



The  
of *S*pirit  
aint Bernard



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**WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE?  
THE WITHERING ROOTS OF JOYFUL DISCIPLESHIP**



I love reading the scriptures during the Easter season - they're filled with such joy and hope. The Apostles travel to distant lands, and the people come to them with open hearts to hear the message of Jesus Christ and to be baptized. Not just one or two people, friends - entire villages, thousands of people at a time! We find many of these experiences in the gospels, and in the Acts of the Apostles. There's also a beautiful story in the book of Nehemiah, and it's one that I enjoy frequenting as well:

In the square in front of the Water Gate, Ezra read out of the book from daybreak till midday, in the presence of the men, the women and those children old enough to understand; and all the people listened attentively to the book of the law. Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people, their hands raised high, answered, "Amen! Amen!"

Ezra stood before the people for more than six hours, and they were delighted with what they heard. Their hearts were open to not only receiving God's word, but taking it in, learning more about it and growing in the spiritual life. When our Lord appears before the disciples on the road to Emmaus, their hearts were "burning" within them as Jesus opened the Scriptures for them to understand. We see example after example of how the people were filled with joy as they encountered the Father's love, and they had a deep desire to grow in that love - to know Him.

I guess priests can sometimes be a bit envious of the Apostles ... they didn't have to work very hard to gather huge crowds. We feel good when more than half the church is filled on a weekend. The question I always tend to grapple with is, "Where

has the joy of the biblical times gone? Why isn't it here anymore? Instead of being filled with excitement about coming to Sunday Mass, people shuffle in because "it's my responsibility and I have to do it." Instead of looking forward to praying a rosary or coming to Eucharistic Adoration, people tend to choose other things because prayer isn't exciting. This kind of attitude has hit our young people especially hard. Try going into a confirmation class and see how many really want to be there. For a priest, seeing this happen is just as painful as holding the hand of a loved one as they slip away from this life. We know what brings true life and happiness, and we constantly talk about it, but it seems to fall on ears that are either not willing to hear, or on ears that do hear, but are not willing to change.



As we look at the Church of 50 years ago, it looks much different than the Church of today. Worship was a central part of family life - everybody went to church together as a family, and other activities revolved around the Church (and often flowed directly from it in many instances). We don't enjoy that same luxury today, I'm afraid. Religion must compete with everything else going on in life, and it becomes another thing to "fit into the schedule". If this is the premise in which we live our lives, then naturally, our prayer life will follow suit. It becomes something that's formulary, something that must be done. Where's the joy in that? Instead of bringing life,



prayer becomes something that needs to fit in with everything else. When the schedule becomes too complicated and things need to go, religion is

usually the first thing that gets tossed out on the side. We take in all of the stress and pressure of life, and joy remains sitting there, on the sidelines.

This struggle seems to be quite prevalent in the parishes of today. At St. Bernard, we have always expressed the desire of the Church to help her people become life-long learners and to develop a relationship with Christ and to know Him. Whether it's an adult formation course or a confirmation preparation session, we take very seriously the desire of Christ to "make disciples of all the nations". We aren't of the mentality where we welcome children into our formation programs, give them the absolute bare minimum, and then declare them ready to receive a Sacrament. That's not the practice of forming a true disciple. We encourage our children and families to remain active in our catechetical programming, but oftentimes, families tend to disappear after a Sacrament has been received and then reappear when it's time to receive the next Sacrament. It's difficult, friends, to foster any sense of joy if that's the way we're looking at our faith. When we have to achieve an end result, it's natural to ask the question, "What must I do in order to make this happen?" The end result for all of us, friends, is to be a disciple of Christ - to allow everything in our lives to flow from that life-giving relationship with Christ. What must I do? Remain close to Christ, keep your heart open to learning about Him and growing in your faith, ready yourself for the day of salvation. When we come before Christ's throne, He will ask us, "How, my child, have you come to know Me in your life? What have you done to open your heart to Me and take Me in?" Are we prepared to answer those questions?

The Lord wants so very much for us to be happy with Him for all eternity, but that doesn't mean that we cannot be filled with joy in His love right now! Faith should never be a burden, friends, but should always be a pathway to deeper spiritual joy. The things of the world bring joy to the

senses, but only Christ can bring a true sense of joy to our soul. Prayer is a means by which we open the doors of our hearts to receive Christ's joy - to delight at every opportunity to know Him and to love Him on a deeper level.

It might be a crude example, but it's an easy one to understand. A person who is told they must make major changes to their lifestyle because of an underlying health condition might take that news with a rather sad and sullen spirit. They have grown comfortable with their way of life, they enjoy the foods they eat and the lifestyle they lead. Now, it's time to throw that away and take on a new sense of life. As they begin to adapt the new things they must do to improve their life, they find them difficult and not compatible with their former way of life. Yet, they decide to go on and stick to the regime. Slowly but surely, their lives begin to make a turn, and the things they found burdensome are beginning to help them. As they reach the end of their plan, the things they once found burdensome are now good friends, and their new way of life has opened their minds and hearts to see things in a whole new light. They have changed.

It's the same way when we embrace the spiritual life, friends, and vow to make a change in our own lives as we place God front and center. Prayer is the way we make that happen, and if we're not used to it, we might find it burdensome and difficult at first. But as we realize the spiritual benefits that come from a regular life of prayer, we begin to reorient our lives - placing our relationship with Christ at the top of the list, and allowing everything else to flow from that relationship because prayer gives us life. Like the people that encountered the Apostles, we become changed - we take on a new sense of life, which will bring us happiness, peace and a deep sense of belonging as we open our hearts to Christ. The Apostles did the work of preaching, but the people that received their words had the harder job of taking those words in, changing their lives and helping others to do the same. That's role of a true disciple, friends. We cannot fill others with the joy of the gospel if we ourselves are not filled. Take into your hearts the deep joy that the Apostles brought to those who gathered to listen. May our zeal and joy for Christ, His Church and His gospel be renewed in these Easter days. §



**PARISH FESTIVAL:  
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**



This year's parish festival will be held on **Sunday, June 26th**. Please plan to join us for a wonderful afternoon! Our food and beverage stand will be open from 11-4 serving brats, hot dogs, hamburgers, hot beef sandwiches, homemade Italian sausage, chips and beverages! There are also lots of games for the

children. Mikey Fuss and the Cherokee Three will entertain us with some timeless classics. Festival events will take place in the parish center gymnasium, and bingo will be played in the lower level of the church. Make sure to purchase your raffle tickets today! This year's grand prize is \$1,000! §

**WOMEN OF ST. BERNARD  
UPCOMING EVENTS**

The Women of St. Bernard are looking forward to several parish events!

**SALAD LUNCHEON**

Our spring salad luncheon will be held on Friday, May 13th, 11:00am until 1:00pm in the gymnasium at the parish center. This is a great time to enjoy homemade salads and homemade pie, and, of course, a good time to visit!



If you are planning on making a salad, the city's health department requires that all salads be made on site. The gym will be open beginning at 8:00am on May 13th for you to bring your salad in and prepare it. Pies can be made at home and brought in on Thursday or Friday.

**SUMMER GARAGE SALE**

Our annual Garage Sale will be held on Friday, July 29, and Saturday, July 30. As you do your spring cleaning, please set aside useable items for us to sell. Items may be brought to the parish center after the festival has passed (June 26th). We cannot accept adult clothing, TV sets or child care seats. Unsold items will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul. Please call the parish office with any questions. §



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
IN THE NEWS!**

The Knights of Columbus announce their spring and summer brat stands:

- ✓Friday & Saturday, June 10th and 11th
- ✓Friday & Saturday, July 29th and 30th

Serving times are from 10:00am - 5:00pm. Come and have a brat, a hotdog or two (or three, or four, or five...) along with chips and beverages. Our July brat stand will be held in conjunction with the Women of St. Bernard Garage Sale. Be sure to bring your appetites! §

**YEAR OF MERCY PILGRIMAGE  
THROUGH THE HOLY DOORS**

For the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has designated the doors of the Shrine Chapel at the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary a location of pilgrimage. Fr. Michael will be leading a group on **Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**. Confessions will be held here at St. Bernard beginning at 4:00pm. We will gather for Mass at the Shrine Chapel, 5901 Cottage Grove Rd. at 6:00pm. Following the Mass, all are invited to gather for dinner at the Journey Buffet, 4325 Lien Rd. Those who confess their sins, have a complete detachment from all sin, receive the Eucharist and offer prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father may receive a plenary indulgence – either for oneself or for the deceased. Please plan to join us for this wonderful afternoon! §



**SENIOR RECOGNITION MASS!**



Please join us as we congratulate our graduating seniors at a special Mass on Sunday, June 6th at 10:00am. We pray for our seniors—in thanksgiving for all they have learned and for wisdom as they move on to new experiences. §

## THE HANDS OF MERCY: THE WORK OF OUTREACH MINISTRY

By Geri Nehls  
Director of Faith Formation  
Outreach Coordinator

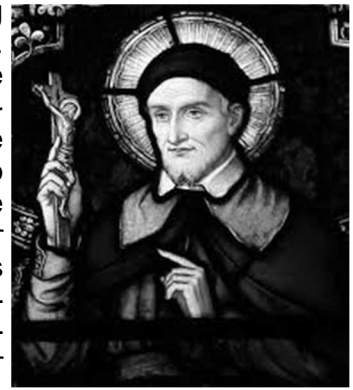
Since being asked to be the spiritual advisor for the St. Bernard Conference of St Vincent de Paul, I am honored to be of service to those who come to the parish for a variety of needs. When Fr. Michael came, he asked me to serve the parish in this outreach role to assist those who come through our doors in need. While Tuesday is my dedicated day to this ministry, I am always listening to the needs as they are made known. Sometimes, the needs come from other parishioners watching out for the good of others. When situations like these arise, I ask permission to follow up with what is needed because many times, the need is not in the public forum. I also need to respect those in need and honor them. Sometimes, it's just about being present and bringing Christ to someone in need.

Sometimes people walk into the office just because they see our church tower—the beacon on Atwood Avenue! Some come because they have been referred by others who have been helped here. Sometimes, we get calls from people who are simply searching the phone book and we are at the beginning of the list of Catholic churches. We also occasionally get referrals from other social agencies. It is because of your kindness that we have helped with bus tickets—to other states and within the city, bedding and diapers, clothing and Christmas gifts, food and gas cards, socks and shampoo, baby strollers, pack and plays, and those in transition who need a room for a night or two.

When people come to the parish to speak with me, I take time to listen to their story. Many are happy to have someone listen. Many need a hug and a prayer. We give those, too! Helping a person or family can range anywhere from a few minutes to a few weeks, depending on the need. As I owe my heart and my ministry to Jesus, I show them the picture in the office of Jesus washing Peter's feet and tell them I am responsible to be that ex-



ample. It's about giving the best, not the least. Many times, people want us to put a band-aid on an immediate need, but it ends up being so much more than that. While our food and gas cards can help in the moment, it's not a permanent solution. We refer



many people to resources and agencies in town and get them connected. Sometimes we assist people with their rent to help them keep their apartment, or we donate funds to help them keep their homes when times are tight. We give them information on where they can find a warm meal. This is especially helpful when people are living in their car and have limited means to make food for themselves. We give out tents, coats or other forms of protection from the elements when a person can't stay in a shelter. Parishioners donate quilts to give to those in need, and they are always appreciated. We also lend moral support and do all we can to point them in a better direction.

I want to share one story with you and how we make a difference at St. Bernard. One day, a man named "Mark" came to see me asking for a gas card. Mark was living in his car for some time after he lost his home, his job and a treasured relationship. After spending a few hours with Mark, it was obvious that he was angry about his situation and wanted to take revenge on those who "caused" it. Mark was Catholic and even a Knight of Columbus, but at the time, he was not practicing because of his anger. Mark was also not in good health.

His doctor told him he was a ticking time bomb and that his heart was in danger of failing. Living in his car was not healthy. He couldn't even find shoes large enough for his swelling feet. With compassion, I asked Mark if getting the revenge he spoke of would help him feel better and be better off. He paused and

said no. I asked him if he wanted to meet Jesus with this anger on his heart. He said no. I asked him what he really wanted. His said a place to lay his head, a bed, and a home. All I could think of was the Scripture when Jesus said, "Birds of the

sky have nests and foxes have dens, but the Son of God has not place to lay His head". After working with the Community Action Coalition for a few weeks, Mark found an apartment to lay his head. Shortly thereafter, Mark died in his bed. I had not heard of his passing until I called to check and see how he was doing. This one man changed my life. He also changed the lives of all people who come to St. Bernard to ask for help. I could have given him a gas card and sent him on his way. Now, everyone is "Mark" to me. What if the day I see a person is the last time? Have I been the hands and heart of Jesus to them? Have I given love and mercy? Not only do I give for myself, I give for you—in your name. You will not know every person or every situation that God brings to St. Bernard, but you are all a part of revealing the heart and hands of Christ to those we encounter. I hold you with me as I greet and help, as I pray, and even when I am frustrated that I cannot do more.

In this year of mercy, I pray that we will give people forgiveness and mercy, second chances and non-judgmental hearts. May we reach out when we can and pray always. As we eat around our tables and lay safe and warm in our beds, we will remember those who go without around the world. Let us all be grateful for that which we have. Thank you for letting me serve in your name. §

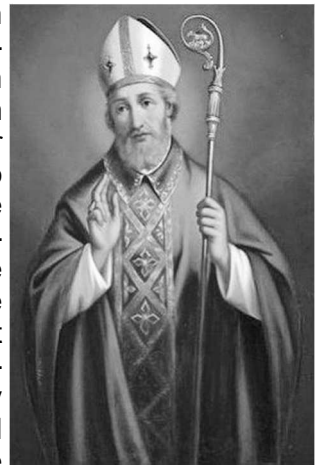
**LIVES OF THE SAINTS:  
ST. ANSELM**

*By Ken Sosinski*

*Director of Liturgy and Pastoral Music*

Saint Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1093 to 1109, is considered the "father" of medieval scholasticism and is known for his ontological argument for the existence of God. An ontological argument is one that is analytical and based on reason. However, Anselm also based his arguments in the "clear light" of scripture and tradition. Anselm held that faith precedes reason, and that reason can expand upon faith. Scholasticism was a system based both on theology and philosophy, using Greek Aristotelian logic combined with the writings of the early Church Fathers. Anselm's writings influenced other notable medieval scholars, such as St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Bonaventure, Duns Scotus and William of Ockham.

Anselm was born in Aoust, also known as Aosta, now part of modern day Italy. He came from a noble family who later fell on hard times due to the politics of the day. He first tried to enter monastic life at the age of 15, and three years later, through great persistence, he was admitted to the monastery of Bec in Normandy and influenced greatly by the



then prior of Bec, Lanfranc and the abbot, Herluin. He was promoted at the young age of 27 to become the prior of Bec, much to the consternation of other members of that monastic community. It is reported that Anselm, through patience and sweetness, eventually won their support. He was very perceptive of people and in combination with his own demeanor of mildness and display of charity was very effective in his leadership. While prior at Bec, he became to be well known for his writings. He eventually became abbot of Bec after the death of Abbot Herluin in 1078. Bec, under Anselm's direction, became the foremost seat of learning in Europe at that time.

The monastery of Bec owned some properties in England (this was after the Norman conquest of England in 1066) and Anselm traveled to England to inspect these properties. It was here that he met William the Conqueror whom he established a good rapport. His friend Lanfranc was by then the Archbishop of Canterbury. Anselm returned to England in 1092 to advise on the foundation of a monastery at the behest of one of the nobles, and became involved in the political challenges of the day between church and state. Archbishop Lanfranc had died in 1089 and no successor had been put in place as the current king, the son of William the Conqueror, William Rufus, controlled all the income of the properties of the see of Canterbury without an archbishop. The king at that time would also be involved in investing the bishop as well. Anselm, through much negotiation, eventually was invested as Archbishop of Canterbury on December 4, 1093. This investiture was exacerbated by the controversy of two competing popes of the time, Clement III and Urban II and part of the greater "investiture controversy" going on during this era, basically, whether a secular ruler or the pope had

the primary right to invest an ecclesiastical authority with the symbols of office. Since the mid-8<sup>th</sup> century, the pope would give a woolen pallium to a bishop consecrated as the bishop of a metropolitan see, such as Canterbury. The King of England recognized neither pope to avoid the conflict and also attempted to prevent Anselm from traveling to receive the pallium from Pope Urban. Anselm supported Pope Urban, who eventually came out on top in this struggle. Additionally, Anselm's conflicts with that king and his successor Henry I over reform issues, would lead to Anselm being twice exiled from England. During these exiles, he would prove to be a great support to Pope Urban. This struggle for power between the papacy and rulers of kingdoms was also part of the issues wrestled with at the time, including the ability of bishops to meet freely in councils, and to enforce canon law.

Despite the political struggles, Anselm continued to write and produce noted theological texts. Anselm eventually returned to Canterbury, where he died on April 21, 1109. April 21 is the date of his feast day in the church calendar. There is some confusion on when he was canonized, with some sources dating it back as early to the time of the Council of Tours when it was put forward by Thomas Becket to Pope Alexander III. Most other sources reference his canonization by Pope Alexander VI in 1494. Anselm was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pope Clement XI in 1720. §

Sources cited: <http://www.catholic.org>  
<http://www.wikipedia.org>

## RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE

We continue to make great progress on the *Zeal for God's House* project. Except for the two remaining statues of Sts. John the Apostle and Mary Magdalene, the reredos is complete! The carpenter is currently working on the side altars for our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. The altars will be installed by the end of May. There was a little hiccup with our newly installed carpet. There was a dye lot issue, making sections of the carpet appear lighter than others. This can often happen in carpet installs, but when the carpet is laid down in large, open spaces, the irregularities can be spotted more easily. We've selected a new carpet to be installed in the church. In order to minimize waste, the existing carpet that was installed last year will be repurposed and installed in the sacristies, the connector be-

tween the church and the rectory, and if we have enough, the Atwood Ave. entrance. The carpet will be installed June 6<sup>th</sup> – June 10<sup>th</sup>. Once the carpet is installed, the handicap-accessible chairs will be added in the west transept.

Paul Lang, a parishioner, architect for this project and woodworker extraordinaire, is currently completing work on our new kneelers, the ambry (which will house the holy oils), the reliquary niche for St. Bernard and St. John Vianney, and the Book of Remembrance stand. These pieces will be added as they are completed. We're also waiting to have our statuary painted. The statuary that was made in Peru arrived safely in Milwaukee in mid-March. The statuary will hopefully be ready by the time the side altars are installed. We'll also be making some tweaks to newly installed lighting in the sanctuary.

The entire project should be completed by summer's end. We're looking forward to having Bishop Morlino with us for the 10:00am Mass on **Sunday, August 21st** to bless the renovations. Following Mass, we'll have a celebratory reception in the parish center gymnasium. Please plan to attend as we celebrate this great milestone for our parish! §



*Above:* The sanctuary space decorated for Palm Sunday weekend. *Below:* the newly constructed choir area behind the reredos. The new choir area contains a television screen for choir members to see the sanctuary, and new microphone technology to help their voices project into the assembly.

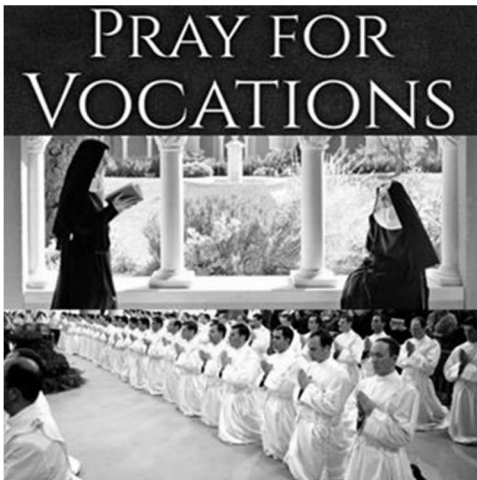


## CENSUS PROJECT UPDATE

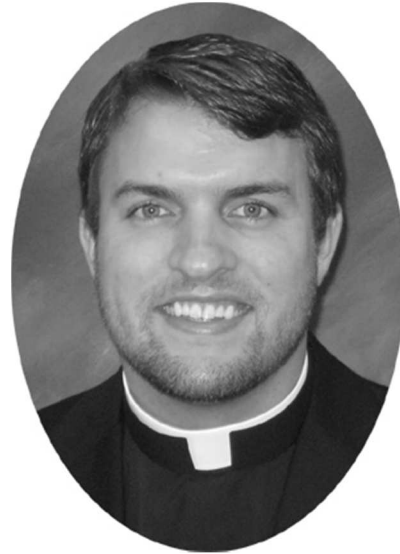
Beginning in July, we will begin the second portion of the census project. One year ago, we sent a large mailing and asked all parishioners to return their updated census information to us. We had a good response, but there were many households that did not return any information. We'll be contacting all households that we didn't receive information from by phone to inquire about their parish membership. When the project is completed, we will be working from a database which reflects a more accurate representation of the parish's membership. Thank you for your help and cooperation as we complete this project. §

## SUMMER GUESTS

St. Bernard is looking forward to welcoming two of our seminarians and another Italian priest this summer. **Dcn. Luke Syse** was ordained to the transitional diaconate for the Diocese in early April. He will be exercising his diaconal ministry with us in late June, July and August. **Michael Johnson** is a new seminarian to the Diocese, coming to us from the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Michael completed his pre-theology studies in Texas, and will begin his theological studies in the fall. This will be our third summer hosting another Italian priest from the Vatican Diplomatic Corps. Their primary residence is with us while attending the Wisconsin English as a Second Language Institute (WESLI) in downtown Madison. Please make these men feel welcome as you see them at Mass and around the parish. §



## UPCOMING ORDINATIONS



Bishop Robert C. Morlino and the Diocese of Madison joyfully announce the ordination of Dcn. Joseph Baker to the priesthood of Jesus Christ for service in the Diocese of Madison on **Friday, June 24th** at St. Maria Goretti Parish in Madison. Please keep Dcn. Baker in your prayers as he prepares for his priestly ordination. §



Bishop Robert C. Morlino and the Diocese of Madison joyfully announce the ordination of James Hoegemeier to the Permanent Diaconate for service in the Diocese of Madison on **Friday, July 24th** at St. Albert the Great Parish in Sun Prairie. Please remember Jim and his family in your prayers as he prepares for his ordination. §



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## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Mondays	Confessions 5:45pm—6:15pm Rosary at 6:10pm Evening Mass at 6:30pm
Tuesdays	Rosary at 11:50am Mass at 12:10pm Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal devotions following Mass
Wednesdays	Rosary at 8:10am Mass at 8:30am Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions following Mass
Thursdays	Rosary at 6:40am Mass at 7:00am
All Fridays	Rosary at 8:10am Mass at 8:30am
2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Fridays	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following Mass until 11:00am. Confessions following 8:30am Mass, dependent on president's schedule
Sundays	Saturday Anticipatory Mass 4:30pm Saturday confessions 3:30pm—4:15pm Sundays at 8:00am and 10:00am Sunday confessions 9:15am—9:45am
First Fridays	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 6:00pm. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available during this time. Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Acts of Consecration and Reparation and Benediction at 7:00pm.
First Saturdays	Rosary at 8:10am Mass at 8:30am Marian devotions following Mass Confessions following devotions.

## PARISH STAFF DIRECTORY (608) 249-9256

### ADMINISTRATION

**Rev. Michael Radowicz**, Pastor  
Ext. 222 | pastor@sbmsn.org

**Gloria Brockman**, Administrative Assistant  
Ext. 221 | office@sbmsn.org

**Nicholas Meyers III**, Maintenance & Custodial  
Ext. 248 | maintenance@sbmsn.org

**Susan Meyers**, Rectory Housekeeping  
Ext. 221 | housekeeping@sbmsn.org

### PARISH MINISTRIES

**Ken Sosinski**, Liturgy & Pastoral Music  
Ext. 225 | liturgy@sbmsn.org

**Connie Hultman**, Pastoral Care & Outreach  
Ext. 229 | pcare@sbmsn.org

**Geri Nehls**, Religious Education  
Ext. 230 | re@sbmsn.org

**Carol McHugh**, Youth Ministry  
Ext. 232 | youth@sbmsn.org

St. Bernard Preschool  
Ext. 228 | preschool@sbmsn.org

**Renee Witke**, Director

**Lisa Peterson, Heidi Rosemeyer, Carol McHugh**, Staff

For e-bulletins, a full calendar of events  
and other late-breaking information,  
visit us on the internet!!

<http://www.sbmsn.org>