life, they must allow them the freedom to live that life.

Above all, they must be careful not to obstruct God's plan for them. Parents should pray that God will guide their children in the choices they make.

All of us need God's guidance if we are to achieve what God wants us to achieve.

Ideally, a family is a little community of love. The atmosphere in the home is all important. The atmosphere is determined by the quality of the relationships. Parents and children both contribute to the making of the atmosphere.

Today let's pray in thanksgiving for the gift of the Holy Family and for the gift of our own families. Let's pray for those families who struggle. Let's pray that families can become closer in both hard times and good times.

I believe that there is a greater depth to relationships that have weathered some storms. Holiness is the fruit of sacrifice and struggle. Hopefully, we can all come to say, "there is no place like home." Have a blessed week, Fr. Brian



May the Lord's blessings be with you in 2021 as we journey together in faith.

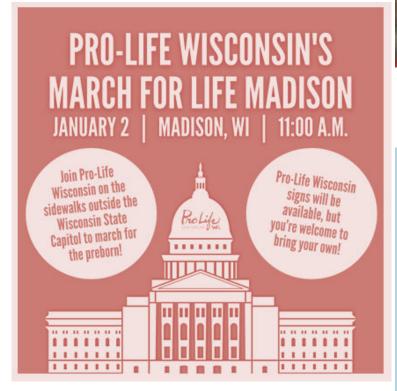
St. Bernard Parish Staff

Liturgical Life



2020 Advent and Christmas season schedule Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule

Vigil for The Holy Family, Saturday, Dec. 26 5:00 p.m. The Holy Family, Sunday, Dec. 27 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. Vigil for Solemnity of Mary, Thursday, Dec. 31 5:00 p.m. Solemnity of Mary, Friday, Jan. 1 9:00 a.m.



KCs to lead novena in January

Knights of Columbus Council #4549 will lead a Novena for Life starting with a Rosary on Jan. 21 and ending nine days later with a Rosary on Jan. 29.



The protection of life is a sustained prayer intention of the Church, and in particular of the Knights of Columbus. Knights remain firmly committed to defending the right to life of every human being – from the moment of conception to natural death.

To commemorate and bolster this important cause, councils will promote a novena, nine days of sustained prayer, to build up a culture of life in our parishes, homes and wider community.

More information will be available in the next few weeks. If you are interested in participating in this event, please contact Andrew Wagner at andrewwagner@tds.net.



Despite the cold temperatures, work continues on the framing of the church. The brick structures on the outside of the church are also being finished by Kraemer Brothers Construction.

Creation Care Corner



Taking action to protect God's great gift to us - Mother Earth



"...we need to commit ourselves to caring for Creation, without squandering its resources...."

Pope Benedict XVI

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP RECOMMENDATION: Keep It Simple!

Pope Francis cautions us to avoid the "culture of consumerism" when he says, "A constant flood of new consumer goods can baffle the heart and prevent us from cherishing each thing and each moment." A simpler "outer" life, free of clutter and distraction, makes it easier to be more spiritual. In turn, spirituality leads to a less attached and simpler outer life. A virtuous circle! Material simplicity is an intentional pathway to more joy, happiness and the flourishing of God's Creation. Filter acquisition decisions through a lens of needs v. wants. "Less is more."

Stewardship

The gift of family

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now?

As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change.

How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all.

I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder.

Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common.

One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others.

For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished.

The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, "people need people."

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light.

He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life.

Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation?

As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you.

Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son.—Tracy Earl Welliver, LPI

PARISH STEWARDSHIP December 6, 2020

God's Plan	\$8,239.15
Christmas	\$720.00
Building Maintenance	\$277.00
Offertory	\$200.00
Snack Pack Blessings	\$150.00
Prayer Shawl Ministry	

You can submit your weekly contributions by electronic bank transfer, mailing your envelopes to the parish office or by credit card through Vanco at stbmidd.org/online-giving.

If you are interested in submitting your contributions by electronic bank transfer or need to make changes in your financial support, please call Laurie Zimmerman at 829-5875 for more information. Thank you for using envelopes.

REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL

Please consider making a gift to St. Bernard parish in your gratitude to God for all the blessings you have received from Him

The good we do lives on after us—if we make a will!

Calendar

Sunday, December 27 7:00 PM AA/Alanon Meeting/REC LL

Monday, December 28

Tuesday, December 29

8:45 AM Eucharistic Adoration/Chapel
1:30 PM Rosary hosted by the Living Rosary/Via Zoom

Wednesday, December 30

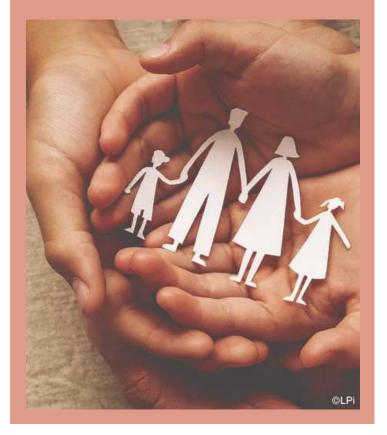
Thursday, December 31- New Year's Eve Parish office closed.



Friday, January 1 - New Year's Day Parish office closed.

Saturday, January 2
3:45 PM Reconciliation/Church

Sunday, January 3
7:00 PM AA/Alanon Meeting/REC LL



Parish Events

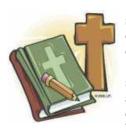
Save the date!

The Red Cross will hold a blood drive here at St. Bernard from 10 a.m., to 3 p.m., Jan. 28 in the parish center.



Young Adults to meet via web

The Young Adults of the parish (college age to 40) will be unable to meet in person for the remainder of the calendar year.



However, they will meet online to study "True Reformers," a video series on saints of the Reformation available on Formed.

The group chooses what they want to study. Other recent offerings have been an Ascension Press DVD series on church history, "The Joy of the Gospel" by Pope Francis and a DVD series on

evangelization!

There is no ongoing commitment. Join us online whenever you are available!

To get the web meeting link, please contact Kevin Sullivan at kevins@stbmidd.org or 829-5879.

Men's spirituality group begins in February

A men's spirituality group here at St. Bernard will start meeting on the first Saturday of the month beginning in February.

The session will be held from 9-10 a.m., after the morning Mass in the parish center.

The video and discussion series entitled, "Into the Breach," which was produced by the Knights of Columbus will be used by the group.

"This should be a good opportunity to explore our spirituality and faith," said Fr. Brian.

It will be open to all men in the parish and would also be appropriate for teenage sons.

More information will be available after the first of the year.

Prayer shawls to warm your body and soul

If you know someone who could use some extra prayers, please feel free to take a prayer shawl from the wood chest located at the back of church.

These beautiful shawls are made by and prayed over by the women of the parish and blessed by Fr. Brian.

They will warm you and your loved ones—body and soul!

If you would like to make a monetary or yarn donation, contact Sharon Braem at scbraem@tds.net or 608-335-9001 to arrange a pick-up of your items.

IN & AROUND THE DIOCESE OF MADISON

Bundling diapers is so easy and fun anyone can do it! The kids love it! Sign up as a family to volunteer. There is something for everyone to do. Contact **Pregnancy Helpline** at 608-222-0008. Also Needed!! Baby wipes!! We go through about 75 packages of baby wipes each week! They can be any brand and can be dropped off or mailed to the center. Thank you for your help keeping babies clean and healthy!

St. Anthony Spirituality Center offers two retreats for the new year. A New Year's Eve and Day Retreat with Deacon Steve Vande Hey and Fr. Tom Zelinski will be held on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. The cost is \$105. A Serenity Retreat for finding purpose and meaning in our life through recovery grounded spiritual base will include four speakers and be held Jan. 1-3. The cost is \$200. For more information about either retreat, go to info@sarcenter.com or call 715-443-2236.

Let us appreciate our spouses by attending the next virtual **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** Weekend from Jan. 12 to Feb 2, in a series of two sessions per week for three weeks of roughly two hours each. Call 888-574-5653 or visit our website at alifetimeoflove.org.

SPIRITUS is seeking Catholic young adults, 21-29 years of age, to join the SPIRITUS missionary team this August. SPIRITUS ignites the faith in thousands of young Catholics through retreats and parish youth ministry each year! Missionaries live in community and travel to parishes and schools throughout Wisconsin; they receive training, formation, spiritual direction, lodging, food, a monthly allowance, health insurance and a \$2,000 stipend upon completion of the 9-month program. It is a unique opportunity to serve our Lord and help young Catholics grow in faith. Contact Rachel at recruiter@spiritusministries.org or 920-722-8918 x113 or visit www.spiritusministries.org/beamissionary. for more information.

Virtual Baby Bottle Campaign!

Pro-Life Wisconsin's Helping Both Program fills the gap for families and gives hope to moms in crisis pregnancies. Your generosity provides the financial resources to continue supporting families in need.

Donate at: www.prolifewi.org/donate



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Tragedy and disappointment are inevitable. What sees you through this?

There will be challenges, changes, unexpected circumstances, interrupted plans, hurts, and injustices experienced by every human being at some point in their lives.



We will be asked to adjust our plans, change course, and even encounter suffering and death.

Where do we learn all of the lessons we need to live life well?

Some of them we learn along the way but much of what we bring to life, positive and negative, comes from our early beginnings, our families.

This is our early world and provides the blueprint for how we see the bigger, more inclusive world, which unfolds before us.

Our families of origin can be sources of grace, heartache or a combination of both.

Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication, and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave.

They can also determine whether we have an accessible and healthy relationship with God.

Many of life's challenges can literally bring us to our knees and require that we possess a strength of character that resides well beyond the superficialities of our world.

At some point, we will all need three coping gifts that can be given to us only by God: faith, hope, and love.

Our families help us learn that we are not the ones responsible for their creation, but God!

Our experience of early family life colors all of our relationships and what we expect to achieve from life in general.

Resolving conflicts, dealing with difficulty and suffering, celebrating accomplishments, prioritizing our needs, listening to God's call, understanding relationships, understanding disappointment, learning about the virtues and living a centered focused life are all lessons our families either succeed in teaching or do not.

To succeed, as God has designed and ordered our world, is to discover his presence and then trust that Presence.

The Holy Family can teach even the most dysfunctional family how to best use God's gifts of faith, hope, and love to find him and do his will.

Their simple humble example is always before us, showing us the way.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome our new parishioners:

Michelle Macho

Adults who are 18 years and older are welcome to register at the parish office from 9 a.m. to noon or 1-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. You may also call the parish office at 831-6531, pick up a new parishioners registration packet at any entrance to church or on our website at www.stbmidd.org/parish-membership.

BAPTISM

If you are expecting a child, please register for a Baptism Preparation Class, which is normally held from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month in the parish library. For more information, contact Jenna Ripp at jenna@stbmidd.org or 829-5878.

HOSPITAL/HOME VISITS

Please call Kevin Laufenberg at 829-5876 whenever you or someone close to you is seriously ill so that he can plan a time for a visit. Also call if you or someone you know is homebound and would like a visit, a phone call or the Eucharist.

LOST AND FOUND

Have you lost or misplaced car keys, jewelry, religious items or umbrellas in the church? If there is a particular item that you have lost, please check the table in the usher's room. If it cannot be found there, please call the parish office at 831-6531.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you plan to move, change your address or leave the parish, please contact the parish office at 831-6531, so we can update our records.

HEARING AIDS

If you cannot hear what is being said during Mass, St. Bernard has several Williams Sound brand hearing assistance receivers available to parishioners. These receivers can be used with headphones or ear buds, which we also have available or you can bring your own. Just ask one of the ushers for help. The sound amplifier works through the parish sound system. If you have checked out a receiver and no longer need it, please return it to the church. for others to use.

PREGNANCY HELPLINE

Pregnancy Helpline of Madison is excited to announce it has relocated from the Catholic Multicultural Center to a new location at 1974 S. Stoughton Road with more than double the square footage. Go to pregnancyhelpline.net to find out how you can help by volunteering or donating.

St. Bernard Cemetery

All gravesite decorations that families wish to keep should be removed this month in preparation for winter. All debris should also be discarded. If you have any questions, call Tom Theis at 831-6531.



SIMON HOME TEAM

Nick Simon Cell: 608-213-1818 E-Mail: simonn@firstweber.com

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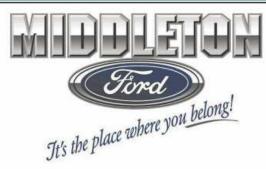














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