



Middleton, WI

St. Bernard Catholic Church

Spring 2023

Bishop dedicates new Higgins Hall, gathering space



Fr. Brian introduces Bishop Donald J. Hying, who blessed the new gathering space and parish hall, now known as Msgr. Higgins Hall, on March 19 with many parishioners, Fr. Tom Kelly, pictured above right, and several members of Msgr. Joseph “Pat” Higgins’ family in attendance. The \$3 million project features several new highlights, including an updated kitchen and meeting spaces.



INTO THE DEEP

The “Into the Deep” website
can be found at:
www.intothedeepmadison.org

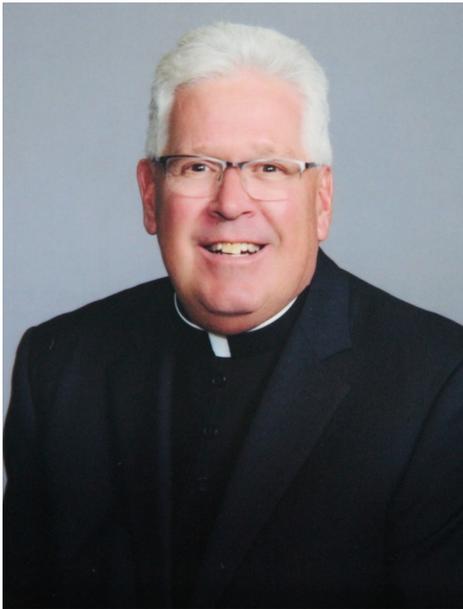
Please see this website
for more information and updates
on the diocesan initiative
to plan for the future.

Holy Week Schedule

Thursday, April 6 at 7 p.m.: Mass of the Lord’s Supper
Friday, April 7 at 1 p.m.: Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord
Saturday, April 8: Blessing of Easter Food at 10 a.m., Easter Vigil at 8 p.m.
Sunday, April 9: Easter Masses at 7:30, 9 and 11 a.m.

Reconciliation Schedule

Regular Reconciliation Schedule:
Every Saturday - 3:30-4:30 p.m.
No Reconciliation on April 8, Holy Saturday



Blessing of the Easter baskets

Fr. Brian will bless your Easter foods at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 9 in the church.

Bring your foods in a basket for this short Eastern European ceremony.



The Bee

Publisher: Rev. Brian Wilk

Editor: Ellen Krenke

Contributors: Rev. Brian Wilk, Ellen Krenke, Laura Angle, Geno Finn, Jenna Ripp and LaVonne Kadrmas.

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

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‘A sense of new life’ at St. Bernard

We are happy to present the latest edition of the St. Bernard newsletter, “The Bee.”

Please read, enjoy and share with others who you think might have an interest,

Many things are happening. The addition and renovations to our facilities have been completed.

However, a few outdoor things will be done once the weather improves.

The reaction from all who have seen things is overwhelmingly positive.

My thanks goes to all who supported this project in so many ways.

From financial support, prayer support and encouraging words I am deeply grateful.

As Bishop Hying said at the dedication this provides beautiful space for getting to know one another and building community.

It is a sense of community we can take into the church. It is also an opportunity to take the community that we build during the Mass out to be shared and celebrated.

As part of the “Into the Deep” Strategic Planning Initiative of the Diocese of Madison, St. Bernard will join with St. Francis Xavier, St. Peter, St. Martin and St. Mary parishes to form a new pastorate beginning on July 1, 2023.

By July 1, 2024, these parishes will be merged into one new canonical parish.

Fr. Scott Jablonski will become administrator of the pastorate. He will be

assisted by Parochial Vicars Michael Wanta and Brian Dulli.

As part of this, Bishop Hying has asked me to take on a new assignment. I will be administrator of Our Lady Queen of Peace and St. Thomas Aquinas Parishes in Madison on July.

It is an exciting and challenging opportunity for me. I do appreciate the bishop’s confidence in making this appointment. I will have more to say about all of this later in the spring.

With projects being completed and parishes facing changes it brings about a sense of new life.

“With projects being completed and parishes facing changes it brings about a sense of new life.”

—Fr. Brian

Easter is about new life for each of us. It is about the promise of eternal life given us through the resurrection of Jesus.

Jesus rose as a sign to those who loved him and followed him that God’s love is stronger than death.

At Easter, we still feel the pain of the world, the pain in our families and among friends and the pain in our own hearts.

However, a new element has been introduced into our lives.

It does not remove the pain, but it gives it meaning. It lights it up with hope.

All is different because Jesus is alive and speaks his words of peace to us as he spoke them to the apostles.

Happy Easter. Rejoice! He is risen! Alleluia!

Thank you for your continued support of our parish. Blessings! Fr. Brian



Fr. Brian shows a construction worker where to hang a crucifix in the new gathering space outside of Msgr. Higgins Hall.



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Discovering God's love for us through Confession

By Laura Angle

Saying "I'm sorry" takes guts.

It's an act of vulnerability to admit that you've done something wrong. It's not a sign of weakness but of courage, to confront something difficult instead of hiding or ignoring it.

It's a fight toward strengthening relationships.

One time, I was crossing the street with three of my friend's children. I got across with two of them in front of me and assumed the third was right behind, but that wasn't the case.

The three-year-old had decided to stop in the middle of the road! I was horrified and embarrassed that I hadn't been watching her closely enough and had put her at risk.

Later that day, I told my friend that I was sorry and that I felt ashamed that I had fallen short of keeping her kids safe. She knew how much I wanted to protect her children, and she forgave me.

Without that encounter of forgiveness, she may have silently worried that I was unaware of the importance of safety. She may have stopped asking me to babysit. There would have been a strain on our friendship.

I'm not proud of that experience, but I am glad I mustered the courage to bring it up to her, and it prompted me to be more careful in the future.

Asking for forgiveness puts yourself at the mercy of the other person. Your heart may beat fast, and you may feel nervous or awkward.

You're choosing discomfort in the pursuit of a greater good, putting your reputation on the line and admitting your failings so that there can be reconciliation, growth and healing.

It's a courageous act.

Confession is our opportunity to be brave and say "I'm sorry" to God.

We acknowledge what we've done wrong and ask for His mercy. And the amazing reality is that He always grants it to us!

Every time we come to Him sincerely and humbly, He responds with open arms, welcoming us into a closer relationship

with Him. No one is excluded from the reach of God's merciful love.

I had a life-changing Confession experience years ago after which I realized the weight of the consequences of my sin.

Something I had been wrestling with finally became clear, and I knew how deeply a sin I had struggled with wounded my relationship with God.

I knew I couldn't carry that weight on my own and needed to formally tell God I was sorry, so I sought out the soonest Confession time I could find.

I was shaking and sweating as I stood in line. Tears of guilt and sorrow streamed down my face as I shared my sins with the priest.

His tenderness toward me and the way he rejoiced that I came to reconcile myself to God was so touching.

The priest's fatherly response was a beautiful experience of God's mercy.

Leaving the confessional, I felt much lighter with great gratitude for His forgiveness and with a renewed strength to fight temptations as they would inevitably arise.

Confession isn't just a yearly obligation. It's a chance to confront the truth that we aren't as good as we want to be.

And through this admission, we discover the immensity of God's merciful love for us and receive the power of His Spirit reawakened within us.

My favorite part of Confession is hearing the words of the priest in the prayer of absolution, "May God grant you pardon and peace."

As these words, I feel my muscles relax, my heart open, and my burdens lift. Gratitude washes over me as I receive the graces that God pours out on me.

Admitting wrongs takes guts, yet it leads to a truer understanding of ourselves and stronger relationships with God and those around us.

We really can find pardon and peace. And isn't that worth fighting the things that hold us back?

Three St. Bernard parishioners tour Holy Land with bishop

Three St. Bernard parishioners joined a tour of holy sites in Israel with Bishop Donald J. Hying of the Diocese of Madison in late January.

Dale and Joanne Ganske (pictured right with Hying) and Linda Lenzin said they enjoyed their time with the bishop on the 10-day trip.

On their second day, they attended a Mass at the Wedding Church of Cana celebrated by the bishop.

All of the married couples on the tour were invited to renew their wedding vows while at the church. (Certificate photo inset.)

"We were looking forward to doing it!" said Joanne.

"As long as the wife asked the husband ... just in case she did not want to renew them ... but that was just a chuckle among the couples and the bishop!"

During the Mass, Joanne said the bishop reminded them of their commitment and vocation to each other.

The Ganske's will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary on June 19, 2023. They were married here at St. Bernard Parish.

"We were thrilled to participate and did look forward to the event as our friends, who went to Cana some years before us told us about it," said Joanne

The transformation of water into wine at the wedding at Cana is the first miracle attributed to Jesus in the Gospel of John.





40 FACES OF LENT

We asked St. Bernard parishioners three questions:

- 1) What does Lent mean to you?
- 2) What is one thing you do to observe Lent and why?
- 3) What is one word or phrase that captures the meaning of Lent for you?

Here are their responses. You may find that you have a lot in common with them!



1. Lent gives us a chance to pause and think about our relationship with God. Attending daily Mass and praying the rosary during Lent helps me feel closer to Jesus. Giving up desserts--which I really enjoy--and doing small things for others gives me purpose. —Mary Handel

2. A priest we met said why not do something extra during this time as a way to reflect and experience Christ's love: help feed the poor, do community service, help the sick or visit those in the nursing homes. We usually try to pick a couple of these each Lent as well as go to Wednesday Stations and pray more rosaries. One word that means Lent? Prepare! —Barb Bohringer



3. Lent makes me feel like I want to be more religious and say extra prayers. I like to do a random act of kindness each day — at least one! I want to work on becoming a better person and Catholic. —Jan Claus



4. To me, Lent means further development of self sacrifice for the good of the other (love) and development self discipline in order to hear and appreciate Jesus' sacrifice for me. Sacrifice is a sign of love. Jesus sacrificed his life out of love for me and all of humankind. —Georgine Jacobs



5. Lent reminds us of our faith and atonement for our sins or short comings. We try during those 40 days to become one with Christ and to try to find ways to live a better life, a more caring life through prayer and giving of ourselves. Forgiving wrongs. One word: Ora Pro Nobis. Asking the Saints to pray for all of us. We all need help in this world and asking for it by praying to the saints just seems like the thing to do. —Jill Hilbert



6. Lent means getting my heart and soul ready for the Easter season. I use extra meditations to reflect on and pray and extra acts of kindness, because it is important to spread the love! This year, Lent means "Holy Moments" inspired by the book from Fr. Brian. —Helen Drobniak



7. Lent is something I look forward to--like a part-time retreat with an inspiring ending. I make time or take vacation days off, so that I can attend the Triduum. It's just key to our faith, and it shows respect for the sacrifices this man, Jesus Christ, made on our behalf. —Jo Ann Wagner Novak



8. I devote extra time during Lent to meditate on the Paschal Mystery: Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. There is no Easter without Good Friday. We are called to carry our crosses in life, to unite our suffering with Jesus. —Tom Enright



9. Lent comes each year, as a designated short period of time to review my perception of the suffering and death of Jesus from Nazareth. Not very easy to do, 2000+ years after the event. And I ask this "God Made Man" to accept my efforts and failings, and to give me and my human family the wisdom to understand His ultimate redemptive mission. —Hank Simon



10. Poignant moments for me during Lent are during the Last Supper when Jesus initiates the Eucharist. Jesus recognizes his fate that night, and the faith of the disciples is tested. We all have times our faith is tested, however, the Eucharist is our salvation. —



11. To me, Lent means stripping away unnecessary elements of life. By giving up luxuries and eating simpler meals, we are reminded of what is truly needed. We also focus on the most basic elements of our faith--the death and resurrection of Jesus. This helps bring me back to the simple but absolute faith I had as a child. —Teresa Kidarsa



12. Born and raised Lutheran, I didn't understand Lent until I went to Mardi Gras —the practice of celebrating before dedicating the next 40 days to reconnecting or reconciling with God. Good works! —Bob Krenke



13. Time to reflect before Jesus sacrifices for us and gives us eternal life in the resurrection. I like saying the rosary. This was something my mom did when she was alive. Just gives me time to meditate and reflect. One word: Reflection. —Maria Nevarez



14. I spend even more time than usual in private prayer with God as Jesus did so much during His time on earth. This means giving up certain activities or routines that I'm used to in order to make room for extra time with God. Renewal. —Deacon Craig Wood



15. Lent means an opportunity to become a better person and to grow closer to God. Increased prayer and less non-productive time on the computer means more time dedicating my life to God and doing good deeds for others. Repentance. —Jeanette Head



16. Lent means a time to reflect on the past and what I need to do to become a better person and agent of God. I increase my prayers and reflections. I also try to improve my time for Confession. Hope. —JoAnna Richard



17. Lent reminds me that my sins caused the Lord's suffering. Lent gives me joy knowing that the resurrection of Jesus Christ proves how much He loves us and is showing us that everlasting life is possible if we choose to follow in His footsteps. —Bonnie Anderson



18. To me, Lent means an opportunity to recognize my many blessings, most notably the relationships I have developed. (A priest) inspired me to make a list of 40 friends and reach out to one each day of the Lenten season to let them know how much their friendship meant to me. It was very powerful and one that I have tried to replicate in years since. As a result, if I were to summarize Lent in one word it would be “friendships.”—Luke Fuszard



19. My teaching mentor and friend for more than 40 years recently had a stroke and is in rehabilitation for cognition and speech. Even though it's a 60-minute roundtrip commute I feel honored to visit her each week. Knowing how much my visits brightened her day, I was able to connect hundreds of teachers she has mentored to send cards, make a call, visit, etc. This brightens so many more of her days as she recovers. When I leave each time and I kiss her goodbye, she holds on tight and tells me she loves me. And then I begin to wonder am I the giver this Lent or am I the receiver? Either way, it will be a special Lenten season and beyond. —Sheila Hibner



20. We make sacrifices during this season without complaint, so that we can feel closer to Jesus during this season and show Jesus our deep love for Him. We discuss daily what deeds we have done to help others. —Carol Mottram



21. In our fast-paced world it is refreshing to still the external noise and quiet ourselves to hear God more fully in our lives.—Barb Roberts



22. It's an opportunity for deeper reflection and prayer about what is important to my family and I. It's also a time for us to pause and be extra mindful of how we are honoring our faith.—Jerry McNerney



23. Lent is a time of renewal when I can take time to concentrate on the most important thing in life. Jesus Christ! Behold the Lamb of God!—Joe Gugel



24. A few years ago I joined a faith group that met during Lent. I found that spending time with others, learning and understanding more about the Gospels helped make Lent a more meaningful time. Not just giving up something, but finding ways to become closer to God by how we conduct ourselves daily.—Diane Dohse



25. For me, Lent is a time of reflection and a time for growing closer to God. That is my goal throughout the year as well, but the Lenten season inspires and requires me to raise the bar. I also think of Lent as a time of renewal and so the sacrament of Reconciliation weighs heavily on my mind during this season.—Brenda Gaab



26. Lent is the time we prepare for Easter by prayer, doing good deeds and self-denial. It is also a time to focus on our need for God's forgiveness and mercy. I try to do one nice thing for someone each day of Lent. I also try add extra prayers and extra Masses during the week. Repentance and Forgiveness.— Jane Maly



27. Lent means another try at discovering who I am and what God wants me to do, while I am still alive.—Margaret Bomber



28. Repentance or thinking about and acknowledging my failings. I pick something I would like to eliminate or minimize in my life, consider it daily. One word: Improve me.—Tony Bickel



29. Lent is a time for spiritual training. It's like an athlete training for a big game day win, except our Lenten training is to win Heaven. We can love Him by loving others.—Joyce and John Fasanella



30. For several years, I've cut back on using social media during Lent. Social media promises connection with people, but too often I find myself mindlessly scrolling with little positive benefits to show for it. When I avoid social media and make a special effort to spend more time studying the Bible, praying, etc, I feel more at peace. Quiet reflection.—Marc Collins



31. Lent is a time of “renewal.” Lent offers us the time to again hear the message of Jesus' mission and for us to respond to that mission. He came to redeem us and offer salvation so we can be with God our Father again.—Tim Bergs



32. Lent means a time to do some penance of some kind and pray for all in need of a prayer. We give up treats except on Sundays during Lent as that is penance for us and do something nice for someone who needs it. Reflect on all our blessings.—Ann Johnston



33. One way I practice sacrifice during Lent is by fasting each Friday, extending the exercise beyond Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting provides a frequent reminder for me of the suffering Jesus and so many martyrs throughout history have endured for our faith. —Scott Braaten



34. To me, Lent is giving something up to gain something more. In the past, I have focused on giving three genuine compliments to three other people each day. Seeing their smile was more worthy than whatever I had decided to give up.—Claire Rothering



35. Lent is a time of self reflection and deeper connection with God. It is a time to reset, putting our relationship with God back on top. Above whatever distractions/gratifications that are competing for our attention.—Payton Hanson



36. Be kinder. That's what Lent means to me, we should all be kinder to one another year round but during lent I think about it more and try harder.— Suzanne Beckman



37. Instead of giving up things, I try to do more things like getting in touch with people I haven't been in touch with for a long time.—LaVonne Kadrmas



38. Last year I took one day each week to devote the whole day to prayer. I tried not to check email and kept my phone at a distance for that one day each week. It really reminded me that God is our goal rather than all the things we allow to take up time and space. With this time and information, I felt I could re-enter the community renewed in myself and trust that God is uniquely and collectively present to each of us. —Chantel Schmitz



39. When I was growing up my Mother went to church everyday in Lent. I once asked her why she did that, and she told me she had so much to pray for with her large family of 14. She also had so much to be thankful for. This was how she prepared herself for Lent.—Connie Bickler



40. I am an old guy, who normally wakes up at 3 a.m. each day. In that amazing quiet time, I pray to our Heavenly Father and try to focus on the unimaginably tragic, but hopeful journey of Jesus. This represents my somewhat insignificant journey with God during the Lenten period.—Neal Bickler

Our History

Parishioner's remains returned to waiting family, friends



After his death, a plaque in memory of William L. “Sonny” Simon was added to the Simon monument at St. Bernard cemetery in Middleton. His parents, George and Margaret Simon, are both buried there.

On Dec. 12, 2022, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that Army Pfc. William L. Simon, killed during World War II, was accounted for on Nov. 29, 2022.

In November 1944, Simon was assigned to Company G, 2nd Battalion, 109th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division.

His unit was engaged in battle with German forces near Hürtgen, Germany, in the Hürtgen Forest, where he was reported killed in action on Nov. 5.

Following the end of the war, the American Graves Registration Command was tasked with investigating and recovering missing American personnel in Europe, according to DPAA.

“They conducted several investigations in the Hürtgen area between 1946 and 1950 but were unable to identify Simon’s remains. He was declared nonrecoverable on Dec. 10, 1950.

“While studying unresolved American losses in the Hürtgen area, a DPAA historian determined that one set of unidentified remains, designated X-5767 Neuville, recovered in a field south of Hürtgen in 1946 possibly belonged to Simon.

“The remains, which had been buried in Ardennes American Cemetery in 1950, were disinterred in April 2019 and sent to the DPAA laboratory at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, for identification.”

DPAA announced in February that Simon was the 50th identification made in their Huertgen Forest Project.

Simon, who was a member of St. Bernard parish, was 20 years old. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star medal and the Purple Heart.

In his last letter to his family dated Oct. 28, Simon said he was attached to his company headquarters acting as a messenger for his platoon.

“His ability to lead, his keen competitive spirit, his “never-say-die” determination combined with his faithfulness to duty and gentlemanliness have won him many friends not only in our parish but also in the entire community,” wrote Monsignor Ferdinand A. Mack, the pastor of St. Bernard, in a recommendation letter for Simon.

Simon, who was a member of St. Bernard parish, was 20 years old.

He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star medal and the Purple Heart.

He graduated in 1943 from Middleton High School, where he excelled in four sports: football, basketball, boxing and baseball.

About a month after graduation, Simon enlisted in the Army. He trained at Fort Bliss, Texas, Camp Chaffee, Ark., and Fort Meade, Md., before being sent to England on Aug. 21, 1943.

After his death, a plaque in memory of Sonny was added to the Simon monument at St. Bernard cemetery.

Simon’s name is also recorded on the Tablets of the Missing at the Netherlands American Cemetery, an American Battle Monuments Commission in Margraten, along with others missing from World War II.

His funeral was held here at St. Bernard Parish on March 28 with family and friends in attendance. He was buried alongside his parents, George and Margaret, in St. Bernard cemetery.

Each unknown soldier that DPAA identifies means one more American service member returned to a family, community and nation. “Seeing soldiers going back to their families who have waited decades for answers is the most fulfilling part of this job,” said Dr. Traci L. VanDeest, the Huertgen Forest lead.

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Fr. Endres: Priest, coach, project manager, volunteer fireman

By Ellen G. Krenke

Fr. Alfred P. Endres, an assistant priest here at St. Bernard from 1951-60, was a man of many talents.

“Blessed indeed was the day in June of 1951 that brought Father Alfred Endres, a native of Cross Plains, Wisconsin, to serve a(s) full-time curate,” wrote Fr. Ferdinand Mack, the first pastor of St. Bernard Parish in 1954.

“His zeal and all-inclusive love of humanity is known by the entire community.”

Endres was ordained on May 5, 1951, and St. Bernard was his first assignment.

In addition to his duties as a priest, he also assisted Mack as the supervisor of the construction of the new church in 1952.

In his remarks at the dedication of the new church in 1959, Mack said: “How blessed this parish has been throughout the years that he has served us, but especially in the year of construction of the church.

“I don’t think that any truer word can be said than this—he was the most valuable unpaid employee that any construction job has ever had.

“Ask any of the contractors and workmen what an eagle eye he had.

“We pray that God gives him a most fruitful priesthood.”

Mack’s prayers were heard on that day.

Endres was a priest for 39 years in the Diocese of Madison.

While at St. Bernard, Endres also took on the role of volunteer firefighter with the Middleton Fire District in 1956.

“One morning the fire sirens went off during Mass,” said former parishioner Mary S. Kingston. “I have never seen a Mass go that fast ... so he could answer the call.”

And although Endres was an excellent project manager and fireman, he was apparently lacking in coaching skills ... or maybe just talent.

According to “The Weekly Snooper,” which was published by the St. Bernard eighth grade class in 1955: “Father Endres and the St. Bernard team backed by their loyal cheer leaders and fans put in an arduous though none too rewarding football and basketball season; but with the coming of spring and baseball, hope is running high.”

In 1956, Jerry Frisch, a former student at St. Bernard School, was on Fr. Endres’ undefeated eighth grade team.



MIDDLETON FIRE DEPARTMENT
- 1956 -
FR. ALFRED P. ENDRES, HENRY SANDER, WILSON GROTH, MELVIN BACHR
S BECKER, JAMES MAULBETSCH, JAKE SCHLIMP, LEONARD LAMBERTY, L.E.GRUBER, KENNETH MEEHAN, ED HICKMAN, ALFRED S

“Fr. Endres was very excited,” he said. “He had coached football for several years and for the first time he had a winning team.

“Well, we went onto the championship game only to lose. Father Endres was just very pleased with the whole season. He was such a nice guy.”

Jean Gmeinder said the students appreciated the time that Fr. Endres spent with them. He also visited their classrooms and chaperoned a field trip to a toboggan run in Madison.



Top photo: Fr. Alfred Endres is pictured with the Middleton Fire Department in 1956. Above photo, Fr. Endres talks with Msgr. Ferdinand Mack, the first pastor of St. Bernard Parish. Top right photo: Fr. Endres consults with parish members on the plans for the new St. Bernard church. Bottom right photo: Fr. Endres sets the mortgage for the rectory on fire while Mack is holding it in 1955.

“We needed someone like that,” she said.

After leaving St. Bernard in 1968, Endres was sent to Immaculate Conception in Blanchardville, St. Thomas in Montfort and St. Joseph Parish in Fort Atkinson.

He served at St. Joseph for 22 years, and the parish’s Knights of Columbus named Council #3396 for him.

Endres also served as the diocesan chaplain and charter friar of the Fourth Degree Ave Maria Assembly. And he was chaplain of the Wisconsin Knights of Columbus.

“The Knights of Columbus was a very important part of his life,” said Gary Romens of Council #3396.

Endres was born on June 22, 1926. He grew up in Berry, Wis., a town in Dane County.

He was the second son of Melchior and Regina Endres, who had four children.

Endres passed away on July 9, 1990 at the age of 64.

He is buried in a family plot at St. Francis Xavier Cemetery in Cross Plains.

For many reasons, Endres will be remembered by his former parishioners.

In addition to his many talents, he was also known for his fashion sense.

“He wore wild socks,” said Kingston.

Unfortunately, no one knows the rest of that story!



Our Community

Reynolds takes over as lead of Living Rosary group

Jackie Reynolds took over as the new lead for the Living Rosary in October 2022. She has been a parishioner at St. Bernard since 1949. Here is a short question and answer with her.

Q) Why did you join the Living Rosary? I became a member ... at a point in my life when I was no longer able to continue with my other parish activities. My initial activity with the Living Rosary was to say one decade of the Glorious Mysteries every day. Once I was no longer needed to care for my grandkids, I was able to become more involved.

Q) How and when did you learn to say the Rosary? My first recollection of praying the Rosary was when I was four years old. My family was kneeling in our living room during the month of October. I remember thinking, "Isn't this prayer ever going to end?" On Wednesdays in October, we prayed the Rosary at Gramma and Granpa Loeser's before the adults played euchre. Kneeling on the wooden floor at my grandparents's restaurant made kneeling on our living rug feel good.

Q) Why is it important to say the Rosary? Prayer became even more important when my husband Charlie was diagnosed with Huntington's Disease at the age of 40. We had no idea what HD was. The first thing that we were told was that it was a hereditary genetic disease. The doctor said it was a slow, miserable way of dying. The first words we read was that it destroyed families emotionally, physically, mentally and financially. Charlie lived with HD for 20 years before he died. Prior to his diagnosis, the last of my three aunts who were nuns passed away. I remember thinking at her funeral, "Who is going to pray for me now?"

Q) How has the Rosary helped you or how have you seen it help others? In my 20s, I really struggled with my faith. I didn't believe God could love me. During that period, I was spending every Sunday afternoon with Grandma Loeser. The first thing she would say to me was, "Did you go to church today?" She only asked this on the Sundays when I didn't go. She never judged me. She just showed me what God's love was. She prayed the Rosary every day. She talked about her life; the good, the bad, the naughty. She knew God loved her no matter what. He loved her for exactly who she was.

At her funeral, Msgr. Ferdinand Mack said she went to heaven with a Rosary in one hand and a deck of cards in the other. I was blessed to have my faith and my God. In addition, I had people praying for me and my family. I thanked everyone who prayed for me, saying, "I'll take all the prayers I can get."

Q) Would you encourage others to join the Living Rosary? Why? Knowing how prayer helped me get through difficult times, participating in the Living Rosary was a natural fit. It was a way to pay back people for the prayer and blessings I receive.



Sue Ziegler introduces Jackie Reynolds at the Living Rosary celebration in October 2022.

There are so many people in need of prayer, God's love and blessings that you never run out of people and things to pray for.

Q) Do you have to attend meetings to be a member of the Living Rosary? All you have to do is pray one decade of the Rosary each day. It takes less than 10 minutes. You can pray while you are driving or waiting in line. You can pray in the bathroom when you are shutting out all the noises of a busy, hectic life. When you have more time, you can pray an entire Rosary; pray the Rosary with other Living Rosary members before a funeral and/or attending the May and October Living Rosary celebration and Order of Worship.

If you participate in a group activity be prepared to be greeted by huge smiles, sparking eyes, warmth and humor. I am not big on belonging to groups, but Living Rosary members are the kindest and most accepting people I have ever met. Who knows you may even develop a friendship that exists outside of the group!

Living Rosary makes plans for annual celebration on May 5



On the first Friday of May, members of the Living Rosary will gather 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 Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary followed by a benediction with Fr. Brian in the church. The Rosary will also be available via livestream on the parish website at stbmidd.org/live.

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 90 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!

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.



Members of the Madonna Rosary Makers include front row from left to right: Mary Heun, Joanne Heun, Marge Raemisch and Laurie Zimmerman; and back row: Bonnie Anderson, Rita Endres, Carol Anacker, Neal Bickler, Connie Bickler and Barb Bohringer. Not in the photo are: Betty Kessenich, Jeanette Head, Bridgett Malesytke, Rick and Helen Bailey and Marla Thole. They made the beautiful St. Bernard chaplets, inset photo, that were handed out at the dedication of Msgr. Higgins Hall.



Mother's Day rose sale on May 13-14

Show your mother with roses on Mother's Day weekend, May 13-14, and shower local babies with love!

Roses will be available at all church entrances after all Masses on that weekend.

Your donation provides much-needed education, ultrasounds, medical care, diapers, formula, clothes, cribs and more to mothers, who choose life for their babies.

Each generous donation benefits Wisconsin Right to Life of Dane County, an all-volunteer, pro-life organization.

Thank your mother for the gift of life with a rose!



Prayer shawl meets Wednesdays

The prayer shawl ministry hopes to entice more parishioners to share their talents of knitting, crocheting and sewing to make prayer shawls for those in need.

They meet on the second Wednesday of each month in the parish library.

The shawls have been very popular, and the group would like more people to share in this wonderful ministry. The shawls or lap blankets can be knit, crocheted or sewn.

On each shawl or blanket, the group attaches a small label with our parish name and a hanging tag with a prayer for the user.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Laurie Zimmerman at 608-215-6894 or Sharon Braem at 608-335-9001.

KCs to host Easter events

On Good Friday, April 7, Knights of Columbus Council #4549 will fill plastic Easter eggs and prepare Easter goodie bags after the Good Friday Mass in the lower level of the Religious Education building.

Children and adults are welcome to help with the fun job of filling the Easter eggs and the Easter goodie bags for the Easter Egg Hunt.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 11 a.m., April 8 at Lakeview Park in Middleton.

If you have any questions, email kc4549@gmail.com.



Creation Care plans spring event

St. Bernard's Care for Creation team is making plans for two events this spring.

On April 23, the compelling documentary, "The Letter," which highlights the impact climate change is having on the lives of the poor, the indigenous, the young and wildlife throughout the world, will be hosted by the team.

The film shows five frontline leaders from Senegal, the Amazon, India and Hawai'i, who are invited to Rome to dialogue with Pope Francis about Laudato Si,' his seminal encyclical on climate change, and provides footage from their homelands demonstrating the challenges they face.

As the leaders share their struggles combatting the climate crisis, they become family and find strength in working together to save our common home.

The event is free and starts at 11:30 a.m., in the new parish center.

For more, contact Ben Roden at baroden@yahoo.com.



The best way to help new moms: Hold a diaper drive

By Ellen G. Krenke

The best way to help new mothers in Dane County is to hold a diaper drive.

“Right now, we are distributing about 40,000 diapers each month,” Brenda Collins, executive director of Babies and Beyond of Wisconsin, Inc., told members of the St. Bernard Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in February.

“We are constantly bundling diapers and trying to keep up with the demand.”

Forty-four percent of children in our state are in low-income families.

There are no government assistance programs for diapers, and “they shouldn’t have to choose between good food and diapers,” said Collins.

The average cost of diapers per month per baby is \$70-90.

“For a single mom, that is 14 percent of her income ... just for diapers,” said Collins. “A lot of them are struggling all around to keep up.”

Most daycares require a day’s supply of diapers to be left with them.

“If you don’t have the diapers, you can’t leave your kid at daycare,” said Collins. “If you can’t leave your kid at daycare, you can’t go to work. And if you can’t go to work, you can’t make any money.

“It is a vicious cycle. Parents who struggle with diaper need miss an average of four days of work a month.”

Collins said if parents can’t provide for their children, it creates stress on the family.

“And if you are a woman who is dealing with post-partum (depression) and having that feeling that you are not doing enough – it can escalate those feelings.”

Knowing that they have access to diapers at Babies and Beyond is a game-changer for many families.

“It is so much more than a diaper that we are providing to families,” said Collins.

“When we can see these families and help them in other ways too ... with extra help and encouragement.”

For 40 years, the organization was known as the Pregnancy Helpline, Inc.

But unfortunately, that name did not describe the organization’s true mission.

“The very few calls that we did get we would refer to the Women’s Care Center or CareNet. They have the medical and counseling resources,” Collins said.

“We didn’t want to have our name get us in the middle of those things.”

So, last summer they became Babies and Beyond.

“What we found is what we are really good at and what we excel at are providing material resources,” she said. “And we’ve got some really good systems in place for ongoing support for families.”

Babies and Beyond starts serving women when they find out



Brenda Collins, executive director of Babies and Beyond in Madison, gave a presentation about her organization to the St. Bernard conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

they are pregnant until their children are four or five years of age.

“It is long-term support that we are providing for families,” Collins said.

Their programs include: baby care packages for newborns; a Safe Sleep program, which includes a new pack and play and new bedding items; a sharing center with gently used equipment and clothing and a diaper bank.

The sharing center and diaper bank are the organization’s two largest programs, Collins said.

Clients visit once a month and get 50 diapers per child, a package of wipes, formula and baby food, one large piece of equipment, one medium piece of equipment, all the books and toys that they want and one grocery bag of clothes and supplies.

“They get to shop around for free, and they are picking out what they like and what they need,” Collins said.

After they rebranded, Babies

and Beyond doubled in size.

“In May of last year, we were giving out 20,000 diapers each month and by August it was almost 40,000,” she said.

To accommodate their growth, they also doubled their operating space by moving into a 6,000-square foot building located at 1922 S. Stoughton Road in January.

The new space includes a loading dock, which will allow them to accept bulk orders of diapers from various donors.

As members of the national diaper bank network, Babies and Beyond is the largest direct diaper distributor in the area.

They also provide the Goodman Center and other shelters in Dane County with diapers for their clients.

The overall goal is to keep babies clean, dry and healthy.

Unfortunately, some parents are trying to extend their diaper supply by leaving their children in a diaper longer and supplementing with plastic bags and other materials.

Collins said diaper drives stopped during the Covid pandemic, but she is trying to get them started up again.

A majority of the center’s funding comes from individuals.

“Generous people who care about the mission,” said Collins, who added that they are always looking for corporate sponsorships and grant opportunities.

“It’s a great way for families to help out and a great way to recycle and reuse those (baby) items,” said Collins. “And it’s nice that there’s another place that can get those items in the hands of families that need them instead of having it sit out on the curb and going to the dump.”

Donation hours are Tuesdays from 5-7 p.m., Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

Collins said several clients said they appreciate the center’s support and that they don’t feel judged when they visit each month.

“Which I think is amazing, and I want to make sure that it always stays that way, because we want people to feel welcome to come in and get the help that they need.”

Our Children

Frassati Fest: Growing in communion with each other, Lord



In February, about 250 teens from around the Diocese of Madison came together to grow in communion with each other and the Lord at Frassati Fest in the Wisconsin Dells.

St. Bernard and St. Francis Xavier of Cross Plains gathered a group of 16 teens, pictured above, for this amazing event.

Two St. Bernard teens, Ian Mottram and Jack McNerney, both sitting to the right of Bishop Donald J. Hying, got to have lunch with the bishop during the event.



Save the date!

On April 28-29, middle school students are invited to a fun, faith-filled weekend at Camp Gray in Reedsburg for a one-night retreat with other middle-schoolers from around the diocese.

It will be a great way to wrap up the faith formation year!

Watch the bulletin for more details!

Summer offering: Totus Tuus

Instead of Vacation Bible School, St. Bernard will join the St. Peter and St. Francis Xavier parishes for a session of Totus Tuus on June 18-23.

Register at sfxcrossplains.org/totus-tuus
Spring 2023

LBH releases dates for mission trips

Registration is now open for Love Begins Here!

This summer event is open to all current middle and high school students.

It is a local mission trip right here in the Diocese of Madison.

For the most up to date information on how to register, you can visit the website at madisondiocese.org/lbhregistration.

Each parish has been assigned a week to attend.

St. Bernard's weeks are:
—Middle School | MS3 - July 5-7 at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Cross Plains
—High School | HS3 - July 9-14 at St. John Vianney Parish in Janesville

If you are unable to attend these weeks and would really like to go, there is a Lost Sheep option. This does fill up fast.

You have a better chance of participating when signing up for the parish's assigned week.

The cost is \$200 for high school stu-

dents and \$150 for middle school students.

If you are unable to pay this, please let me know and there is a way to help you out.

There is no cost for adult chaperones.

For more information, please contact Geno Finn at geno@stbmid.org.

First Communion set for May 21

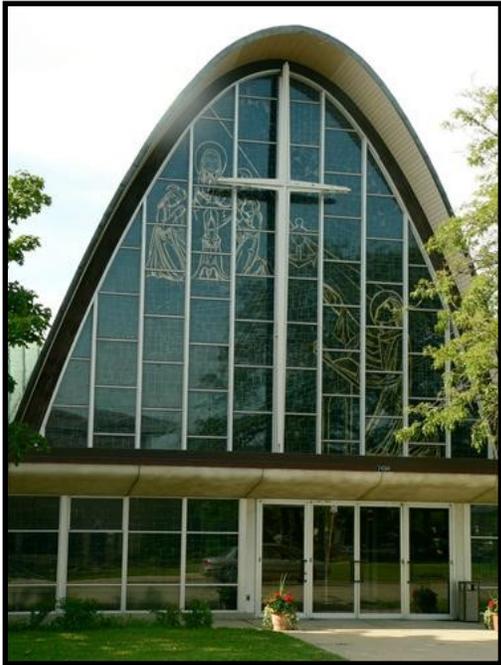
This year's First Communion Mass will be held at 1 p.m., May 21.

For family or friends who live out of town, the Mass will be livestreamed at stbmid.org/live.

For more information, contact Jenna Ripp at 608-829-5878 or jenna@stbmid.org.

St. Bernard Congregation
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 608-831-6531

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



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

Calendar of upcoming events at St. Bernard Catholic Church

March	April	May
1 - Luke House Meal Program	5 - Luke House Meal Program	3 - Luke House Meal Program
1 - An Hour with Jesus	5 - An Hour with Jesus	3 - An Hour with Jesus
2 - SVdP Meeting	6 - SVdP Meeting	4 - SVdP Meeting
2, 16 - Young Adults Meeting	6, 20 - Young Adults Meeting	5 - Living Rosary Celebration
5 - Higgins Hall dedication	8 - KC Easter Egg Hunt	9 - Rosary Makers Meeting
8 - Family of Faith Night with Bishop	8 - Blessing of the Easter food	10 - Prayer Shawl Meeting
8 - Prayer Shawl Meeting	9 - Easter	10 - Family of Faith night
14 - Rosary Makers Meeting	11 - Human Needs Meeting	13-14 - Mother’s Day Rose Sale
14 - Human Needs Meeting	12 - Family of Faith Night	15 - CMC Meal Program
15 - Creation Care Meeting	12 - Prayer Shawl Meeting	17 - Creation Care Meeting
15 - Middle School RE Night	17 - CMC Meal Program	21 - First Communion
20 - CMC Meal Program	19 - Creation Care Meeting	23 - KC Meeting
28-30 - Parish Mission with Bishop	25 - KC Meeting	29 - Memorial Day