

Fourth Sunday of
ADVENT

SAINT BRIDGET OF SWEDEN PARISH

WHERE CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020



Letter from the Pastor

The Reverend Jeffrey V. Romans, RCHS

Dear Friends in Christ:

Today we gather to celebrate the Fourth Sunday in Advent. As we light the last candle of our Advent Wreath, as we gather on the very heels of Christmas, and as we hear the scripture readings for this Sunday, I am reminded of something I heard while at a retreat a number of years ago.



You can understand the Bible between two poles: promise and fulfillment. **God makes promises and He fulfills them.** I have to admit I found this to be so simple and yet so profound.

God is different from us. Truth be told, we make promises but don't always fulfill them. God, on the other hand, always fulfills his promise.

We see this promise and fulfillment in today's readings. God makes an extraordinary promise to King David. "Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever." Our Psalm reiterates this promise "I have sworn to David my servant: Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations".

So what can we say about God's promise to David? Hear the words of the Gospel, when the angel says to the Virgin Mary, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." Then Gabriel goes on to say, "He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father."

God keeps his promise, often in extraordinary and surprising ways. This is the mystery we celebrate in just a few days. God always keeps his promise ALWAYS. He often does it in

ways that go beyond our expectations. We are now accompanying Mary and Joseph on the road to Bethlehem - the City of David. We greet Mary with the words of the angel, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." Confident that God always fulfills his promise, we join Mary in saying, "May it be done to me according to your word."

These final hours of Advent offer us an opportunity to make ourselves fully ready for

God to enter our world. But Advent also asks us to do something more than prepare the way of the Lord. Advent asks us to prepare ourselves for God's will for our lives.

I wish to express my profound gratitude to the 778 families who have contributed, as of December 8, 2020, (this bulletin went to print before numbers were received this week) to our Annual Family Commitment, a total of \$229,771.50, which reflects the generosity of 25.09% of our families. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to our parish family.



Each year, with your generosity, we are able to address the needs of repairs that would simply not be possible without a special collection. These are often substantial projects, such as we will do in 2021 with the refurbishment of our pews and parking lot repairs at the South Campus, which quite simply could not be accomplished without your phenomenal generosity to the *Annual Family Commitment*. As a family of faith we have a responsibility and an obligation to ensure our facilities are up

-to-date and running efficiently. **We need EVERY family in our parish family to make a commitment according to their means to help us reach this goal.** If you have not yet made a commitment, we invite you to do so today! You can do so by mailing in a contribution, or by using our online giving found on our website www.stbridgetcheshire.org. Thank you for the deep love you have for our parish family.



THIS SUNDAY we invite EVERYONE to CONFESSION and EUCHARIST. There will be four priests in the lot behind the rectory for the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 2-4PM! **THIS IS OPEN TO EVERYONE!** Enter through Cherry Street and follow the directions of the Knights of Columbus who will be directing traffic! ***If you are alone in the car, you will be able to do a drive-up confession without leaving your car; and if you have more than one person in your car, you will be directed where to park to enable you to do a walk-up confession (please make sure you remain socially distant for your safety and that of your confessor).*** After you have experienced God's mercy, then you will directed to leave the lot by the exit on Main Street! **For our virtual parishioners we will, at the same time, be offering the opportunity for Drive-Up Holy Communion like we did in November...here are the details...**

- For those wishing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, please enter the property by way of Cherry Street and follow the procedures outlined above.
- Once you have gone to Confession, you will be asked to exit to Main Street!



- If you already attended Mass that morning, then you can simply go home freed from your sin!
- If you are a member of our Virtual Family of Faith then you can enter the church parking lot on the other side of the rectory, follow the signs around the church, and receive Holy Communion.
- If you are not going to Confession for whatever reason, you can simply follow the same pattern by entering the church parking lot by the driveway between the rectory and the church and following the signs.

Please be sure to consume Holy Communion before pulling away from us! The whole experience will be as safe as we can possibly make it. You don't even need to leave the car!

Christmas is an invitation for each of us to discover in ourselves a dimension of goodness, which we call Jesus Christ. It's an invitation to let that dimension shine forth into the darkness of today's world. Christmas celebrates that at the birth of Jesus, when God entered the darkened human world in flesh, hope too entered the world. The birth of Jesus brought hope into the darkness of a world immersed in sin and brokenness. That is one of the reasons the Church chose December 25th to commemorate the birth of our Lord: the time of year when daylight lengthens.

He brought light into the world, and calls us by our baptism to also do our part to let that light shine in our words and actions. We must be the beam of light today in the midst of the darkness of this world. We must

be the source of hope for those in despair. That is the message of this Christmas.

Given that this year is unlike any other, please keep in mind the following guidelines when thinking about your own plans for Christmas Mass:

- Archbishop Blair has granted a dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday and Holy Day Mass for all Catholics in the Archdiocese (including Christmas and New Year's Day) until Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (February 17, 2021).
- Archbishop Blair has also granted permission for Vigil Masses of Christmas to be held earlier than the usual 4pm hour to try to compensate for the inability to have large numbers gather at any one Mass. Therefore, you will notice Masses beginning at 1PM. That is NOT a typo.
- By Archdiocesan Guidelines and the mandate from the State of Connecticut, we are **STILL LIMITED** to no more than 100 persons in the building for Mass.
- Those whose physical health is compromised due to illness or advanced age should seriously consider remaining home this Christmas. **Please note that the 1PM Mass on Christmas Eve and the 10:30AM Mass on Christmas Day will BOTH be livestreamed.** Masses can be viewed at any time after as well. Access to livestream is through our website: www.stbridgetcheshire.org
- For those wishing to attend Mass at Christmas in-person, as on all Sundays since we have reopened, **A RESERVATION IS REQUIRED.** Please visit our web-

site or call the parish office to make a reservation. As announced last Sunday, with respect to all and in fairness to all, **NO WALK-INS WILL BE PERMITTED** to any of the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Masses.

I thank you for your patience, understanding, and cooperation as we continue to deal with this pandemic. These are not normal times in any sense of the word. We are doing our very best to accommodate as many people as possible! **If the Mass you want to go to is full, consider signing-up for another time, or we invite you to PLEASE join us on our livestream through our website, Facebook, or YouTube.**

To all parishioners of Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish...to those who will be with us in-person for Masses, to those of our virtual parish family, and to those who are traveling for Christmas...On behalf of myself, Father Federico, Deacon Iadarola, Deacon Wilber, Sister Patricia, and the entire pastoral and parish staffs, I offer our prayers for a blessed Christmas for you and your family. We pray that no matter what you are doing, you remain safe, and take a moment to reflect on the great mystery of what we celebrate. I offer special prayers to those who have recently experienced the death of a loved one; may the Christ-child bring you His comfort and His peace.



As always, please remember to pray for our parish family and ask God's blessings as we build His kingdom here. Please know that I am praying for you, and I ask for your prayers for me, that together through the intercession of Saint Bridget of Sweden, our Patroness, and Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney, and united in the Eucharist, we will reflect the presence of Jesus to the world. Merry Christmas one and all!!!

Father Roman



SAINT BRIDGET OF SWEDEN PARISH—WHERE CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT

ST. BRIDGET CHURCH
175 Main Street, Cheshire, CT

ST. THOMAS BECKET CHURCH
435 North Brooksvale Road, Cheshire, CT



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Online Faith Community

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 www.stbridgetcheshire.org

The Reverend Jeffrey V. Romans, KCHS, Pastor
The Reverend Anthony J. Federico, III, Parochial Vicar

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Sister Patricia Cigrand, A.S.C.J., Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Julia Atwood, Music Director
Mrs. Donna Yateco, Religious Education Director
Mr. Regis O’Neill, Youth Minister
Dr. Nancy Testa, Saint Bridget School Principal

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Mrs. Mary Beth Chamberlain, Admin Assistant
Miss Victoria Clarizio, Admin Assistant for Communications
Mr. Anthony Ginnetti, Sacristan

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Social Mediacommunications@stbridgetcheshire.org
Mailing Address.....175 Main Street, Cheshire, CT 06410

Our collection for the
week of December 13th



Thank you for your
kind generosity!

Mailed-in/Dropped Off

Offertory \$16,379.50
Immaculate Conception..... \$1,366.50
Retired Religious.....\$2,814.00

Mail your offertory donation to
175 Main St, Cheshire, CT 06410

Online

Offertory \$7,325.92
Immaculate Conception..... \$35.00
Retired Religious \$55.00



Give Online at
stbridgetcheshire.weshareonline.org/

*The Tabernacle candle at
St. Bridget Church
shines this week for
Robert L. Dorris Wright
Requested by the Dr. Maria Stack*



*The Tabernacle candle at
St. Thomas Becket Church
shines this week for
Dolly Maratea & Joe Ferry, Sr.
Requested by Family*



Mass Intentions

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Saturday, December 19th

9:00 a.m. SBC	Garry Fuoco	Vin & Sandra Fuoco
4:00 p.m. SBC	Jay Roczynski	Bob & Joan Roczynski
5:15 p.m. SBC	Joseph & Mary Vitello	The Family

Sunday, December 20th: Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:00 a.m. SBC	Joseph Daddio	Marty & Angela Krause
8:00 a.m. SBC	Charles, Adeline, & Joseph Triano & Richard & Patricia Rasmussen—Christmas Remembrance	Mike & Nancy Rasmussen
9:00 a.m. SBC	Angela Chabinec—3rd Anniversary	The Family
10:30 a.m. SBC	Theresa Pellegrino	Arlene Dottori
12:00 p.m. SBC	Tristan Barhorst	Greg, Steve & Sandy Romans

Monday, December 21st

7:00 a.m. SBC	In Living Prayer for Father Marius O'Reilly	The Haensel Family
9:00 a.m. SBC	Joe and Bob O'Connor	Peter & Mary Mongillo

Tuesday, December 22nd

7:00 a.m. SBC	The People of St. Bridget of Sweden Parish	
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Wednesday, December 23rd

7:00 a.m. SBC	Marla Perrotti	The Family
9:00 a.m. SBC	School Mass—In Living Prayer for Sheila O'Reilly	The Haensel Family

Thursday, December 24th

- ✠ 1:00pm in St. Bridget Church, St. Bridget School Gym & St. Thomas Becket Church—No Intentions
- ✠ 2:30pm in St. Bridget Church & St. Bridget School Gym—No Intentions
- ✠ 4:00pm in St. Bridget Church, St. Bridget School Gym & St. Thomas Becket Church—No Intentions
- ✠ 5:30pm in St. Bridget Church & St. Bridget School Gym—No Intentions
- ✠ 9:00pm in St. Bridget Church—No Intentions

Friday, December 25th: The Nativity of the Lord

- ✠ 7:00am in St. Bridget Church—No Intentions
- ✠ 8:00am in St. Bridget Church & St. Bridget School Gym—No Intentions
- ✠ 9:00am in St. Bridget Church—No Intentions
- ✠ 10:30am in St. Bridget Church & St. Bridget School Gym—No Intentions

Saturday, December 26th: Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

9:00 a.m. SBC	Edward LaFrance, Jr.	His Family
4:00 p.m. SBC	Mr. Richard Verner	The Family
5:15 p.m. SBC	Helen Wempe	The Family

Sunday, December 27th: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:00 a.m. SBC	Peter & Lucille Fitzsimmons and Matthew Fitzsimmons	The Family
8:00 a.m. SBC	James J. Marcucci, Sr.	The Family
9:00 a.m. SBC	Vin Roomey	The Family
10:30 a.m. SBC	Francis H. O'Neill	The Family
12:00 p.m. SBC	Brian D. Nugent	Timothy, Mary Margaret and Wife, Kiki

The television Mass is simulcast everyday at 10:00 a.m. on WCCT-TV WB20 and WCTX-TV MyTV9. It can also be seen Saturday and Sunday at 5:00 a.m. on WCCT-TV.

It can also be viewed online at <https://www.ortv.org/streaming/streaming.htm>



We have live in-person **Eucharistic Adoration** on Friday, January 8th from 1:00 to 2:00 pm in St. Bridget Church.

Per State of Connecticut guidelines, occupancy is limited to 100 persons. Appropriate masking and social distancing must be followed. Use the link below to the Sign-up Genius to sign up to attend.

bit.ly/Signup-Adoration



The 2021 Mass book is now available to reserve Mass intentions through June 2021.

Please call the rectory at 203-272-3531 during office hours (Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm) to reserve a Mass.



At this time we are looking for your favorite **ENTRÉE** recipes. Send in those family specialties to:

cookbook@stbridgetcheshire.org

IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICES

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Ready to attend services in person? See below for services and events you can attend in person, using appropriate masking, social distancing, & occupancy guidelines, of course!



Not comfortable coming in person? That's OK! We have plenty of online services for you! See below for this week's schedule and how to join virtually.

We are currently offering the following Masses in St. Bridget Church:

- ✝ Monday—7am & 9am
- ✝ Tuesday—7am
- ✝ Wednesday—7am & 9am
- ✝ Thursday & Friday—see page 7 for Christmas Mass* schedule
- ✝ Saturday—9am, 4pm & 5:15pm
- ✝ Sunday—7am, 8am, 9am, 10:30am, & 12noon

To attend Mass sign up at <https://bit.ly/masssignup>

*To sign up for Christmas Mass to go bit.ly/ChristmasMassSignup

JOIN US FOR OUR ONLINE SERVICES!

- ✝ Sunday, 12/20 at 10:30AM—Celebration of the **Mass**
- ✝ Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10AM—**Prophecies Fulfilled!**—learn about how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament
- ✝ Thursday, 12/24 at 1:00PM—Celebration of **Christmas Eve Mass**
- ✝ Friday, 12/25 at 10:30AM—Celebration of **Christmas Day Mass**
- ✝ Sunday, 12/27 at 10:30AM—Celebration of the **Mass**

Online Services can be viewed on the homepage of our website at

www.stbridgetcheshire.org

on YouTube <https://bit.ly/SBoSYTChannel>

or Facebook [@stbridgetofswedenparish](https://www.facebook.com/stbridgetofswedenparish)

Drive-thru Confessions and Holy Communion on Sunday, 12/20 from 2-4pm—see Father's article on pages 2 & 3 for details.

Rosary every Monday at 1:30pm in St. Bridget Church

Adoration every Friday 1-2pm in St. Bridget Church - sign up at bit.ly/Signup-Adoration (note: there is no Adoration on 12/25/20 and 1/1/21)

Drive-thru **CONFESSIONS** available every Saturday at 3:00pm until heard

NOTE: Appropriate masking, social distancing, and occupancy guidelines must be followed at all services, meetings & events.

NOTE: The dispensation from the Sunday obligation previously granted to all Catholics of the archdiocese by the Archbishop has been **extended through Tuesday, February 16, 2021.**

Those in high-risk categories are encouraged to continue staying home, even as others begin to return to Mass. The decision to attend is yours. Please use prudence and good judgement in considering if you should attend a public Mass at this time.

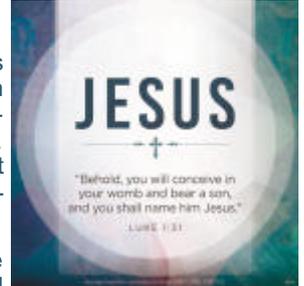


Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent

The readings for today can be found at

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/122020.cfm>

This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Savior was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.



We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her *fiat*, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience.

www.loyolapress.com

For more information to better understand the readings, go to bit.ly/2Wg2PQZ



SAINT BRIDGET OF SWEDEN PARISH Christmas Season Schedule 2020-2021

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD – CHRISTMAS

Thursday, December 24th, 2020

- 1:00PM ~ Mass in Saint Bridget Church, Saint Bridget School Gymnasium, and Saint Thomas Becket Church
- 2:30PM ~ Mass in Saint Bridget Church and Saint Bridget School Gymnasium
- 4:00PM ~ Mass in Saint Bridget Church, Saint Bridget School Gymnasium, and Saint Thomas Becket Church
- 5:30PM ~ Mass in Saint Bridget Church and Saint Bridget School Gymnasium
- 9:00PM ~ Mass in Saint Bridget Church

Friday, December 25th, 2020

- 7, 8, 9, and 10:30AM ~ Mass in Saint Bridget Church
- 8 and 10:30AM ~ Mass in Saint Bridget School Gymnasium

Sign up to attend Mass at bit.ly/ChristmasMassSignup

Note: NO Walk-ins will be permitted.

The 1PM Mass and the 10:30AM Mass will be LIVESTREAMED and can be viewed on the homepage of our website at www.stbridgetcheshire.org, on YouTube <https://bit.ly/SBoSYTChannel>, or on Facebook [@stbridgetofswedenparish](https://www.facebook.com/stbridgetofswedenparish)



**SUPPORT GROUP FOR CAREGIVERS
OF PARENTS OR SPOUSES**

Caregiver support groups are an invaluable tool to help others and oneself cope with being a family caregiver. This group is for adults caring for parents and for spouses caring for their partners. When a caregiver gathers together with others who are experiencing similar life challenges, they can gain valuable advice and suggestions from others and feel a great sense of relief in knowing that they are not alone.

If you are interested in joining together with other members from St. Bridget of Sweden Parish for an informal gathering where we can share our struggles or successes in caregiving for a loved one, please join us.

We will meet **every Thursday from January 7 through February 11, 2020 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm in the Father Frisbie Hall, St. Thomas Becket campus.** For information or questions, please contact Sue DeLancy at (203) 499-7841. To sign up use the Sign-up Genius on the website www.stbridgetcheshire.org or call 203-272-3531.

Apologetics 101:
Christmas Edition!

This week, Father Federico and Victoria welcome Regis to our team. We share one thing we want for the Church or for the world or for ourselves.

Victoria would like from Santa:

- I would like people to think of God more often.*

Regis would like from Santa:

- I would like to win my Fantasy Football Championship (the league which Father Federico has already been eliminated from, just saying).*

Father Federico would like from Santa:

- That everyone in our families who has left the Catholic Church or stopped practicing their faith would 'come home to Rome' and discover the compassionate heart of the Father which awaits them!*

What the Cares Act Means for Charitable Giving

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act creates two temporary changes to the tax treatment of such donations. One is a universal deduction targeted primarily at the 90+% of standard deduction taxpayers, and the other is meant to incentivize the remaining high-income givers and corporations.

Universal Deduction for Donations up to \$300

For the 9 out of 10 people who no longer itemize their charitable giving, the CARES Act will allow these individual taxpayers to deduct donations to charity of up to \$300 on their 2020 federal tax return, even though they take the standard deduction. Married-filing-jointly taxpayers will get an above-the-line deduction of up to \$600.

For those donors who are still able to itemize their deductions, and therefore directly write off gifts to charity, the current deduction cap is 60%* of adjusted gross income. Corporations are able to deduct charitable donations up to 10% of taxable income.

*the 60% of AGI limit is for giving to 501(c)(3) public charities. The deductibility of gifts to 501(c)(3) private foundations is capped at 30%, and was not included in this legislation.

What about the IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)?

The CARES Act did not change the rules around the QCD, which allows individuals over 70½ years old to donate up to \$100,000 in IRA assets directly to charity annually, without taking the distribution into taxable income.

However, remember that under the CARES Act an individual can elect to deduct 100 percent of their AGI for cash charitable contributions. This effectively affords individuals over 59½ years old the benefits similar to a QCD; they can take a cash distribution from their IRA, contribute the cash to charity, and may completely offset tax attributable to the distribution by taking a charitable deduction in an amount up to 100 percent of their AGI for the tax year.

Source: Fidelity Charitable

By Guidance In Giving, Inc.

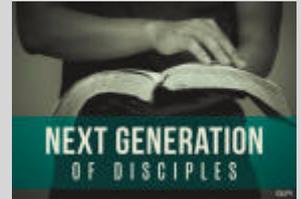
Divine Mercy Book Study

God's key attribute throughout the Old and New Testaments is MERCY. By reading Scripture, pondering it, discussing it, and praying it, we will experience God's compassion, grace and indwelling presence. In this bible study Stephen Binz in his book "Divine Mercy" opens us to the heart of Scripture – God's Mercy. We hope that you can join us for six sessions from Tuesday, January 5 through February 9, 2021 from 10:00 to 11:30 am in the Fr. Frisbie Hall, St. Thomas Becket Campus. Following COVID guidelines, we will be wearing masks and social distancing. The book can be purchased through Amazon. To register use the Sign-up Genius on the website www.stbridgetcheshire.org. For more information call Sr. Patricia at 203-272-3531 Ext. 1312.



Youth Ministry

Regis O'Neill, Youth Minister roneill@stbridgetcheshire.org
203-233-8489



Verse of the Week

Matthew 1:21

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."

Upcoming Events

- 1) High schoolers, join us for the last Next Generation of Disciples meeting of 2020 on Sunday, December 20th! It's been a long year full of difficulty, but we're so grateful for the gift of this group to have helped us through it all. Join us for a "year in review," some exceptional snacks, and one final chance to gather as community in this crazy year. We'll meet from 6:30-8:30pm in the Fr. Frisbie Hall at St. Thomas Becket Church. All high schoolers are welcome!
- 2) ALL PARISHIONERS (families included) are invited to join us for the 2nd night of our viewing and discussion on *It's a Wonderful Life* on December 22nd from 6:30-8:30pm in the Fr. Frisbie Hall at St. Thomas Becket Church. We'll watch the second half of the film, followed by safe, socially distant discussion groups (with age-appropriate topics). If you missed night one, you can find the first half of the movie on Vimeo and Amazon Prime. Space is limited due to Covid protocols, so reserve your spot through the Sign-Up Genius on the parish website ASAP!

Saint of the Week

St. Stephen

Feast Day: December 26th

Bio: St. Stephen is best remembered for being the first martyr of the Church. He is described in the Acts of the Apostles as "a man filled with grace and power, who worked great wonders among the people." Stephen was a skilled theologian debater, and ruffled the feathers of the members of the Synagogue of Roman Freedmen. In anger, they brought the false charge of blasphemy against him. In his defense speech, he chastised his accusers, saying they "always oppose the Holy Spirit." He was fraudulently found guilty, and stoned by a mob. Even in death, he prayed for his killers' forgiveness. St. Stephen, pray for us!

Patron Saint of Deacons

Ask Father

Dear Father: During Mass, what are the prayers the priest whispers to himself?

Dear friend in Christ,

There are several prayers during the Mass which the priest says to himself or in a low voice. These are called the secret prayers. Secret means "hidden" in Latin. Here they are:

Before the Gospel: "Cleanse my heart and my lips, almighty God, that I may worthily proclaim your holy Gospel."

After the Gospel, during the kiss: "Through the words of the Gospel may our sins be wiped away."

When pouring the water into the chalice: "By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity."

After the 'Blessed are you, Lord God of all Creation...' prayers, while bowing: "With humble spirit and contrite heart may we be accepted by you, O Lord, and may our sacrifice in your sight this day be pleasing to you, Lord God."

While washing his hands: "Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin."

During the Lamb of God, when the priest breaks off a small piece of the Host and drops it the Chalice: "May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it."

After the Lamb of God, the priest says either:

"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit, through your death gave life to the world, free me by this, your most holy Body and Blood from all my sins and from every evil; keep me always faithful to your commandments, and never let me be parted from you."

Or

2. "May the receiving of your Body and Blood, Lord Jesus Christ, not bring me to judgment and condemnation, but through your loving mercy be for me protection in mind and body and a healing remedy."

Before eating the Host: "May the Body of Christ keep me safe for eternal life."

Before drinking from the Chalice: "May the Blood of Christ keep me safe for eternal life."

While purifying the vessels: "What has passed our lips as food, O Lord, may we possess in purity of heart, that what has been given to us in time may be our healing for eternity."



St. Bridget School Update

Principal: Dr. Nancy Testa
Director of Campus Ministry: Mrs. Judy Rowinski

What's happening in Mrs. McKenzie's 5th Grade?



Mrs. McKenzie's class recently made fossil rubbings to culminate their study of fossils. Students created and researched when and where the organisms lived. They also created drawings in the style of Norman Rockwell that express the main idea. Mrs. McKenzie gave each child a secret theme to illustrate, and challenged classmates to guess what their drawing expressed. In addition, they read about Leonardo da Vinci, and students did a backwards writing activity to imitate the way that da Vinci wrote. Great job!

Check out our **Facebook** page or our SBS website to learn more about our Pre-K—Grade 8 Curriculum, our faith and community activities, our student body and other programs offered at SBS.



12th Annual Community Awards Program
Coming in February!

Remembering To Care for Those in Need

During this Advent Season, our students and faculty continue to work on multiple service projects for our community. Whether it's making Christmas cards or collecting for our Mitten Tree and the Cheshire Food Pantry, all of our classes continue to learn how important it is to reach out to those in need.

To learn more about how you can help us give back, please contact Christina Cummings at 203.272.5860 or by email at ccummings@stbridgetschool.org.



Mr. Casey's first grade class is making Christmas cards for someone who is 99 year old. She is a WWII veteran and a very special person! We hope these will brighten her Christmas.

St. Bridget Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Programs

Our Pre- Kindergarten and Kindergarten will be open during any/all school closures due to COVID-19. Please visit our school website at www.stbridgetschool.org to learn about the many wonderful opportunities our school offers our learners.

Join our School Community

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Office of Religious Education — Donna Yatcko, DRE

dyatcko@stbridgetschool.org

203.272.6504

Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 1:30 pm

Religious Education Schedule

Grade 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6
Virtual Family Meetings
Sunday, January 10th at 9 AM
Monday, January 11th at 4 PM and 5:30 PM
Tuesday, January 12th at 4 PM

First Communion Classes
Virtual Class
Sunday, December 20th at 9 AM
In Person Class
Sunday, January 10th at 8:30 AM

Middle School 7th and 8th grades
Virtual Class
Sunday, January 10th at 10AM
Sunday, February 7th at 10AM

Confirmation Program
9th grade
Virtual Class
Sunday, December 20th at 5 PM
Sunday, January 10th at 5 PM
10th grade
Virtual Class
Sunday, December 20th at 5PM
In Person Class
Sunday, January 10th at 5 PM

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
Virtual Class
Tuesday, December 22nd at 4PM
Tuesday, January 12th at 4PM

If you haven't registered your child/children please use the link below to register as soon as possible.

www.stbridgetcheshire.org/religiouseducation or bit.ly/RelEdOnlineReg



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Activities for this Week's Liturgy

Word Search—bit.ly/2K5XadZ

Coloring Page—bit.ly/2KsFUPJ

Crossword Puzzle—bit.ly/37eHf5R

Faith Facts—Advent & Christmas—
bit.ly/3ae0qyv



Jacob Anthony Cucllari
Jack Daniel Dibisceglie
Jack Henry Garstang
Cole Samuel Irvine
Lincoln Edward Mills
Rowan Jeramie Startz



Got questions about our Catholic faith?

E-mail your question to office@stbridgetcheshire.org

with the subject line "Ask Father" or mail it to

*"Rectory—Ask Father, 175 Main St, Cheshire, CT 06410."
Questions will be answered in the order they are received.*



KNIGHTS KORNER

Grand Knight, Jason Moliterno —
jason_moliterno@yahoo.com

Caroling for . . . *Keep Christ in Christmas*

“Joy To the World” As of the late 20th century, "Joy to the World" was the most-published Christmas hymn in North America. The words of the hymn are by English writer Isaac Watts, based on Psalm 98, 96:11–12 and Genesis 3:17–18. The song was first published in 1719 in Watts' collection The Psalms of David.

“Away In a Manger” was used widely throughout the English-speaking world. The tune, written by the American composer William J. Kirkpatrick, was first published as part of the collection Around the World with Christmas (1895).

“Stille Nacht Heilige Nacht” It was 202 years ago when "Silent Night" was first heard by Austrian villagers attending Christmas Eve Mass in St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf. How did this simple melody, with its words of comfort, become a beloved hymn of peace throughout the world? It's a song about a calm and bright silent night, and the wonder of a tender and mild newborn child: words written in 1816 by a young priest in Austria, Joseph Mohr, not long after the Napoleonic wars had taken their toll. An organ builder and repair man working at the church took a copy of the six-verse song to his home village. There, it was picked up and spread by two families of traveling folk singers, who performed around northern Europe. In 1834, the Strasser family performed it for the King of Prussia. In 1839, the Rainer family of singers debuted the carol outside Trinity Church in New York City.

The composition evolved, and was translated into over 300 languages with many different arrangements for various voices and ensembles. It was sung in churches, in town squares, even on the battlefield during World War I, when, during a temporary truce on Christmas Eve, soldiers sang carols from home. "Silent Night," by 1914, known around the world, was sung simultaneously in French, German and English.



A Happy and Holy Christmas to You All

Welcome

TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following families to our Parish family!

Thomas & Marta Briggs

Mary Jane Cannon

Stephen & Katherine Goletz

Jeremiah & Danielle Jacques

Thomas Lengyel

Michael & Dona Lynn

Patrick & Megan McCarthy

Russell & Patricia Riopelle

James Sharples & Kimberly Legere-Sharples

Kevin & Stacy Stevens

Kim Thomas

Joshua & Margo Volosin

Grab and Go Dinner!

Saturday, January 9th at 4:30-6:30pm

Sponsored by the Cheshire Knights of Columbus



Take a night off from cooking and enjoy a Grab-and-Go pork dinner! PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS THE ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS awarded by the Cheshire Knights of Columbus.

Meal includes Pork Loin with Gravy, Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Dessert, Juice

Pick up your meals at the Parish Center. Meals are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. If you order a meal in advance, your name will be placed in a drawing for **DOOR PRIZES!** Please order by going to the following website: <http://www.cheshirekofc.org>



Our U.S. Military Prayer List

Captain Cassandra Andrea USAF
 Captain J. Michael Andrea USAF
 SRA Garrett Barboza, USAF
 Major David B. Beale, US Army
 Specialist Alan Bell, US Army
 Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Betts, US Navy
 Lieutenant Kevin Briskin, US Army
 ENS Michelle Browning, US Navy
 Sergeant Brian Caouette
 Captain Leslie Ann Capuano, USMC
 Lieutenant Hollis Ann Capuano, US Navy
 Seaman Apprentice Robert Carrano, US Coast Guard
 Private Jack Cavanaugh, US Army
 Tech Sergeant Edward J. Clark, Jr, USAF
 SRA Aaron Desjardins, USAF
 Specialist John Fadus, US Army
 STS-1 Jake Ford, US Navy
 PFC Owen C. Fowler, USMC
 Private Dominic Anthony Giampietro, US Army
 Private Alyza Hernandez, USMC
 Petty Officer 2nd Class Martin Houston, US Navy
 Cdr. Thomas A. Ianucci, USN, Chaplain
 SRA Ryan Jones, USAF
 Petty Officer 3rd Class Neil P. Kenefick, US Navy
 Ryan Kiernan, US Navy
 AWO2 Kyle (DeVyllder) Kohl, US Navy
 Lieutenant Jared Korn, US Coast Guard
 Sergeant Gregory J. Kowalski, USMC
 Airman First Class Benjamin M. LeClerc, USAF
 MA2 Tiana Lefebre, US Navy

Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian McGrath, US Navy
 LTJG Derek Molkenbuhr, US Navy
 LT Marisa Molkenbuhr, US Navy
 LTJG Trevor Molkenbuhr, US Navy
 Senior Chief Petty Officer Pasquale Moreland, US Navy
 Corporal Ginamarie Mazzucco, USMC
 Lance Corporal Kathryn Mazzucco, USMC
 Airman First Class Anthony Nero, USAF
 Lt. Christopher Nguyen, US Army
 Specialist Eric Normand, US Army
 Chaplain Philip O'Neill, USAF
 Captain Denis L. O'Reilly, USMC
 Specialist Christopher Paier, US Army Natl. Guard
 PVT John Pastore, USMC
 Private Matthew Planinshek, USMC
 LTJG Jake Patrick Reid, US Navy
 Private Quianna Rios, US Army
 Petty Officer First Class Matthew J. Sansone, US Navy
 Captain Ryan Satterfield, USMC
 Lt. Ellie Marie Senft, US Army
 Captain Jack David Senft, US Army
 SRA Myron Simpson, USAF
 Private 1st Class Kevin Stevens, US Army
 Captain Alexander James Topitzer, US Army
 Captain Matthew Neil Topitzer, US Army
 Captain Ryan Van Wie, US Army
 Private 1st Class Connor Valinsky, US Army
 Senior Airman Joe Villano USAF
 Corporal Bernard Vitti, Jr., USMC
 LCpl. Matthew Voelker, USMC
 Airman Mark Zajac, Jr., USAF

If you have a name to place on our U.S. Military prayer list, please contact Mary Beth in the Rectory at 203-272-3531 or office@stbridgetcheshire.org with the names of family & friends who are on active duty. Please provide name and branch of service. In this way, our whole parish community can help bring them home safely by our prayers.



203-699-9226
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Thank you for your continued generosity with donations to the Cheshire Community Food Pantry. We gratefully accept any donations, but this week we have a particular need for:

- jelly**
- flour**
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- sugar**
- dish soap**
- toilet paper**

Please note that the Food Pantry:

- Cannot accept expired or opened items
- Cannot use large industrial canned goods
- Can accept perishable goods only during Pantry hours
- Hours are M-W-F 9:00am-12:15pm; T-Th 3:00pm-6:15pm
- Monetary donations should be sent to: Cheshire Community Food Pantry, P.O. Box 457, Cheshire, CT 06410.

Thank you for your continued support of the Cheshire Community Food Pantry and for helping our fellow neighbors!



WE ARE LOOKING FOR STORIES OF FAITH!

Please tell us how you became Catholic and why you stayed Catholic. Describe what the Catholic faith means to you. How has the faith helped you in the tough and dark times of life? How has your faith helped you during this pandemic? Tell us about any incredible and uplifting supernatural experiences that have happened to you.

Stories can be submitted anonymously or with your name on it. Your submission will not be shared without your permission. Please send your story through the collection or via email to rectory@stbridgetcheshire.org.

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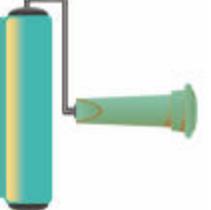
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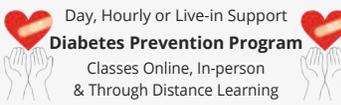


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