

Stewardship in Action at St. Bernard

Introducing . . . The Information Technology Ministry

Get Connected—www.stbernardbridgewater.org

Dan McDonald is a parishioner whose career as a software engineer has led him on a mission that he hopes will enrich the experience for many parishioners and the staff of St. Bernard's. Backed by his wife Lisa, and his children Joshua and Joanna, Dan has found a way to link his own personal gifts of time and talent with the needs of our church.

The initial effort in the formation of this ministry was a redesign and a launch of our new website. Dan hopes to use this as a focal point to recruit others who would be willing to lend their time and talents in support of this effort. Such a group of technologists would be a valuable resource, providing expertise and training. In turn, this will help our Councils, Commissions, and Ministries be more effective in serving their own roles in the parish.

website current and relevant, increasing its usefulness to the whole community.

The website is only the beginning for the new Information Technology Ministry. As well as working to improve and maintain the new website, email provisioning, shared calendaring, and mobile integration are all on the ministries swiftly growing to-do list.



A parishioner for the last twelve years, and a former seven year member of the Stewardship Council, Dan recognized that the parish had a great untapped potential to leverage modern communication techniques in support of its broader mission. As a result, Dan answered the "call" to "light the wick" of the candle for a Ministry that can make IT happen.

The new website features an innovative look, improved navigation, and is regularly updated with news and information from an increasing number of parish ministries. Photos, videos, current events, and important links are all available, as well as general parish information and a directory of the staff.

One of the key features of the new site is the ability for a large number of individuals to contribute. Clergy, staff, and ministry leaders can author and post articles directly to the website without requiring time and effort from the parish office. This helps keep the



Perhaps most important of all, the Information Technology Ministry will be providing training and assistance to the clergy, staff, and ministries that are beginning to take advantage of the new website capabilities in "getting the word out."



One of their more ambitious goals even involves building a system to distribute recordings of Sunday homilies as a downloadable podcast!

The newly formed IT Ministry has just begun taking the first step on the journey to share information quickly and easily.

Further development of this Ministry will depend on an increased participation by those technical folks that can share their time and talent for it to prosper. This Ministry's goal is to support the use of technology for St Bernard's Parishioners to

Thank you Dan for your help and guidance in making this vision a reality!

"Get Connected"

The new Website launched in August and demonstrated at our Stewardship Fair on the weekend of October 20th – 21st is a convenient way for parishioners to find out how they can contribute to the St Bernard Parish Community.

Please consider *"getting connected"* by visiting

www.stbernardbridgewater.org

