



Middleton, WI

St. Bernard Catholic Church

Winter 2020

Planning begins for renovation of parish center

A virtual town hall is currently being planned to discuss the renovation of St. Bernard's parish center, which is set to begin in the spring.

"I hope to discuss the plan and solicit feedback on this project from parishioners," said Fr. Brian.

A formal presentation will also be made to the parish council.

Current meeting restrictions complicate the scheduling of these events, but you will be notified in Fr. Brian's weekly email when the dates are set.

"My vision is for people to go through this space to get into the church," he said about the project.

"My big goal was I wanted people to be able to get into a space ... without having to go outside and into another building and to have it all connected. That was the impetus from a community standpoint.

"When you look at what other parishes have in the area ... they have that space where people can just gather."

After some fundraising and approval by the diocese, Fr. Brian said the goal would be to break ground in April or May of 2021.

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

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

They have also completed projects for St. Joseph Parish in Baraboo, an adoration chapel for Sacred Heart Parish in Reedsburg and a renovation of the school at St. Luke Parish in Plain, Wis.

"They have a real sensitivity to the (Catholic) church," said Fr. Brian. "And to the architecture of our church."

Many of their ideas for the parish center are curved to mimic the arches in the church.



Fr. Brian Wilk, the pastor of St. Bernard parish, meets with architects from Architectural Design Consultants, Inc., in Lake Delton to discuss his ideas for the renovation of the parish center.

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

- A terraced front garden area for outdoor meetings;
- A completely renovated kitchen with new appliances;
- The current restrooms will be relocated in the space and a nursing room will be added to the women's restroom;
- New serving area for coffee and snacks will be added directly adjacent to the kitchen;
- The current room that is partitioned from the parish center will be used as a storage room for tables, chairs and larger kitchen items;
- In the area outside of the parish center, the display case and closet will be removed and the doorway into the church will be widened to make the exit

less of a choke point; and

-A glass wall will remain along the garden side of the gathering space, so "we can maintain the natural light going through the stained glass windows into the church," said Fr. Brian.

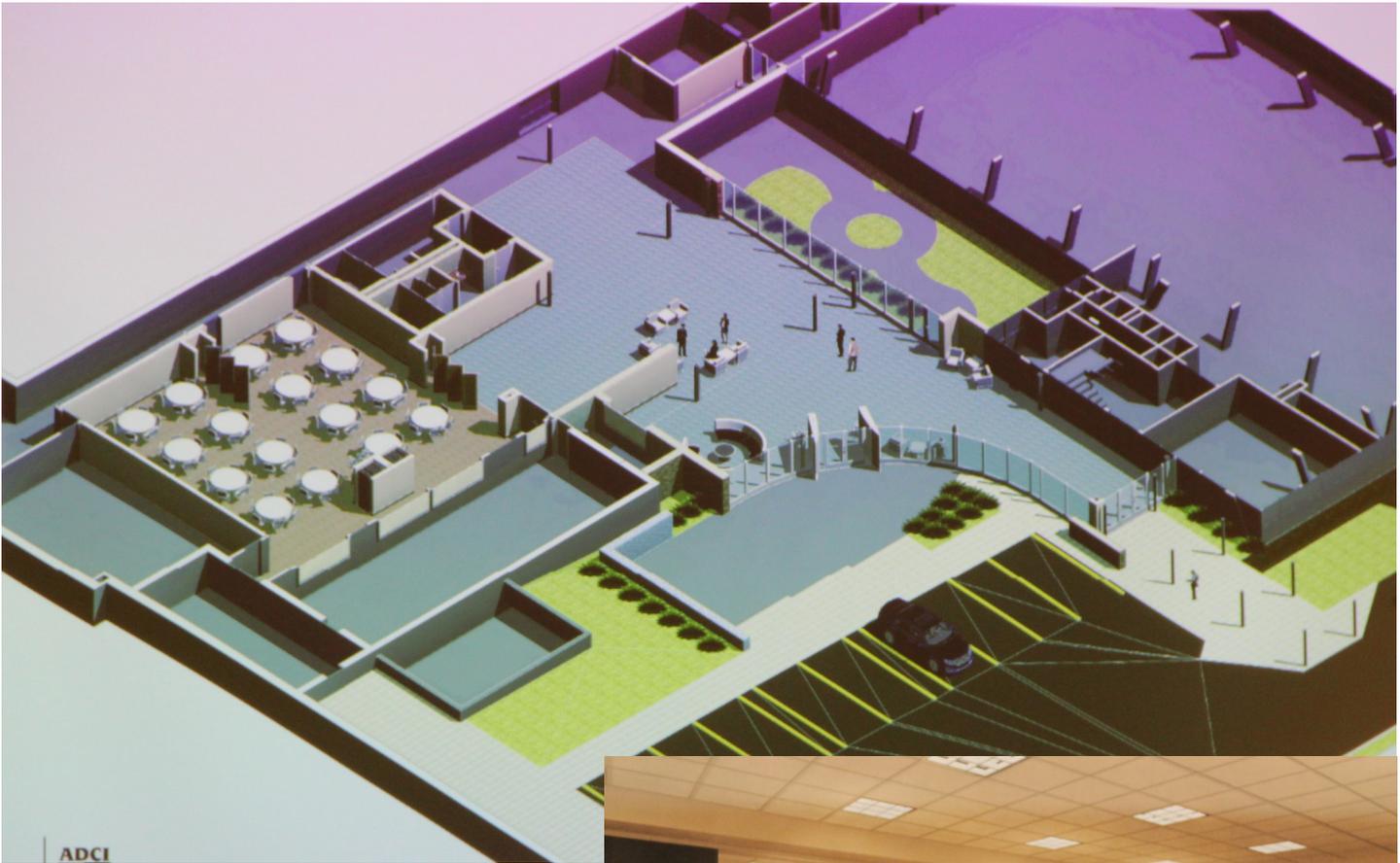
The entire space will be multi-functional with partitions available for small meetings and the possibility of using the space for overflow during the holidays, Fr. Brian said.

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

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

"I think what the architects did in the space that we have is a real nice-looking, functional project," said Fr. Brian.

Continued on pages 2 and 3



Above photo: Rendering from Architectural Design Consultants, Inc., of the new parish center. **Right photo:** Inside view of the meeting space, which can be partitioned into bigger or smaller areas. More on page 3.

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Bee Merry and Bright!

The Bee

Publisher: Rev. Brian Wilk
Editor: Ellen Krenke
Contributors: Rev. Brian Wilk, Ellen Krenke, Kevin Laufenberg and Joy Bauman.
 “The Bee” is a quarterly publication of St. Bernard Catholic Church.



2020 Advent and Christmas season schedule

Reconciliation Schedule Private Confessions

Thursday, Dec. 3	5-6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 5	9-10 a.m.
Saturday, Dec. 5	3:45-4:45 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 9	7-8 p.m. (As part of “An Hour with Jesus”)
Saturday, Dec. 12	3:45-4:45 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 15	5-6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 19	3:45-4:45 p.m.

Christmas and New Year’s Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24	4 p.m., 6 p.m., 9 p.m.
Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25	8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
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.



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Once the plans are finalized, they will be presented to Bishop Hying and the Diocesan Building Commission.

With a green light from the diocese, Fr. Brian will then start the fundraising process with the help of the diocese stewardship office.

The parish will need 50 percent of the money for the diocese to approve the project.

The construction company gave Fr. Brian a rough estimate of \$2.6 million for the renovation.

He estimates that it will take another \$400,00 for furniture and accessories for a total of \$3 million.

Fr. Brian said he has already received \$1 million from an anonymous donor for the project.

“So, I think it is a goal that we could meet,” he said.

Fr. Brian said the parish’s finance council also approved moving leftover funds from the St. Bernard statue, the church bathroom renovation and the Annual Catholic Appeal rebate from the diocese to the building fund.

“I think for the broad vision of the parish ... we have been trying to do things with community, so I think this will be a huge step forward.

“I think if people look at the parishes around us ... what their physical plant looks like and in terms of what they do ... to me this is a no-brainer.”

Top photo: Here is a parking lot view of the new glass entrance to the gathering space between the church and the parish center.

Middle photo: Inside view looking toward the garden area between the parish center and the church. **Bottom photo:** Inside view of entrances and gathering area between church and parish center.



Impaired driver damages church on Oct. 5



St. Bernard was the site of a single vehicle accident involving an alleged drunken driver early on the morning of Oct. 5.

Fr. Brian Wilk, the pastor, said he was called by the Middleton Police Department at about 1 a.m., after damage was found at the southwest corner of the church at the corner of Parmenter Street and University Avenue.

The damage included a brick wall along the west side of the church property, a side entrance door and several stained glass windows.

Fr. Brian thanked the Middleton Police Department, Middleton EMS and the Middleton Fire District for their response.

"I was married here, I was baptized here," St. Bernard parishioner Gary Gillitzer, who is the district's assistant fire chief, told a reporter from WKOW. "So yeah, it hurts and I just think some of it is going to be very hard to replace."

As of Nov. 18, contractors have been hired to repair the structural damage, the heating system and the stained glass windows. Work on the building and heating is expected to start soon, while the stained glass repair will start in the spring.



Top photo: Fr. Brian talks to Kris Twining, an agent from Catholic Mutual Group.

Left photo: Fr. Brian shows Bishop Donald J. Hying where the vehicle entered church property.

Bottom left photo: Members of the Middleton Fire Department helped Tom Theis, our maintenance supervisor, clean up the crash site.

Bottom right photo: Part of the rosary wall was destroyed in the crash.



Bishop encourages all to seek holiness in the new year

Bishop Donald J. Hying intends to mark the beginning of Advent and this second phase of “Go Make Disciples” on Nov. 29 by a public proclamation of faith that culminates in a call to repentance and renewal to prepare the way for the Lord in our hearts.

Here is a description of Phase 2 titled, “Seeking Holiness” from the Diocese of Madison website:

“Our hope for this phase of renewed focus on the pursuit of holiness is that all those who consider themselves practicing Catholics would strive ever more ardently and intentionally to make continual progress in holiness by growing in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

“For our priests in particular, our hope is that they would both preach about the importance of daily prayer and teach others how to pray with renewed vigor and ardor, especially preaching and teaching about how to pray with Scripture; that they would both teach about and model in their own lives a commitment to daily prayer and asceticism; and that they would promote and make available frequent use of the sacrament of confession.

“For all those who consider themselves practicing Catholics, our hope is that they would grow in reverence and devotion for the holy Mass; that they would attend Mass faithfully on all Sundays and holy days of obligation, and even more often when possible; that they would honor the Lord’s day by intentionally living Sunday as a day of rest, avoiding all unnecessary work, housework, yardwork, shopping, or other mundane activities, in order to dedicate the whole day to God, family, and community in the joy of the Resurrection; that they would commit to praying at least 15 minutes per day, especially with Scrip-

All those who consider themselves practicing Catholics will:

- Prioritize Sunday as the Lord’s Day in their personal and professional lives.
- Commit to spending at least 15 minutes per day in prayer, ideally praying often with Scripture.
- Make asceticism (voluntary practices of self-denial) a regular part of their daily lives, beginning with at least the mandatory observance of Fridays as penitential days throughout the year.
- Develop or strengthen a habit of going to confession regularly, ideally at least once per month.

ture; that they would make voluntary practices of self-denial a regular part of their daily lives in order to be conformed more perfectly to our crucified Lord and Savior; that they make frequent use of the sacrament of confession; and that they would see themselves as spiritual mentors for others, especially parents for their own children.

“Growing ever closer to the Lord in prayer, we hope to experience the transformation of our daily lives, with a greater sense of joy in the Lord, a greater sense of peace in our hearts and homes, and greater confidence in making decisions guided by divine providence.

“For all those who consider themselves practicing Catholics to grow in holiness through a deepening of their interior lives by more intense prayer and mortification.”

Here are some thoughts from Hying on “Reclaiming Sundays:”

“Sunday is the Day of the Lord, for it

was on Easter that Jesus Christ rose from the dead and changed human destiny forever.

Saturday, as the seventh day of the week for the Jews, serves as the Sabbath or day of rest, when God rested from the work of creation in Genesis.

Because of the resurrection, Christians moved the Sabbath to Sunday, either the first day of the week or the eighth day, eight being the Scriptural number symbolizing eternity.

Every Sunday is a mini-Easter, a day of rest, the Sabbath dedicated to honoring the victory of Christ over the powers of sin and death.

Sunday Mass is the center of our Catholic faith and practice, as we gather to worship God, hear the Word, share in the death and rising of the Lord and receive the most Holy Eucharist.

Additionally, Sundays should be days free of servile work, dedicated to worship, prayer, time spent with family and friends, rest, study and works of charity.

In this way, we honor the meaning of Sabbath and the primacy of our relationship with God.

“Given that Sunday has simply become part of the “weekend” in our culture, when work, chores and sports keeps it from being Sabbath for us, a significant goal of our Go Make Disciples initiative is to grow in both understanding and practice of Sunday in its Christian context and meaning among our people.

A theologian succinctly put it this way: ‘If you want to drain Christianity of its power, drain Sunday of its meaning and practice.’ Conversely, we can say that the more believers understand and live Sunday as Sabbath in its profound meaning, the more Christian we will become. “



Our History

St. Nick's visit wraps up annual event trimmed with family activities

"Breakfast with St. Nick" was a fun family event held at the beginning of Advent here at St. Bernard Parish from 1998-2004.

"It combines both faith formation components as well as an Advent celebration (for) family fun and fellowship," according to a project report filed by David Fuccillo in 2004.

"The event celebrates the feast of St. Nicholas of Myra (of the Byzantine Catholic Church). It is an intergenerational faith formation opportunity."

Adult volunteers provided the backbone the event, while youth volunteers from the Confirmation class provided the manpower.

Along with the breakfast, the morning event was seasoned with music from the Angel Choir and a movie, trimmed with time for crafts, including sugar cookie decorating, and a food collection for the Middleton Outreach Ministry food pantry and wrapped up with a special visit from St. Nick.

One year, the crafts included the decoration of placemats for local nursing homes to use during the holidays.

Each child was also given a treat, such as a stocking filled with goodies or a coloring book and candy cane.

"I believe people really do like this event," wrote Fuccillo.



Our Community

Pastoral care: 'Essential' and 'frustrating' during pandemic

By Ellen G. Krenke

Providing pastoral care for St. Bernard parishioners during the pandemic has been a challenge for our pastoral team.

"It is frustrating," said Kevin Laufenberg, the pastoral associate here at St. Bernard Parish. "You get so many close connections with the people that you visit on a regular basis -- whether it be once a month or once a week or a few times a year -- you develop something and that is missing."

And even when he is able to connect with parishioners, Laufenberg said there isn't much to talk about.

"They want to know what is going on at the parish, but there aren't too many weddings, there aren't too many funerals and (Father Brian) is doing o.k."

"After about five minutes, you are kind of stretching for things to talk about," he said. "And it is the same way on the other end. They can't tell you what they are doing or what they have done, because they aren't really doing anything."

But talking isn't the only purpose of Laufenberg's visits.

The biggest part is praying together and distribution of the Eucharist.

"Praying over the phone is just not the same as it is in person," he said. "And everybody that you go and meet, you had a little routine with."

"They would prepare their little area where we would sit and pray. Some would have something that they put out every time like a candle or a cross or crucifix or they would put their rosary out there to make it holy."

"You can't see that over the phone. I really miss them a lot."

On the brighter side, Laufenberg said he plans to reach out to all parishioners over the age of 80 and those of any age who are homebound during the holidays.

"We will be sending something to them to let them know that we haven't forgotten about them, and we want them to keep up their prayer life," he said.

This year's care package for about 150 parishioners will include: an Advent calendar, which will give them something to look forward to each day; a holy card; a booklet of prayers and some other small items.

"It has been a plus to reach out and see different names," Laufenberg said. "We want to contact all of them ... especially during this time."

Since the pandemic started in March, our pastoral care team which includes



Kevin Laufenberg inspects an Advent calendar he ordered for this year's care packages for our homebound parishioners.

Laufenberg and Fr. Brian, has been restricted from visiting with parishioners in their homes and at nursing homes and senior living centers.

"At first, we just couldn't see them at all, and then a few of the places started opening for outside visits when the weather was nice," Laufenberg said.

The Diocese of Madison also mandated that lay ministers stop their visits.

"They have since loosened up on that," Laufenberg said. "But we still have to work according to what is allowed at the individual homes."

Laufenberg said he looks forward to the day when he can meet with parishioners again.

"I think it will be gradual. I don't think it will be overnight. It will take a while to get everybody in a safe way."

"Especially working with older people. They are more vulnerable. No matter what we have to be more cautious in our dealings with them ... when that time comes."

When he is able to distribute the Eucharist again, Laufenberg said he would be willing to meet a parishioner at their front door, "because they really hunger for the Eucharist," he said.

"They might feel more safe receiving Communion at the door instead of me coming in and sitting down inside the building, and I would be more than happy with that. And I'm sure Father (Brian) would be fine with that too."

Church rites do allow for a brief Communion ceremony in a hospital setting.

"It is a short prayer service that is

done in three or four minutes. I am thinking that this is about the same kind of situation."

Until that time, Laufenberg's advice is to be patient, "and we will be there ... when you feel safe and when we deem it safe too."

Pastoral care, said Laufenberg, is "essential" to any parish.

"It is the older people that have always been there for the church throughout the years and ministered to others in times past in different ways -- helping with parish dinners or at Masses."

"When they get to the point in their lives -- which we all will -- where we can't do that anymore, then they have to know that we are going to be able minister to them in thankfulness and in God's mandate to help those -- especially the elderly and the widowed and those that are more vulnerable -- that need ministering to."

"We can never do enough. We never really can say we have the perfect ministry. I have never found a parish that has yet ... there is always more that we can do."

Laufenberg said the parishioners who he visits are so grateful, especially those who cannot get to church.

"That you would go out of the way to visit them and bring the Eucharist to them. It is their connection to the parish."

"When I go, I always take a bulletin. Some people just like to hold it. This is something from church. They also love the prayer books that we get during Advent and Lent."

Laufenberg said the parishioners who he has talked with look forward to the day when they can meet with their friends and hug their children and grandchildren.

"One blessing for those in care facilities is that there is a lot of other people that they can interact with, because they are in their bubble," he said.

"People in their own home have a caregiver or child to check on them once or twice a day, but the majority of the day they are sitting home alone. All they have is the TV and the occasional phone call."

Laufenberg said he recently visited his own father in Juneau, Wis.

"He said, 'I haven't seen you since July.'"

"We talk once or twice a week, but I didn't realize it was that long. He wanted to shake my hand, but we couldn't. He said, 'Well, at least I got to see you.'"

"It is weird, and it is that way for all of us."

SVdP home visits become phone calls during pandemic

By Ellen G. Krenke

"We are the servants of the poor, they are our masters." –St. Vincent

Two years ago, a struggling Middleton family was referred to the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVdP) conference here at St. Bernard.

Connie and Neal Bickler were scheduled to conduct home visits for the conference that week, so they set up a meeting with the family in their apartment.

"Visits to those in need should be made in their environment, whenever possible, wherever they are," according to SVdP statutes.

"It is just so nice to get to see the people, they see you, we do say a prayer ... for them and their family," said Connie. "It is just a lot more personal."

It is in their homes that Vincentians learn enough about the individuals and families that they are serving to help them in the best way possible.

During this visit, the Bicklers got to know the husband who was finishing school, the working mother who just gave birth to twins and a younger child.

They made a list of their needs, and the conference voted to help them with some overdue bills.

In December of that year, the family also participated in the Little Drummer Boy program. Our parish donates children's gifts to the program every year.

"My kids actually had a nice Christ-

mas this year!" the mother told Connie.

That was the last time that Connie heard from the family until October.

This time, it was the mother and the children who needed help with their bills.

The Bicklers were not able to meet with her in person, because of the pandemic, but they did communicate via phone calls, texts and email.

"She was real embarrassed," Connie said. "But she didn't know where else to turn. So, she asked, 'Is there any way you guys could help me out again?'"

The conference voted at their October meeting to provide the family with diapers, groceries and money for their medical bills.

At the November meeting, Connie read a note from the family:

Thank you so much for supporting me during this time. I really appreciate the help with groceries, diapers and medical bills. You all are angels! Thank you for taking time to hear me out and for "being there." I'm humbled by your support. Blessings, Keiva

Bickler said it is the only thank you letter the conference has ever received, and conference members were touched by the mother's words.

"She is amazing," said Connie. "Now she feels like she is caught up and she can manage. It is things like that that are wonderful."

During the 2018 fiscal year, the con-

ference conducted 35 home visits. This year, there were 13, only four of which were in a home.

"Everything is done through technology now," said Neal. "You really lose that person-to-person contact, which is the part that we look forward to."

Since they are unable to meet in person, SVdP members must also send a voucher for the Dig and Save thrift store via text or email.

Despite the recent drop in numbers, the Bicklers, who have been involved with the conference for about 10 years, said there is still a need for the conference's services in the community.

During the winter months, they expect to get more requests for "energy visits," which will also be conducted over the phone, text or email.

After these visits, conference members decide how to help someone struggling with a water, heat or electric bill.

Connie said the conference will continue to adjust to their new environment and looks forward to the day when they can meet with individuals and families in their homes again.

"When the good Lord decides its time ... I think it is His way of showing all of us that we need to slow down and treat each other better."

Until that time, Bickler said it is important for all of us to: "Love your neighbor."



NEW GUY—Kevin Moran is the new organizer of St. Bernard's Luke House volunteers. He has been a member of the group for two years. He said he likes working with the group, because "it makes me feel good to do something for other people who need the help."

How can you have Christmas without ‘Silent Night?’

By Joy Bauman

If you had told me a year ago that we would be planning for an Advent and Christmas season in 2020 without choirs and congregational singing, I would have laughed in your face.

Advent without singing “O Come, O Come Emmanuel?” And how can you have Christmas without singing “Silent Night” in church?

As the director of music, this stark reality of a “quieter” church Christmas is a bit challenging for my spirit.

It’s not a stretch to say this has been a tough year for pretty much everyone, and

I think we were all hoping and praying that by Christmas, we’d be gathering together in church and welcoming the birth of the Christ child like we do every year – with voices raised in song and the church full of sound!

But that’s not to be this year. While we won’t be able to have every voice sing or enjoy the beautiful prelude music our choirs would provide before our Christmas Eve Masses, there will still be music – maybe some instrumental, maybe some vocal solos.

People long to hear the familiar songs of Christmas when they come to church

and we want to keep that treasured tradition going.

If you’ll be joining us virtually, I hope you and your family will sing out those carols in your homes!

As I write this, I’m still trying to figure out exactly what the music will look like for Christmas this year. We all know how quickly things can change with this pandemic.

But one thing is certain. Even though Christmas 2020 will look and feel different this year, the love, joy, and hope that come from the celebration of the birth of Jesus remain constant and strong.

Parishioners share favorite Christmas carols

When asked for their favorite Christmas carol, St. Bernard parishioners pretty much stuck to the classics ... with a few exceptions.

Here are a few responses that we got and why the carol is their favorite:

Dick Horan (pictured right): “My favorite Christmas Carol is Silent Night. When I was in Southeast Asia in the late ‘60s, Ann Margret sang it at the Bob Hope USO show and it reminded me that I was away from home. It brought tears to my eyes.”



Georgine Jacobs: One of my favorite Christmas hymns is “Still, Still, Still.” It makes me imagine the young Blessed Mother singing a loving lullaby to baby Jesus to calm him to sleep. It gives me a warm sense of peace and comfort.

Colleen Getty: My favorite is “The Little Drummer Boy.” The image of Mary nodding and the infant smiling at the little drummer boy to play his drum is special to me. I like to visualize it.

Andrew Wagner: Growing up my mother had a life size porcelain baby Jesus in a manger which would appear Christmas morning when we would sing “Away in the Manger” after reading the Gospel and before opening gifts.

Jill Kubek: Oh, so many favorites! But I’ll go with “A Cradle in Bethlehem.” It seems to transform me to the scene of Christ’s birth and gives me goosebumps every time I hear it.

Janet Cibula: This may sound strange, but one of my favorite songs is “The Friendly Beasts.” When I was about 8 or 9 year old, the children’s choir sang this song at our Christmas program. I had a solo for the donkey part. (I said the don-



Ann Margret sang “Silent Night” at several military bases with Bob Hope’s USO Tour in Southeast Asia in 1968.

key all shaggy and brown, I carried his mother up hill and down. I carried her safely to Bethlehem town, I said the donkey all shaggy and brown). The church recorded the program, and the music was on a 78 rpm record. My mother would play it every Christmas Eve at our family gatherings for many, many years!

Carol Nilles: Hard question, but I really like “O, Holy Night” mainly because of the dramatic music from a calm “O Holy Night” to a resounding “Fall on your knees!”

Mike Spiewak: “The Little Drummer Boy.” I used to like singing it in grade school choir when my voice was an alto. Now my family tells me to just hum!

Jill Hilbert: Well, this is a hard one: As a child I remember in first grade learning “Away in the Manger” at St.

Raphael's Cathedral Grade School in Madison, being taught by Sister Marie Theodore. So I would say as a child that was a favorite. Growing older I always love to hear “What Child is This.”

Madeline Laufenberg: “I’m Dreaming of a White Christmas,” because I loved the way Bing Crosby sang it! Also because snow on Christmas Eve made me think of a beautiful fantasy land.

Joyce Simon: “Silent Night.” I think it is a beautiful, calming and joyous song. It expresses so much hope for the world.

Connie Bickler: My all-time favorite Christmas Carol is “Silent Night.” I love it because when I listen to the words and quiet music, I close my eyes and can visualize the Blessed Virgin Mary holding her swaddled newborn son.

Jane Maly: My favorite Christmas Carol is “Oh Holy Night.” Growing up we lived in a small village where the Catholic Church was the center of the community. It stood on the top of a hill and we lived at the base of that hill. On Christmas Eve, our family would walk to church for Midnight Mass. The walk was so beautiful, the winter night calm and cold and extremely quiet. The stars were so bright. We would search for the brightest and declare it the Star of Bethlehem.

Inside, the church smelled of fresh cut pine and incense. The life-size nativity resembled a cave and was surrounded by pine trees with blue lights. It was a magical sight, and we were filled with hope and happy anticipation for the birth of Baby Jesus.

Years later, when I first heard “Oh Holy Night,” I was touched by the beautiful lyrics and how much they reminded me of the hope and promise we felt on those long-ago Christmas Eves. This carol is so much my favorite that Jerry and I had it sung at our Christmas-time wedding.

Wood begins fourth year of formation to permanent diaconate

By Ellen G. Krenke

Like many other students, Craig Wood is trying to stay flexible during the pandemic.

But it isn't easy.

"There is no comparison to being (in the classroom) in person," said the fourth-year diaconate student. "You need that togetherness."

Wood finished his third year of formation in the permanent diaconate program with the Diocese of La Crosse in April and May via Zoom.

This semester, the candidates will meet in person while practicing good social distancing and wearing face masks.

His studies will include church history and the new evangelization.

His pastoral field education exercise for the semester is understanding the ministry to charity.

"There is so much we learn, but I am enthusiastically absorbing it!" said the St. Bernard parishioner.

"Part of that process is you learn all the things that you need to learn and it stays ... in the mind, but in time you have to make it come from the heart, especially when preaching," said Wood.

"What you tell the congregation has to come from the heart and not your head like a college lecture."

Spiritual formation is also an essential part of the entire program.

"Like the priest and the bishop, the deacon must have a solid, strong foundation of prayer for himself and for the people he serves," said Wood.



"I care for people. I am happy for them in good times. I hurt for them in bad times, too.

"As a deacon, I look forward to walking with them at all times."

—Craig Wood

He still looks forward to serving in the ministry, "but no longer like the kid on Christmas morning," said Wood.

"I have found many parallels between entering this (program) and entering a marriage. That initial excitement ... does not completely die out, but it

(changes) as you get down to the business of being married.

"I realize that I am not worthy to do this (the diaconate) - none of us are truly worthy of God's call, but feel I was called and I will trust in God's mercy and love and support in wherever this may take me."

With each year, Wood said he is gaining a better understanding of the diaconate's real purpose.

"A big part of it is to help out," he said. "We have more priests than we have had in a long time, but there will never be enough for the needs of our diocese."

"The deacon provides that bridge between the altar, where the graces of God through Christ and through the Holy Spirit flow from, and the community.

"He takes the graces out to the parish community and even beyond," Wood said. "The deacon, then, takes the needs of the community back to the parish and also back to the diocese."

"Part of my job as a deacon will be to get to know our particular community of Catholics, non-Catholic Christians, even the unchurched and to learn what they are thinking, what they are feeling, and what their concerns are."

There are many parts to being a deacon, but Wood likes to focus on the people.

"I care for people," he said. "I am happy for them in good times. I hurt for them in bad times, too."

"As a deacon, I look forward to walking with them at all times."

REST IN PEACE



List of St. Bernard's deceased from November 2019 to October 2020

2019

Milford Urban – Nov. 17
 Michael Raymond Doll – Nov. 27
 Duane A. Eller – Nov. 30
 Lucille L. Reisinger – Dec. 6
 Ron Grzeszkowiak – Dec. 8
 Thomas L. Wirth – Dec. 9
 Kimberly Kay Herrling – Dec. 17
 Charlene Dahmen – Dec. 20
 Michael Scott Nicholson – Dec. 26
 Hazel M. Rieck – Dec. 27
 Beatrice Hellenbrand – Dec. 28
 Rosemarie Lasecki – Dec. 28

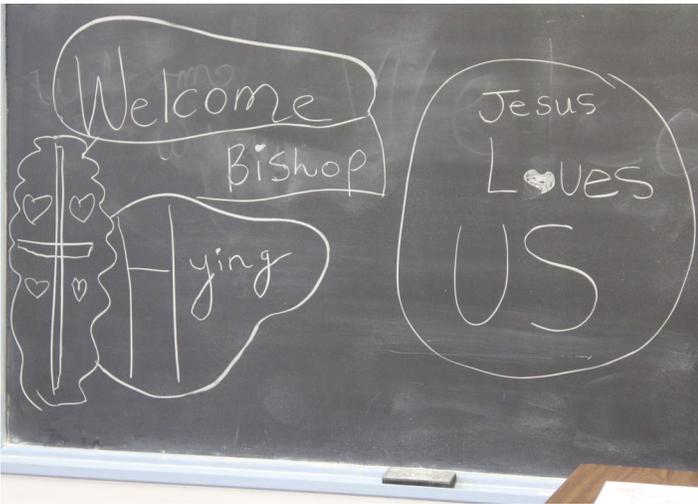
2020

Helen G. Sanftleben – Jan. 17
 Alice E. Schmitz – Jan. 18
 Gilbert Esser – Jan. 21
 Alfred J. Nonn – Jan. 25
 Joseph Cunningham – Feb. 1
 Doris June Frederick – Feb. 1
 Emogene M. Frederick – Feb. 3
 Thomas Michael Julian – Feb. 14
 Leonard W. Buechner – Feb. 28
 Caroline Ann Fitzgerald – March 1
 Lambert "Lon" Lasecki – April 11
 Virginia Butler-Haugen – May 21
 Rene M. Dupuis – May 23
 Elden "Eldie" V. Cushman – May 27
 Dolores Marie Acker – June 9

Mary Lou Kuehn – June 22
 Paul Louis King – July 10
 Raymond Eugene Kadrmas – July 23
 Ruth Clare Wood – Aug. 3
 Florian C. Dahmen – Aug. 10
 Patricia A. May – Aug. 13
 Marjorie Sawyer – Sept. 1
 Carol Jane Fogarty – Sept. 8
 Dolores "Dolly" Shivelier – Sept. 8
 Chris R. Lively – Sept. 11
 Bennett R. Ammerman – Sept. 14
 Michael Silbaugh – Oct. 4
 Jane Nix – Oct. 9
 Sarah Urben – Oct. 27

Our Children

Bishop visits with Our Lady's Good Helpers preschoolers



Preschoolers from Our Lady's Good Helpers welcomed Bishop Donald J. Hying of the Diocese of Madison to their new location here at St. Bernard parish on Nov. 17.

Hying visited each of the classrooms and read "A Tale of Three Trees" to the children.

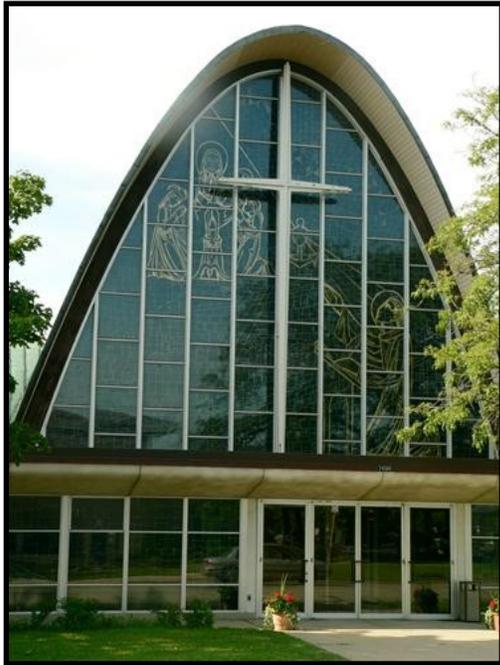
Bridget Yallaly, one of the group organizers, said they looked forward to showing Hying a little about the ministry and getting some encouragement from him as parents striving to raise their children in the faith.

"We can only say our hearts are full of gratitude for the warm and gracious welcome we have received at St. Bernard," she said. "Fr. Brian has been so kind and has stopped by the classes nearly every week to say hello. This has such a personal impact on not only the children but the parents as well."



Above left photo: A welcome message on the chalk board. **Above right:** Bishop Hying stretches with the children during their morning song. **Above photo:** One student shows off his latest craft project, a shield with the Virgin Mary colored on the front. **Left photo:** Bishop Hying reads "A Tale of Three Trees" to the children.

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



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

Calendar of upcoming events at St. Bernard Catholic Church

December

2 - Luke House Meal Program
3 - SVdP Meeting
8 - Immaculate Conception
9 - An Hour with Jesus
12-13 - KC Magnet Sale
15 - Human Needs Meeting
16 - Young Adults Group
21 - CMC Meal Program
22 - KC Rosary and Meeting
25 - Christmas
27 - Holy Family
31 - New Year's Eve

January

1 - New Year's Day
6 - Luke House Meal Program
7 - SVdP Meeting
13 - An Hour with Jesus
14 - Rosary Makers
18 - CMC Meal Program
19 - Human Needs Meeting
21 - KC Novena for Life
26 - KC Rosary and Meeting
28 - Red Cross Blood Drive

February

3 - Luke House Meal Program
4 - SVdP Meeting
10 - An Hour with Jesus
15 - CMC Meal Program
16 - Human Needs Meeting
23 - KC Rosary and Meeting
TBD - Winterfest

(Please note: These meetings are subject to change due to the pandemic.)