



Middleton, WI

St. Bernard Catholic Church

Winter 2018



### *Lessons and carols*

St. Bernard parishioners to perform with diocesan choir

St. Bernard parishioners from left to right, Kathy Bartling, Molly Gould, Jane Maly, Jerry Maly and Margaret Bomber will sing with the Madison Diocesan Choir for their Lessons and Carols at 4 p.m., Dec. 16 at Holy Name Heights, 702 High Point Road in Madison.

The performances will also feature the diocese's new Schmelzer Pipe Organ with musical guests Mary Ann Harr on harp and Mary Wilcosz on flute.

Other St. Bernard parishioners who are members of the choir, but not pictured here are: Mary Jane Harbour and Vince Formosa.

## **Advent homily from St. Bernard: 'The Three Comings of the Lord'**

Here is an excerpt from what has been called "one of the most powerful and inspiring Advent homilies ever preached" by St. Bernard of Clairvaux.

It is normally the excerpt read in the Office of Readings in the Liturgy of the Hours on the first Wednesday of Advent:

### **The Three Comings of the Lord**

We know that there are three comings of the Lord. The third lies between the other two. It is invisible, while the other two are visible. In the first coming he was seen on earth, dwelling among men; he himself testifies that they saw him and hated him. In the final coming all flesh will see the salvation of our God, and they will look on him whom they pierced. The intermediate coming is a hidden one; in it only the elect see the Lord within their own selves, and they are saved. In his first coming our Lord came in our flesh and in our weakness; in this middle coming he comes in spirit and in power; in the final coming he will be seen in glory and majesty.

In case someone should think that what we say about this middle coming is sheer invention, listen to what our Lord himself says: If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him. There is another passage of Scripture which reads: He who fears God will do

good, but something further has been said about the one who loves, that is, that he will keep God's word. Where is God's word to be kept? Obviously in the heart, as the prophet says: I have hidden your words in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.

Keep God's word in this way. Let it enter into your very being, let it take possession of your desires and your whole way of life. Feed on goodness, and your soul will delight in its richness. Remember to eat your bread, or your heart will wither away. Fill your soul with richness and strength.

Because this coming lies between the other two, it is like a road on which we travel from the first coming to the last. In the first, Christ was our redemption; in the last, he will appear as our life; in this middle coming, he is our rest and consolation. If you keep the word of God in this way, it will also keep you. The Son with the Father will come to you. The great Prophet who will build the new Jerusalem will come, the one who makes all things new. This coming will fulfill what is written: As we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, we shall also bear the likeness of the heavenly man. Just as Adam's sin spread through all mankind and took hold of all, so Christ, who created and redeemed all, will glorify all, once he takes possession of all.



# From the Pastor's Desk

As we move toward the end of November, we come to the end of the Church's liturgical year and begin anew with the holy season of Advent.

In Advent, we move toward that which we already possess.

In haste, we go to meet Jesus Christ as we seek the love God has for us in Jesus Christ.

In a sense, Advent is a time to become a child again, admitting that God is still among us, surprising us into delight and wonder.

This journey, however, is not so gentle as a child in a mother's arms. This journey that we enter is also a race toward justice, hope and community. This is the journey toward our true home.

It is a journey toward living truth and resting secure in God.

Perhaps another way to look at this is to understand Advent as a time of learning heavenly wisdom.

The reading and prayers of the season

hopefully sharpen our awareness that the mystery of Christ's birth requires a change in our thinking and attitude regarding the human condition. This requires an adult exploration of faith.

We have to get beyond the cozy image of Mary and Joseph having a child in a stable with attentive animals and shepherds.

In this season, we need to awaken to our redemption in Jesus, to his ability to be in our human hearts and to be with us no matter how far we may have strayed.

We need to wake up to sin in our lives and to the human worries and attitudes that keep us unable to see the needs of our brothers and sisters.

As I say each year, don't waste Advent. Use the season to let go of resistance to love.

In our Advent worship, know that the Eucharist proclaims the love we hasten toward and the heavenly wisdom we call our own.



Join us for our third annual  
**Winterfest**  
from 6-8 p.m., Feb. 16  
in the parish center.

The event includes food and drinks, games, including bingo, a silent auction, a basket raffle, a 50-50 raffle and fellowship with other St. Bernard families.



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## The Bee

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

## 2018 Advent and Christmas season schedule

### Holy Day Masses and Reconciliation Schedule

#### Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)

Saturday, Dec. 8 8:15 a.m.

#### Private Confessions

Saturday, Dec. 8 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 15 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 22 3:45-4:45 p.m.

#### Private Confessions with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday, Dec. 5 6-7 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 11 5-6 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 18 6-8 p.m. (Two priests available)

Friday, Dec. 21 6-7 p.m.

### Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Monday, Dec. 24 4 p.m., Children's Choir,

6 p.m., Youth Choir, 9 p.m., Adult Choir

8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Day, Tuesday, Dec. 25 5 p.m.

The Holy Family, Saturday, Dec. 29 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

The Holy Family, Sunday, Dec. 30 5:00 p.m.

Vigil for Solemnity of Mary, Dec. 31 9:00 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Tuesday, Jan. 1

## Fr. Brian describes St. Bernard's future as an evangelizing parish

The following is a transcript of an Oct. 23 presentation by Fr. Brian:

We are starting on a new movement in the parish called "Reach More" (and) working with an organization called Evangelical Catholic.

It's kind of a paradigm shift for our parish. I said at the beginning, this isn't a program. Programs come and programs go. This is a movement. This will be on-going for years to come as we draw more and more people into this. This isn't about just getting together in small groups. This is about getting everyone in this parish ... on a relational basis ... on a one-on-one basis with people. Maybe sitting down and talking about the Sunday scriptures, talking about prayer opportunities and those sorts of things. It doesn't have an end. That's why I say it's a movement for the parish. It's a change to how we do things in the parish.

The Greek word for evangelization is good news, and the good news is Jesus. The church is more than just about teaching doctrine. We can teach all the doctrine in the world ... but we're really not living our faith.

I read a story recently about a college professor who taught a religious studies class. He said he could always tell who the Catholic students were and non-Catholic students were, because the non-Catholic students were much more willing to talk about their faith. He said that was true every year he taught that course. Catholics just do not engage other people in talking about their faith.

And that is where we have got to make the shift as a parish and as a church. It's the essential mission of the church. Our truest experience and truest vocation is with Jesus Christ and it's to evangelize. It is to live it, and it's to share it.

So what this movement is about is forming and equipping everyone, not just the staff and the priests, everyone out there as disciples. We can all say we are disciples now. We come to Mass on Sunday and take part in the sacraments. But we have to get out of the pews. We've got to relate to one another on a one-on-one basis. It's not all going to happen in church. It shouldn't all happen in church. The church is bigger than the church building. It is about everyone examining what are our core values. What are our core principles?

As an example, no child should have to get up on Sunday morning and ask his parents: Are we going to church today? It should be a given. It should be one of our core principles. Those are the things we should be looking at.

I talked about that this past Sunday



Susan Swanke, pictured in the center with guitar, meets with St. Bernard parishioners to discuss the Evangelical Catholic movement.

### Save the date!

A Mission Night will be held Feb. 24 here at St. Bernard to kick off the Lenten season and our small groups for Evangelical Catholic. See you there!

with the parents of our second-graders. I was using the Mass as the example, but what are our core values? And are we willing to share them and are we willing to live them? That is where I think this movement is going to take us. So the question for all of us to start asking ourselves is: How is God calling me?

We have got to get into this relational ministry. What do I mean by that? The small groups are so important, because that is where we can really share. Being in a small group can help us as individuals to learn and understand how we talk about our faith without shying away from it ... how we get beyond the fears.

I want to know how are you living Jesus Christ in your life. How are you willing to share that with other family members, a broader circle of friends or whoever you might be involved with? It's going to be a little bit different for every individual.

There is a parish in Milwaukee that is going into their sixth year with this. St. Charles parish in Hartland. Their pastor said this program has transformed their parish. Last Lent, they had 300 people in small groups. They have got to the point where they do one-on-one baptism preparation. Every candidate for Confirmation has a one-on-one partner to prepare them for the sacrament. It's not just these large groups of religious education on Sunday morning or Sunday night.

That is what I mean by relational ministry. Getting to that point where you can do some of this in a one-on-one personal way. That is where you can really share the faith. When you are in those personal small groups. That is where this movement is going to take us.

People need to think about what is your good news? What do you have to share? How has the good news touched your life? That is what I am talking about with relational ministry. I'm not talking about what do the documents of Vatican II say. I don't expect you to memorize that. But what I want is for people to be able to talk about is how is the gospel effecting you.

We are heading in this direction of the small groups at Lent. It is all based on prayer and scripture. The groups will not have a curriculum. The groups can kind of go their own direction a little bit ... on what interests them. That is where scripture comes in I think. Because scripture is such a diverse, wide open thing for discussion. There is no right or wrong answer all the time. A lot of how we view scripture is based on what we experience ... sometimes what we experience that day. It is a living thing. That's why it can really be a growth for us.

One of things we are going to do at Lent is the "One Percent Challenge." We are asking everyone to take one percent of their day -- 14 minutes -- for prayer and scripture. I think this can really change the whole paradigm of the parish.

I'm not saying what we are doing now is bad ... parishes have to grow. And that is where this movement will help move us forward. And that is where I want to go with this.

# Our History: The belles of St. Bernard Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi touch lives of parish families

By Ellen G. Krenke

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.

“My first goal was to have a parish school,” wrote Fr. Mack on the occasion of his 65th anniversary in the priesthood.

Sisters Mary Florian and Jane Frances, members of St. Francis of Assisi Convent in St. Francis, Wis., were the first teachers at St. Bernard.

The roots of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi go back to 1849 when Archbishop J. Martin Henni, convinced a small group of lay third-order Franciscans to emigrate from Bavaria to Milwaukee to serve as missionaries to the growing number of German immigrants.

In the 1870s, they shifted their primary ministry to teaching and worked in schools across the country, including St. Bernard.

In her notes from the first few months of school, Sr. Florian suggested that the teachers help the children to cross the “busy highway” (University Avenue); debates the appropriate age for kindergarten and decides that the Christmas gift exchange should include gifts “not more than 10 cents.”

As the weather cooled off, the men of the parish installed hooks around the outside wall, so the children would have a place to hang their coats, and Sr. Florian used the wooden boxes and crates the children had brought for their classroom projects as shelves for their boots.

An increase in enrollment to 107 in August of 1947 necessitated a temporary solution to the space problem. About 100 men of the parish, under the direction of Math Simon, worked from dusk to dawn to construct a one-room schoolhouse, also known as the “chicken coop.”

With a total of 147 pupils from kindergarten through fifth grade in 1948, four sisters and Sr. Celine, who was the first music teacher, were very busy. Sr. Justine Peters took over as the Sister Superior.

That same year, the parish purchased a house on University Avenue to be used as a convent by the sisters for \$12,000.

Until this time, the sisters had stayed with parish families and lived in rented apartments.

When they returned from Milwaukee in the fall of 1950, they were surprised by their new home.

In a letter dated Oct. 8, the sisters wrote: “When we left for Milwaukee in June, we had a vague dream of some renovation being planned for our home. When we returned this fall we were speechless at



the magical transformation that had taken place during our absence.

“So it is with full hearts that we say a humble and prayerful thank-you to all who have helped to make our convent-home more convenient, comfortable, and beautiful. Our only hope of repaying you in some small way is by our constant prayers for you and yours, and a renewed zeal in working among you.”

Four years later, a chapel and furnishings, including a television, were added to the convent.

Meanwhile, work on a permanent school had begun. Bishop William P. O’Connor blessed the cornerstone on Dec. 8, 1948.

When the doors of the new school opened in September of 1949, there was a total of 263 children in eight grades.

They were taught by five sisters and one lay teacher in six rooms, including: Sr. Jane Frances, who taught first grade; Sr. Rose Anthony with second grade; Rita Cavanaugh with third grade; Sr. Olga with fourth grade; Sr. Virgine with fifth and sixth grades and Sr. Justine, the superior, with seventh and eighth grades.

Fr. Mack reminded the sisters that about 100 of the students had never been in a Catholic school before, so they were a novelty to them.

By the fall of 1951, the parish population totaled 1,433 people. There were 638 children in the parish under 16 years of age, and 298 of them attended St. Bernard School.

Seven sisters were listed as teachers at St. Bernard, including: Sr. Jane Frances, first grade; Sr. Rose Anthony, second grade, Sr. Rose Angela, third grade, Sr. Mary Canisius, fourth grade; Sr. Olga, seventh grade and Sr. Philip, eighth grade and mother superior.

In 1952, the sisters remained in place,

except for Sr. Rose Angela who took over the fifth grade, Sr. Virgine, who returned to teach sixth grade and Sr. Georgiella with music.

“As a reminder, Father said that we, as teachers, should strive to inculcate in our pupils’ honesty in school, obedience, and respect for all in authority,” Sr. Philip wrote on Nov. 10, 1952.

For the next several years, the school continued to grow and the children continued to flourish under the sisters’ watchful eyes.

In 1959, the sisters led the students in the construction of the mosaic for the church sanctuary.

While bids on the cost of the mural ranged from \$25-60,000, the children and their teachers completed the work at a cost of \$7,000 in about five months.

“Finally, the enthusiasm, trust, confidence, faith, hope and love of the School Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi illuminated classroom, hall, home and playground when with humility they accepted the challenge to direct the children,” wrote Fr. Mack.

Also in the new church, the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi are depicted in the east stained glass window as they appeared at the time it was made, doing the work of mind, heart and hands.

In 1961, Sr. Jane Frances, who taught at St. Bernard for 15 years serving as the principal for the last six, left to teach at Cardinal Stritch College in Milwaukee.

Sr. Marita took over as the principal of St. Bernard school.

“If education is to be effective at all, it is necessary that the teaching profession be respected that teacher be regarded as first citizens, and that the same confidence and trust be place in the teacher’s decision that is placed in the word of a doctor – both experts in their fields,” she said.

“I was in second grade in 1963, and Sister Theonita was my teacher! I loved her all to crazy!” wrote Jeannie Ammirati, when a photo of the sisters was posted on the St. Bernard Facebook page. “She made me feel special! I loved my days at St. Bernard’s!”

In 1970, Sr. Jane Frances was the only sister still teaching at the school.

Because of the problem of obtaining lay teachers, a lack of teaching sisters and the rising cost of maintaining a Catholic school, the school was not reopened in the fall of 1974.

“The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi have had a great influence on their community over the years,” according to the parish history.



## ‘There were never such devoted sisters’

Top left: From 1949, Sr. Jane Frances, Sr. Rose Anthony, Sr. Olga, Sr. Virgine and Sr. Justine. Top right: The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi are honored in St. Bernard’s stained glass. Middle left: Franciscan Sisters who taught at St. Bernard School were among the guests at the centennial celebration held here at St. Bernard in 1989. Pictured here from left to right are: Sr. Joyce Schladweiler, 1963-64; Sr. Kathryn Fischer, known as Sr. M. Florian, who opened the school as teacher in 1948-49; Sr. Renee Costanzo, known as Sr. Marie De Lourdes, who taught from 1957-58; and Sr. Margaret Kohnen, known as Sr. Theonita, who taught from 1959-1963. Middle right: Sr. Helen Marie helps the students with the mosaic for the church’s sanctuary. Bottom left: Sr. Jane Frances receives a warm send-off from parishioners in 1961. Bottom right: Three sisters helped students and adults to clean out the old church before it was razed in 1958. The top enrollment at St. Bernard reached 380 pupils in eight grades.

# Our Church

## Family honors Blessed Virgin with orchids for over 40 years

By Ellen G. Krenke

A devotion to the Blessed Virgin prompted Walter and Magdalene Acker to place orchids on her altar here at St. Bernard every Friday for almost 30 years.

And when they sold “Orchids by the Ackers,” a local greenhouse to their daughter, Nancy, and her husband Stan Skolaski in 1990, the tribute continued.

“It was always important to them, and I kept up that tradition,” Nancy said. “It was also our way of thanking Mary for watching over us.”

“When we bought the business ... we never had a bad storm in all our years,” Stan said. “There was never a problem ... that was harmful to the business.”

He added that their small business became a very large business. They expanded from just orchid growing into annuals, perennials and poinsettias at Christmas.

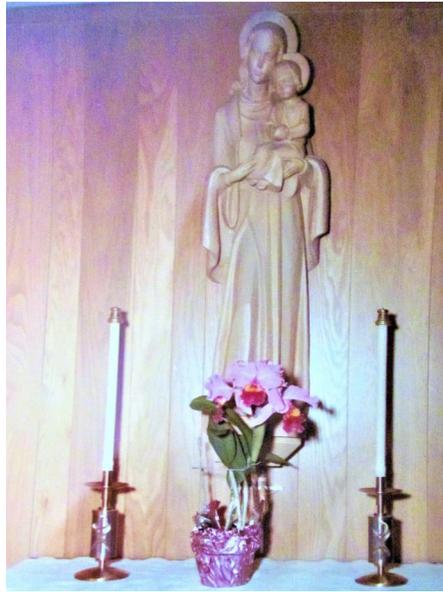
“We were very blessed. It was amazing what that business turned into. On Mother’s Day, we would have 500 paying customers, but the church always got its flowers on Friday.”

Even when they were on vacation, the couple made sure that flowers were placed on the altar.

“We honored Mary (with orchids and many other flowers) for all those years,” Nancy said.

When they sold the business in 2007, Stan and Nancy became volunteers at the Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison and with the parish environment committee.

Along with their work on the environ-



When Walter and Magdalene Acker were married by Monsignor Ferdinand Mack at St. Bernard in 1941, she carried a Bible and bouquet of Cattleya orchids and orange blossoms. Orchids, known as the “Queen of Flowers,” were placed on the Blessed Virgin’s altar by the Acker family for more than 40 years. They raised five children in St. Bernard parish. Their daughter Nancy was also married by Mack in 1977.

ment committee, they also worked with Tom Theis of the parish maintenance shop. They helped him with the grounds and answered any questions that he had about various plants.

Stan has also used his carpentry skills to build a barn wood cross for Easter and a crèche for Christmas.

When they were asked by Monsignor Doug Dushack, our former pastor, how to make things a little nicer in the parking lot, they suggested a perennial garden.

“We took that on as our own,” Stan said. “For about 10 years now.”

The garden was started with some plantings from their own yard and donations from friends.

**“The outside of the church should be a welcoming sight to the people, not just the inside.”**  
— Stan Skolaski

“It’s not the best environment out there in the middle of the parking lot, but God has helped us with timely rains,” Nancy said.

Each year, the couple adds a little color to the garden by planting annuals. They also do the weeding and watering when needed.

“The outside of the church should be a welcoming site to the people, not just the inside,” said Stan. “In order to do that, we have to keep it up.”

Whether it is flowers for the altar or in the parking lot, Stan and Nancy have made St. Bernard a beautiful place to worship.

And “that has always been our mission,” said Nancy.



Above photo, Nancy Acker decorates a Christmas tree in the sanctuary. Right photo, Stan Skolaski and Nancy Acker pull some weeds in one of their perennial gardens in the church parking lot.



# Candles: Lighting the way for faithful parishioners

By Ellen G. Krenke

After 7:30 Mass every Sunday morning, Patti Schiltz approaches the candle wall here at St. Bernard, drops in her donation and lights a candle for family and friends.

"I light one big candle for all of them," she said. "(And) I hope my prayers are doing something good."

Schiltz, who has been a parishioner here at St. Bernard for 36 years, said lighting a candle every week makes her feel good.

"It makes me feel I'm helping them out in some way."

When a family member or friend celebrates a birthday, she tells them: "The candles are burning for you!"

Candles have always had a role in the traditions of the Catholic Church.

"The tradition of lighting candles in remembrance of loved ones or for some special intention symbolizes that light of faith in seeking God's help," said Fr. Brian.

Candles are used here on the altar, near the tabernacle and in front of the statues of Mary and Joseph.

During Advent and Easter, a special candle is lit and the fire is passed on to parishioners holding smaller candles.

"From a practical standpoint, in the early days candles provided a source of light," said Fr. Brian. "In terms of Mass, candles are a sign of reverence and also add to the festive character of the celebration."

"Christ is the Light of the World. What better way to show it than through the use of candles and the light they shed. This is particularly true of the Paschal



Candle, commonly referred to as the Easter candle. It symbolizes the Light of the Risen Christ shining throughout the Church."

Barb Roberts, a St. Bernard parishioner, said that she lights a candle when her Small Faith Group meets as a symbol that Jesus is present as "The Light of the World."

Roberts said she does not light candles at church regularly, but when her grandchildren visit and attend Mass with her she will take them over to the candle wall.

"I really try to talk to them about how the candle is a prayer going up to God ... and that you are praying for someone by lighting a candle," she said.

Lighting candles is a tradition in the Catholic Church that seems to be very popular here at St. Bernard.

"The six-day candles go like hot cakes," said Tom Theis of our maintenance staff. "Because you get more bang for your buck."

"But I'm not sure how that works with your prayers. You will have to ask Father Brian about that."

Theis said every Monday morning, he usually has about 28 votive candles to replace. These smaller candles only burn for about eight hours.

Susan Swanke, who works in the parish office, said there are two reasons she lights a candle when visiting shrines around the country.

First, she quoted scriptures, which says, "Let my prayers rise up like incense before the Lord."

And finally, she likes to light a candle, because she knows her presence is still there at the shrine.

"I can't remain there to pray for the intentions that I left," she said. "So, the candle is there longer than I can remain."

During a recent visit to the East Coast, she was able to visit the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C., and the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Md.

"When I go to a shrine, I bring intentions with me, because I want to ask for (that saint's) help," she said.

"There is something healing about it. Seeing it lit and burning ... it gives me a sense of peace."

Swanke said she has some intentions that she has prayed for many years.

"I am always lifting up the people in my life whom I love," she said.

"God is attentive to me and He hears my prayers ... and (lighting a candle) helps me to realize that."

"A lit candle is a concrete symbol of God's concern for me ... and the things in my life that are important."

## The Tradition of the Advent Wreath

By Fr. Brian Wilk

The Advent wreath is one of the great traditions of our Christian faith.

Just as we have a beautiful wreath in church, I hope that you have one in your home as well.

The Advent wreath has its roots in Germany of the Middle Ages.

Here are a few of the characteristics:

- The circular wreath is a symbol of God's unending love for each of us.
- The evergreen branches are a symbol that even in the midst of winter when everything around us seems to be dying, these branches remain green and give us a renewed hope for the springtime to come.
- The three violet candles symbolize

the royalty of Jesus Christ our King and the rose candle symbolizes our joy that Christ came to this world to set us free from sin and darkness.

- The fruit displayed on the wreath is used to remind us of the beauty of the Garden of Eden, the creation of the world and the fall of Adam and Eve.

When left alone fruit will die, but when it is eaten, it become part of us and creates new life.

The weekly prayers used at the lighting of the candles proclaim hope, truth, joy and peace.

These are wonderful themes to meditate on our lives as we head to the promise of Christmas.



# Our people

## St. Bernard couple celebrates wedding at Saturday Mass

By Ellen G. Krenke

When Lauren McDonough was a little girl, she didn't dream of a big wedding.

"I never sat down and thought about it," she said. "The culture is to wear the white dress, have your own private ceremony and a big reception afterwards. That is what is in little girls' minds because of the movies and what they see in popular culture."

But Lauren met the love of her life, Ben Wolf, while playing recreational dodgeball here in Middleton. He proposed to her in Ireland, and she started to plan her wedding.

When she went dress shopping with her friends, she was not thrilled with the "wedding uniform."

"I realized that this wasn't for me," Lauren said. "(And) I was getting down about that."

One of Lauren's friends suggested that she didn't have to plan a traditional wedding. She could hold the wedding during a regular Mass like any other sacrament.

"That really struck a chord with me," said Lauren, who grew up in a big Irish-Catholic family. "I thought that sounds like a great idea!"

"Who we are as people, we like to be a little bit different too," said Ben. "Not so much of following the norm or the culture."

"The large scale fiasco is completely unnecessary. This just seems more like us having a more small-scale wedding."

"But in a very public place, said Lauren.

"With people we may not know," said Ben.

So, the couple met with Kevin Laufenberg, the pastoral associate here at St. Bernard, and asked if they could schedule their wedding during a regular Saturday night Mass.

"It is important for the community to see these sacraments that we don't witness on a regular basis," said Fr. Brian.

After they received Fr. Brian's approval, they had to pick a date.

"We knew we wanted to get married before the end of the year, so we went through all the readings and chose one that really fit a wedding," Lauren said.

On Nov. 3, the Gospel reading was about the greatest commandment: Love God and love your neighbor.

Ben and Lauren agreed that it was perfect.

So, the couple invited 40 immediate family members and their closest friends. The rest of the audience would be made



Fr. Brian blesses Ben Wolf and Lauren McDonough during their wedding Mass held on Nov. 3 here at St. Bernard.

up of St. Bernard parishioners.

There were no lavish decorations and matching wedding party members.

The music choices were left to the music director, but a friend from the parish, Leslie Sullivan, sang "Ave Maria" before Mass.

The lector, servers, ushers and gift bearers were also St. Bernard parishioners, but the rings were handed to them by the best man.

"We could have requested to have a specific person (in these roles)," said Ben.

"But we wanted it to be a community event," said Lauren.

Fr. Brian made an announcement about the wedding being included in the Mass on the previous Saturday, but that did not seem to keep the regular Saturday Mass-goers away.

"I hope that it peaks interest," said Ben. "You go to Mass for a purpose. You expect to have a similar thing. Then all of a sudden you have a marriage going on in front of you. I expect people to snap up in the pew and think why did I sit in the back today? What's

going on?"

"It is something totally different that I think people will enjoy seeing."

Ben was right.

"I saw all the people up front and thought it was a baptism, because we have those all the time, but not a wedding!" said Helen Drobnia. "It was very simple and elegant."

"I think more people should do that," said Carole Savage. "The focus is not only on the flowers and making sure all the colors match."

The ceremony was also envied by a few.

"I wish our wedding had been small and personal just like the one we saw tonight with Lauren and Ben," said Jill Hilbert.

"I didn't even know you could hold a wedding during Mass," said Savage.

After the couple processed to the back of church at the end of Mass, they were congratulated by smiling parishioners.

"They all looked so pretty and comfortable and in love," said Anne Blindt. "It was so lovely. I could see his face, and I could tell how much he loves her."

# King devoted to beautifying the sights, sounds at St. Bernard

By Ellen G. Krenke

Like a general directing her troops, Pat King stands back and points her cane at the areas of the sanctuary that need a little more attention.

More lights are needed on the left side of the Christmas tree or more lilies are needed to complete the Easter display. Nothing escapes her watchful eye.

And when it all comes together, when the church is decorated and the people are singing: "It is a sense of great joy," she said.

"The first goal is, of course, praise of the Lord. The underlying thing is to help the people in the pews worship in a more meaningful, spiritual way that gives praise to the Lord, but also fosters their own spirituality and brings them closer to God. You do that with beauty."

Beauty in the church and beauty in the music: King has had a hand in both here at St. Bernard for 30 years.

She started working at St. Bernard in 1988 as a temporary substitute for a staff member, who was on maternity leave.

When that staff member decided not to return, King was hired to guide our liturgy and music programs on a full-time basis.

"It was my ideal job," she said. "I loved working with Fr. Pat (Higgins) and the three associates ... they were very much tuned into great liturgy and great music. It was such a joy to work with them. We became such dear, close friends. It was a great place to work."

Before coming to St. Bernard, King served at parishes and churches in Indianapolis, Louisville, Connecticut and St. Thomas Aquinas in Madison.

"The longer I worked in the church, the more I fell in love with the liturgy," she said.

But music is her first love.

"I'm thrilled when (I) hear a whole congregation participating. Singing lustily ... into the music," King said. "I think one of our very strong points here is our singing of the psalms.

"To me, the psalms are such a prayerful experience and as we repeat them over and over, they come to have meaning. I feel with the repetition ... you can tell in our congregation the ones that they really know well.

"Music becomes prayer, and it's not just a matter of singing the (pieces)," she said. "When things become familiar, you don't have to think about them. So you can focus on the meaning of the text and then interiorize them ... make them your own."

King said her love of music and liturgy was formed as an undergraduate at St. Mary-of-the-Woods College in St. Mary's, Ind.

"That is where I had my first experience of playing for Mass and Benediction and being sent out to parishes to play for weddings and funerals," she said.

King then completed a master's degree in music from Indiana University.

"I wish I had been born 30 or 40 years later, so I could have gotten into liturgy right away," said King, who added that women were encouraged to be nurses or teachers when they graduated from college.

"I was pre-Vatican II during all my studies. Liturgy was not even an area of study."

When King moved to Connecticut in 1965, Vatican II was being finalized.

"We began to make a few changes in the parish that I worked with there," she said. "It was an exciting time. I fully embraced the Vatican II changes, and I was very fortunate in that all the priests that I worked for did too. We were able to move ahead and adapt changes."

Those changes included conducting the liturgy in English and using new music during the Mass.



Pat King, right, shows Stan Skolaski, also a member of the Environment Committee, which pumpkins she wants to use in the fall display.

"All those things really influenced me," she said. "Our pastors were very much on board with that. It was an exciting time to see the changes. See the role of the laity ... taking leadership roles in the church and becoming important members of the staff.

"And the liturgy being focused on not just on the priest, but on everybody having a role to do."

When she returned to school in the 1980s, King was in her mid-50s. "I knew I was out of date," she said. "I needed to be revitalized. And I was. It was a fabulous time."

She finished a master's degree in religious studies at Edgewood College in 1988, which included studies in liturgy at the University of Notre Dame.

"(This) degree was what truly formed my adult faith and commitment to service," King said. "The people and professors I came in contact with, religious and lay, were incredible people who to this day continue to influence my life."

In 1998, King retired from her liturgy and music position here at St. Bernard, but she remained active in the parish.

"It was a really hard decision," she said. "It was very hard for me to walk away. I missed it terribly."

She then took over as the lead for the environment committee, which was started by Fr. Tom Kelley.

In that position, King makes sure the church reflects its beauty throughout the year ... not just during the holidays.

"We have a beautiful church," she said. "A very unusual, unique church."

King said it is not hard to make our church beautiful. "It helps a whole lot when you have a great committee with a lot of talent, and we have had that through the years."

She added that the committee is like a small faith group.

"When you pray together and work together in the church, you aren't doing it for yourself. You are doing it for the benefit of the parish and the people of St. Bernard. It is a form of prayer. You just really bond together."

Like music and liturgy.

"All the elements work together, so that we praise God with as much joy and beauty as we are capable of doing."

# Our Community

## Gabor: On the front lines in the fight for human life

By Ellen G. Krenke

It's not easy praying in public.

It's not easy carving an hour out of our busy day to stand on a sidewalk as a witness for life.

It's not easy reaching out to a young woman, who is contemplating abortion.

It's not easy, but it is worth it.

"We are trying to educate people who have maybe never heard the message that life is a gift from our creator, God, and it is to be cherished," said Mike Gabor during a recent "Vigil for Life" shift at the Planned Parenthood office on the east side of Madison.

"They are not only destroying one human being but others along with it."

It is heartbreaking to watch as a father walks his young daughter into Planned Parenthood. They were the first customers of the day.

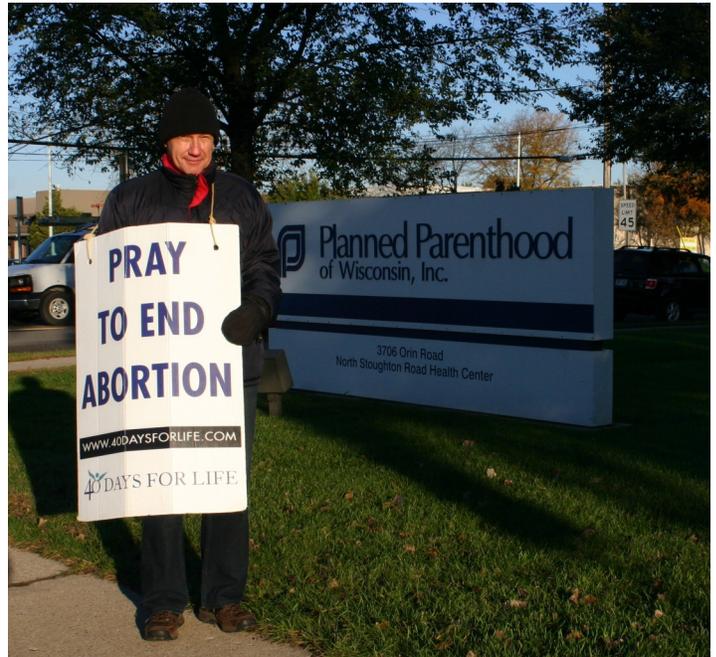
"Good morning! Do you know about the women's care center across the street? They have free services there. Can I give you some information? We only want what's good for you and your baby."

No response.

"Some days, we can't get anyone to take the brochure," said Gabor, who is a St. Bernard parishioner.

But it's not about the numbers. It's about making that contact. Because you never know when one of those young women will look in your direction.

And when they do: "That is a great feeling, because then you know there is something that opened their heart to say maybe I need more information," Gabor said. "You know that by the grace of God there might be an opening to give them counsel and support."



Mike Gabor walked many shifts during the Vigil for Life.

"It's difficult, because it is a 10-second walk from the car to the door of the clinic. That is why we call on the Holy Spirit to be our guide."

Gabor said his first shift at Planned Parenthood was not easy, but he had great teachers.

"It's all about reaching out with compassion. It's not judgmental in any way. It's not condescending. We're just letting them know that there are many resources out there for them."

Gabor said he is involved in the pro-life movement to save lives.

"I try to make them realize that doing business with Planned Parenthood only hurts them," he said. "Abortion destroys the child and seriously harms the woman and her partner. They just don't know it yet."

"My hope is to save one beating heart and to change one heart to see gift of life."

A woman and her friend and two couples also entered Planned Parenthood during Gabor's shift.

"Some people say that we shouldn't be doing this. Doing what? Trying to save people from destruction?"

Gabor, who retired in April, said he likes having more time to devote to various pro-life activities.

"It is something God put on my heart. He helped me understand the pain that is experienced when you destroy life. I can feel that. It was a grace given saying go tell people that there is a better way — a life-saving choice."

Gabor said he is impressed with the "grandmothers," who fill the daytime shifts at Planned Parenthood. "Their boldness is amazing," he said. "They aren't afraid of anything."

And others should not be afraid to stand up for life.

"Our mission is only a peaceful, prayerful presence," Gabor said. "Everyone who sees us knows that we are only out here to pray for and inform these women. We have never had any concern about our safety."

"It can be uncomfortable doing what Christ said to do: Take his Gospel out to the streets. But that is O.K. People are in need of that Gospel message. It is life-giving."

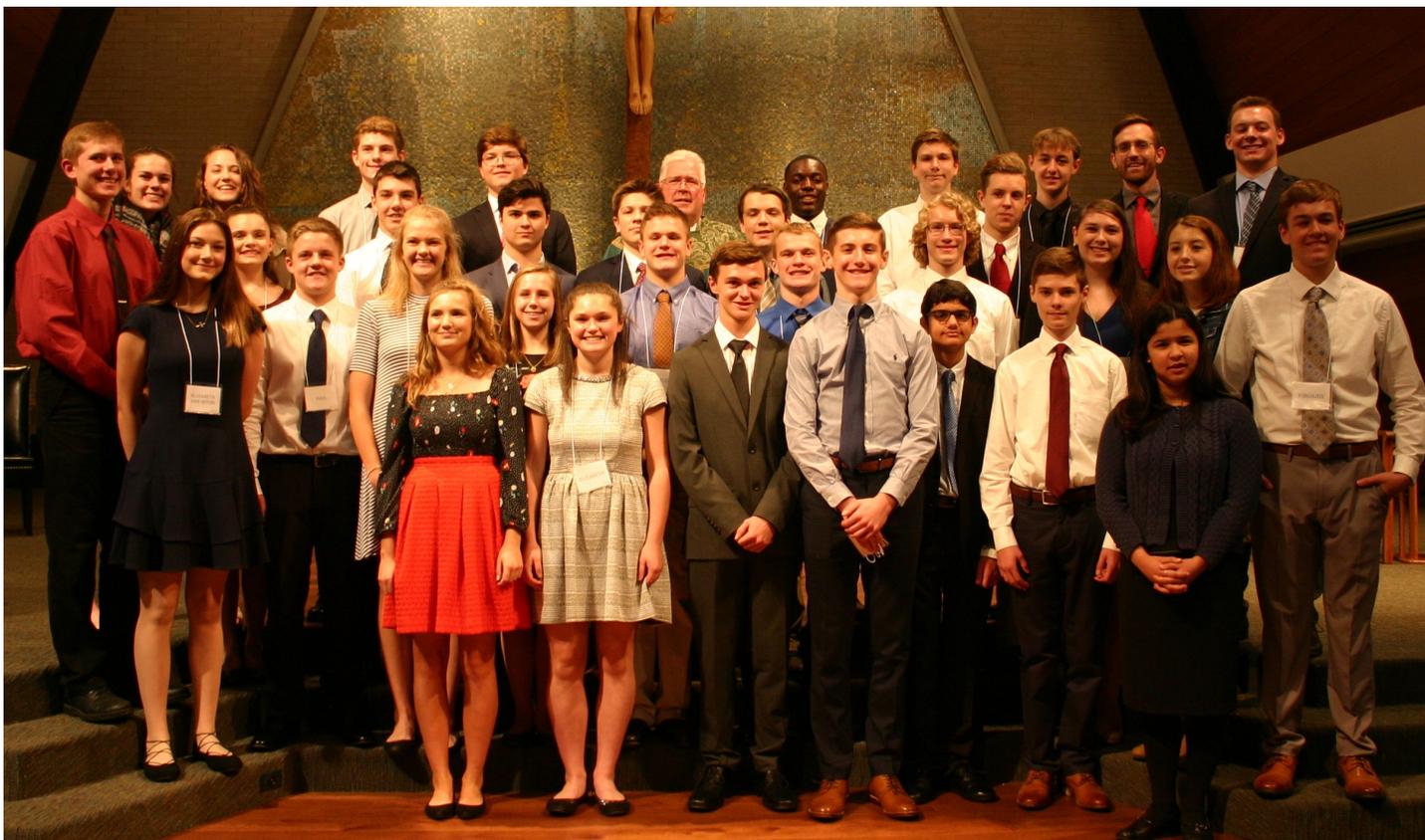
### In the Pews



Nick Simon has been a member of St. Bernard parish since the age of two. He received first communion with Fr. Tom Kelley in 1989, was confirmed by Fr. Pat Higgins in 1997 and married to his wife, Jane, by Fr. Doug Dushack in 2005. Jane was received into the Church in 2017. He said they love St. Bernard, because "it is family to us. We have gotten to know many families through the community and by attending Mass each week," he said. The Simons are both realtors with First Weber Group.

## Our Children

Four parishes celebrate Confirmation here at St. Bernard



Congratulations to high school students from St. Bernard, St. Peter in Ashton, St. Martin in Martinsville and Blessed Trinity in Lodi and Dane, who were confirmed on Oct. 28 here at St. Bernard parish with Fr. Brian Wilk officiating. Please keep these wonderful young people in your prayers as they continue to explore their faith.

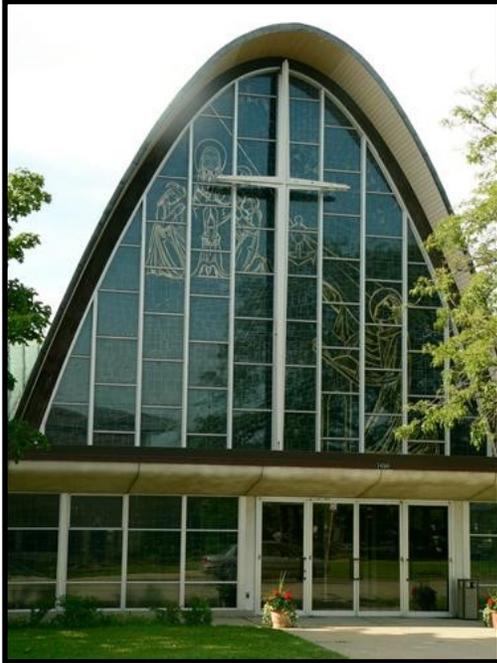
## ‘Old Befana’ makes welcome return to St. Bernard parish



We are excited to welcome back Ken Lonquist and his troupe to perform “The Legend of Old Befana” at 4 p.m., Jan. 6 in the church. A musical based on an ancient holiday story, Old Befana, puts an illuminating spin on that familiar night of miracles with three kings, a bright shining star and a very special child. This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served in the parish center immediately following the performance.

St. Bernard Catholic Church  
2015 Parmenter Street  
Middleton, WI 53562-2627  
608-831-6531

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

## Calendar of upcoming events at St. Bernard Catholic Church

### December

5 - Luke House meal  
5 - Young Adult Group  
5 - RCIA  
6 - SVdP Meeting  
**8 - Immaculate Conception**  
8-9 - SVdP Cookie Sale  
11 - KC Christmas party  
13 - Legatus Mass  
15 - Baptism Preparation  
17 - Human Needs meeting  
17 - Catholic Multicultural Center Meal  
**25 - Christmas Day**  
**31 - New Year's Eve**

### January

**1 - New Year's Day**  
2 - Luke House meal  
2 - RCIA  
3 - SVdP Meeting  
8 - KC Officer Meeting  
9 - Young Adult Group Meeting  
10 - Rosary Makers  
21 - Human Needs Meeting  
21 - Catholic Multicultural Center Meal  
22 - KC Rosary and Meeting  
24 - Parish Council Meeting

### February

1-3 - Frassati Fest in Wisconsin Dells  
6 - Luke House Meal  
6 - Young Adult Group Meeting  
6 - RCIA  
7 - SVdP Meeting  
12 - KC Officer Meeting  
14 - Rosary Makers  
16 - Winterfest  
18 - Human Needs Meeting  
18 - Catholic Multicultural Center Meal  
19 - Faith Formation Meeting  
24 - Evangelical Catholic Mission Night  
26 - KC Rosary and Meeting