



# THE GOOD NEWS

## APRIL 2019



### Parish Council

The Pastoral Council is an advisory body that meets on the second Thursday of each month. The council discusses parish needs and activities with Father and works on some strategic visioning and long-range planning for the parish. Scott Riha is the current President of Pastoral Council, Dick Strauss is the Vice President, and Kalie Steele is the Secretary. The remaining members of the council are Cathie Pajnigar, Colleen McCoy, Jodi Ronnfeldt, Dorest Harvey, and Steve Jesus. At the March meeting, Mrs. Schultz provided an update on enrollment, tuition, and improvements at St. Bernadette School. Over the last year, the council has been actively working on engaging more young parishioners. Engaging young parishioners will be the work of a new sub-committee led by Jim Jansen and sponsored by the council. Discussion of that sub-committee's work and potential members was also part of the March meeting. Lastly, the council received a report from the new Facilities Sub-Committee that is in the process of studying the current and future physical space needs of the parish. The council will support the facility needs assessment provided by the sub committee to all parish groups in the coming months. The next meeting of the Pastoral Council will be Thursday, April 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the rectory basement.

### Men's Club

St. Bernadette Men's Club is a parish organization dedicated to the support of families living in the parish. The special focus of our efforts and resources is the growth and development of our children and youth as Christian/Catholic student athletes. The Men's club has provided the primary organization and funding of both boys and girls sports programs for our parish families throughout many years. The Men's Club provides scholarships, service hours for parish needs and fundraising efforts providing support for the families of the parish. This past month the Men's Club hosted the March Madness Basketball Tourney and ran or 44th annual Spaghetti Dinner. In April, the Men's Club will be hosting a Pub Crawl to area businesses who donated items for our fundraisers. This is to show appreciation for their support. In May we are hosting a Golf tourney to fundraise for next year. All men of the parish are invited to come and join us at our meetings which are the third Thursday of the month at 8pm in the social hall.

### Consolation Ministry

On behalf of the Pastor and the Parish Community, The St. Bernadette Consolation Ministry's mission is to offer emotional and spiritual support to parishioners who have suffered the loss of a loved one. Through our phone calls, visits and prayers, we wish to reach out to help others experiencing the pain of loss. We're here to be with one another in sorrow. We listen to help one another grieve, and we offer prayers, reassuring one another of the love of Christ during the grieving process. Crosses of the deceased, are placed on the wall in church as a reminder to pray for them as a parish. Each year in November, the crosses are given to the families at our annual Memorial Mass. To contact a member, please call the parish office.

### Altar Society

Would You Like To Get Involved In Cultivating A Greater Devotion To Our Blessed Virgin Mary?

The purpose of the Altar Society is just that, cultivating a greater devotion to Our Blessed Lady, by maintaining the needs of the sanctuary, and fostering friendships among the women of the parish. Some of these goals are accomplished by meeting, praying, and sharing a meal together the first Thursday of each month from September through May. We are in recess June, July and August. We host receptions for special events and funeral luncheons. Heavenly dusters and bi-annual cleaning projects help maintain the church. Other activities require funding, such as scholarships awarded to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who will be attending a Catholic High School, supporting the Serra Club' Mass for the Shut-ins or purchasing items such as purificators or albs for the sanctuary. These goals are met by sponsoring bake sales, raffles, our annual brunch, and other fund raisers.

As parishioners of St. Bernadette Parish, women are already members of the Altar Society. Paying \$15.00 annual dues as a member supports the goals listed above. Why not consider joining us for a social evening, enjoying a meal and a short meeting. Ordinarily a group of ladies begin by saying the rosary at 6:15 p.m. in the church. The social event starts at 6:30 p.m. in the social hall with Fr. Harry, our Spiritual Director, who updates us on the news of the parish.

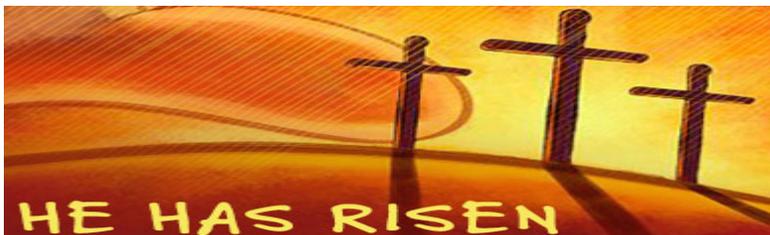
Our next fundraiser, the bake and raffle will be held April 13 & 14 before and after all Masses.

Current Board President : Joan Ronnfeldt,  
Vice President: Mary Sporcic, Treasurer: Mary Blaszak,  
Secretary: Linda Krupa

We look forward to meeting you and getting your ideas.

### Finance Committee

As mandated by Canon Law, the role of the parish finance committee is to "aid the pastor in the administration of parish goods." In its advisory role, the finance committee assists the pastor in the preparation of the annual parish budget, the creation and communication of periodic financial reports and protection of parish temporal goods. The finance committee assures compliance with the cash basis method of accounting for all parish activities as required by the Archdiocese.



## ST. VINCENT de PAUL CONFERENCE

The SVdP Conference at St. Bernadette was started in 1978 when Father Milone asked a prayer group to become involved. Many of the original members still participate. Calls for assistance are received at the Parish Office and forwarded on to members for attention. Home visits are made to determine what the situation actually is and what needs we can meet. Many times, a couple of sacks of groceries is all that is needed to assist the family. A pantry, stocked by the parishioners, our school and PRE children, and the Meat Dealers organization is located on the premises. Instigated by Fr. Dan Soltys many years ago and continued on by the priests who followed, the second collection once a month is designated for SVdP.

This money is used to pay utilities, rent, on occasion gas money, bus tickets, or car repair expenses for those who request help. Last year, over \$28,000 was collected from parishioners, Fr. Harry's Chili Dinner, other St. Bernadette organizations, and assistance from other SVdP conferences. Of this, \$9001 went to OPPD, \$7,191 went to MUD and \$6,130.00 for rent and mortgage payments. Over 53 families received Thanksgiving and Christmas food this year. Between the parishioners and the St. Bernadette school children, over 800 gifts, valued in the thousands, were gathered and distributed to children at Christmas. The names on the Christmas giving tree were chosen, after thorough investigation, from those submitted by the counselors and nurses at St. Bernadette and surrounding schools.

Members of the SVdP Conference at St. Bernadette have for many, many years cooked a Saturday night meal once a month, for the folks at the Stephen Center. Our group has participated in Bundle Sunday, where clothes and household items are gathered in a SVdP truck brought to the parish parking lot. In addition to this, a program whereby over 3,000 coats were given away was helped by your parish Conference. There are currently 17 members in the St. Bernadette Conference. Barb Slaven is serving as President and can be reached at 402-699-1434, or [bslaven1@hotmail.com](mailto:bslaven1@hotmail.com).

Members of the St. Bernadette Conference are currently working with the flooding survivors in Sarpy County. We are providing gift cards to Target and Casey's for families in shelters and will also provide hygiene kits and SVdP Thrift Store vouchers. SVdP will be involved with the long-range recovery efforts for these families in need.

### Legion of Mary

Do you want to grow closer to Jesus and his mother? Then come as a guest to a Legion of Mary meeting. There is no obligation. The Legion of Mary is the largest Apostolic organization of lay people in the Catholic Church, with well over 3 million active members in almost every country of the world. It began in Dublin, Ireland in 1921 and spread to the United States in 1931. Members participate in a balanced program of prayer and service. Works include parishioner visitation, visitation of the sick or aged, religious education and meeting other spiritual needs of the parish community. Members meet once a week for prayer and discussion. Then they do 2hrs of work each week in pairs. The Legion of Mary is open to all Catholics-who faithfully practice their religion. For more information contact Joe Micek 734-2384 or Patty Pogge 681-7331

## Home & School

Home and School (H&S) is a network of parents, families, teachers, and staff working together to provide an environment of support and communication to benefit our students at St. Bernadette School. Our primary purpose is to foster a spirit of Catholic unity among our families and staff. We accomplish this goal by hosting social activities for families, supplementing student curriculum and school activities, purchasing classroom needs, and coordinating staff appreciation events. Home and School provides resources and services that help to enrich and maximize the experience and education of every child. We are able to do this with the funds from planned fundraising activities and yearly family dues.

Parent's voluntary participation and involvement in H&S offers a great opportunity to meet other parents, to stay informed with what is happening in our school, to fulfill family's required volunteer hours, and to provide the volunteer help our school heavily relies on.

Home and School is headed by a voluntary board. Volunteers are elected in the spring of the previous school year.

The 2018-2019 Home and School Board is: President: Kelly Linder, Vice Presidents: Christy Sonntag and Jen Linnell, Treasurers: Melissa Murtaugh and Deanna Volker, Secretary: Miki Flanagan and Lori Zadina

All parents are encouraged to attend the monthly meeting typically held on the first Monday of the month at 6:30pm in our social hall. For more information, pictures, updates, reminders, and fun "like" St. Bernadette Home and School on Facebook! Contact us at [sbshs@yahoo.com](mailto:sbshs@yahoo.com)

### April Events:

- 1st** Meeting 6:30pm, featuring an Easter egg hunt and 2019-20 board and committee nominees
- 10th** Baking Committee Staff Lunch
- 12th** Spirit Shop Open 3:00-3:30pm
- 12th** First Communion Cake and Punch Reception 9am, gifts presented to the Communicants
- 16th** St. Bernadette Feast Day Celebration
- 24th** Raising Cane's Family Food Night 4-8pm

### Festival Committee

The Festival Committee has the mission to continue our tradition of this annual parish summer event on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of July. We have a small but dedicated membership and are always looking for new ideas and new folks to help with this fun and important fundraiser. We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00pm in the social hall. If you are interested in helping out in any way you can stop by this meeting or contact Andy Flanagan at (402) 881-5861.

Here is what we are up to for the month of April:  
Contacting booth captains from last year  
Distributing raffle tickets to the parish  
Meeting on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the social hall  
Pricing and ordering rental items, advertising materials, and entertainment