



Middleton, WI

St. Bernard Catholic Church

Fall 2023

## Fr. Scott answers: What is our role in the new pastorate?

By Ellen G. Krenke

What is your role in our new pastorate?

"What are we asking of all of you? A lot," Fr. Scott Jablonski told parishioners during a Meet and Greet with the new Pastorate #19 priests here at St. Bernard in July.

**First, please pray.** Pray for the success of "Into the Deep," our pastorate ... for us priests, Jablonski said. And for your children, grandchildren, siblings and friends, who have maybe fallen away from the practice of the faith.

**Next, be patient.**

"There are a lot of moving pieces," he said. "If we make a hiccup along the way, please just be patient. We need to practice patience with ourselves and also with one another."

**Please be flexible as well.**

"There will be things that we are not going to foresee and we will need to make adjustments on the fly. Obviously, we will try to foresee as much as we can, but we are stepping into uncharted waters. There is not a perfect playbook that says we will do this, this, this, and this."

"We are really trying to discern collectively as priests and obviously trying to get to know all of you and as we hear things from ... all of you and staff trying to make the wisest decisions possible. But things will come up that we will not foresee."

**Please welcome us.**

"It's hard as a priest. We love the priesthood. We love the fact that we get to be with all of you," Jablonski said.

However, Fr. Michael Wanta just left his first assignment as a priest. He was learning how to do things, getting to know his new parish and then he got this new assignment where he doesn't know anyone.

Jablonski said the change will be easier for himself and Fr. Brian Dulli and Fr. Tait Schroeder. They have previously served at parishes in our pastorate, so they have some connections here already.

**Please welcome the other parishes.**

Two Vigil Masses were eliminated in the pastorate, so we may see new people at St. Bernard on Saturday nights.

"So if somebody from one of the other communities comes and sits in the pew that you have sat in for the last 30 years, please deny the temptation to give them the stink eye," Jablonski said. "We need to try to be welcoming and friendly. Let's be good neighbors."

**Continue to support the parish and the entire pastorate - financially.**

According to "Into the Deep" statistics, about 60 percent of the parishes in the diocese are struggling.

Jablonski said he is grateful that Fr. Brian left him with a balanced budget for St. Bernard, but there will be minor adjustments as he looks for cost savings for the pastorate.

"Please continue to be generous, so that we can build upon the good that is here and continue to pursue excellence," he said.

**Strive to follow the Lord with all your heart.**

"Please strive to become a saint," Jablonski said. "I think all four of us priests are trying to do that. We are far from perfect."

"They are not handing out prayer cards with our pictures on them yet. We have a long way to go."

"Saints are just sinners who get up and keep trying. They go to Confession as they need to. Every day they start again. With the Lord's help, a thousand starts, we will continue to grow in virtue, in goodness, in love and fidelity."

"If we can do that as a parish community and with our priests and the other parishes, the only way we are going to change those cultural trends ... is with saints. God wants to raise up a generation of saints. Every single one of us is called to be a saint."

Jablonski said he tells the schoolchildren: "When you were baptized, you were given a super power. The power of the Holy Spirit to do in you what you cannot do on your own. To grow in holiness and in love."

"You have a St. in front of your name. That is what you are called to. That is what you and I are called to do. Praise God."

"With his help, we will become a generation of saints. That is going to change these parishes and change our diocese and God-willing change future generations and this entire culture that we live in."



INTO THE DEEP

The "Into the Deep" website  
can be found at:

[www.intothedeepmadison.org](http://www.intothedeepmadison.org)

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





## Our new team

Our four new priests and two permanent deacons celebrated Mass here at St. Bernard in June.

They include from left to right, Fr. Michael Wanta, Deacon Michael Pipitone of St. Peter Parish, Fr. Brian Dulli behind Fr. Scott Jablonski, Fr. Tait Schroeder and Deacon Craig Wood of St. Bernard Parish.

If you haven't met them yet, please introduce yourself after one of the weekday or weekend Masses!

You are cordially invited to

## St. Bernard's picnic

on Sunday, Sept. 10.

Mass starts at 10 a.m.,  
in the church  
followed by lunch  
from 11 a.m., to 2 p.m.,  
in the pavilion  
at Lakeview Park,  
6300 Mendota Avenue  
in Middleton.

Volunteer now by calling the  
parish office at 831-6531.

We hope to see you there!



## Anniversary couples celebrate at Mass with bishop

St. Bernard couples who celebrated 25, 50, 60 or more years of marriage as well as newlyweds celebrating their first three years attended a Mass with Bishop Donald J. Hying as the celebrant at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Cross Plains in August. Top photo from left to right: Robert and Elaine Hilt; Jaime Iwanski and Nate Junker; Jerry and Donna Denruiter; Dominick and Jackie Mangardi; Donald and Mary Jo Acker and Jan and Dave Barman. Bottom photo from left to right: John and Diane Buechner; Ron and Sharon Braem; Neal and Connie Bickler; Hank and Judy Simon; Charles and Catherine Garfoot and Maynard and Elizabeth Feller. Not pictured are: Keith and Barb Bohringer; Gene and Diane Zander; Bret and Eva Verhoven and Tim and Patti Mulcahy.



## The Bee

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## In this Issue

Evangelization.....	3
Our History.....	4
Our Community.....	5-7
Our People.....	8-9
Our Children.....	10-11



# What would happen if you spent an hour a day in prayer?

By Laura Angle

What would happen if you committed to spending an hour a day in prayer for eight months? I recently found out for myself.

As part of my coursework for spiritual director school, I was assigned to complete the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Originally formatted as a 30-day silent retreat, the exercises have been adapted so they can be completed in the midst of normal life.

I spent an hour each day praying on passages from Scripture and on St. Ignatius' original reflections and met with a spiritual director once a week to synthesize what God was saying to me and internalize the graces He was granting me through prayer.

Everyone who goes through the exercises has a unique experience. The reflections are open-ended, with room for exploration of past experience, imagination, movements of the heart and deepening understanding of relationships and the world as it is.

For me, four main themes emerged and intertwined throughout the eight-month process: trust, surrender, obedience and vulnerability.

*"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God."* (Philippians 4:6)

As I reflected on passages like this one, I heard God over and over reassuring me that I could trust Him, that I could stop grasping at things I needed or wanted and simply turn to Him, ask and receive.

He helped me see that worry is an attempt to pick up a future cross that may never exist, and that His plan truly is for my greatest good.

Over time, I began to give over my worries to Him in prayer. I still have work to do to deepen my trust and turn to Him more quickly when worry creeps in, but His constant message of trustworthiness took down a barrier for me to the next theme of surrender.

*"Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer."* (Romans 12:12)

This past year has brought unexpected hardships in my life, and my natural inclination was to resist the difficulty.

My heart was moved at Christmas by how much love Jesus had for us that He wanted to enter into our "messiness." This thought became a consistent reminder to enter into and accept the hardships in life, to surrender my desires and face reality.

Another image that came to me in prayer was surfing, learning to ride the waves of joys and sorrows with Jesus as my instructor.

Weathering the storms of life while clinging to Him helped me navigate the messiness of relationships in a fallen world.

I learned to rely on God not as a divine "question-answerer" but as the One who draws my heart to deeper truth, if only I let Him lead.

Obedience emerged as a response to the themes of trust and surrender. God showed me that He is the architect of His kingdom, but that He relies on us to be its builders.

Without each of us, portions of His kingdom go unfinished.

One of my favorite reflections was imagining myself as a servant to Mary and Joseph in the cave at Bethlehem, remaining attentive to their needs, ready to perform any task they asked and reveling in the joy of being in the presence of the baby Jesus.

It helped me understand the freedom and peace that comes when I let go of my own plans and truly live my life in service of God. He also reminded me that He will never force me to follow Him, but He will respect my free will to choose.

And lastly, vulnerability came up as I acknowledged that my weaknesses were fully known to Him.

*"Lord, you have probed me, you know me: you know when I sit and stand; you understand my thoughts from afar."* (Psalm 139:1-2)

Through daily, honest sharing with God about the struggles and emotions I was experiencing, I began to also open up to others and lean on my community for support instead of hiding my weaknesses. I'm learning to endure the refiner's fire, to allow difficulties to bring to light and burn away the impurities in my heart, paving the way for growth and change.

I came to realize how much I need a savior to forgive me, to lovingly address my greatest struggles, and to continue redirecting me toward the right path.

Overall, the spiritual exercises granted me the graces of greater peace, an increased desire to spend time in adoration and in silence, a deeper relationship with Mary who is such a wonderful model of these four themes, and a better awareness of God's constant call on my life.

I'm more firm in my identity as a beloved daughter of God and have greater zeal for my mission to bring Christ's love to those around me.

The journey isn't over. God always has more in store for us. My next step in becoming a spiritual director is a two-week intensive with classes and prayer exercises in Florida this October followed by a practicum and one more trip to Florida.

In the fall of 2024, I hope to be certified to lead the spiritual exercises, and I look forward to hearing how they touch the lives of others!

## RCIA starts in September

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a way of welcoming new members to the Catholic Church.

You are invited to be a part of the RCIA process if:

- You have no faith tradition or are from other traditions and want to know more about the Catholic faith.
- You are Baptized but have not received Eucharist or Confirmation.
- You are a Catholic who wants to know more about your faith.
- You are a confirmed Catholic, willing to walk with a candidate as a sponsor.

RCIA inquiry sessions begin in September. There are various days and times available.

If you are interested in joining the RCIA, have any questions or concerns, would like to be a part of our RCIA team or would like to sponsor a new member, please contact Kevin Laufenberg at 608-831-5876 or [kevin.laufenberg@pastorate19.org](mailto:kevin.laufenberg@pastorate19.org).



St. Bernard young adults have had a busy summer hiking and attending Concerts on the Square and a Mallard's baseball game. A group of young women also met on Sunday evenings to discuss "Bad Women of the Bible" by Liz Curtis Higgs.

# History

## Site of St. Bernard school was home of freed slave

By Ellen G. Krenke

On the grounds where the St. Bernard Religious Education Center now stands lived a freed slave, who served the Middleton community as a church leader and a civic leader for more than 60 years.

Solomon Freeman was 10 years old in 1825, when he was purchased for \$10 by Abraham Bush, a farmer from Virginia.

According to the Middleton Area Historical Society, the Bush family along with Solomon and his mother, Lucy, moved from Kentucky to Missouri and then to the free state of Wisconsin in 1847.

They settled in the area that would become Middleton, and Solomon and his mother were granted their freedom by the family.

So, Solomon changed his last name to "Freedom" and later "Freeman."

According to an article in "The Capital Times" on July 12, 1956, the bonds of "love and loyalty" kept Solomon and his mother with the Bush family.

"A love and loyalty that worked both ways, for the family took good care of both of them all their lives," according to the article. "Lucy is listed in the census reports as 'servant,' but at her advanced age even in 1850 she must have been more waited upon than waiting and the family saw that Solomon went to school to learn to read and even though by that time he had reached middle age."

Solomon was a member of the Baptist congregation at the Union Church in Middleton, according to the article.

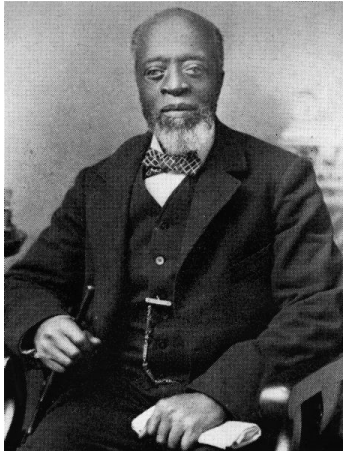
"On many occasions when the 'supply' minister was unable to be present, Solomon Freeman would mount the pulpit and lead the congregation in prayer, even preaching a sermon."

In 1853, Solomon was a founding member of the Middleton Baptist Church, and the congregation later selected him as a delegate to several district conventions, according to the society.

By 1880, Bush's wife, Nancy, had passed away and many of the children had moved out of Wisconsin.

Only Abraham and Solomon, the two old friends, remained in Middleton.

Abraham went to live with one of his daughters, and Solomon built a small three-room cottage on a 30-foot lot that one of



Abraham's sons had bought for him.

"The lot and cottage stood exactly where St. Bernard's parochial school is now located," the article stated.

"He had a little garden on the property where he lived and he is remembered to have been a 'great one to visit.'"

"He was greatly interested in politics and had been a staunch Republican ever since the great Emancipation Day which had brought his own freedom to all fellow Negroes."

Bush family members often sent money to Solomon, but he also worked at a local grain elevator.

"He is remembered as not a hard, but a steady worker, and of great physical strength even at his advanced age," according to the article.

Solomon was also praised for his intelligence. And in 1870, he became the first African-American to serve on a jury in Dane County.

Solomon never married. "He gave his life to the Bush family as they had given him his freedom and his hope.

"He is remembered in Middleton as a real gentleman of the old school, careful never to hurt the feelings of others and as long as he lived the soul of goodness and generosity to all, especially to the Middleton youngsters -- many of whom, now themselves along in years, can clearly recall his kind face and good counsels."

Solomon died on Aug. 22, 1900. Abraham's son, John, returned to take care of the details of the funeral and the property disposition and to mourn his old friend.

The funeral was held at the Union Church and Solomon was buried in the Bush family lot in Middleton Junction Cemetery.

His grave was unmarked until the Middleton Area Historical Society installed a headstone in 1974.

According to the Times article: "Solomon was respected and beloved by all with whom he came in contact and his Christianity shone out of him as strongly that he was welcomed everywhere.

"There is a lesson here for us that loyalty and love are human things, untouched by outward appearance and unforceable.

"Perhaps ... Solomon Freeman can still teach us that in common humanity and brotherhood under God is the resolution of one of the greatest problems of our times."

## UW design student checks on parish work after 30 years

A former University of Wisconsin student recently visited St. Bernard Parish after more than 30 years to check on the work that he completed for a graphic design class.

Erick Valdelomar was an international student from Costa Rica in 1991.

"I was taking a design class with Professor John Rieben," Valdelomar wrote in a message to St. Bernard on Facebook. "He was contacted by Professor Ray Gloecker, who was a very Catholic man and attended the parish.

"The parish wanted a visual identity, and Professor Rieben proposed the project to me as part of the class. I did the logo and a small logo manual."

To this day, the logo is included on various printed items and social media for the parish.

Valdelomar said another UW professor, Jim Escalante, who

lives in Middleton, told him about the logo displayed on the small signs by the parking lot and parish office.

"That was a happy surprise," he wrote. "So I went to visit the church, and even though I couldn't speak to anybody, I could see the logo in a couple of signs.

"We didn't have internet or social networks, so it wasn't easy to be aware (if they were being used by the parish). Also, the use of electronic files wasn't common, so I thought the logo was lost or never used."

Valdelomar generously sent a link with a set of electronic files in several formats for the parish to use, because "back in the day all I could deliver was a floppy disk!"

After graduation, Valdelomar returned to his home country, where he has operated his own design and advertising business for more than 25 years.





# Our Community

## Hammer knits prayer shawl for reciting the rosary

By Ellen G. Krenke

Each month, members of St. Bernard's prayer shawl group get together to pray for those in need and show off their latest work.

In August, Susan Hammer displayed the rosary prayer shawl that she knitted for the parish.

"It takes a lot of time and a lot of beads," said the St. Bernard parishioner.

"I'm going to take a break from it and make some other prayer shawls for a while."

Hammer also shared the pattern with other members of the prayer shawl group.

You can use any color yarn, but three different colored stripes in the middle of the shawl are used to signify the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Hammer said the hardest part was putting the beads on the fringe.

She used different colored beads to signify the prayer that needs to be recited at that time.

Each side of the shawl is a complete rosary, so two people could sit with the shawl and recite the rosary.

As one of eight children, Hammer said her family prayed the rosary after dinner every night.

"And if the phone rang during the rosary, my father would answer and say, 'This is not the time to be calling this house!'" she said.

Several family members carried their devotion to the rosary into their adult years.

"I have two sisters who try to keep it going," Hammer said.

Hammer said one of her sisters makes rosaries for her family and her parish, and another sister leads the rosary at her living community.

"We just grew up that way," she said.



Susan Hammer shows off her rosary prayer shawl.

## Living Rosary makes plans for annual celebration on Oct. 6



St. Bernard's Madonna Rosary Makers recently visited Durward's Glen in Baraboo. While they were there, the group recited a rosary in the chapel and toured the grounds. Durward's Glen is recognized as a place for reflection, peace and inspiration. For more information, check out their website at [www.durwardsglen.org](http://www.durwardsglen.org)



On Oct. 6, all parishioners are invited to join members of the Living Rosary as they gather to pray the rosary and adore Christ in Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

At 1:30 p.m., the group will pray the Joyful and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary followed by a benediction with Deacon Craig Wood in the church.

The Rosary will also be available via livestream at [stbmidd.org/live](http://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 join, you must commit to praying your decade every day and contact Diane Zander at 608-831-5167 or [euzan@chorus.net](mailto:euzan@chorus.net).



# St. Bernard adds new 'drop spot' for Babies and Beyond

By Ellen G. Krenke

St. Bernard is a new collection site for Babies and Beyond of Wisconsin, Inc., whose mission is to provide resources and support at no cost to women and families in Madison and the surrounding area.

"Making donation drop-offs easy and accessible will make it more convenient for families to help us keep up with the growing demands," said Brenda Collins, the executive director of the center. "Thank you for making a difference!"

As a collection site, we will accept a large variety of new and used items for children ages 0-4 and for pregnant and postpartum mothers.

A pack and play with a Babies and Beyond banner attached is located outside the Mother's Room in the narthex of the church.

You can leave your donations in the pack and play at any time during the week. They will be collected and transported to Babies and Beyond by a volunteer.

The list of acceptable items is long and includes clothes and accessories, books and toys, crib bedding, strollers, carriers, potty seats, swings, bouncy seats and baby gates and other safety equipment.

It also includes diapers and Pull-ups of any size (but the larger sizes are especially needed), and cloth diapers with no stains and with elastic and buttons in working condition.

Open packages of diapers and Pull-ups are also welcome!

All brands of formula and baby food are accepted as long as they are not opened or expired. Other feeding items needed are:

plastic and glass bottles, milk storage bags, drying racks, burp cloths, bibs, pacifiers and pacifier clips, teething toys, sippy cups, kid plates and silverware, high chairs with straps and booster feeding seats.

Maternity and nursing clothes of all sizes, such as pants, shirts, bras, belts and compression socks, are needed for the new moms.

They also need nursing accessories, including nursing pads, nursing pillows, nursing covers, breast pumps (closed systems and pump parts), pregnancy pillows and menstrual care products.

In addition to the items for moms and babies, the center is asking for stamps for postage, paper grocery bags, industri-

al food seal-wrap (for bundling diapers), individually wrapped snacks for volunteers, bottled water, rubber bands, safety pins, colored paper, kitchen garbage bags and paper towels.

Unfortunately, the center cannot accept car seats and car seat bases, booster seats, cribs and crib bumpers, Rock 'n Plays, children's clothes in size 6 or above, non-maternity adult clothing and any items that are excessively old or worn, ripped, stained, damaged, broken or missing pieces.

However, the center is now recycling textiles that can no longer be used. Clothing or blankets that are ripped, stained or old can be dropped off for recycling.

Simply place these items in a garbage bag labelled "Textile Recycling."

For a complete list of needs, go to [babiesandbeyondwi.org/donations/material/](http://babiesandbeyondwi.org/donations/material/).



A co-director at the Women's Care Center in Madison gave a tour to Barb Roberts, right, of St. Bernard and other pastorate members of Walking with Moms in Need in August.

## Walking with Moms in Need

Pregnant and parenting moms in need are in our parishes and our neighborhoods.

As Pope Francis reminds us, our parishes need to be "islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference."

To assess, expand and better communicate resources to local pregnant moms and families in need, our parish is joining a nationwide effort entitled: "Walking with Moms in Need."

We invite all parishioners to join us as we embark on this effort to serve mothers in need in our community.

For more information and to ensure you receive news and updates, please contact Rhiannon Buehler at [rhiannon.buehler@pastorate19.org](mailto:rhiannon.buehler@pastorate19.org).

If you know a mom or family in need in our community, please feel free to have them contact the parish office at 608-831-6531.

You can also find local resources at the Walking with Moms website at [walkingwithmomsmadison.org](http://walkingwithmomsmadison.org).

we are walking with moms



if you need resources or support,  
please reach out to the parish office





Knights of Columbus Council #4549 recently held their installation of officers, who include from left to right in the front row: Wayne Dohse, inside guard; Donald Kratcha, chancellor; Tim Bergs, financial secretary and John Huttenhoff, who is the state deputy. The second row includes: Fr. Brian Dulli, the state chaplain; Ben Navarez, trustee; Andrew Wagner, outside guard; Adrian Kidarsa, grand knight; David Fuccillo, trustee; Jerry McNeerney, deputy grand knight and Erin Kennedy, who is the district deputy. The council is currently seeking third degree members to fill the recorder and warden positions. If you are interested in filling either of these positions or joining the knights, send an email to [kc4549@gmail.com](mailto:kc4549@gmail.com).



In October, Neal Bickler will pass the baton to Mary Voyer as the new president of St. Bernard's conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Other officers will be: Barb Roberts, spiritual advisor; Mike Spiewak, treasurer; Carol Nilles, secretary and Rod Nilles, cookie sale chairman.

## CCW expands in Pastorate 19

A Council of Catholic Women (CCW) meeting is planned for Sept. 26 at St. Peter Parish in Ashton.

It will start with the Rosary at 4:45 p.m., followed by a 5:15 p.m., Mass. We will meet in the connector following Mass giving us a chance to meet new members from other parishes and begin the process of re-aligning our CCW to respond to our pastorate's larger CCW. Contact Joan Pregler at 608-798-1721 or [joanpregler@gmail.com](mailto:joanpregler@gmail.com) for more information.

Also during 40 Days for Life, volunteers are needed on the sidewalk surrounding Planned Parenthood from Sept. 27 to Nov. 5. Sign up for a shift at [vigilforlife.org](http://vigilforlife.org).

## Parish forms new ministry for newlyweds, new parents

Each month, our Newly Married/New Parent Group meets to support each other in community while their children play in the nursery.

Led by parishioner Kara Williams, the group listens to podcasts, discusses life and faith and prays together.

New members are always welcome.

The group meets from 5-6 p.m., on the first Monday of the month in the nursery.

For more information, contact Laura Angle at 608-829-5879 or [laura.angle@pastorate19.org](mailto:laura.angle@pastorate19.org).



# Our People

## St. Bernard family shares their story of adoption

By Ellen G. Krenke

Serving others is a lesson that Carol and Allan Mottram wanted to teach their two boys at an early age.

"We were having a great little simple life. Mom and dad and two children," said Carol, who is a St. Bernard parishioner. "And we wanted to do some service work."

So, they volunteered with a local charity, but were not allowed to interact with the people they were serving.

It wasn't as rewarding as they thought it would be prompting Allan to say: "I feel like we can do more."

"We wanted to teach our children that we live a very privileged life," said Carol. "Teach them that not all children live like you live."

They liked the idea of foster parenting, so they talked to St. Bernard parishioners Marv and Karen Meinholz, who are also foster parents, who have worked through the Dane County foster care system.

At their first meeting with foster care representatives, the Mottrams were told that the foster care system is not a route to adoption.

"It doesn't work that way, and we knew that but they confirmed it for us," said Carol. "The role of the foster parent is to help the child reunify with the biological parents or with the relatives of the biological parents."

The Mottrams spent a year contemplating the idea of becoming a foster family.

"We felt like it would be a really good experience for our children and ... for us too," Carol said. "We felt it would be a more meaningful form of service than what we were currently doing."

Once their decision was made, they spent another year completing the necessary paperwork and consenting to background checks and frequent home visits.

After they got their license, the Mottrams were told that they might get a call to foster in a week or six months.

A month later, the Mottrams received a phone call. A baby girl needed to be taken into the foster care system, and there was the possibility that she would not be going back to her parents.

"We knew she might be a longer term



Carol and Allan Mottram are pictured here holding their two youngest children at their baptism in 2019 as other family members look on.

placement," said Carol. "So, (my son) and I went to pick her up at the hospital. It was a very surreal experience."

Keirynn was three weeks old.

"I brought her home and we sat on the porch, and I thought, 'Wow, I have just brought home someone else's baby. I started thinking about the mother and how she must feel. It was very emotional. You are happy, but you are also very sad for the biological mom and the father.'"

Ian and Will, the Mottram's two biological sons, embraced their new baby sister.

"It felt really good," said Carol. "It felt like a deeper form of service. We knew we were helping this child and helping her parents by taking care of her."

When Keirynn was one, the Mottrams learned that a local couple was found to adopt Keirynn and her two older biological brothers, who were also in the foster care system with a different family.

The adoption process began, but then the Mottram family received an email that the adoption was not going to work out.

So, Keirynn was allowed to stay with them.

"It was a rollercoaster," said Carol. "That was really scary, but time went on and we were able to keep Keirynn in our home."

A year later, the foster care system found a cousin of the biological mother,

who agreed to adopt Keirynn and her two biological brothers.

Again, it didn't work out. "And I can only attribute this to divine intervention," Carol said.

"It was a miracle, because when (the two brothers) were sent home it meant that Keirynn would be staying with us. It was an act of God."

Finally, the foster care system stopped trying to find a family for Keirynn and her two biological brothers.

Keirynn was allowed to stay with the Mottrams, and they found another family to adopt the two boys.

And then Keirynn's biological mother be-

came pregnant again.

The Mottrams agreed to take in the baby boy, and Ben was dropped off at their house at three weeks of age.

"We were all lined up on the porch," Carol said. "We were all so excited. Ian and Will and Keirynn were getting a baby brother!"

When Ben was five months old, the Mottrams learned that the children's biological mother was pregnant with a girl.

"That is when we thought: 'Wow, this is a lot for us,'" said Carol. "But I knew right away that the answer was yes, we need to do this. This is Keirynn's sister. How can we say no to her sister?"

"And so here we are."

All three children were adopted at three years of age. Keirynn was adopted in 2017, and Ben and Katherine, the two youngest, were adopted in 2019.

In a matter of three years, the Mottrams went from two kids to five kids.

"It really was a very big change," said Carol. "Especially for Ian and Will."

When they were younger, Ian and Will were proud to be the big brothers.

"And as they got older, they realized more of what they were giving up by having a big family," said Carol.

The biggest thing that they give up is time, which is "really what children care about most. They don't care about the big fancy trips and the dinners out. What your children want is time with you."

She said both boys are caring and loving brothers. They play soccer with "The

**Continued on page 9**



# St. Bernard class of 1967 plans reunion for September



Please help spread the word! The St. Bernard class of 1967, pictured above, has planned a reunion for Sept. 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., in Higgins Hall at St. Bernard or a nearby restaurant. All classmates and a guest are welcome to attend! For more information, contact Joan (Muetz) Vandenbrook at 608-577-8027.

## MOTTRAM from page 8

Littles.” Now that Ian drives, he is able to take them to playdates. They also help at bedtime by reading to them or getting them ready for bed.

“They have definitely learned the concept of service not only to others in the world, but to their family,” said Carol. “I think that is one of the greatest gifts that you can give your family.

“We are here to serve God and to serve others. That concept will go with them for the rest of their lives. It is a beautiful thing.”

Carol is also grateful for the support of her husband, Allan.

“He emulates the true meaning of service, because he is an emergency medicine physician and he will work three 12-hour shifts in a row or a 24-hour shift, and he will come home and get right to work helping me and helping our children. Every single time! He never comes home and sits down. He never says he needs a break.

“He is a living saint. He is the reason that our family functions and that we can do what we do!”

Carol has two pieces of advice for prospective foster parents: 1) foster parenting is not a route to adoption and 2) the role of foster parents is to serve the biological parents.

“You can see everything was against us to adopt these children,” she said. “It was a true miracle and divine intervention that allowed this to happen.

“You have to go into it with a mentality

of service. You are serving those biological parents. You may not agree with them, how they live, but you are there to serve them and to help them reunify with their child.

“It has been a very emotional journey for us.”

Carol said the best part of their journey has been witnessing the love between her children and in her family.

“Seeing the love from Ian and Will for these three younger children is so beautiful,” she said. “They both have told me that they don’t feel like (their new siblings) are adopted.”

Carol said she prays every day for the strength and energy to take care of five children.

“Being a mother to five children is very rewarding, but it can be exhausting as well,” she said, but she looks to the Virgin Mary for guidance and support.

“I receive a lot of signs from her that she is looking out for me and that she is helping me. She always lifts me up.

“She is a true source of inspiration and love and guidance every single day.”

Carol said she is also overwhelmed with gratitude for her family and how it was brought together.

“Family is people who love and lift one another up and support one another unconditionally every single day,” she said.

“Family is one of the greatest gifts from God. There is nothing better than one’s family. I love my family.”



**Accompanying Others in Suffering**  
Gain skills for walking with others in tough times in this upcoming event.

Accompanying Others in Suffering is an interactive evening of inspiring videos from Mari Pablo of Evangelical Catholic, tips on do's and don'ts, and time for personal reflection and small group discussion to help participants better accompany friends and family members through seasons of grief and suffering.

Join the event from 6-8 p.m., Nov. 16 in Higgins Hall. For more, contact Laura Angle at [laura.angle@pastorate19.org](mailto:laura.angle@pastorate19.org).

## Grief seminar in October

Two days of a supportive compassionate grief gathering have been planned for Nov. 8 and 15 for those who have lost a loved one recently or long ago.

Peggy Weber will guide you as you reflect on healthy grieving and review the grief process and healing journey.

Please join us from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., on both days in the parish library. Lunch will be provided on both days.

To register, contact Kevin Laufenberg at [kevin.laufenberg@pastorate19.org](mailto:kevin.laufenberg@pastorate19.org) or 608-829-5876.

# Our Children Family of Faith registration now available online

Our Pastorate 19 Community, which includes the parishes of St. Bernard in Middleton, St. Francis Xavier in Cross Plains, St. Mary in Pine Bluff, St. Martin in Martinsville and St. Peter in Ashton, will now move to a family-based model of religious education or faith formation.

If you have been at St. Bernard for the last two years or St. Peter for the last three years, the model remains the same as you know it.

The family-based model is part of our effort to better support parents as the primary educators, especially in religious education, of their children.

All religious education will be led by parents and supported by the parish.

We will host a monthly "Emmaus: A Family of Faith" event in which all families (parents and children) come together

to learn and pray.

Parents will then lead two lessons for their children in the home during the remainder of the month.

There will also be optional social and community building activities.

Your children may eventually ask you some difficult questions! Even if you are unsure of everything or not confident in your knowledge of the faith, you are perfectly suited to teach your children our faith!

We will do everything possible to help you!

Answering a personal or tough question with an honest, "I am not sure, but let me get back to you" is a perfect way to share with your children that we are all learning and growing in faith together!

When you register at [stbmidd.org/familyfaith](http://stbmidd.org/familyfaith), you will have the option to choose from Sunday mornings at St. Peter's or Wednesday evenings here at St. Bernard.

These will take place once a month from September through May.

## **Sunday Morning schedule:**

9:30 a.m. - Mass

10:45 a.m. - Brunch in school hall

11:15 a.m. - Approximate start time

12:30 p.m. - Approximate dismissal

## **Wednesday Evening Schedule**

6:00 p.m. - Sign in and find your seat

6:15 p.m. - Official start time

7:30 p.m. - Dismissal

**Upcoming:** Wednesday, Sept. 13 - Parent Orientation meeting at St. Francis Xavier for families that are new to the Family of Faith format in our pastorate.

## **RCIC for children starts in October**

Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC) is a process aimed at helping your child encounter God in a life transforming way with the graces of the Sacraments and equipping him/her to become mature disciples as they grow older.

Your child is invited to be a part of the RCIC process if he or she is:

- 7 to 14 years old, roughly third grade through eighth grade, and not baptized; or
- Baptized in another Christian denomination and wishes to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church; or
- Baptized as Catholic but was never formed in the Catholic faith and has not completed his or her initiation into the Church (i.e., those who have not received the sacrament of First Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist).

Starting in October 2023, the RCIC program will meet as a family with the RCIC coordinator and other families going through this process from 6-7:30 p.m., on Mondays in the Religious Education Center.

If you are interested in your child joining RCIC, have any questions or would like to be a part of our RCIC team, please contact Rhiannon Buehler at 608-831-6531.

## **Teen youth group**

On Wednesday evenings when family formation nights are not being held, Pastorate 19 Youth Group will be offered for grades 6-12 from 7-8:30 p.m., at St. Francis Xavier. Email [geno.finn@pastorate19.org](mailto:geno.finn@pastorate19.org).

## **Preschool registration has begun!**

Registration for the 2023-2024 year of Our Lady's Good Helpers Preschool Co-op has begun at [stbmidd.org/olgh](http://stbmidd.org/olgh).

OLGH serves families with children ages 2-5 with a co-op style, faith-based preschool program at St. Bernard on Tuesday mornings September through May.

They also have a drop-in Toddler Time for parents and young children from birth to five.

A fee is required to cover supplies and snacks for the entire year.

The cost is \$20 per child or \$50 per family.

A small second collection may be taken if funds run out.

Please note that no one will be denied based on financial difficulty.

For more information, email [OLGHpreschoolcoop@gmail.com](mailto:OLGHpreschoolcoop@gmail.com).

## **Confirmation to be held on Oct. 25**

Confirmation is an exciting time in the lives of the faithful!

Because this sacrament is an important initiation in the life of a disciple, the Church requires individuals seeking the sacrament to be suitably educated and properly disposed prior to reception.



Confirmation preparation is for teens in grade 9 (and above for those who chose to delay Confirmation). They begin their sacramental prep in the fall of their ninth grade year and attend six sessions throughout the course of the school year.

In the fall semester, one or both parents are expected to attend these sessions with their teen. In the spring, sponsors will attend with the teen.

These sessions will be held on the first Sunday of each month starting in October, hosted at St.

Bernard from 6 p.m., to 8 p.m.

The following fall of their 10th grade year, the teens will receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

The Diocese of Madison also requires all teens to have ongoing formation outside of their standard Confirmation preparation classes.

The standard, ongoing formation in our pastorate are the Emmaus Mornings/Evenings (see Emmaus section above), which is formation for the whole family.

All teens in Confirmation prep are expected to attend one of the monthly Emmaus events with at least one parent.

There will be a parent meeting from 6:15-7 p.m., Sept. 11 in St. Bernard's Higgins Hall. One parent should attend this meeting, but the teens do not have to attend.

For more information, contact Geno Finn at [geno.finn@pastorate19.org](mailto:geno.finn@pastorate19.org).



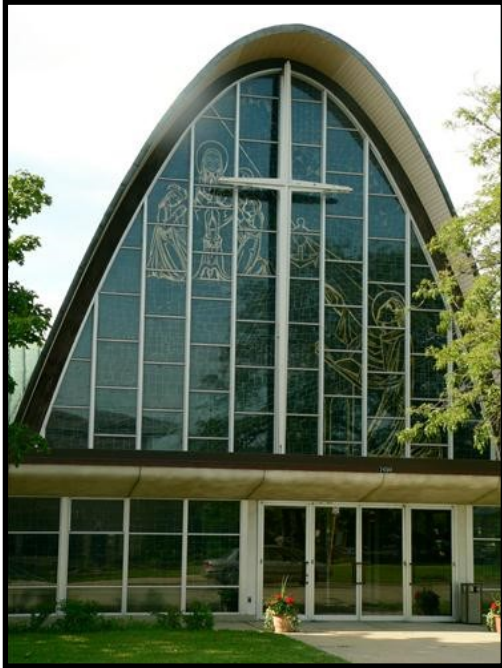
## ‘Totally yours:’ Students inspired to give themselves to Jesus



Event organizers said this year's t-shirt design for Totus Tuus was inspired by the love of the Holy Family. "May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Chaste Heart of St. Joseph continue to inspire us to pick up our Crosses daily in the sanctification of family life as we strive for heaven." During the week-long event, students attended Mass, made new friends, learned from skits and participated in several outdoor events, including a water fight courtesy of Middleton Fire District trucks.



St. Bernard Congregation  
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.



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

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

### September

**4 - Labor Day**  
6 - Luke House Meal Program  
7 - SVdP Meeting  
10 - Parish Picnic  
11 - KC Officer's Meeting  
12 - Human Needs Meeting  
12 - Rosary Makers Meeting  
13 - Prayer Shawl Meeting  
18 - CMC Meal Program  
20 - Care for Creation Meeting  
26 - KC Council Meeting

### October

2 - Newly married/parents Ministry  
4 - Luke House Meal Program  
4,11,18,25-Small Communities of Faith  
5 - SVdP Meeting  
6,13,20,27 - Walking Group  
10 - Rosary Makers Meeting  
10 - Human Needs Meeting  
11 - Prayer Shawl Meeting  
13-15 - Icon Painting Class  
16 - CMC Meal Program  
18 - Care for Creation Meeting  
24 - KC Council Meeting  
**31 - Halloween**

### November

**1 - All Saints Day**  
2 - Luke House Meal Program  
**2 - All Souls Day**  
2 - SVdP Meeting  
5 - Daylight Savings Time ends  
6 - Newly married/parents Ministry  
8,15 - Bereavement Seminar  
**11 - Veterans Day**  
14 - Rosary Makers Meeting  
14 - Human Needs Meeting  
15 - Care for Creation Meeting  
20 - CMC Meal Program  
**23 - Thanksgiving**