

SAINT BRIDGET OF SWEDEN PARISH

Where Christ is Our Light

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

- Mt 2:10-11



Letter from the Pastor

The Reverend Jeffrey V. Romans, KCHS

Dear Friends in Christ:

Today is the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord...The very word Epiphany, comes from the Greek word *epiphainein*, which means “manifestation,” or, “to reveal.” This refers to Christ’s manifestation as God to the world. It is a celebration of the revelation of God in human flesh. It could also be said that an Epiphany is: “an intuitive grasp of reality through something simple and striking.” Something as simple as a child. Something as striking as a star, the star of Bethlehem.

The Liturgical calendar in the United States places it on the Sunday between January 2nd and January 8th, but in many countries and cultures it is still celebrated on its traditional date of January 6th, the twelfth day of Christmas, known as “Little Christmas” or “Three Kings Day.” Celebrations abound in the streets with processions of costumed kings riding camels, with gift giving happening more so on this day in some cultures than on Christmas in commemoration of the gifts presented to the infant Jesus.



There is the traditional Kings Bread or King Cake which is also very popular. When I was in Seminary I had two classmates from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and this was a big moment when they returned to Seminary from Christmas break with the King Cake in hand. They taught us about the history and tradition of the King Cake. It is a sweet bread in the shape of a crown in

which a plastic figurine of the infant Jesus is baked. Whoever gets the slice with the baby Jesus is said to gain favor, and they are tasked with bringing the King Cake the next year! Although King Cake is often associated with Mardi Gras, its original place was in the celebration of Three Kings Day, so we got to enjoy it twice a year while they were with us!



On this Feast we also think of the very popular song, “We Three Kings,” but were they kings and were there three? First, according to the biblical account of the visit of these men to the infant Jesus, the text simply says “behold, magi from the east arrived.” It is understood in the context of the biblical reading that these magi were likely possessors of the knowledge of astrology implied by their study of the stars. So they are not really kings at all, but men learned in astrology. Scholars believe that the “east” from which they came was likely Babylonia.

The Scripture passage also never mentions how many there were. The tradition of “three” likely arises from the three gifts Scripture mentions: Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Three gifts are mentioned in Scripture. If there are three gifts, it was assumed there must be three gift givers, therefore we have “three kings.” It’s a meaningful number. Three is the number of the Blessed Trinity. It is the number of days Christ spent in the tomb. But it also signifies something more meaningful and – for us, much more important. **They are not solitary. They are a group. They are a community.** That is part of the great message of Christianity. We are meant to receive the good news together...to live it together...to celebrate it and

share it with one another, and isn’t that what we are doing together as a parish family!

The story of the Visit of the Magi makes an important point about the role of the Messiah. Jesus is called “the newborn king of the Jews” by the magi who traveled from the east. These men were not Jewish yet they paid homage to the King of the Jews. Matthew, who wrote to a Jewish audience, hoped to express the universal role of Christ in this story. These men were foreigners but they honored Jesus as their king. **Jesus is shown now to the whole world.** This Feast is about God making known salvation outside of what had been a chosen few. God cares about all creation no matter race, creed, or ethnicity.

As we contemplate the gifts of the Magi to our Lord, let us think of the gifts we ourselves can offer Him. Certainly we are called to offer Him all that we are, but we are also called to reflect His presence in our words and actions. What better time to consider how we may better do this in our lives than as we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany and begin this special year of God’s grace.



One tradition on the Feast of the Epiphany is to bless the doors to your homes! The Gospel tells us that the Magi found Christ “on entering the house.” The door to your home is a holy threshold. You can bless those who come in and go out by inscribing above the door in chalk the first two numbers of the year+C+M+B+the last two numbers of the year. Tradition tells us that the letters stand for the names of the magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. So this year it would read above the door to your home: **20+C+M+B+21.**

In the 19th century it was also pointed out by a French composer and music critic, Adolph Adam, that it may also mean “Christus mansionem benedicat” or “May Christ bless this dwelling.”

It's appropriate to bless your door in January, as *janna* means "door," and the first month is the door to the new year. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we will not be able to provide chalk to those wishing to do this tradition but encourage you to purchase some at the local store or use chalk that was left over from previous year.

After inscribing the doorway, say this prayer:

God of Bethlehem and Cana, God of Jordan's leaping waters, in baptism you bring us into your family.

You wed us and embrace us as your beloved.

May we fill this place with kindness to one another,

with hospitality to guests, and with abundant care for every stranger.

By the gentle light of a star, guide home all who seek you on paths of faith, hope and love.

Then we will join the angels in proclaiming your praise: Glory in heaven and peace on earth,

now and for ever. Amen.

Thank you and best wishes to VICTORIA CLARIZIO...as we announced a few weeks ago this will be Victoria's last weekend with our parish family.



This is bittersweet as we are excited for her to answer God's call but sad to see her leave our family of faith. She came to our parish in September of 2019 to take over the position of Administrative Assistant for Communications upon the departure of Teallia Sullivan Gorman who left to move to Ireland with her husband Sean to do missionary work. Victoria had to learn quickly from Teallia the inner workings of the parish office and all of the various social media outlets we use in the day-to-day ministry of our parish family. She did indeed learn quickly.

Another beautiful quality of Victoria's time with us has been her deep faith and her ability to share the message of the Gospel in weekly videos with Fa-

ther Federico. Victoria's knowledge of the faith, and more so her love for the faith, came across very clearly week after week during their videos.

Then came the pandemic, the shutdown, and the stay-at-home orders. Immediately Victoria, together with our Team Holy Spirit, launched us into the daily use of social media to meet the spiritual needs of our people. Though working behind the scenes much of the time, Victoria did make a few appearances in various programs and became a "parishioner favorite" during the shutdown! We were so blessed with her ministry and presence in such trying times.

As Teallia left us to answer a call from God to do missionary work, so now Victoria leaves us to answer a call from God to enter the Monastery with the Passionist Nuns Pittsburgh. This is the first community of Passionist Nuns in the United States founded on July 10, 1910 by five Passionist Nuns from Italy. They are a contemplative cloistered community of religious women called to stand at the foot of the Cross with Mary near the Heart of Christ, ready to receive His love so that they might become love in the Heart of the Church.

We say goodbye to Victoria as we promise her our prayers and best wishes as she answers the call of the Lord in her life!

In addition to his duties as our Youth Minister, Regis O'Neill, has been training with Victoria and is prepared to take over as the Administrative Assistant for Communications upon her departure. We are thankful to Regis for agreeing to take on this additional role.

Nota bene (Italian for "note well") On the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, after the Gospel, the priest or deacon, in keeping with an ancient practice of Holy Church, announces from the pulpit the moveable feasts of the current year: Here is the announcement:

Know, dear brothers and sisters, that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Savior. On the 17th day of February will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season. On the 4th day of April you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the 13th day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the 23rd of May the feast of Pentecost. On the 6th of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. On the 28th day of November, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

As we enter into the New Year PLEASE BE SURE to stay connected to the parish. Be sure you have visited our user-friendly website at www.stbridgetchesire.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 continue to increase our use of 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. As we near the end of the 12 days of Christmas I wish to, once again, say Merry Christmas! Stay safe!!!

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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Experience Fellowship

-  @stbridgetofswedenparish
-  Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish
-  @sboscheshire
-  @sboscheshire
-  www.stbridgetcheshire.org

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

Parish Trustees

Mr. Mark Izzo • Mrs. Candace Nesbit

Parish Staff

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

Rectory203-272-3531
 Fax203-271-3356
 Email.....rectory@stbridgetcheshire.org
 Bulletin Submissions office@stbridgetcheshire.org
 Social Mediacommunications@stbridgetcheshire.org
 Mailing Address.....175 Main Street, Cheshire, CT 06410

Our collection for the
week of December 27th



Thank you for your
kind generosity!

Mailed-in/Dropped Off

Christmas..... \$15,931.00
 Christmas Gift..... \$10,222.00
 Christmas Flowers \$339.00
 Offertory (12/27).....\$10,001.50

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

Online

Christmas\$1,665.00
 Christmas Gift..... \$1,100.00
 Christmas Flowers.....\$50.00
 Offertory (12/27)..... \$8,915.92



Give Online at
stbridgetcheshire.weshareonline.org/



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.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS



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

Monday, January 4th: Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

7:00 a.m. SBC	Joe O'Reilly—Anniversary	The Haensel Family
9:00 a.m. SBC	Faye & Michael Wyszczanski	The Family

Tuesday, January 5th: Saint John Neumann, Bishop

7:00 a.m. SBC	The People of St. Bridget of Sweden Parish	
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Wednesday, January 6th

7:00 a.m. SBC	Art Corcoran & John DeCesare	Family
9:00 a.m. SBC	John & Hannah O'Connor	Peter & Mary Mongillo

Thursday, January 7th

7:00 a.m. SBC	Helen Havrilla	Bill & Sandy Walsh
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Friday, January 8th

7:00 a.m. SBC	Dante & Elisa Pasqualoni	Dante Pasqualoni, Jr.
9:00 a.m. SBC	School Mass—Charles Wempe	The Chamberlain Family

Saturday, January 9th

9:00 a.m. SBC	Harold Tarini, Sr. & Harold Tarini, Jr.	Sandra & Vin Fuoco
4:00 p.m. SBC	Richard McHugh—3rd Anniversary	Gig McHugh
5:15 p.m. SBC	Joseph Ferry	Fran Clark & Jim Matthews

Sunday, January 10th: The Baptism of the Lord

7:00 a.m. SBC	Martha Barchfeld	Rosalie & Bob Fountain
8:00 a.m. SBC	Charles Peter Borowicz—Birthday Remembrance	His Wife
9:00 a.m. SBC	Michael George	His Family
10:30 a.m. SBC	Michael Scoopo	The Family
12:00 p.m. SBC	Anthony Ruocco	His Granddaughters, Emily & Elizabeth

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 Michael Runfola—In Living Prayer Requested by Kate Carriero



The Tabernacle candle at St. Thomas Becket Church shines this week for Living & Deceased Members of Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish

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
- ✝ Friday—7am & 9am
- ✝ Saturday—9am, 4pm & 5:15pm
- ✝ Sunday—7am, 8am, 9am, 10:30am, & 12noon

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

JOIN US FOR OUR ONLINE SERVICES!

- ✝ Sunday, 1/3 at 10:30AM—Celebration of the **Mass**
- ✝ Monday, 1/4 at 10AM—Getting to Know our Holy Family—a brief talk about **Saint Raymond of Penyafort**
- ✝ Wednesday, 1/6 at 10AM—Pulling Back the Veil—a behind the scenes look at the **Sacristy with our Sacristan, Mr. Anthony Ginnetti**
- ✝ Friday, 1/8—one hour of **Adoration**
- ✝ Sunday, 1/10 at 10:30AM—Celebration of the **Mass**

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

“Divine Mercy” **Book Study** begins on Tuesday, 1/5, at 10am in Father Frisbie Hall—see page 8 for details and how to sign up

Adoration every Friday 1-2pm in St. Bridget Church - sign up at bit.ly/Signup-Adoration

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.

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

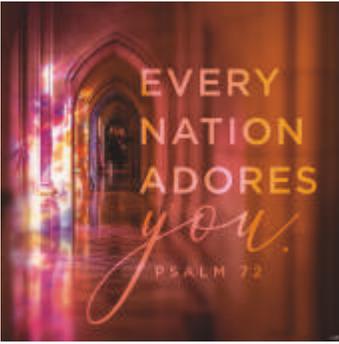
www.stbridgetcheshire.org

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 Epiphany of the Lord

The readings for today can be found at

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/010321.cfm>

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

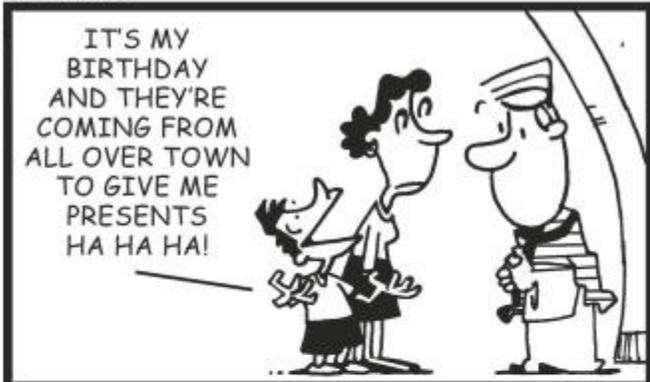
The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

www.loyolapress.com



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

EPIPHANY



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Activities for this Week's Liturgy

Word Search—bit.ly/37USf8D

Coloring Page—bit.ly/3aLIHyO

Crossword Puzzle—bit.ly/3ppSu1A

Epiphany Star Activity—bit.ly/2WQpluV

Epiphany Dot-to-Dot—bit.ly/3riIA3v

Epiphany Video—bit.ly/37J1Uzi



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

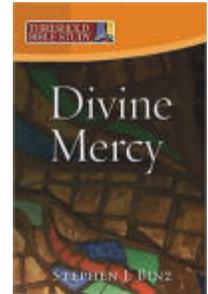
Caregiver support groups are an invaluable tool to help others and oneself cope with being a family caregiver. This group is for adults caring for parents and for spouses caring for their partners. When a caregiver gathers together with others who are experiencing similar life challenges, they can gain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

Meetings will not begin in January as previously scheduled. The group will instead begin in the Spring. Dates TBD.

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.



**EPIPHANY
HOUSE BLESSING**

Epiphany at Home: Blessing our Homes

See Father's article on pages 2 & 3 for information on how to bless your home for the new year.



alzheimer's association®

**Virtual Dementia Care Program:
Tips for Effective Communication,
Safety, and Personal Care**

The Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter is presenting a virtual program for caregivers of people with any type of dementia on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm on the Zoom platform. The program will begin with a brief overview of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and focus on effective strategies of communication, safety and personal care for families and friends caring for a loved one with dementia of any type. The program will also reinforce caregiver health strategies as well as high-level information and support resources for caregivers. To register for this program and receive the Zoom link and meeting information use the St. Bridget Sign up Genius or contact Sr. Patricia at 203-272-3531 Ext 1312. If you have further questions you can contact Maria Tomasetti, Alzheimer's Association, mtomasetti@alz.org or 203-230-1777 ext. 9706.

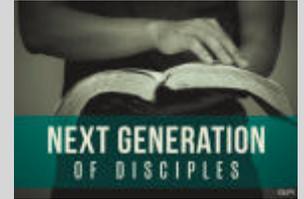
Submit Your Recipes

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



Youth Ministry

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



Verse of the Week

Romans 8:18

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."

Saint of the Week

St. John Neumann

Feast Day: January 5th

Bio: St. John Neumann was born in what is now the Czech Republic in 1811. At age 25, he came to New York and was quickly ordained a priest. He soon joined the Redemptorists and became their first professed member in the United States. He did missionary work throughout New York, Maryland, Virginia, and Ohio. He was ordained the bishop of Philadelphia, and made waves when he reorganized the parochial school system into a diocesan one. This increased the number of pupils twentyfold. He filled the schools with many teaching religious orders, from the Christian Brothers to his own Redemptorists. He was renowned for his organization and spiritual writings. He died in 1860, and is the first American bishop to be beatified. St. John Neumann, pray for us!

Upcoming Events

We hope you all had a merry, safe, and blessed Christmas! The Next Generation of Disciples high school youth group will be back and better than ever this Sunday, January 3rd, from 6:30-8:30pm in the SBS gym. This is a great time to try out the group if you've never come before! All high schoolers are welcome, and we hope to see you there.

Apologetics 101: Looking Back at Our Year Together

As we begin to say goodbye to Victoria, we look back at memories from this series - some silly, some sentimental and all in pursuit of Jesus.

- The Bell - we used to ring this at the beginning and end of episodes when we were working from home. No idea why!
- C. S. Lewis - the patron saint of Apologetics 101. We used his insights all the time.
- The Statue of Jesus which Victoria Broke - Fr. Federico reminded our viewers a lot about how it was damaged :)
- Our Cartoon Logo from Victoria's friend.
- One thing we learned from working with the other:
 - Victoria - Complementarity
 - * God intended for there to be an authentic complementarity and partnership between men and women (not just for those who are married!). Working with Fr. Federico has been a beautiful experience of this Divine plan. It has taught me more about how men and women can learn from each other and help each other in our pursuit of holiness.
 - Fr. Federico - The Power of Littleness
 - * Victoria has shown me that the way to God's heart is through accepting our smallness, confidence, and trust. (She says "mission accomplished"!)





St. Bridget School Update

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

Excerpt from the SBS Gazette

SBS Gazette Expert by John Salgado **I'm Craving Apizza!**

West Main Street contains a few delicious pizza places, including Pop's Pizza and Rossini's. But have you noticed the new pizza place in town, Fuoco's Apizza? This restaurant was created and is owned by George Constanti who doesn't see his restaurant as a restaurant, but as a work of art. He said, "We are not another pizza restaurant at all, it's more like art really." My family and I went to this restaurant craving a delicious pizza, and that's what we got! We were blown away! Fuoco's Apizza is the ONLY coal fire pizza in town at this moment. A coal fire oven is a dome oven that uses coal as fuel to cook the pizzas. The oven is brought to a very high temperature that uses the coal to create a flame that can cook a pizza in a matter of minutes. The oven was shipped directly from Italy! The pizza is a nice thin pizza with a little char which adds some great flavor! The pick-up service was very well organized. My family and I pulled into their parking lot and the servers brought the pizzas to our car. They are only doing pick-up due to COVID-19 restrictions. I really enjoyed this pizza, but don't take my word for it. Head on down to Fuoco's Apizza to try some delicious pizza for yourself!

Register for the New Year!

St. Bridget Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Programs

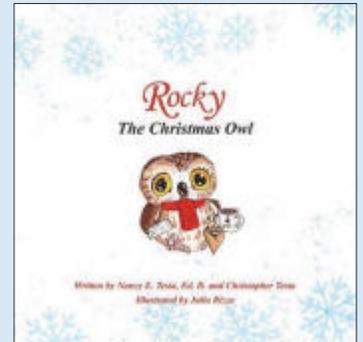
Our Pre- Kindergarten and Kindergarten will remain open during any/all school closures due to COVID-19. Please visit our school website at www.stbridgetschool.org to learn about the many wonderful opportunities our school offers our learners.

We are also accepting applications for Grades One through Eight. Please call us at 203.272.5860 for an in-person tour.

Please help us congratulate Dr. Testa and her son on their new book, "Rocky the Christmas Owl," that is about the female owl that was found in the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree this past month!

If you would like to purchase a copy, please contact Dr. Testa at the school, or visit their website at:

<https://www.rockythechristmasowl.org>.



Congratulations to Chloe Retuya and Yewon Lee for winning the Lions Club International Peace Poster Contest!

Join our School Community

SCHEDULE A TOUR

Find Your Family at St. Bridget School



St. Bridget School, Cheshire



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www.stbridgetschool.org



St. Bridget School
171 Main Street
Cheshire, CT 06410



203-272-5860



Academic Excellence | Community Awareness | Spiritual Growth

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

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

Ask Father

Dear Father: What does the Church think about New Year's Resolutions?

Dear friend in Christ,

Go for it! The Catholic Church is in favor of anything which helps us enhance our God-given human dignity. Getting up earlier or drinking more water are not necessarily spiritual practices, but they help us become more human, more disciplined, more confident and happier. And working to achieve a goal takes patience, endurance, commitment and perseverance. These are good things and doing good things for ourselves leads us closer to God. The Church celebrates everything which helps us do that.



Lunchtime Concert Series

Advent/Christmas Virtual Choir Showcase

Wednesday, January 6, 2021
12:30 pm ET/11:30 am CT

Looking for some inspiration this Christmas season? Our parish and school created virtual choir videos that will be included in a national Advent/Christmas virtual choir video showcase, compiled by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, airing on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 12:30 pm. Watch their program to support our parish and school... and to see videos submitted by other parishes!

YouTube link: https://youtu.be/RB_EnRMuQLY

[Youtube.com/NPMLivestream](https://www.youtube.com/NPMLivestream)
[Facebook.com/NPMnational](https://www.facebook.com/NPMnational)





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Grand Knight, Jason Molitierno —jason_molitierno@yahoo.com

Hey . . . It's Over!

Yes folks, with the not too soon end of 2020 comes the end of our K of C free annual dues promotion in celebration of the Beatification of our founder Blessed Fr Michael J McGivney. But wait - there's more! You can still join the K of C Cheshire Council and be welcomed with staunch support and admiration - it'll just cost you thirty bucks to do it!

Don't get upset, that \$30.00 will go a long way. It will help sponsor the Cheshire Challengers Baseball team, the Cheshire High School Best Buddies program, help print up shopping lists for people to buy items for the Cheshire Community Food Pantry, and a myriad of Christian-like endeavors that make being a Knight so rewarding. You can even pay two year's dues and we'll earmark the 2022 \$30.00 to go towards monetary support of an Archdiocese of Hartford seminarian now studying for the Priesthood! Such a deal!

All you have to do is contact our Membership Director (Harold Metz at ghmetz@gmail.com or 203-271-1289) and make your wishes known. Our next monthly meeting is January 12th. We'd love to have you come by and meet a bunch of us and fork over your \$30.00 or \$60.00 bucks right then and there to our hearty applause and admiration! We'll even name our first post-pandemic pancake breakfast after you. I can see it now:

**Come to the Bill Jones
Pancake Breakfast**



Or we can name it after someone of your choosing, like your boss, or your brother-in-law.

So how about it guys? Will we see you January 12th at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center checkbook in hand? You'll be glad you did!



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>



Remember to pray for the U.S. military service members on our military prayer list on page 13.



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 | LTJG Derek Molkenbuhr, US Navy |
| Captain J. Michael Andrea USAF | LT Marisa Molkenbuhr, US Navy |
| SRA Garrett Barboza, USAF | LTJG Trevor Molkenbuhr, US Navy |
| Major David B. Beale, US Army | Senior Chief Petty Officer Pasquale Moreland, US Navy |
| Specialist Alan Bell, US Army | Corporal Ginamarie Mazzucco, USMC |
| Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Betts, US Navy | Lance Corporal Kathryn Mazzucco, USMC |
| Lieutenant Kevin Briskin, US Army | Airman First Class Anthony Nero, USAF |
| ENS Michelle Browning, US Navy | Lt. Christopher Nguyen, US Army |
| Sergeant Brian Caouette | Specialist Eric Normand, US Army |
| Captain Leslie Ann Capuano, USMC | Chaplain Philip O'Neill, USAF |
| Lieutenant Hollis Ann Capuano, US Navy | Captain Denis L. O'Reilly, USMC |
| Seaman Apprentice Robert Carrano, US Coast Guard | Specialist Christopher Paier, US Army Natl. Guard |
| Private Jack Cavanaugh, US Army | PVT John Pastore, USMC |
| Tech Sergeant Edward J. Clark, Jr, USAF | Private Matthew Planinshek, USMC |
| SRA Aaron Desjardins, USAF | LTJG Jake Patrick Reid, US Navy |
| Specialist John Fadus, US Army | Private Quianna Rios, US Army |
| STS-1 Jake Ford, US Navy | Petty Officer First Class Matthew J. Sansone, US Navy |
| PFC Owen C. Fowler, USMC | Captain Ryan Satterfield, USMC |
| Private Alyza Hernandez, USMC | Lt. Ellie Marie Senft, US Army |
| Petty Officer 2nd Class Martin Houston, US Navy | Captain Jack David Senft, US Army |
| Cdr. Thomas A. Ianucci, USN, Chaplain | SRA Myron Simpson, USAF |
| SRA Ryan Jones, USAF | Private 1st Class Kevin Stevens, US Army |
| Petty Officer 3rd Class Neil P. Kenefick, US Navy | Captain Alexander James Topitzer, US Army |
| Ryan Kiernan, US Navy | Captain Matthew Neil Topitzer, US Army |
| AWO2 Kyle (DeVylder) Kohl, US Navy | Captain Ryan Van Wie, US Army |
| Lieutenant Jared Korn, US Coast Guard | Private 1st Class Connor Valinsky, US Army |
| Sergeant Gregory J. Kowalski, USMC | Senior Airman Joe Villano USAF |
| Airman First Class Benjamin M. LeClerc, USAF | Corporal Bernard Vitti, Jr., USMC |
| MA2 Tiana Lefebre, US Navy | LCpl. Matthew Voelker, USMC |
| Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian McGrath, US Navy | 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!



Thursday, February 4th at 7:00pm

Brought to you by: **zoom**

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BINGO—6 Games of Bingo / 12 Prizes

Each game has a corresponding prize:

CHOICE of either a Designer Bag* or \$100 Gift Card**

*Michael Kors™, Coach™, Kate Spade™ or Dooney & Bourke™

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KICK!—the Prize not chosen is RAFFLED OFF!

See the parish website for information on how to purchase bingo cards & raffle tickets: www.stbridgetcheshire.org

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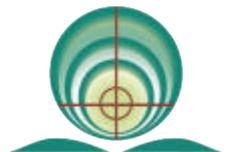
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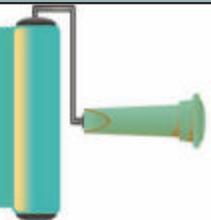
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