

SAINT BRIDGET OF SWEDEN PARISH

WHERE CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020



THE HOLY FAMILY

“For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.”

- Lk 2:30-31



Letter from the Pastor

The Reverend Jeffrey V. Romans, KCHS

Dear Friends in Christ:

This weekend after Christmas I am filled with gratitude! Even in a time of pandemic I am awed at the blessings of God in my life and in the life of our parish family!

- Thank you to Father Federico, Sister Patricia, our Pastoral Staff and our Parish Staff for their tremendous efforts this past year!
- Thank you to Lynn Krieg and Jim Mitchell and to our entire Parish Pastoral Council who have done tremendous work in helping us to reopen since June and in keeping the list of Mass attendees as well as coordinating volunteers for each and every Mass and event.
- Thank you to Santa Fe Council 2978 of our Knights of Columbus for their support throughout the year, assistance with reopening, and assistance with special events like this past Sunday at our Confession and Eucharist event. They deserve a lot of credit from their efforts this past Sunday being out there in the snow directing the 166 cars that came through for Confession and the 115



or so that came for Holy Communion at our Confessions & Eucharist event!! Look at the line of cars. Thank God we used Cherry Street entrance and not Main Street. The

Knights even had to start a double line up the driveway just to get more cars off the road so we wouldn't back up onto Route 70. The turnout was AMAZING!!!

- Thank you to Julia Atwood and our other musicians who shared their talents to enhance our celebrations

of Christmas. Special gratitude to Julia for the phenomenal virtual concert and for her tremendous efforts to coordinate putting together a music ministry

piece and a St. Bridget School student chorus piece. Thank you to Steve Tine and the Tine Family for their tremendous efforts in putting these two pieces together. You can hear our students sing Silent Night, and our music ministry members sing Christ our Light Has Come, which are both posted on our Facebook and YouTube pages.

- Thank you to Team Holy Spirit... Sandra Centorino, Victoria Clarizio, Frank Johnson, and Steve Tine... who from the very beginning back in March have worked together to assist us in communicating the Good News, programs and events, and Holy Mass with our parishioners by using the technology of today!
- Thank you to our phenomenal decorating committee and volunteers for their tremendous work in decorating our three worship spaces for Christmas and a word of special gratitude to Charlie Kurtz of CK Greenhouses for donating so many poinsettias!
- Thank you to the members of our Contemporary Music Group who came caroling last Sunday night at the rectory!
- Thank you to all who sent Christmas cards, cookies, and other delicious treats to the rectory during the past weeks. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are very much appreciated.



the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. I am so pleased we offered so many opportunities and that the people of God responded by coming! It is my hope that each person who came to celebrate Christmas Eve and Day with our parish family felt welcomed, loved, and encouraged. Merry Christmas once again!

A special word of gratitude to all who participated in our Advent Giving Tree...It is truly amazing how much we

can do together as one family of faith and this was once again witnessed in your generosity to our Advent Giving Tree. **THIS YEAR WAS MUCH DIFFERENT** but you all did your part to respond to the needs of our neighbors and I cannot thank you enough for your phenomenal generosity!

I thank you for the OVER 700 gifts that were distributed to those in need.

Thanks to your generosity and care for the less fortunate, their Christmases will be brighter, they will know that hope is never cancelled, and the little ones will smile with joy! Your constant support and generosity to the less fortunate continues to be a great hallmark of our parish family, and for that I thank you!

A word of special gratitude goes to Tina Kurtz who coordinated the program again this year and to the many helpers who worked with her to make sure that even in a time of pandemic, we would be able to meet the needs of our neighbors in need. They created the SignUpGenius, made out the stars for the tree, and worked together so beautifully to ensure this Christmas brought joy into the lives of others. Typically this program requires months of planning, preparation, execution, and delivering, and I know this year it was even more time-consuming. **To ALL THE VOLUNTEERS I say thank you!**

I have said it before, it truly takes a village to accomplish a task so large, and the Advent Giving Tree is proof it sure does. To those who helped Tina



in this effort including Devorah Olewnik, Cee Cee and David Johnson, Stacie Nole, Margaret Hardner & Steve Burner, Nancy & Bruce Humiston, Heather & Jimmy Alix, and Leah Judge. Thanks, too, to the students from our parish who took time to cut out the stars for the tree.

Thank You!

Your generosity provided gifts and gift cards to the 170 families served by the Cheshire Community Food Pantry, as well as 130 gifts to the clients of Saint Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen, 30 gifts to Carolyn's Place, and 19 gifts to Mar-bridge residents. Your care for others also made it possible to serve new families who became clients of the Food Pantry during the weeks we were coordinating this effort! The responses of those who benefited from your generosity was truly heartfelt. **Again, please know of my personal gratitude to each and every one of you who give from your hearts to support those in need.**

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The Sunday that falls in the Octave of the Solemnity of Christmas is always dedicated to celebrating the Holy Family. The Readings for this Sunday focus on the rights and responsibilities of family members toward each other, and the Gospel focuses on Saint Joseph, who cared for and protected the Blessed Mother and infant Jesus through the dangerous early years of Jesus' childhood. The primary purpose of The Feast of the Holy Family is to present the Holy Family as a model for Christian families.

Family life today is experiencing a crisis of stability, partly caused by economic hardship, but often by other factors like lack of generosity, or too much



insistence on getting one's own way. Today's feast invites us to meditate on our own contribution to family life. The future of

the Church and of society begins in the family—yours and mine. This is the first great fruit of the Incarnation. It should give all of us hope!

If there have been rifts in your family in the past which have separated you from one part of your family, perhaps in 2021 these relationships can be mended. If

there are relatives you haven't seen or spoken with in some time through neglect, perhaps in 2021 you can reach out to them and let them know you care. And for those family members within our "safe bubble" (immediate family members we live with) give them a hug, a smile, or just tell them how much you love them!



How fitting it is for US then on this Feast of the Holy Family, in collaboration with our Knights of Columbus Santa Fe Council #2978 that we are inviting ALL families in our parish to, once again, celebrate this feast day by a special consecration of your family to the Holy Family. It is our hope that consecrating your family to the Holy Family will help your individual family to be strengthened in the bond of love and that through this spiritual exercise we as a parish family will, likewise, be strengthened in grace and love.

The Knights of Columbus together with your Priests invite each family of our Parish to be consecrated to the Holy Family and to devote yourselves to the ideal model of familial love set forth by Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Consecrating yourselves to the Holy Family provides you great intercessors to help you as a family to follow their model of living lives obedient to God's Will, strong in faith, persevering in prayer, diligent in work, and generous towards those in need.

We will invite all families to consider standing up at the end of Mass this weekend and reciting the Prayer of Consecration to the Holy Family. Our local council has purchased prayer cards for you to use during those Masses and take home

with you.

The New Year is approaching! This coming week we celebrate and enter into a New Year, 2021! Wow, how time flies by. Don't forget January 1st is also a Holy Day of Obligation, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. **(Of course due to the pandemic all are dispensed from the obligation.)** We will offer Mass at 5PM on Thursday, December 31st, and at 8:30 and 10:30AM on Friday, January 1, 2021.

CERTAINLY WE ARE ALL LOOKING TO 2021 TO BE A YEAR OF HOPE AND HEALING, but let us also enter into this New Year mindful that a new year can be so much more. It can be a time of new enthusiasm, it can be a time of new energy, it can be a time of new opportunity. It is also a time to discern how God is calling us to live out our call as missionary disciples today as individuals and as a family of faith here at Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish.



So, as we embark on this New Year in God's grace, let us pray that we will do so in the understanding that there is nothing that should hinder us from following the Lord completely, strengthening our relationship with Him, and serving Him in our daily lives.

Last year I shared 8 suggestions for New Year's Resolutions and they were well received, so here they are again:

1. **Read the Bible...** Can you read a chapter a day during your prayer time?
2. **Get to know the Saints...** go to Amazon and purchase a book on the lives of the Saints or start with just one Saint perhaps your patron for Confirmation. Learn about their lives and get to know them as spiritual guides.
3. **Come to Eucharistic Adoration...** it happens every Friday from 1-2PM in Saint Bridget

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

Pastoral Staff

- Mr. Paul Iadarola, Deacon • Dr. Richard Wilber, Deacon
- Sister Patricia Cigrand, A.S.C.J., Pastoral Associate
- Mrs. Julia Atwood, Music Director
- Mrs. Donna Yatecko, 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
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Church. Come by for a visit with the Lord Jesus.

4. **Commit to daily prayer...**make a commitment to the Lord to spend time each day in prayer no matter what time of day, but make a commitment and keep it. Read the book *I Heard God Laugh* and learn from Matthew Kelly’s own experience, or read *Do Something Beautiful for God* and be inspired by the daily reflections of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Both books were available at the Christmas Masses.
5. **Celebrate the Sacraments...**come to Confession more! Participate more frequently in the Eucharist! If you are doing both perhaps you can increase your prayer time?
6. **Join a group...**perhaps one of our Adult Ed Programs, our Parenting Circle, a book club, a bible study, or one of the many other opportunities we have in our parish.
7. **Start fasting...fasting isn’t just for Lent**, it is a way for us to be conformed to Christ every day. Perhaps you can start by performing some act of penance every Friday throughout the year! It is only 52! You can do it.
8. **Forgive...**wow. There it is. “I knew he would throw that in there,” I could hear some saying right now. Yes I did. “He doesn’t understand how hard it is,” perhaps some are thinking. Yes I do. We all need to realize that forgiveness is a choice and not a feeling. Let’s all make a resolution to forgive one person for whom we have been harboring resentment and add them to our prayer intentions. It’s a good start!



As we continue to move into the New Year be sure to stay connected to the parish. Be sure you have visited our user-friendly website at www.stbridgetcheshire.org. Through the website you will find out what is happening in our parish family. You can also “like” us on Facebook @stbridgetofswedenparish, and don’t forget to sign-up for our parish app by texting APP to 88202 and searching for our parish through the application. We are really hoping to better utilize these means of communication as a way to get information out to you in a timely manner. Of course, for more information on the life of our parish family and the many spiritual and social activities and events throughout the year, including a parish calendar, simply visit the parish website.

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 once again! Stay safe!!!

Father Romans

MASS 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

Monday, December 28th: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

7:00 a.m. SBC	Vin Rooney	The Family
9:00 a.m. SBC	Irene Fisher	Peter & Mary Mongillo

Tuesday, December 29th: Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

7:00 a.m. SBC	The People of St. Bridget of Sweden Parish	
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Wednesday, December 30th

7:00 a.m. SBC	James Fritz	
9:00 a.m. SBC	Colin Burke	Tom & Norma Moran

Thursday, December 31st

7:00 a.m. SBC	Anna Gennusa	The Family
5:00 p.m. SBC	Judith O'Brien	O'Brien Family

Friday, January 1st: The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

8:30 a.m. SBC	Alexandra Cavaliere	Rick Ciaburri
10:30 a.m. SBC	Claire Kenny	Family

Saturday, January 2nd: Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

9:00 a.m. SBC	John & Mary McNabola	Family
4:00 p.m. SBC	Gary Vesentin	Eleanor & Al Vesentin
5:15 p.m. SBC	Ted Scalzo	His Family

Sunday, January 3rd: The Epiphany of the Lord

7:00 a.m. SBC	James Fritz	
8:00 a.m. SBC	Joseph Ferry	St. Bridget of Sweden Women's Society
9:00 a.m. SBC	Judith O'Brien	Lisa Freda
10:30 a.m. SBC	Richard Cigrand, Sr.	Friends
12:00 p.m. SBC	Anthony DeSantis	His Family

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>

ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST



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.

The Tabernacle candle at St. Bridget Church shines this week for

In Living Prayer for Germaine Pelletier Requested by Her Children, Jim, Bonnie & Danielle



The Tabernacle candle at St. Thomas Becket Church shines this week for

James Cox Requested by Moran Family

IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICES

©LPI



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.

This week we are offering the following Masses in St. Bridget Church:

- ✝ Monday—7am & 9am
- ✝ Tuesday—7am
- ✝ Wednesday—7am & 9am
- ✝ Thursday—7am & 5pm Vigil*
- ✝ Friday*—8:30am & 10:30am
- ✝ Saturday—9am, 4pm & 5:15pm
- ✝ Sunday—7am, 8am, 9am, 10:30am, & 12noon

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

**Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God*

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.

JOIN US FOR OUR ONLINE SERVICES!

- ✝ Sunday, 12/27 at 10:30AM—Celebration of the **Mass**
- ✝ Monday, 12/28 at 10AM—**Getting to Know our Holy Family**—tune in to learn about the life of a saint
- ✝ Wednesday, 12/30 at 10AM—**Pulling Back the Veil**—a new video series where we take you behind the scenes and show you the inner workings of the Parish offices and staff
- ✝ Friday—**NO** Adoration on Friday, 1/1
- ✝ Sunday, 1/3 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)

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 Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

The readings for today can be found at

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/122720.cfm>

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. This celebration is assigned to the Sunday within the octave of Christmas. The Gospel for today is taken from the Gospel according to Luke and is part of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Today's Gospel describes the presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple and shows Joseph and Mary as devout Jews, following the prescriptions of the Law of Moses. The Gospel alludes to several aspects of the Law of Moses: circumcision, the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord, and the purification of a woman after childbirth.

According to the Law of Moses as presented in the Book of Leviticus, a woman was considered ritually unclean during her menstrual period and for a prescribed period of time following the birth of a child. After the birth of a son, a woman was considered ritually unclean for 40 days. After the birth of a daughter, a woman was considered unclean for 80 days. In order to be restored to ritual purity, a Jewish woman performed the appropriate rites of purification and made the prescribed ritual offering.

Today's Gospel notes that Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day after his birth, in accordance with the Mosaic Law. At that time, he was called Jesus, the name he was given by the angel Gabriel. On the 40th day after Jesus' birth, Mary performed the appropriate purification rites and made her offering at the Temple. Although the Law of Moses required an offering of a lamb, those who could not afford a lamb could substitute two turtledoves or two pigeons. In this scene, Luke identifies Joseph and Mary as being poor, and indeed throughout Luke's Gospel, Jesus will show special concern for the poor.

Another Jewish rite referenced in this Gospel is the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord. In remembrance of the feast of Passover, when the firstborn children of the Israelites in Egypt were saved from death, the Law of Moses prescribed that all firstborn males of Israel should be consecrated to the Lord. In this tradition, Mary and Joseph present the infant Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem, Luke reports that Mary and Joseph encounter two devout Jews, Simeon and Anna, who recognize the infant Jesus as the fulfillment of Israel's hope for redemption. In Simeon's words we find a prediction of Mary's witnessing of Jesus' death on the cross. The Canticle of Simeon, also called by its Latin name, *Nunc Dimitis*, is prayed at night prayer, or compline, during the Liturgy of the Hours.

www.loyolapress.com



For more information to better understand the readings, go to bit.ly/3oWMPJM

Apologetics 101: The Nativity Scene

The traditional manger scene which depicts Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the angels and the animals which we all know and love comes from Saint Francis of Assisi. Here is the story of the first Nativity scene.

- One year, Saint Francis decided to celebrate Christmas in a cave near Greccio, a small town in central Italy.
- He filled the cave with hay, brought live animals, and built a simple manger, using his imagination to recreate what he thought the scene of Jesus' birth would look like.
- He invited his friends and brother friars to come celebrate the birth of the Lord there, but they were bothered by the mess and the smell of the animals.
 - This was because many Christmas scenes were and are depicted as idyllic. For example, Mary's hair is perfect, the animals are all well-behaved, Jesus isn't crying, etc.
- Saint Francis told his friends that this was exactly the point; Jesus came right into our human mess.
 - The world is extremely messy right now.
 - * What better time for our Lord to come into the world? At the first Christmas, He came to the messiest of the messy: a tiny stable filled with smelly animals.
 - ◆ Now, he comes to us in the messiness of our lives.
 - ✚ Let's welcome Him as if He were coming for the very first time!



**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, 2021 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.



Activities for this Week's Liturgy

Word Search—bit.ly/3nwH5fR

Coloring Page—bit.ly/37w20dl

Crossword Puzzle—bit.ly/37twj4u

Twas the Night Before Christmas 2020

*Twas the year 2020, and all through the house
every creature was stirring, from Human to Mouse.
The stockings were tossed on the chimney, who cares,
It's been months since we entertained,
would Saint Nick even dare?*

*The children were nestled all snug in their beds
as visions of rubber gloves danced in their heads.
And Mama in her gaiter and me in my mask,
had just settled our brains for a long cleaning task.*

*When out on the roof there arose such a clatter
I sprang from my mop to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash.
I peeked through the shutter, barely touching the sash.*

*The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
gave me faith that someday we'd have somewhere to go.
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
but a miniature sleigh, and eight spotless reindeer.*

*With a little old driver decked out in full gear,
I knew in a moment we'd have Christmas this year!
More safely than Hazmat the reindeer they came,
and he whistled and shouted and called them by name.*

*Now Clorox! Now Pine-Sol! Now Lysol and Purex!
On Comet! On Purell! On Top Job and Germ-X!
Wipe the top of the porch! Then the top of the wall!
Now wipe away! Wipe away! Wipe away all!*

*As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
when they finished and then took a jump to the sky.
So up to the housetop the reindeer they flew
with a sleigh full of masks, and Saint Nicholas too!*

*And then in a twinkling I heard on the roof,
the pawing of each little rubber gloved hoof.
As I pulled up my mask and was turning around,
down the chimney a big bucket came with a bound!*

*It was covered in plastic from bottom to top,
and the contents were sterile, despite the long drop.
I missed seeing his eyes and his dimples so merry.
But this virus prevents that, these times are so scary.*

*I imagined his face and his little round belly,
that shook when he laughed like hand sanitizer jelly.
But I saw him outside though, as he stood near his sleigh,
and I laughed when I saw him, from six feet away...*

*With a wink of his eye and a wave of his hand,
I felt warm inside, Santa too understands.
And without a word I went right to my work.
I filled all our stockings, then turned with a jerk.*

*And laying a finger aside of his mask,
the reindeer rose up, they had finished their task.
He waved to me then, to his team gave a shout,
and socially distancing, quickly flew out.*

*But I heard him proclaim as he drove out of sight,
Merry Christmas to all, we will all be all right.*



Youth Ministry

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

Verse of the Week

Isaiah 1:18

"Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord; though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."

Saint of the Week

St. Thomas Becket

Feast Day: December 29th

Bio: St. Thomas Becket, Patron Saint of our South campus, was born in England in 1118. As a young man, he became friends with King Henry II, who later appointed Thomas the Chancellor of England. Being that the future Saint was also Archbishop of Canterbury at the time, Thomas warned his king that he would not accept intrusions into Church affairs. This came to a head when St. Thomas initially accepted, then rejected a policy that would have denied clergy the right to a trial by Church court. Fearing King Henry's wrath, he fled to France and remained there in exile for seven years. He then returned to England, knowing it could mean certain death. Henry eventually wished St. Thomas dead in a rage, and four of his knights went and martyred the Archbishop in the Canterbury cathedral. St. Thomas Becket, pray for us!

Patron of Roman Catholic Secular Clergy

Upcoming Events

The next meeting of the Next Generation of Disciples high school youth group will be January 3rd. We will not meet on December 27th due to the Christmas holiday.

We wish you a Merry Christmas!



Our collection for the week of December 20th

Mailed-in/Dropped Off

Offertory\$14,479.50

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

Online

Offertory \$6,783.92



Give Online at
stbridgetcheshire.weshareonline.org/

Thank you for your kind generosity!

Ask Father

Dear Father: Was Jesus really born on December 25th?

Dear friend in Christ,

Probably not. Birth days were not as big of a deal in the ancient world as they are today. Neither the historical record nor the Gospels record the exact date. We do know that December 25th was the date of a pagan festival celebrating the birth of the sun god. By the fourth century, the early Christians adopted this date to celebrate the birth of the Son of God as a way of making conversion smoother for the pagans who were becoming Christian.

All we know is that Jesus definitely had a birthday and December 25th is the day we celebrate it!

The fact that the early Christians co-opted the dates of pagan festivals does not mean that Christianity is incorrect and the earlier pagan religions are correct; in fact, it proves the opposite. Even before divine revelation was made available to them, various cultures seemed to intuit the divine significance of the things foreshadowed in their celebrations. Even if they weren't able to say it specifically, their worship previewed the definitive revelation of God that would be made present in Jesus Christ. It's not that Christianity is based on myths, as C.S. Lewis says, it's that in Christianity, the myth has become fact.



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



St. Bridget School Update

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

Excerpt from the SBS Gazette-Bulletin Edition!

Getting to Know Dr. Testa

By Parker Jurries

Dr. Testa has been teaching for over thirty five years, the same amount of time she has been married to her husband. They have two children, Claudia and Christopher. Claudia lives in Cheshire with her husband and two children. Her granddaughter actually goes to our school and is in Mrs. Brilvitch’s class. Dr. Testa’s son is an architect in Manhattan and lives in Brooklyn. She first knew when she was going to be a teacher since she could remember playing school with her siblings and friends and never wanted to be anything else other than a teacher. She went to the University of St. Joseph and learned how to be a teacher. She said to me that “St. Bridget is my home away from home and everyone here is considered my second family.” Dr. Testa started as a Pre-K teacher and worked her way up to an administrator. The other school she worked at was a public school and St. Bridget is a Catholic school. She loves being in an environment of faith-filled learners, and loves the fact that we incorporate faith and the love of Jesus Christ in every moment of every day. Dr. Testa told me, “I love being here among all of the amazing students, awesome families, incredible teachers, staff members and of course Fr. Romans and Fr. Federico and my new friend, Fenway!” The position she was in before St. Bridget was a Kindergarten-12 Supervisor of teachers and students, across the district, in 3 different departments. Those Departments were World Languages, ESL/Bilingual and Gifted and Talented Programs. We are so happy to have Dr. Testa at our school! We love how she always checks in on us and helps us. We love you, Dr. Testa!



St. Bridget Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Programs
Our Pre- Kindergarten and Kindergarten will remain 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.

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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

In Person Class
Sunday, January 10th at 8:30 AM
Virtual Class
Sunday, January 24th at 9 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, January 10th at 5 PM
Sunday, January 24th at 5 PM

10th grade

In Person Class
Sunday, January 10th at 5 PM
Virtual Class
Sunday, January 24th at 5PM

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Virtual Class
Tuesday, January 12th at 4PM
Tuesday, January 26th at 4PM

Mary, Mother of God

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
Mass Schedule

Thursday, December 31st—5:00pm Vigil

Friday, January 1st—8:30am & 10:30am

All Masses held in St. Bridget Church

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

OUR LADY of the Rosary

Our Lady's Rosary Ministry meets on
Mondays at 1:30pm at **St. Bridget
Church** to pray the rosary.

Attendees are required to wear a mask
and maintain social distancing.



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>

Meals ordered in advance must be ordered by January 7th.



KNIGHTS KORNER

Grand Knight, Jason Molitierno —
jason_molitierno@yahoo.com

Keep Christ in Christmas—Poster Contest Winners!

Our 2020 Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest winners were determined during a lengthy judging at the Parish Center. Four befuddled Knights labored over 44 wonderful entries for quite some time before the winners finally emerged. May I have the envelope please . . .



Category 1 (ages 5 - 7)
Miranda Machado, age 5, Hamden



Category 2 (ages 8 - 10)
Meredith Berkun, age 10, Wallingford



Category 3 (ages 11 - 14)
Chloe Retuya, age 13, Cheshire

Knights of the Cheshire Council would like to thank all 44 entrants for their hard work, imagination, and true Christmas spirit that produced these fine posters. We are now looking into a way to display them all before the season is over and we hope to find an appropriate way.



Merry Christmas Everyone! And Happy New Year Too from the Cheshire Council #2978 Knights of Columbus

Jason Molitierno - Grand Knight
Robert Shemo - Deputy Grand Knight
Michael Mongelluzzo - Financial Secretary
David DeLancy - Treasurer
Michael Wysoczanski - Recorder

Richard Renehan - Advocate
Chris Fletcher - Past Financial Secretary
Ron Painchaud - Trustee
Bob Roczynski- Trustee
Harold Metz- Trustee

and all the Worthy Knights of the Council

Keep Christ in Christmas



St. Bridget of Sweden Men's Retreat

This year's Men's Retreat theme is "Together We Rise" -- as a community of Christ's followers and as interdependent human beings. It will be a VIRUTAL experience due to Covid.

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center will offer Men's Retreats many Saturdays starting in January. The retreats will run on Zoom from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM. St. Bridget of Sweden's Men's Retreat dates are listed as January 16, 2021 or May 15, 2021, but you can sign up for any Men's Retreat Weekend. Online registration is currently available at <https://www.holyfamilyretreat.org/themed-retreats>. Simply select the Saturday you wish to attend, enter the amount of registration donation you feel comfortable making, and register.

IF you cannot afford to make a registration donation or need help registering, contact Ted Jastrzebski, Registration and Retreat Office Administrator, at tjastrzebski@holyfamilyretreat.org or at (860)760-9705.

If you have any questions on a local level or want to attend but don't have Zoom available to you, please contact Jim Kirby at james.kirby@quinnipiac.edu or at (203)250-0011. We hope to have a great turn out this year!



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
175 Sandbank Road, Cheshire, CT

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:

- tuna
- canned beets, spinach & carrots
- frosting
- cat food
- toothbrushes
- paper towels
- toilet paper
- cleaning supplies

Please note that the Food Pantry:

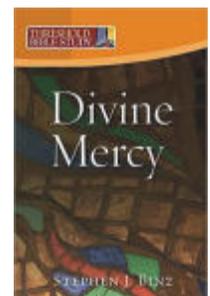
- Cannot accept expired or opened items
- Cannot use large industrial canned goods
- Can accept perishable goods only during Pantry hours
- Hours are M-W-F 9:00am-12:15pm; T-Th 3:00pm-6:15pm
- Monetary donations should be sent to: Cheshire Community Food Pantry, P.O. Box 457, Cheshire, CT 06410.

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

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.



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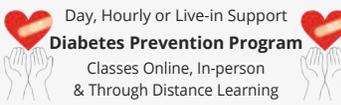


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