



St. Bridget of Sweden Catholic Church

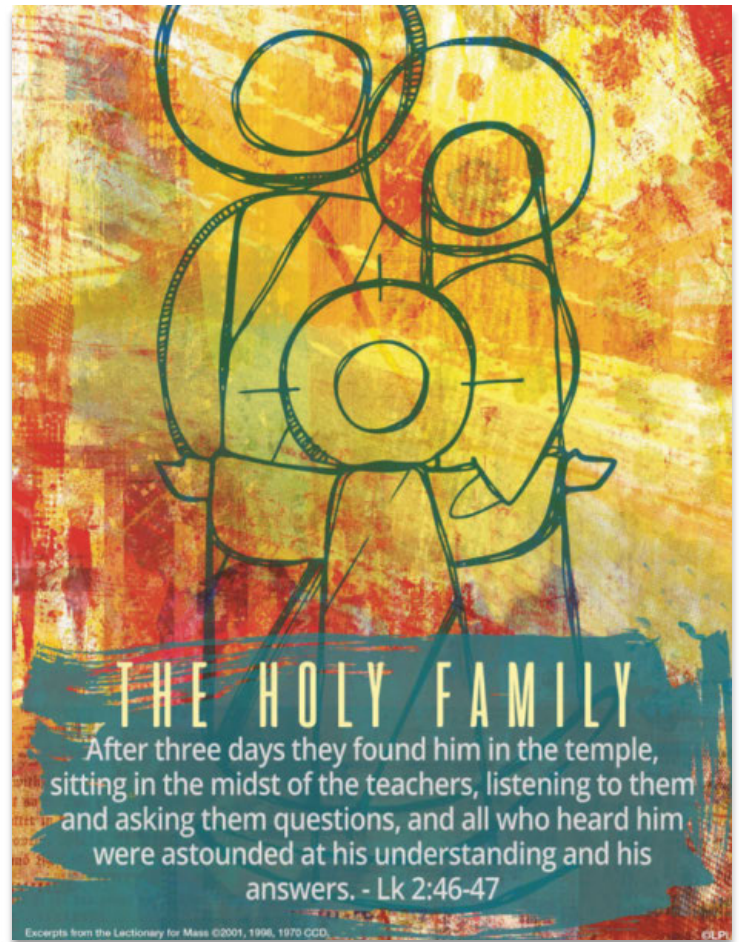
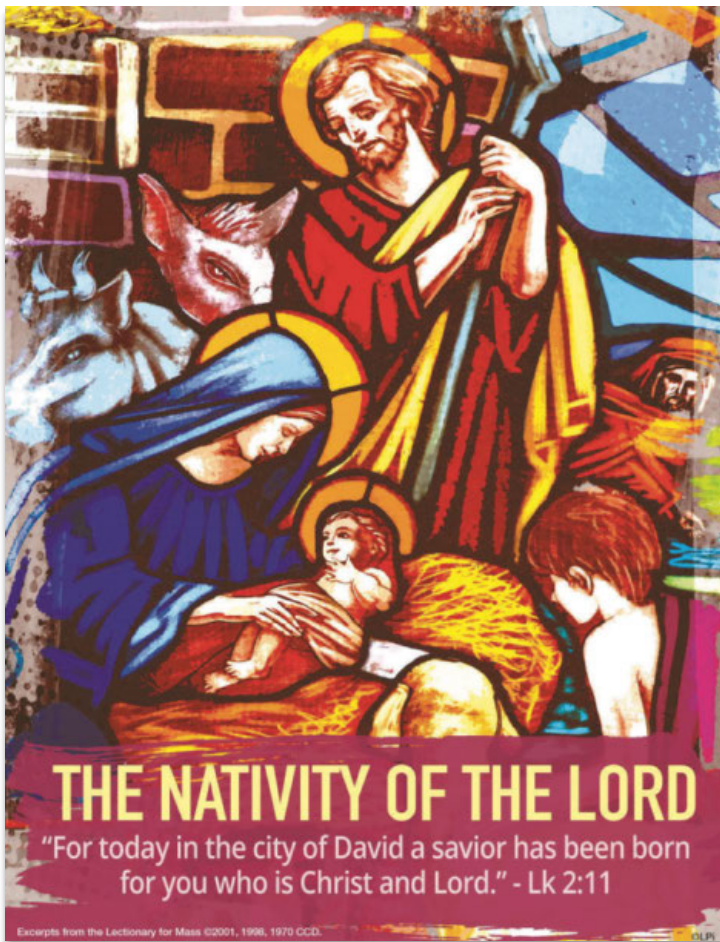


Together in Christ. Living Our Faith.

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www.stbridgetofsweden.org

December 25 & 26, 2020

The Nativity of the Lord & Feast of the Holy Family



Pastor, Fr. David Kohner
frkohner@comcast.net

Parish Office

Phone—651-257-2474
Fax—651-257-1498
Hours—M-Th 9 AM-4 PM, F 9 AM-1 PM
Emergency Line after office hours:
612-840-8378

Prayer Calling Line

Contact Heidi (651)257-2474 x25
prayers@stbridgetofsweden.org

Eucharistic Liturgies

Weekend

Saturday 5 PM; Sunday 8 & 10 AM

Weekday

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9 AM
Tuesday 12:00 PM

Reconciliation

Saturday 4:00-4:40 PM
Tuesday 5:00-6:00 PM
or by appointment

Adoration

Tuesday 9:00 AM-9:00 PM
Benediction 12:30 PM

Baby Blanket

651-257-2474 x34
651-304-0432 cell
info@thebabyblanket.org
Thursday 9:30 am-12:30 pm
Saturday 9:30 am-12:30 pm

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DAVE

DECEMBER 25-26, 2021

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS; THE WAIT IS OVER!

It seemed like a long Advent to me this year, and indeed it was only one day short of its maximum length. But now we have arrived at that day that we have all been waiting for during the past four weeks – the great Feast of Christmas (the Nativity of Our Lord).

It gives me great joy to welcome all of you as we gather with a festive spirit here at St. Bridget's this Christmas weekend, to give praise to God for birth of Jesus his Son. A year ago I thought that covid concerns would be a thing of the past by now, but such has not proven to be the case. Thankfully, for many, the various vaccines and booster shots have provided a level of protection, although not total immunity from the virus dangers. Please know that for those who choose to enact an extra level of protection through masking, we are certainly supportive and welcome your presence, participation and prayers. For those who desire more distancing than seating in the Church provides, the Mass is being video linked to the big screen in the Social Hall with individual chair seating and Communion being distributed in the Social Hall.

You may notice that the pared down level of decorations of last year have now been restored to a more robust level of festivity with additional lights, flowers and trees. The organ, which has been silent throughout Advent, now rejoins our cantors/choir along with our larger and more resonant grand piano donated this past year by the family of Henry and Rita Peloquin. We have consciously tried to schedule all of the well-known Christmas songs that are in our hymnals, plus a few extras, to be used through the course of our two week Christmas Season. So please join in the singing to enrich our and your worship experience.

Just a few words about attendance and finances as we celebrate Christ's birth and also approach the end of the calendar year. St. Bridget's, like many parishes, has not fully recovered from the covid shutdown and gradual re-opening triggered 21 months ago. Many, but certainly not all, have returned to weekend Mass attendance. Beginning in September, our attendance has alternated between 450 and 550 persons per weekend –we'll say an average of 500. Pre-covid attendance hovered around 700 persons per weekend, depending on the time of year (winter snowbirds vs. summer cabiners). So we are currently experiencing attendance that is down by 25-30% from pre-covid levels.

The attendance impacts finances. For the fiscal year

to date (July 1st to the present-5 months) our total of envelope and offertory collections are down by roughly \$44,000 from the current budget and \$18,000 from last year's level. On the expense side, we are also down by roughly \$41,000 from the budget and \$21,000 from last year's spending level. Bottom Line: as of Dec 15 our total actual income has been \$378,947. Our total expenses have been \$352,553., resulting in a year to date surplus of \$26,393 of income over expenses. THANK YOU – that sounds good, right? Yes, BUT, part of that income was a profit of \$30,200 from the sale of one of our rental houses. Without that, we would be running a roughly \$4,000 deficit year to date.

BOTTOM LINE MESSAGE: Thank you so much for your support to St. Bridget's, but please continue, or even increase, if possible, that generosity, especially while covid continues to mean less people are coming to Mass to finance the many and even added services that we provide (video ministry for instance) as well as the capital improvement projects (e.g. rental house needed upgrades) that we have on the "do-to" list. We will provide a more detailed State of the Parish Year to Date in next week's bulletin.

More than anything, Christmas is about blessings and gifts. God has blessed us with the gift of his Son Jesus, and the necessities for our daily life. Similarly, each of you are a blessing and a gift to St. Bridget's parish by your very presence, your prayers, your volunteering, and your financial support. We are grateful for your choosing to be part of St. Bridget's Parish Community. On behalf of our entire Parish Staff, we thank you sincerely and wish you and your loved ones a safe and blessed Christmas Day and Christmas Season!

- Fr. Dave



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PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

A message from
Theresa Zlotkowski
Faith Formation Director
651-257-2474 x58



A message from
Joe Kuschel
Youth Minister
651-257-2474 x56

"Christmas celebrations are often full of sound. It would be good for us to make room for silence, to hear the voice of Love." - Pope Francis

Households of Faith: Angels Among Us!



We will soon start registering for Catholic Summer Youth Camp and our mission trip down to Marshalltown, Iowa. Now that I have one mission trip and one Youth camp under my belt, I'd be hard-pressed to pick one over the other. The kids returned from both trips with a new sense for worship, service, Adoration, prayer, and bonding. They also had a great dose of fun. On second thought, let's call it joy. The fun things in life usually have a beginning and an end. The things that bring joy in life can have an ongoing and everlasting effect, and that is what happened as a result of these two weeks last Summer. More information will follow.

As I dotted that last sentence, I received a phone call from Julie at Real Life Catholic/Augustine Institute, the publishers of Chris Stefanick's latest book, "Living Joy." As I mentioned two weeks ago, two of my favorite authors are Joyce Meyer and Chris Stefanick. They have both recently published books concentrating on living joy-filled lives. With everything going on in the world today, I guess they both felt that people are taking their eyes off the prize, and they both have the ability and talent to get people to refocus. The reason that I received a call from Real Life Catholic is because I had called them and asked permission to go into a little more depth in Chris Stefanick's Living Joy than I might normally would have. They said to go for it, just give Chris proper credit. Just to let you know, Chris Stefanick is the author of our "Chosen" program, that is used by our 7th and 8th grade Faith Formation classes, so his work is very familiar to me, along with 7th-10th graders. I believe there is lots of great stuff in Chris's 9 Rules of "Living Joy," and I'll be happy to pass it along when I'm in need of a column.

Your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.—John 16:22

We all really want just one thing. Whether it's money, success, impact on the world, a great marriage, a stable family, or a yacht in Hawaii, it's all for one reason, we want to be happy, we want joy. Chris points out the words of St. John Paul II, when he was talking to hundreds of thousands of young people in Toronto, "Dear young people...I have felt the deep longing that beats within your hearts: *you want to be happy!*"

Now, let's look at the power, or the unstoppable force behind joy. Preferring spiritual pleasure over passing pleasure makes temptations easier to topple. Forgiving people is easier, because they can't take from you the one thing that matters. We all fail at times, but it can't crush a joyful person. Joy makes a magnetic and attractive leader, and a force for good in the world. In the words of then-Cardinal Ratzinger (later Pope Benedict XVI), "The deepest poverty is the inability of joy, the tediousness of a life considered absurd and contradictory... The inability of joy presupposes and produces the inability to love, produces jealousy, avarice—all defects that devastate the life of individuals and of the world." Thank you Cardinal, and thank you Chris.

PARISH CALENDARS

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Friday
December 31st
6:00 PM
Lector:
TBD
Sacristan:
TBD

Saturday
January 1st
9:00 AM
Lector:
TBD
Sacristan:
TBD

Saturday
January 1st
5:00 PM
Lector:
TBD
Sacristans:
Wally & Jan Mohler

Sunday
January 2nd
8:00 AM
Lector:
Carmelita Nelson
Sacristan:
Ed LaPlante

Sunday
January 2nd
10:00 AM
Lectors:
Theresa Zlotkowski
Marilyn Johnson
Sacristan:
Dale Weiler

READINGS

THE WEEK AHEAD

Readings for the week of December 26, 2021

Sunday Feast of the Holy Family
1 Sm 1: 20-22. 24-28 or Sir 3: 2-6. 12-14/ Ps 84:
2-3. 5-6. 9-10/ 1 Jn 3: 1-2. 21-24 or Col 3: 12-21
or Col 3: 12-17/ Lk 2: 41-52

Monday Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 Jn 1: 1-4/ Ps 97: 1-2. 5-6. 11-12/
Jn 20: 1a and 2-8

Tuesday Feast of Holy Innocents, Martyrs
1 Jn 1: 5-2: 2/ Ps 124: 2-3. 4-5. 7b-8/
Mt 2: 13-18

Wednesday The Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2: 3-11/ Ps 96: 1-2a. 2b-3. 5b-6/
Lk 2: 22-35

Thursday The Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2: 12-17/ Ps 96: 7-8a. 8b-9. 10/
Lk 2: 36-40

Friday The Seventh Day of the Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2: 18-21/ Ps 96: 1-2. 11-12. 13/ Jn 1: 1-18

Saturday Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, The
Mother of God
Nm 6: 22-27/ Ps 67: 2-3. 5. 6. 8 (2a)/ Gal 4: 4-7/
Lk 2: 16-21

Sunday, December 26th, 2021
Feast of the Holy Family
8:00 AM Mass CH
10:00 AM Mass CH
6:00 PM AA Meeting EW

Monday, December 27th, 2021
Parish Office CLOSED
Fr. Dave on Vacation this Week

Tuesday, December 28th, 2021
9:00 AM—9:00 PM Adoration CH
12:00 PM Word Communion Service CH
CANCELED 5:00—6:00 PM Confessions
7:00 PM AA LSH

Wednesday, December 29th, 2021
9:00 AM Word Communion Service CH

Thursday, December 30th, 2021
9:00 AM Word Communion Service CH
9:30 AM—12:30 PM Baby Blanket OPEN BB

Friday, December 31st, 2021
Parish Office CLOSED
CANCELED 9:00 AM Daily Mass
6:00 PM Holy Day Vigil Mass CH

Saturday, January 1st, 2021
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Baby Blanket CLOSED
9:00 AM Holy Day Mass CH
CANCELED 4:00—4:40 PM Confessions
5:00 PM Mass CH

Sunday, January 2nd, 2021
The Epiphany of the Lord
8:00 AM Mass CH
10:00 AM Mass CH
6:00 PM AA Meeting EW

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Suzie Alsen · Judy Clark · Lynne Karwand · Greg Fults · Darlene Kowalski · Kristine Beimert · Franklin Steele · Josh Hughes · Marietta Jacobs · Dwayne Kelley · Virgil Kappes · Kathy Berquist · Paula Trevis · Nonna Zwick · Mary Kay Andert · Jake Sauer · Veronica Roltgen · Julie Ramola · Carol Smothers · Thomas Thompson · Mary Karnowski · Kelly DeBiasco · Donna Haines · Charlene Chamernick · Shelley Madison · Judy Kelley · Rachel Curtis · Mick Lund · Tim Mitchel · Ben Riley · Kim Glenna · Beth S. · Jessica Mohler · Jim Underdahl · Jessica Stephens · Michelle · Mary Ann Weisbrod · Susi Ruchie · Tammy Bluhm · Connie Porath · Barb Nelson · Sara Miller · Kathleen Carlson · Katie Crum · Gail · Todd Olund · JoAnne Ford · Ron Schwachtgen · Richard Gage · Julianne Forester · Doug Olson · Betty Olson · Bob Rongitsch · Ron Schleicher · Dolores Thompson · Mark Peterson · Al & Colleen Lightfoot · Don McKay · Jody Bjelland · Linda Spencer · Jean Ricker · Lucy Shoop · Keenan McMahan · Dorothy Goodroad · Holly Sullivan · Sharon Luhmann · Frank Welsch · Don Bluhm · Tonya Stanina · Pat & Ed Weaver · Eileen O'Mara · Eugene · Cy Speltz · Kim Halverson · Al Ahmann · Robin Weaver · Sherol Rogolla · Avery Rasnuessen · Matt Moen · Eric McDonald · Michael Koran · Peter Ellwein · Leslie Mackyee · Gabriel Clay · Brett Casey · Rick Alsen · Mary Mack · Patricia Callahan · Kim Gibson · Katie Harris · Erik Carlson · Kari Hall · Ted Pitzenberger · Maureen Wolhaupter · Jane Merry · Steve Everson · Kristy · Flossy Knaak · Gabrielle L. · Mary Ann Koch · Rex Keblar · Dee Williams · Heather Simon

Key: CH - Church, CP - Chapel, CR - Conference Room, EW - East Wing, BB - Baby Blanket, NR - Nursery, SH - Social Hall, EB - Education Building, LSH - Lower Social Hall, NX - Narthex, OS - Offsite, YR - Youth Room

Please see page 5 of the bulletin for the Mass Intentions.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

All in the Family

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS©LPI

MEALS ON WHEELS



We are in need of volunteers to consistently deliver Meals on Wheels to homebound. If interested in volunteering, please contact Aubrey at 651-257-2474 x22.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER



“Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay and you the potter; we are all the work of your hands.” As we celebrate this Christmas season, let us strive to become the work of his hands at the next Worldwide Marriage

Encounter Weekends Feb 11-13, 2022 and May 6-8, 2022 in Buffalo, MN. For more information, call Brent & Tracy Chessen at 612-756-8720 or visit them at twincitieswwme.org.

BLOOD DRIVE VOLUNTEERS



St. Bridget of Sweden will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, January 6th, 2022 from 12:30pm—5:30pm. We will need a few volunteers to help the blood drive go smoothly. If interested in volunteering, please visit

www.stbridgetofsweden.org/volunteer to sign up or call the parish office at 651-257-2474 x22. To sign up to donate blood, you can visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: Chisago Lindstrom.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY



All are welcome to join the Sunday Bible Study group as they resume sessions starting January 9th. They will begin a series called “The Wild Goose” and hope it will help you experience a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Meetings will take place in the Conference Room from 11:15am—12:45pm. No materials need to be purchased, but we do ask you to register so we can plan on numbers. Please call the parish office or Tim (763-516-1207) to register. We hope you will join us!

END OF THE YEAR GIVING

Important End of the Calendar Year Giving Reminder

- As the end of the 2021 calendar year approaches, if you would like to make a contribution and have it applied to this year, it must be received by the 6:00pm Mass on December 31st. **Due to stringent IRS requirements, we will not be able to make any exceptions on this date.** The only exception is if you mailed a check; it is applied to the year the envelope is postmarked, even if received in the next calendar year.
- If you are NOT a registered member of the parish, we will not be able to send you a tax statement of giving. Registration forms can be found on our website, in the Narthex by the bulletin board, or at the Parish Office. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!**



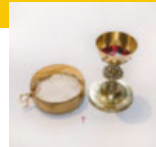
ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR



We are in need of a new Environmental Design Coordinator. This volunteer position coordinates all of our seasonal and liturgical décor in the church throughout the year. The role also coordinates the many volunteers to help change over the environment. If

interested in volunteering as the Environmental Design Coordinator, please contact Jessica at 651-257-2474 x24.

DAILY MASS CHANGES



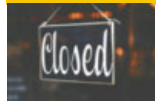
Fr. Dave will be on vacation December 27th—31st. Please join us for Word Communion Services at the normal daily Mass times December 28th—30th. Please note the daily Mass on December 31st is canceled, but you may join us for the Holy Day Vigil Mass at 6:00pm.

THANK YOU!



Thank you to Jim Johnson who has volunteered to take our food donations to the Food Shelf this winter! Thanks to everyone who continues to bring food donations. Your generosity is making a difference to local families.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED



The parish office will be closed New Year's Eve, Friday, December 31st in observance of New Year's Day.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday	12/28	12 PM	Word Communion Service
Wednesday	12/29	9 AM	Word Communion Service
Thursday	12/30	9 AM	Word Communion Service
Friday	12/31	9 AM	CANCELED
		6 PM	† Joy Pringle
Saturday	1/1	9 AM	† Shirley Ann Stoffel
		5 PM	† Sara Sontag Schmitt
Sunday	1/2	8 AM	People of the Parish
		10 AM	† Red & Rita Peloquin



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