



Saint Dennis

Volume 19 Issue 4

December 2018

Good News Quarterly

Centered on Christ: Rite of Consecration of the Altar

It was a blessed time of celebration on October 14, when Bishop Robert C. Morlino joined with the Saint Dennis Community to preside over the Rite of Consecration of the Altar.



©Kevin Wondrask

This special Mass, featuring readings highlighting the centrality of the altar across Judeo-Christian history, marked the official dedication of the new sanctuary.

After a sprinkling rite recalling our baptism, the bishop deposited the relics of Saints Verecundi and Blandae into a special drawer in the new altar. The relic stone, dated March 5, 1959, was formerly kept in the convent chapel at Holy Name Seminary, which is now Holy Name Heights.

Next, the bishop anointed the altar with Sacred Chrism, generously pouring the oil in the center and all four corners. Then the oil was wiped from the altar table by the priests joining in the dedication, including our own pastors, Father Randy Timmerman and Father Joji Reddy Allam, and Father Brian Wilk, a priest son of Saint Dennis. The newly dedicated altar was then covered with altar cloths presented to the bishop by representatives of the Centered on Christ Committee. Members of the Committee participated in various aspects of the Mass in recognition of their significant contributions to the renovation project.

(Please see *Consecration* on page 2.)

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For my house shall be called
a house of prayer for all peoples.

~ Isaiah 56:7

Consecration

(Continued from page 1.)

Deacon David Hendrickson lit the altar candles and prepared the altar for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Deacon David, as an assistant to the bishop, served throughout the celebration, including at the completion of Holy Communion, when he accompanied the bishop to the tabernacle for the placement of the Blessed Sacrament, closed the tabernacle door and lit the sanctuary lamp as a sign of Christ's presence.

Throughout the celebration, the new worship space was filled with the joyful sounds of our gifted Saint Dennis choirs, who joined together to mark the special occasion. At the closing, Father Randy offered thanks to all who contributed to the celebration and special thanks to the Committee for their tireless efforts. He also offered words of gratitude to the design and construction professionals in attendance who shepherded the renovation to a timely completion. Finally, he thanked the parish for trusting the vision and contributing to the project's success.

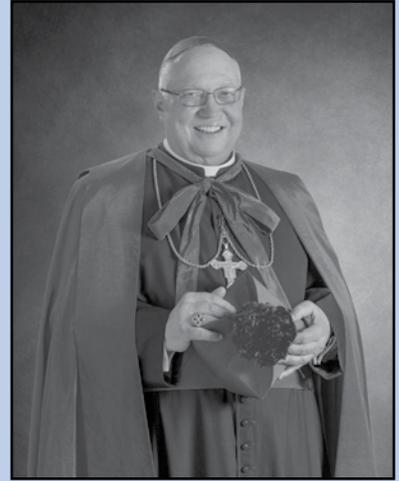
~ Kathy Markeland



In Memoriam: Bishop Robert C. Morlino

The community of Saint Dennis joins with the Catholic faithful in mourning the passing of Bishop Robert C. Morlino on November 24, 2018. We were blessed with his leadership and guidance for fifteen years and doubly blessed here at Saint Dennis to have welcomed him to preside over the consecration of our new altar and sanctuary just a few short weeks before he was called to his eternal home.

A native of Scranton, Pennsylvania, prior to his appointment to the Diocese of Madison, he served as Bishop of the Diocese of Helena from 1999-2003. Bishop Morlino was a student of philosophy and shared his gift as a teacher, ethicist and moral theologian throughout his years of ordained service. He held national leadership positions with committees of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Catholic Bioethics Center among others. He received numerous awards and recognitions in recent years for championing human rights and the dignity of the human person.



Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Madison Diocese in Transition

The visitation and funeral for Bishop Robert Morlino was held at Saint Maria Goretti Parish on December 4, 2018, with interment at Resurrection Cemetery. Presiding at the funeral was the Most Reverend Jerome E. ListECKI, Archbishop of Milwaukee.

The diocesan College of Consultors elected Monsignor James Bartylla, the vicar general for the diocese, to serve as diocesan administrator. He will continue to serve in that role until the appointment of a new bishop.

While the appointment decision ultimately rests with the pope, there is an extensive consultation process in advance of the decision. It often takes six to eight months—and sometimes longer—for a new bishop to be appointed.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops provides a detailed overview of the process on their website: <http://www.usccb.org/about/leadership/appointing-bishops.cfm>



Pizza, Bowling and Jumping Around!

The Party Bus was held on November 2 and was organized by Lisa Harms. This year there were 105 middle and high school students. We started off at Saint Dennis in the upper Parish Center. There we had pizza and breadsticks from Pizza Hut and everyone enjoyed them. We also got to watch cartoons.

After that, we went to Bowl-A-Vard bowling alley to bowl. If you got a strike, you received a prize of candy.

Finally, to top everything off, we went to SkyZone. We got to jump around, play dodgeball, and do so many other fun activities. Since we went at the time when Club Glow started, everything was glow in the dark. Another thing we received from there was a free t-shirt! These shirts were neon colors so you were able to see most things in the dark and glow! For me, the Party Bus was a great experience and was a TON of fun!!

~ Elizabeth Jacques



Middle Schoolers Use Chromebooks to Advance Learning

The start of a new school year brings about many changes including a big change in technology for middle school students here at Saint Dennis. Each middle school student has been issued a Chromebook. In years past, students have used iPads. With technology changing so quickly, Saint Dennis Principal Matt Beisser and our middle school staff felt it was time for a change.

Many of the Madison Metropolitan School District middle schools also issue students Chromebooks. They are easier to use and provide students with more flexibility and the ability to open multiple windows at once. They also give teachers more accessibility for projects and class assignments. Much like a laptop, the Chromebook uses Google Chrome for its browser and Google Classroom.

~ Ann Pitz

A “New” Familiar Face Brings Cooking Skills to School

This school year, the hot lunch program experienced some transitions as Ms. Mary Taylor departed and we welcomed Ms. Erin Rosinski as the new Saint Dennis Hot Lunch Manager. She is no stranger to Saint Dennis having worked in the Hot Lunch program in prior years. In addition, her son, Josh, is a Saint Dennis graduate and her daughter, Emma, is currently in first grade.

Along with starting her new position, she has taken on the responsibility of the Culinary Class. She still occasionally works at The Great Dane East, loves pizza and swimming! Welcome back to the Saint Dennis kitchen, Ms. Erin!

~ Ann Pitz



Students Rise to the Challenge with Lego Robotics

We just finished our first quarter of Lego Robotics and it has been an adventure to say the least! Students spent several days learning about the different motors and sensors of their robots that allow them to be programmed to function. Then, in four teams, they built those pieces into four vastly different Lego robots, including a puppy, robotic arm, forklift vehicle and a two-wheeled, upright balancing “gyro boy.”

Though the class focused primarily on building robots and knowing their functional capabilities this quarter, students had the chance to try out some basic programming on their bots in the past few weeks. They were able to make their robots speak (or bark), make general movements and react to motion or color with sensors built into their creations.

With their robots ready to go, students will take on more programming practice this quarter. Our robotics set includes an outer space themed mat with extraterrestrial missions. In teams, students must program their robots to complete as many missions as possible. I am confident they are up to the challenge!
~ Amanda Caufield, Computer Teacher



Generous Donor Brings Families Together

For years, Karen Casey was a beloved catechist for the second grade students in our Faith Formation program. She poured her heart into her lessons and truly loved helping our youth learn about Jesus’ love for each and every one of them. When Karen passed away this past May, she generously asked for memorial donations to be given to the Faith Formation program...and we could not have been more touched. Shortly before she died, she expressed her desire to do something really special for our students that brought families together. This December, we found the perfect chance to do that.



All Faith Formation families were invited to attend a free showing of “The Star”, an animated movie about the birth of Jesus told from the perspective of a donkey. We rented out the biggest theater Sun Prairie Palace Theaters had to offer and we easily filled the 280 seats with excited children and grateful parents. With Karen’s generosity, families were given a night together making memories and a gentle reminder of the real meaning of Christmas. The special event included an Advent kit for each family to keep the joy going through the rest of the Advent season.

Christmas Pageant
December 17 at 6:30 pm

Join the youth of our parish as they reenact the glorious night when Jesus was born. A cookie reception will follow and all are welcome.

Thank you, Karen Casey, for bringing families together for one amazing evening!

~ Lisa Harms, Faith Formation Coordinator Grades K-8

Serving Those Serving Time

On an early October evening this past fall, parishioners from the Eastside of Madison and other community members gathered in the Saint Dennis upper Parish Center for an event - a documentary and discussion - that reached beyond the walls of the church and transported participants into the lives of three families in a central city neighborhood of Milwaukee who are living with the consequences of incarceration.

The documentary film “Milwaukee 53206: A Community Serves Time,” provides a window into the ZIP code with the highest incarceration rate among African American males in the country. Over forty people viewed the film and participated in an informative discussion facilitated by Cecelia Klingele, an Associate Professor at the UW-Madison Law School who specializes in criminal justice issues. Participants asked thoughtful questions about the many forces driving the high rates of incarceration in Wisconsin.

Klingele encouraged participants to not only become informed about the justice system, but to also seek personal connections with families impacted by incarceration. As the documentary shows, Jesus’ call to visit the imprisoned includes caring for their families who are serving their own kind of time. To learn more about justice reform, visit www.usccb.org and search for “criminal justice.” To align with families on a personal level, consider volunteering at The Beacon (608-826-8022) or the Catholic Multicultural Center (608-441-1180).

~ Kathy Markeland



Faith Formation Students Make a Difference in Madison

The K-8 Faith Formation program responded in force to the needs of The Beacon, a homeless day resource center in Madison. Families generously gave personal care items, laundry detergent and socks during our first semester drive. Catholic Charities runs this multi-service day resource center that helps homeless women, men and children in Dane County. They were incredibly appreciative of the donations from our students and reinforced the fact that when we all come together, what a difference we can make!

~ Lisa Harms, Faith Formation Coordinator Grades K-8



An Un-Belizeable Mission Trip

The 25 member team from Saint Dennis recently returned from a life-changing experience in Belize. The people of Belize welcomed us all with open arms and hearts, and we certainly will never be the same. Our week was packed to the brim with school visits, building for our construction team, running a Vacation Bible School at Saint Joseph's, and deep spiritual sessions in the evenings. The relationships that we have continued to build with the staff, parents and students at Saint Joseph's School inspired us all to want to continue to help them finish their new school and continuously support their valiant efforts to help these hard-working, respectful students.

~ Lisa Harms, Faith Formation Coordinator Grades K-8

Photos by Patrick Stutz



Turning the Page: Parish Bids Farewell to Sister Mary Therese

Sister Mary Therese retired from active ministry at the end of November. Looking back over Sister Mary Therese's 58 years of ministry is awe inspiring. Originally from Durand, Illinois, she received her BA in Education at Edgewood College and then joined the Sinsinawa Dominicans, beginning her amazing career. She has worked as a teacher, principal and in adult education formation in multiple schools and parishes in the Midwest and East coast. Sister started as a primary teacher but has worked with middle and high school students and with adults. She has earned two master's degrees, one at Cardinal Stritch in Education and an MA in Religious Studies/Spirituality at Mundelein.

Arriving at Saint Dennis School in 2005 as a long term substitute teacher, Sister remembers that she received a very warm welcome here. She has been at our parish and school the longest of all her assignments and has "worn many hats" that include Faith Formation Director and teacher, coordinator of RCIA, facilitator of the Mom's Group, GIFT, Adult Enrichment Minister and a Small Group leader.

Sister Mary Therese is excited for the next chapter in her life but is not sure what her next ministry will be. She loves the people here and will miss the friends she has made at Saint Dennis. Good luck Sister Mary Therese! We will miss you.

~ Janet Dickinson



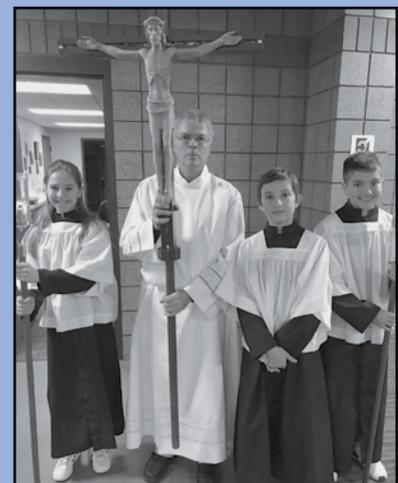
Adult Servers Assist in Transition

Most of you probably have noticed that we now have an adult server at each of the weekend Masses. When we moved into the new sanctuary space, there were many new things for the Mass servers to learn. It was decided that an adult server at each Mass would make the changes easier for the student servers during this transition.

Some of the changes for the Mass servers are ringing the bells at the time of the Consecration, opening the Roman Missal for the prayers, standing and kneeling at different times, and different Altar preparations before the Eucharistic prayers.

The adult servers are volunteers and received training prior to their ministry. Some of our adult servers participated in serving Mass when they were young while others are new to this ministry. We are grateful for the adult servers and their help in training and guiding our student servers.

~ Pat Hendrickson



Caring for Creation: Pets blessed in October

You might say that Saint Dennis went to the dogs on October 6 – but you’d be leaving out the cats and a cute bunny named Riley, who all came to church that Saturday for the annual blessing of pets. The event is held by the Care for Creation team in conjunction with the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, which is observed October 4.

Saint Francis is the Catholic Church’s patron saint of animals. In 1979, Pope John Paul II also recognized him as the patron saint of ecology. More recently, his name is being invoked by Catholics across the country who are taking the Saint Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor. (Learn more about the pledge at www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/pledge.)

Father Randy individually blessed 16 dogs, three cats, and Riley the bunny. Father Allam read about creation from the Book of Genesis. Afterward, participants enjoyed refreshments provided by Jim Gillitzer, who organized the doggone good event.

~ Julie Lehr



Thanks, Good Wishes and Help Wanted: Minor Home Repair

What happens when you put several fellows with many “do it yourself” skills together? They start a program that helps our parishioners, especially seniors, maintain and stay in their homes longer. Dave Dwyer and Paul Anderson, along with several other talented helpers over the last almost 20 years, have been doing just that.

Unfortunately for Saint Dennis, Dave and Paul are having to turn in their tool belts due to aging and illness. They have served an average of several dozen seniors a year doing such things as: repairing or replacing faucets, repairing leaky toilets, replacing electrical outlets, switches, light fixtures and fans. They have also cleaned eavestroughs and downspouts, repaired broken drywall, repaired or replaced storm doors and installed grab bars for safety. Their work is always done at no cost to the individuals.

How can anyone ever express sufficient gratitude to these gentlemen who have always provided service with a smile? How can we thank them? Can we keep this ministry going?

If you have some “handy person” skills and are willing to try to keep this ministry going forward, it would be a wonderful way to thank Dave and Paul, while offering help to parishioners.

Please contact the parish office at (608)246-5124 and Dave will help you get started. Many thanks and blessings.

~ Dave Dwyer and Kathy Saunders

Dave & Busters Trip January 20, 2019

Attention middle and high school students!
Save the date to beat the winter blues and have some fun. We will have our own party room complete with a delicious “teen-friendly” buffet, unlimited video games and \$20 for ticketed games. This is a trip you don’t want to miss so watch for sign-up details soon!

Profile from the Pew: Mike Stewart

Mike Stewart has been a member of Saint Dennis for longer than he can remember. His parents enrolled him in second grade at the school – which was the first grade available at the time. Mike was a parishioner until he went off to college and returned in the late 80’s.

Mike and his wife, Angie, have been married six years. Angie has three children from a previous marriage and Mike has two. Mike also has one grandchild. Both Mike and Angie grew up in Wisconsin but moved away for some time. Their careers brought them back to Wisconsin and eventually they found each other.

Mike has joined many ministries at Saint Dennis. He never had a desire to be an usher until his father asked him to sub for his mother. Subbing for his mother became a regular thing and the head usher joked that Mike ushered more Sundays than any other usher and he wasn’t even on the schedule. Mike started serving as a catechist when his second oldest daughter started asking him about the Catholic faith. He figured if his daughter was asking about her faith, other young adults probably did, too. He has been a catechist for middle school ever since.

Mike shared, “Saint Dennis has been a place where I’ve always felt comfortable being able to speak with God.” He has seen many changes over the years at Saint Dennis from the original convent to festival being in the front grounds. Mike feels the education he received at the school was top rate and he has always had a special connection with Saint Dennis.

~ Rebecca Johnson



New Parish Website!

Check it out! Our Parish website has a whole new look! Along with a new design and easy navigation, the site also has one-touch giving, a Facebook feed, and looks great on all of your devices. You should be able to locate everything that was on the previous site, however, it might just be in a different place.

You have probably noticed we have updated our logo and tagline as well. The logo features a cross design that matches the cross in our new church sanctuary. The fish behind the cross matches the design on our new tabernacle and the top of the altar. As for our new tagline – we are truly a Catholic church that is centered on Christ. We hope you enjoy our new look!

~ Karen Kaehr, Parish Administrator



Saint Dennis Congregation Financial Report
July - September 2018

	2018	2017
Total Ordinary Income (Envelopes, Offertory, Religious Ed, Fundraising, etc.)	\$ 448,650	\$ 462,145
Other Income (Auxiliary Income, Memorials, etc)	\$ 4,128	\$ 5,920
Total Church Income	\$ 452,779	\$ 468,066
School Income (Tuition, Fees, Donations, Grants)*	\$ 137,284	\$ 159,191
Other School income (Parish Subsidy, Extended Care, School Lunch, etc)	\$ 55,533	\$ 52,679
Total School Income	\$ 192,817	\$ 211,870
Total Income - Church & School	\$ 645,596	\$ 679,936
Church Administration Expense (Wages, Benefits, Taxes, Insurance, Utilities, Building Maintenance, Assessments, etc)	\$ 216,575	\$ 195,678
Other Church Expense	\$ 244,342	\$ 222,754
Total Church Expense	\$ 460,917	\$ 418,432
School Salary Expense (Wages, Benefits, Taxes, Insurance)	\$ 234,308	\$ 228,090
Other School Expenses (School Admin. Instructional Expense, Plant Operations)	\$ 56,492	\$ 69,930
Total School Expense	\$ 290,800	\$ 298,019
Total Expenses - Church & School	\$ 751,717	\$ 716,452
Net Income	\$ -106,121	\$ -36,516

Coming Together in Service: Women of Saint Dennis

The Women of Saint Dennis ministry promotes religious, educational and charitable activities for the benefit of women and families of the parish, Saint Dennis School, the Eastside community and various missions. All women who belong to Saint Dennis Parish are automatically members of this group.

Our funds are generated by dues, gathered through a special envelope in the first quarter envelope packet, the annual Holiday Craft Fair in November and other activities. The Holiday Fair is our major money-making project as we organize booths for the crafts and bake sale, place ads, and solicit the vendors. Some of our funds have been used for: the RCIA program, Faith Formation activities, Okolona, Mississippi mission trip, Saint Joseph School in Belize, and the Schenk Weekend Nutrition Program.

Each December we sponsor the Angel Tree. Last year we received enough gifts that each of the 170 needy children received two gifts. We also sponsor the Care Net baby bottles and Elizabeth House Baby Shower. We serve the funeral dinners that are held in Fellowship Hall or the Parish Center. This is a wonderful ministry to offer to our parishioners as they can share a meal with their family and friends after a funeral.

In March, all women are invited to "Ladies Night Out." This is a fun night – great companions, delicious food, Bingo and an interesting speaker. Please join us for a night of fellowship next Spring.

Our monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please join us at our next meeting.

~ Mary Tierney

Newsletter Team

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Mass Times

Saturday

4:00 pm

Sunday

7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:45 am

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Pope Francis Tweets

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November 26

Let us ask the Lord for the grace of being generous, so that our hearts may be opened and we may become kinder.

Saint of the Day

Saint Francis Xavier

December 3

In Thee, O Lord have I put my hope.

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24
4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 8:00 pm and Midnight

Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25
9:00 am

New Year's Eve, Monday, December 31
4:00 pm

New Year's Day, Tuesday, January 1
9:00 am