

July 29/30, 2017

Continuing the History of St. Bernard Church of Benton from last week.

June 6, 1938 this was the greatest of all days for on this day the first son of the parish to be raised to the dignity of the priesthood sang his first solemn High Mass. The church was filled to capacity and many were unable to get into church. The honored one of the day was Rev. Harold W. Hesse. Photo of St. Bernard church showing the altar at the time of the first mass hangs on the wall of the Adoration Chapel.

February 10, 1939, we had such a blizzard that it was impossible for the children to come to school. Snow banks reached a height of ten and more feet, while the thermometer dropped to 30° below zero.

June 25, 1944, was the outstanding day of the year. It was on this day that another son of the parish sang his first solemn High Mass in our humble little church. The privileged one was the Rev. Godfrey J. Heger, S.J. who was not only raised to the priesthood but became one of the sons of our great and illustrious St. Ignatius.

May 13, 1945, Seventeen happy children received their dear Lord for the first time in Holy Communion.

January 4, 1946. A very pleasant surprise awaited us January 4, when the men came to put in the hot and cold soft water connections in our kitchen. Quite a transformation has taken place in the corner since the old pump has been removed.

The present School Convent building was built in 1952, the original school/convent (which stood in the present church parking lot) was torn down the floor joist were recycled for use in the new convent.

1955 to 1963 Father Leonard Bertrand served as pastor. During his time the parish worked to improve the structure of the church and rectory: enclosing the two side entrances, replacing the cross at the top of the steeple, redecorating the church interior and building the rectory garage.

1965 to 1978 Father James Walz served as pastor. During this time the quality of education in the school improved. The annual school carnival became an all parish fundraiser, which was the Winter Carnival until the past year when it was discontinued.

Many physical improvements were made in the rectory and the addition of the rectory porch. The outside brick of the church was cleaned on the church, school and rectory. The stained glass of the church was repaired.

1978 to 1992 Father Joseph Streff served as pastor. During this time the interior of the church and rectory were redecorated. New windows were installed in the school.

1992 to 2005 Father Gerald Keefe served as pastor. During his time the church floor was resurfaced and paneling installed over the original wainscoting. Church carpeting was also replaced.

1997 to 2005 Father George Thoomkuzhy served as pastor. During this time the church refurbishing was completed, the convent was totally redecorated and the rectory kitchen was remodeled.

The planning process for the church addition was started. \$12,000 was raised to hire an Architect to create drawings of the church expansion.

2005 to 2011 Father Martin Shallbetter served as pastor of both St. Bernard and Ascension parishes. The first meeting Father Martin had at St. Bernard was with the Architect for the church addition.

The project was given the name Opening New Doors. Several town hall meetings were held to share design and cost estimates with parishioners. In December 2005 we received a \$20,000 donation which permitted the hiring of Hal Johnson and Associates to help us with fund raising for the project.

In 2005 we did a major remodel of the rectory including new plumbing risers, bath room and develop present office space.

The St. Bernard School enrolment pre-school through 6th grade was at 88 students for the 2005/2006 school year.

In March 2006 we started the Opening New Doors Capital Campaign to raise \$1,700,000.00 for the project. By July 15, 2006 we received \$1,174,230 in pledges from 135 families.

On August 16, 2006 we made a presentation to the Archdiocesan Building Committee. We had \$725,000 in cash and in-kind donations which mean's we had to reduce the project cost to \$1,450,000 to gain the approval of the Archdiocese. We did reduce the project cost by design changes and delaying construction items where possible until a later date.

The Archdiocese gave approval in September 2006 to start the schematic design and development of the project so accurate estimates could be developed.

One of the cost items was resolved during the summer of 2006 when Excel Energy rerouted the power line from down by the lake to the East side of the cemetery. This relocation permitted the parish to negotiate with Excel providing 3 phase power to the parish at no cost if we were ready to meet their schedule. Donations were received to pay for the new service equipment (which is near the Crucifix), new service to the school, convent and rectory. The service equipment was designed for the anticipated church addition and air conditioning of the church. As part of the new electric service project we added parking on the north side of the church with new sidewalk.

In July 2007 Archdiocese approval was received, construction financing secured, and contract with the General Contractor signed. Ground breaking was July 23, 2007; many prayers were said for a safe and successful project. The Archdiocese in the interest of showing support for our project forgave the assessment on dollars received in the first three years of the project.

In late September 2007 a non parishioner offered to pay for new seating/pews in the church in honor of his mother who grew up in Cologne and St. Bernard. This donation generated a whole new set of issues, like the installation of ducted heating system, closing of the side entrances of the church, refurbishing of the wood floor and new carpet for the aisles. A new sound system was also installed.

On October 2, 2007 the date stone of the church dated A. D. 1877 was opened it contained 4 newspapers which were in poor condition. See display in the Narthex; please be careful they are very fragile.

The display of information and photos tell a better story than the many words it would take to share the parish community support for the project.

On September 20, 2008 Archbishop Flynn dedicated the church Narthex addition.

On April 19, 2015 Father Gregory and the parish celebrated the payment of the church addition loan by having a mortgage burning ceremony.

2014-2015 was the last year St. Bernard Catholic School operated.

2016 and 2017 The Windows of the church were changed with new aluminum frames, thermo pane glass and re-leading of the Stained glass will be completed in a couple of months.

Parish History article created by Roger Storms, space did not permit a more extensive article.

St. Bernard Church—August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
PARTICIPATION AT MASS IS TO PRAY WITH THE PRIEST IT IS NOT ONLY SHOWING UP. BUT TO ANSWER ALL.	ALL THE PEOPLES' PARTS OF THE MASS. THEY ARE IN BOLD LETTERS IN THE MISSALET.	<i>1 Out Reach Mass At Ascension-Eucharistic Adoration begins at 5:35 with Reconciliation from 5:40-6:05pm. Mass at 6:15pm</i>	2 MASS 8AM EUCHARISTIC ADORATION AFTER MASS UNTIL 8:00 PM.	3 NO MASS	4 NO MASS	5 Church: Nancy Elke & Laurel Williams. Narthex: Kooiman, Storms & Hammers
6 ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE AT 9:30 AM. CHOIR LEADS SINGING AT 10AM MASS	7 MASS 8AM	<i>8 Out Reach Mass & Light supper- At Ascension-Eucharistic Adoration begins at 5:35pm with Reconciliation from 5:40-6:05pm. Mass at 6:15pm</i>	9 MASS 8AM	10 NO MASS	11 NO MASS	12 Church: Belinda Storms & Sandy Siegle. Narthex: John Eiden Family
13	14 MASS 8AM	<i>15 Out Reach Mass At Ascension-Eucharistic Adoration begins at 5:35 with Reconciliation from 5:40-6:05pm. Mass at 6:15pm</i>	16 MASS 8AM	17 NO MASS	18 NO MASS	19 Church: Bob Simon. Narthex: Hammers
20 FREE SPIRIT'S LEAD SINGING AT 10AM MASS.	21 MASS 8AM	<i>22 Out Reach Mass At Ascension-Eucharistic Adoration begins at 5:35 with Reconciliation from 5:40-6:05pm. Mass at 6:15pm</i>	23 MASS 8AM	24 NO MASS	25 NO MASS	26 Church: Roger & JoAnn Schmitz. Narthex: Hammers
27	28 MASS 8AM	<i>29 Out Reach Mass At Ascension-Eucharistic Adoration begins at 5:35 with Reconciliation from 5:40-6:05pm. Mass at 6:15pm</i>	30 MASS 8AM	31 NO MASS		THOSE WHO SING PRAY TWICE. ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN IN SINGING.

MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

--AUGUST 2017--

ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
For subsequent months or extra copies call or write--		1 POPE FRANCIS	2 REV GREGORY ABBOTT OUR PASTOR	3 REV. PAUL BAKER	4 REV. NICHOLAS FROEHLE	5 REV. NICHOLAS HAGEN
	6 REV. MATHEW QUAIL	7 REV. TIMOTHY SANDQUIST	8 REV. BRANDON THEISEN	9 REV. CHAD VANHOOSE	10 REV. BENJAMIN WITTNEBEL	11 REV. TIMOTHY WRATKOWSKI
						12 REV. SEAN MAGNUSON
13 REV. RICHARD MAHONEY	14 REV. MICHAEL MALAIN	15 REV. JOHN MALONE	16 REV. KEVIN MANTHEY	17 REV. THOMAS MARGEVICIUS	18 REV. SHARBEL MAROUN	19 REV. LUKE MARQUARD
20 REV. WILLIAM MARTIN	21 REV. ANDREW MCALPIN	22 REV. THOMAS MCCABE	23 REV. DAVID MCCAULEY	REV. JAMES MCCLELLAN	25 REV. JAMES MCCONVILLE	REV. PATRICK MCCORKELL
REV. KEVIN MCDONOUGH	REV. THIOMAS MCDONOUGH	29 REV. THOMAS MCKENZIE	30 REV. STEVEN MCMICHAEL	31 ABP. BERNARD HEBDA	Mert Lassonde 20953 Junco Trail, Lakeville MN 55044	Phone: 952-683-9294 Email: mertlass@usfamily.net

WILL YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

Eternal Father, we lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Mass, rosary, fasting

Day of offering

Eucharistic adoration

Offering of sufferings, or prayer.

Whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him

A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated

Many Blessings...

We wanted to share a summary of our first year of STBAFF

- 142 students were in the faith formation program
- We had 26 catechists/assistants teaching
- 3 Volunteers helped with monitoring the parking lot
- The faith formation weekly meal was made possible by 7 volunteers
- Guidance was given to Kara, Julie & Fr Gregory by our faith formation committee, 4 volunteers
- Greeter Ministry-there were 15 people who welcomed our families
- We had a meal sponsorship program, which had three volunteers guiding this
- Adoration and prayer was in the church during class, led by two volunteers
- Within the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program, we had three volunteers take the 90 hour training class to teach in the atrium
- We had Carolyn, who leads all of the CGS training, out monthly to observe and offer feedback to continue to improve our program
- Many materials were created/built for the atrium (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd), with 15 volunteers sharing their gifts in this area
- We moved our faith formation program from Ascension to St Bernard after Christmas, and had 20 people helped make this happen
- Grand Total-95 different ways parishioners helped create a true community that cares for our young people!
- Support was also given by our parish organizations—
 - Knights of Columbus put on a breakfast to support our program
 - Ascension Catholic United served a chicken dinner for families
 - St Bernard's Catholic United supported us w/the ice cream booth and their financial support
 - Pro-Life group sponsored a speaker for our young people
 - St Bernard's Fish Fries offered more financial support

We are thankful for your support

...Many Blessed
