



Middleton, WI

St. Bernard Catholic Church

Spring 2017

Ziegler cross is 'labor of love'

By Ellen G. Krenke

Before his father's death in December, Dale Ziegler spent several days remembering the good times that they had together.

"Dad and I used to build things together. We used to farm together. We built a lot of buildings together. He helped to build my house. We always did a lot of things together," he said. "I was the metal worker. He wasn't that good a welder."

As the metal worker in the family, Ziegler decided to honor his 90-year-old father by handcrafting a seven-foot crucifix made of metal and red oak from his sister's farm in Hyde, Wis.

"So, it's got ties to more than just one of us," said Ziegler, who has seven brothers and sisters, two of whom belong to St. Bernard parish.

It took him about eight hours of labor intensive work over two or three days, but he finished the crucifix before his father's funeral on Dec. 9. Sylvester's funeral was held at St. Bernard with Fr. Brian presiding.

It was Father Brian, who saw a smaller version of the crucifix at Ziegler's parents' house and suggested that it be set on Sylvester's casket at the funeral.

"On the drive home that night, I decided to honor him and that's what I would do ... (but) I wanted something big for the funeral," Ziegler said.

The crucifix is about seven feet tall on the wood stand, but grows to eight feet in the metal stand with wheels.

"It turned out better than I thought it would," Ziegler said. "I don't know ... I started picking up boards and running them

Cont. on page 11



Our first newsletter in 20 years

In case you haven't noticed already, we are making a concerted effort to communicate with you through various mediums.

The directory has been distributed, the website has been updated and the bulletin now focuses more on St. Bernard people and events. We have also submitted stories and photos about your good works to the diocese newspaper for publication.

This newsletter is our latest attempt to keep you informed about what's going on in the parish. For the "old school" newspaper readers, we have a printed version that will be mailed to you and available at

you. It will also be available on our website at www.stbmidd.org. We plan to do four newsletters each year: spring, summer, fall and winter. If you are interested, you can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram and now YouTube. In fact, we have posted a video clip that goes with the mosaic story on page 4.

If there is anything that you would like to see in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to send an email to Fr. Brian or Ellen Krenke, our communications coordinator, at ellen@stbmidd.org. If you would like to submit a story or photo, please email it to the same address. We look forward to hearing from you!



From the Pastor's Desk

It is a great pleasure to present the first issue of the St. Bernard's newsletter, The Bee. I hope you can find the time to read it. I would also encourage you to share it with others as a way of getting the word out about what is happening in our parish.

Our purpose in publishing this newsletter is to highlight parish activities, introduce you to our staff, increase our visibility in the broader community and hopefully increase your interest in what we do here.

St. Bernard's is a welcoming place. But too often I hear people tell me that they don't always know what is going on. I hope that this exposes you to the life of our parish above and beyond the weekly bulletin. So read, share and enjoy.

As you receive this newsletter, we are well into the season of Lent. Why do we observe Lent? For some, Lent is a matter of giving things up. For others, it is a question of doing things. These are all good practices. But whether we are giving something up or doing something extra, the important thing is to keep in

ing something up or doing something extra, the important thing is to keep in mind why we are doing what we are doing.

Our Lenten practices should help us to a higher level of consciousness in our relationship with God. It is a consciousness about the paschal mystery that we celebrate at Easter: that Christ has died and Christ has risen. We too shall rise with Him, but only if we enter into His passion and death, each in our own way in our own time.

To quote an interesting book, "Seeking His Mind" by Basil Pennington: "What am I going to do for Lent? Yes, I will give up peanut butter. (I love it!) But I will also spend at least a half hour each day with the Scriptures, listening to the Lord, letting him lead me more deeply into the paschal mystery. And I shall look forward eagerly to celebrating that Mystery and entering into it more fully than ever before."

Thank you for your continuing support of St. Bernard's. We have a bright future and working together that future will become a faith-filled reality. — Fr. Brian

Why "The Bee?"

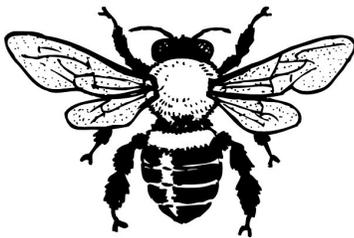
In 1857, James McClatchy founded "The Sacramento Bee" and promised his newspaper would be as busy as a bee. It has since won several Pulitzer Prizes and the name has been copied by newspapers around the country.

From the text of St. John Chrysostom: "The bee is more honored than other animals, not because it labors, but because it labors for others."

Bees produce good works for their neighbors by pollinating, which ensures the survival of others.

The people of St. Bernard also do good works for their neighbors.

St. Bernard is the patron of bees and beekeepers.



Fr. Brian's update on sanctuary, chapel glass, future projects

With the completion of the sanctuary renovation this past July, a few people have asked questions that I thought would be worth sharing with everyone.

What did the project cost? The total cost for this project was about \$36,000, which included flooring, asbestos removal, relocation of the font and altar, marble work, plumbing and tabernacle refinishing.

Donations totaling \$5,000 were allocated for refinishing the tabernacle, so the total cost to the parish was \$31,000. We were able to pay for the entire project with funds already on hand.

The response to this project has been

overwhelmingly positive, and I know that the sanctuary as it is now will serve us for many years to come.

What happened to the etched glass from the chapel? The etched glass that was in the chapel is in secure storage, and I hope to reuse it for an appropriate project at some point in the future.

The glass was removed enabling us to use the chapel as a family and children's room on Sundays. I, and those who used it, found the old family room on the east side of the church to be crowded, not well ventilated and frankly, very unwelcoming.

As we encourage families to join our parish community, having a more welcoming space will be to our advantage. The feedback I have already received is very positive. The room is still available for private prayer during the week.

As we move forward, my hope is that we can get the church restrooms refurbished sometime this year. There is also some foundation work that needs to be done on the outside of the school building.

Your continued support of the maintenance fund is appreciated. If you have any questions about the facilities, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

The Bee

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Contributors: Rev. Brian Wilk, Ellen Krenke, Kevin Laufenberg, Joy Bauman, Kevin Sullivan, Barb Roberts, Barb Bohringer and Tammy Zoroufy.

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

In this Issue

Our Pastor.....	3
Our Church.....	4
Our Community.....	5
St. Vincent de Paul	6
Our People.....	7
In the Pews.....	9
Winter Fest.....	9
Our Children.....	10

Our Pastor

A Day in the Life of Fr. Brian

Have you ever wondered: What does Fr. Brian do all day? Well, here is your answer.

A typical day starts in his office at 7 a.m., answering emails and returning phone calls. He then walks over to church for the 8:15 a.m., Mass.

After Mass, he meets with various staff members and parishioners.

For lunch, he will visit a local eatery or go home for his favorite peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

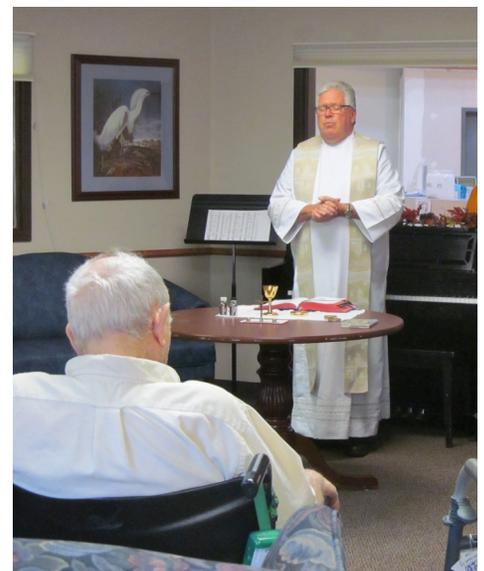
In the afternoon, Fr. Brian tries to run errands especially if he has a parish meeting that night. Parish families also ask him to dinner during the week.

When he does get some down time, usually on Mondays, he likes to spend it in prayer and reflection or a good round of golf.

Also during the week, he visits with sick parish members in local hospitals, the homebound or those in senior care facilities. He also meets with young couples, who are preparing for marriage, or families planning for a funeral.

Weekends are his busiest time of the week with four Masses and Confessions.

His favorite time of the week? Sunday afternoons when the Packers play.



Top right: Fr. Brian shows the bridesmaids for a recent wedding where to stand in the front of church.
Middle: Fr. Brian meets with his staff on Tuesday mornings.
Bottom right: Fr. Brian celebrates Mass at Middleton Village on the first Friday of every month.
Bottom left: Fr. Brian takes the lead during bingo at Winterfest.

Our Church

The Mosaic: Parish school children beautify our church

By Ellen G. Krenke

In the summer of 1958, Monsignor Ferdinand Mack and Tom Flad, the architect of the new St. Bernard's church, were looking for ideas for a new reredos.

A reredos is an ornamental screen covering the wall at the back of an altar.

The chipped marble design that they liked was too cost prohibitive. So, they visited Gene Marggraff at Universal Studios in Winona, Minn., who suggested having St. Bernard's elementary school children do the work.

"He must have sensed the ridicule that was within me at such extreme idealism for he said just a sentence or two of how wonderful it would be to have something in the church which would grow with the generation of the period of construction into the generations to come," Mack said in the church history.

Without any discussion, the group left and vowed not to present Marggraff's idea to the planning board.

About two weeks later, they were again invited to visit Marggraff's office, where the professor presented a black and white checkerboard coffee table made by his young daughter with only a few instructions by him. The table was made with marble chips and glue.

Months passed before the "enthusiasm, trust, confidence, faith, hope and love of the School Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi ... accepted the challenge to direct the children" in this project, Mack wrote.

Sr. Jane Frances and Betty Hurtgen were named the supervisors of the project, which would take five months to complete.

Marggraff presented his idea to the faculty with a sketch on plain paper and "the pastel colors he used, the angles of the design were skillfully arranged but could be interpreted only with difficulty," according to the church history.

His design was "mathematically produced and perfected" on graph paper by Sr. Helen Marie, the church history states. "What a Godsend our mathematician proved to be."

In January of 1959, the boys of the school canvassed local businesses for cardboard boxes. The boxes were cut into large squares, and "the boys of the upper grades were the only ones that were



Kathy (Bowar) Esser inspects her handiwork during a recent visit to the church. She was one of the St. Bernard elementary school students, who worked on the mosaic covering the wall behind the altar.

See mosaic video at stbmid.org/videos

allowed to do this work since sharp tools had to be employed," the church history states.

Children from the primary grades were asked to cut one-inch squares from large sheets of silk-screened color that had been prepared for them. These squares were separated into boxes, so the middle-schoolers could glue them onto the cardboard following Sr. Helen Marie's design.

After all the cardboard squares had been completed, the children from the upper grades pasted them following the design onto sheets of light plywood.

In March, these sheets were placed within the large parabolic form that had been constructed by H.F. Simon and Son, Inc., on the wall of the sanctuary,

"The large triangle outlined mostly by yellows, symbolizes the three persons in one God. Green and brown patterns at the base represent the pastures of Christ's flock. The word of God in the form of open pages of the Bible is shown by the sharp white right angles along the sides of the mosaic. The tiny crosses represent the saints who followed Christ on earth and now glorify Him in heaven."

according to the church history.

No children were allowed on the scaffold, so this work was done by the Simon employees.

some of the colors with paint.

Once completed, Marggraff corrected some of the colors with paint.

After his final corrections and directions to the school staff, the hard work began. Each square of plywood was taken from the wall, and the children began to glue one-inch squares of marble imported from Italy to the heavier plywood.

The children had to search for the exact shade of tile to match the paper square, but first they had to soak the paper backing off the individual tiles. There are more than 20 different shades of color ranging from soft blues, greens, grays and browns to bright yellow.

Kathy (Bowar) Esser said this was a more difficult task than it sounds, especially for a seven-year-old. "I messed up the colors ... the light yellows and whites toward the bottom. I was reprimanded by my teacher. When you look at it now, you can't even tell where (my mistake) is!"

The finished product is more than 28 feet high and 28 feet wide.

"The use of the (triangle) dominates the entire area in order to impress the great doctrine of the Triune God, yet has been used in such a manner that it does not leave the feeling of being confined but allows the mind to dwell, especially in this age, on the attribute of God's Infinity—the expanses of the Space Age," according to the church history.

While bids on the cost of the mural ranged from \$20-50,000, the children

CONT. on page 7

Our Community

St. Bernard's feeds Middleton elementary school students

By Ellen G. Krenke

Snack Pack Blessings is a new program started by parishioners here at St. Bernard's Catholic Church that will provide food to students at Elm Lawn Elementary School for their weekend meals.

"It is important that we reach out beyond the four walls of our church to our community and with the different churches and organizations to ... try and take on the broader issues that face our community," said Fr. Brian.

Hunger is one of the issues facing too many Middleton children. Chris Mand, a social worker at Elm Lawn, said about 15 percent of the school's population is qualified for the federal free lunch program, and "we have a number of students who would benefit from having food in their backpacks for the weekend."

Applications for the Snack Pack Blessings program were sent to the entire student population at Elm Lawn, which includes kindergarten through fourth grades.

Anyone can apply for the program, said Georgine Jacobs, the Snack Pack Blessings coordinator. "Just because they don't qualify (for the federal school lunch program) doesn't mean that they don't need help."

Over 100 parishioners volunteered to help with the program, which excited Jacobs.

"They are so happy to do something for little kids. These are growing bodies," she said. "It is just something that everyone can relate to. They either have children or grandchildren, and they know how important good nutrition is for them."

Eight teams of about five volunteers from St. Bernard's will shop for the needed food items and pick up donations during the week and pack the meals and deliver them to the school on Fridays.

"St. Bernard's has always been involved in helping families in need," Jacobs said. "This is just another step in that direction."

Before they leave school, the children will pick up their bright green snack pack, which will include enough food to get them through the weekend, because "children don't always have control over finding their own food," Jacobs said.

The Snack Pack Blessings menu includes food for two or three breakfasts and two or three lunches and dinners.

For breakfast, the children may receive instant oatmeal, cold



Dennis Sweeney and Anne Blindt open boxes of oatmeal to fill backpacks for the Snack Pack Blessings program.

cereal, individual milk bottles, frozen waffles with a jelly or syrup packet, an orange and a granola bar.

For lunch and dinner, they may get microwavable meals, crackers, tuna, cheese sticks, fruits and vegetables, nuts, and a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

"We try to make them nutritional," Jacobs said. "Most of the meals are pre-packaged, but there is some fresh fruit and vegetables."

St. Bernard's accepts monetary donations from its parishioners and food donations from Middleton Outreach Ministries for the program that will operate during the school year.

"These acts of mercy are important," said Jacobs. "We are doing this out of love, not obligation. We do it, because we care about these children."



SVdP plans spring rummage sale at St. Bernard

By Barb Roberts

For many parishioners, St. Vincent de Paul is a truck in the parking lot used to collect items that ultimately end up in one of its seven thrift stores or food for the Fish Hatchery Road pantry in Madison. But St. Vincent de Paul is so much more, including a charitable pharmacy that serves those who have no health

insurance coverage and transitional housing at Port St. Vincent and Seton House.

Our St. Bernard Conference visits clients, who have a variety of needs, such as furniture, rental or energy assistance and housing for the homeless.

In our parish, SVdP started in 1990, disbanded and relaunched itself in 2012.

Our next event is a huge garage sale on April 22-23. Parishioners can bring their unwanted clothing, toys, games, home décor and small kitchen appliances to donate to the sale on April 21. Unsold items will be donated to SVdP stores.

All proceeds will go to the St. Bernard Conference for its continued work helping our neighbors in need.

Praise for St. Bernard SVdP from men's housing director

"The St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Bernard's in Middleton makes a huge impact in the lives of residents at Port St. Vincent.

"Members show compassion and respect when celebrating monthly birthday parties, and it contributes to the well being of men going through our housing program.

"Having that monthly fellowship gives residents optimism, dignity, and eases the path to a better future."

Thank you, Peter Lewandowski, Director

Right: Peggy Spiewak of St. Bernard serves birthday cake to a port resident.



Knights of Columbus hosts two annual spring events: pancake breakfast, Easter egg hunt

The Knights of Columbus Council #4549 will host their annual Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast from 8 a.m., to noon, April 9 in the parish center.

In addition to all-you-can-eat pancakes, the breakfast will include eggs, bacon, steak and sausage.

Proceeds will support their charitable

activities.

On April 15, the annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 11:30 a.m., at Lakewiew Park in Middleton.

We will color eggs and prepare Easter basket handouts from 4-6 p.m., on Good Friday, April 14 in the parish center.

Children and adults are needed to

Children and adults are needed to help with the fun job of coloring and lettering the eggs as well as filling the Easter baskets.

Pizza and refreshments will be available to the volunteers.

Living Rosary continues 88-year recitation tradition

In May of 1929, 15 female parishioners began the Living Rosary at St. Bernard Parish. Members prayed a decade from one of the mysteries of the rosary each day so together a complete Rosary of all the decades was prayed daily.

More than 80 years later, the membership has changed and grown to include both men and women, who daily recite an assigned decade. They almost complete five 20-decade rosaries each day!

On the first Friday of May and October, the group gathers to pray the rosary and adore Christ in Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

On May 5 at 1:30 p.m., the group will pray the Joyful and Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary followed by a benediction and blessing of religious articles with Fr. Brian in the church.

In addition to this celebration, available group members also pray a rosary in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel 30 minutes before every funeral or memorial service held at St. Bernard. However, all are invited to join Living Rosary members in praying the rosary for the repose of the soul of the deceased and their family. You don't have to be a member of the Living Rosary to join us for this rosary.

We would like to thank Marnie Dombeck, who recently retired as the group's coordinator. She was replaced by Tammy Zoroufy.

To become a member of the Living Rosary, you must commit to praying your decade every day and contact Diane Zander at 608-831-5167 or euzan@chorus.net.

Madonna Rosary Makers gather for prayer, fellowship

The Madonna Rosary Makers is a group of people who gather together for a meeting, fellowship, purchase supplies and say the Rosary.

Small workshops are also held, but generally the rosaries are made on your own free time.

A person can make either wire/bead or rope/bead rosaries. The wire/bead rosaries are used for our newly confirmed members, and the cord/bead rosaries in white and black are used for our First Communicants. Other cord/bead rosaries are donated to various missions and pilgrimages around the country.

The goal of our group is to help spread Our Blessed Mother's most powerful devotional prayer. To join us, contact Betty Kessenich at 608-831-8876 or Barb Bohringer at 608-836-1236.

Our People

Theis: A man of many talents -- in, around church

By Ellen G. Krenke

If you know Tom Theis, you know that he has worked in maintenance here at St. Bernard Parish for 43 years and that he is a volunteer firefighter with the Middleton Fire Department.

But did you also know that he was a Monsignor?

Well, the local cable company thought so anyway.

"I tried about six weeks to get them to change that billing address," he said with a laugh. "But we finally got it switched."

Like most Monsignors, Theis has dedicated his work to the church ... our church. He started working here after school and during the summers when he was a student at Middleton High School.

After graduating in 1976, he was offered a full-time position.

"My boss was Monsignor (Ferdinand A.) Mack ... a wonderful man to work for," Theis said. "He was stern yet friendly."

Theis has worked for a total of five priests in his 43 years here.

About seven years into this job, Theis was offered a position with the Middleton Cross Plains School District, and "if I wasn't working for Monsignor Mack I probably would have taken the job," he said. "It probably would have been a smart idea ... benefits-wise and for retirement, but I couldn't do it."

Theis said he learned a lot from Mack about kindness. "It didn't matter if you were Catholic or not if you were in need, he would ... reach out to you."

As a student from first through sixth grade at St. Bernard School, Theis learned a different lesson from Mack.

"In the day, we were given demerit cards. With three demerit cards, you had to visit Monsignor Mack. You always screwed around until you had two of them, but then you buckled down until the end of the semester, because you could start clean again.

"You didn't want to have to see Monsignor Mack for disciplinary reasons." Theis also cared for the rectory and Mack's cabin in Wabeno, Wis. "Any trip with Monsignor Mack that was more than an hour long, we would have to do a rosary. What I didn't learn here in church or school, I learned in his car. And I had to learn the rosary all over again."

Bernard over the years, but Theis said one thing remains the same: the people. "It doesn't matter what happens in the



Tom Theis thanks his wife, Laura, his daughter, Tanya and her husband, Eric, and granddaughters Kelly and Chelsea for their love and support.

There have been many changes at St. Bernard over the years, but Theis said one thing remains the same: the people.

"It doesn't matter what happens in the church," he said. "The people are always there no matter what we ask for ... they are there to give. I don't know if we are unique in that way at St. Bernard's, but they have always been that way here."

The physical changes have kept Theis' job interesting. "We went from an eight-room school house to 16 rooms. You have to adapt because of

these changes."

In addition to his maintenance duties here at church, Theis also remains active with the fire department across the street.

"That may change when I turn 60, but the fire department has been great to me," he said. "They understand I am getting older. I don't have to do structural fire-fighting anymore, but ... they know I am an asset for driving the trucks."

Theis, who has served the fire department for 37 years, said like Monsignor Mack he enjoys helping other people. In a fire, "they are running out. We are running in. It's all about giving back to the community and helping people in need."

Firefighting is a tradition in the Theis family. His father and two brothers were also volunteer firefighters. His oldest brother, Carl, who has served for about 40 years, still works as part of the department's rehab team, which takes care of the firefighters during a call.

As young boys, Theis and his brothers listened for the fire whistle at city hall. "It would go off in the middle of the night, and us three boys ... one would be helping dad get his boots on and the other would be starting his car for him. All he had to do was hop in the car and go. Sometimes we had to wake him up, because he didn't hear the whistle."

Both positions at the church and the fire department keep Theis busy. "When the whistle blows, we've got to get the job done," he said. "Very seldom are there days where we have nothing to do."

Theis said he enjoys the camaraderie of the people at both locations adding: "They have always treated me as family."

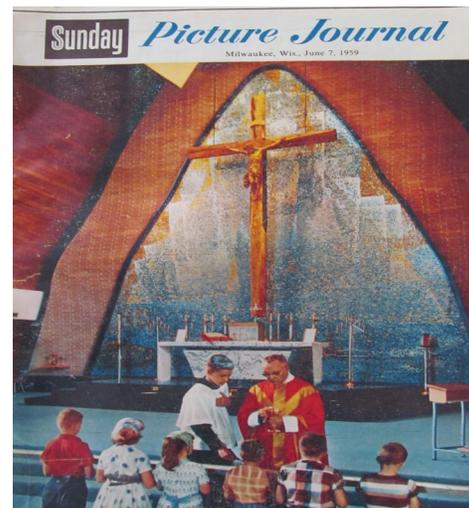
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and their teachers completed the work at a cost of \$7,000.

Shortly after the dedication of the church in 1959, the Milwaukee Journal (see photo at right) did a four-page story about the work done by the children who ranged in age from six to 15.

As a child, Esser said she was proud to contribute to the new church, and today "I think it is beautiful. The gold of the tabernacle accentuates the golds and yellows of the mosaic.

"I enjoy looking at it every time I go to church."



Our Sunday obligation: If it was good enough for Jesus

By Joy Bauman

One thing that people who aren't Catholic wonder about us is our Sunday obligation to attend Mass.

Actually, there are many Catholics themselves who wonder the same thing!

So, here are a few good reasons why going to Mass every Sunday is not only necessary, but good for you.

First, in the book of Exodus, we find the Ten Commandments, and number three is: "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day." We keep this day holy by fulfilling the obligation to attend Mass.

Our Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day and Eucharist is at the heart of the church's life, according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The commandment isn't a suggestion; it is God's law.

Next, when we come together to worship every week, we are following Jesus' example.

He was raised in a home where they carefully "fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law," according to Luke 3:39, which means they attended synagogue every Sabbath as a family.

St. Bernard provides ministry to homebound

By Kevin Laufenberg

We have a thriving pastoral ministry for those who are homebound or in various care facilities in the area.

We make sure that they are visited, prayed with and able to receive Holy Communion on a regular basis.

Currently, we have 14 parishioners, who take Holy Communion to 23 persons confined to their homes and 103 people in care facilities or elderly housing including: Artisan Assisted Living, Artisan Senior Living, Brookdale Memory Care, Brookdale Assisted Living, Heritage Senior Living, Heritage Assisted Living and Memory Care, The Jefferson Senior Living, The Villa at Middleton Village, Pheasant Branch Senior Living and Voss Haus Independent Living.

Please pray for those who are confined to their homes or care facilities as they are praying for our parishioners here at St. Bernard.

If you know of any parishioner who needs our assistance, please contact Kevin Laufenberg at kevin@stbmidd.org or 831-6531. We will take care of their spiritual needs.

the prescriptions of the law," according to Luke 3:39, which means they attended synagogue every Sabbath as a family.

When Jesus was old enough, he went on his own. If Jesus attended synagogue each week, we should go to Mass every week.

Third, the word Eucharist means "thanksgiving." We are blessed by God, who has given us all we have. It is only right that we should gather each week to give thanks for these blessings. And Mass is the best prayer to do that.

Also, from the beginning of the Church, people gathered to remember Jesus in the breaking of the bread and in prayer. We are called to live in relationship with others on our Christian journey through life.

At Mass, we join with others who are also trying to live the gospel and follow Jesus' message. Praying together empowers us in our walk as disciples of Jesus.

Finally, receiving the Eucharist each week is solid spiritual food. Just as we need to eat properly every day to keep our physical selves healthy, we need to feed ourselves spiritually to keep us strong in our Christian journey.

In Holy Communion, we receive the graces needed to become more like Christ.

St. Augustine said about the Eucharist, "Believe what you receive. Receive what you believe. Become what you receive." This is why we are called to receive Holy Communion regularly and frequently.

Going to Mass each week allows us to encounter Christ within the community gathered and to be with others sharing the joys and challenges of living a faith-filled life.

We are strengthened in our worship together to live our call as followers of Christ.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux was a French 12th century abbot and doctor of the church. He is called mellificus meaning his eloquence is "as sweet as honey."

2016: A Year in Review

Young Adults Group - 10

Sacrament Preparation

35 Baptisms

38 First Communion

99 Confirmation

Religious Education

Pre-school-Grade 5: 18 teachers for 169 students

Middle School Grades 6-8: 11 teachers for 98 students

High School Grades 9-11: 12 teachers for 115 students

Adult Faith Formation

5 Small Faith Groups with 44 participants

8 FOCCUS Facilitators mentored 18 engaged couples

3 candidates and 2 Catechumens for RCIA

Youth Ministry

21 teens and 3 adults for Frassati Fest

30 teens and 4 adults for Love Begins Here

Liturgical Ministry

30 Adult Choir

22 Youth Choir

67 Ushers

79 Euchmins

31 Lectors

50 Servers

Pastoral Care Ministry

103 parishioners in 24 senior care centers

23 Homebound parishioners

17 Ministers to the Homebound

Winter Fest



Our first-ever Winter Fest was an evening of food, fellowship and fun with members of our parish family.

We had a great turnout and hope you enjoyed the evening!

Human Needs fills needs of many in parish, community throughout the year

The Human Needs Commission meets at 6:30 p.m., on the third Monday of the month in March, April, May in the parish center meeting room.

The commission sponsors the following events during the spring months:

- Catholic Multicultural Center (CMC) Meal Program – On the third Monday of every month, volunteers prepare a home-cooked meal at St Bernard’s to serve at the CMC in Madison. Volunteers assist in preparing the meal, delivering the meal and donating food items.
- Luke House Meal Program – On the first Wednesday of the month, volunteers prepare, serve and share a family style meal for those in need. The purpose is to serve, share and aid people at the most essential level of need: the need for food, caring and community. Volunteers contribute food, money or their time.
- Easter Baskets – We provide Easter baskets to homebound parish members as well as those living in four area nursing homes.
- Mother’s Day Rose Sale – Roses are sold on Mother’s Day with all proceeds given to Wisconsin Right to Life. Volunteers organize rose sellers, pick up and prepare the roses and also help sell roses after each Mass.

For more information, call Barb Bohringer at 608-836-1236.

In the Pews



Kevin and Marie Pauls have been parishioners for six years. Both of their children, Natalie and Ian, were baptized here.

“We love St. Bernard, because its nice to be a part of the community and go to church where we live and see people we know,” Marie said.

Kevin teaches at Kromrey and coaches soccer at Middleton High School. Marie teaches violin and viola and performs with both instruments.

Our Children

St. Bernard teens plan for fifth Love Begins Here trip

By Kevin Sullivan

Love Begins Here (LBH) is our diocesan, local, life-changing mission trip program.

In its ninth summer, LBH plans to host about 700 young people for week-long opportunities to learn about God by making a gift of themselves to others.

Our parish will attend as a group for the fifth consecutive summer. We have specific weeks that we will attend, but if a teen is interested and cannot go on our week, they may register on their own as a "lost sheep."

St. Bernard Parish will take groups on the following weeks: High School (Week 1): June 11-16 in Boscobel; Middle School (Week 3): July 5-8 in Portage; Rising Ninth (for current Grade 8): July 10-14 in Montello.

Registration information is available through religious education classes or Kevin Sullivan in the parish office.

Feed My Sheep features family hour for youngest volunteers

Feed My Sheep, now in its sixth year, requires the help of more than 500 volunteers of all ages to package about 100,000 meals at the Catholic Multicultural Center (CMC) on April 1.

Along with seven neighboring parishes, we are currently collecting donations to pay for the food and supplies for the big day. Please pick up a Ewe Tube at any of the entrances to the church and return it by March 19.

The volunteer sign-up page opens on Ash Wednesday at www.feedmysheepmadison.com. You can sign up as an individual, family or group.

New this year: Family Friendly Hour. Do you have children ages six and younger? If so, we will host a special hour-long pack from 10-11 a.m., in a no-pressure environment for the little ones of our parishes. It's never too early to develop a social conscience!

The day will begin with lunch at 11 a.m., and teams will continue to work in shifts that all lead up to our Mass at 5 p.m. We hope that you will be able to join us for all or part of the day! — Kevin Sullivan

through religious education (RE) classes or the parish office.

"This week taught me that even the smallest things can make an unimaginable impact," said Hadley Braaten, a sophomore from St. Bernard. "We learned to encounter God every day while serving and having a good time."

Registration forms are due at the end of March. All registrations can be handled through our RE office, but please see madisondiocese.org/lovebeginshere for more details about alternate weeks.

Our parish will host High School Week 4 at the end of July, but LBH has discovered that it is not ideal for teens to attend a week at their home parish.

However, look for information this spring about how you may interact with the teens staying with us from July 23-28.

A prayerful time at Frassati Fest

By Kevin Sullivan

More than 300 St. Bernard Parish teens joined over 300 others for a weekend of fun and growing in faith at the annual Frassati Fest in early February.

The diocesan event is named for Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, an early 20th century Italian known for his sense of adventure, devotion to the Eucharist, and his charitable works.

The keynote speakers were Nic Frank and Lauren Wright, who work for a parish in Rockford, Ill.

Both stressed the importance of daily prayer to enter into a relationship with God and to be able to hear God's call for your life. This is not only true for high school students, but is a good reminder for all Catholics.

Frassati Fest is one of many retreats offered to our parish teens that are outside of formal religious education classes.

We make these events available, because they often serve as an excellent conversion experience for our young people.

Our faith does not make much sense without truly knowing Jesus as a person.

At Frassati Fest, the Saturday evening highlight was Eucharistic Adoration.

Returning students look forward to this prayerful time in the presence of the Lord, and Frassati newbies shared that it is inspiring when more than 300 people are focused on the same thing – gazing lovingly at our Lord truly present in the Eucharist.



Who said what?

Below are two well-known quotes. Do you know which one was uttered by our patron, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, and which was George Bernard Shaw?

- 1) "Who loves me will love my dog also."
- 2) "People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it."

Answers: 1) St. Bernard, 2) George Bernard Shaw

Photo from our past

Do you know any of these young men? This is a photo of a basketball team from St. Bernard School, but no date is available. Now St. Bernard sponsors basketball teams in the local Catholic Youth Organization.





Pope Francis to parents: It's important for children to make their First Communion

"The Eucharist is such a great gift. That's why going to Mass is so important. Going to Mass not just to pray, but to receive Communion, the Bread and Body of Christ. It saves us, forgives us and it makes us one with the Father. How beautiful!"

Pope Francis explained that "Eucharist" is a Greek word meaning "thankfulness." He then added that celebrating the Eucharist is not just about honoring the past.

"The Eucharist is more than just a mere feast. It's a way to remember Jesus' Passover, a mystery that's central to our salvation. But when we talk about 'remembering' that doesn't mean that it's just a memory. It means that every time we celebrate this Sacrament we become part of the Mystery of His Passion, Death and Resurrection. The Eucharist is the peak of God's Salvation."

It's through the Eucharist that it's possible to be in true communion with the Church, he said. That's why it's key for children to make their First Communion.

"It's important for children to properly prepare for their First Communion, so that there's no child without this Sacrament. The Eucharist is a firm step towards Jesus, along with Baptism and Confirmation." — From "Rome Reports" website, 2014

Several events related to First Communion will be held at St. Bernard this year, including a First Communion Family Meeting on March 12, First Communion Retreat on April 22 and First Communion Masses on May 13 and 14.

"Receive Communion by making a throne: One hand under the other. Ready to receive our great King. -St. Cyril of Jerusalem

ZIEGLER cont. from page 1

through the planer and just started building."

The metal has a smoky gray or "gun barrel" finish that Ziegler got by burning the metal with a torch. He then clear-coated it with a polyurethane for the shine.

Ziegler described the sculpture as "new age" adding that was very difficult to bring to scale.

"It's all hand bent. You bend and you look," he said. "It's an art. It takes time to lay this out. People think it is easy to do. They should try it once. Art is not easy!"

Ziegler said he started welding the day after he graduated from high school. He had his own welding business for three years before he started farming about 500 acres with his father.

When a highway was built through his farm, he turned to metal fabrication.

For the last 17 years, it has been his living and his hobby.

Building this crucifix "took my mind off what was going on," Ziegler said. "I wanted to honor my dad. I just wish he could have seen it, but He would have been so proud of it, because he really enjoyed a lot of the things that I made."

Ziegler, who designed and built the fish gates at St. Christopher parish in Verona and several "weird one-of-a-kinds" for Epic Systems Corp., decided to offer it to Fr. Brian, but only "if you promise to use it."

Fr. Brian said the parish would definitely like to keep it for other funerals and events.

"I wanted to make my dad's funeral something ... that all my nieces and nephews and relatives would remember," he said. "I can't believe how many people have commented on (the crucifix)."

It now stands at the front entrance to the church.

"It's a great addition to the church," Fr. Brian said.

"QUOTE FROM FR. BRIAN?"



Dale Ziegler poses by the crucifix that he made to honor his father.

Ziegler made several smaller versions of the crucifix about five years ago, but this was the first big one. "And probably the only one ... that I know of," he said. "I don't plan on getting in the business of building them."

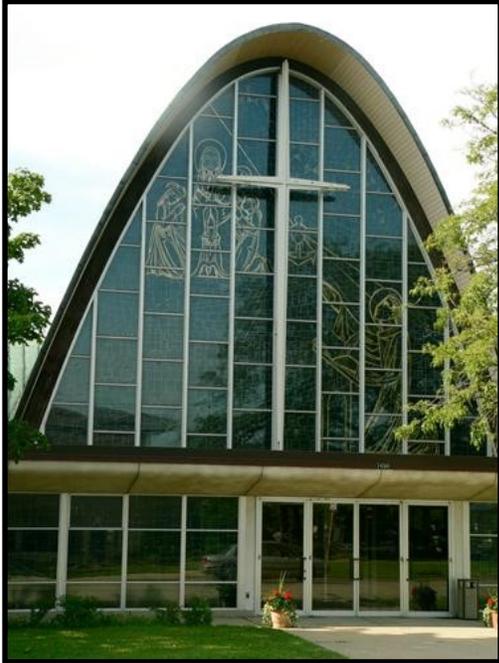
Ziegler said the small version that was placed on his father's casket is now back at his mother's house.

"My dad always commented that he liked that cross. I just thought that day ... going home: Let's just give him a big one," he said.

"I was trying to remember the good times ... when dad and I built things together. It was a labor of love."

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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.

Calendar of upcoming events at St. Bernard		
March	April	May
1-5 - Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit	1 - Feed My Sheep	3 - Luke House Meal
1 - Ash Wednesday/Luke House Meal	9 - KC Pancake Breakfast	5 - Living Rosary
1 - Luke House	13 - Holy Thursday	7 - Elementary RE Pancake Breakfast
9 - Rosary Makers	14 - Good Friday/Easter Egg Coloring	11 - Rosary Makers
12 - First Communion Family Meeting	15 - Holy Saturday/Easter Egg Hunt	13 - First Communion
19 - Easter Baskets for Homebound	16 - Easter Sunday	14 - Mother’s Day/First Communion
20 - Catholic Multicultural Center Meal	22 - First Communion Retreat	15 - CMC Meal
28 - KC General Meeting	22 - SVdP Rummage Sale	19 - Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
	28 - Middle School Spring Party Bus	23 - KC General Meeting
		29 - Memorial Day